

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



## NEWSLETTER 115 Summer 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAHS Newsletter. Contributions to future editions of the Newsletter are as always welcome at any time. These can be emailed to the Newsletter editor, Cynthia Brown, at [newsletter@lahs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lahs.org.uk).

### LAHS NEWS

#### LECTURE PROGRAMME

#### JOINT LECTURE WITH THE LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS AND PREHISTORIC SOCIETY - PLEASE NOTE THE REARRANGED DATE

Thursday 7 July 2022, Rattray Lecture Theatre, University of Leicester, 7.30 pm

*Kindred: Neanderthal life, love, death and art*

Rebecca Wragg Sykes, School of Archaeology, University of Liverpool

This free public lecture has been rearranged as part of the Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology. It will explore how understanding of Neanderthals has evolved over more than 160 years, in a context of improved dating and palaeoclimatic frameworks, and in particular, huge advances in science and archaeology over the past three or four decades. All this has revolutionised thinking about their lives, including evidence for technologies, complex cognition, and even emergent materially-focused aesthetic behaviours together with diverse ways of dealing with the dead. It will conclude by reflecting on evidence from Britain, and recent ideas around the eventual disappearance of Neanderthals. Prior booking is essential at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/333918758997>.

Our Hon Lectures Secretary, Yolanda Courtney, is currently arranging the lecture programme for 2022 – 23. Details will be published in due course on the LAHS website at [LAHS - Lecture Programme](#), and in future editions of this Newsletter.

### OTHER LAHS NEWS

#### ROBERT A. RUTLAND

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bob Rutland in April 2022. Bob was the Keeper of Antiquities and then of Archaeology at the Jewry Wall Museum from 1973 until he retired in 2000. He was a long-time supporter of LAHS, a regular at lectures and events, and a Vice President and President of the Society. Bob was a very kind and knowledgeable man who will be much missed. An obituary will be published in *Transactions* later this year.

## **NEW LAHS TREASURER**

We are very pleased to welcome Simon Atkins to the LAHS committee as our new Treasurer. He brings extensive experience in financial management to the role, and has also contributed an article to this year's edition of *Transactions*. We would also like to thank Matt Beamish for his invaluable work over the past few months as Acting Treasurer. This has been very much appreciated by everyone on the committee.

## **LAHS ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY LECTURE NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE**

The lecture given by Rob Atkins on 31 March 2022 on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Rothley is now available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5b\\_QwGXysw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5b_QwGXysw).

## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

### **Robert A. Rutland**

The sad news of the death of Bob Rutland in April prompts this reminder. As well as being the past President of the Society, he wrote its history too. The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855 – 2005 was published in 2006 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LAHS. There are still copies available and order details are on the website and in the current Leicestershire Historian. The Order of Service for his funeral in Knighton has been added to the Society's records.

### **Reliquary**

Following my brief mentions of this periodical in the Autumn and Winter issues of this Newsletter... The Library has a file of bound volumes from 1860 to 1909. Its sub-title when first edited by Llewellyn Jewitt of Derby gives a wonderful description of its aims: 'a depository for precious relics - legendary, biographical, and historical, illustrative of the habits, customs, and pursuits of our forefathers'. The file details are as follows:

Vol. 1 1860-1 - 26 1885-6

New Series Vol. 1 1887 - 7 1891-3. Missing Vol. 6 issues 1, 4 and Vol. 7.4

Title changed to: Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist

New Series Vol. 1 1895 - 15 1909. Missing 10.1 and 11.2.

There is an extensive range of articles with a surprising number relating to Leicestershire and Rutland, some extending over more than one volume. There is not space here to list all 26, but just a selection. It is hoped to make a list to file with the volumes at the Library to make searching easier.

- King Richard's house and bedstead in Leicester
- Thomas Rossell Potter – a memory
- Parish registers of Glaston
- Inventory of church plate in Rutland
- Sculptured Agnus Dei, Shawell
- Old Leicestershire village [Misterton]

### **Additions to the Library**

Books and pamphlets, old and new, continue to be acquired both by purchase and kind donation. The Society's thanks are given to all the generous and thoughtful donors.

AUSTIN, F. *Syston in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*. Book 1: a village becomes a town. 2021. Donated by Syston Local History Group.

BANCROFT, J. *The courts of Ashby de la Zouch: places to hide the poor*, 2022. Donated by Ashby de la Zouch Museum.

BARTON, S. Park to parks: the story of New Parks, Western Park, Braunstone Frith and Kirby Frith. 2021.

BUCKLEY, R., COOPER, N., and Morris, M. Life in Roman and medieval Leicester: excavations in the town's north-east quarter 1958 – 2006. (Leicester Archaeology Monograph 26, 608pp). Donated by the authors and publisher. The volume describes what lay below the Highcross Leicester Shopping Centre. As you might imagine from the pagination, this is by far the largest and heaviest book acquired for a long time.

DYER, L. A –Z of Loughborough: places – people – history. 2021. Donated by Amberley Publishing.

FISHER, P. St. Andrew's church, Coston: a history and guide. 2021. Donated by the author.

GRAVES, R. The life and times of Mary Attenborough 1896 – 1961; foreword by David Attenborough. Donated by the author who has written several articles for the Leicestershire Historian.

MACKINDER, R. Bosworth: the archaeology of the battlefield. 2021. Donated by Pen & Sword Military.

MARQUIS, S. 'Luddism, Chartism and the Leicestershire framework knitters 1811 – 50: 'A descent into hell'. Plus a profile of George Hort – Leicester's 'forgotten working-class hero'. Greater Wigston Historical Society, 2022. Donated by the author.

NEWITT, N. The Secular Hall: a history. Leicester Pioneer Press.

PEARCE, D. 'The Equity' 1886 – 2009: Leicester's last major shoe factory. Leicestershire Industrial History Society Bulletin no. 24. 2021. Includes 'The final days of Equity Shoes', a DVD produced by LIHS in 2009. Donated by C. Hossack, LIHS.

POLLARD, J. My cousin George: a worthy of Halifax, Manchester & Leicester: Dr. George Shaw. [2020]. Donated by Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society.

ROWBOTTOM, J. King's Lock & Aylestone waterways. (Aylestone Journeys into the Past. Vol. 1), Black Horse and Narrow Lane; (Vol. 2) Aylestone soldiers; (Vol. 3) All three volumes published in 2021. Vols. 1 and 3 donated by the author [rowbottomjoan@gmail.com](mailto:rowbottomjoan@gmail.com). Vol. 2 donated by M. Bonney.

SEATON, D. The Mayors of Welford Road Cemetery: the stories of 51 Mayors of Leicester – and where to find them in the Cemetery. Friends of Welford Road Cemetery, 2020. This is unpublished from the website of FWRC, but has been specially produced in hard copy for the Library and donated by the author.

STENNING, D. Timber-framed buildings of Colchester. (Essex Society for Archaeology & History Occasional Papers. New Series, no. 4). 2022. This has been received as part of the mutual exchange arrangement.

WEITZEL, J. The houses and residents of Burton Walks. Donated by the author, Archivist of Loughborough Grammar School. It is interesting to note that occupants of no. 1 Richard Clifford solicitor, no. 6 George Barrowcliff architect, and no. 7 William Burchnall company director were all members of this Society.

**The following were all donated by J. McCallum**

BIGGS, J. Leicester: sanitation versus vaccination. 1912. Biggs was a member of the Town Council. The book was published by the National Anti-Vaccination League and related to smallpox.

City of Leicester official handbook. [c.1966].

LEICESTER MUSEUM Leicestershire hunting pictures, 1951 Festival exhibition.

Loughborough street directory: 1951-52; no date, but post-1951/2 and pre-1962; 1962. All three are undated reprints.

TAYLOR-SMITH, D. Leicestershire: a place to visit. 1982.

### **Memory & Narrative Series, by Professor K. Sato**

We are very grateful to Prof. Sato of Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan for the kind and generous donation of all the following volumes in his 'Memory and Narrative Series' (M&NS), earlier volumes of which have been previously listed in the Newsletter. These complete the full set.

Life story of Mrs. Elvy Morton: first Chair of the Leicester Caribbean Carnival. (M&NS 1). 2010.

Life story of Mrs. Claire Wintram: a Jewish woman and her identity. (2). 2010.

Mrs. Jasvir Kaur Chohan: life story of a Sikh woman and her identity. (3). 2011.

Life story of Mrs. Nilima Devi, MBE: an Indian classical dancer in Leicester. (9). 2016.

Sundai Shigaku offprints:

148. 2013 HYDE, C. Reviews of M&NS 1 – 5

163. 2018 BROWN, C. Reviews of M&NS 6 – 9

173. 2021 MENSKI, W. Reviews of M&NS 10 – 12

166. 2019 SATO, K. Multi-ethnic city of Leicester: reflecting on the M&NS.

### **Periodicals**

British Archaeology Three issues to date this year; that for January includes a report on the Rutland mosaic.

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal 141. 2021.

East Midlands History and Heritage 9/2019, 2/2020, 1/2022 The Editor writes that the January 2022 issue will 'probably be our final issue'. The Library has a complete file from the first issue 6/2015. All issues as previously listed have Leicestershire articles. The above contain: 9/19 Memories of Sheila Healey [Clarendon Park], John Beaumont & Grace Dieu Priory; 2/20 Homes for Hinckley's heroes; 1/22 Sack of Leicester [1645], Leicester and the 1918 flu pandemic.

English Place-Name Society Journal 52. 2020.

Journal of Historic Buildings and Places Vol. 01 2022. This was previously Ancient Monuments Society Transactions.

Rutland Record 41. 2021. Donated by the Rutland Local History and Record Society. Includes articles on Anglo-Saxon coin hoard, Oakham, Whissendine.

SPAB Magazine Three issues: Summer, Winter 2021, Spring 2022. The last two include updates on Kibworth Harcourt windmill. For general information, the SPAB Archive catalogue is now online: [catalogue.spab.org.uk](http://catalogue.spab.org.uk).

**On the Library Table** i.e. items not filed permanently

Friends of Friendless Churches 11/2021 'first solo newsletter'

Heritage Now: the magazine of Historic Buildings & Places. This replaces Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter and will be published three times a year.

SPAB What's On Spring 2022 has a report on Belvoir Castle

Worcestershire Recorder: newsletter of the Worcs. Archaeological Society.

A reminder that we continue to receive catalogues from Cottage Books, so please come and look if you are searching for something for your own shelves.

And finally...

### **Leicestershire in Unexpected Places**

Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings Vol. VIII New Series Vol. II 1891 – 1894 p.133 – 141 On an ancient well at Mountsorrel, by A. von Hugel. Includes the find of a wooden bucket with bronze fittings. (See Leicestershire Historian 56 2020 p.51). Yes, this is in the Library.

Aubrey Stevenson, Hon. Librarian.

## OTHER NEWS

### FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, 2022

A message from Peter Liddle about the Festival, which runs from Saturday 2 July to Sunday 31 July 2022: 'As many of you will know, the local Festival website is now live and 4000 leaflets are being distributed across the two counties and surrounding areas. It is not too late to add to the programme. We will take new entries until the Festival starts! The other major task is to get your events on to the national Festival website. Not only does it give you added publicity, but it affords insurance cover. If you haven't had time to check your own entries please do so. It is so easy for errors to creep in. Once again, thanks to everyone for their efforts so far, and I am looking forward to a glorious 2022 Festival'. For further details of the Festival, visit <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>.

### MARKET HARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - A NEW PUBLICATION AND A REQUEST

Market Harborough Historical Society covers an area stretching from Lutterworth in the west to Rutland in the East and Oadby in the north, and publishes an annual journal, *The Harborough Historian*. It would welcome submissions to the journal that relate to these geographical areas, as well as to Market Harborough itself. If you could offer a contribution, or would like some more information, please contact its editor, Eric Whelan, at [editor@marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org).

The Society has recently published a new book, *A History of Market Harborough: Volume 1 – from early times to the 18<sup>th</sup> century*. For outlets in Market Harborough itself, see [home \(marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org\)](http://home.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org) under 'Publications'; or contact Dr Len Holden at [leonard.holden@ntlworld](mailto:leonard.holden@ntlworld) for details of how to order by post.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### DESFORD STEPS BACK IN TIME THIS SUMMER - A REMINDER



In early July, the village of Desford will be showcasing its extensive history in a unique Heritage Festival taking place over a whole weekend. The event will officially launch Desford's Heritage Trail, a series of sixteen boards around the village detailing key sites of archaeological and historical significance. The village will be divided into time zones including medieval, Victorian and the World Wars. These will be brought to life by a plethora of re-enactment groups, musicians, actors and vehicles, to allow residents and visitors to get a taste of these eras. The weekend also offers a museum of all the archives and artefacts that have been carefully preserved over many years by volunteers of the Desford and District Local History Society. The Heritage Festival takes place on Saturday 2 July and Sunday 3 July 2022, and will cater for all ages. More information can be found on social media using @desfordheritage.

### HINCKLEY AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

Saturday 25 June, 9 July and 15 October 2022, Great Meeting Chapel, Baines Lane, Hinckley, LE10 1PP; normal museum opening hours, 10 am – 4 pm

*Spinning demonstrations by Lyn Yeomans*

Included in normal museum admission charge.

## LEICESTER CITY MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY

A new permanent exhibition, the 'Leicester Stories Gallery', opened at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery in May 2022. This focuses on the stories and voices of people living in Leicester, illustrating the city's achievements and challenges from the 1950s to today. Leicester people have selected the exhibition themes, told their own stories, proposed the milestone events, and donated some of the objects featured in the new gallery. See [Leicester Stories Gallery \(leicestermuseums.org\)](https://leicestermuseums.org) for more information. Visitors can also take a trip back to the 1980s with the new touring exhibition 'I Grew up 80s!', which features over 200 items from this decade - [Digital Labels Celebrate the 80s – Leicester Museums](#). The immersive experience 'The World of Peter Rabbit™ Storytime Trail' continues at Newarke Houses until 24 July 2022, celebrating 120 years of this much loved character - [Event Details – Leicester Museums](#).



## LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MUSEUMS

Leicestershire County Council Museums have recently launched a new website relating to its collections. This encompasses archaeology, fashion, fine art, the natural world, home and family life, and working life, alongside an opportunity to find out about how museums staff work with the collections, and how they are used. The section on the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II may be of particular interest at present. Objects from the collections have been chosen to reflect the changes in our lives from 1952 to 2022, including the technology, travel, food, celebrations and toys of the 70 years since the Queen came to the throne. Visit the site at [Leicestershire Museum Collections \(leicestershirecollections.org.uk\)](https://leicestershirecollections.org.uk).

(Above) Decorations and commemorative souvenirs produced for royal celebrations over the past 70 years.  
Courtesy of Leicestershire County Council Museums.

## LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GREEN PLAQUE SCHEME

Fanny Deacon, who was born in Kibworth Beauchamp in 1837, was the first woman to qualify for registration with the Pharmaceutical Society after the Pharmacy Act of 1868, having qualified on 5 February 1869 by taking its Modified Examination. She will be honoured in June 2022 with a Green Plaque on the house in Main Street, Fleckney, where she lived and worked from 1875 until her death in 1930 at the age of 92.

Green Plaques are awarded to people and places in and around the county, nominated and voted for by members of the public. For further information about recipients, and how to make nominations, see [The Green Plaque Awards | Leicestershire County Council](#).



Image courtesy of Leicestershire County Council

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Gavin Speed sends this summary of recent ULAS fieldwork in Leicestershire & Rutland.

In Leicester, an excavation at Jarvis Street has revealed complex Roman remains. These are just west of a Roman road, observed along the edge of the site. Alongside this western fringe are a series of bowl ovens/furnaces and evidence for several early Roman timber structures, along with a later much larger building. Associated with the latter was a large deposit of painted wall plaster, some of which is decorated with panels and borders.

At Leicester Cathedral the main excavation at the eastern end of Cathedral cemetery is now underway. The area is being transformed into a new heritage and learning space as part of the 'Leicester Cathedral Revealed' project. The excavation aims to explore the origins of the Cathedral site, including the foundation of the original church and aspects of the Roman town which predated it.

In Ashby-de-la-Zouch we have undertaken a small excavation, revealing 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century activity close to the castle. The majority of features are pits and post holes; however several ovens or hearths have also been found. One contained industrial residue, and another had a flat stone surface. A stone well was revealed, along with a ditch containing dumps of charcoal, animal bone, oyster shell and nib tiles. A large 15<sup>th</sup> century drain constructed from hand-made brick and large stone blocks was also found. Much of the activity on site dates to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the castle was being developed from an earlier manor house.

In Newbold Verdon a trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of a rectangular enclosure, previously identified from aerial photography and geophysical survey. A small amount of dating evidence was recovered in the form of two sherds of Iron Age pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery. Close to this were further additional discrete features that may relate to the enclosure, and/or the Iron Age roundhouse, and activity known 50m beyond the site, excavated by ULAS several years ago as part of Cadeby Quarry in an adjacent field to the west. In Uppingham a trial trench evaluation has confirmed the presence of Middle to Late Iron Age activity, notably comprising a small ditched enclosure associated with iron smelting activity. A small amount of pottery and burnt daub from the locality of a second enclosure suggests low-level domestic activity. However, the low numbers of finds suggests that the main settlement was likely focused outside the excavation area. The presence of a major east-west ditch, as well as a probable pit alignment, suggest later prehistoric land subdivision.

Finally, 'The Rutland Villa Project' returned for a new fieldwork season in May, with a much longer and expansive fieldwork programme scheduled in 2022, working in partnership with Historic England. This forms part of a training Fieldschool for archaeology students from the University of Leicester and will also involve volunteers from the local archaeological community. This year the excavations will be looking at other buildings across the villa complex to learn more about its development and the activities that took place there. As part of this, further investigation of the building that contains the wonderful mosaic announced last year is planned.

Dr Gavin Speed, ULAS



## TWO GRAVESTONES - A STORY OF REPATRIATION: PART 2

In the Spring 2022 Newsletter, Joyce Lee and Alan Betteridge related their search for the first of two gravestones, that of Mary Winkles, which in 2020 lay in one of Leicestershire County Council's Museum Collections Team's stores. This established her connection with the village of Arnesby. In Part 2 of their article, they focus on the second gravestone: that of



Elizabeth Lewis, wife of a John Lewis, who died on 24 November 1704, aged 76 years. Again, a connection with Arnesby was found, with online sources locating a reference to the will of Elizabeth Lewis, widow, of Arnesby in the Archdeaconry Court, with an Inventory date of 30 November 1704 and an amount of £157 3s 2d. Alan Betteridge was again contacted for help and provided the following information about Elizabeth Lewis and a John Lewis:

*Entries in the first volume of the Arnesby Baptist church minutes are a little haphazard, and the book was damaged before it came to the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. It begins in 1697, the church minute records being scattered with marriage and burial records including the following: 'Eliz Lewis was buried the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month or ninth month 1704'. Other records show there was a John Lewis who was clearly an important Nonconformist in south Leicestershire but not a Baptist. The Sheldon Survey of 1669 notes the following for Foxton: 'Presbyterian Conventical at houses of Wm Chapman and John Lewis [1665 - 3 hearths taxed] formerly a captain in Cromwell's army'. The Quarter Sessions Presentment Book for 1674 notes: 'Lewis John e his wife of ye same [Husbands Bosworth] for ye like [one month absence from Church]'. The Lewises could have moved from Foxton to Husbands Bosworth, and when widowed, Elizabeth could have moved to Arnesby and attended the Kilby – Arnesby Baptist services. As a respected Nonconformist, she could well have been given space in the new burial ground behind the new meeting house.*

Subsequent online searches found a further Arnesby burial record in the Bishop's Transcripts for 'Elizabeth Lewis widow buried in her sons Winckles orchard November: 26 1704' ('son' covered what we call 'son-in-law' today), and also a digitised copy of Elizabeth's will which revealed not only her connections with Foxton – her numerous bequests included money to be distributed amongst the poor of Foxton – but also an extremely interesting and unexpected twist. Towards the end of the document Elizabeth mentions 'to my daughter Mary Winckles wife of Benjamin Winckles'.

Following Joyce and Alan's detective work, the Museum Collections Team contacted Johnny Hutton, Pastor at Arnesby Baptist Church, to see if he had any recollection of these stones or was aware of the Winckles Family. He confirmed he knew of Benjamin Winckles and his important role in the history of the Church. It was decided that the gravestones should be returned to Arnesby to sit alongside other stones which the Church was in the process of arranging in the grounds, and to help tell the story of the Arnesby Baptists. How the two gravestones came to be in Leicestershire County Council's collections store remains a mystery, but they are now back where they belong at Arnesby Baptist Church, re-uniting daughter Mary and mother Elizabeth, and helping keep alive their stories and the part they both played in their communities.

Joyce Lee and Alan Betteridge



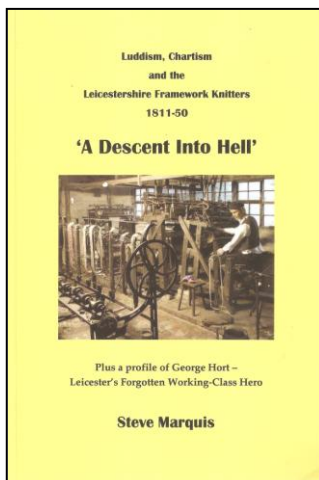
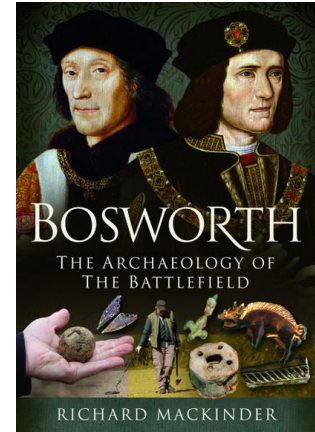
## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### **BOSWORTH: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BATTLEFIELD**

Richard Mackinder

Pen & Sword Military, 2022, 215pp, illus, ISBN 1399010522, £25

This perspective on the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 is based on recent research by Richard Mackinder, along with 25 years of work as a Countryside Ranger at the battlefield site itself, and the support of a team of metal detectorists who worked with him. It is, as he emphasises, his personal interpretation of the available evidence, in seeking to answer the questions of 'where, and how, was the Battle of Bosworth fought?'. His hope is that readers might 'question what has gone before, to enter into a discussion with an open mind, and set aside preconceived ideas', focused on a chapter entitled 'Eliminating the options'. For readers who wish to visit the battlefield and assess some of the evidence for themselves, there is an extensive self-guided trail around its key areas, with detailed directions illustrated with many maps. Several areas for possible future research are also identified, among them the potential for further metal-detecting, environmental work to identify ancient hedgerows, field boundaries and the extent of marshes, and geophysical surveying. Overall, this is a challenging and intriguing addition to the history of Bosworth battlefield, clearly based on painstaking research, and beautifully illustrated throughout.

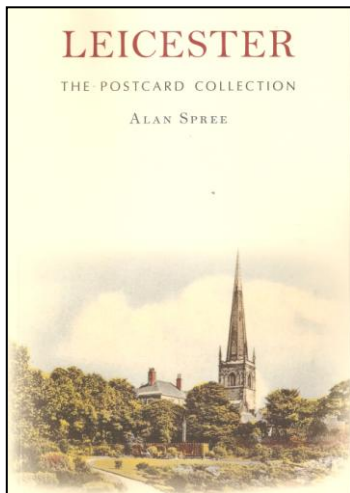


### **LUDDISM, CHARTISM AND THE LEICESTERSHIRE FRAMEWORK KNITTERS 1811 – 50: 'A DESCENT INTO HELL'**

Steve Marquis

Greater Wigston Historical Society, 2022, 194pp, illus, £10

The working conditions of framework knitters in Leicestershire and elsewhere in the East Midlands were so poor in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as to drive at least some of them to machine-breaking – Luddism - or to look to the Chartist movement of the 1830s onwards for political solutions. The author presents convincing evidence that Luddite activity in Leicestershire was more prevalent than has previously been acknowledged; and while there was little direct Luddite activity in Leicester itself, it later became a leading centre of Chartism. The journalist Thomas Cooper played a crucial role in this, as did a number of framework knitters including William Finn and George Buckby, and the shoemaker John Markham. Following an extensive consideration of the Chartist movement in and around Leicester, the book concludes with biographies of these and other leading figures, with a particularly interesting section on George Hort, 'Leicester's forgotten working-class hero'. Hort emerged in 1824 as the new leader of the reconstructed Framework Knitters' Union, and remained active in local politics and trade union activity until the early 1850s, including the Anti-Poor Law campaigns of the 1830s. In this and other respects, this detailed study of local radicalism offers some new and interesting perspectives. It is available from [Books, Articles, Essays | Mysite \(marquisfamilyhistory.com\)](https://www.marquisfamilyhistory.com)



## LEICESTER – THE POSTCARD COLLECTION

Alan Spree

Amberley, 2022, 96pp, illus, ISBN 9781398111920, £15.99

This book in a new series by Amberley may come as a pleasant surprise to people who are convinced that they have already seen every postcard of Leicester ever produced. There are many that will be familiar, of course, but they still benefit from being gathered in one place, and are accompanied by informative captions that add to their interest. One striking example is the view of Campbell Street railway station, opened in 1840 for the Midland Counties Railway on a site close to the London Road station that replaced it in 1892. The entrance pillars remain to this day, but here they frame the station itself, an impressive building with its classical-style portico, along with passengers and carriages at its front. All the postcards are grouped together in terms of buildings or locations, allowing the reader to compare changes over time, and sepia with coloured images of the same subjects. Many still remain, but memories of scenes long changed may be prompted among readers old enough to remember the Bell Hotel in Humberstone Gate, for instance, or the Great Northern railway station on Belgrave Road. Scenes of the Corn Exchange also give a real sense of how open the Market Place was once trading was finished, and why it was able to accommodate very large crowds for political or other meetings. There is a useful overview of the history of Leicester at the start of the book, providing some context for this very interesting and informative collection.

## SYSTON IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: BOOK 2 – A VILLAGE AT WORK AND PLAY

A second volume on the history of Syston in the 20<sup>th</sup> century has now been published. This covers such topics as the story of cinema in Syston, going on holiday, clubs and societies, shops, and local workplaces. Celebrations such as Christmas, Bonfire Night, Syston Feast and the annual fair are also featured, along with churches and chapels, education and health care in the 20th century. The book is available in Syston at The Card Shop, Town Square; Gamble and Hollis, Melton Road; Designer Daisies, Melton Road; Peberdays Newsagents, Melton Road; George Walker Timber Merchants, Fosse Way; and Syston Town Council Offices – or email Ray Young of Syston Local History Group at [ray.a.young@googlemail.com](mailto:ray.a.young@googlemail.com). For further information, see [Syston in the 20th Century Book 2, a Village at Work and Play – Syston Town News](#).

## NEW BIOGRAPHY OF THE ELIZABETHAN SPY AND DIPLOMAT WILLIAM ASHBY

LAHS member Dr Timothy Ashby sends this information about his new non-fiction book *Elizabethan Secret Agent: the untold story of William Ashby (1536-1593)*. This is a biography of Leicestershire native William Ashby, Elizabethan intelligence agent and diplomat who served as ambassador to Scotland during the Spanish Armada crisis. It offers 'a fresh social, political and foreign policy insight from the perspective of a gentleman spy who took part in some of the most important events of his time. Prior to Ashby's ambassadorial appointment, he served as a senior "intelligencer" for Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth's spymaster. The book contains extensive material on Leicestershire history and genealogy, including places such as Wymondham (where Ashby was born), Loseby, Quenby, Hungarton, Melton Mowbray, Nosely, Bradgate and Lubbethorpe'. It is available from Amazon as well as Waterstones and other bookshops.

## A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

This account of a vegetarian 'banquet' and debate appeared in the *Leicester Chronicle* on 29 November 1884. If you would like to know more about vegetarianism in late Victorian Leicester, your Newsletter editor has written an article on it for the 2022 edition of the *Leicestershire Historian*, which will be published later this year.

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Young Men's Christian Association.— The members of the Debating Society met on Tuesday evening at the Vegetarian Restaurant to discuss the question 'Is a vegetarian diet the best for man.' In order to enable the debaters to form a correct opinion on the subject, a specimen vegetarian banquet had been prepared, to which about 50 sat down. The bill of fare was as follows:— Vegetable soup,, haricot beans, browned potatoes, boiled celery, Brussels sprouts, lentil fritters, cheese rissoles, tomato pie, salsify, onion sauce, parsley sauce, date pudding, gingerbread pudding, baked rice, apple pie, baked preserve pudding, strawberry trifle, stewed prunes, pears, and figs, Shrewsbury cakes [flavoured with cinnamon, nutmeg and rose-water]. Although to most present a knifeless banquet was a novelty, so well were the viands put upon the table that all were constrained to acknowledge that a most elegant and inviting meal could be provided without animal food.

Full justice having been done to the dishes, amid much goodnatured [sic] facetious banter, Mr. W. B. Clark was called to the chair... and briefly introduced Mr. J. W. Goddard to open the debate in the affirmative. Mr. Goddard maintained that there was no structural sign of man



LEICESTER  
VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT  
COMPANY.

Dinners are served daily from 12.0 till 3.0. Soups ready at 11 a.m. Tea and Coffee at any hour. Open from 8.0 till 7.0 p.m. The Bill of Fare is changed daily, and includes Soups, a great variety of Vegetable and Savoury Dishes, also Puddings, Pastry, Stewed Fruits, Whole Meal Bread, Porridge, Fresh Fruit in season, &c.

7, HALFORD STREET, (over Mr. H. Kinder's Show Room.)

being a carnivorous animal, the teeth and alimentary canal being, he urged, not suited to flesh food, and the different methods of perspiration through the skin in human beings, and by means of the tongue among flesh-eating animals, were also noted. He stated that children brought up on vegetarian diet, including fruits and farinaceous foods, do not desire, but recoil from flesh foods. In the course of an exhaustive resume of the subject, Mr. Goddard endeavoured to show that flesh eating is unnatural, unnecessary, unwholesome, and un- economical as compared with a vegetarian diet. —

Mr. T. H. Lloyd, the president of the Young Men's Christian Association, advocated the use of a mixed diet, bringing several medical opinions to sustain his contention that meat must form a portion of the food of all those who would wish to derive the greatest amount of nourishment and warmth from food.— An animated discussion ensued... Altogether a very pleasant evening was spent.

Image: *Spencers' Illustrated Leicester Almanac* (1884)

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**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
THE GUILDHALL, GUILDHALL LANE, LEICESTER. LE1 5FQ.  
Registered Charity No 503240

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**Membership Form**

**Categories**

Individual Membership      £30     

Family Membership          £40     

Student Membership        FREE\*

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

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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*



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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.

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