

Bradgate Park Fieldschool

Jennifer Browning and Richard Thomas report

Season two of the Bradgate Park fieldschool took place during June and July. Training and excavation experience was provided for over forty 1st Year students, as well as numerous 2nd Years, 3rd Year volunteers and DL students. The Outreach programme delivered tours and activities to hundreds of school children and a public Open Day on 3rd July was also well-attended.

The main focus of the 2016 season was the moated site, reputed to contain the medieval park keeper's lodge. A large trench was opened on the platform, revealing the extent of the impressive rectangular building, which measured c. 21m x 8m and was defined by a dwarf stone wall. The structural component of the building was probably timber, indicated by pairs of padstones located at intervals along the wall, which would have supported large posts. There was a substantial fireplace on the northern wall, which would have heated the hall. A smaller external chimney occupied a central position on the western wall, probably for an oven located in the service bay. Our most prolific finds from the site were hundreds of variously-sized roof slates and fragments of green glazed ceramic ridge tile. Initial examination of the pottery suggests a 13th/14th century date. Plans to excavate further sections through the moat were prevented by inclement weather (who would have



The moated site: is this the Park Keeper's lodge?

test pits and small trenches revealed diverse features. One was truncated by a large "L" shaped trench, possibly associated with 20th century military training exercises that took place around the ruins. Another revealed a thick deposit containing good animal bone and pottery assemblages. Initial identification of the pottery suggests that the deposit represents dumping of domestic waste from the house between the 16th and 19th centuries. A test pit was excavated on the rocky outcrop below the house to evaluate its potential as a Late Upper Palaeolithic site. However, instead of flint tools it revealed a structure with a narrow stone wall and stone floor.

This season resistivity survey was carried out to map an irregular enclosure within the Deer Sanctuary, which is visible as an earthwork and shows well on a Lidar survey. The results suggest that the enclosure is a single entity with sub-enclosed 'arms' at each end and an internal and external bank surviving in some areas. Although currently undated, its broad form is

consistent with later prehistoric activity.

Thank you to everyone involved with the project - it was a great team effort!



Excavating the midden area

thought that moats retain water!). However, an auger survey established that the current entrance onto the platform on the south side was contemporary with the moat.

Investigations at Bradgate House targeted the midden area outside the house, identified in the previous season. Several

Issue 39 includes:

- Fieldwork in UK, Italy, Morocco, Greenland and Switzerland
 - School and ULAS news
 - Conferences and archives
 - MA and DL student news
 - Books and Films
 - Community and outreach news
 - Roman surveyors and Greek 'non-combatants'
 - Photo caption competition
- Bulletin Editors: Adam Rogers (acr16)/Jan Haywood (jlth1)

Welcome to The Bulletin Issue 39

Professor David Mattingly, Head of School

Welcome to the first Bulletin of the 2016-2017 academic year. Having taken over as Head of School this summer, my first task is to thank my predecessor, Richard Thomas, for serving so well as Acting Head last year. It is customary for this section to paint a picture of a busy School undergoing major changes and this has never been truer than the present! The University is embarked in a major phase of Transformation, with a capital T. Some of the change is difficult and presents challenges, but there is also a lot of necessary reform of processes and systems that will be of huge benefit to our students when fully achieved. Over the last year or so the University has been running many Task and Finish groups, looking at a huge array of issues and with the emphasis on how we can improve our academic structures, our research environment and the way we do basic things. A number of School staff have made important contributions to these working groups, for instance, those relating to Distance Learning and the support structures for PhD students, to give just two examples. In addition, a series of inter-related changes are being seen through as components of the Student Lifecycle Project (there were at least 14 of these process transformations underway at the last count). Some of these things will be very visible – like the use of REFLECT lecture capture or automated attendance recording at teaching rooms. This is a hugely ambitious programme and there may well be some teething problems as these significant changes are rolled out, but hopefully we shall all see large benefits from these innovations in terms of more efficient systems and improved support for student learning. As part of our approach to curriculum change, we are trying to enhance the practical and hands-on elements of our degrees – many of our new students had a first taste of this in the Fabulous First Year induction week activities, involving a range of sessions from dyeing cloth to ageing and sexing bones. Student feedback has been almost entirely positive: “So much fun and made me feel excited about my course and the coming years at Leicester”.

Changes are also reflected in staff comings and goings. Tragically, our former colleague Mark Pluciennik died in the early summer, leaving all of us devastated, but especially his partner Sarah Tarlow and their children. Two other long-established academic staff, Ian Whitbread and Terry Hopkinson, have decided to take early retirement and are leaving us this autumn. Both will be hugely missed by staff and students, though they will retain a connection to the School (and especially their PhD students) as Honorary Visiting Fellows. In the School office, our operations manager, Andy Tams has moved on to the challenge of doing the same role in the much enlarged School of History, Politics and International Relations, with Gus Dinn doubling up on the Operations Manager role for both us and the School of Museum Studies. James Buckley also left our professional services team this summer to be replaced by Julie-Ann Bateman. A number of research associates have departed, some to proper jobs elsewhere – congratulations in particular to Chloë Duckworth who has been appointed to a Lecturer post at Newcastle.

Other good news stories and successes include improved results in the National Student Survey (where we continue to be consistently among the best across the University), a major new AHRC grant won by Mark Gillings with colleagues from Southampton, an extension of the Endangered Archaeology Project with colleagues at Oxford and Durham, Oliver Harris winning one of only five Philip Leverhulme Prizes for archaeology and Pim Allison commencing a major new field project in Italy at Libarna (some of these stories are followed up elsewhere in this bulletin). All in all this is going to be both a challenging and an exciting year, as we adapt to a lot of change but at the same time seek to make our teaching and supervision better than ever. We also intend to plan strategically for the future, so we can continue our success as one of the University's top academic units.

Julie-Ann Bateman new to the School Office introduces herself....

I hail from the North East of England as you may have guessed, where I ran my own bridal wear business – yes, I am creative underneath this efficient, business-like exterior (insert disparaging remark). I then ventured out to the bright lights of Leeds as a mature student, and after completing a Degree in English Language & Literature in 1998 (including a fantastic Erasmus year in Belgium – the home of beer, chips, mayonnaise, mussels and chocolate – ah, happy days...), I worked for an orthopaedics company as an Admin Team Leader, where I also had great fun observing knee and hip replacement surgeries – no I am not squeamish! I then moved to Leicester after my son was born (a Yorkshireman much to my dad's pleasure!) and after having my daughter, worked myself up to a teaching qualification, teaching in several primary schools in the county and city. I made the decision last Christmas to step out of that world due to family commitments, and found myself at the University with you lovely lot – I look forward to working with you all and thanks for having me ☺



ULAS News

Patrick Clay (ULAS co-director) writes...

A very busy time again for the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), and through the summer since the May *Bulletin*. Despite the shock of Brexit the construction industry still seems to be booming and we are experiencing one of our most sustained periods of large scale work from very large evaluations at West Corby (70 trenches) and Enderby (147 trenches) to one of our largest excavations again at Enderby covering over 5ha.

The excavation at Enderby started in May and has grown far beyond our predictions. It appears to be a large settlement perhaps starting in the Bronze Age and continuing until the later Iron Age. Several circular buildings of differing character have been recorded. Our knowledge of this part of the Soar valley has developed enormously since our first foray into the area with a student excavation in the early 1980s (which featured a young undergraduate called Nick Cooper) into a remarkable prehistoric and Roman landscape west of the Soar traversed by the Fosse Way.



Volunteers working at Castle Hill

urban site in Leicester off Great Central Street and so far we have found a Roman street with adjacent stone buildings. Good survival of floor surfaces including some tessellated floor patches are present in many areas.

Our community based work has included helping with test pitting in Rothley as part of the Charnwood Roots project, excavating a Roman villa at Hallaton and an excavation at Castle Hill Beaumont Leys. The Castle Hill site has never been excavated before but was suspected to be the remains of a Knights Hospitallers manorial centre dating from the mid-13th to late 15th century. Over the two weeks of the excavation, we supervised 37 volunteers excavating three trenches across different aspects of the site.



Excavation in progress of a medieval building at Kilsby

As a change from the Iron Age another excavation at Kilsby, Northamptonshire revealed medieval stone buildings constructed on earth and rubble platforms within a burgage plot to the south of the village. At least one of the buildings appears to have a central hearth and flooring. To the south was a complex sequence of garden plots, stock enclosures and closes with evidence of use between the 12th and 17th centuries.

A trenching evaluation in Coventry has located two differently oriented sections of the medieval city wall, and an associated masonry structure, potentially a tower.

In Leicester itself we have been working on Leicester Castle where refurbishment is in progress. The Castle Hall is one of the oldest buildings in Leicester, dating from the early 12th century and has been subject to regular, at times extensive, alterations up until the present day. The Hall is also believed to be one of the oldest surviving aisled and bay-divided medieval halls in Europe. Monitoring work inside the Castle Hall has identified two bricked up stone arches in the north wall and possible earth floors still surviving in the east aisle. We have also just started machining a potentially major

A small open day on the middle Saturday of the dig also attracted over 100 people and we have had several visits from local primary schools.



A tessellated pavement revealed at Great Central Street, Leicester

In Caesar's Footsteps: Ebbsfleet, Kent

Andrew Fitzpatrick, Colin Haselgrove and
Vicki Score report

In October we returned to the site of Ebbsfleet on the Isle of Thanet, Kent, to follow up the geophysical survey reported in a previous School Bulletin (no.37, 2015). The site is a defended enclosure at least 15 hectares in size which has been radiocarbon dated to the first century BC. The enclosure lies close to the coast and it has been suggested to be the base built to protect the Julius Caesar's fleet in 54 BC.

The 2015 geophysical survey examined the north-west part of the site and established the line of the defensive ditch in this area. The objectives of the 2016 excavations were to examine two possible entrances identified by the geophysical survey and to try and recover material that would confirm who built the enclosure: Iron Age Britons or Caesar's army?

Fifty volunteers came from across Kent to work on the two excavation areas which were supervised by Steve Baker and Donald Clark of ULAS. The volunteer programme was coordinated by Andrew Mayfield of Kent County Council, which is one of partners of this Leverhulme Trust-funded project.

The results were mixed but promising. One of the two possible entrances was shown not to exist, whilst at the other one, an unexpected depth of colluvium covering the site meant that the presence of an entrance could

not be definitively confirmed. On the upside, the colluvium proved to seal a well-preserved metallised surface, which is interpreted as the road running through the probable entrance.

The colluvium had protected the metallised surface from damage by ploughing and the finds on it - human and animal bone and several iron objects - were well-



Ebbsfleet, Kent: the first century BC defensive ditch

preserved, though the ironwork is heavily corroded. Just a few metres away the defensive ditch was significantly deeper than in the other area. This also strongly suggests that it is adjacent to an entrance, which would have been very strongly defended.

Our attention is now focussed on the post-excavation analyses where radiocarbon dating of the bone and the x-ray and conservation of the ironwork should help us to answer the question of who built the Ebbsfleet enclosure. Britons or Romans?



Philip Leverhulme Prize for Ollie Harris

He writes...

Through good fortune and excellent timing, and thanks to the support I have had from the School over the last five years, I have been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize for archaeology. Awarded to 30 scholars in different fields each year, these prizes are aimed at supporting young (OK, more like early career) researchers. To do this they provide you with £100,000 to spend in the best way you see fit, provided, of course, that is in connection with your research. This is much to my cats' disappointment; no fillet steak for dinner every night for Teddy and Maggie it turns out. I'm going to

be spending my award on supporting my fieldwork in Ardnamurchan, and to buy myself some more research time to start working on a new project called Archaeology after Deleuze. This will involve reading much more of the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, pretending I understand it, then writing a book about what this means for archaeology. By the end of this either I will understand his work, or I will have been driven entirely mad. Stay tuned to find out which...



At the old excavated area of Libarna: Pim Allison, Katie Huntley, Sg. Alberto Carbone (Mayor of Serravalle Scrivia), Melania Cazzulo and Hannah Friedman

Libarna Archaeological Project: Preliminary Survey

Penelope Allison

In July this year a team of archaeologists, students and volunteers, from the universities of Leicester, Boise State, Idaho, and Texas Tech and directed by Professor Pim Allison and Asst. Prof. Katherine Huntley (Boise State University), took part in the preliminary geophysical survey of the Roman city of Libarna. This important northern Italian Roman city lies c. 130 km south of Turin, in a key but under-researched region of the Roman world, between Roman Italy proper and the provinces of Cisalpine Gaul and Liguria. It has evidence of occupation from the sixth century BC, of becoming a Roman colony in the mid-second century BC and being occupied until at least the second century AD.

The survey itself was directed by Asst. Prof. Hannah Friedman (Texas Tech University) and aimed to develop a more comprehensive understanding of Libarna's urban plan, and also identify areas with appropriate domestic structures for further excavation. An important aim of this project is to investigate domestic practices for greater insights into indigenous and Roman interaction at this site for better understandings of the region's place in the socio-cultural and economic history of the Roman world.

During this first season, we surveyed areas belonging to the Soprintendenza and also some private lands. We had not expected to be able to get permission for the latter in our first season, but thanks to our community liaison officer, D.ssa Cazzulo, we were able to gain



Hannah Friedman and Texas Tech students doing resistivity survey



The team with Michael Boyle demonstrating his drone

permission from local farmers. On the downside, there was much interference from the large amount of metal in the area – two train lines, metal fences around the exposed archaeological remains, and a power station and several pylons. This meant the survey equipment at our disposal was only able to survey selected areas of the site. Nevertheless we did achieve a more holistic view of the site through this geophysical survey and also through the use of Drone (by Mr Michael Boyle, PhD student at Texas Tech University). We identified many structural traces, including of large seemingly public buildings and what seem to be rows of smaller structures, possibly houses. Our discoveries prove the potential for further survey and targeted excavation to reveal more about the city's extent and character, its material culture, its place in the region, and also greater understandings of this region's place in the wider Roman world.

News direct from the Trans-Sahara Project team

This report comes direct from the Trans-Sahara team, led by David Mattingly, in Morocco. With his co-directors Youssef Bokbot and Martin Sterry, plus SAAH research associates Maria Carmela Gatto, Louise Rayne, former Leverhulme Early-Career Fellow Corisande Fenwick and Leicester PhD students past and present Andy Lamb, Julia Nikolaus, Nicholas Ray, Rachael Sycamore and Andrea Zocchi, the team has been researching early oasis civilisation in the Draa Valley. The River Draa flows south-east out of the Atlas Mountains and is an important corridor between the Sahara and the Mediterranean.

The highlight of the season (so far...) is the identification of two massive burial mounds with painted funerary chapels. These were probably used for a form of ancestor worship that was common in the ancient Sahara. Classical writers recorded that 'Libyans' in the desert would sleep at these tombs to experience revelatory dreams.



The subterranean chapels, with their images of men, women and children, fit the bill as places likely to induce hallucinatory dreams! Similar painted scenes from the site of Jorf Torba, hundreds of kilometres away in Western Algeria. This illustrates the interconnections of the ancient Saharan world, one of the key themes of the Trans-Sahara project. Professor Mattingly and his team will present a full report at a future Wednesday seminar.

Conference News: Town Planning and the Historic Environment in Leicester from the 1960s

Mark Webb (PhD Student) reports:

Ever wondered why the historic central area of Leicester looks like it does, with a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and modern buildings, interspersed with busy highways? On 1-2 July, Mark Webb of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, together with colleagues at the Department of Urban History and in partnership with Leicester City Council, delivered a two-day symposium on 'Town Planning and the Historic Environment in Leicester from the 1960s'. Speakers included the city mayor Sir Peter Soulsby as well as representatives from Historic England, the Royal Institute of Town Planning and our own Matt Morris of ULAS.

The event was attended by around 200 members of the public, academics and local politicians and it resulted in a lively debate about the impact of the 1960s modernist schemes such as the inner ring road, the Holiday Inn and St Nicholas Circle on the old town. A highlight was a conversation between three colleagues with reminiscences about the famous town planner, the charismatic Konrad Smigielski, and his legacy. Yet development in Leicester has also led to new opportunities for archaeological excavation. Recent development of central Leicester, including the large Highcross shopping area, has meant that the town is now the most intensively excavated urban area outside London.

Current Leicester City Council town planner, Grant Butterworth, was able to point to recent improvements under the 'Connecting Leicester' scheme, designed to make the central area a more attractive place to live, work and visit. The regeneration of the Greyfriars area is an excellent example of how heritage and archaeology, rather than being seen as a burden to town planning, is being used as a positive force for economic and social regeneration.



SHAPING THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND WRITING THE ROMAN LANDSCAPE

Jason Morris (recently completed PhD student)


The *agrimensores*, or land surveyors, were a group of technical specialists, whose ranks comprised slaves, freedmen and freeborn Roman citizens. They specialized in marking boundaries to establish the ownership of property, advising judges in boundary or property disputes, marking out the course of roads or aqueducts, bridging rivers and breaching the walls of fortified strongholds, as well as the production of itineraries and maps for administrators and the provincial populations alike. Fragmentary texts preserved in the collection known as the *Corpus Agrimensorum* show that they drew deeply on the scientific writings of Euclid, Aristotle, Archimedes and Eratosthenes as well as on the Roman jurists to deploy geometry, astronomy, law and logical arguments based on evidence for the resolution of disputes. A series of fragmentary surveying instruments including a groma and portable sundial found in Pompeii and a dioptra, now on display as part of the exhibition *Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity* at New York University, illuminate the *agrimensores*' use of geometric principles to organize the landscape on a day to day basis. The interpretation of these tools partly depends upon information in the *Corpus Agrimensorum*, and partly on a series of funerary monuments such as that of Lucius Aebutius Faustus from Ivrea in Italy (see image). Other funerary monuments, such as that set up by the levelling surveyor Nonius Datus at Lambaesis (Algeria), narrate the working life of the *agrimensores*, illustrating their conflicts with Roman administrators and local construction gangs.



Where the Romans chose to incorporate territory into the Empire, it was the duty of the *agrimensores* to not simply outline and maintain routes for communications; they were also responsible for incorporating the newly conquered communities into the Roman imperial worldview. One of the clearest examples can be found on the monument set up to Claudius at Patara in modern Turkey to celebrate the creation of a new road network for the people living in the province of Lycia. The monument juxtaposes Claudius as ruler of the inhabited globe with a description of the provincial infrastructure focused on the capital and following the topographical formation and roads of the region as recorded by the *agrimensores*. While some of the roads have been documented by field surveys as new, most existed prior to the Claudian intervention. Where new branches or cuttings for roads bisected agricultural land, it is quite possible that the *agrimensores* assisted in the renegotiation of field boundaries and property rights between local land-holders. However, the *agrimensores* were primarily concerned with recording the territorial boundaries enclosing and separating existing communities from one another, and in the establishment of Roman colonies and *praefectura* for colonists. Survey data from various regions show that the *agrimensores* adapted the existing boundary systems, expanding or contracting them as local political conditions dictated. Centuriation was an administrative practice predominantly employed to regulate land use and ownership where Roman colonists were settled alongside non-Roman land-holders. When a community was

encountered, the *agrimensores* fixed its latitude in addition to integrating it into the provincial road network.

Whether a community's territory was centuriated or not, the *agrimensores* produced a map, or *forma*, depicting the landscape and a commentary to explain what the map was supposed to depict. In Roman colonies, the *forma* was produced in two copies with one housed in the local civic archives and the other sent to Rome. To authenticate the documents, a bronze or marble copy of the map, such as the one seen in a fragment from Orange, was hung up in a public place. Beyond mapping the territory of individual cities, the *agrimensores* compiled information on the provincial network, provincial boundaries and astronomical data to produce a *forma provinciae*, or diagram of the province. To judge from the Patara monument, these documents and their commentaries showed the locations of cities, their political status, the roads and the political boundaries introduced by the Roman administration. The *agrimensores* seem to have translated the information on the *forma provinciae* into that of the provincial population when they possessed a written language of their own. Such a document would have helped both Roman administrative officials and provincial leaders comprehend the province as a place.



However important the collection and presentation of topographical data may have been to the Roman administration in fostering a sense of provincial identity following hostilities, the key problem for the Roman administration would have been the resolution of disputes between and within the communities of a province. Within communities, the administration seems to have been content to allow pre-existing stems of dispute resolution to continue much as they had been prior to the formation of the province. Where disputes between cities or large groups were concerned, the *agrimensores* stepped in to negotiate a resolution as semi-impartial arbitrators. In doing so they adapted local laws, systems of property demarcation and measurement to their own practices. Roman law and surveying methods were only employed where the *agrimensores* could not identify local conventions or where Roman citizens were involved. Cities, which chose to resolve their differences with violence rather than submitting them to arbitration, drew a swift and devastating military response from the Roman administration. The Roman policy of repressing any and all collective acts of violence not initiated by imperial command may have had something to do with the success of the *agrimensores*. Nonetheless, their success can be documented in the numerous inscribed boundary markers such as the one from Plovdiv in Bulgaria set up for the Rodopeides, or the one from Monte Horquera in Spain set up for the Siccaenae, that attest to non-Roman peoples within the Empire employing the *agrimensores* to delimit and reorganize their territory without any reference to Roman imperial administration.

What one can take away from this study is the idea that surveying may have been an act of domination, but it was a discursive activity where both administration and those it wished to administer had a say in what happened and how it was done. We can study how surveying shaped the landscape and the impact that this reshaping had on people and their sense of self-identity.

Archives, Archives everywhere....

Dani de Carle

In the style of academic archaeology departments everywhere Leicester has its fair share of dusty basements and dark cupboards lovingly referred to as 'Archives' from which 'team tech' can pull various boxes, folders and even the odd holy relic (do check out the temporary display of Holy Land curios outside the bone labs, all reproductions - I'm almost totally sure they aren't really real; well the printing on a few does leave a little to be desired and the plastic showing through is a bit of a clue but these 'teaching aids' from a bygone iteration of the department are so old now that they are getting a sort of antiquity all of their own).

Still the Leicester archives are full of randomly shaped boxes quietly mouldering as their cryptic coding systems fade, plans where the glue is slowly peeling from the hanging strips depositing the permatrace memories in an unintelligible heap at the bottom of the case, artefacts stored in a range of tins, paper bags and even the odd bucket. Unlike our colleagues in ULAS, there hasn't been the same impetus from past academic explorations to consistently label and code the sites/contexts to be sent off to the respective municipal store – though looking to the outside world (CIFA archives meeting 2016) museums and councils are finding it more and more difficult to accept project archives, and then go on to make them accessible, useable and relevant. Some of our sites held in the stores don't even have a receiving museum any more. This surely makes the material we hold here at Leicester a potential source of data and stories for our students – every time I walk in to the Attenborough tower I can hear the whisper of the potential dissertations that may never be written; or is it the moan of the lift shaft in the Attenborough tower getting really out of hand?

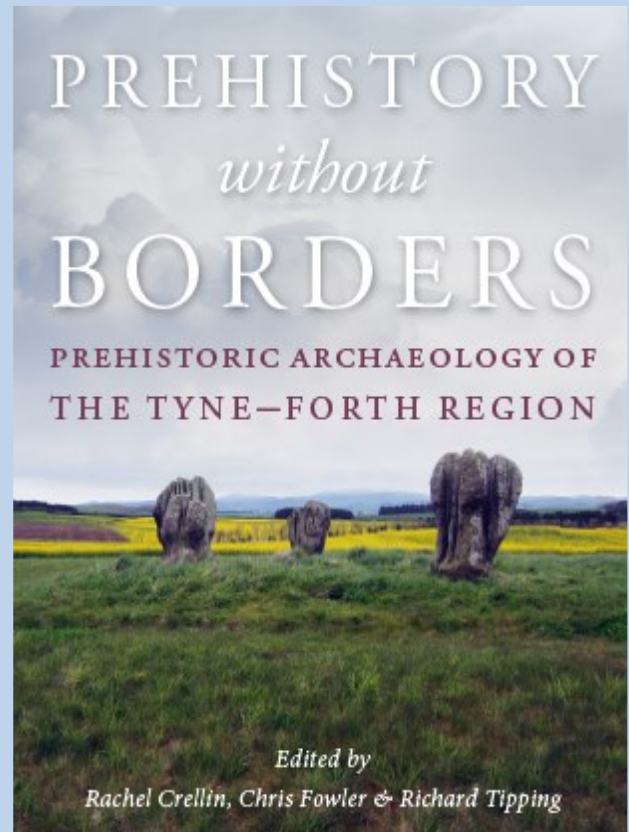


What is a poor technician that has never met me, and has no idea what GA14 means, going to think in 30 years' time when they find the stack of film canisters – we have an exciting range of Betamax home style videos too; that little box of pot sherds – we even give those away as gifts now; the tube of snails marked 'pit 3' or even the mammoth tusk....

Book News

Prehistory without Borders

Edited by R.J. Crellin, C. Fowler and R. Tipping
Oxbow Books 2016



Modern borders of all kinds, political, geographical and social, effect the kinds of prehistoric narratives archaeologists can write. Borders that dominate today did not exist in prehistory. This volume works across such borders and focuses specifically on the region between the Rivers Forth and Tyne, an area divided by the modern political border between Scotland and England. This edited volume is the result of an AHRC networking grant that sought to better connect archaeologists working in northeast England and south east Scotland, and to weave together archaeologists in those regions from different sectors (academics, commercial sector, volunteer groups, museum and council staff). The networking grant enabled five conferences and three field meetings and the papers within this volume are a selection of those delivered at the conferences. The book features seventeen papers, fourteen of which offer excellent regional case studies of the archaeology of the Tyne-Forth region from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Late Iron Age. The topics addressed in the volume include climate change, Bayesian modelling, metalwork, burials, and settlements patterns. In addition the opening three chapters reflect on the impact of borders on archaeology and will be of interest to a broader audience, including a paper from our own Colin Haselgrove.

Exploring Norse Greenland

**Jess Angus McCullough
(PhD student) reports
on his fieldwork**

Greenland was inhabited by Norse people from roughly AD 985 to 1450, though what we know of their lives there has been gleaned from archaeology, sparse notes in ecclesiastical archives, and fanciful Icelandic sagas written centuries after the events they describe. My research explores the process of Christianization of the

Greenland Norse, and to that end I secured a grant from the CSSAH Postgraduate Fund to spend four days exploring key Norse church sites in the Tunuliarfik and Igaliku Fjord region of south Greenland. Eirik the Red first established his farm on here in the late 10th century, and the Bishops of Greenland lived at nearby Gardar from the 12th to 15th centuries.

My adventurous friend Jack joined me, and we arrived at Narsarsuaq Airport in the evening on 12th July. Our first adventure upon arrival was finding transportation from the airport across the fjord to Qassarsuk, the sheep farming settlement now occupying the site of Eirik the Red's farm Brattahlid. There are no roads in Greenland to speak of (their construction and



Jack in the ruins of Gardar

Narsaq we transferred to a significantly warmer boat for our journey to Qaqortoq. Qaqortoq's population is under 3,500, but it is the largest town in the area and a stopping point for cruise ships. After a musk-ox based dinner, we checked into our hostel. In the morning of 14th July, after Jack had accidentally eaten a slice of Minke whale at the hostel breakfast, we caught our boat to Hvalsey Church. Hvalsey is the best preserved Norse church in Greenland, and as such provides the best understanding of what 14th century trends in Church building were present there.

On 15th July we booked passage with an Inuit fisherman to Igaliku, formerly the Norse episcopal see of Gardar. The ruins of Greenland's only cathedral are plainly visible today, as well as the barns and byres of the accompanying farmstead. They are constructed of massive sandstone blocks that in many places remain standing. We fortuitously learned from the local hostel that high winds were expected the next day, and that if we were going to be back at the airport for our flight out - the *only* flight out for that week - we needed to get there that day. The boat honored our tickets a day in advance and we made it to the airport hostel with enough time to hike up to see the ice fjord coming down from the Greenland ice sheet. The following day we were aboard our plane with a great deal of data and even more memories.



Jess in 'Thjodhild's Church' c. AD 1000

maintenance prohibited by the extreme weather and rugged terrain) so most transportation is by boat. While there are transfer tables and fares posted online, there is no regular schedule and any transportation is on an as-available basis (we found this to be true of many aspects of Greenlandic life!). The first evening and following morning we explored the ruins of Brattahlid, which contains the ruins of the oldest Christian church in the Western Hemisphere (c. AD 1000) and its 12th-13th century successor church.

The morning of 13th July we hitched a ride on a zodiac tour boat heading for the village of Narsaq. It was a chilly but exhilarating ride past icebergs the size of houses that the locals called "the small ones". The sites of Norse farms are easily identifiable as they are the only green and verdant enough pockets of land to farm in Greenland, and modern settlements have popped up on them for this very reason. In

Our taught postgraduates – incoming and completing

David Edwards reports on the news

Moving towards the end of semester 1 we are very pleased to welcome our new cohort of 22 new MA students on campus as well as new DL intakes. The former include a several of our own graduates as well as many new arrivals, the MA Archaeology being just about 'full', which is nice to see. Amongst the new arrivals we were very pleased that Jessica Esser was awarded a University Overseas Scholarship of £3500, so congratulations to her, coming to us from Norway, via the University of Queensland.

This time of year, academic staff have been reading many MA Dissertations from last year's cohorts, both Campus and Distance Learning. For us this can be a very enjoyable experience, encountering lots of original work, often in new and interesting fields of research. Amongst the work of our Distance Learning students, with their particularly varied international backgrounds, we often encounter much thought-provoking work. Often extending our horizons, reading these dissertations is commonly one of the most enjoyable and rewarding of our tasks within the teaching year.

Some interesting examples which caught my eye were Richard Coleman's [DL Classical Mediterranean] '*You're Going to Rome: The reception of ancient Rome as presented in the American travel guide from 1900-1960*' and Kristina Lindgren's [DL Archaeology & Heritage] '*Archaeological exploration of graffiti at Cadiz Summit on historic route 66 in the Mojave desert*'.



Graffiti at the Cadiz Summit on Route 66 – Mojave Desert (photo Kristina Lindgren)

A huge array of other topics ranged across Iron Age Textiles, Iron Age hill-forts, Roman Leicester, the power of Standing Stones, Spartan politics, Republican factionalism, Hellenistic and Roman masculinities, house graffiti at Donington le Heath,

Post-medieval kilns and potting from Ticknall. The Classical Mediterranean also inspired a new look at Helen of Troy, as re-imagined in modern media, the Virgin Mary and Venus and the Judgment of Paris in 18th and 19th century art, and Aphrodite in Cyprus. In our recent Exam Board our External Examiners were especially complimentary of the variety, originality as well as the quality of the dissertations.

Amongst this bumper crop of dissertations, both Campus and DL, there have been many with a 'Historical Archaeology' flavour and we have also profiled a few of these online through the Centre of Historical Archaeology.

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/centre-for-historical-archaeology/research-1/our-recent-graduates>

FINDING THE ANCIENT GREEK 'NON-COMBATANT'

Richard Evans (PhD student) writes...

On 19th September 2016 an aid convoy providing food relief to war-torn Syrians was intentionally targeted by an airstrike in Urum al-Kubra, resulting in the death of 18 civilians and the destruction of at least 18 aid vehicles. This blatant war-crime was committed during an agreed ceasefire; as both the US and Russian officials placed blame on one another for the attack, an international investigation has begun in earnest. What the attack starkly symbolises is how far gone the situation for civilians and other non-combatants has become within the Syrian conflict – a five-year conflict that has taken over 100,000 civilian lives and displaced millions. Although Syria is a bitter fought and brutal intra-state conflict, with inter-state involvement, it is not an isolated case of large losses of non-combatant lives. Since the Second World War, civilians have been increasingly caught-up in contemporary conflicts: from indiscriminate bombings to terrorist violence, the death toll of civilians is now in the hundreds of millions.

The stark brutality of contemporary conflicts, and their damage to civilian lives are what first inspired me to look at the conditions and treatment of the civic population of ancient Greek *poleis* during inter-state conflict; indeed, numerous sieges and massacres, attested throughout classical literature, provide fertile ground for such a study. Yet surprisingly, no study has attempted to identify and define non-combatant status within the world of the Greek *poleis*, or any ancient culture to my knowledge. Instead, classical scholars usually opt to use terms like non-combatant and civilian as innate statements, without defining such designations; this frequently results in Greek conflicts being divided into combatant and non-combatant on binary divisions: usually everyone outside of the military, especially women and children, are designated as non-combatant or civilian, while men are normally regarded as combatant *proper*. But these divisions are primarily based on a misunderstanding of what a non-combatant is: while the majority of non-combatants (civilians) are outside of the military sphere, medics and religious personnel are not. They are members of the armed forces *proper*, but are afforded non-combatant status, with intentional targeting of them punishable as a war-crime. Furthermore, modern medics are permitted to carry personal light weapons (submachine guns and rifles) for their own, and their patients', protection.

What has become very clear over my last year of research is that even if we accept that the ancient Greeks had inviolable categories during inter-state conflict, the legal and social framework that they existed under was vastly different to the one in place today. The Greeks lacked anything that resembles 'non-combatant' within their vocabulary; indeed, while they could discuss the horrors of killing or enslaving particular groups of Greek peoples, Greek writers did not define anyone as a distinctive, inviolable group through the single term 'non-combatant'.

Another larger obstacle, is that the Greeks had nothing like the Geneva or Hague conventions, or indeed any such codified system; rather, they possessed a customary inter-state legal system, based on slowly developed values, some likely in place before the archaic period. The *Iliad* attests to the inviolability of heralds, which throughout Greek history, including Roman annexation, never appears to have ended. However, most of these values appear to have formulated sometime during or just after the Persian Wars, with the Greek *poleis* becoming far more aware of the costs of protracted conflict against one-another. It is the classical period that contains a heightened sense of customary law and its boundaries, with far more infractions claimed within the texts of Thucydides and Xenophon than that of Herodotus. These include the safety and bargaining of prisoners of war, the need to follow procedures for opening and closing war, safe passage for envoys and the increased sanctity of sanctuary complexes.

There is also the lack of a single extant text on the inter-state customs of ancient Greece; such a text may have existed, if Demetrios of Phalerum's (mid-4th to 3rd century BC) supposed works listed within Diogenes Laërtius' *Lives* (5.5) are accurate. Consequently, any ancient historian who wishes to reconstruct the customary laws of the Greek *poleis* is left with combing Greek historians, biographers, orators, dramatists, philosophers and inter-state epigraphical communication to piece together the relatively small collection of references we have to the 'common laws of mankind'. This phrasing is the signpost scholars like myself rely on to identify when a Greek custom has some form of reverence or force, as they are usually quoted when they have been violated.

The study of custom and customary law has become far more nuanced over the last few decades, with the argument that tribes and other non-literary cultures do have a legal system in place internally and externally with other groups based on social expectation through custom; indeed, what makes custom legal is that these expectations are generally followed more than broken, and when broken they are suitably punished. Within the basic framework, the Greek *poleis* fit into such a customary legal framework in how they conducted their warfare.

Considering all of the research and definitions that I have processed over the last year, I found what, for lack of a better word, can be called 'non-combatants' within the *poleis*. The individuals who were afforded inviolable status during inter-state conflicts were very specialist individuals: heralds, envoys (attached to heralds), priests and priestesses. What this leaves is every man, woman and child who did not fulfil these roles – most of which were male roles anyway – as completely devoid of any innate customary protection during war, aside from perhaps a temple's sacred boundary. The ancient literature overflows with massacres and mass enslavements of such peoples (e.g. Melos, Thebes and Mantinea), but that nothing whatsoever existed legally to limit their destruction did take me aback, reinforcing how different an inter-state legal system and idea of warfare the Greek had throughout their long history.

Distance Learning Update

Ruth Young writes...

Things continue to go well for the School's distance learning programmes, with growing numbers of students registering for our two undergraduate degrees, the BA in Archaeology, and the BA in Ancient History and Classical Archaeology. Being able to offer an alternative to campus study is something that the School is very proud of; it means that we can make higher education available to people who cannot study on campus, or who chose not to.

We have also seen increases in registrations for our MA Programmes (Archaeology and Heritage, Historical Archaeology, and the Classical Mediterranean). School representatives will be attending three major conferences in North America in early 2017 in order to publicise our distance and campus Graduate Programmes. These are the Archaeological Institute of America conference in Toronto in January, the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Fort Worth also in January, and the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver in April, and we would be very happy to meet with any current or potential students there.

Many distance learning students joined the summer field project at Bradgate Park in Leicester, some for the fieldwork component of their Fieldwork module (compulsory for the BA Archaeology, optional for the BA Ancient History and Classical Archaeology), and some for the pleasure of returning to work as a volunteer on such an interesting site. Working at Bradgate is an opportunity to gain key fieldwork skills under the tuition of professional archaeologists from ULAS, and also meet and work with other students and academic staff.

The third year module Archaeological Practice (compulsory in the BA Archaeology) is another chance for students to come on to campus, meet and work with other students and academic staff, and immerse themselves in campus life for a week. Exposure to a range of scientific methods and materials is a key element of this module and, as well as being a great learning experience, it is great fun.



The Hellenistic Peloponnese: New Perspectives Conference

Andrea Scarpato reports

The Hellenistic Peloponnese: New Perspectives Conference took place on Friday 6th May 2016, with 14 papers presented by PhD researchers and established academics from five countries. Compelling keynote lectures were delivered by Prof. Andrew Meadows (Oxford) and Dr Daniel Stewart (Leicester) who kindly offered to chair the sessions they introduced. The event also ran smoothly thanks to the invaluable contribution of Prof. Graham Shipley (Leicester) and Prof. Stephen Hodkinson (Nottingham) who chaired sessions and led the final discussions.

Papers addressed four significant issues regarding the Hellenistic Peloponnese: production/consumption, power, leadership, and memory. Both Archaeology and Ancient History were represented, with topics including the presence and production of material remains (lead figurines, statues and artistic representations) in Elis and Laconia; the perception of memory inside and outside the Peloponnese; an archaeological comparison of the Peloponnese with Southern Italy; Spartan domestic and foreign policy; violence and warfare in Achaea and beyond. The wide range of scientific approaches (use of isotope analysis, application of theories drawn from cognitive psychology, ethnography and social sciences) and their application to Archaeology and Ancient History encouraged lively debate about the economy and Peloponnesian identity both as a whole and as a multitude of regions. This was the first conference whose central topic was the Hellenistic Peloponnese, and the SAAH, due to its recognised tradition of scholars engaged with the study of the region, provided an ideal setting for the event to happen.

The conference was a great opportunity not only for PhD researchers, but also for undergraduates and MA students to meet specialists from different academic backgrounds with particular interests in the study of Hellenistic history. The conference was



Dr Daniel Stewart delivering the opening lecture (Photo by J. Ainsworth)

organised by Jane Ainsworth, Andrea Scarpato and Manolis Pagkalos, who were given great support by Adam Thuraingam from the SAAH Professional Services team. Special thanks should go to Michaela Šenková, Sarah Scheffler and Maria Lymeropoulou for helping the organising committee with the reception of delegates and the final wine reception.

Archaeology and Art

Marijke van der Veen reports on a new archaeological project with a local school

A new Outreach project started this autumn, bringing archaeology to primary school children. After a suggestion by Debbie Miles-Williams, I have started working with Year 6 children (10-11 years old) at Folville Junior School in Braunstone, introducing archaeology through art. The children visited the excavations in Bradgate Park last summer, and in September a selection of them came to the School. They worked in the labs



three tables, each with a typical meal, one Stone Age, one Tudor and one of today. The tables will be accompanied by paintings and photographs. Some amazing work is being produced, as the photographs show. The project is ongoing, so watch this space!

learning about pottery with Sarah Newstead, identified animal bones with Eric Turigny and seeds with me and Dani de Carle, while Terry Hopkinson taught them about the Ice Age, flint tools and Stone Age life.

Since then I have been working at the school, together with sculpture friend Rae Scott, teaching the children to create clay sculptures inspired by the excavations.

The theme is food, and we are working towards





Obligatory team photo – Chantal is behind the lens

The Pre-Alpine Churches of Mendrisio District, Ticino

A field report by Chantal Biemann

This past May, a small team comprising University of Leicester (Chantal Biemann, Neil Christie), ULAS (Andy Hyam), University of Kent (Patricia Baker), and Virginia Tech (Glenn Bugh) members, conducted a nine-day building survey on churches in the pre-alpine district of Mendrisio in Ticino, southern Switzerland. Sponsored by an annual grant award of the Society of Church Archaeology, the survey aimed to investigate the standing archaeology of churches with foundation dates of the late antique and early medieval periods. What building techniques can be observed? What local trends can be traced and what commonalities, if any, exist between the building phases of the churches? Are the materials all locally sourced? We were fortunate to have the support of Virginia Tech via Glenn, who arranged apartments in the small community of Riva San Vitale, and put us in contact with local expert Daniela Doninelli who provided a tour of the region and arranged access to the churches. Our apartments were particularly impressive - not only in the heart of the region but I personally had the great fortune to be housed next to the fifth-century baptistery (although I also had the 'joy' of waking up to loud bells every day at 6am).

So why choose that particular region to study? Why not the high Alps or the pre-Alps on the other side? Some practicalities had to be considered: Alpine churches tend to be spread out and thus conducting a survey where we would need to drive a far distance to get to a solitary church would prove difficult; gaining access (i.e. the keys!) to these churches would also be more difficult without local connections; finding a suitable area to set up 'camp' was needed; and having a nearby gelateria to appease Neil's sweet tooth (alas the local gelateria was essentially closed as it was not yet 'summer'). In terms of actual research, the district had many intriguing features, ranging from its geology and geography to its archaeology. Nestled between Monte San Giorgio and Monte Generoso with Lago di Lugano to the north, the valley had access to a vast array of different stone: limestones (a local type known as Meride Limestone), marles, shales, granite, and even a type of red marble, quarried still today at the

Cave di Arzo, located near Meride. Archaeologically, the region is known for its Roman-period pottery and brick production as well as an Iron Age hill-top settlement near Tremona. For our purposes, the district of Mendrisio conveniently features a set of churches located on hills and valley floors - well suited for our intrepid team. Furthermore, with the Alps to the north and Italy to the south, including the major city of Como (also a late antique bishopric), the survey location allowed us to question whether any trends observed could be considered 'northern' or 'Alpine' or more 'Italian' and thus southwards-looking.

In total we scrutinised six local churches to which we had access inside, plus the baptistery of St John, and a few other unanticipated churches we found during our travels. We each had our jobs, usually working in pairs: Neil and Glenn recording measurements and drawings of the churches alongside their own observations; Patricia and myself working on the detailed photographic shots and records of the churches; and Andy focusing on the general shots and the phasing of the structures. Some initial observations include: the variety of stone – pink granite, black granite, white limestone, mudstone, sandstone, and more found across the region (Rovio, pictured here, is a great example of the diversity); Andy's insight that roof structures inside the churches often featured a standard king's post but with a gap; a complete absence of pottery during walks around the sites. A scenic trip to the archives in Bellinzona also revealed an untapped resource - original diaries of excavations at the Riva San Vitale baptistery. It was during that trip that we made some unscheduled stops, including a brief look at San Vittore's strange church built on a massive boulder, its equally strange Torre di Pala, which spans the top of two other massive boulders, and a whirlwind survey (exterior only) of an Alpine church at Mezzovico-Vira with foundations dating to the sixth century.

The next steps are to digitise the plans, to develop a phasing for each of the churches based on the on-the-ground observations as well as evidence from previous excavation work, and to write up the results of the survey.

Rovio's San Vigilio





MA PRIZES NEWS!



We have been able to award a number of MA prizes at the recent Examination Board.

Archaeology & Ancient History MA Prize (Campus-based)

John Anderson

Archaeology & Ancient History MA Dissertation Prize (Campus-based) was shared this year by:-

John Anderson [*Allusion and intertext in the Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War*]

Alexander Thomas [*Formal and Informal Power: Macedon and the Mainland Greeks, c. 338-215 BC*]

Archaeology & Ancient History MA Prize (Distance Learning)

Cristina Hernandez

Mark Pluciennik MA Dissertation Prize in Archaeology & Ancient History (Distance Learning)

Cristina Hernandez [*Cave Oculum: Controlling accessibility and vision in the Pompeian domus*]



OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM

Archaeology and Classics in the Community

Jane Ainsworth

The Archaeology and Classics in the Community project, funded by Classics For All, runs clubs and sessions for schools based on the research of SAAH and ULAS. The project allows postgraduate supervisors from SAAH to gain experience in teaching, alongside students from across the university act who act as volunteers, with the aims of introducing Latin and Roman archaeology to local pupils and raising their aspirations towards entering higher education. All the sessions feature aspects of local archaeology, based on objects found at the Jewry Wall Museum, and are delivered to primary and secondary schools.

Since the activities reported in the last *Bulletin*, the project has run a successful training day for local teachers, as we aim to develop the project across more schools and introduce continuers' sessions for pupils who want to continue the clubs from last year. Teachers from schools where the project already runs, as well as new recruits from Slater School, Lutterworth High School and new postgraduate supervisors, met in the Ceramics Lab for an introduction to the Latin taught in the course. After walking a modified version of the SAAH Leicester Trail to the Jewry Wall Museum, and fortified with cake provided by Sarah Scheffler, one of our supervisors, the teachers had the opportunity to see the objects on which the course is based and to make links between the different schools. This will be important as we set up the continuers' course, open to pupils from all the schools taking part. We are grateful to Jewry Wall for their continued support in the project and to Leicester High School, who have offered to host sessions for the continuers' course. The day would not have been possible without the work of the project's new administrator, Katherine Taylor. The next round of clubs will begin in late January at four schools, and anyone still interested in volunteering for an hour a week in the spring should contact Jane Ainsworth (jla26@le.ac.uk).

The idea of basing the contents of the project on SAAH/ULAS research and local finds has been highlighted at stalls, alongside the wide variety of Outreach activities organised by Debbie Miles-Williams, to visitors at the university's alumni weekend and at the Jewry Wall launch of the Festival of Archaeology. As part of the third year undergraduate Archaeology and Education module, Hannah Wolden and John Phillips worked with the staff at Jewry Wall to produce posters which were displayed at the stalls. Volunteers on the day at the museum reported excited reaction when telling children and grown-ups that the objects and the characters on which they were based "would have walked just where you're standing now." The museum has a series of backpacks to guide young visitors around the museum and students on this year's module will have the opportunity to develop a "Cori backpack", with a focus on the artefacts used in the sessions. For volunteers in this year's activities there will be the opportunity to develop their marketing skills by putting together videos to advertise the clubs, highlighting the excitement and value of studying the ancient world while learning new technical skills.



Mohenjo Daro: An Epic Disaster?

**Film Review by Raminder Kaur
(PhD Student)**

Hrithik Roshan (Sarman), Pooja Hegde (Chaani),
Kabir Bedi (Maham), Arunoday Singh (Moonja)

Synopsis: In 2666 BC, Sarman, an indigo farmer, tries his luck at trade and barter in Mohenjo Daro. He meets Chaani, a priest's daughter and they fall in love. Challenging the authority of Maham, the corrupt chief, and Moonja, his misogynistic son, Sarman is soon fighting for the city's survival.

Period dramas are nothing new for this film's director Ashutosh Gowariker. Here, he goes back to the enigmatic Indus Valley Civilisation. Marketed as a love story, *Mohenjo Daro* failed at the box office. Hrithik Roshan as Sarman is an Indian Hercules going through different labours to fulfil his ultimate destiny. It is a familiar role for him. Pooja Hegde has sporadic bursts of talent. Gowariker failed to utilise Chaani's interesting back-story, which deals with issues relevant to many girls and women today, nor gives her the reverence she deserves as 'The Chosen One'. Both Bedi and Singh are standard Bollywood villains and do justice to their two-dimensional roles. The cast is ably supported by recognisable TV actors, some from Gowariker's last project.

Gowariker makes use of key artefacts and builds the narrative around them, such as the 'Unicorn' and 'Pashupati' seals, and the 'Priest-King' and 'Mother Goddess' figurines. Even the 'dancing girl' makes a guest appearance in a poignant scene. However, *Mohenjo Daro* makes no effort to explore the class divide between the protagonists, nor does it expand on the problems farmers have to face. These issues could have been used to connect the audience to the past. Dialogues were typical.

The CGI is poor and comparable in quality to that used on Indian television. In contrast to the historical film *Aśoka* (2001), which had interesting cinematography, *Mohenjo Daro* has standard camerawork and shaky panning. The soundtrack failed to create a lasting impression. Rahman uses authentic sounds, albeit recycled from earlier compositions, including stringed instruments recalling the lyres of Ur. Akhtar's lyrics are uninspired. Only the temple theme, 'Whispers of the Mind', and its counterpart, 'Whispers of the Heart', really stand out as evocative of the past. The picturisation of 'Sarsariya' showcases the city well. The set takes into account the shape of the bricks, the paving, the drainage system, the separation of the city into lower and upper parts, and time-keeping methods. People are seen dying fabrics and making pottery. Figurines are displayed and children play with toys. The reconstruction of the Great Bath features in 'Tu Hai'. The weak choreography though does not display Roshan's dancing talents.

Much of the negative press before the film released stemmed from publicity given to a history student, who slammed the first-look posters as being 'Orientalist'. Taking these statements as fact, especially without requisite knowledge, is dangerous because it perpetuates stereotypes that have become ingrained into Indian nationalist theories on ethnicity. To question why a fair-skinned 'Aryan' girl was cast instead of a darker one denies Pooja Hegde her own heritage. The real stereotypes are the portrayal of the Sumerians as supplying weapons (of mass destruction?); the whirling dervishes (from Sufism) and the oft-seen European/Russian belly dancers found in the title song; and the brutish 'Tajik' fighters (surely a sly reference to statements that while Asia was civilised the white man was still living in caves).

A UNESCO World Heritage site, which means nothing, the Indus Valley Civilisation does not receive the same attention in the media as its sister civilisations. Gowariker must be credited with attempting to showcase a city which is under threat of disappearing without proper conservation.

Verdict: Not a complete disaster. Worth watching once.

Caption Competition! Prize up for grabs!

Have a caption to go
with this picture? Please
email it to Adam Rogers

acr16@le.ac.uk

Last edition winner...

Many thanks to Neil Christie
for this caption:

'Hmmm, it's gonna be hell
when I have to go to the
toilet...'

Thanks to all the entries!

