

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GUILDHALL · LEICESTER · LE1 5FQ



NEWSLETTER 100 Autumn 2018

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAHS Newsletter. Contributions to future editions are welcome at any time. Send them to the editor, Cynthia Brown, at newsletter@lahs.org.uk or by post c/o Honorary Librarian, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, LE1 5FQ.

LAHS NEWS

LECTURE PROGRAMME

All lectures except the Annual General Meeting take place at New Walk Museum, and start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Please arrive in good time to avoid disruption once the lecture has started.

Thursday 27 September 2018

Scarborough Lecture

A Divers Panoply: the far-flung residences of the medieval Bishops of Lincoln

Professor David Stocker, University of Leeds

Thursday 1 November 2018

Sex, Shoes and Money: how shoemaking made Leicester famous

Dr David Holmes

Wednesday 21 November 2018 at The Guildhall, Leicester, 7.30 pm

163rd LAHS Annual General Meeting, followed by

A Stable Story: Bradgate Park field school, season 4

Dr Richard Thomas, University of Leicester

Thursday 6 December 2018

Charles Loraine Smith (1751-1835): the Squire of Enderby and his Leicestershire circle

Philip Warren, Leicestershire County Council Museums Service

Thursday 10 January 2019

What Have We Learnt About Roman Leicestershire & Rutland?

Pete Liddle MBE

Thursday 7 February 2019

East Midlands Gateway: prehistoric and Roman remains in the parishes of Kegworth and Lockington

Patrick Daniel, Wessex Archaeology

Thursday 28 February 2019

Members' Evening

If you would like to present the results of your research to fellow members, please contact the Hon. Lecture Secretary, Yolanda Courtney by email at lectures@lahs.org.uk or by phone on 0116 2120271.

Thursday 7 March 2019

W. Alan North Memorial Lecture

Green Romans?: Roman attitudes to the environment

Dr Ailsa Hunt, University of Birmingham

Thursday 11 April 2019 at

If These Sherds Could Speak: understanding Ticknall's pottery industry

Janet Spavold and Sue Brown, Ticknall Archaeological Research Group

Thursday 2 May 2019

How Was the Battle of Bosworth Won?

Richard Knox, Leicestershire County Council Museums Service

Thursday 23 May 2019

Distinctive Districts of Late Mediaeval Leicester

Mark Webb, University of Leicester

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Aubrey Stevenson, LAHS Hon. Librarian, reports that It has been a quiet year to date, but material continues to be added. The following have been acquired since the previous Newsletter, and have been published in 2018 unless otherwise indicated. Please note that the Library's final open afternoon will be Sunday 21 October before the usual winter closure.

BOOKS and PAMPHLETS

BUTT, S. Leicester at work. Amberley. Donated by the publisher.

CHARWOOD ROOTS Thurcaston and Cropston heritage walking trail.

COOPER, L. & RIPPER, S. Fishing and managing the Trent in the medieval period (7th– 14th century): excavations at Hemington Quarry (1998 – 2000)... 2017.

DENTON, D. Thurcaston with Cropston: nuggets of time. Caudle Publishing, 2017. Donated by the author.

DOE, V. Improving agriculture in nineteenth century Rutland: the life and achievements of Richard Westbrook Baker (1797 – 1861), Steward of the Exton Estate. Rutland Local History & Record Society, Rutland Record Series no. 6. Donated by the publisher.

FRIENDS OF JEWRY WALL MUSEUM Roman Leicester walking trail.

HILLIER, K. & RYDER, P. Grace Dieu Priory. 2nd ed. 2016.

INDER, P. Dresses and dressmaking from the late Georgians to the Edwardians. Amberley. Donated by the publisher. The author is a former curator of costume collections in Leicester and taught history of dress at De Montfort University. The book has extensive Leicestershire illustrations and references.

LANGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP has published a series of pamphlets:

BURDETT, B. Langham remembers them. 2014.

GRIMMER, A. They left Langham. 2011.

JENKINS, J. Langham's wartime experiences American style. [c 2000].

Langham lads: a nostalgic look at village life in the early part of the 20th century. 2011.

Looking back at Langham. 2010.

MANN, E. Three women of 17th century Langham. 2013.

MANTLE, D. Langham in the past. 2000.

NOURISH, B. Tales of Langham. 2014.

Walk around Langham. [c2007].

LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS Medieval Leicestershire. 2015.

LEICESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY West Bridge wharf and station. 2017.

McLOUGHLIN, V. Rothley Soke, Leicestershire: landscape and people. Cloister House Press, 2017. Donated by the author.

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY Memories forged in Market Bosworth. 2010.

OAKLEY, G. & TOMLINSON, J. Walk through time: a photographic history of Market Bosworth. 2008.

PAULMEDIA Leicester's stations: a short history. 2017.

PICK, A. Barkby: the village and its people. 2000.

ROTHLEY HERITAGE TRUST Echoes from the Workhouse: the pauper experience in the Barrow [up]on Soar Poor Law Union. Donated by Mr. T. Sheppard, Chairman of the Trust. S.P.A.B. Annual review 2017.

TEMPLEMAN, S. For your tomorrow: remembering Quorn's fallen soldiers 1914 – 1918. [2014].

TRUBSHAW, B. ed. Discovering the Wolds: celebrating three decades of the Wolds Historical Organisation. W.H.O., £9.95, 2017. Donated by the editor.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS) Annual report 1995/6.

NOTE: no others in stock.

UPTON, J. Kirby Muxloe courage, commitment and community: tales from an English village as it overcame adversity in times of war and peace. Ed. M. Gould. Kirby Muxloe Local History Group.

WELFORD ROAD CEMETERY [Leicester] Information leaflets: Art and architecture; Gruesome; Sportsmen; War and peace; Women. [c2017].

PERIODICALS - with notes of some articles of particular local interest

Ashby Past & Present 20 History of the Mammatt family (pt.3); Cloughie [Brian Clough] and me; Matron Harriet Raven; Case of mistaken identity? [this is one for the Record Office]; items from Ashby Museum's archives . Donated by the editor.

British Archaeology Jul./Aug.2018 has a timely article about World War 1 memorials (incl. Loughborough Carillon).

East Midlands History and Heritage 6, Stories from the stone wood: a thousand years of Charnwood life, by Joseph Hall [L.A.H.S.]; Lost legends (re. Black History Month in Leicester); Leicestershire toy story (Palitoy); Leicester Coffee and Cocoa House Co. Ltd., by Derek Seaton; information on the L.A.H.S. Research Fund.

Hinckley Historian 81 Edith Mary Roberts; John Onebye (1585 – 1662); Short history of Lindley. Enclosed leaflet indicates that Hinckley Museum is open until 28 Oct. this year. Donated by the Museum.

SPAB Magazine Sum. 2018 includes a supplement: The List – a celebration of SPAB's online property list.

NEWSLETTERS - current copy only

CBA Newsletter Jul./Oct.2018 includes photographs of Hallaton Fieldwork Group.

The Society is grateful, as always, to authors, editors and publishers who have made donations to the Library.

OTHER NEWS

GREEN PLAQUE SCHEME

In 1942, sixteen-year-old Tommy Brown from Earl Shilton helped rescue the Enigma code book from a sinking German submarine while serving on HMS Petard. He was awarded the George Medal for his bravery, and in July 2018 he was also honoured with a Green Plaque. During the unveiling ceremony in Earl Shilton we discovered a direct link with Paul Ambrose, one of the Archive Assistants at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, as Paul himself explains:

What do you know? I've got a Green Plaque!! It is 5 July 2018, and in my home town of Earl Shilton, on the side driveway wall of my house, there is now a Green Plaque displayed. You have probably seen them before on the walls of other houses or prominent buildings - but do people take any notice of them? I do now. It all began for me with a letter informing me that a young serviceman in the Navy used to reside in my property back in 1942. As I work at the Record Office, I brought this letter with me to show my colleagues, one whom was already working on validating the story. With much research, it came to light that there was enough evidence to place Tommy Brown there, living with his aunt and uncle. As the story unfolded about his bravery, diving into the sea to salvage code books from a sinking German U-boat - thus helping in the aim of cracking the code to shorten the war - all of a sudden my house became one of significance rather than one with just an ordinary history. And on 5 July 2018, there it was, this Green Plaque celebrating Tommy Brown's contribution to history, on the driveway wall to my house. It made me wonder about all the other houses on my road. How many more have a history worth recording in some way? I don't have time to see for myself when I'm at work; but anyone could do this kind of research, just out of interest, if they know the house to be old enough to hold secrets such as this.



EAST MIDLANDS HISTORY AND HERITAGE – AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

East Midlands History and Heritage magazine is planning a 'bumper' edition for January 2019, dedicated to the centenary of the end of the First World War and with a particular focus on the lasting consequences of the war on local life in villages, towns and cities in the East Midlands. Contributions of 1000 – 2000 words with a strong local or regional connection are invited by 15 November 2018. Please contact emhist@virginmedia.com for further information or advice, or visit the website at www.eastmidlandshistory.org.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2018

This year's Heritage Open Days offer a wide range of talks, guided walks and tours of properties in and around Leicester from 6 – 16 September 2018 - details, including advance bookings, at www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/laa/Leicester.

LEICESTER GROUP VICTORIAN SOCIETY

All lectures are held on Tuesdays at Bishop Street Methodist Church, opposite Town Hall Square, Leicester at 7.30 pm. Meetings are open to all, but all attendees are asked to make a contribution of £2.50 per person towards the cost of room hire and other expenses.

William Timpson, a Victorian boot and shoe man - 2 October 2018

Carole Face

Leicester's debt to a Victorian engineer: Joseph Gordon, 1832–1889 - 6 November 2018

Sir Kent Woods, Emeritus Professor of Therapeutics, University of Leicester

The History of Western Park - 4 December 2018

Dr Susan Barton

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

TOURS OF BRADGATE PARK EXCAVATIONS

On 15 and 27 June Dr Richard Thomas led members-only guided tours of the excavations at Bradgate Park, with over 70 LAHS members attending across the two dates. Now the Fieldschool has ended he has kindly provided a brief summary of this year's excavations:

The fourth season of the Bradgate Park Fieldschool focused on a two/three storey rectangular structure, located south of Bradgate House, that features on three 18th-century illustrations of the estate and is visible on an aerial photograph as a parch-mark. Excavations provided evidence of a substantial building (48m x 9m) with foundations constructed from local stone. The near complete absence of internal surfaces, upstanding structures and demolition debris indicates that it had been thoroughly stripped after it went out of use. A stone pathway led to the building from the entrance to Bradgate House, fanning around a porch in the centre of the building on the north side. To the immediate west of the porch was an entrance, providing access to an external staircase. The building had been extended in the south-west corner, giving it an L-shaped floor plan; a later doorway had also been inserted into the east wall; and a lean-to structure was built against the south (back) wall.

The interior of the building was fairly empty, save for a couple of deposits of brick, indicating the presence of an original herringbone pattern floor, and a line of post-holes (1.6m apart) along the full length of the building. Outside the north-west front of the building a curious mound was discovered, revetted with diorite blocks, and filled with horse bone. The structural and artefactual evidence strongly supports the view that the building was a stable that could accommodate almost 30 horses. It was certainly standing by the time of King William III's visit in 1696, when a stable was reputedly constructed, but could conceivably have been built earlier in the 17th century. Andrew Bloxham, writing in 1829, suggests the building remained standing, albeit with diminished function, into the 19th century.

OBJECTS ACQUIRED UNDER THE TREASURE ACT 2017 (1)

LATE NEOLITHIC/EARLY BRONZE AGE 'BEAKER BASKET' ORNAMENTS

In 2017 the Treasure Act celebrated its 20th anniversary. Wendy Scott contributes the first in a series of articles about some of the objects on display in local museums that have been acquired through this process, and which add to the knowledge of Leicestershire's past:

These delicate, rare and enigmatic objects are among the earliest metal objects from Britain. Made around 2500-2300BC, their function is still uncertain and as the name suggests they were originally thought to be basket ornaments. The 'Amesbury Archer' and his companion, found in 2002, were buried with similar artefacts that have been dubbed hair tresses or earrings as two pairs were found rolled up by the head of the Archer and his companion. Ours have been compared by Stuart Needham to examples from Spain and Ireland. He feels they are slightly different to the insular types found near Stonehenge.



Whatever their origin, it seems probable that high status personal adornment was their function. Investigations at the find spot revealed evidence for a ploughed out round barrow and field walkers recovered an extremely rare Bronze age 'cannel coal' conical button. So, we are probably dealing with a high-status burial in or near a round barrow that has been destroyed by constant ploughing. They remain the oldest metalwork on the PAS database and also the oldest example of metalwork from Leicestershire. Found in Gilmorton in 2006, the ornaments and button can be seen at Harborough Museum. PAS Ref No. [LEIC-448088](#).

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Joe Hall writes: In spite of the Council for British Archaeology being unable to run the event nationally this year, Leicestershire and Rutland carried on as usual thanks to various donations from local groups, LAHS included. Over 80 events were held over a two-week period at the end of July, with many organisers reporting record numbers of visitors. LAHS had a stall at the launch event held at the Jewry Wall site on Sunday 8 July, where we enjoyed talking to the public about the Festival and our role in promoting the county's heritage. We were also happy to see many members amongst the c.400 visitors.

As part of the Festival the Society also put on two talks at Leicester's Guildhall. The first, 'Danelaw Saga: how the Vikings never left the East Midlands', took place on 15 July,

and the second, on 23 July, was 'Archaeology After Richard III: recent archaeological discoveries in Leicester'. Both talks were a great success, attracting a combined audience of 180. Many members attended, but many more were non-members attracted by the topics. The Guildhall was particularly appreciative, thanking the Society for bringing such numbers through the door and allowing them to showcase their wonderful historic venue. For those who have not visited for a while, The Guildhall's permanent free exhibition on medieval Leicester is well worth a trip into the city centre to see, and contains many fascinating artefacts discovered locally. Next year the national Festival of Archaeology will make a return to celebrate the Council for British Archaeology's 75th anniversary.

A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

LAHS was founded in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. This report of a visit to Ashby-de-la-Zouch is from the *Leicester Journal*, 31 July 1857.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

This Society has held its meetings this week at Ashby-la-Zouch. Tuesday morning the members and friends assembled at the Castle, the Rev. J. M. Gresley, acting as *cicerone*. The attention of the visitors was drawn to various points of interest, particularly the fine chimney-piece in the upper part of the building, and the remains of the chapel. The doorway beneath the East window was the object of much discussion, but nothing satisfactory could be determined by the authorities present on the subject. The configuration of the ground on the south side of the ruin was also brought under animadversion, but on this, also, opinions were much divided. The brick towers at the corners of the south side of the field were visited, and the opinion expressed that they were simply summer-houses, but of coeval date with the castle. Some of the visitors were much attracted by the four beech planted on the western side of the castle field by the children of the late Marquis of Hastings, it being stated that the one which was planted by the beautiful but unfortunate Lady Flora had not long survived the hand that planted it. Much regret was expressed that the cattle should be allowed access to the ruins, and at the nuisance and injury thus occasioned.

From the castle the party proceeded to the Church, where the carved screen was one of the first objects that attracted attention, much admiration being expressed for its exquisite workmanship, while the more general sentiment was that it was out of accordance with the general style of the church, and that good taste would urge its removal. The tombs of the Earl and Countess of Huntingdon were visited, as well as the monument in incised alabaster of Robert Mundy, whose property laid the foundation for the endowment of the Ashby Grammar School... Nothing in the church excited more interest, although it be not of a very ecclesiastical character, than the celebrated finger-stocks at the west end, which we believe are nearly unique. For the benefit of those who have not seen this singular instrument for the punishment of disorderly behaviour, we may state that it answers the same purpose with regard to the fingers as the stocks which formerly stood on every village green for the feet, and the apertures are graduated, so as to secure effectually the digital appendages of the stoutest adult and the youngest boy, who might chance to require the exercise of their corrective efficacy... The inspection of the church and castle consumed the time till nearly three o'clock, at which hour the business meeting of the society was fixed to commence. For the convenience, however, of friends expected to arrive from Leicester by the afternoon train, the meeting was postponed for an hour... On the day following the members of the society, with various friends, visited Melton Mowbray, where a valuable paper by Mr. Vincent Wing, on Melton Church, was read; after which the party made an excursion to Little Dalby Hall, the seat of Edward Bouchier Hartopp, Esq...

This newsletter is edited by Cynthia Brown and published by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. Further information about the Society, its publications and other activities can be found on its website at www.lahs.org.uk

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
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