The Student Run Archaeology Journal

The Post Hole

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Hungate Special

We look back at the five years of this successful excavation and what it means to archaeology in York, through the words of four people with strong connections to the site.

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Cover image by Izzy Winder

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1 Editorial

Mark Simpson (mailto:ms788@york.ac.uk)

Welcome back to The Post Hole. I hope all our readers have had a good Easter. I am happy to present a packed and diverse Issue 22 to you over the coming pages.

As the cover suggests, this issue is a Hungate Special. We will look back at this major dig in the City of York over the last five years through the words of four people who have worked there; from the professionals, one of the York Archaeological Trust interns and a volunteer digger from the University of York. Their perspectives give a fascinating insight into this important dig, which ended last December. Or did it? Read on to find out more...

Also this issue, we have contributions from two Heads of the Archaeology Department at the University of York. Current holder of the post, Professor Julian Richards, tells us about the recent trip to London by staff and students to receive the Queen's Anniversary Prize, while former holder Professor Martin Carver discusses his role as Editor of Antiquity journal. As if that was not enough, there is also an interview with Senior Lecturer Doctor Kate Giles.

Alongside all this our Etiquette Guide series features Fieldwork (just in time for Year 1 excavations) and there is a timely look at the legacy of the R.M.S. Titanic, so much in the news and on television last month. However, the second half of the review of the excavations at Gawthorpe has had to be postponed until Issue 23, later this term.

So, there is something for everyone! I hope you enjoy the following articles as much as we, the team, enjoyed putting them together. And we still want to hear from you. Yes, you! The Post Hole is here mainly to produce articles written by students, for students, so do not be a stranger, send us your ideas and interests.

Take care

Mark

2 Queen's Anniversary Prize

Julian D. Richards (mailto:Julian.Richards@york.ac.uk)

On February 23rd and 24th staff, students, friends, and supporters of the Department of Archaeology at the University of York attended a range of events in London to celebrate the award of the Queens Anniversary Prize for the 2010-12 'Diamond Jubilee' Round, for *'Leading-edge work in archaeology from prehistory to the modern age'*.

On Thursday evening Julian Richards, John Schofield, Matthew Collins, Kate Giles and Catherine Hardman attended a banquet for prize-winners and their supporters held in the Guildhall. Sir Christopher O'Donnell (Chair of Council), Brian Cantor (Vice-Chancellor), John Local (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research) and Mark Ormrod (Academic Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities) also attended.

Figure 1 – From left, Doctor John Schofield, Catherine Hardman (ADS), Professor Julian Richards, Doctor Kate Giles and Professor Matthew Collins, ready to attend the prize-winners banquet. (Image Copyright – Matthew Collins)

On Friday morning the departmental party, comprising Julian Richards, John Schofield, Matthew Collins, Kate Giles, and students Ben Elliott, James Taylor, and Chloe Lewis joined the Vice Chancellor and Chair of Council at the presentation to prize-winners in Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty the Queen presented the Medal to the Vice-Chancellor whilst His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh presented the certificate to Julian. After the ceremony the Queen and the Duke gave a reception for the Prize-winners' representatives, including staff and students, and other guests in the Picture Gallery. In the afternoon more students, friends and supporters were able to attend a packed reception held at the Society of Antiquaries of London in Burlington House.

The Queen's Anniversary Prize is part of the royal honours system and it is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a University centre or department. Awards are determined by a panel of judges drawn from all walks of life. They are awarded not just for excellence or innovation in teaching or research, but focus on activities that have had an impact on the world beyond academia, and which contribute to the wider society and economy of the United Kingdom. Therefore it is particularly pleasing for the Award to go to a Department of Archaeology, as it confirms the wider impact of our work on British life. It reflects the fact that the Department has excavated on some of the key archaeological sites in Britain and beyond, including Wharram Percy, Sutton Hoo and Star Carr; our work with local communities in York and in Africa, and our pioneering work in bioarchaeology and computer applications, notably the work of the Archaeology Data Service. Above all, it is a tribute to the enduring work of staff and students of the Department since it was first established. The Awards are biennial and the Department will be able to display the award logo for four years. It will be particularly valuable in promoting our profile internationally, and for recruitment of overseas students.

Figure 2 – From left, Chloe Lewis (Year 3 student), Brian Cantor (Vice-Chancellor), Doctor Kate Giles, Doctor John Schofield, Sir Christopher O'Donnell (Chair of University Council), Professor Julian Richards, James Stuart Taylor (PhD student), Professor Matthew Collins and Ben Elliott (PhD student) at the palace. (Image Copyright – Matthew Collins)

3 Hungate Interview – Dr. Jon Kenny

Mark Simpson (mailto:ms788@york.ac.uk)

Dr. Jon Kenny is Community Archaeologist for York and the surrounding district, as well as being a staff member at York Archaeological Trust. Last interviewed by The Post Hole in Issue 4, he here answers questions set by Co-Editor Mark Simpson about the Hungate site.

Mark Simpson – Can you start please by giving us a bit of background to the Hungate site?

Jon Kenny – The excavations at Hungate were undertaken in advance of an extensive housing development in the area bounded by the Foss to the east and south, the Stonebow to the north and the BT building to the west. A number of evaluation projects began back in 2000 and led to targeted excavation for 5 years starting in 2007 on areas of the development where the building would destroy the archaeology. Over 95% of the archaeology on the site remains preserved in situ for the future. Most of the public eye has fallen on the large trench that sits next to Stonebow and Hungate, but we should remember that some of our significant work was nearby, especially on some of the industrial remains we excavated.

MS – What was your role on site?

JK – My role at Hungate was a Community Archaeologist for YAT. This involved looking after the Community Team of volunteers who helped on site and supporting the Young Offenders project that we ran. So Hungate had a great deal of influence on my work and the skills of community archaeologists from York but it was only part of my day to day work.

MS – How much do you feel that the Hungate excavation has contributed to our knowledge of York through time?

JK – The answer to this question will become clearer as the post excavation and publication process bears fruit. We can already see that the Roman material gives us a chance to study an extensive burial site located next to a river. The burial site was located on and near early ditches that may have significance for the early development of Roman York. Anglo Scandinavian activity was also extensive and allows us comparison with Coppergate and also to come to grips with the extent of Jorvik as a city. The medieval significance of the Hungate area, at least where we excavated, shows us a large open area dedicated to waste processing and possibly other activities adding to our understanding of how a large medieval city like York managed its peripheral areas (next to the King's Pool).

Post Medieval Hungate is significant for some who occupied the land such as the Cordwainers, who built a hall there, but also for its apparent use as a green corner containing gardens and cottages and presumably supplying fruit and veg to the city.

The infilling of the area in the 1800s is of course another significant contribution to our understanding of York. So often overlooked in York, the recent archaeology of workers housing has been a highlight of the excavation. Closely studied by Rowntree and others when it still stood, this and the variety of industrial archaeology in Hungate has been a significant contribution to our understanding of the story of York.

MS – It has been said that Hungate has been the most important excavation in York since Coppergate in the 1970s. Would you agree with that?

JK – In terms of scale, Hungate has been slightly larger, but it is difficult to match the influence of Coppergate on the place of the Vikings in culture today. The Coppergate excavations and the development of the Jorvik Viking Centre had a profound effect on the place of Vikings in the National Curriculum, then being developed. It is difficult to anticipate such far reaching influence again.

Hungate however, will rank with Coppergate because of its broader influence on our approach to the archaeology of York in terms of interest in post medieval and especially 19th century York. It will also leave significant contributions to a wide range of time periods outlined above. So in short it will not beat Coppergate for influence on our interest in Vikings, but can match it for its breadth of archaeological understanding of York. (I think!)

MS – Hungate has been a multi-period site. What were the significant finds from specific periods?

JK – The variety of grave goods from the Roman cemetery makes for exceptional exhibition potential. Worked jet and shale body adornments all appear heavily in talks and presentations that I give to community groups far and wide in Yorkshire. Obviously the skeletons themselves will also be important finds as the osteological analysis is collated. The Viking Age finds that stand out are probably the wooden finds, particularly the cellar walls that gave us a picture of ship timbers reused in the building. The gold coin found in a medieval pit has been used on posters and is attractive as treasure (especially as it was found by a Community Team member), but the real significance of the medieval finds will come with analysis of the everyday rubbish we found. The 19th century gave us more down to earth material again. Items from everyday life in typical workers housing and oddities from industrial sites such as the brick with graffiti preserved in the wall of the Leatham's Mill that said *"I hear john george robert hartley is a silly fool bloody fool to"*.

MS – As well as the professionals, Hungate has been dug by community groups, students and volunteers from across the world. Do you feel this has been a contributing factor to the site's success?

JK – My experience of Hungate has been an integral part of the community contribution to the project. Involving so many people in the process of archaeology has made this a very open excavation spreading interest and awareness around the UK and the world. Especially with the reach afforded by social networking on the Internet, an effect we would not have foreseen in 2007.

MS – Do you think that Hungate has raised the archaeological profile of York?

JK – The numbers of people participating in the excavation, visiting the excavation or seeing it on the television or Internet must have had an effect of the profile of York. Clearly this is difficult to quantify but the present television interest in archaeology has led to the site being included in numerous documentaries (more to come from Michael Wood) and in programmes such as The One Show which came to Hungate in its first week of broadcasting.

MS – How do you think the Hungate excavation will be viewed in ten years time?

JK – This is likely to be answered by the publications that come out of the excavation. Academic significance will stem from the reporting and publication of the varied aspects of the site I outlined earlier. The material recovered and

recorded should also feed into numerous research projects so that in ten years the site archive should be a popular stopping off point for researchers. New areas have been opened; the 19th century significance of Hungate is strong in the USA and Australia where that period is more extensively studied. Certainly in ten years time a large number of people will look back on Hungate because of their participation in the excavation in one way or another, but wider public profile will depend on how it is presented.

MS – What are your favourite memories from on site?

JK – My memories of the site are centred on the Community Team and the Young Offenders. From the first access for the community in the snow, to finding the gold coin, the sense of togetherness when removing the sets from Haver Lane in the mud and rain and successes and difficult moments with the young offenders. For me the site was about the archaeological significance of what we were involved with and about the people who were with us.

MS – Excavation ended at Hungate in December 2011, after five years. Or did it?

JK – There is a great deal of work yet to do on Hungate, lots of analysis and publication. The project is by no means finished because the trowels have been put away. But because the development has slowed due to the economic climate we have also been able to carry on *Archaeology Live!* (the YAT field school) at Hungate for another summer. So if you are looking for a field school take a look at Archaeology Live (`http://tinyurl.com/clvd66d`).

4 Kate Giles Interview

Mark Simpson (mailto:ms788@york.ac.uk)

Doctor Kate Giles is a Senior Lecturer in Buildings Archaeology at the University of York. As Undergraduate Admissions Tutor she is also the first point of contact for any student joining the archaeology department.

Post Hole Co-Editor Mark Simpson, who has a keen interesting in Buildings Archaeology, conducted this e-mail interview in April 2012.

Mark Simpson – Your initial interest was in history and art history. What drew you to these subjects?

Kate Giles – It was always buildings! I have always loved historic buildings and wanted to learn how to research and study them. I initially registered for a History degree, then had a taste of art history in my first year and so changed to a Joint Honours programme so I could take modules in Gothic buildings with Professors Christopher Norton and Richard Marks. Mind you, whilst my colleagues were sunning themselves on art history field trips to Florence, Paris and New York, I was driving round North Yorkshire in a minibus!

MS – You then moved on to buildings archaeology, which some would see as quite a change of direction. Why the change?

KG – I did not realise that archaeologists studied buildings until I came across the work of Jane Grenville and the Archaeology of Buildings programme here in the department. As soon as I started the course I realised that this was the way in which I wanted to study buildings, combining systematic survey with the historical research and interpretation.

MS – Having been the York Minster Archaeology Research Fellow for twelve years now, what do you find so fascinating about the building?

KG – Oh dear, yes it is that long! Well, I suppose it is that every time we do work in the Minster we discover something amazing and different, such as the recent discovery of burials in the South Transept. I also really like working with an institution where research feeds back into education, such as the training of the stonemasons, and to the general public.

MS – Can you tell us about your time at the Borthwick Institute for Archives? What is so interesting about old documents?

KG – Documents for me are a form of material culture. Like an artefact or building, they had a specific purpose, and were written with certain interests in mind – but not those of the archaeologist, usually! However, it is the challenge of taking a series of documents and working through them to really build up a rich and detailed picture of a building or a place which I love. It is one of the ways in which you really feel you are immersing yourself in the voices of the past, even if they sometimes had really illegible handwriting!

MS – Your specialist research area is in medieval guildhalls. Why guildhalls?

KG – It is very unusual in Archaeology to be one of the first people to really think about and understand a type of site or monument. That is what initially attracted me to Guildhalls the absence of previous study of them. However, I soon realised that they had a fascinating story to tell about the heyday of medieval religious culture as well as the impact of the Reformation on medieval society. More recently I also have become really interested in the Antiquarians who studied these buildings in the 19th and 20th century. I really enjoy building

up the layers of a story to explore what this tells us about the use and meanings of buildings over time.

Figure 1 – York Minster, west front. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson)

MS – What is your favourite of all the buildings you have researched, and why?

KG – Well, the Merchant Adventurers Hall in York will always be one of my favourites, but the Stratford-upon-Avon Guildhall and Guild Chapel is my current passion. This is partly because of the quality of the building, its archaeology and history, which is so rich. However, it has also been the opportunity to work collaboratively with my colleagues, Dr Jonathan Clark of

Field Archaeology Specialists, Dr Anthony Masinton from the Department and PhD student Ollie Jones, as well as our Stratford friends, which has made the project so exciting. Performing in the hall last July was a real highlight, and has now led to conversations with colleagues from Canada on developing an international research project 'theatre archaeology'.

MS – Recently you worked on an archaeology project with your sister (Dr. Melanie Giles, University of Manchester). What was this like? Do people often get the two of you mixed up?

KG – It has been brilliant. The farm graffiti project has been a great way of combining our interests in the Wolds with historic buildings research. In the past people were occasionally confused by us, but I think most people can now tell us apart. I did once get a nasty phone call from the Inland Revenue wondering why I was moonlighting at another University – they took some convincing that there were two of us out there!

Figure 2 – The Merchant Adventurers' Hall. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson)

MS – You sit on a number of committees, get invited to give talks around the world, publish, teach undergraduates and postgraduates and hold a variety of departmental roles. Do you manage to relax away from archaeology at all?

KG – Yes! I live in a village in North Yorkshire and am very involved in village life. Mind you, that does tend to involve a lot of archaeology, fundraising for the Church Tower Restoration and most recently organising a Local History weekend.

MS – The University of York has no female professors of archaeology. Do you have any ambitions to reverse this inequality?

KG – Well, I have only just become a Senior Lecturer, so I have some way to go, I think! What matters most to me is the opportunity to carry on researching the buildings that I love, and putting that passion into my teaching, supporting

the next generation of academics and professionals. I feel very lucky to be part of a Department where this is really valued and encouraged.

MS – And finally, you are known to have a passing interest in cocoa-based products. Do you have a favourite among these?

KG – Betty's Hot Chocolate, best consumed in Little Betty's, Stonegate!

5 Food, Fur and Feathers: A Zooarchaeologist's Perspective on Hungate

Clare Rainsford

Clare works as a Faunal Remains Specialist on the Hungate Project.

Hungate is still turning up surprises. The other day, it was a pit full of bones of goose wing tips. Professor Terry O'Connor had only seen a comparable assemblage twice before, and the closest parallel he could think of was a colonial period deposit from South Carolina. I wondered if it was related to wing-clipping, until I realised just how far down the wing the carpometacarpus extends. Terry thinks it could be to do with the making of quill pens, and asked me to check whether there was a bias towards left-hand side elements (left-hand wing feathers make better quills for right-handers, due to the way the wing curves). Having mentioned the deposit at the Publication Meeting, Nicky Rogers (YAT's small find specialist) dropped me an email suggesting arrow-fletching as a possible explanation. None of the fieldwork team recall digging the context, but a combination of Toby Kendall (Field Officer) and our Integrated Archaeological Database (IADB) indicates that the pit was probably 13th-14th century, dipping it out of my current remit. However, there are several other pits like it nearby, so I have quiet hopes of revealing further unusual deposits from craft activities as I carry on through the assemblage.

Figure 1 – A tray of goose carpometacarpii from 1 pit context at Hungate, representing a minimum of 65 geese. (Image Copyright – Clare Rainsford)

I have been employed by York Archaeological Trust for a year now as a Faunal Remains Specialist. I work full-time on the animal bone from Hungate, except for brief interludes to assess and write reports on animal bone from other

evaluations YAT or ArcHeritage have carried out, or to work on all matters zooarchaeological on the Teffont Archaeology Project. Before starting my job at Hungate, I was an MSc student at York University, and before that, an Archaeology & Anthropology undergraduate at the University of Cambridge. I applied to York because, among other reasons, York runs one of the only dedicated Zooarchaeology Masters courses in the country. I started volunteering at Hungate while still studying, and have not been able to escape since.

As anyone who has been into the Hungate HQ warehouse will know, there has been a lot of bone recovered from the excavation. It is estimated that about 60% of the finds by volume is just animal bone and the figure is more like 70% for the medieval period at the site. So far, I have assessed more than 59,613 fragments of bone from more than 750 contexts and I have not even finished the post-medieval levels. Medieval and Roman Hungate is all still to come! The sheer quantity of bone poses problems for analysis how do you record useful information from that amount of bone without it taking a lifetime? and for long-term storage. We are working towards a publication on the post-medieval archaeology from Hungate, and part of my job is to work with the chapter authors and the finds teams to provide information from the bones which will contribute to the story of Hungate. The example of the goose wings shows how this exercise in interpreting the material works in microcosm. Terry O'Connor is an external supervisor on the project, and we benefit enormously from his extensive knowledge of the faunal remains found in excavations across York and the wider region as well as his ability to identify birds other than chickens and geese (which is about as far as I manage to go!). In addition, I am part of a much larger team within the Trust, all working on different aspects of the same material. If I cannot find the information about the wider context of an assemblage that I am after on the project database, then I can ask the people who excavated it. Or Toby, who has photographs of every context excavated in Block H. Or I can go up to Aldwark and have a chat with Karen Weston (Artefact Research Assistant), who collates all the finds information and understands the bigger picture of how everything fits together, or Jayne Rimmer (Project Historian), the person responsible for bringing together the history and archaeology of the area, or Nicky, who knows about worked bone. My work on the animal bone is yielding some exciting results, but it only makes sense as part of a much bigger picture.

The other part of my job is solving the long-term storage problem posed by the huge quantities of bone recovered, by the simple expedient of deciding which boxes of bone it is important to keep, and which can be let go from Hungate to spend new and productive lives elsewhere. Designing a retention policy is something zooarchaeologists working for commercial units will have to do more and more frequently in future our stores are too full and we simply cannot hang on to all this bone. Since I have been working at Hungate, a retention policy has also been designed at MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) for faunal material from upcoming excavations in London. At Hungate we take into account a great number of factors when deciding which assemblages from which contexts are worth keeping for further research, to form part of the permanent site archive. There has been a huge amount of reworking of material from earlier deposits into later, post-medieval contexts at the site. The challenge has been to carry out detailed taphonomic work to spot the assemblages of bone which are still in primary deposits and can therefore give us the best information

about the post-Reformation levels at Hungate. Every assemblage is recorded and photographed, and all the analysis for the publication done before any sort of decision about its long-term research potential is taken. This ensures we retrieve all the information we need and that there is a full digital archive for any future researchers even if the physical assemblage is not retained. Faunal material which will not be retained will, as far as possible, be given to people or organisations that do have a use for it. For instance, we have already agreed that some of our spare bone will be used to make up teaching collections at the University of Liverpool.

Figure 2 – The problem of post-excavation – these boxes represent only part of the total faunal assemblage recovered from Hungate. (Image Copyright – Clare Rainsford)

Hungate is not a run-of-the-mill site and adapting to the challenges it poses to your average zooarchaeologist has been a steep learning curve for everyone involved. However, the results which are starting to come from the project make everything worthwhile. We have identified an area of the site where they were breeding rabbits in the backyards of Victorian houses. We think pigs and chickens were also being reared around the site from at least the 17th century onwards there have been two or three burials of young piglets, suggesting rearing of household pigs, some of which never made it to adulthood. One little thrush buried with great care in a tile-lined grave to the back of 19th century houses may tell us something about Victorian attitudes to birds in the area. Although we do not know the species, we can speculate that this may have been a song-thrush, and may have been associated with the linnet singing competitions held down the local pub. On the other hand, dogs and cats seem to have had a much harder time at Hungate, with one poor canine disposed of in an all-purpose midden deposit. Back in the 16th and 17th century deposits, most of the dogs and cats around the site seem to have been feral animals, and one deposit of cats

displayed butchery marks which indicated very clearly that the animal had been skinned. There is also plenty of evidence for bone-working and craft activity at this time. Pinner's bones, made from horse metapodia, and the trimmings from making them, are found frequently in this period. So too are large groups of sheep metapodial bones, which are assumed to have been used in craft-working, as raw material to make all sorts of bone objects. This as well as the deposit of goose wings, which might constitute the first zooarchaeological evidence for use of goose feathers from the city of York, if not much further afield. And all this is without mentioning the evidence for scavenging rats in the industrial gasworks buildings, or the surprising presence of venison haunches and hare in 16th and 17th century contexts, or the pit containing several partial horse skeletons....

When the excavations in Block H finished last December, after five years, there was a lot of talk about "the end of Hungate". For me, Hungate is still very much alive and kicking and I am reminded of this every time I walk into the back of the warehouse and see just how many boxes of bone there are still to work through. The stories which are beginning to emerge from the faunal remains are fascinating, but this is only the start. Seeing how it fits together with the rest of the archaeology, and with the earlier faunal assemblages from the site, are the next challenges we face in the on-going task to provide an insight into what happened on this patch of ground during the past two thousand years. Roman Hungate, and Medieval Hungate with all those lovely pits full of bone is still territory to be explored, recorded, photographed, analysed, debated and written up. There might not be another pit full of goose wings, but I am certain that there are many more surprises yet to come.

6 Antiquity – The Best Job in the World

Martin Carver (mailto:martincarver@yahoo.co.uk)

We greet Antiquity as it enters its tenth and last year in York – Martin Carver brought it here in 2003 when he was appointed editor. Since then he has edited 1,000 articles and his valiant team of two – Jo Tozer, editorial manager, and Madeleine Hummler, deputy and reviews editor – have edited more than 10,000 pages and produced 38 issues of up to 300 pages each. Antiquity is the best known archaeological journal anywhere and a lot of its fame has rubbed off on the Department. In December it will be off to Durham under its new Editor, Chris Scarre.

Antiquity is unique in lots of ways. It is completely independent, intellectually and financially. It has no society, no home and no controlling owner. It publishes archaeological research from every period and every part of the world and by every type of professional archaeologist, academic, government or commercial; and it is run by an incredibly small team of three persons.

Figure 1 – Jo and Madeleine hard at work on the next issue of Antiquity. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson)

The journal was founded in 1927 by O.G.S. Crawford to tell archaeologsts what other archaeologists were doing, and he laid down its remit in his first editorial: *"Our field is the earth, our range in time a million years or so, our subject the human race"*. He remained editor till he died 30 years later having kept going through WW2. Glyn Daniel took over and had a 30 year reign too; he was famous for his love of megaliths, France, wine and good dinners. Then came Chris Chippendale who put a spotlight on Australia, then Simon Stoddart and Caroline Malone who ran it jointly. These last four editors were

all Cambridge based, which meant that they made good contact with all the great names passing through and got them to write articles. Antiquity was good at theory, and served Europe and the USA pretty well.

At York things took a different turn. We smartened up the look of the printed copy and the website to make them both more user-friendly. We digitised the back numbers and all the archive back to 1927. We created an online webzine for short contributions – the Project Gallery – which reports new projects just starting, features interims, discovers, discussions etc. We stopped doing obituaries, because these were always the great and good remembered by the great and good, and instead opened a special branch of the website where any and all archaeologists could be remembered, in tributes written by anyone who wanted to. This meant that Antiquity had an open access shopwindow for people who were not subscribers. The biggest change however was that the journal became truly global, not just covering research by the English-speaking west, but opening up Africa, Asia and South America. The reviews editor meanwhile has cranked up our throughput of reviewed books to 350 a year of which 200 are reviewed, 50 by the reviews editor herself. At present our readers download about 10,000 articles every month, 120,000 a year. This gives an idea of our readership.

So, what is it like to be Antiquity's editor? First you get a nice big travel budget and go to numerous conferences. One objective is to see whether you can drum up more subscriptions, but the more important role is that of talent-spotter. Most of the world's archaeological researchers do not have much incentive to report what they find to a global readership; they do not have assessment based on publication and are too busy with their government or university employment to write much before they retire. So it is well worth coaxing them to write articles and this has produced some of our most wave-making output.

Solicited and unsolicited submissions run at about 350 a year, or approximately one a day. Each one is reviewed by 23 reviewers and then each gets a letter from the editor of one of two types: *"so sorry I'm declining to publish it"*, or *"accepted, subject to revision along the lines that follow"*. No-one gets accepted without changes. The revised articles are then edited – and this is what takes all the time. Whether by English-speakers or not, most articles have to be largely rewritten by the editor to reduce their length and make them suitable for Antiquity's world-wide readership. It is not just that archaeologists in other continents will not know about Roman Britain or the Incas; the idea is to maximise the impact of every contribution by tempting you to read it whether you want to or not.

The editor also has to write an editorial for every issue (four a year) which is quite hard unless you think everyone would love to know what you have been doing and thinking. Glyn Daniel for example wrote the 1950s equivalent of a blog, saying who he met and what bottle he opened with them. However, a world coverage means addressing a much wider range of people and fixing on matters hopefully of interest or amusement to all. I also introduced a regular podcast which pulls out the plums in each issue.

On the down side, there are quite a few prima donnas in archaeology, especially in the USA and Australia, who are convinced of their own genius and the evils of anyone writing on the same topic. When I took over I was told that 90% of the problems are owed to 10% of the authors, and that is exactly what

I found. The nice 90% of the authors are dedicated modest folk who really love archaeology and are more interested in it than they are in themselves.

Figure 2 – Martin Carver relaxing before a conference. (Image Copyright – Madeleine Hummler)

My verdict: editing Antiquity allows you to see fresh all the latest discoveries in the human past, and meet the wide range of people who are making them. No other experience gives you that privilege. So in that sense, it is the best job in the world!

Martin Carver

Learn more about *Antiquity* at `http://antiquity.ac.uk`

7 Hungate Interview – Hannah Baxter

Mark Simpson (mailto:ms788@york.ac.uk)

Hannah Baxter has spent just over a year working as intern to Dr. Jon Kenny. She has recently become a full time member of staff at York Archaeological Trust. This e-mail interview, about her time working at Hungate, was conducted by Post Hole Co-Editor Mark Simpson in May 2012.

Mark simpson – Can we start with a little background on you and how you came to be working at York Archaeological Trust?

Hannah Baxter – I finished university (from Durham then Sheffield) in 2008 and then enjoyed a few years of digging. During this time I volunteered on a community excavation in Sheffield and worked on another in Kent. I very much enjoyed this and, as a result, emailed the CBA asking how I could become a community archaeologist. This may sound a ridiculous thing to do, but it worked as they told me about the Community Archaeology Training Placements coming up the following year. I applied to the placement at YAT and here I am! (See http://tinyurl.com/brwuqpf if you think you may be interested in a placement in 2013-14).

MS – Had you heard of the Hungate site before coming to York?

HB – I tried to find it once on an open day during the Viking festival but completely failed and ended up on Fossgate – I enjoyed the shops down there though! Luckily I then got to go on a site tour during a CBA conference on Archaeology and Education in 2008.

MS – How do you feel Hungate has contributed to archaeology in York?

HB – I think it is easy to think of York as being all about the Romans and Vikings, particularly the Vikings. I think Hungate has made people more aware that the Romans and Vikings (lovely as they are) are not all there is to York and definitely not all there is to archaeology. Excavating the 19th century streets has shown the public that relatively recent archaeology is interesting too, and I think Hungate has really demonstrated that archaeology is about people, not things. I am absolutely gutted I missed this stage of the excavation!

MS – You have worked a lot at Hungate, how does it compare to other sites you have worked on?

HB – It is very different. Mostly I have worked on rural sites, large open areas with lots of ditches and pits to put slots through and section. So to be on a site with deep stratigraphy is a little bewildering. I have had to learn new ways of recording things.

It is also different in that the finds specialists and the animal bones specialist are not locked away somewhere but handily around to annoy with lots of questions.

And there appears to be very little grumbling, which is extremely strange for archaeologists.

MS – What is your favourite find from Hungate?

HB – Can I have more than one? And it will not be anything I found as I am probably the only person to have worked on Hungate and found zilch!

Firstly, I very much like the green glazed pot with a deer type creature on it; it looks just like an antelope. I love how the antelope looks as though he is dancing; he looks so free and also very graceful and elegant. I like thinking

about the person who made it, perhaps he has just seen a picture of an antelope but he has big dreams to travel and see all sorts of strange animals.

Secondly, whilst digging one day with a volunteer, she found some strange looking stuff and we had to ask Pam what it was. It was poo! Of course I was very excited that there was poo in our pit.

And thirdly, (as I think a site with so many finds as Hungate can have at least three favourite finds), the child burial that was discovered in a lead coffin with jet jewellery. I am disinclined to think of a skeleton as a find, a person is not an object, but I have been so moved by this one that I want to write about it. My only previous experience of Roman child burials was a probable exposure site, where unwanted babies are left out in the open to die, so I am afraid I have thought of the Romans as a horribly uncaring brutal bunch. But this little girl was beautifully buried in a way whoever buried her believed would protect her, she was so obviously loved.

MS – Do you feel that working at Hungate has boosted your archaeological CV?

HB – Ooh what a serious question! As I have said above, mostly I have worked on rural sites so having experience of an urban site has certainly been useful. I also think it is good to work in as many places, on as many sites, over as many different periods and for as many different people as you can. Not just to learn about the archaeology itself but also to learn different ways of excavating and recording sites to know how archaeology operates commercially. As a (baby!) community archaeologist it has been wonderful to work with the volunteers. I have learnt much, much more from them than they have learnt from me both about community work and the site. So yes I think it has.

MS – What was the best thing about working at Hungate?

HB – I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in an excavation that feels incredibly special, not just because of the amazing archaeology, but also because of the lovely people (both staff and volunteers) that work there. The absolute best thing has been working with the volunteers who have a very good knowledge of the site and whose enthusiasm knows no bounds, even turning up in pouring rain and still willing to go out on site.

MS – What are your favourite memories of working on site?

HB – Lots of chatting and mattocking with the volunteers. With this in mind it is a good thing that I found zilch, no one wants to find treasure with a mattock!

8 A Century On: The 'Titanic' Legacy

Mark Simpson (mailto:ms788@york.ac.uk)

It was a clear, cold night in April 1912, when history was made. A powerful steam ship, cutting through the waters of the Atlantic at speed, met a towering iceberg, moving south at a much slower but no less deadly rate. The result was unthinkable; the unsinkable ship slipping beneath the waves less than three hours after their encounter, taking almost 1,500 lives with her.

The legend of the Royal Mail Steamer Titanic, built at Harland & Wolff in Belfast, launched at Southampton and bound for New York, is now woven into the history of the world. Thousands of pages of newsprint, hundreds of books and dozens of filmed versions have told the story from countless points of view in the one hundred years since the fateful night of April 14th/15th 1912. And yet with the recent controversy over the sinking of the luxury liner Costa Concordia in January 2012, have we really learned anything from the tragedy of the Titanic?

This is not the first time that The Post Hole has looked at the Titanic; the previous article (in Issue 5) concentrated mainly on the aspects of salvage of items taken from the wreck site and questions whether it should be protected from any and all visitors (Rounce, 2009). With the centenary of the sinking less than a month past, I wish to look more at the history of the vessel, and of its rediscovery in 1985 as an archaeological site, after over 70 years away from public gaze.

Firstly, here are some basic facts about the ship and its fate. Titanic was launched from Harland and Wolff shipyards in Belfast on 31st May 1911, and for the rest of the summer and autumn months went through the process of 'fitting out', whereby the interior and exterior of the ship was completed (Eaton & Haas 1987, 57-60). The launch date was set for 20th March 1912, but when her sister ship Olympic was in a collision with another vessel and had to be repaired in Titanic's dry dock, it soon became apparent this date could not be met (Eaton & Haas 1987, 60-61). A new and fateful date was decided: 10th April 1912 (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 61). Sea trials took place on 2nd April 1912, before setting course for Southampton (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 62-66).

The ship itself was huge, almost 900 feet in length and weighing 46,000 tons; it took three million rivets to keep her together (Wade, 1986, 18-19). Her system of watertight compartments, which could be closed by a switch on the bridge, led to Titanic being described as *"practically unsinkable"* by the newspapers *Irish News* and *Belfast Morning News* in June 1911, a claim taken up by the magazine *Shipbuilder* later the same month (Lord, 1987, 28). However, these compartments only reached as high as Deck E, and given enough water, the ship could be 'over-topped' (Lord 1987, 75-77).

Titanic set out on her maiden voyage on Wednesday 10th April 1912 under the captaincy of Edward John Smith, bound first for Cherbourg, then for Queenstown, before heading off into the Atlantic, due to dock in New York a week after setting out, on Wednesday 17th April (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 83-84). She steadily increased speed as the days passed, covering 386 miles in the period between noon April 11th and noon on the 12th, 519 miles in the next twenty four hours and 546 miles for the twenty four after that (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 92). Then, just before midnight on April 14th, an iceberg was spotted

by the lookout directly in the ship's path, and despite the best efforts of First Officer Murdoch on the bridge, Titanic caught it a glancing, but fatal, blow (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 15-16).

In the next two and a half hours, before the liner slipped beneath the waves at 2.20am on April 15th (Lord, 1986, 149), just 711 passengers and crew were saved, leaving almost 1,500 to perish in the icy waters of the North Atlantic (Lord, 1986, 92). This is a very small number of survivors as, even though there was only lifeboat space for 1,178 (nowhere near the vessel's capacity (Lord, 1986, 83)), many of the boats that left were nowhere near full (Gracie, 1985, 261-262). It is fortunate that, due to a coal strike in England that was settled just days before Titanic left port, the ship was not filled to its capacity of 3,547 passengers and crew, or the disaster could have been much worse (Lord, 1987, 83).

There were twenty lifeboats floating among the ice field that was now drifting over the grave of Titanic (Wade, 1986, 180). Captain Smith, Chief Officer Wilde and First Officer Murdoch had gone down with the ship, leaving Second Officer Lightoller, who had been swept into the sea as the ship went down, as the highest ranking surviving officer (Gracie, 1985, 60-61 & 81). Just after 4am, the liner Carpathia responded to Titanic's S.O.S. message, and arrived on the scene and picked up the first boatful of survivors (Eaton & Haas, 1987, 41). The last set of survivors was collected at 8.30am (Gracie, 1985, 113).

There were inquiries on both sides of the Atlantic in the aftermath of the tragedy (Gracie, 1985, 114-323; Wade, 1986, 69-260), but after a while Titanic seemed to slip out of public consciousness for many years, until an awakening of nostalgia caused a return to the values of the time, and the Titanic spirit seemed to be reborn (Lord, 1987, 18).

Many writers have placed their own fictional 'spin' on Titanic over the years, with numerous film and stage productions of the story (Lord, 1987, 14). It was used by popular BBC television series Upstairs, Downstairs in the 1970s to kill off a major character, and Noel Coward also used this device in his play Cavalcade (Lord, 1987, 14-15). The fictional finding of the wreck (Cussler, 1976) and its future (Clarke, 1990) have inspired authors in more recent times.

The actual finding of the Titanic wreck site on September 1st 1985, by Doctor Robert Ballard and his team of oceanographers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, opened up a whole new life to the legend of the great liner (Ballard, 1987).

I am sure that the majority of us have seen, at least in passing, some of the stunning images taken by Ballard's expeditions (Ballard, 1987; Ballard, 1988). The ghostly form of the bow, standing upright on the seabed, appearing out of the gloom two and a half miles beneath the ocean is a once seen, never forgotten image (Ballard, 1987, 118). The crumpled and battered, but still recognisable stern section lies almost 2,000 feet away from the bow, pointing in the opposite direction (Ballard, 1987, 150-151 & 156-157). There are many items scattered around the debris field close to the stern, such as coffee cups, toilet bowls, bottles, bed fragments and part of a deck bench, among other things (Ballard, 1987, 150-151). All these evoke a sense of eerie familiarity, of ordinary life ripped away from the surface and placed at the bottom of the ocean.

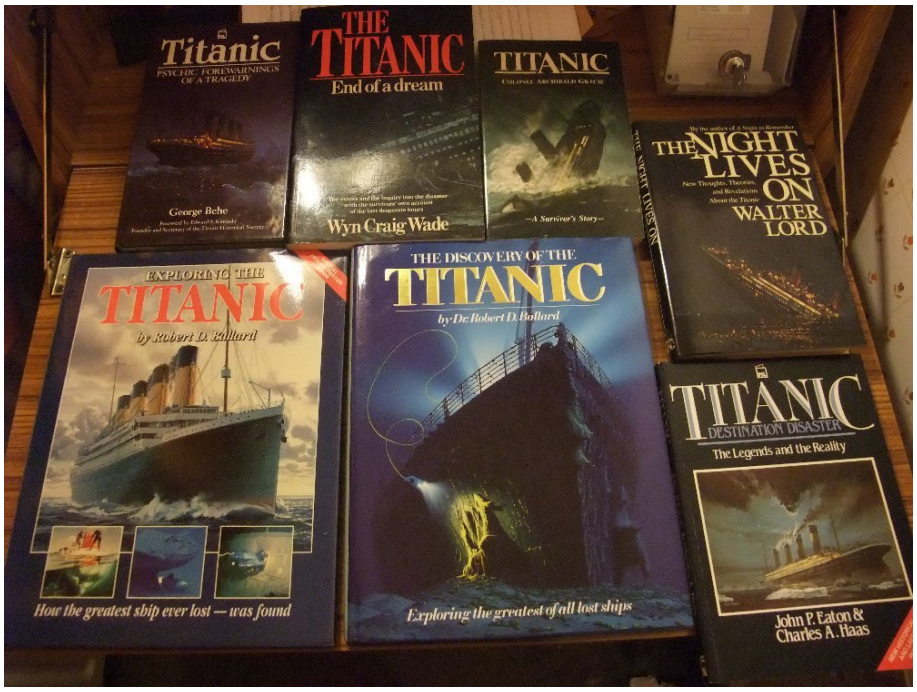

Figure 1 – Just some of the author's collection of Titanic books. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson)

A large number of visits have been paid to Titanic since its rediscovery in 1985, both by Ballard and his team (Ballard, 1988) and by others (Sides, 2012; Cameron, 2012). The ethics or otherwise of removing items from the seabed is discussed elsewhere (Rounce, 2009) but the argument can be made that the wreck area is just another archaeological site. However, if that is to be used as reasoning, then the removal of artefacts is surely akin to 'nighthawking' on a surface site.

One of the more famous names to have visited the wreck site is James Cameron, the Hollywood movie director who made the big budget version of the story in 1997 that launched the careers of Leonardo diCaprio and Kate Winslet (Titanic, 1997). He has 'dived' on the site on 33 separate occasions across three sessions, in 1995, 2001 and 2005, the latter two occasions where his revolutionary robot cameras managed to fit into much smaller spaces and areas than ever before explored (Cameron 2012, 100-109). These have provided a unique archaeological view of the famous wreck, having covered 65% of the interior that still survives (Cameron, 2012, 100-109).

So, what is the legacy of the Titanic? In an immediate sense, the provision of lifeboats on all ships for all passengers and crew was a major advance (Lord, 1987, 86-87). It was also a timely reminder that when man tries to triumph over nature, nature usually wins out. Ships still founder today, even with all our satellite imaging, mapping systems, sonar and deep scanning technology; we are still powerless against the raw power of nature to put man firmly in his place.

But probably the best legacy is to remind us that even in adversity, the human spirit endures. The courage, bravery and heroism displayed on that freezing April night has lived on in the eye witness accounts, told and retold in

the film, television, stage and book versions of the story through the last one hundred years. That legacy will go on.

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9 Growing as an Archaeologist at Hungate

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Sarah is a Year 3 Archaeology student and a YAT volunteer.

The Hungate excavation, run by York Archaeological Trust (YAT), was the first dig that I had been on prior to starting a Historical Archaeology undergraduate degree at the University of York. Since the dig was here in the centre of York, I had the privileged opportunity to continue to be a part of the excavations throughout my time at university. I believe that my time spent at Hungate has helped me to develop as an archaeologist, and as a person. From learning the basic archaeological excavation techniques and teaching others those same skills to working with people of all ages and backgrounds; commercial archaeologists, finds and faunal remains specialists, older people who have had a lifelong interest in archaeology, young people considering studying archaeology at university, as well as other students. I have truly enjoyed everything which I have done at Hungate and I have made some really good friends.

Summer 2009, before University

In year 13, I had applied to universities wanting to study History or Archaeology at various institutions. After being offered a conditional place at them all, I took the decision to visit the universities before I made my choice. The University of York captured my attention, and I felt like I had the best responses from the lecturers, who were approachable and enthusiastic; I also liked both the campus and King's Manor, so York became my first choice. I did not know all that much about archaeology, other than what I had read in university prospectuses or books, and watching documentaries. So my friend Megan, who was also going to do archaeology at a different university, and I decided to go on the *Archaeology Live!* training excavation at Hungate in September before our universities' terms started. Hopefully I would actually like archaeology, seeing as I was committing to a three year degree course.

Megan had already dug before; she had been at Hungate the previous year, as well as undertaking year 10 work experience at an archaeological company, but I was a tad nervous. What if I messed up whatever I was digging? Previously I had wanted to be a vet, but I had worried that I would accidentally kill the animals instead of saving them. At least everything is already dead if you are an archaeologist! Obviously, that was not my only reason for applying for archaeology; I had always been a bit of a history and geography geek, so archaeology seemed perfect. I knew that it would not be like Indiana Jones or Lara Croft, but what about the slightly less ridiculous and less dramatic TV show Bonekickers? They did Time Team-like excavations, had a proper lab and everything. I knew it was not really going to be like that at all, but the part about always going to a pub afterwards, I quickly came to realise is actually true.

We were staying in Halifax College on the University of York campus with other trainees and some placements. Armed with some new steel toe capped boots, a shiny new trowel and digging clothes, I turned up to site on the first day looking forward to the week ahead. Everyone starting that week had to have an induction that morning from Site Director, Toby Kendal. This included health

and safety on and off site, a general history of Hungate, what had been found so far, and how the site is recorded using single context recording.

Below is a typical week at *Archaeology Live!*. I think the way in which the training dig is organised is very good. Trainees get to experience lots of different aspects of archaeological excavations.

Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00 – arrive					
9.30 – first session	Induction	Excavation	Excavation	Excavation	Matrix Lecture
10.45 – break					
11.00 – second session	Induction	Pottery Talk	Conservation Labs	Small Finds Talk	Environmental Sample Processing
12.30 – lunch					
1.00 – third session	Finds washing	Finds bagging	Excavation	Excavation	Excavation
2.30 – break					
2.45 – fourth session	Excavation	Excavation	Excavation	Environmental Sample Washing	Excavation + site tour at 4.30
5.00 – finish	Pub	Pub	Pub	Mini tour of York	BBQ at Hungate

Figure 1 – Typical trainee timetable. (Image Copyright – Sarah Drewell)

When we went out on to site, kitted out with hard hats, steel toe-capped boots, gloves and high-visibility (hi-vis) vests (if you are not wearing all four of these things, and full length trousers, then you are not allowed on site), we were split up in to three groups, each with a supervising commercial archaeologist. Elena was the supervisor for Megan and me. Under Elena were various placements, which were each given two trainees, and would act as a middle person bridging the gap between the supervisors and the trainees. Megan and I were placed together with a girl called Katie, who was studying archaeology at the University of Liverpool. Then, with the other trainees in Elena's group, we trowelled back an area to see whether there was any archaeology there, and to get us used to using a trowel.

After we had trowelled back the whole area, we were then taken by our placements to the feature that we would be working on. Katie, Megan and I would be excavating and recording a Viking pit.

The fact that I got the opportunity to work on a feature right from the start – uncovering it, excavating and defining it, through to planning and photographing it – was a really interesting process, and gave me the opportunity to see all aspects of archaeological fieldwork in regards to that feature. Finds typical to a Viking refuse pit came out of the feature, such as animal bones, which led us to interpret what its function had been.

Figure 2 – Top Left: Trowelling back. Top Right: My Feature – Viking pit. Bottom Left: Excavating the Feature. Bottom Right: Recording the Feature. (Image Copyright – YAT Archaeology Live! 2009)

While I was at Hungate, the Time Team film crew came to get some working shots of the site to put in to the Time Team special show about Vikings, which Hungate featured heavily in.

As well as the opportunity to excavate and record, trainees also had a tour of the YAT Conservation Labs and had talks from both their pottery specialist and their small finds specialist. They also got to do finds processing, including washing finds, learning how to correctly sort and bag bulk finds, and how to process environmental samples. At the end of your time as a trainee at *Archaeology Live!*, you were given a certificate saying that you have completed one/two week(s) on the training dig, as well as the end of week group photo with everyone, and a disk with the site photos, both working shots and records of features, from that week.

There is a social side to the training dig too. After excavation on three of the days, most people go to the pub afterwards. The pub is also known as 'Theoretical Discussions' time. On the Thursday evening Toby gave a tour of York, aspects not usually seen by tourists, but where excavations have taken place over the years as well as facts, such as the shops on Walmgate are still following the Medieval plots, for example. Then, every Friday, after a tour of the site, there is a BBQ at the warehouse, which is a pleasant end to the week.

Community Team Volunteer

When it came to the field school at Heslington East in the summer term of first year, I was glad that I had already experienced excavation and knew what to

expect and what I was supposed to be doing. I was invited back to the last Hungate BBQ of the 2010 season, and saw many of the people who had been there the summer before. As I wanted to get more experience, I had got in touch with Jon Kenny, YAT's community archaeologist, and he invited me down to Hungate to meet him. I had a site tour, to see how much it had changed since the last time that I had been there and what features were being excavated at that point in time. The community volunteers had their own section of the site, which they recorded and excavated weekly, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with supervision from Pam White, YAT's Outreach Coordinator and from Jon on the respective days.

Figure 3 – Some of the Community Team. (Image Copyright – YAT 2010)

The community volunteers were all really welcoming and I enjoyed going most Wednesdays to spend a day excavating with them. Some of the commercial team remembered me from *Archaeology Live!* which was nice, but the community team mainly operated separately. I liked being able to get involved with the excavation, which was a welcome break from all the reading I had to do for various modules. It also kept me up to date with what was happening on site, and increased my archaeological knowledge and experience.

With the community team, I also volunteered on the weeklong community led dig organised by Hannah Baxter in the village of Hessay in October 2011. We were looking for a Roman road in the farmer's field, which we believed we found. On the dig, I was showing people what to do, regarding how to take correct photographs and how to fill out the recording sheets. I realised that one of our volunteers was from the homeless community, who had an interest in archaeology after volunteering on Rachel Kiddey's Bootham Park excavation, and so had to adapt my approach to how I explained the procedures so that it was easier for him to then undertake the paperwork himself.

As well as excavating and recording features, we also did finds processing, as the conditions on site were not always suitable for us to excavate, the site becoming dangerous when it rained.

Figure 4 – Community Team at Hessay opening up a second trench. (Image Copyright – YAT 2010)

Back at Hungate I had the opportunity to help the faunal remains expert, Clare Rainsford, from time to time; cataloguing photos, identifying faunal remains, if they had any pathology, the number of bone fragments in each context, and looking at certain contexts to answer specific questions from the faunal remains present. I was able to put together almost complete skeletons, such as a hare and a piglet, which was good fun. Helping Clare has been really useful, as now I find it much easier to identify what animals/parts of animals I have found when excavating.

Archaeology Live! Summer Placement 2011

In spring 2011 I applied to be a placement on the *Archaeology Live!* summer training excavation. The role of a placement is to assist the supervisors by showing the trainees what to do; excavation, recording, finds processing, sample processing, and anything else relevant. You have to have either been on one of the Archaeology Live! training programmes before, or have archaeological experience including single context recording, of which I had both. Although placements were there to expand their knowledge and experience, we were primarily there to help the supervisors and the trainees; we were there for their benefit.

There were three supervisors, all part of the commercial unit who worked at Hungate normally, who would be supervisors during the 12 weeks of *Archaeology*

Live! 2011. I was placed with Ben, who had three other placements, and we were each assigned two trainees a week. Commercial archaeologists continued to work on site during the training dig. It was surprising how much archaeology I actually knew when it came to explaining things to trainees. Obviously you have to have a good understanding of archaeology yourself, as it is much harder to guide others during excavation and to explain to them how and why. Ben was always around to check on progress and to discuss things with.

Figure 5 – Top Left: Ben explaining something to the trainees (sat on the floor right) and placements. Top Right: Trainees undertaking environmental sampling. Bottom Left: 9th Roman Legion marked CBM. Bottom Right: Roman Coin. (Image Copyright – YAT Archaeology Live! 2011)

The trainees' timetable had not changed since I was a trainee, as it worked so well. Whenever the trainees were inside doing finds washing their corresponding placement would be too. Placements had to attend the talks/lecture sessions once during their time there as well. It is always nice to see the new artefacts in the conservation labs or be reminded of how stratigraphy and matrices work. Often placements had to do other jobs, such as emptying the finds washing barrels of the silt or rearranging the spoil heap for better access, which was never much fun.

With my trainees I worked on recording a Viking sunken feature building, and then recording and excavating some Roman levels/terracing, which had other features cut into it, such as a refuse pit.

Being a placement was a great challenge, and I felt that my confidence in myself and in my archaeological knowledge increased. My trainees seemed to understand what I was talking about, and they all enjoyed their weeks on site, if not the mix of weather. The other placements were all really nice, and as everyone was there for a minimum of a month, you got to know people well.

I have loved being at Hungate!

I would seriously recommend going on the *Archaeology Live!* training programme as it is a fantastic opportunity with a friendly atmosphere and excellent training supervisors. It is such good fun and increases your knowledge of excavation techniques whilst making a lot of friends with the same enthusiasm for archaeology. The great thing about *Archaeology Live!* is you learn by doing, every step of the process is taught by experience, it is not in a classroom or lecture theatre, but on a working commercial site, there is no better way to learn.

For more information check out `http://tinyurl.com/clvd66d` for the 2012 training excavation.

Figure 6 – A photo of everyone is taken each Friday, to have a photographic record (author centre, standing). (Image Copyright – YAT Archaeology Live! 2011)

Special thanks to Site Director Toby Kendall for allowing Sarah to use these images in her article.

10 An Etiquette Guide to. . . Fieldwork

Khadija McBain (mailto:secretary@theposthole.org)

A guide to fieldwork, or as you will come to know it; digging for stuff!

1) Three weeks of being outside and not having lectures or seminars – make the most of it!

2) This may seem a little daunting at first but suggest to your group a pub outing after fieldwork, just so that you get to know them better and start to build a rapport. Most importantly invite your supervisor!

Figure 1 – Pick Your Supervisor! Will it Be. . . ? Top Left: The Thinker. Top Right: The Sunbather. Bottom Left: The Fisherman. Bottom Right: The Drinker. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson (Top Left; Bottom Right); Khadija McBain (Top Right); Jonathan Finch (Bottom Left)

3) Supervisors can really add to your excavation experience. Hopefully you will get one that:

- Swears a lot.
- Does not take it too seriously (even though it is their job).
- Likes to chat about anything, especially during the breaks.
- Is funny.
- Is approachable about your trench queries.
- And most importantly, likes to partake in going to the pub after fieldwork.

4) Excavation fashion:

- Do expect the weather to be down right awful! It is England after all, so bring warm clothes and waterproofs all the time.
- However, there is always going to be a few who like to show of their 'excavation chic' you will know who I am talking about.
- Girls ***do not*** wear boob tubes! Seriously! Or low cut tops for obvious reasons.
- Boys do not think bare chests (even if it is warm) is a good look, it really is not – everyone will think you are a show-off.
- If it is 'hot' make sure you bring a shirt to cover your shoulders and neck. . . sunburn is not a good excuse for a sickie.

Figure 2 – Weather Forecast. Top Left: Warm and Sunny. Top Right: Overcast and Cold. Bottom Left: Rain. Bottom Right: Hail. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson (Top Left; Top Right; Bottom Right); Khadija McBain (Bottom Left)

5) Trench terminology look out for these key words, they will not mean anything to you in the first week (so pretend and nod) but work up the courage to ask your supervisor 'what on earth they are talking about?!'

- Ditch.
- Edge(s).
- Trowel back.
- And the favourite one: *feature*.

Figure 3 – Feature Roulette! Which will you get? Top Left: The Modern Pipe Trench. Top Right: The 'Interesting' Cobbled Area. Bottom Left: The Barren Zone. Bottom Right: The Water Feature. (Image Copyright – Mark Simpson (All))

6) Excavations are where you see two groups emerge – the 'real' archaeologists and the ones that do not like getting their hands dirty at all!

7) Every group will have a few moaners, but the best way to deal with them is to **AVOID THEM** as best as you can. They will only do your head in.

8) A few people will do a few sickies. Try not to do this – excavation is all about team work, and you do not want to let your team down.

Figure 4 – Beware of... Left: Students with Water Sprayers. Centre: Supervisors with Cake. Right: Mattocking Through Archaeology. (Image Copyright – Khadija McBain (Left & Right); Jonathan Finch (Centre))

9) Hope that you have a good group you will be the envy of all the other trenches, especially if you are able to make working in the rain fun.

10) Yes you still have to work in the rain!

11) These experiences will turn you into an alcoholic – but obviously not while you are doing fieldwork!

12) Be prepared for some disappointments. The Gateway to Atlantis is not likely to lie at the bottom of your trench.

13) Avoid envy if possible. The next trench along may look like it has much more stuff, but yours may well have the quality finds.

14) But above all: Have fun!

About The Post Hole

The Post Hole is a student run journal for all those interested in archaeology. It aims to promote discussion and the flow of ideas in the department of Archaeology for the University of York and the wider archaeological community. If you would like to get involved with the editorial process, writing articles or photography then please get in touch via email – (`mailto:editor@theposthole.org`).

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