

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



## NEWSLETTER 116 Autumn 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).

If you are an LAHS member and have not been sent the Newsletter by email, or you have been sent a paper copy of this newsletter and you would prefer to receive it by email, then please do let us know by sending a message to [membership@lahs.org.uk](mailto:membership@lahs.org.uk). It may be that we do not have a current email address for you, which is why we have sent hard copy.

### LAHS NEWS

#### LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2022 – 2023 SEASON

Unless otherwise notified, lectures for 2022–23 will be held in the Victorian Art Gallery at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, New Walk, and start at 7.30 pm. Please use the main entrance to the Museum on New Walk, and arrive in good time to avoid disruption once the lecture has started. Members will be notified nearer the time if pre-booking is necessary through Eventbrite, or if a lecture will be delivered by Zoom as well as face-to-face.

**Thursday 22 September 2022**

#### ***Scarborough Lecture***

#### ***The Mediaeval landscape of the 'Free peasantry of Danelaw'***

Mark Gardiner, Professor of Mediaeval Archaeology, University of Lincoln

**Thursday 27 October 2022**

#### ***The 12th century aisled hall of Leicester Castle: a re-assessment***

Nick Hill, architectural historian

**Wednesday 23 November 2022**

**Please note this is a WEDNESDAY due to Cathedral bell-ringing**

#### ***167th Annual General Meeting at the Guildhall – followed by:***

#### ***Rothley Soke and Parish: using maps to unlock documentary sources***

Vanessa McLoughlin

**Thursday 1 December 2022**

#### ***'Landscape Character, Landscape, and Character': geography as destiny in Leicestershire and Rutland***

Simon Atkins, LAHS member

**Thursday 26 January 2023**

***Mary Attenborough: the Leicester years.***

Richard Graves, local historian

**Thursday 9 February 2023**

***Members' Evening***

If you would like to present the results of your research to fellow members please contact the Hon. Lecture Secretary by email at [lectures@lahs.org.uk](mailto:lectures@lahs.org.uk) or by phone on 0116 2120271.

**Thursday 9 March 2023**

***The Alan and Joan North Memorial Lecture***

***After the Romans in Leicestershire and Rutland***

Peter Liddle, independent archaeologist

**Thursday 30 March 2023**

***Religious nonconformity and the early Leicester labour movement:  
the case of the Churches of Christ***

Peter Ackers, Emeritus Professor, History of Industrial Relations, Loughborough University

**Thursday 20 April 2023**

***Burial and settlement around the causewayed enclosure at Husbands Bosworth***

Matthew Beamish and James Harvey, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

**Thursday 11 May 2023**

***Cheekpieces and chasing lions: further puzzles from the Hallaton Helmet assemblage***

Helen Sharp, Leicestershire County Council Museums Service

**Thursday 25 May 2023**

***Ironstone quarries of Leicestershire***

Bob Trubshaw, author and publisher

## **OTHER LAHS NEWS**

### **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

The final Library opening for 2022 will be 16 October, prior to the regular winter closure from November 2022 to January 2023.

### **LAHS HISTORY FAIR 2022, BEAUMANOR HALL, SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2022, 10 am – 4 pm**

The very popular LAHS History Fair returns after a break during Covid, with activities for all ages. These will include dig boxes, virtual reality artefact 'handling', and a family-friendly interactive recreation of the 1645 Siege of Leicester, in addition to exhibits by a wide range of local historical societies and other organisations. Those confirmed to date are Anstey Historical Society, At Risk War Memorials Projects, Desford Local History Society, East Midlands Oral History Archive, Greater Wigston Heritage Centre, Greater Wigston Historical Society, Hallaton Fieldwork Group, Hidden Histories of Leicester, Joseph Merrick Statue Appeal, Kirby Muxloe Local History Group, Leicester Civic Society, Leicester's Sikh Museum Initiative, Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections, Leicestershire Fieldworkers, Leicestershire Museums Creative Learning Services, Leicestershire Victoria

County History Trust, Loughborough Library Local Studies Group, LynneAboutLoughborough, Navrang Arts, Quorn Local History Group, Richard III Society (Leicestershire Branch), University of Leicester Archaeological Services, and the Western Front Association.

There will be a series of expert talks, with topics ranging from '50 Years of Ugandan Asians in Leicestershire' to the Leicester Cathedral excavations, 'Thomas Cook's 1<sup>st</sup> Pioneers abroad', 'Discovering the Rutland Roman villa', the latest findings on the Enderby Shield, two talks on Anglo-Sikh topics, and 'Peppermint Billy and the Tollgate Murders'. The Fair will also feature the launch of Caroline Wessel's new publication, *Beaumanor WWII: secret listening station for Bletchley*. Entry to the History Fair is free, and there are further details at [\(1\) LAHS History Fair | Facebook](#).

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, 2022**

From Peter Liddle, co-ordinator of the Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology: July saw another exceptionally full programme of events, with something happening every day through the month and some days leaving people spoiled for choice. Local history and heritage groups around the county stepped forward to organise lectures, guided walks, children's events and much more. There were events all over the two counties from Bottesford in the north to Lutterworth in the south, and from Ashby in the west to Thistleton in the east. With around 150 events in all this was – once again - the biggest contribution to the Festival from any area.

It started well with the fabulous Desford Heritage Festival attended by many thousands of people [see next item below]. This divided the village into time zones, each with appropriate re-enactors. Desford Local History society should be very proud of their efforts. The Festival programme continued with many old favourites - including a post-Covid return of the Glenfield Tunnel tours - and some popular new features including Jim Butler's Hidden History tours of the City. Normally, rain is the major problem for the outdoor events, but we saw precious little of that this year. Instead, the heat caused the cancellation of a number of events, but the Festival was a great success despite problems with getting any media interest. Hopefully next year this can be rectified and the programme freshened up. The organisers would like to thank everyone who helped in organising events and all those who attended.

### **DESFORD HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

Caroline Wessel writes that the Desford Heritage Festival in July 2022 was a tremendous success with thousands of visitors. The original idea of the Festival was to launch the 16 newly created heritage plaques around the village that explain its history; but this quickly developed into a huge event with around 500 performers, actors, musicians, re-enactors, food vendors and vintage vehicles taking part. The village was divided into historical Zones from medieval to World War II and decorated accordingly by the Festival Team and enthusiastic local residents. The Village Hall became 'Desford Museum' with comprehensive displays ranging from Roman times to framework knitting, Desford airfield, Desford railway (third oldest in the world), church, education and both World Wars. The Walk of Fame featured twenty famous Desford personalities, each description topped with the shield of the Duchy of Lancaster, of which Desford was a part for 700 years.



Visitors also enjoyed a Victorian afternoon tea at the Old Rectory, where the world famous Desford Colliery Brass Band played, and nearby the former primary school welcomed children to its Victorian schoolroom. The Master of the City of London livery company, the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters, attended as a VIP, and officially visited the row of Framework Knitters' cottages, artistically decorated with garlands of socks and gloves. A highlight was the RAF Flypast of spitfires, commemorating the World War II pilots trained at Desford airfield; and at the moving closing ceremony the people of Desford drank a toast to their past, present and future, accompanied by a local girl's superb performance of *We'll Meet Again*.

(Photograph courtesy of Ed Smoraczewska).

### **AN APPEAL FOR HELP**

In the latest edition of the Project Gargoyle newsletter, Bob Trubshaw writes of new discoveries of carvings, and asks for help in locating winged skulls on late C17 gravestones. The newsletter is available at [Project Gargoyle newsletter 2022 \(hoap.co.uk\)](http://hoap.co.uk). Bob would also be grateful for any help that LAHS members can offer about the following: 'I'm researching the motifs on early C17 Charnwood slate gravestones - including the "soul effigies" colloquially (but misleadingly) called "Belvoir angels". However I have no real knowledge of religious movements of the time. Do any LAHS members have knowledge of early C17 Reformers/Dissenters? I'm especially interested to know if any of these movements within the Anglican church were especially associated with the belief in the reuniting of the soul and body on the Day of Judgement. I am also interested to know about recusant Catholics in the parishes of Kings Norton, Burton Overy, Little Stretton, Wistow, Foston and Lowesby in the early C17th; and in Eastwell in the early C18 (before the construction of the Catholic chapel there). Again, if LAHS members can shed any light, then I would be most grateful. Please email me at [bobtrubs@indigogroup.co.uk](mailto:bobtrubs@indigogroup.co.uk) if you know of any relevant published literature, or if your own researches have encountered similar topics'.

### **BLABY ROAD WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH – WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL RESEARCH**

During the centenary of World War I, Mary Bryceland researched the ten men remembered on the war memorial in the prayer chapel of Blaby Wesleyan Methodist Church in South Wigston. Most were from the local area, but one regular soldier was from the East Riding of Yorkshire, and another from South Shields. Following some further research she has produced a booklet with their biographies. This is available free online at [Soldiers-book-final.pdf \(swmchurch.org.uk\)](http://swmchurch.org.uk).

### **LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – GREAT WAR RESOURCES**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society (LRFHS) has recently produced the following resources which might be of interest to those researching Great War or Second World War ancestry:

Leicestershire and Rutland In Memoriam Index 1915-1919  
Leicester and Leicestershire Absent Voters 1918 -1919  
Illustrated Leicester Chronicle Index 1939-45  
Leicester & Leicestershire Absent Voters 1939-40, 1945-6

Full information about ordering and postage costs can be found on the LRFHS website at [www.lrfhs.org.uk](http://www.lrfhs.org.uk) under 'Publications'. All the above resources can also be viewed free of charge at the Society's Research Centre at 7-9 Every Street, Leicester, which is open Wednesday – Friday, 10.30 am. - 3.00 pm.

### **REBUILDING LIVES – 50 YEARS OF UGANDAN ASIANS IN LEICESTER**

This exhibition by Navrang Arts at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester commemorates the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of Ugandan Asians by Idi Amin. It features the memories of people fleeing the country and seeking refuge, and explores the impact that they and their families have had since on all aspects of the city of Leicester. It continues until 23 December 2022. A 360-degree preview of the exhibition and details of events relating to it can be seen at [Event Details – Leicester Museums](#).

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **HERITAGE OPEN DAY, DONINGTON-LE-HEATH 1620s HOUSE & GARDEN**

**Sunday 11 September, 2022, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm**

An opportunity to explore the 17th Century house and learn about its history, including how its former inhabitants were connected to the Gunpowder Plot, and the bed where King Richard III once slept. Guided tours will be available. In the gardens and orchard there are plants, herbs and vegetables that are grown authentically, as they were when the house was in use. Garden volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Local traders will be displaying their arts and crafts for purchase on the main lawn, and refreshments will be available in the Barn café. Entrance to the event is free. For further information, see [Hello Heritage Open Day - 1620's House - What's on - North West Leicestershire District Council \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN LEICESTER, 9 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2022**

These events range from self-guided tours of Belgrave Cemetery and The Guildhall to a 'behind-the-scenes' look at De Montfort Hall, and opportunities to visit many buildings not normally open to the public. The full programme of events can be downloaded at [Layout 1 \(visitleicester.info\)](#), which also includes a link to the free *Leicester Heritage Trail* brochure. This has information about more than 175 heritage information panels installed so far across the city, and is also available from the Visit Leicester Information Centre at 4A St Martin's, Leicester, LE1 5DB.

#### **HINCKLEY AND DISTRICT MUSEUM**

Talks are held at Hinckley Great Meeting Chapel, Baines Lane, Hinckley, LE10 1PP at 7.30 pm. Admission is free with a 2022 Friends of Hinckley & District Museum membership card. Visitors are also welcome – admission £5 per talk at the door.

**20 October 2022**

***Letters from the Workhouse***

Paul Seaton

## LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – LEICESTER GROUP

**Wednesday 14 September 2022**

***The Charm of a Lincolnshire Holiday - beach huts, eyesores and coastal conservation***

Dr Susan Barton

**Wednesday 12 October 2022**

***Unitarianism in 19<sup>th</sup> century Leicester and Hinckley***

Dr David Wykes

**Wednesday 9 November 2022**

***The 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital, Leicester***

Dr Sally Horrocks

Meetings are held at Stoneygate Baptist Church, London Road, Leicester, LE2 3ND at 7.30 pm. Doors open at 7pm. Non-members welcome. For further information, contact Leicester Group secretary Gaynor Johnston – [leicester@lrfhs.org.uk](mailto:leicester@lrfhs.org.uk).

### **RESCUE – THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

***The protection of heritage in a time of conflict***

Mini-conference, 17 September 2022

This afternoon meeting on ‘The protection of heritage in time of conflict’ is free and open to all. It will be chaired by Daniel Phillips and led by Sophie Vigneron. The first session will focus on ‘Sites and conflict’ and the second on ‘Antiquities and illicit trade’. Register at [Rescue AGM 2022 – Rescue – The British Archaeological Trust \(rescue-archaeology.org.uk\)](https://rescue-archaeology.org.uk).

### **VICTORIAN SOCIETY – LEICESTER GROUP**

All meetings take place at Bishop Street Methodist Church, 10a Bishop Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF, at 7.30 pm. They are open to everyone, but attendees are asked to contribute £2.50 towards the cost of room hire and other expenses.

**Tuesday 4 October 2022**

***Rest in peace – Welford Road Cemetery and some Victorian residents***

Brian Johnson

Much has been written about some of those buried in Welford Road Cemetery in Leicester. This talk is about some of the less known who still have an important story to tell.

**Tuesday 1 November 2022**

***The men who made modern Leicester***

Neil Crutchley

This talk examines the background, personality and achievements of some of the visionary leaders elected to the Corporation of Leicester after its reform in 1835.

**Tuesday 6 December 2022**

***Christmas with Christina Rossetti***

Richard Gill

Christina Rossetti’s carol *In the Bleak Mid-winter* is part of our modern celebration of Christmas. This talk will explore its background and significance.



## **VICTORIAN SOCIETY (NATIONAL ONLINE TALK)**

**Wednesday 12 October 2022, 7pm**

### ***William Morris Textiles***

Jenny Lister

William Morris was a one-man pattern-making phenomenon and a master of colour whose distinctive designs and use of deep blues, reds and yellows, revolutionised the appearance of late-Victorian textile design. In this online lecture Jenny Lister, V&A curator and specialist on historic textiles, discusses the history, style and production of Morris's printed textiles. Further details and bookings at [William Morris Textiles: An Online Talk by Jenny Lister Tickets, Wed 12 Oct 2022 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#).

## **LEICESTER POSTCARD FAIR**

The next Leicester Postcard Fair will be held on Sunday 18 September 2022, 10 am – 3 pm, at the Holiday Inn, Leicester - Wigston (formerly the Wigston Stage Hotel), 299 Leicester Road, Wigston Fields, Leicester, LE18 1JW. Admission £1.

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

**Monday 31 October 2022, 7.30 pm**

### ***Tigers in captivity – the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in the Malay campaign, and as Far East Prisoners of War***

Ken Hewitt

For further details, see [Leicestershire & Rutland WFA | 2022 Meeting Dates and Speaker Programme \(leicestershireandrutlandwfa.com\)](#).

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)**

Dr Gavin Speed and Dr Matthew Beamish send this summary of recent ULAS fieldwork in Leicestershire & Rutland.

Over the summer ULAS have been extremely busy on various fieldwork projects across the region. Within central Leicester, work continues at Leicester Cathedral, excavating part of the burial ground beneath the footprint of the new Heritage Learning Centre. So far, over 500 burials have been excavated, ranging in date from the mid-19th century back to the medieval period (see above right for an image of the work in progress). Analysis of the burials is going to give us a fantastic insight in the changing lives of the people of Leicester and the evolution of funeral practices in the town. Excavation of the burials is expected to be completed in the autumn and will be followed by the excavation of the Roman town beneath.



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At Rothley, soil stripping is underway for a large 5ha excavation of an Iron Age enclosure settlement. Seven roundhouses have been uncovered so far, along with ditches and pits. The full excavation is due to take place over the autumn once fully stripped. At

Flesh Hovel Lane, Quorn, ULAS are excavating two areas of probable later prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology in fields to the north and south of the sewage works, to the west of the River Soar. On the basis of evaluative work in 2021, we anticipate finding enclosures, field systems and hopefully some settlement foci with work taking place over the summer and early autumn of 2022 and the spring of 2023. The land is to be developed for a solar farm by Leicestershire County Council.

At Argents Mead, Hinckley, ULAS have been working with a geomorphologist, Dr Andy Howard, to better understand the surviving evidence of the castle ditch, which survives as a substantial duck pond partly encircling the castle mound that can be found on the edge of Argent's Mead Park in the middle of the town. Landscaped in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, mature trees now tower over the pond and the mound which are all protected as a scheduled monument. The annual dropping of leaves and accumulation of rubbish is slowly choking the life out of the pond, which is now only about 50cm deep. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council would like to de-silt the pond to bring back the aquatic life, and also to undertake protection work on some of the pond banks which are eroding and in places dangerously undercut. Historic England have given permission for the work on the basis of an archaeological programme to identify any risks and to mitigate them, and this has led to a series of pieces of work to assess the buried deposits in order to identify where significant remains survive.

Following a desk based assessment and some geophysical survey including Radar, a number of transects have been sampled using a coring rig across the castle ditch where it had been backfilled (perhaps in the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), and a piston corer for sampling from below the water in the pond in an attempt to demonstrate the antiquity of any deposits that had accumulated in the feature. Sampling through a water body is not a common procedure, and to help us we brought in a dredging company, Lake and Lagoon, based in Salisbury, who installed floating pontoons which were then used as a platform for the taking of the samples. This enabled samples of sediment at set depths of 0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2m to be taken from the pond. Organic alluvial deposits from the infilled ditch have produced identifiable pollen, plant microfossils and parasite eggs, with radiocarbon dates between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

Reporting is ongoing, but initial results have been positive, and we have done well to navigate a piece of work that was not straightforward, both in generating useful information about the castle and hopefully identifying an acceptable scope for development and maintenance of the historic feature.

Finally, 'The Rutland Villa Project' continued throughout the summer, working in partnership with Historic England. This will finish in late September, with the results to be revealed in a later edition of the newsletter.

## **RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT**

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

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

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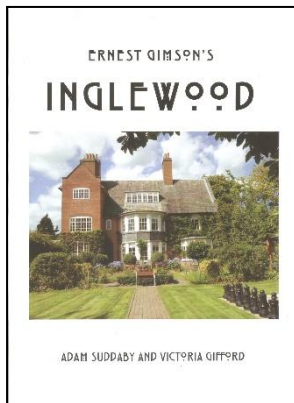


## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### ERNEST GIMSON'S INGLEWOOD

Adam Suddaby and Victoria Gifford

The authors, 2022, 133pp, illus



Inglewood, on the corner of Ratcliffe Road in Stoneygate, Leicester, was designed by Ernest Gimson in 1892. Only five families have lived there since it was built, and their stories are told here by the current owners, informed by extensive research as well as their own knowledge of the house. It was first let to Joseph Levy, the business partner of Israel Hart, and his wife Cordelia, and then to the wool spinner Alexander Baines, who lived there with his wife Lucy and their three daughters. William and Annie Evans followed as tenants in 1913, but in 1918 Annie bought the property from Ernest Gimson and lived there until her death in 1974. As these accounts demonstrate, the women as well as the men of these

families often played a prominent role in local public life.

When Jyoti and Padmini Theophilus took over Inglewood in 1975 it was in need of interior renovation, followed by a 12 year restoration of the house, coach house and garden by Adam Suddaby and Victoria Gifford, who have lived there since 2001. However, their account of Inglewood goes well beyond the house and families themselves. The lives of the live-in servants between 1893 and 1974 are also recorded; and a final chapter explores the nature of change in the area around Inglewood itself up to 2021. It is a fascinating example of how a single house can provide a focus for a much more extensive exploration of the architectural, social and economic history of Leicester over the 130 years since it was built. The book is available from Adam Suddaby, Inglewood, 32 Ratcliffe Road, Leicester, LE2 3TD, price £20 including P&P.

### THE WESTONS 1880 - 2021

Adrian Weston

The Author, 2021, 150pp, illus

Family histories embarked upon to satisfy a little curiosity about the past often expand well beyond their original intentions; and while the focus remains on the family itself, the context in which its members lived can be of much wider interest and relevance. This 'middleclass story of a Catholic family in a provincial town' is one such example, encompassing the printing business run by the author's grandparents in King Street, Leicester, and his own and his father's careers as solicitor, with much more of interest along the way. For example, his accounts of boarding at the Catholic preparatory school at Grace Dieu during World War II, and later at Ratcliffe College, give a real sense of the life of the schools, and their academic ethos. Similarly, his account of National Service in the Royal Air Force offers interesting insights into that experience, ranging from being enlisted by two wing commanders to make up a four at bridge, despite not knowing how to play – familiarity with whist was apparently enough – to the much more serious business of 'maintaining vigilance on the Iron Curtain itself' as part of a signals unit. He goes on to relate his memories of the legal world, and voluntary work for the Hockey Association and as a school governor, and his involvement in a variety of Catholic organisations. As the author says, this is 'not dramatic history', but it is a book with considerably wider relevance.

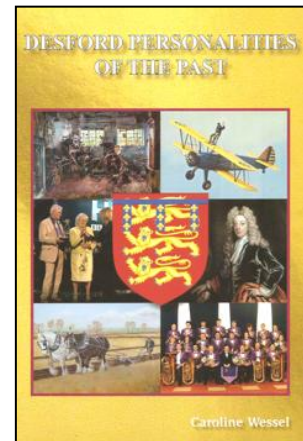
## DESFORD PERSONALITIES OF THE PAST

Caroline Wessel

The Author, 2021, 270pp, illus

Caroline Wessel describes this book as 'her welcome escape during the Covid months', and the 70 personalities who feature in it as 'her firm friends'. Presented alphabetically, they cover a vast range of individuals and families, notable in different ways through their roles in local or national life, their careers, or their contributions to the worlds of art, literature and science. In presenting their lives in a wider context in this way, the book will be of value and interest well beyond Desford itself.

Some of the personalities may be well known, like Thomas Boothby, founder of the Quorn Hunt; the international motor racing and rally driver Roger Clark; the violinist and conductor Celia Graff-Baker; or George Davies, founder of the fashion retailer Next. Richard III also merits an entry as Lord of the Manor of Desford; but there are many interesting and entertaining characters among the rest. Take, as just one example, Albert Pickard, a lambswool spinner and Superintendent of the Desford Free Church, who gifted the Recreation Ground to the village. William Yarnell, a saddler and musician, brings the biographies to a close on a light note, albeit not for the Miss Smith who featured in the case brought against him for breach of promise in 1898, who was awarded £25 in damages. The book itself concludes with a useful bibliography and several maps.

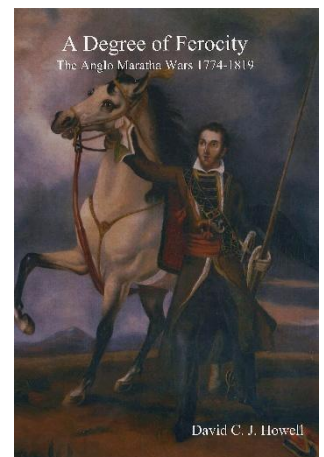


## A DEGREE OF FEROCITY: THE ANGLO MARATHA WARS 1774 – 1819

David Howell

Tichborne Press, 2022, 662pp pages, ISBN 978139992292-0, £25

In 1774 the British East India Company initiated the first of three wars against the Maratha peoples, primarily to secure its existing dominance over areas of India and further expand its territory and influence. However, as the book demonstrates, they were a much more formidable foe than expected, and forced the surrender, retreat and humiliation of a British Army, until the final short but conclusive war in 1819. The Second Anglo-Maratha War, fought in the Deccan and Hindustan between 1803-1805, arose from issues left unresolved from the first war 20 years previously. It established the successful career of Arthur Wellesley during his seven years in India, but two notable military debacles occurred for a British army retreating on Agra and a disastrous siege at Bhutpore. During the final short war against the Marathas, the British fielded a vast army to ensure victory; but it was responsible for ending a general's career, and brought censure from Parliament and contemporary historians. The author is a member of the LAHS Committee and former Hon Treasurer of the Society, and the book is available from Clarendon Books ([clarendonbooks@aol.com](mailto:clarendonbooks@aol.com)) and [abe.com](http://abe.com).



## SHARING OUR HERITAGE

This revised and updated history of Jews in Leicester and their contribution to civic affairs from 1812 to 2022 is now available from Leicester Hebrew Congregation. Further details of the book and how to order it are at <https://jewish-leicester.co.uk/book/>.

## HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

Prompted by the recent anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth, here is an account of a performance of Shakespeare's *Richard the Third* at the Theatre Royal in Leicester, complete with some 'miserable failures' by the trumpeters, and a plea for a little restraint on the part of the leading actor. It is taken from the *Leicester Daily Post*, Tuesday 15 December 1891.

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MR. EDMUND TEARLE AT THE THEATRE ROYAL Mr. Edmund Tearle, who visits the Theatre Royal this week, had an enthusiastic welcome on Monday, when Shakespeare's great tragedy of Richard the Third was produced on a scale seldom witnessed in provincial towns. Mr. Tearle has with him actors of undoubted capacity, and so far as he and his principal supporters are concerned there nothing lacking to make the performance a great success... In the hands of a tragedian of Mr. Edmund Tearle's calibre it may be taken for granted that the most is made of every opportunity. More than that, the thrilling incidents with which it teems are reproduced with an intensely picturesque realism that cannot but strike the looker-on with admiration. The fine scenery and splendid costumes added much to the brilliance of the production on Monday, and perhaps the only jarring notes of discord on that occasion were those for which the trumpeters were responsible in their miserable and oft-repeated failures to blow a simple fanfare. We may be pardoned for suggesting that as these fanfares are so frequently in request they might with profit be more carefully rehearsed.

The tragedy is divided into seven acts, and opens with the scene leading up to the assassination of King Henry in the Tower by the ambitious Gloucester, who thereupon commences his unparalleled career of crime. The portrait of Richard III that Mr. Edmund Teale gives is indeed a striking one. The repellent and malevolent characteristics of the usurper are delineated with almost unique effect, while his sardonic humour, cunning dissimulation, and his ferocious outbursts of passion are alike demonstrated with wonderful power. In one or two instances Mr. Tearle undoubtedly allows himself to be carried away by the intensity of his own declamatory force and would, we feel convinced, prove far more effective if a little restraint were exercised. The funeral scene in the third act is perhaps the one where he appears to the greatest advantage, the persuasive eloquence of his subtle wooing and its gradual effect, on the weak willed Lady Anne, being displayed with remarkable skill.

The later scenes, ending in the fateful field of Bosworth, are admirably depicted, especially the dream of Richard on the eve of the battle, which literally held the audience spellbound and evoked a furore of applause. The fight between the King and Richmond is desperately contested, and proves one the finest pieces of realism in the whole production... At the close Mr. Tearle was called before the curtain and received a very hearty ovation. Miss Theresa Osborne's impersonation of the Lady Anne was carefully studied and left little to be desired, while as Elizabeth, Edward IV's Queen, Miss Kate Clinton bore herself with exceptional grace and dignity... As Henry of Buckingham, Mr. Frederick Scarth displayed histrionic capacity of a decidedly high standard...

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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 & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

President:  
*Patrick Boylan*

**Membership Form**

**Categories**

Individual Membership      £30     

Family Membership          £40     

Student Membership         FREE\*

Mr. Matthew Beamish,  
Hon. Membership Secretary LAHS,  
c/o ULAS,  
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,  
University of Leicester, University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
Tel 0116 2525234  
Email: membership@lahs.org.uk

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

Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Post Code:..... Telephone:.....

Email Address:.....

*(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](mailto: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:.....