

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWSLETTER 111 Summer 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAHS Newsletter. Contributions to future editions of the Newsletter are as always welcome at any time. While The Guildhall remains closed we will not be able to pick up items sent by post, so please email them to the editor, Cynthia Brown, at newsletter@lahs.org.uk.

LAHS NEWS

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Hon Lectures Secretary Yolanda Courtney is in the process of arranging the lecture programme for 2021 – 22. It is not yet clear if the autumn 2021 lectures will be held online or face-to-face – but we will keep members informed.

In the meantime, if you missed a lecture earlier this year, or would like to listen again, some of them are available on YouTube as follows:

‘The real King Arthur: a sixth century north British hero’ by Professor Andrew Breeze - [The real King Arthur: a sixth century north British hero - Bing video](#)

‘The archaeology of domestic innovation in country houses’ by Professor Marilyn Palmer - [The Archaeology of Domestic Innovation in Country Houses - YouTube](#)

‘Leicester and the Spanish Civil War’ by Adrian Pole and Henry Brown - [Leicester and the Spanish Civil - YouTube](#)

‘Roman Leicester transformed – a quarter century of excavations’ by Nick Cooper - [Roman Leicester Transformed: A quarter-century of excavations - YouTube](#)

‘The Leicester Waterside excavations’ by Stephen Baker - [Leicester's Waterside Excavations - YouTube](#)

OTHER LAHS NEWS

TONY SQUIRES

We are sorry to report that LAHS member Tony Squires died in March 2021. Tony was one of the stalwarts – and one of the characters – of the local history and archaeology scene. As a naturalist and landscape historian, he had a particular interest and expertise in the history, heritage, nature and countryside of Leicestershire, and was recognised as an authority on medieval woodland, deer parks and gardens. Tony was a regular contributor to the *Leicestershire Historian*, most recently in 2020 with an article written with Chris Peat, ‘Market Bosworth in Domesday Book: a cautionary approach’, p32-36. Some of his

other articles are available online, including 'The Medieval Parks of Market Bosworth' (with Chris Peat) at [COVER LH 2016 LH 2007 cover \(le.ac.uk\)](#), and 'Nature in Trust: the first 50 years of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust' at [LH 2006\(current version\) \(le.ac.uk\)](#). See 'News from the Library' for some of Tony's contributions to *Transactions*.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Library continues to be closed as The Guildhall remains shut. At the time of writing Leicester City Council states that museums and libraries will not open until 21 June at the earliest, but that is no indication that The Guildhall will then reopen immediately. We must be patient. There will be further information when I can report something definite. Despite the closure, material continues to be received for the Library, for which the Society is grateful, particularly to the thoughtful and generous donors.

BOOKS

BAKER, J. & CARROLL, J. Place-names of Shropshire pt.8: Overs hundred, the borough of Ludlow, the southern part of Munslow hundred, and the Stowe division of Purslow hundred. English Place-Name Society Vol.XCV 2020.

BARTLETT, A. Park & Ride in Leicester: the story of the ups and downs of 55 years of 'Park & Ride' bus services. Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, £12, 2020. Donated by Mike Greenwood (LTHT).

CAVILL, P. Place-names of Shropshire pt.9: Chirbury hundred and the Bishop's Castle division of Purslow hundred. E.P-N.S. Vol.XCVI 2020.

FISHER, P. Ibstock (Victoria History of Leicestershire) 2020. Donated by the author.

KNIGHT, R. RAF Wymeswold: postwar flying 1948 to 1970 with a Second World War postscript. Author & Wolds Historical Organisation £15 + £2 p&p 2021. A 'subscription' publication (orders in advance), so there are very few spare copies, but there is a free PDF available indefinitely on the WHO website hoap.co.uk/who/. Donated by Bob Trubshaw.

LAMBERT MANUFACTURING CO. LTD. Friar Lane Leicester Milestones of good service 1910-1960. Donated by Beverley McMullan (ex-Leicester), Gooseberry Hill, Australia from the estate of Valerie Hall (ex-Leicester) whose photo is in the book. Before emigrating she married Bernard Quirk and the book contains a wedding telegram from one of the company directors. She died in 2013.

O'BRIEN, K. Gothic Revival buildings in Leicester. This is a 1980 manuscript of a school project, donated by the author (ex-Leicester), now Kate Chebatoris, Massachusetts, USA.

PERKINS, P. Market Harborough World War 1: life in the town. [2019].

SATO, K. Life stories of Nessian and Maureen Danaher: a second-generation Irish couple living in Leicester. 2020.

SATO, K. Life stories of Peter and Margaret Adamson: an Anglican English couple living in Leicester. 2020. Both books donated by the author via Cynthia Brown.

SCREATON, B. Cosby: a Leicestershire village. 2020. Donated by the author.

SPEED, G. comp. Secrets from the soil: University of Leicester Archaeological Services: a quarter century of discoveries from Palaeolithic to Modern times. 2020. Donated by ULAS.
As you can see from the above your Librarian has been corresponding all over the world!

PERIODICALS – LATEST ISSUES

Ancient Monuments Society Transactions, Antiquaries Journal, Leicestershire Historian, SPAB Magazine, Worcestershire Archaeological Society Transactions
British Archaeology...Jan.2021 includes Festival of Archaeology online by Mathew Morris (ULAS),

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal...includes Swarkestone Bridge (numerous Leics. references),

English Place-Names Society Journal...includes Corieltavi, Romans and Romano-British: a Leicestershire legacy by Barrie Cox,

Harborough Historian 36 2019 (37 was featured in our Spring Newsletter) includes Bosworth witch trials, Debdale Wharf and the Dobson family, Pilgrims of Hallaton. Donated by the editor.

Hinckley Historian 86 Winter 2020 includes the second parts of articles on Dadlington, and Benjamin Law. Donated by the Museum.

Rutland Record AND Rutland Record Index of nos. 31 - 40 (2011 -2020) comp. R. Ovens. 2020.

NEWSLETTERS (current copy only)

Ancient Monuments Society reports that AMS and Friends of Friendless Churches are to become independent of each other

English Place-Names Society Report 2019-20 - states that the Digital Survey, though glitch, is now openly available at <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/>. It includes much of the content of Survey volumes published before 2009.

Essex Society for Archaeology & History, Friends of Friendless Churches, Lincoln Record Society, What's On (SPAB)... sadly no SPAB Group for this area, Worcestershire Recorder.

We continue to receive 'Rural Life Past & Present', the catalogues from Cottage Books.

DONATIONS

In Newsletter 109 (Winter 2020) I reported the gift from the estate of the late Mrs. Halsey of Groby. The following will be added to the Library:

BANNER, J. Discovering Leicester.1991. and Out and About in Leicester. 1994.

COURTNEY, P. Souvenir guide to Castle Park. 1995.

GERRARD, D. Leicestershire & Rutland past... 1996.

GREEN, S. Selected legends of Leicestershire. 1971.

HOSKINS, W. Heritage of Leicestershire. 1950.

JENKINS, R. Leicestershire at war. 1998. and Leicestershire the photographic collection. 2003.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES Leicestershire & Rutland a century in photographs. 1998. and Leicestershire & Rutland village book. 1989.

LEICESTERSHIRE GUILD OF STORYTELLING Leicestershire & Rutland folk tales. 2013.

MACDERMID, H. Well trodden paths (Leicestershire Footpath Association). 1987.

MEADOWS, B. & WAITES, B. Leicestershire & Rutland: a portrait in colour. 1997.

SKINNER, J. Did you know? Leicester. 2009.

WAITES, B. Discovering Rutland epitaphs. 2006.

Many will know the name of John Stretton as the author of numerous railway history titles. Following his relocation from Leicester we have received the following leaflets and pamphlets after his 'weeding':

ANGLIAN WATER History and archaeology of Rutland Water

Birstall village trail

Burrough Hill Iron Age hillfort

Churches and historic buildings of Rutland

COUCHMAN, E. Belgrave as I remember it. 1984

LEICESTER TRANSPORT Roundabout the city.

MORRIS, E. St. Nicholas church [Leicester]: a short historical & descriptive account

Mount St. Bernard Abbey. 1973.
Our Lady and St. Nicholas Wanlip 1967.
SIMMONS, J. Brief guide to the city of Leicester. 1969.
Some of these ephemeral items are undated.

TONY (A.E.) SQUIRES

Society member and prolific local historian Tony sadly died at the end of March this year. He contributed articles to the 'Transactions' and the 'Leicestershire Historian' as well as other journals, and the Society's 'Leicester Abbey' volume (2006). References to his publications can be found in the Society's indexes on the website, the catalogue of Leicestershire Libraries, and by Googling 'Anthony Squires'. The Library has copies of the following, some with co-authors:

Bradgate Park: childhood home of Lady Jane Grey. 1994. 2nd ed. 1999.
Donington Park and the Hastings connection. 1996.
The Greys: a long and noble line. 2002.
Historic parks and gardens of Leicestershire and Rutland. 1997.
Leicestershire and Rutland woodlands past and present. 1994.
Medieval parks of Charnwood. 1986.
Parks and woodlands in the medieval landscape in BOWMAN, P. & LIDDLE, P. Leicestershire landscapes. 2004.

Aubrey Stevenson, Hon. Librarian.

PUBLIC HERITAGE FUND

The Society's Public Heritage Fund was delighted to be able to provide a £2,500 grant to Hallaton Museum to update their permanent 'Hallaton Treasure' exhibition. Over the past 20 years much work has been done on the objects discovered at the site, and the additional knowledge this research has brought to light will be included within the new exhibition. Alex Hicks, daughter of the treasure's discoverer Ken Wallace, says: 'The Hallaton Museum Committee is over the moon to receive this grant. It will allow us to update our visitor information and add the next chapter to this incredible story'. The Museum is hoping to raise additional funds to commission a bespoke replica of the Hallaton helmet to help bring the history to life, and is also looking forward to a greater involvement with Harborough Museum, which will be exhibiting the original helmet. Development of this new exhibition is currently in progress, but the Hallaton Treasure Travelling Exhibition will be at Hallaton Museum from 29 May to 3 October 2021 (2.30 - 5pm Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays). For more information visit: www.hallaton-museum.co.uk.

ONLINE LECTURES

GRESHAM COLLEGE LECTURE

Tuesday 15 June 2021, 6 pm

Private Palaces: the mansions of the Marlboroughs

Professor Simon Thurley CBE

A lecture on Blenheim and Marlborough House. Further details at [Private Palaces: The Mansions of the Marlboroughs \(gresham.ac.uk\)](http://Private Palaces: The Mansions of the Marlboroughs (gresham.ac.uk))

VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Tuesday 6 July 2021, 7 pm - £5

Gables and fables: the Buckler dynasty

Joshua Mardell

The unsung Buckler dynasty of Gothic Revival architects and topographical draughtsmen. Booking details are at [Watch our online talks below for just £5 each! | Victorian Society](#), where it is also possible to buy tickets to watch past lectures online.

MARKET HARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please note that this is a provisional programme and may be subject to change depending on Covid 'roadmap' progress. See [home \(marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org\)](http://home.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org) for updates.

Wednesday 15 September 2021

Paddy Logan and his suffragette daughters

Len Holden

Wednesday 13 October 2021

William Knibb of Kettering

Mike Stroud

ARCHAEOLOGY

FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology will run from 3 July to 1 August this year. It is part of the UK's biggest archaeological event, the national Festival of Archaeology. With lockdown restrictions easing, this is seen as the perfect time for people to 'get out and explore their local places, discover the archaeology and rich heritage that is all around us and uncover the stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special'.

Events, both on the ground and online, are planned across Leicestershire and Rutland, in towns and villages, in museums and at heritage sites. Over 40 guided walks have been organised so far, with more to be confirmed. They cover a wide range of sites from prehistoric to industrial. There will also be live digital talks by some of the County's leading heritage experts; self-guided walks to enjoy at your own pace; online archives of past talks; and family friendly activities, exhibitions and hands-on events. Numbers will be restricted to aid social distancing, and everything will need to be booked in advance. Talks will be largely online, with archaeologists from the University of Leicester and other experts speaking about a range of local subjects.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Festival is supported by the Leicestershire Fieldworkers, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, the Leicestershire Industrial History Society, University of Leicester Archaeological Services and many other local heritage groups. For further information, please contact Peter Liddle on 07758194353, 01162214508 or peter.liddle51@gmail.com; Mathew Morris at mlm9@le.ac.uk; or visit the website at <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/> – which will be continually updated as more events are confirmed. The national Festival of Archaeology runs from 17 July to 1 August 2021. There is more information about this on its own website at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/>.

ERIC – THE HARBOROUGH MAN

A little Roman figurine unearthed in February 2021 at a site near Market Harborough has recently been donated by its finder to Leicestershire County Council Museums. The copper alloy figure, dating to AD 50 - 150, has been nicknamed 'Eric' by museum collections staff – as his pose is very similar to that made famous by Morecambe and Wise in the classic dance to their signature tune, *Bring Me Sunshine!*

It is believed that the figure – also known as the Harborough Man - was originally seated on a horse, hence the pose. According to the British Museum's Portable Antiquities



Scheme, which records archaeological objects found by members of the public, horse and rider figures from the Roman period are relatively rare finds, with fewer than 30 recorded on the database. Eric was found by Rob Moulard, who contacted the Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire & Rutland, Megan Gard, who identified the figure as Roman and listed it on the PAS database.

The figurine will be displayed at Harborough Museum from July 2021 to celebrate the Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology. Rob commented, 'I wanted to make sure that lots of people would get the chance to see and enjoy him – I didn't just want to have him sitting in a cupboard at home, so I decided to donate him to Leicestershire Museums'. Rob is now planning to go back to the field where he found Eric to see if he can locate the horse the figure was once seated on: 'it would be great if I could find the horse, so we could get them back together', he said.

Helen Sharp, Curator (Archaeology), Leicestershire County Council

HOPE OF NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

As part of Leicester Cathedral's current building project, a new extension is to be constructed on the site of the song school and part of the Cathedral gardens, an area with a long history as a sacred site. However before building can commence an archaeological survey by a specialist archaeological consultancy will soon take place under the supervision of the Cathedral Archaeologist, Professor Philip Dixon. Project Director Simon Bentley explains that: 'the footprint of the song school lies within an area that for many centuries was part of the cemetery for St Martin's Church. We know there is at least one tomb in our development site and, since the cemetery level is likely to be two to three metres deep, a significant number of burials may be encountered. These will be fully recorded and carefully removed for proper reburial at an appropriate consecrated location. It is thought very unlikely that any human remains discovered will postdate the closure of the cemetery around 1856.

Below the burials will be the medieval layer, and beneath this could be Saxon and then Roman strata. The existence of a large Roman building, whose nature is unknown, is suspected from work in 1861 to the north of the cathedral crossing. If preserved floors or foundations are encountered, they will be fully excavated and recorded in drawings and photographs. Under the Roman layers there may be pre-Roman deposits and then possibly prehistoric material above the natural bedrock/gravel. It is expected that the lowest basement level of the new building will extend beyond the Roman and prehistoric layers to natural geological levels. So this excavation may reveal evidence of human activity on a sacred site all the way back to the prehistoric period. Interest in the excavation is expected to be high and we are planning how best to keep the public informed without compromising the safety or efficiency of the work. Following the excavation work, a comprehensive report will be produced and made available for public dissemination.

Caroline Wessel, Cathedral Internal Interpretation Advisory Group

OTHER NEWS

PHASE ONE OF JEWRY WALL TRANSFORMATION

Leicester City Council's Leisure and Culture department reports that the first phase of a project to transform the Jewry Wall site into 'a world-class visitor centre' is now under way. For further details see [Phase one of Jewry Wall revamp underway \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/jewry-wall-visitor-centre/).

LEICESTERSHIRE VCH TRUST

Despite the closure of archive offices and libraries for much of the past year, Leicestershire VCH Trust has continued to work on a number of parish histories, and we are very grateful to all our financial supporters and volunteer researchers. Our next book, a history of Lutterworth, is currently undergoing final revisions and will be published in 2022. Wyclif and Whittle are of course included, but so too are our conclusions on the early history of this town, the origins of the Town Estate, how changing transport links have shaped Lutterworth's character through the ages, and much else besides. A draft is currently available online for comments at <https://www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/Leicestershire/Lutterworth>.

We are presently raising money for a history of Loughborough. An exhibition of some of our initial work with local volunteers on the provision of piped water and drainage in the 19th century can be seen in Loughborough Local Studies Library, Granby Street,



Loughborough, LE11 3DZ from 5 July to 23 September. The library will be open on Mondays 10am to 1pm; Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10am to 5pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm. It is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. Numbers need to be managed, so booking a timed slot is recommended – telephone 0116 305 2420.

We are also exploring the history of Coston church (see left) and village, seven miles north east of Melton Mowbray. This is a community history project in connection with a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to replace part of the church roof following a

lead theft. Much interest was expressed at an initial meeting held in the church before the pandemic struck. Since then, archive closures and restrictions on meetings have impacted on progress, but documentary research has begun and some socially-distanced fieldwalking took place in the autumn by Peter Liddle, Paul Dickinson and the Melton Fieldwork Group.

Today's village is very small, but earthworks reveal the plan of its medieval predecessor, with documents providing more information. Part of the church dates back 900 years, but the chancel was demolished and rebuilt in 1846, and is among the earliest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the county. The chancel also contains a memorial to the son of a rector whose acting career tragically ended in 1896 when he was accidentally killed on stage during the first night of a play in a London theatre. You can join Pam Fisher and Peter Liddle for a guided tour of the church and village, and displays of archaeological and historical findings, on Saturday 24 July as part of the annual Festival of Archaeology. Places need to be booked - for details see <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>.

Pam Fisher

AMBION HILL GRAVES THROUGH NEWSPAPERS

In the previous edition of the Newsletter in March 2021, Tom Welsh, a retired lecturer in Geography at the University of Northampton, contributed an article about the value of newspapers in researching Mountsorrel Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SK 582149) that was destroyed by order of Henry II in 1217. He writes now about another good example of the value of such accounts, published in the *Tamworth Herald* on 2 January 1909. Mr T.W. Marriott of Rangemore Street, Burton on Trent had written down some recollections of his youth, when, after his mother died, he lived with his grandmother at Ambion Hill Farm. This farm is just east of the site then attributed to the Battle of Bosworth 1485, at which Henry Tudor defeated Richard III. The location of the battle has long been contested, and in 2009 was given a new location at Fenn Lane, midway between Fenny Drayton and Stoke Golding, near Nuneaton. The Battlefield Interpretation Centre, built in the 1970s, is at Ambion Hill, two miles north-east of the new site.

In his recollections, Marriott said that in the field next to the rickyard at Ambion Hill Farm there was some very boggy land, and it was decided to drain it. They dug a trench many feet deep, and when they got to the middle of the field, they found a great mass of bones (human and other), and some coins and metal links and chains. He also mentions another find of human bones in a gravel pit at Green Hill, probably those just west of the farm. The article does not give his age, but the *Burton Observer*, 23 February 1911, records that he died at 26 Rangemore Street when he

RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT

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

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was 76. He worked for Thomas Salt & Co brewery for 51 years, and his father Thomas Marriott came from Market Bosworth. Richard Brookes, in his book *Visits to Fields of Battle*, published in 1857 (p173), relates that four years earlier (1853?) bones were found in cutting a drain in a field in front of the farmhouse. He adds that this is the field which adjoins Richard's Well. Brookes probably got his information from the farmer. As regards the gravel pit bones, these were described to 19th century visitors to the battlefield, such as the British Archaeology Association, during an excursion from its Congress in Leicester, in 1862. When I found Marriott's account in 2020, I notified the relevant authorities, as bone pits on battlefields are often crucial evidence. However, the fact that the battlefield has been relocated precludes this evidence from being reconsidered. Stories of pits at Ambion Hill were discounted 10 years ago, apparently on the grounds that Brookes made no mention of them, when in fact he did. It was suggested the bones might be prehistoric or Roman, or where fleeing combatants were buried after a separate skirmish. As with any bones found, they could of course be from any period, and from many causes other than a battle. This has already been illustrated with respect to the Battle of Aylesbury in 1642 (2nd post in August 2020), where the mass burial is now asserted to be Saxon. See [Ambion Hill battle graves – History Regained](#).

FAILED TO RETURN – PART 2

LAHS Committee member Joe Hall concludes the story of Leicester's Hubert (Bert) Everard Preston, whose RAF Hampden bomber disappeared over Cologne in April 1941. We pick up from shortly after the aircraft was marked as missing.

That evening, telegrams were sent to the next of kin of the four crewmen. It stated that the men had been reported missing as a result of air operations, and that any further information would be relayed as soon as it was received. A follow-up letter confirming this was written on 24 April, and sent to Bert's mother Mary at 28 Melrose Street, Leicester. It noted that 'missing' did not necessarily mean killed or wounded, and that the airmen could be prisoners of war. It ended by saying that enquiries were being made through the Red Cross Society as to the whereabouts of Preston, and his crew mates Ronald Lakin, Jack Cutmore and William Burrell. Just over a



Hubert (Bert) Preston's memorial at Rheinberg War Cemetery

Cross Society's search were telegraphed to the relatives of the four men by the Air Ministry. 'Deeply regret to inform you', it began, before going on to say that due to information provided from the Red Cross, the Air Ministry had changed the classification of each airman from 'missing' to 'missing, presumed to have lost his life.'

A letter sent confirming the telegram noted that, while the Red Cross report quoted official German documents stating the aircraft's occupants had all been killed in action, proof of their deaths would not be accepted by the Air Ministry until 'additional

confirmation is received or a further period of time has elapsed'. On 17 May Bert's brother telephoned the Air Ministry, and on 6 June his sister sent a letter. Both were told that no more news was forthcoming. However, by 4 September the Air Ministry was in a position to give more details, having by then received an update from the Red Cross. Preston, Cutmore, Lakin and Burrell had indeed been killed when their Hampden crashed at Cologne on 21 April, and the German authorities had afforded the four airmen a funeral on 24 April at the military cemetery in Cologne.

While the Air Ministry had given the basic details to the families of the four airmen, the longing to know exactly what had befallen their loved ones was keenly felt. This is perhaps best observed in a letter Jack Cutmore's mother Marian sent to the Ministry upon receiving confirmation of his death. 'It was a sad blow to us for we were hoping he might be a prisoner of war, not having any details for so long, she wrote: 'I would like to know if there was anything to identify him by... I would also like to know if he was killed instantly or was in hospital, or if anyone from the Red Cross Society saw him buried'.

In reality, the original German documents contained far more detail than the Air Ministry ever provided to the families. They showed the final moments of the Hampden, and the grisly aftermath of the crash. The aircraft had been hit by flak over Cologne, and had crashed at 4.10 am in a quarry near Knapsack in the south-west of the city. None of the crew had managed to bale out, and fire had destroyed the wreckage. While the documents contradict one another at certain points, the body of Jack Cutmore seems to have been somewhat identifiable as he was given his own grave during the burial of 24 April, while Bert Preston, Ron Lakin, and William Burrell were all buried together across two adjacent graves. When the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) set about 'concentrating' – or exhuming the war dead buried in various local cemeteries and reburying them in centralised plots – in 1947 they ensured that Preston, Lakin and Burrell were again interred together, next to their Canadian friend Jack Cutmore, at Rheinberg War Cemetery. When writing to the families in April 1947 to inform them of the graves' relocation, the Air Ministry stated that the exact number, plot and row of the grave would be sent in a subsequent communication.

It was not until more than 18 months later that Bert's mother and the families of his crewmates received notification from the Air Ministry about where their remains were actually buried: 'Information is now received that your son and 2 of his aircrew companions, Pilot Officer Lakin and Sergeant Burrell, are laid to rest in Graves 5 and 6 in Plot I, Row A of Rheinberg British Military Cemetery... It is to be regretted that it has been found impossible to determine their individual identities, and the 2 graves have been registered collectively in their names'. Whether Bert's family ever got to visit his grave is unknown. What we do know, however, is that when the CWGC set about compiling personal inscriptions for the headstones of the war dead, Bert's mother was given the chance to send a final message to her son. She chose the words: 'They never die who live in the hearts of those they leave behind. Mother'.

Postscript

As well as being commemorated at the CWGC's Rheinberg War Cemetery, Hubert Everard Preston is also remembered on the Alderman Newton's Grammar School plaque, now in the safe keeping of the Leicester City, County and Rutland at Risk War Memorials Project. This fine bronze memorial was retrieved from the cellar of what is now St Martin's House in Peacock Lane, for many years the home of Alderman Newton's Grammar School. It was left there in 1979 when Alderman Newton's School moved to New Parks. Fittingly, however, the At Risk War Memorials Project took it into care at All Saints church in Highcross Street, Leicester, where Alderman Newton is buried and has a fine memorial window.

A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

This 'anecdote of the late William Gardiner, of Leicester', author of *Music and Friends* (1853), was published in *Leicestershire and Rutland Notes and Queries*, Vol III (1893 – 1895).

'It is related of William, that, on one occasion, he made a single speech of the shortest possible length, which has won for him, independent of his works, an easy immortality. It was in the stirring political times of Fox, Pitt and Burke, and William had procured an order, from the local member, to the gallery of the House of Commons. Fox was speaking, and, becoming excited with his eloquence, William shouted out "Bravo!". Straightaway the Speaker got up and drew attention to this grave breach of parliamentary decorum, for which he would have been committed to Newgate had not the Prince Regent interposed on his behalf. As it was, the gallery was cleared, and when Mr. Gardiner went home to Leicester he was pointed out in the streets as the man who spoke in Parliament, and made a great sensation there, which reminds me of the way in which Dante, after having published his *Inferno*, was pointed at in Florence as "the man who had seen Hell".

'Whilst on the subject of short speeches in Parliament, I may instance a case nearer our own times, of one of our local members... the late Earl Howe, who (when Viscount Curzon) represented South Leicestershire in Parliament. This, in every respect, good and worthy man, who was, like Mark Anthony of old, "no orator as Brutus is", only made two speeches in the House during the whole time he sat in Parliament... One was addressed to the Sergeant-at-Arms or the Doorkeeper at the lobby, and was "Shut that door", and the other was equally short and emphatic, and was "Open that window", advice which, if followed on many occasions would be productive of immense good, and give us fresh air whilst keeping us from catching cold'.

In the same volume, advice is reprinted from *The Second Part of Youth's Behaviour; or Decency in Conversation*) about 'Carriage at the table', including the following:

1. Being at the table, scratch not thyself...
 2. Take not thy repast like a glutton...
 4. Cast not thyself upon the table with thine arms stretched even to they elbows, and lean not they shoulders or thine arms on thy chair undecently...
 14. One ought not to cast under the table or on the ground bones, parings, wine or such like things...
 26. Suck no bones, at least, in such wise that one may hear it... Gnaw them not, nor tear the flesh with thy teeth as dogs do...
 34. Cleanse not thy teeth with a tablecloth or napkin, or with thy finger, fork, or knife. Much worse would it be to do so with thy nails...
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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.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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*(Only to be used for communicating information with members. *Student membership is contingent upon you providing the email address given to you by your educational institution).*

I wish to become a member at the rate indicated above.

I enclose a cheque/ I have paid by Paypal/ I have made a Standing Order arrangement with my bank/Please send me a Standing Order form *(delete as applicable)*.

If paying by Standing Order please either make your own arrangement with your bank/building society, or request a form from Hon. Mem. Sec. Please make any payments to Sort Code 60-60-06, Account Number 87270080.

Alternatively pay by Paypal: Payments@lahs.org.uk



Data Protection Act

I/We agree to my/our names being stored on a computer database

Signature/s:..... Date:.....

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying previous and/or future subscription payments and/or donations I have made to LAHS (delete as applicable). I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that LAHS will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Surname: Title:..... Initials:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:

Signature/s:..... Date:.....