

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



NEWSLETTER 102 Spring 2019

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 take place at New Walk Museum, and start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. To ensure sufficient space for everyone attending, these will be held in the Victorian Gallery. Please arrive in good time to avoid disruption once the lecture has started.

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

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR LAHS MEMBERS

LAHS Hon Membership Secretary, Matt Beamish explains the increase in members' subscriptions from 1 May 2019: At the AGM in November the Society voted in favour of a motion proposed by me which had been previously discussed and approved at a meeting of your Committee, to increase membership subscriptions from 1 May 2019. The new

subscription rates are Individual £30 and Family £40, with continuing free membership for students (who do not receive any printed publications). If you are an Individual or Family member of the Society, you might have wondered how your subscription covered the cost of all the high quality publications sent to you over the year. The stark truth is that it does not: subscriptions have failed to cover the costs of our publications for many years. This had been by some margin, although work to reclaim Gift Aid, and to ensure that all members are paying their subscription at the correct rate promptly, has made some impact on the deficit. You may also wonder, now that the Society is financially secure, why we are choosing to increase subscriptions. The answer is simple: to subsidise the benefits received by members of a charitable organisation by using our capital reserves contravenes Charity Commission guidelines.

Membership subscriptions have been at the current rate since 2011/12 and an increase was needed to keep step with inflation. The current increase will ensure that the Society can continue to invite contributions, edit and publish high quality literature relating to the Archaeology and History of Leicestershire. If you pay your subscription by standing order, and wish to remain a member of the Society, I need you to contact your bank and request that the rate at which your membership is paid is increased when your subscription is next paid (most subscriptions are paid on or near to 1st May). As Membership Secretary I have no ability to request this change on your behalf: it must be requested by the account holder. If you pay by cheque or by PayPal, please remember to pay the correct amount when your subscription is due. Our website has been updated with the new rates. I will send out email reminders on the change nearer to the time. Please remember to advise the Society of any changes in your contact details – send these to membership@lahs.org.uk. On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your ongoing support of the Society.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The highlight of the winter closure has been the exceedingly generous donation by member John Morison and the Hallaton in the Great War Research Group of their monumental work HALLATON IN THE GREAT WAR, SERVICE AND SACRIFICE, for which we are extremely grateful. This was published in 2018 in three magnificent hardbound volumes of over 1270 pages and is extensively illustrated in colour and black and white. Volume 3 has a section on Belgian refugees in Hallaton and page 977 has a picture of John “down the drain”. The books which are very heavy (thank you John for the transport!) are presently being reviewed and on their return will be available in the Library for reference use. Even if you have no Hallaton connection, do take the opportunity to inspect and admire these wonderful volumes.

There have been many additions to stock and, as always, the Society is grateful for donations, which are indicated below. All were published in 2018 unless otherwise indicated.

Books and Pamphlets

AMIAS, E. The War and St. Martin's [Leicester]. Ten soldiers who died, five men who survived and five women who served as nurses in World War I.

BAKER, J. Place-names of Shropshire. Part 7 Stottesdon Hundred and the Borough of Bridgnorth. (E.P-N.S. 92 for 2015).

BROWN, C. The History of Leicester's Allotments. Leicester City Council. Donated by the author.

BUTT, S. Historic England: Leicester. Unique images from the archives of Historic England. Amberley, £14.99. Donated by the publisher. The Society's previous Secretary continues to be busy.

CHARNWOOD ROOTS Woodhouse & Eaves heritage walking trail. Donated by Charnwood Roots.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS Yearbook and directory. Ashby Castle is on the cover.

DOLAN, A. Good news for the East Midlands: an account of the background to, and the story of, the Diocese of Nottingham. This is the Roman Catholic Diocese of which Leicestershire is a part.

DYER, L. Loughborough in 50 buildings. Amberley, £14.99. Donated by the publisher.

ECKSTEIN, E. George Samuel Elgood: his life and work, 1851 – 1943. 1995. The author is the Leicester artist's great niece. This book is particularly relevant to the Society as LAHS owns the Elgood Collection of some 140 items presented by Jane Elgood in 1948. She was the daughter of Thomas, George's brother (see TLAHS Vol. 25 1949 p. 9 – 14, 21). This is housed at the New Walk Museum.

EDENSOR, D. In grateful memory: the War Memorial at North Kilworth. 2009.

GRAFFWERK Leicester street art guide

HANLEY, K. Leicester: the metropolis of dissent by 1848?: growth and impact of their early nonconformist churches.

HARTLEY, R. Medieval earthworks of South and South East Leicestershire: Harborough District : Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Billesdon.

HASELGROVE, J. When life was transformed in Braunstone and the role of the Parish Council in the 1920/30s. Braunstone Heritage Archive Group Project, 2017. Donated by Keith Hammersley.

HAVERS, M. The Reformatory at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey 1856 – 1881. 2006.

HEWITT, D. The Diocese of Leicester and its Bishops 600AD to 2016. 2017.

KNIGHTON WW1 WORKING PARTY Knighton remembers WW1: investigating stories of the men on Knighton's war memorial. Donated by Margaret Bonney. LAHS gave the project a grant which is acknowledged.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL Tomb of Richard III: design, fabrication and symbolism.

LOCKLEY, D. Markfield times. Donated by the author/ publisher.

MALCOLMSON, P. & R., eds. A parson in wartime: the Boston diary of the Rev. Arthur Hopkins 1942 – 1945. Lincoln Record Society Vol. 107. 2017.

MILLINGTON, J. & CHAPMAN, S., eds. Four centuries of machine knitting... 1989. Includes Hand knitting industry, by Joan Thirsk, one-time L.A.H.S. member. Donated by Felicity Austin.

Mount Saint Bernard Abbey. 2006.

Mount Saint Bernard Abbey a brief historical sketch. [c.2001]

MOUNTSORREL HERITAGE GROUP Mountsorrel in the Great War: a view of the village and people 1914 – 1919.

NEWBOLD VERDON & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP Not forgotten: an account of the lives, deaths and backgrounds of forces personnel remembered on the war memorials in the West Leicestershire villages of Barlestone, Botcheston, Desford and Newbold Verdon.

NEWITT, N. Leicester's Victorian infidels: a history of rationalism & secularism in Leicester 1830 – 1867. 2019.

Old Grammar School of Market Harborough: a history. [200-]. (leaflet)

PERKINS, P. World War I: Market Harborough, Great Bowden, Little Bowden, by street.

St. Andrew's parish church Prestwold: a brief history and visitors guide. [c.200-].

SAVANI, G., SCOTT, S. & MORRIS, M. Life in the Roman world: Roman Leicester. Donated by the publisher School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester.

SHEPPARD, T. World War II in Charley: Charnwood's hidden parish. 2009.

STARKEY, J. St. Helen's church Ashby – de-la-Zouch a short tour. Rev.ed.

STARKEY, J. St. Helen's church Ashby – de – la Zouch restoration of the ancient sundial... Rev. ed. 2016.

TUCKER, J. & HAVERS, M. A Pugin monastery: Mount Saint Bernard Abbey the early years. 2002.

WESSEL, C. Beaumanor war and peace: the Curzon Herrick years 1915 – 1939. Donated by the author. LAHS gave a grant for its publication.

Wyggeston and the Great War...

Periodicals - with some particular articles of local interest

ANTIQUARIES JOURNAL 98 12th century decoration: a discovery at Oakham Castle; reviews of Cox's Place-names of Leics. Pt.7 (2016) and Clough's Oakham Lordshold in 1787 (2016). Both these titles are in stock.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY Nov/Dec 2018 The battle for Bosworth: a modern engagement.

EAST MIDLANDS HISTORY & HERITAGE

4 (Jan. 2017) infant mortality in Leicester 1890 – 1910; loyalism in Leics. 1792-3; Leics. Fieldworkers.

5 (Aug. 2017) East Midlands Airport; Wakerley Bridge; Fearon fountain.

7 (Aug. 2018) Leicestershire's recruitment crisis 1914-5; roads to Wakerley.

HARBOROUGH HISTORIAN 35 farming during the Great War in Leics.; militias 1757 – 1850; news of the new H.H. Index 1984 – date, available: www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org. Donated by David Holmes.

HINCKLEY HISTORIAN 82 history of Shenton; Patch family. Donated by Phillip Lindley.

LEICS. VCH NEWS issues 5 (Summer 2014) – 9 (Sep. 2018). Thanks to Pam Fisher for ensuring we shall have a complete file.

RUTLAND RECORD 38 Belton fire of 1776; Madame de Boigne and George Finch, Earl of Winchilsea – with a nod to Marcel Proust; Uppingham High School for Girls. Donated by Tim Clough.

THOROTON SOCIETY of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE TRANSACTIONS

Vol. 107 (2003), 111 (2007) – 119 (2015). This title is part of an exchange arrangement for our Transactions. These missing back numbers have at long last been received after much effort by the Membership Secretary and the Librarian.

107 Richard Parkyns of Bunny [Recorder of Leicester 1575 -]

111 article on pre-Viking sculpture refers to Breedon and Scalford.

WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRANSACTIONS 3 ser. 26 tomb of Simon de Montfort.

Newsletters

DMU Special Collections Newsletter 3 - brief article on Leicester's man of glass: William Heaton.

The Library has reopened after the winter closure. It will be open as usual on the first and third Sundays of each month 2 – 4 p.m. However it will be closed on 21 April, Easter Day.

Aubrey Stevenson, Hon. Librarian.

OTHER NEWS

ALL SAINTS, LEICESTER - A CALL FOR ARTISTIC AND HERITAGE COLLABORATORS

ArtReach, a contemporary arts development agency in Leicester, is working on a new two year project of arts and heritage activity based in the Grade I listed disused church of All Saints in Highcross Street, Leicester. It is looking for people to work collaboratively in developing projects and ideas for the space, including local historians or heritage facilitators, and heritage research volunteers. A number of freelance and volunteer opportunities are expected to become available over the next two years, and the intention is to create a pool of potential collaborators. Visit <http://artreach.biz/call-out-for-artistic-heritage-collaborators/> for more information, or register an interest by sending a brief summary of experience and any specific interests within the project to allsaints@artreach.biz.

RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT

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

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LEICESTER CIVIC SOCIETY

The January 2019 edition of the Leicester Civic Society E-Newsletter is now available online at www.leicestercivicsociety.org.uk/news.asp?item=527. This has a report of a Heritage Partnership Meeting at which the future strategy for Leicester's museums was discussed. The 'LCS Miscellany' web page at www.leicestercivicsociety.org.uk/miscellany.asp also has links to heritage videos that may be of interest to LAHS members. These include 'Promenades and ringroads: Konrad Smigielski and 1960s Leicester'; 'Edwin Lutyens', a podcast about the architect of the War Memorial in Victoria Park; and a series of pictures showing the demolition and site clearance of New Walk Centre, Leicester.

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES APPEAL

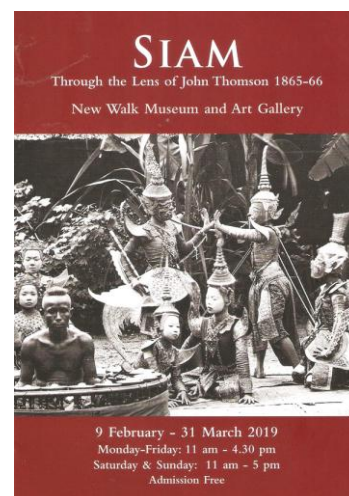
De Montfort University (DMU) has its origins in the Leicester School of Art – later the College of Art - which was founded in 1870. To mark its 150th anniversary in 2020, DMU is inviting former staff and students of the Leicester College of Art and the other institutions that eventually came together to constitute the University to contribute to its archives, which form part of its Special Collections. These include Leicester College of Technology, Leicester Polytechnic, Charles Frears School of Nursing, the City of Leicester teacher training colleges and DMU at Leicester, Bedford, Lincoln and Milton Keynes. A wide range of archival material is requested, from documents, leaflets, certificates and photographs to artworks, textiles and clothing that relate to the history of DMU and its predecessors. Items can be photographed or scanned if the owners do not wish to part with them. Memories are also welcome, sent in writing or by completing a questionnaire, or recording a video. Exhibitions at DMU and locations around the city are planned, along with a book and website. 'Meet the Archivists' sessions will be held on Heritage Sundays in the last Sunday of the month from March to November 2019, 11 am – 3 pm in Trinity Hospital Chapel in The Newarke. For more details, see <https://dmuheritage.our.dmu.ac.uk/appeal-for-archives/>.

FRIENDS OF JEWRY WALL MUSEUM – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Friends of Jewry Wall Museum are looking for volunteers to help develop a monthly programme of opportunities to visit St Nicholas church in Leicester and take a guided tour of the Roman city using their recently published Roman Trail leaflet. Please contact Jennifer Macgregor at Jennifer.macgregor1@ntlword.com for more details.

SIAM THROUGH THE LENS OF JOHN THOMSON 1865 – 66, NEW WALK MUSEUM, LEICESTER

This is a free exhibition of photographs enlarged from the original 19th century photographic plates of John Thomson a pioneering 19th century Scottish photographer who explored China and Siam in the 1860s: 'The photographic technology, such as large format camera and wet-collodion process plates, was cutting edge for its time. Photography had only been invented some 20 years previously. He photographed King Mongkut Rama IV, his royal family and entourage and several royal ceremonies. With special travel permissions from the King, Thomson travelled to Cambodia and was the first to photograph the ancient site of Angkor Wat. The range, depth and sensitivity of John Thomson's photographic vision mark him as one of the most important travel photographers of his time'. The exhibition is curated by Betty Yao MBE, and runs until 31 March 2019 during normal museum opening hours. Tel 0116 225 4900 or see www.visitleicester.info.



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER CENTENARY

The University of Leicester is the only university that was founded as a War Memorial. It is currently celebrating its centenary with a three-year programme of special commemorative events. This started on Armistice Day 2018 and will continue until 2021, as 1921 was the year it opened its doors to the first students. Dr Astley Clarke was amongst the first to propose that Leicester should have its own university. On Armistice Day 1918 he strode through a town packed with rejoicing crowds, and deposited £100 in five twenty pound notes in the bank. This was the start of a fund to create a new University College for Leicestershire and Rutland, and thirty-three members of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society (as our Society was known at that time) were founding donors. As more gifts came in, a number of them were in memory of the donors' relatives killed in action in World War I, and the inspirational motto for the new College was born - *Ut Vitam Habeant*, meaning 'So That They May Have Life'.

The purpose of the Centenary Project Board is 'to ensure the region, the staff, the students and alumni of the University of Leicester understand and experience the Centenary in order that the living memorial created continues for another 100 years'. It will look back at its early history, its founders and first benefactors - and say thank you. It will also look forward by creating a second century promise. The Board's ambitions are to engage with all parts of the community in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; commit its students and staff to undertaking voluntary work; re-engage with lost alumni; lay poppy wreaths across the two counties each Armistice Day during 2019 - 21; develop new Centenary Partnerships across the city, region and beyond; and organise a programme of Centenary Events with its high profile partners. LAHS committee member Caroline Wessel, who serves on the University Court and has provided this information, is among those appointed to the Centenary Project Board. She is particularly pleased to be involved in the three years of celebration as her great-uncles were Dr Astley Clarke and Percy Gee, after whom the University's Student Union building was named. For further information about the Centenary Events, see <https://le.ac.uk/centenary>.

We have also been asked to inform LAHS members of an opportunity to volunteer with the University's Special Collections Project, which is looking at the University's early history. The following invitation is from Simon Dixon of Special Collections in the David Wilson Library: 'As part of our commemoration activities we would like to partner with local heritage and voluntary organisations to research our origins and early history, and share our rich archives with new audiences. We are preparing an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to run a community heritage project, and would like to invite members of LAHS to take part in this. The project will involve research into the people, organisations, and buildings associated with our early history. We will run free heritage training workshops covering historical research methods, interpreting historical sources, oral history, presenting research findings, and managing, cataloguing, and preserving archives. In particular, we would like to invite members of LAHS to work with us to investigate the contribution of the Society and its members to the foundation of the University. Members of the Society are invited to attend an information session to find out more about our project and see some of the items from our archives. There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals, and help to shape our proposal to the National Lottery Heritage Fund'.

The information session will be held in the Special Collections Reading Room of the David Wilson Library from 11am to 1pm on Wednesday 13 March 2019. Any members wishing to take part can confirm attendance by emailing specialcollections@le.ac.uk or telephoning 0116 252 2056.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FINDING LEICESTER'S MRS AUSTIN - AMERICA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL PRIMA DONNA

Friday 29 March 2019 at 7 pm

Unitarian Great Meeting Chapel, Bond Street, Leicester

Professor Patrick Boylan, School of Arts, City, University of London

Leicester's Unitarian Chapel, known historically as 'The Great Meeting' - was built in 1708. It is the oldest brick building in Leicester, one of the most important historic buildings to survive in the City, and amongst the earliest surviving Nonconformist chapels in Britain. It is in this remarkable setting that an equally remarkable story will unfold. Professor Patrick Boylan of the School of Arts, City, University of London, will, after over five years of research, finally pull together the threads of a mystery that has survived untold for some 180 years. Leading music reference works and literature show that between 1821 and 1827, first in Dublin and then in all three London Theatres Royal, a remarkable soprano known only as Mrs Austin was the leading female performer in the new *bel canto* singing style and repertoire. In 1827 she was one of about eight European stars of music and the stage, secretly engaged by Philadelphia to create an international theatre company in the city. Mrs Austin was an immediate success, not just in Philadelphia but very soon over all of the then United States, and reigned supreme as America's first international prima donna for almost a decade.

The first of the evening's two mysteries solved at by Patrick Boylan is that Mrs Austin was very secretive about her origins, except that she always said that she came from Leicester. In fact she first sang and was trained in the venue for the evening, the Great Meeting Chapel itself. The second mystery was what happened to her after she travelled by train in 1835 from Philadelphia to New York to take a ship back to England - but then apparently totally vanished, and was never seen or heard of again. Professor Boylan will be supported by soprano, Nicky Bingham, who will take on the formidable challenge of Mrs Austin's remarkable reputation (and three octaves singing range), in performing both famous and lesser-known arias by Handel, Mozart, Arne, Rossini, Bellini, and Flotow from Austin's repertoire. She will be accompanied by John Dilleigh.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE SHOW 2019

Saturday 9 March 2019

9.30 am – 4.30 pm, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 2AN

Exhibitors will include the Federation of Family History Societies; Greater Wigston Historical Society; Leicestershire and Rutland Western Front Association; Friends of Welford Road Cemetery; Leicester City, County and Rutland War Memorials at Risk Project; and Leicester Research and Family History Services. A Family History Workshop will offer advice and help, and at 1.30 pm there will be a talk by BBC Radio Leicester presenter Dave Andrews on 'The Biggest Story Ever Told'. Admission to the Heritage Fair is £1; free admission for children under 15. Tickets for the talk are £2 and need to be booked in advance by telephoning 0116 288 4638 or 07702 127313. Further details at http://lrfhs.com/History_Show_2019.html.

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.

5 March 2019

Ada Lovelace: the calculating countess

Hugh Beavin

2 April 2019

Highgate Cemetery: A Great Garden of Death

Dr Ian Dungavell

Chief Executive, Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust

LEICESTER VAUGHAN COLLEGE – OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

A series of talks, workshops and interactive sessions open to anyone who is curious and wants to find out more. The Forum takes place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Satta Hashem Hall, Leicester Adult Education College, 54 Belvoir Street. Tea and cake will be available from 5.45 pm with the session running 6.15- 7.30 pm.

12 March 2019

Psychological evidence in murder trails

Professor Andrew Coleman

9 April 2019

Archaeology for all: community archaeology in Leicestershire

Mathew Morris

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Sunday 24 March 2019, 10 am – 4 pm

Annual General Meeting and free Open Day

Leicestershire County Cricket Club, Grace Road, Leicester, LE2 8EB

The AGM will commence at 11 am. An agenda and copy of proposed constitutional changes are available to download at <http://lrfhs.org.uk/page2019.html>.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

The Elms Social & Service Club, Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 2BA at 7.30 pm.

25 March 2019

Three V.C.s in Two Armies

John Stanyard

29 April 2019

The Battle of Verdun

Alan Robinson

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2019

In 2019 the Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology will run for the entire month of July - partly alongside the national festival (13 - 28 July), which is back to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Council for British Archaeology after taking a break in 2018. As last year's events were so successful, LAHS is again contributing two lectures to the programme. The details of both are set out below. Doors open and cash bar from 7 pm, talk begins 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £4.50. Booking essential - telephone 0116 2532569.

More details of the national festival of archaeology are available online at <http://new.archaeologyuk.org/festival-of-archaeology/>. For the Leicestershire festival see <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/festival-of-archaeology-2019/>

Monday 15 July 2019, The Guildhall, Leicester

Historic Graffiti - the hidden story of the hopes, fears and desires of a nation

James Wright, University of Nottingham

Modern graffiti is often seen as transgressive and moronic. However, look closely in the light of a torch at the walls of our historic buildings, trees, caves and rockfaces and you will see a world of graffiti left that illuminates the psychology of our ancestors. The study of historic graffiti enables us to hear the lost voices of ordinary individuals through their images of daisywheels, ships sailing across the walls, knights drawing their swords, demons stalking the stonework and every animal imaginable.

Monday 22 July 2019, The Guildhall, Leicester

'Death is a Marketplace Where All Men Meet' - an introduction to Swithland slate headstones

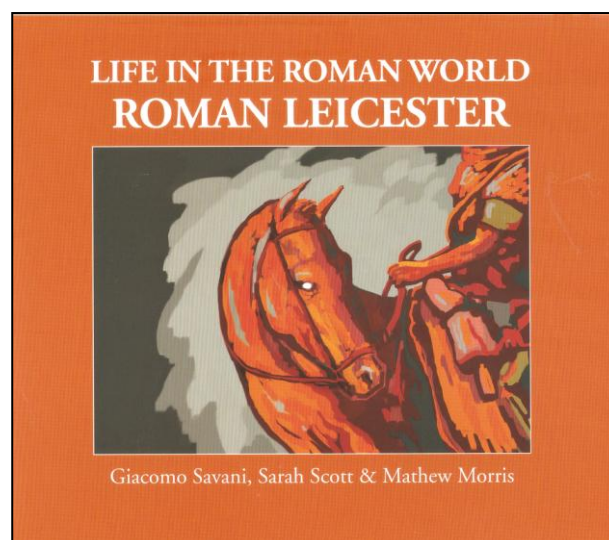
Colin Hyde, University of Leicester

Many people have noticed Leicestershire's rugged and characterful Swithland slates on the roofs of older buildings in the county. Quarried from Roman times to the end of the 19th century, Swithland slate has been used for many things over the years, and this talk will take a look at its use for headstones in churchyards. The grey, blue and purple tinges of the slate add huge visual appeal to the region's churchyards, while the content of the carvings – like headstones across the world – tell us something of the people and cultures that created them.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

ROMAN LEICESTER – RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

As part of its outreach programme, the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester has produced some resources for teachers, linked to a book for children and teachers, *Life in the Roman World: Roman Leicester* by Giacomo Savani, Sarah Scott and Mathew Morris. These are intended to support the National Curriculum at Key Stages 2 -3, and can also be used for the teaching of GCSEs in Latin and Classical Civilisation. They include session plans, activities and worksheets which explore the culturally plural nature of the Roman world, as well as introducing Latin in the context of the archaeology of Roman Leicester. They are available to download free at <https://le.ac.uk/archaeology/outreach/for-teachers/teaching-resources>



LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS

Leicestershire Fieldworkers have recently opened a new community Facebook page to supplement its closed group page, which will remain active. The new page will be accessible to everyone, and will share information about forthcoming lectures and other events as well as other archaeological news. It can be found using the handle @LeicestershireFieldworkers when searching Facebook. News of events and other Fieldworkers' activities can also be found on their website at <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/latest-news/>, along with the January 2019 edition of their newsletter, *The Fieldworker*.

OBJECTS ACQUIRED UNDER THE TREASURE ACT – ROTHLEY HOARD

Wendy Scott, Liaison Officer for the Leicestershire Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), contributes another article in her series celebrating 20 years of the Treasure Act. As she writes: 'Locally we promoted important objects on display in our museums that had been acquired through this process, and that add to the knowledge of the county's past. I hope that this series will remind readers of the amazing artefacts that have been uncovered'.

This Bronze Age metalwork hoard has a wide date range of 1140 – 800 BC, as it contains two socketed axes (1020-800BC), an older Palstave type axe (1140-1020BC) and a very rare complete bronze axe mould for a Welby type axe (1020-800BC) – these were named after the village of Welby, Leicestershire, after the first of its type was found in a hoard there in 1875, and the axes now have a distribution across south and eastern England. The composition of the hoard adds weight to the growing theory that these were 'founders' hoards. The usually itinerant metalworkers would have buried old tools for safekeeping, before melting them down to create new ones.

Complete Bronze axe moulds are exceptionally rare finds. When this was found only a handful were known - a Sompting type axe mould was known from Roseberry Topping, Yorkshire; one was found for sale along with the rest of its hoard in an Oxford antiques shop (BERK-56BD17); and one held by The Collection in Lincoln. Since its discovery, the PAS has added a few more such as Sutton, Suffolk (SF-839555) and Chinnor, South Oxfordshire BUC-7E5EA8, but a complete mould still remains a very rare find. Found in 2009, the hoard can be seen at Charnwood Museum. PAS Ref Nos. [LEIC-A6BB51](#) (mould) [LEIC-4F6B02](#) LEIC-A67B11 LEIC-A665D7.



A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

LAHS was founded in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. This is an account of some of the churches visited during its excursion in 1859, from the *Leicester Journal* (5 August 1859).

DISHLEY CHURCH, now disused, was the first place visited. This church Mr. Bloxam stated to be all in one style, that of the early part of the 13th century, with somewhat of peculiar character in the inside of the windows. It was a matter of regret the church was not kept in better state, especially as it contained the tomb of the celebrated Bakewell. One of the small square windows was found in the chancel, and such openings were considered by Mr. Bloxam to have been used by friars for confessing all comers. In the church-yard was a brick mausoleum of the Phillipps family in which there had been two interments.

HATHERN was next reached. Here the register was shown, which extended as far back as 1363. Among the monumental slabs on the floor was one to a Robert Shakespear. Mr. Bloxam remarked that there was little to say about this church. There was one relic of the early church, the font. In the floor were some of those ancient alabaster slabs for which the county was famous. KEGWORTH CHURCH was next visited. This building is at present undergoing restoration, under the superintendence of Mr. Mitchell, of Sheffield, and the examination of its fine proportions and noble architecture was accompanied by the unpleasantness of dust, and the continued noise of workpeople. It is a cross church, with tower and lofty spire at the west end. The transepts are of unusual width, the arches admitting to them being twice the extent of those with which they range in the nave. Over the chancel arch is a peculiarly large and striking royal arms, put up in 1684, which it was recommended should not be removed, being of historical interest. The church was stated to be 14th century, and it was noticed as a somewhat remarkable fact that the inner base of the tower formed a measure for the various parts of the building.

Passing out of Leicestershire into Nottinghamshire, RATCLIFFE CHURCH was next reached. The most striking peculiarity of this place is that at some time the congregation, probably for the purpose of keeping warm, have boxed themselves into a comparatively small portion of the building, making as it were a church within a church. Another feature is the number of fine, though considerably decayed and injured, alabaster monuments of the Sacheverell family. One of the latest of these is of the year 1600. The church was built about the same period as that of Kegworth. But the chancel appeared earlier, and was no doubt built first. The arches were on one side pointed, and on the other semi-circular, but both of the same period.

There was a curious kind of semi-arch on the north side, which showed that the wall had been taken in there. In the chancel were piscina and sedilia, and also a holy sepulchre on the north side, where the rites of Easter were performed. The oldest monument was the finest, and was of the date 1539. It consisted of two figures, a knight and lady, the former in the armour of the time, and the latter having the peculiarity of a pomander, or small scent-box, hanging down to the lower part of the dress by a chain. The spire of this church is undergoing repair.

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