

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



## NEWSLETTER 103 Summer 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](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

The full lecture programme will be sent out direct to members in due course. In the meantime, here is advance notice of some of the dates and speakers. 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 26 September 2019**

**Scarborough lecture**

***The Monks of Peterborough Abbey and their History***

Professor Edmund King

**Thursday 21 November 2019**

**Lecture Theatre 1, George Davis Building , Centre for Medicine, University of Leicester**

***"Otzi" the iceman***

Professor Klaus Oeggl

This lecture is organised jointly by LAHS with the Leicestershire Fieldworkers, the Prehistoric Society and the Middle Nene Archaeological Group.

*Tickets (which will be free) will need to be booked for this event – further details will be circulated in due course.*

**Tuesday 26 November 2019, The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester**

**164th LAHS Annual General Meeting, followed by**

***The Shirleys, their recusancy and their monuments***

Moira Ackers

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

***Viking Lincolnshire***

Dr Erik Grigg

**Thursday 9 January, 2020**

***The actions of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in Mesopotamia***

Nigel Atter

## RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT

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

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### NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Aubrey Stevenson, LAHS Hon. Librarian, regrets that the Library will be closed on Sundays 2 June and 4 August as he is unable to attend on those dates.

### LAHS PUBLIC HERITAGE FUND

The Society is happy to announce that it has set up a new fund to help local groups and projects to engage with, and display their research to, the general public. The Public Heritage Fund will be pleased to consider applications for a wide range of potential projects, such as the design and printing of exhibition banners; the hire of temporary exhibition space; the publication of literature on local history (excluding monographs); the creation of educational resources for schools; heritage projects encouraging public-engagement; and the digitisation and dissemination of historic documents to ensure their preservation.

The four application deadlines in each financial year are the first Fridays of

January, April, July and October. Two applications were received in April 2019, both successful. Peter Liddle of the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology was awarded £350 to help towards this year's festival, with leaflet printing and distribution being the main costs. Malcolm Noble of Leicester Vaughan College was awarded £900 for the design and creation of four exhibition banners, plus the purchasing of image rights and room hire, to showcase the history of Vaughan College and the evolution of Leicester Vaughan College as a successor co-operative venture. The Society's support will be credited by both projects, and news of each will be sent to members nearer the time that they take place.

### LAHS RESEARCH FUND

Four applications to the LAHS Research Fund were also approved in April 2019:

- Denis Kenyon of the At Risk War Memorials Project - £500 to fund research into the names of the World War II memorial stained glass window rescued from the Aylestone Working Men's Club, which was about to be auctioned to the USA
- Peter Liddle - £400 to fund the drawings for an article for *Transactions* on the 1960s excavation of a Roman temple complex at Thistleton, Rutland
- Sarah Scott and Mathew Morris of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History and ULAS at the University of Leicester - £1500 to develop an educational version of *Roman Leicester* in Minecraft (creative video game), based on recent excavations and research
- Samantha Leggett and Chris Chinnock, Newnham College, Cambridge - £1060 for further isotope analysis of part of the skeletons found at Ketton Quarry in Rutland in 1998

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### LEICESTER CIVIC SOCIETY – GUIDED WALKS

**Saturday 15 June 2019, 10.30 am,  
starting at the Town Hall, Leicester**  
*Edwardian Leicester*

Cynthia Brown will take you on a walk around the city centre in search of Edwardian Leicester. You will see some of the buildings and other sites associated with this brief but eventful period in the city's history. One and a half hours.

**Saturday 27 July 2019, 10.30 am,  
starting at Jewry Wall, Leicester**  
*Ancient and Medieval Leicester*

The walk will be led by Peter Jones and Leigh Moss, who will take you back almost 2,000 years to begin a broadly chronological journey in search of Leicester's ancient monuments and medieval streets. Two hours.

**Saturday 17 August 2019, 10.30 am, starting at Winstanley House, Braunstone Park**  
*Braunstone: home of the Winstanleys*

This walk will be led by Peter Jones and Leigh Moss. Braunstone was once an outlying village closely associated with the Winstanley family, but developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to become a city suburb. The walk will start and finish at the building that was their home. Two hours.

Booking is essential for all the above walks; cost £4.50. Pay direct to Leicester Civic Society Events at 105 Letchworth Road, Leicester, LE3 6FN; or through Visit Leicester, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester 0116 2994444. Cheques payable to 'Leicester Civic Society'. Full details of Civic Society activities can be found at [www.leicestercivicsociety.org.uk/](http://www.leicestercivicsociety.org.uk/).

**Saturday 21 Sept 2019, 10.30 am, starting at Belmont House Hotel, New Walk, Leicester**  
**CIVIC SOCIETY FREE GUIDED WALK FOR HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2019**  
*Leafy Leicester*

The walk will lead you through some of the city's green spaces, taking you along Upper New Walk, Victoria Park and Welford Road Cemetery, as well as focusing on some fascinating buildings. Two hours. Advance booking is still required – details as above.

### 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.

### WRITE YOUR LIFE STORY Recording your past... for the future

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**1 October 2019**

***George Eliot and the Bird Grove connection***

John Burton

**5 November 2019**

***These we have listed***

Peter Ellis

**3 December 2019**

***Sir Edward Elgar – the man and his music***

Sam Dobson

## **WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND BRANCH**

Meetings are held at the Elms Social and Service Club, Bushloe End, Wigston, LE18 2BA at 7.30 pm. See [www.leicestershireandrutlandwfa.com/2015speakerprogramme.asp](http://www.leicestershireandrutlandwfa.com/2015speakerprogramme.asp) for the full 2019 programme of talks.

**Monday 24 June 2019**

***The Great War German Air Raids on Britain***

Dave Dunham

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS**

### **FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2019**

In Leicestershire and Rutland the 2019 Festival of Archaeology will once again eclipse every other UK county in the number and variety of events it has planned. Over 80 talks, tours, walks and hands-on events will take place between 29 June and 28 July 28. Leaflets will soon be appearing around the city and county, but the list of events can also be viewed online at <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/festival-of-archaeology-2019/>. The Festival will launch at the Bradgate Park excavation open day on 29 June, where guided tours of the excavations and Bradgate House will go on throughout the day, alongside many other activities for all the family. These will include demonstrations, archaeological material to handle, re-enactors, exhibitors and bookstalls. LAHS will also have a stall at the open day selling its own publications. If any members have an hour or two to spare on the day, offers of help with the stall would be very welcome. As it did last year, LAHS will be staging two public talks at The Guildhall, Leicester, as part of the Festival. Pre-booking is essential. Talks cost £4.50 per ticket and begin at 7.30 pm. A cash bar will be available from 7pm. Telephone The Guildhall on 0116 253 2569 to reserve your ticket.

**Monday 15 July 2019, 7pm for 7.30pm**

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

James Wright, University of Nottingham

A glance at the walls of our historic buildings, trees, caves and rock faces shows a world of historic graffiti. James Wright will explore how these designs illuminate the psychology of our ancestors, allowing us to hear the lost voices of ordinary people through their depictions of daisy wheels, ships sailing across walls, knights drawing swords and demons stalking the stonework.

**Monday 22 July 2019, 7pm for 7:30pm**

**'Death is a marketplace where all men meet' – an introduction to Swithland slate headstones**

Colin Hyde

The Swithland Slate headstones found in many of Leicestershire's churchyards tell us much about the people and cultures that created them. In this illustrated talk Colin Hyde will explore some fascinating examples where urns, skulls, and snakes abound, and Death himself stalks the slate.

**NEW ARCHAEOLOGY DISPLAYS AT MELTON CARNEGIE MUSEUM**

Helen Sharp, Archaeology Manager at Leicestershire County Council, writes that: 'Visitors to Melton Carnegie Museum, Melton Mowbray can now view more wonderful objects from Leicestershire County Council Museums' archaeology collection following a re-display in May. Two new state-of-the-art display cases were purchased to provide more space in a secure and environmentally controlled environment. The extra space has allowed over 50 objects to be introduced which were previously kept in store. The objects range in date from the Palaeolithic to the Post-Medieval periods, highlighting the rich and varied archaeology of Melton Borough.

'The highlight of the re-display is a new acquisition - the Scaford sword pommel cap. This was acquired by the Museums Service thanks to generous funding grants from Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Arts Council England/V&A Museum Purchase Grant Fund and Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums. The pommel was found by a metal detectorist in 2016. It is a cast gilded silver object dating to the early Anglo-Saxon period (6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD), and would have been mounted at the end of a sword handle. It has undergone scientific analysis to determine the nature of a mysterious green substance on its surface which will be the subject of an upcoming article in *Transactions*.



'We are also grateful to have some wonderful objects on loan from local finders. Dr Alan Massey has loaned Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tools found in the Scaford area. Darren White has lent a beautiful Bronze Age gold penannular ring from Twyford and Thorpe. A gilded Viking disc brooch is kindly lent by Denis Wells. The new displays are permanent and in due course will be accompanied by digital labels to enable visitors to view close-up photographs and further information'. See Melton Carnegie Museum's website for details of how to visit: <https://www.meltonmuseum.org/>



Above: the Scaford sword pommel cap showing intricate decoration (© Leicestershire County Council Museums)

Left: Case of prehistoric finds from the Melton area (© Leicestershire County Council Museums)

## THE SCRAPTOFT HOARD

The Scraftoft hoard is an important assemblage of 11th century tools. Because it is not Prehistoric, this base metal hoard does not currently qualify as Treasure. However, we hope that the Treasure Act review will amend the law to include such archaeologically valuable hoards. Information gleaned from this and similar hoards mean that they really are archaeological treasure.



The hoard consisted of five iron objects: an axe; a plough coulter; a long seax; a scythe; and a collar/clip. All objects were in a remarkable state of preservation, having been found by a member of the public partly exposed in a badger's sett. The assemblage represents late Saxon working life, with agricultural and woodworking tools deposited alongside a weapon (long seax). Large iron objects are not common

on excavated sites, and iron is not routinely searched for by detectorists; so along with another 11 such iron-work hoards found nationally (all of which contain similar tools), it provides useful information for this period.

It has been argued that these hoards may have been 'ritual' deposits, possibly marking the abandonment of sites and suggesting lingering Pagan practices in a Christian context, but it is very difficult to obtain a reason for deposition from the objects themselves and it may have occurred for many reasons. The seax also shows Saxon humour as it is engraved with an image of a hand with drips of blood falling from it, reminding the user that the blade is very sharp!

My colleague Kevin Leahy has written an article about the hoard (and its contemporaries), featured in *Medieval Archaeology* 2013 (available online if you have a [Taylor and Francis log in](#)). The hoard was donated to Leicestershire Museums.

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer for the Leicestershire Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

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## HARBOROUGH MUSEUM – ONLINE MUSEUM TRAIL

A short museum trail entitled 'Our Favourite Objects' has been developed by museum and library staff in Market Harborough. It includes a map of the main gallery at Harborough Museum showing the location of each object, along with comprehensive descriptions and an explanation of why each member of staff chose them. They range from fossils from the stem of a sea lily to a letter from a US servicemen in World War II, a 1950s yellow cotton Hawaiian print swimsuit, and Ernest Elliott's human marionettes – the favourite objects of Ann because 'I first mistook them for headless ventriloquists' dummies'.

The trail is available online at [www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/wpharborough/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Favourite-objects-trail.pdf](http://www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/wpharborough/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Favourite-objects-trail.pdf).

## A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

LAHS was founded in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. It was one of several societies offering lectures and other events in Leicester at the time, including the Mechanics Institute and the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. One prominent member of the latter was Charles Camille Caillard, who came to England as a refugee from the 'July Rebellion' in France in 1830, and became a teacher of French and other modern languages in Leicester.

He lived in the town until his death in 1873, and was buried in Welford Road Cemetery, 'after a laborious, but not unhappy life... leaving an example of the energetic discharge of various duties worthy of being held in remembrance' (*Leicester Journal*, 29 August 1873). Here is a report from the *Leicester Chronicle* (27 January 1844) of a lecture on the origin of language that that he gave to the Leicester Mechanics Institute.

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### LEICESTER MECHANICS INSTITUTE.

#### CONTINUATION OF M. CAILLARD'S LECTURE ON THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE.

There is in nature an [sic] universal language. It is found in the whistling of the wind, in the rushing of the torrent, the warbling of the bird, the cracking of the wood, the hissing of the fire, the rustling of the leaves, the rolling of the thunder: everything in nature has a voice to praise the Creator, and compose a hymn of gratitude and adoration. Speech is the representation of our ideas by the sound of the voice. Man cannot create; he can but imitate; and it is therefore thought by some of the most learned philologists, that language owes its origin to the imitation of the divers sounds in nature.

In Hebrew, for instance, Esh signifies fire, and in its utterance represents the hissing which is produced by the flame. Hai is animal — meaning literally, that which breathes, from the breathing itself. Bah Mah signifies cattle, from the bleating of sheep; Qra means the partridge, no doubt from the cry it utters when calling its young to roost. The word Qra means also in Hebrew, to call. Numerous instances of this language of imitation may be produced from the English, as you are all well aware, and from all ancient and modern tongues.

It may be objected, that if it be practicable to give an idea of sonorous things, it ceases to become so for those that are not; and how are they to be expressed then? In the same manner as we give the idea of an unknown individual, by comparing him to a known one: as the blind man of Locke formed an idea of the scarlet colour, by comparing it to the sound of a trumpet — in fact, by analogy. Cortex, the Latin for bark, (in French, *ecorce*) has no sound of its own; but it has been named from the Hebrew Koor, to bore, break, to pierce, (*creuser*,) round; for, a vase, a hole, a ditch, have generally a round form; and this is called an Onomatopoeia. There is another language, common to man and to animals — a language of feeling, of sentiment. In the words of which it is composed, you will find life, emotion. Eouah, Eve, the living, (*Eie* in Hebrew,) signifies, to be. leoua (spelt in Hebrew, *leoue*, and pronounced by the Jews, *Jehovah*,) means, the being— the *one who is*...

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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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THE GUILDHALL, GUILDHALL LANE, LEICESTER. LE1 5FQ.  
Registered Charity No 503240

President:  
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Mr. Matthew Beamish,  
Hon. Membership Secretary LAHS,  
c/o ULAS,  
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,  
University of Leicester, University Road,  
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