

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



## NEWSLETTER 101 Winter 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](mailto: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 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. To ensure sufficient space for everyone attending, the remaining lectures at New Walk Museum will be held in the Victorian Gallery. Please arrive in good time to avoid disruption once the lecture has started.

#### 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](mailto: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 28 March 2019**

**Scarborough Lecture**

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

Professor David Stocker, University of Leeds

**Thursday 11 April 2019**

***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

#### **LAHS PUBLIC HERITAGE FUND**

LAHS is planning to introduce a new Public Heritage Fund to complement its existing Research Fund (see [www.le.ac.uk/lahs/research/guidance\\_notes.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/research/guidance_notes.html) for information about the latter). The Public Heritage Fund will offer grants to history and heritage societies within Leicestershire and Rutland to enable them to engage with and display their work to the general public. Examples of projects that may be eligible for funding could include the design and printing of exhibition banners; the hiring of temporary exhibition space; the publication of local history literature; the creation of school resources; initiating public-engagement heritage projects; or the digitisation and dissemination of historic documents to ensure their preservation. Further information will be available early in 2019.

#### **COMIC HISTORY OF LEICESTER BY Q.U.I.Z. – 1851**

One of the rare volumes in the LAHS Library, *Comic History of Leicester, by Q.U.I.Z. 1851*, will be digitised in the near future and placed on the Society's website – when the identity of 'Q.U.I.Z.' will also be revealed. Further information will follow once it is available.

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN 1914**

This very interesting description of the Society in 1914 is taken from *Wright's Directory of Leicester* for that year, and provided by Chris Jordan, LAHS Hon. Secretary:

'LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY [established 1855] – To promote the study of Architecture & General Antiquities & the Restoration of Mutilated Architectural remains with the County; & to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of Ecclesiastical Edifices, & for preserving all Ancient Remains, which the committee may consider of value and importance. Subscription 10s, Old Town Hall, St. Martin's. Presidents His Grace the Duke of Rutland & The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Peterborough; Hon. Secretaries, Major William Jesse Freer D.L., V.D., F.S.A., "The Stony Gate" (Corresponding & Financial), Rev. S. Thorold Winckley M.A., R.D., The Rectory, Houghton-on-the-Hill (Organising), & the Rev. E. Hermitage Day D.D., F.S.A., Newton House, Belmont, Hereford (Editorial).

## OTHER NEWS

### CENTURY OF STORIES

Century of Stories, a HLF-funded project, has been working over the last four years to create 'a lasting legacy in remembrance of the sacrifice and bravery of the Leicestershire soldiers and families' during World War One. Some of the results, ranging from a study of Hallaton to research into war memorials, local agriculture, the motivations of local soldiers, the diagnosis of shell shock, and the origins of University College Leicester, were presented at a recent conference at De Montfort University. Century of Stories ends in December 2018, but from January 2019 the results of the project will be available on the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office website at [record.office@leics.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@leics.gov.uk). In the meantime, visit [centuryofstories@leics.gov.uk](mailto:centuryofstories@leics.gov.uk) to learn more.

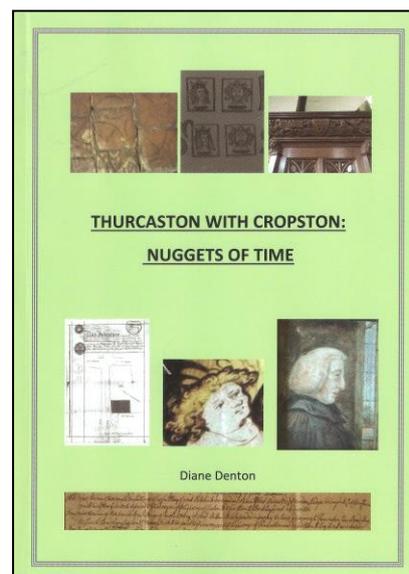
### HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND – NEW FUNDING FRAMEWORK

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will be launching its new funding framework in January 2019 – so if you are part of an organisation considering an application, it would be well worth looking at [www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy](http://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy) for updates.

### THURCASTON WITH CROPSTON: NUGGETS OF TIME

A full review of this publication will appear in the *Leicestershire Historian* in 2019, but here is a preview. The book covers a wide range of topics from the Domesday Book through to the 2001 Census, arranged in thematic 'nuggets' rather than chronologically. The two villages are separated by the Rothley Brook, and connected by the two bridges featured in the opening section: the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century Sandham Bridge and the Coffin Bridge, over which coffins were carried to funerals in All Saints church in Thurcaston. Several other sections focus on the church itself, including its furniture and fittings, the stained glass windows, and the eight bells in the tower. One commemorates the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and is described in some detail. There is a comprehensive list of clergy from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to the present, and some examples of some of the more unusual memorials in the graveyard, including a granite headstone commemorating a former yarn agent, William Bailey, born in Orissa in India in 1861 and buried in Thurcaston in 1919.

A variety of memorials relating to the two World Wars are also covered in the book, from the War Memorial Cross in the graveyard to the brass plaque commemorating previous school pupils, and the village Memorial Hall, originally the Village Institute. There is a particularly interesting link in the form of the Groves Holiday Home between Cropston and the Leicester Guild of the Crippled, founded by the hosiery manufacturer Arthur Groves in 1898. The Home itself was opened in 1926 and offered holidays through the Guild from Easter to Christmas. Ten houses for working men and their families were also built on plots provided by the Cropston Land Society between 1898 and 1905. These and other 'nuggets' provide an entertaining and informative overview of the two villages for past and current residents and 'outsiders' alike. The book is published by Caudle Publishing, 2018, 194pp, illus, ISBN 9780956320841, £15.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 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 attendees are asked to make a contribution of £2.50 per person towards the cost of room hire and other expenses.

**4 December 2018**

***The History of Western Park***

Dr Susan Barton

**8 January 2019**

***William Flint: Leicester's classical architect***

Mark Mitchley

**5 February 2019**

***Stoneywell Cottage and the Gimsons***

Alan Tyler

**5 March 2019**

***Ada Lovelace: the calculating countess***

Hugh Beavin

## RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT

### Out-of-Print and Difficult-to-Find Books

Local history, rural and agricultural history, recollections, country characters, farming reminiscences, canals, folklore, traditions and customs, rural occupations and skills, rural architecture including wind and water mills, country living in the past, Gypsies and other Travellers, etc.

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### ***THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR***

**Monday 26 November 2018, 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm)**

**The Elms Social and Ex-Services Club, Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicester LE18 2BA**

Dr John Sutton, Western Front Association, Leicestershire and Rutland

Non-members are welcome, but are invited to make a voluntary donation of £3.

### ***WARTS AND ALL: THE CIVIL WAR IN THE EAST MIDLANDS AND MELTON MOWBRAY***

**Wednesday 28 November 2018, 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm)**

**Melton Carnegie Museum, Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1RB**

Kevin Winter, on behalf of the Melton Fieldworkers Group

All are welcome and admission is £5. Limited places available – for more information and bookings, tel 0116 305 3860.

### ***AN EVENING WITH ALICE ROBERTS - DIGGING INTO BRITAIN'S PAST***

**Thursday 24 January 2019**

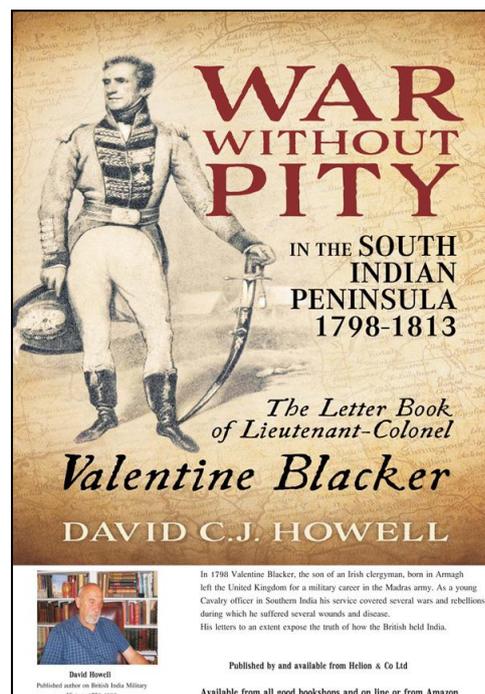
**Loughborough Town Hall, Market Place, Loughborough**

Anthropologist, author and broadcaster Alice Roberts will share insights, anecdotes and behind-the-scenes stories from her personal journey to explore Britain's past, with footage from her programmes and excerpts from her books. Early booking advised. Further details:

[www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk/events/2019/01/24/an\\_evening\\_with\\_alice\\_roberts\\_-\\_digging\\_in\\_to\\_britains\\_past](http://www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk/events/2019/01/24/an_evening_with_alice_roberts_-_digging_in_to_britains_past).

## WAR WITHOUT PITY IN THE SOUTH INDIAN PENINSULA 1798 – 1813

David Howell, Hon. Treasurer of LAHS, has recently published a book based on the Letter Book of Lieutenant-Colonel Valentine Blacker, who served in the Madras Army for many years. The regular letters he wrote to his clergyman father while on active service are very revealing about British action in Southern India, including his critical views of the East India Company for its government of Madras and perceived mismanagement of the army. These are intermixed with endearments for his family and his regret at the lack of correspondence from home. *War Without Pity in the South Indian Peninsula 1798 – 1813* is published by Helion and Company and costs £25. It is available from all good bookshops and online.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)

The October 2018 edition of *ULAS News* includes updates on a number of fieldwork projects, some of which are summarised here. Throughout September and October, ULAS have been busy at various excavations in the region, notably at Seagrave where an Iron Age enclosure settlement has been revealed on a former golf course. As Leon Hunt and Claire LaCombe report:

‘The recently closed Park Hill Golf Club has been bought by Leicester City FC for a new training ground, to include a nine hole golf course, new pitches and facilities. Geophysical survey has highlighted clear rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures and possible roundhouses that survived the landscaping for the former golf course. A subsequent small evaluation on three areas confirmed the presence of large enclosure ditches, pits and other features. Our excavations are concentrated on two areas: the



Iron Age enclosed settlement at Seagrave, Leicestershire

northern Area A targeted a large rectangular enclosure and is located on the former driving range (early finds included 300 golf balls!), while Area B is located on part of the main golf course and targets anomalies of two smaller enclosures and possible pits. We began the excavation with Area A, which has revealed the large rectangular enclosure, in its entirety. Excavation shows that it was recut and remodelled over time, and incorporates two smaller circular enclosures, one of

which may possibly have been converted from a roundhouse, then extended into a further enclosure to the south. Some smaller short linear features and lozenge shaped pits cut through these, making some tricky relationships difficult to pick out from the very mixed stony clay natural. The stripping has actually revealed that the archaeological features extend well beyond the limits of the agreed excavation areas, particularly with two or three hitherto unseen pit alignments running across into both areas. Stripping continues on Area B where two smaller subrectangular enclosures extend beyond the limits of the excavation, one of which possibly post-dates the eastern pit alignment. The site is finds-rich, with lots of Iron Age pottery, animal bone and possibly some kiln lining all recovered so far’.

Other current fieldwork projects include Brooksby Quarry, where a watching brief has been maintained since work began on the construction of the Plant Site in 2006; and the Waterside redevelopment area in Leicester, where demolition is now in full swing, clearing large areas of the site for further work. Of particular interest is a large area located within the north-west corner of the Roman and Medieval city, on the site of the Leicester Corporation Yard between All Saints and Jarvis Street, which has been made available for investigation. Work on the Medieval cemetery has drawn to a close, with 151 skeletons excavated from the threatened area. Work is now complete on Merlin Works 2 in Bath Lane, Leicester, where Jen Browning and Adam Clapton report that ‘the unusually good survival of Roman superstructure has thoroughly impressed us all. However, the chronology of the site is proving perplexing, with current information suggesting that all the Roman activity took place in the 1st and 2nd century AD’. At Lockington Quarry, where work has also been completed, the strip revealed a total of three droveways, with the only dated one containing late medieval pottery. There were numerous prehistoric pits and several unusually deep post-holes to the south. More information about all these projects, along with photographs and maps, is will soon be available online.

### **OBJECTS ACQUIRED UNDER THE TREASURE ACT 2017 (2) - ROMAN TOT RING**

Wendy Scott contributes the second of a series of articles about some of the objects on display in local museums that have been acquired under the Treasure Act of 2017:

‘This is an example of a ‘TOT ring’. These are thought to represent the Celtic god Toutatis (Totatis), with TOT being an abbreviation of the god’s name. In the French comic *Asterix*, the oath ‘By Toutatis!’ is often uttered by Asterix the Gaul! In England these rings

appear to be a regional phenomenon, mainly recorded in the East Midlands. Their production spans the second and third centuries (100 - 300AD) and they seem to represent a local cult. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has recorded 89 examples from an area between Leicester, Sheffield and Hull, with the majority coming from Lincolnshire. This example was found



in Hallaton parish, north of the hoard site and within a small scatter of Roman artefacts. Four other examples have been found in Leicestershire, two from Willoughby on the Wolds, a known temple site (LEIC-2B87D2 and LEIC-D6B504); one from Goadby Marwood (LEIC-D6A154), a large Roman town; and one from south of Goadby (LEIC-824A6D) in a large scatter, also suggesting a religious site. The ring, found in 2012, can be seen at Harborough Museum (PAS Ref No. WMID-63F643).

## **WALKING TRAIL OF ROMAN LEICESTER**

The Friends of Jewry Wall have recently produced a free walking trail of Roman Leicester. This is available to download from the new Jewry Wall website, which also has much information about the history of the site itself - see <http://jewrywallstory.leicester.gov.uk>. The trail is also available at Visit Leicester, 51 Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, LE1 5AD.

## **SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMAN STUDIES – FREE ONLINE TITLES**

Continuing the Roman theme, in November 2018 the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies digitised titles from its *Journal of Roman Studies* and *Britannia* monograph series, and has now made these freely accessible through the online Archaeology Data Service - <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archive/>

## **A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE**

Something a little different for Christmas – an account of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Leicester from the *Leicester Daily Mercury*, 27 December 1875:

This year Mr. [Elliot] Galer has chosen as the subject of his great holiday spectacle an incident in the life of the renowned outlaw of Sherwood Forest, and has placed it upon the stage under the title of “Harlequin Robin and his Merry Little Men, or King Richard and Jolly Friar Tuck.”... The pantomime runs through no fewer than eleven scenes, exclusive of the “Grand Transformation” which, upon this occasion, is separated from the preceding tableaux by an interval of ten minutes... the curtain rises upon the “Cave of Mystery” where we find the witches busily engaged in the task of “brewing a pantomime.” This immediately leads up to a “Forest Scene and Rendezvous of Robin Hood and his Merry Little Men,” with an illuminated village in the background... we witness the arrival of the famous outlaw himself (Mrs Elliot Galer), who hears of the threatened destruction of his favourite forest haunt, but is reassured by Nymphaline (Miss Emiline Revere), who presents him with the magic horn. The Sheriff of Nottingham, Baron Front de Boeuf (Mr. J. S. Haydon), falls victim to Robin and his Merry Men, while intent with evil designs upon the timber of Sherwood Forest; and is speedily relieved of his spare cash and valuables...

His Majesty soon afterwards makes his appearance, and is followed by a mysterious stranger, Abdel Kader (Mr. Chas. Morgan) and his daughter Almea (Miss Catherine Lucette). Richard Coeur de Lion has an interview with Baron de Boeuf. The latter forms a design to remove the King, and in order to bring His Majesty within his power invites him to a banquet. The fourth scene finds us in the Baronial Hall in the Castle of Front de Boeuf; here, in the midst of the convivialities, the King, by the sudden fall of the trap, is at once precipitated to the deepest dungeon in the Castle... [From there] we are taken to “Demon Wood;” which is followed up by an agreeable change of situation in the “Grand Fern Dell,” where Abdel Kader throws off his oriental disguise, and assumes the part of Jolly Friar Tuck; and where we witness the march and evolutions of the infant outlaws.

The eighth scene shows us the exterior of Castle Cautious, and the arrival of Robin Hood and his party who succeed in effecting the escape of imprisoned King Richard, by means of a rope ladder. The ninth scene shows a view of the Forest near Nottingham, and here we are favoured with a review of the juvenile forces preparatory to an assault upon the Castle. The tenth scene introduces us to an apartment in the Baron's Castle, where the Baron is found defying Robin and His Merry Men, and preparing for the defence; while the eleventh, and last, transports us to the ramparts of the Castle where Robin and the Baron are found in combat; where Nymphaline interposes, and where all, as usual, ends in general happiness and joy.

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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](http://www.lahs.org.uk)

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &  
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