

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



NEWSLETTER 118 Spring 2023

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.

If you are a 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. It may be that we do not have a current email address for you, which is why we have sent a 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 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
To be confirmed

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

LAHS HISTORY FAIR 2023

Saturday 18 March 2023, Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, LE12 8TX, 10 am – 4 pm

Free Entrance



The full programme for the LAHS History Fair 2023 is now available – see link below. The official opening at 10.30 am will be performed by Neil Redfern, the Executive Director of the Council for British Archaeology. A wide range of hands-on activities, displays and talks spanning 2000 years of history will then be on offer.

They will include a panel discussion entitled ‘ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?’ exploring

‘fact v fiction’ in dramatic adaptations of history, by Grahame Appleby, Deborah Cartmell, Joanne Mungovin and Neil Redfern. If you are unable to attend, this will be live-streamed via Zoom and uploaded to the LAHS YouTube channel after the event. Caroline Wessel will also be signing copies of her new book *Beaumanor WWII: secret listening station to Bletchley*. The following local organisations will be exhibiting at the event:

Anstey Historical Society - At Risk War Memorials Projects - Braunstone Local History Group - Braunstone Heritage Archive - Council for British Archaeology (East Midlands) - Desford Local History Society - East Midlands Oral History Archive - Great Central Railway - Greater Wigston Heritage Centre - Greater Wigston Historical Society - Hallaton Fieldworkers - Hidden Histories of Leicester - Joseph Merrick Statue Appeal - King Richard III Visitor Centre - Kirby Muxloe Local History Group - Leicester Cathedral - Leicester Civic Society - Leicester’s Sikh Museum Initiative - Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society - Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS) - Leicestershire County Council Museums Collections - Leicestershire Fieldworkers - Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust - Leicestershire Industrial History Society - Leicestershire Museums Creative Learning Services - Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust - Loughborough Library Local Studies Group - LynneAboutLoughborough - Navrang Arts - Sir John Moore Foundation Heritage Group - Richard III Society Leicestershire Branch) - University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) - Visit Leicester - Western Front Association.

For full details of the programme visit the Society’s website at [LAHS HISTORY FAIR 2023 \(le.ac.uk\)](https://www.lahs.org.uk/history-fair-2023). You can also download a pdf of the programme at [2023 LAHS History Fair Full Programme.pdf \(le.ac.uk\)](https://www.lahs.org.uk/history-fair-2023/Full%20Programme.pdf) if you would like to circulate this to your own networks.

RICHARD TIMOTHY (TIM) SCHADLA-HALL

We were very sorry to hear of the death of LAHS member Tim Schadla-Hall on 9 January this year at the age of 75. We are grateful to everyone who contacted us with their memories of Tim, and to Peter Liddle and Nick Cooper for permission to publish this tribute:

Tim died of a heart attack but had been battling cancer for several years, and had only recently retired. Tim was a distinguished archaeologist, museum curator and lecturer. He studied at Cambridge and dug in the south of England before becoming Keeper of Archaeology at Hampshire County Museum Service. From there he moved to Hull Museums before joining Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service in 1985, initially as Patrick Boylan's Deputy Director and later as Director.

He campaigned against the break-up of the Service at local government reorganisation in 1997, memorably being photographed on the cover of the *Museums Journal* with boxing gloves around his neck. There was no place for him in the new services and in January 1998 he became Reader in Public Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. In the 1980s and '90s he undertook excavations in the Vale of Pickering on a nationally important Mesolithic site at Seamer Carr, and later worked in the Channel Islands. He was editor of the journal *Public Archaeology* and served on the boards of many institutions such as The Royal Navy Museum, Waterloo Uncovered and Dig Ventures.

Tim was one of the longest-serving tutors on the Archaeology Certificate Course at Vaughan College from the late 1980s right up until the doors closed in 2013. He was a charismatic, if at times chaotic, communicator of his love for archaeology and even when at UCL, continued to come up on the train every Thursday evening to teach prehistory or public archaeology to the students. His field trips to Wessex and Scotland were legendary, including dawn visits to Stonehenge and the beautiful Kilmartin Valley. He will be fondly remembered by students on the course who were enthused by one of the genuinely unforgettable characters of archaeology.

Tim was a larger-than-life character who inspired great friendship in many. He was an inspiring teacher, campaigner and networker, who never lost touch with Leicester. He will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues, and we will not see his like again.

Peter Liddle and Nick Cooper

OTHER NEWS

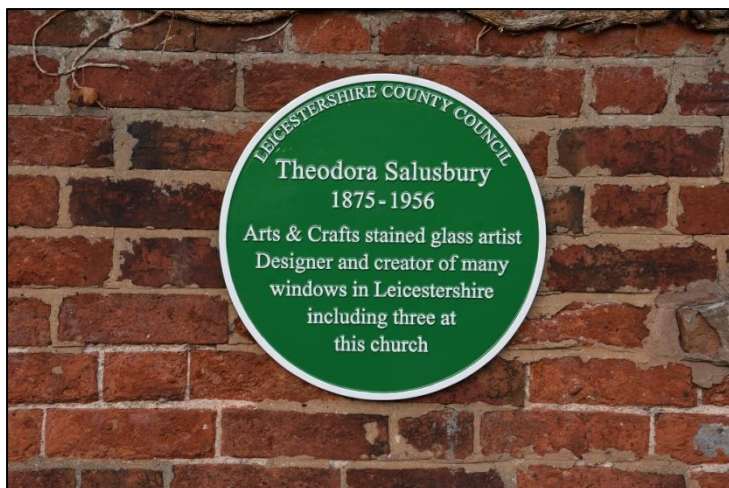
PORTRAITS, PASTIMES AND PARADES – LOUGHBOROUGH LIBRARY EXHIBITION

'Portraits, Pastimes and Parades', an exhibition of local photographs from glass slides in the library's collections, is on display at Loughborough Library from March – May 2023. For library opening hours see [Loughborough Library | Leicestershire County Council](#).

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL – HERITAGE PANELS

A total of 236 Heritage Panels have been installed by Leicester City Council since 2014 as part of the Story of Leicester project. They provide information about people, places and events of Leicester's recent and distant past, and can be seen in a variety of locations from shopping centres to medieval churches, near former warehouses, in front of iconic landmarks such as the Clock Tower and Corn Exchange, and in historic villages such as Aylestone, Belgrave and Evington. An updated list of panels and their locations has recently been published and is available at [Heritage Interpretation Panels -3rd January 2023 List for SoL.xlsx \(storyofleicester.info\)](#).

GREEN PLAQUES – LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



A Green Plaque honouring the achievements of Theodora Salusbury, the Arts and Crafts stained glass artist, was unveiled at St James the Greater church in Birstall in December 2022. Theodora Salusbury created and made windows for nearly 30 churches in England and Wales, including several in Leicestershire. These include Narborough, Newtown Linford, Queniborough, Kimcote and Woodhouse Eaves in

addition to Birstall itself. She attended the Leicester School of Art and used high-quality glass slabs that produced the brilliant colours for which she became renowned. Most of her work bears her signature, a peacock. For more information about her life and work see the summary of a talk by her cousin Georgina Maltby to Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society in 2018 at [Stained glass and the art of Theodora Salusbury \(1875-1956\) – Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society \(thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk\)](https://thurcastoncropstonhistory.org.uk)

(Image courtesy of Leicestershire County Council)

PERCEPTION: THE COUNTIEES OF LEICESTER – EXHIBITION

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester - until 21 April 2023

This exhibition explores ‘the fascinating history of a local family against the backdrop of Victorian, Edwardian and post-war Leicester, using photographs, ephemera and documents to create a more complete picture of life in the Midlands. It reveals a performing arts dynasty that can be traced back to Methodist preacher Reverend Francis Nelson Countee and his son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Eliza, music hall stars known as “The Two Countees”. Their legacy was continued by their daughter Frances “Mabel” Elkington, neé Countee and her own children and grandchildren’.

The exhibition explores representation, identity and belonging, and offers an insight into historical Black presence ‘that is in plain sight, yet has remained hidden’. It is curated by Serendipity Institute for Black Arts and Heritage in partnership with Leicester Museums and Galleries, and is supported by funding from Leicester City Council, Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund. For further information see [Event Details – Leicester Museums](#).

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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LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS

CUT AND CREATE: THE HISTORY OF THE HOME DRESSMAKER

Charnwood Museum, Loughborough, March – June 2023

All clothing and its creation have a story. This exhibition looks at the often overlooked story of the home dressmaker and the equipment they used to make the job of creating the latest fashions more convenient and affordable to all. The exhibition opened on 4 March and will run until June 2023. For details of opening hours, see [Welcome to Charnwood Museum – Charnwood Museum](#).



90 YEARS OF HARBOROUGH THEATRE

Harborough Museum will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of Harborough Theatre with a year of changing displays, running until 30 December 2023. Two decades of the Theatre will be showcased every two months, focusing on the people, plays and props 'which have brought drama and joy to audiences for so long'. For further details, and opening hours see [90 Years of Harborough Theatre – Harborough Museum](#).

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO OPPOSE PLANS FOR LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

The Victorian Society has announced a partnership of leading heritage and conservation bodies which aims to stop what it describes as 'insensitive and harmful plans' for the Grade II listed Liverpool Street Station and Grade II* listed former Great Eastern Hotel (now the Andaz London Liverpool Street Hotel).

The Victorian Society is chairing the reformed Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) which stopped the station's total demolition in the 1970s. Other organisations represented on the committee are Save Britain's Heritage, The Twentieth Century Society, Historic Buildings & Places, The Georgian Group, The Spitalfields Trust, Civic Voice, London Historians and The Victorian Society. The close gathering of these major voices for heritage and conservation is extremely rare and reflects how seriously they individually, and collectively, view the threat to these important buildings. Further information about the campaign is available at [Relaunched Liverpool Street Station Campaign names Griff Rhys Jones as President and asks public to sign petition | Victorian Society](#), or you can sign the petition asking for the plans to be abandoned at [sign the petition](#).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LEICESTER CIVIC SOCIETY – GUIDED WALKS

Saturday 18 March, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Braunstone Gate, Little Holme Street & Narborough Road - £6 for non-members

The walk will be led by Peter Kilty, beginning at the Hawthorn Building of De Montfort University, where the Church of the Annunciation once stood. It will then proceed by way of other sites of interest to Narborough Road and the 'lighthouse' opposite, where it will end. For further details and bookings see [Braunstone Gate, Little Holme Street & Narborough Road - Leicester Civic Society](#).

Saturday 15 April 2023, 10.30 am – 12. 30 pm

New Walk- one of Leicester's treasures - £6 for non-members

Stroll along one of Leicester's treasures, originally a walk in the countryside surrounded by pastures and open views. The walk begins at the northern end of New Walk, at Esquires Coffee Shop, and will end at the top of New Walk opposite the Lodge Gate, Victoria Park. It will be led by Richard Warren. For further details and bookings see [New Walk Guided Walk - Stroll along one of Leicester's treasures with us - Leicester Civic Society](#)

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (LRFHS) – LEICESTER GROUP

Wednesday 22 March 2023, online at 7.30 pm

A Glooston family history

Mick Coleman, LRFHS member

For further information and bookings - [LRFHS - Upcoming Events](#). For details of meetings of the Hinckley, Loughborough, Market Harborough and Rutland groups, see [LRFHS - Meetings](#).

EAST MIDLANDS ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

Festival of Oral History

**University of Leicester, School of Business, Brookfield, 266 London Road, LE2 1RQ,
Wednesday 29 March 2023, 10 am – 4 pm**

The East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA) will be showcasing oral history work from across the East Midlands at its Festival of Oral History. Admission to the event is free and you can reserve a place through Eventbrite at [Festival of Oral History 2023 Tickets, Wed 29 Mar 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#).

LEICESTER LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY - THE PEACH LECTURE

Compassion, selflessness, and creativity – the secret of creating 21st-century garden cities

Monday 13 March, 5.30 – 7 pm

Lecture Theatre 2, Bob Burgess Building (Freemen's Common), University of Leicester

Dr Wei Yang, FAcSS, FRTPI, Honorary Professor, University College London

The talk will review the origins of the modern planning profession – the Garden City movement, its pioneers and their spirit, and explore how to modernise the planning profession by forging a common sense of purpose with wider society For information about how to attend in person or via Zoom, see [Compassion, selflessness, and creativity – the secret of creating 21st-century garden cities - Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society \(leicesterlitandphil.org.uk\)](#).

LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS – FORTHCOMING MEETING

All talks take place at 7.30 pm. Venues will be confirmed closer to the date. For further details visit [What's On in 2022/23 – Leicestershire Fieldworkers \(leicsfieldworkers.org\)](#).

16 March - Dr Will Bowden will talk on the Caistor Roman Town Project

18 May – topic to be confirmed

15 June – AGM and talk (subject to be confirmed)

MARKET HARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 8 March 2023, Methodist Church Hall, Northampton Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9HE, 7.30 pm (doors open at 7 pm)

The Tresham Family and their Buildings

Mike Stroud

The Treshams were notable landowners in north Northamptonshire. Sir Thomas Tresham (1543 - 1605) designed and had built a number of buildings to express the Catholic beliefs for which he was frequently imprisoned. These include the Triangular Lodge at Rushton, Lyvedon New Build near Oundle, and the Market House at Rothwell. The Tresham family also had connections with Deene Park, the Gunpowder Plot and the final suppression of the 1607 Midland Riots at Newton. Their great dovecote, bearing the Tresham trefoil badge, still stands in a field at Newton by Geddington.

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.

Thursday 4 April 2023

Lord Curzon of Kedleston

Danny Wells

George Nathaniel Curzon was one of the most talented, colourful and controversial British statesmen – Queen Victoria’s last Viceroy of India and Foreign Secretary after World War I.

PURITANISM IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Wednesday 24 May 2023, Baptist Chapel, Church Street, Countesthorpe, LE8 5QH, 7.30 pm
Puritanism in Leicestershire: who were the Puritans- are they relevant to us today?

Dr Lesley Rowe

A free public talk on three of the leading Puritan figures in Leicestershire 1560 – 1660 - Anthony Gilby, Henry Hastings, third Earl of Huntingdon, and Arthur Hildersham. For more details see [\(6\) Puritanism in Leicestershire 1560-1660 | Facebook](#).

GRESHAM COLLEGE – ONLINE HISTORICAL VIDEOS

A number of videos on historical themes are available free of charge online from Gresham College, London's oldest higher education institution. These include ‘Stonehenge: a history’ by Mike Pitts and ‘Queen Victoria: images of power and Empire’ by Professor Jane Ridley. They can be accessed at [Watch Now | Gresham College](#).

RUSKIN SOCIETY – ONLINE TALK

Tuesday 25 April, 6 pm

Ruskin, Textiles and True Wealth

A lecture by Dr Rachel Dickinson on the ways in which John Ruskin offers textiles as a path to weaving a happier and healthier society, with examples of how his ideas have inspired textile practitioners. Details and bookings at [ONLINE TALK: Ruskin, Textiles and True Wealth - The William Morris Society - Art Tickets](#).

ARCHAEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES (ULAS)



Over the winter ULAS have been extremely busy on three large fieldwork projects across the region, along with several smaller projects. Dr Gavin Speed sends this summary of recent ULAS fieldwork in the region.

Within central Leicester, work has now concluded at Leicester Cathedral, excavating part of the burial ground beneath the footprint of the new Heritage Learning Centre. Now over 1100 burials have been lifted. Below the burial soils, in the NW corner

of the excavation area, a Roman cellar was revealed, measuring 6.5m north/south by over 5m east/west. *In situ* masonry walls survived in places.

The primary demolition layer on the floor produced roof slates, some painted wall plaster, and a carved sandstone block which appears to be the base of a portable Roman altar (see image above). This suggests that the cellar may have been used as a shrine or cult room. The upper half was partially destroyed by a modern pile foundation. There is no evidence that the cellar was part of a building which continued to the south or east. On both sides it appears to have been surrounded by yard surfaces. It was either a free-standing structure, or part of a building which continued to the north and/or to the west. This project has had much public engagement throughout, including many public talks, and interest from the media, such as BBC East Midlands Today, BBC Leicester radio and news, and will feature in *Digging for Britain* Series 11 (air date in early 2024), all of which the ULAS team have thoroughly enjoyed participating in.

To the north of Leicester, the vast excavation near to Rothley (that began in the late summer) is drawing to a close. Multi-phase settlement evidence has been recorded across the 5ha site, with the majority of the evidence consisting of an Iron Age settlement, with many roundhouses, ditches, and pits. Close by, a new excavation is just beginning at Beaumont Leys, where more Iron Age activity is emerging – more roundhouses and ditches - whilst a trial-trench evaluation at Sileby has also produced evidence for Iron Age settlement activity.

In Rutland a small excavation at Great Casterton has presented a relatively rare opportunity to investigate within the core of the old Roman town. Several robber trenches from a Roman building were discovered, along with a small amount of Roman material from later features (painted wall plaster, pottery, coins). These were severely truncated by medieval yard activity (including a stone-lined oven and cobble surfaces) along with post-medieval activity and modern services. Just beyond the county border of Rutland, into Lincolnshire, ULAS have completed another large excavation, with more good Iron Age and Roman settlement activity. Highlights included a small Roman coin hoard, thanks to help from some of the Leicestershire Fieldwalkers team.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

NURSING IN SERBIA WITH LADY PAGET IN 1915: THE ADVENTURES OF FLORA SCOTT OF LEICESTER

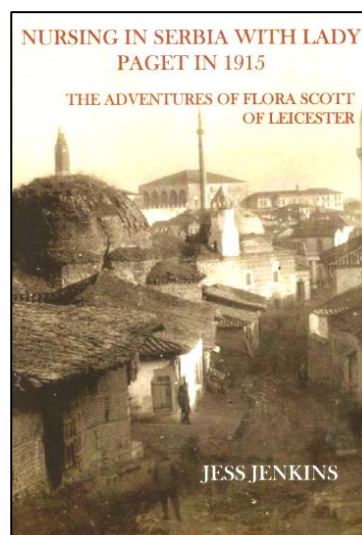
Jess Jenkins

Lookout Press, 322pp, illus, ISBN 9781739581503

Flora Scott was born in Leicester in 1873 and qualified as a nurse at the Royal Infirmary in Halifax in 1900. Around 1907 she established her own nursing home in Tichborne Street, moving by 1911 to Victoria Road (later University Road). In January 1915, rather to the alarm of family and friends, she left for Serbia – ‘the place of all others I wished to give my services to’ – to join the hospital established by Louise Lady Paget in Skoplji under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund.

The book draws on Flora’s papers and a wide range of other sources to give a vivid sense of her experiences, working in conditions very different, of course, from those to which she was accustomed: ‘Often it seemed like playing at makeshift. One was so short of everything...’. As the staffing of the hospital improved she also found time to learn to ride, and had access to a horse or a mounted pony – ‘brisk shy creatures’ - from the nearby barracks. As part of her duties she nursed some of the 300 prisoners of war stricken with typhus, fortunately escaping the disease herself. She returned to Britain in May 1915, having kept in touch with ‘Dear old Leicester’ in the meantime through newspapers and letters.

In the process of writing the book the author encountered ‘so many characters that deserve a book in themselves’, and one of its later sections is devoted to brief biographies of some of them. In this respect and others, while this is first and foremost ‘the tale of an ordinary women in extraordinary times’, it is also a valuable account of the Serbian Relief Fund itself and its ‘uneven battle against disease and suffering’.

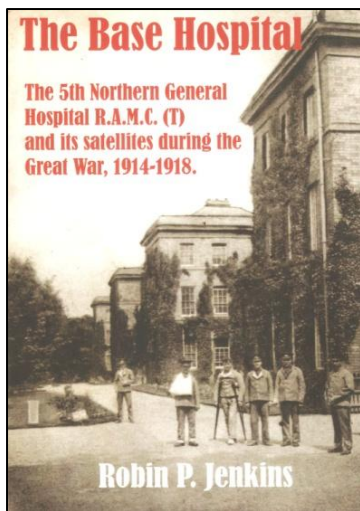


THE BASE HOSPITAL: THE 5TH NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL R.A.M.C. (T) AND ITS SATELLITES DURING THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918

Robin Jenkins

Lookout Press, 358pp, illus, ISBN 9781739581510

The 5th Northern General Hospital – the ‘Base Hospital’ as it was commonly known locally – was established in 1908 as a unit of the new Territorial Force, and mobilised on the outbreak of war in August 1914. It was housed in the former County Lunatic Asylum, empty for several years and converted within six weeks from a ‘derelict, damp-ridden, cobweb-haunted maze of buildings’ into a 520-bed facility. However, as the author emphasises, this book is not a history of a building but of an institution, and the focus is very much on the patients and the men and women who looked after them. Among them were the many local people who raised funds for essential equipment and supplies, visited the patients, taught them practical skills as part of their rehabilitation, provided them with ‘comforts’ and entertainment, and took part in debates in the hospital’s recreation hall.



The Base Hospital itself was soon supplemented by other medical facilities, taking over part of the North Evington Poor Law Infirmary and establishing auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes across the Midlands – some of which were said to keep on ‘local lads’ for longer than necessary to delay their return to active service. There is much more of interest in this very well researched and readable book, including a list of the staff at the Base hospital and its satellites, and a wealth of contemporary images; but as the author amply demonstrates, the 5th Northern General has its place in the history of World War I as much for its ‘remarkable and rare reputation as the focal point for concern and in a time of national crisis’ as for the medical care at the heart of its purpose.

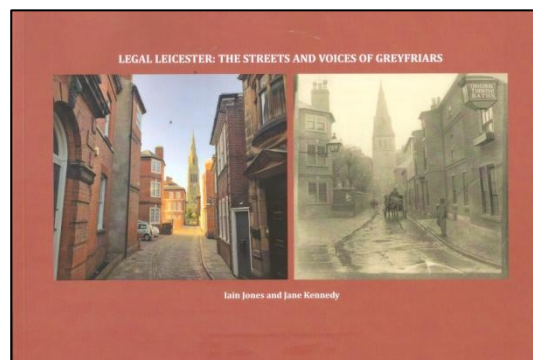
Both the above books are available from the authors’ website at www.heritageco.co.uk.

LEGAL LEICESTER: THE STREETS AND VOICES OF GREYFRIARS

Iain Jones and Jane Kennedy

The authors, 90pp, illus

A close legal sector developed in the Greyfriars area of Leicester from the 18th century following the removal of the town walls. Practices were set up within a few streets of each other, and this ‘Precinct’ became a fashionable area in which to live as well as work. Many law firms later merged and moved elsewhere, leaving the area somewhat run down. As part of work from 2015 – 2020 to transform it, the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) recorded memories from all ranks of the legal profession within this community, describing how law practices grew and developed, and survived changes both within the law and society more generally.



This book, which focuses on the period from 1740 to the late 20th century, draws on these memories to ‘give character’ to some of those who worked there. It takes the form of a trail, in words and images, through streets including Peacock Lane, New Street, Friar Lane and Berridge Street - encompassing long-disappeared buildings such as the Herrick Mansion along with histories of the legal firms themselves and extracts from the memories of those who worked for them. Among the many interesting insights these offer is a solicitor’s recollection that: ‘It was the practice to send appropriate work to each other and make sure it was looked after and again there was a non-poaching agreement between you that if a client came to you on a commercial matter they would go back (to you) on conveyancing or whatever’. Only a limited number of copies of the book were produced and it is not available for sale. However, Iain Jones will be happy to provide it as a zip file if you would like to contact him at kilbyestates@gmail.com. Some extracts from the interviews are available in sound and text at [Legal Leicester - Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative \(greyfriarsheritage.org.uk\)](http://Legal Leicester - Greyfriars Townscape Heritage Initiative (greyfriarsheritage.org.uk)).

Full reviews of these publications will appear in the *Leicestershire Historian* later this year.

A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

The Leicester Savings Bank was established in 1817 as part of a national movement to encourage the working classes to 'lay the foundation of wealth' by depositing whatever they could afford in banks managed by trustees. The Savings Bank Act of that year ensured the security of their savings by providing for them to be deposited with the government – quickly providing reassurance when there was a run on the bank in St Martin's by its depositors in February 1912. This report is from the *Leicester Evening Mail* (1 March 1912).

'The run on the Leicester Savings bank continued this morning, despite the reassuring statements by the actuary and trustees, the announcement of support from other banks and the publication of the financial statement showing that the Government hold securities more than sufficient to pay all creditors over 20s. in the £. Frightened depositors began to arrive in St. Martin's about nine o'clock, and by half-past over 30 people were waiting for the bank to open. As 10 o'clock approached, they were marshalled into a queue along Grey Friars, and admitted into the bank in batches. Soon after the bank had opened there were at least 100 people, mostly women, anxiously waiting to get their money, or at any rate some of it, as it must be borne in mind that several days' notice is necessary for the withdrawal of sums over £30. The queue was very orderly and patient. The "run", however, proved a short one and only odd depositors joined the waiting ranks after 11 o'clock. An hour later business had resumed its normal course...

'[The] trustees met this morning, and among those present were the Mayor (Alderman A. Tollington), Mr. W. Viccars, Mr T. Fielding Johnson, senior, Mr. T. Fielding Johnson, junior, Mr. J. W. Freer, Mr. W. A. Evans, Mr. B. Ellis, Mr. G. F. Stevenson, and Mr. W. E. Hincks. It was decided to offer a reward of for anyone giving information which would lead to the conviction of the person or persons who originated the rumour. The bank actuary, Mr. Jones, received the following telegram signed "Cameron, Government Inspector." about 11.30: —

Regret to hear of utterly unfounded rumours apparently unsettling your depositors. Government will remit cash immediately to meet all demands without notice.

'Meanwhile, arrangements had been made with Parr's Bank to meet all cash requirements. On enquiry about mid-day our representative was informed that about £8,000 had been withdrawn this morning, but some of the £9,000 to £10,000 withdrawn yesterday had been repaid. One depositor brought £100 back this morning, adding that he had been foolish to lose a month's interest'.

Footnote: Despite the offer of a £100 reward for information leading to their prosecution and conviction, the perpetrator(s) of these 'Untrue and Malicious Reports' about the bank's stability were never apprehended. Many years later, on his retirement from the bank, Mr Jones suggested that the rumour may have started after a railway accident on the embankment above Martin Street, when word went around that 'Martin's bank is broken'... (*Leicester Evening Mail*, 28 December 1932)

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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Patrick Boylan

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



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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
.....

Postcode

Signature/s

Date:.....