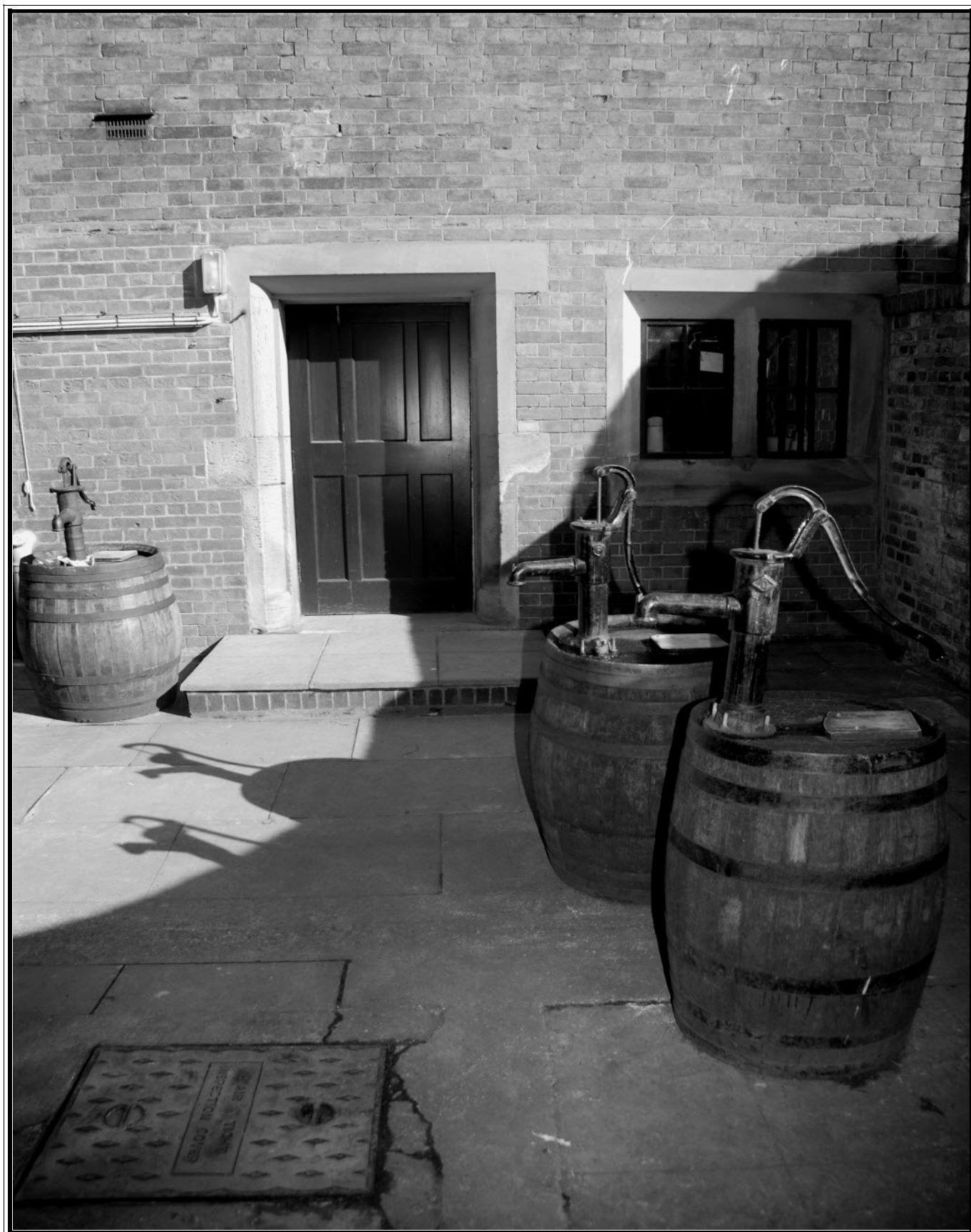


# Newsletter

Autumn 2012  
Number 86

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society



[www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs)

## Loughborough Archaeological & Historical Society 2012-2013 Talks Season

6 October 2012

**Bog Bodies**  
Colin Groves

1 December 2012

**Loughborough Carillon Tower and  
War Memorial**  
Mel Gould

5 January 2013

**Members Afternoon**

3 February 2013

**Framework Knitting**  
Prof Marilyn Palmer

2 March 2013

**Eleanor of Castille**  
Julie Ede

6 April 2013

**Glass Slide Detective**  
John Carpenter

Meetings are held in the Bennett Building on the Loughborough University campus  
Admission: £3.00 (members free) Meetings commence at 7.00pm  
For more information visit [www.loughboroughpastandpresent.org](http://www.loughboroughpastandpresent.org)

## News from the GCR

The Great Central Railway will be celebrating the formal opening of the magnificent Swithland Sidings signal box at its annual Autumn Steam Gala, from Thursday 4 October to Sunday 7 October 2012.

The signal box, which has now been commissioned, is the last piece of a development jigsaw which has transformed the GCR into an international attraction, and the only place in the world where full size steam trains regularly pass each other on double track at speed.



Further information at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk) or call 01509 632323



The signal box, which was rescued from Aylesbury, has 55 levers, most of which are now in use controlling trains running along the main lines, the up and down loops and shunting into the sidings.

The box also handles access to and from the recently-restored Mountsorrel branch line.

There will be guest steam locomotives working passenger, freight and postal trains, as well as plenty of activity on the Quorn and Woodhouse locomotive turntable.



<b>William Burton's Notebook</b> Dr Pam Fisher	25
<b>John Stewart Wachter :An Obituary</b> Dr Neil Holbrooke	23
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<b>Recent Archeological activity by ULAS</b> University of Leicester Archaeological Services	8



# Victoria County History (Leicestershire) Young County Historian Programme

For the first time, thanks to generous sponsorship from the University of Leicester, the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust has been working with a small number of history undergraduates from the University who volunteered to help with new parish entries for the Leicestershire VCH.

Over the course of June and July 2012, the students received training in reading and interpreting original documents, interpreting standing buildings and making oral history recordings, while getting to grips with the religious history of four Leicestershire parishes over a five hundred year period.

This work forms no part of their degree course, but was an optional extra arranged to advance the work of the VCH in Leicestershire and to enhance the students' research and employability skills.

Working in small teams, at the end of the seven weeks they were required to provide a written piece about religious life in a designated parish, which will be published on the VCH website, to record and summarise a piece of oral history and to produce a poster.



Learning about the Georgian church at King's Norton

In September they will each be giving a short presentation of their findings at the University, following which one of them will receive the Young County Historian Award for 2012. Other VCH volunteers will also be presenting the results of their research at this event, which will celebrate both the variety of this county's history and the ongoing VCH project.



LAHS Vice-President,  
Lars Tharp at the  
launch of the  
Leicestershire Victoria  
County History Trust,  
at Quenby Hall

Further information about this free public event may be obtained from Dr Pam Fisher, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Leicestershire VCH Trust.

Email [pjf7@le.ac.uk](mailto:pjf7@le.ac.uk)

Phone 0116 252 5722.

For details of the work of the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust visit their website at:

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/leicestershire>

# The LAHS Lecture Season 2012-2013

Our meetings take place at the Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk unless otherwise specified, and commence at 7.30pm.

Our Members' Evening will take place at the Guildhall as the Society's pre-Christmas event.

Members who would like to give a short presentation on the evening are asked to contact our Talks Secretary, Neil Finn.

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## 4 October 2012

*Please note that the venue for this event is still to be confirmed. Members will receive full details by post and email in due course*

**Dr Michael Wood**  
President of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

### Viking Leicester

Michael Wood looks at the story of Viking Age Leicester from the arrival of the 'Great Heathen Army' in the 870s to the Capture of the Five Boroughs in 942 when the city and the shire finally became part of a kingdom of all England.

He will especially focus on the dramatic and little known events surrounding the battle and treaty at Leicester in 940.

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## 18 October 2012

**Dr Susan Barton**  
Leicester City Councillor, Historian, Author  
**Vernacular Erections: Lincolnshire Coastal Development and Conservation before 1940**

A lecture marking the eightieth anniversary of Lincolnshire's Sandhills Act

## 1 November 2012

**Peter Cousins**  
Chairman, Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society

**Orson Wright, Champion of the People**

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## 15 November 2012

**Mark Knight**  
Senior Project Officer, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

**Deeply buried prehistoric archaeology at Must Farm, Cambridgeshire: Understanding past peoples' movement in a time transgressive environment**

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## 29 November 2012

**The 158th Annual General Meeting**

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## 13 December 2012

**Members' Evening at the Guildhall**

In the Christmas Spirit with festive refreshments! Members are invited to share their research with others in the convivial setting of the Guildhall.

# The LAHS Lecture Season 2012-2013

Non-members are welcome at all our meetings for a nominal admission charge.

Visitors can also join the Society at any of our events.

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## 10 January 2013

**Cynthia Brown**  
Oral History Society Officer , Vaughan College

**A Blessing to the Town: the Vaughan Working Men's College**  
A lecture marking 150 years of Vaughan College

If you would like an email reminder of each of our talks and other events, please send a brief request message to [lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk](mailto:lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk)

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## 24 January 2013

**Jim Brown**  
Project Officer, Northamptonshire Archaeology

**Excavation of a Roman Temple at Egleton, Rutland**

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## 21 February 2013

**Dr Jill Bourne**  
Hon Editor of the Transactions of this Society

**Anglo-Saxon social and administrative organisation: place-name evidence from Leicestershire and the East Midlands**

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## 14 March 2013

**Professor Patrick Boylan**

Professor Emeritus, City University London

**The identity and Leicester associations of the important early Tudor composer, Hugh Aston**

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## 7 February 2013

**The W. Alan North Memorial Lecture**  
**Professor Simon Esmonde Cleary,**  
University of Birmingham

**Chedworth Roman Villa: research and redisplay**

This lecture will look at how a project to publish one of the most-visited villas of Roman Britain has expanded our knowledge and understanding of the Roman site and how this has fed through into the new presentation of the site to the visiting public.

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## 4 April 2013

**Paul Bowman**  
Chairman, Leicestershire Fieldworkers

**In Search of the Heartland of Mercia**

# Michael Wood

## Our new President

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is proud to announce that the well-known and distinguished television historian, Michael Wood, is to be the Society's President for the term 2012 to 2015.

He becomes our President following two major BBC television series in which Leicestershire has strongly featured.

Michael will present his first Presidential Talk to the Society on Thursday 4 October 2012



For over thirty years, historian and broadcaster Michael Wood has made compelling journeys into the past, which have brought history alive for more than one generation of readers and viewers.

He is the author of several highly praised books on English history including *In Search of the Dark Ages*, *Domesday*, and *In Search of England*.

In 2011 he completed his one hundredth documentary. His catalogue of work includes *Art of the Western World*, *Legacy*, *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great*, *Conquistadors* and the highly-praised television series *The Story of India*, all of which were accompanied by best-selling books.

His ground-breaking *Story of England*, (2010) told the story of one community through its long history and, with the help of the villagers, explored the lives of ordinary people against the backdrop of national events across more than a thousand years.

Michael was born in Manchester and educated at Manchester Grammar School and Oriel College Oxford, where he did post-graduate research in Anglo-Saxon history.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the Royal Society of Arts and the Society of Antiquaries. He is a governor of the Royal Shakespeare Company and a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Staffordshire.

After a long association with the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, Michael was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Leicester in July 2011.

His most recent project for BBC Television has been Great British Story, a peoples' history which has been the basis of community events and activities throughout the country. Michael lives in North London with his wife and their two daughters.

# Burrough Hill - News from ULAS

John Thomas, Andy Hyam  
and Gavin Speed



The third season of excavation at Burrough Hill took place in June and July, investigating three areas: two main trenches (5 & 6) looking at an area of pits and a roundhouse & part of the rampart respectively while a third evaluation trench (7) was dug to look at possible Roman remains in the northern part of the hillfort.

Trench 5 revealed a spread of pits around 50m inside the hillfort entrance dating from the Iron Age to early Roman period.



Iron Age bead at Burrough Hill

The Iron Age pits may have originally been excavated for use as storage features with many being rock-cut preserving their deep profiles very well. The presence of Roman pits was also an unexpected bonus, giving a clearer picture of activity of this date across the hillfort. Previously activity dating to the Roman period was restricted to the northern part of the site where we had begun excavations in 2010.

The pits produced a wonderful array of finds with huge amounts of pottery and bone, including some very nice early Roman forms, as well as a large tally of small finds. These included a complete loom weight, querns, metalwork, spindle whorls and a beautiful decorated blue glass bead.

One of the early Roman pits revealed evidence for a human burial containing a skull, part of an arm and a rib as well as a quarter of a rotary quern (on the persons head) an inverted horse skull, copper alloy penannular brooch and remains of copper alloy bowl among other things. Very odd.

Trench 6 contained a complete roundhouse (the first to be fully examined in the hillfort itself) and attendant features as well as a slice through the rampart at the western side of the hillfort. The roundhouse was well-preserved with a very nice rock-cut profile, preserving a distinct slot in its base, but contained very little finds.

In contrast the pits surrounding the building were full of domestic debris, offering a rich source of information. A group of pits to the rear of the roundhouse were contained within a ditched annexe to the building, suggesting that at least some of these features may have been contemporary.

Among these, one produced a significant assemblage of ironwork including a spearhead, two knives, hooks and other tools, all of which had apparently entered the pit in a still usable condition. As with Trench 5 the pits from around the roundhouse produced a very good assemblage of pottery and bone, predominantly Iron Age here, as well as other choice bits of information such as several bone gaming pieces, two Iron Age long dice (1 shale and 1 bone), a possible terret ring and a highly polished bone flute.



General (Summer!) conditions at Burrough Hill



A range of iron slags were present across the trench suggesting that metalworking took place in the vicinity. The rampart area revealed remains of two stone banks (one on the outside, another on the inside) which appeared to have been built to contain the main soils laid down to form the rampart core. In the final days, we discovered a 'hoard' of 5 complete triangular loom weights, a possible Iron Age razor and two bronze sword chapes in a pit beneath the inner rampart bank.

**Trench 7** was excavated in the northern part of the hillfort adjacent to the area excavated in 1967. The main purpose of this was to investigate an area of the geophysical survey that suggested Roman remains. In the event only Iron Age features were found but one was very characteristic of a large palisade slot suggesting some sort of internal division within the hillfort at some stage – for what reason we don't yet know.



Polished bone flute



Trench 5 from the south showing the rampart section, round-house and surrounding pits



Iron Age sword chape

In spite of the weather we had another very successful Open Day which attracted around 500 visitors who all left happy and only mildly damp (!)

On top of this around 100 people attended the annual Guided Walk as part of the Festival of Archaeology. Together with this year's school visits, other visiting groups and casual traffic we estimate that we were able to share our results with approximately 1,000 people which is no bad thing during a summer like this one.



A summer's day at Burrough Hill!

# News from ULAS

## University of Leicester Archaeological Services

### Asfordby (Lynden Cooper, Wayne Jarvis)

The post-excavation analysis of the Asfordby Mesolithic site has commenced with the classification of 7,928 worked flints. The typological signature is of a Honey Hill type assemblage, what appears to be a Midland and East Anglian grouping. The late Roger Jacobi inferred that such assemblages were likely to be chronologically intermediate between the recognised British Early and Late Mesolithic. We are referring to this as the Middle Mesolithic following the terminology used on the continent.

There are 107 microliths, some with impact fractures testimony to their function as projectile points. However, there are other tools including scrapers, burins and a tranchet adze/axe. The technological indications have been quite a surprise: initial cortical removals with a hard stone percussor and subsequent bladelet production with a soft stone percussor. Clusters of calcined bone and flint indicate the location of hearths. Species represented include wild pig and a type of deer.

Preliminary radiocarbon results suggest three possible periods of occupation: *c.* 8100 cal BC, 7600 cal BC and 7500 cal BC. Further dating will be sought to help to assess if there was punctuated or 'continuous' occupation. The earliest date puts the site occupation at the very beginning of the Boreal pollen zone where there is the first appearance of mixed deciduous forest in England.



The stepped trench across the silted channel within the Baginton formation of the River Bytham



Monolith sampling the silted channel within the Baginton formation. The deposits contain the remains of plants insects and crustaceans.

### Brooksby Quarry (Matt Beamish, Wayne Jarvis, James Harvey)

ULAS has been monitoring gravel extraction and further soil stripping at Brooksby. The sands and gravels of the site were deposited by the River Bytham, and predate the Anglian glaciation which East Midlands archaeologists will know as the boulder clay, deposited around 450,000 years ago.

The Bytham deposits are known to contain evidence of Lower Palaeolithic occupation; 260 artefacts have now been found at Brooksby during the watching brief. In the north-west of the site, near the bottom of the excavations a buried silted channel of the River Bytham sequence has been investigated.

## News from ULAS - continued

Evaluative test pitting of the gravels in anticipation of the channel deposits, enabled the placing of a stepped trench across the full channel profile. The 28m long trench exposed a sequence of channel cut and infill up to 2m deep, with continuous silting of the profile accounting for up to 1.80m of this. This section was recorded and sampled and over 70 samples were taken from the organic silts and channel lag deposits.

A team from Royal Holloway College and Institute of Human Palaeontology (IPH) in Paris visited in February 2012. Electro Spin Resonance (dating) samples were taken from several sandy units laid down by the Bytham including the *Brooksby sands*. The *Brooksby* deposits are thought to belong to a warmer temperate period, in which there is good potential for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material to survive, and that it is early human occupation in this period that is the source of some of the artefacts found in the later sands and gravels.

Lynden Cooper was able to very usefully compare notes with French quaternary archaeologists. Jackie Desprez and Marie-Hélène Moncel have been investigating deposits of similar age in Central France and are familiar with non-flint lithics. They were quite certain that the Brooksby artefacts were mostly derived from very local contexts, having signs of minimal 'concassage' damage. They suggested that the handaxes had been preserved quite quickly in fine deposits and not affected by fluvial transport— by implication, there are pockets of *in situ* archaeology at the site.

The contrasting conditions between the chopper-cores and the handaxes, the former having notable glossy patina and some evidence for fluvial damage (albeit minimal) and the latter showing fresher surfaces might even hint at some chronological differences. We may be seeing a pattern similar to that noted at the early sites on the Norfolk coast – an early homonin presence with Mode 1 technology (Clactonian) of flakes and chopper cores and a later presence of homonins with Mode 2 technology (Acheulean) of handaxes. Recent monitoring of the soil stripping of phase 8 has revealed Iron Age features mid way up the valley side – not a location in which they are anticipated to be. A small D-

shaped enclosure along with a number of linear features were found. This information along with other elements of Iron Age archaeology recorded in various locations across the site, perhaps reflect wide use of the landscape in this period.

### Leicester, Highcross Street (Mathew Morris)



Seven trenches have been excavated on the site of the former All Saints Brewery on Highcross Street, Leicester.

The most significant find was undoubtedly one of the largest sections of a tessellated pavement revealed in recent times in Leicester. It is made of coarse tesserae and the design seems to consist of a wide red border surrounding an octagonal panel containing what looks rather like a Maltese cross, edged with a Greek key pattern and stylised leaves.

The pavement is possibly 4th century, and sits above a considerable depth of Roman stratification including earlier floor levels and indicates the presence of a substantial town house to the southwest of the one excavated on Vine Street in 2003-6 (now beneath the John Lewis car park). The north eastern trench revealed an area of compacted orange sand and gravel  $\approx$ 1.8m below ground level. In section, this could be seen to be a  $\approx$ 0.8m thick sequence of cambered surfaces laid over  $\approx$ 60mm of pale grey silt, possibly a preserved turf-line, and  $\approx$ 0.2m of greyish-orange silty-sand subsoil. This is believed to

## News from ULAS - concluded

be the east-west Roman street running between *Insulae* IV and X which was also found on Vine Street. The line of the street was extensively truncated by pits, including one substantial feature which may have been dug to quarry out the street gravel. At the east end of the trench was an indistinct T-shaped gully or beam-slot. Other trenches revealed evidence of Roman buildings some with surviving masonry while others had been robbed and some had been truncated by medieval and post-medieval pits.

Unfortunately it was not possible to excavate all of the trenches on the Highcross Street frontage where there was very high potential for late Saxon/medieval activity – but walls of the medieval St John's Hospital were located, a building established in the 12th century with its own church and graveyard. This later became the wool hall before being demolished in the 18th century. In the records, there is a mention of an executed criminal being laid to rest in the graveyard only to come to life again!

### **Leicester, Market Place, (Neil Finn)**

An Historic Building Assessment of the rare survival of timber framing forming part of the property at number 40 Market Place, Leicester was undertaken. The timber framing visible from the Silver Arcade is the external face of part of the side wall frame of a jettied, two-storey building and a second timber-framed element forming part of a separate but related structure. The two sections of timber-framing are fragments of two separate structures originally associated with the neighbouring property at 38 Market Place. Construction of the jettied structure may be broadly dated to between the later 15th and mid 16th century, whilst the second structure is probably slightly later, in the 16th century.



### **Lount, Nottingham Road (Tim Higgins, Andy Hyam)**

Following further building monitoring of the former Coleorton Pottery during its demolition, five kiln bases have been revealed dating perhaps to between 1835 and 1930. The earliest kilns appear to be two separated by a workshop at the north end of the site which may be as early as 1835.

Of note are three unusual early 20th century down-draught kilns at the south end of the site. These are 'beehive' type kilns and excavated examples are usually used to fire bricks, although no evidence for this has been found yet. However the company does appear to have secured a contract for electricity insulators at about the time the kilns were in use and these have been found on site.

The earliest reference to the pottery is in the 1841 census which lists Thomas Wilson, John Wilson and George Proudman as pot makers, suggesting that the pottery was already a going concern by this time, while by 1842 the pottery is listed as the Wilson & Proudman Pottery.

In the 1881 census William Wilson, probably an heir of either Thomas or John Wilson, is listed as an earthenware master, employing '17 men, 11 young women and 3 boys at the Potworks, Cole Orton'.

The census returns suggests that the pottery was at its peak between 1851 and 1881, and lists brickmakers and pipemakers as well as pot makers indicating diversity and overlapping trades within the pottery. At the moment it is not possible to confirm the exact period during which decorative wares were produced at the pottery or indeed which were produced, although one source describes the production of yellow-glazed wares.

# News from the Library

Aubrey Stevenson (Hon Librarian)

## ACQUISITIONS

### Books and Pamphlets

ANDREWS, W. ed

**Bygone Leicestershire.** 1892. Surprisingly, this book has not been in the Library; this copy has been donated to the Society by Capt. J. Canner of Hillcrest, Natal, South Africa. It was originally owned by Florence Canner who was born in Leicester in 1870 and died in Frisby on the Wreake in 1957.

BILNEY, K.

**St. Peter's church, Leire.** 2000. (reprinted from Brief History of Leire ). Kindly donated by Mrs. C. Cambers following my request for local church guides.

BURBAGE HERITAGE GROUP

**Burbage heritage trail.** 2009.

CENTRE FOR INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE

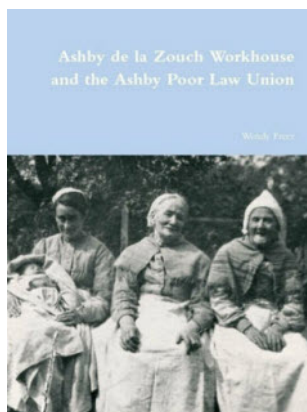
**Karman: history of South Asian dance in Leicester and Leicestershire.** 2012. (jointly compiled by Cynthia Brown, LAHS)

COUNTESTHORPE AND FOSTON HERITAGE GROUP

**Countesthorpe: the old village – a heritage trail.** 2012.

FREER, W.

**Ashby de la Zouch Workhouse and the Ashby Poor Law Union.** 2012.



GELLING, M.

**The place-names of Shropshire. Pt. 6: the hundreds of Brimstree and Bradford South.** 2012.

GREAT BOWDEN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

**Furlong and furrow: A 14<sup>th</sup> century survey of the open fields of Great Bowden.** 2011. (foreword by Michael Wood, LAHS President ).

GRIFFITHS, P.

**A church on Jarrom Street: 150 years of St. Andrew's church, Leicester.** 2012. Kairos Press, £4.50. 9781871344325.

HICKMAN, T.

**Stilton cheese: a history.** 2012.



HUSBANDS BOSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Historic village trail and canal towpath walk.** [2012]. This pamphlet includes an acknowledgement to the LAHS Research Fund.

HUTTON, B. & BRIGHTMER, I.

**Staunton Harold: houses and people in a Leicestershire parish.** 2012.

**Kibworth guide book: three walks around historic Kibworth and Smeeton Westerby.** [2012].

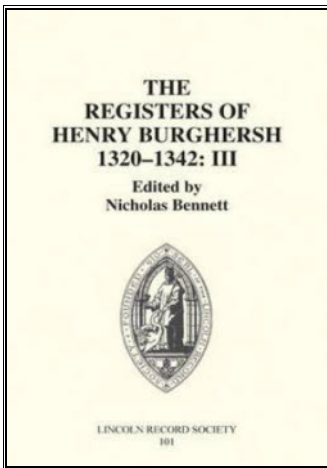
# News from the Library (Continued)

**Leicester's historic churchyards.** 2011.  
(published by Leicester City Council Parks Services)

NEWMAN, A., HUGHES, D. & PEACOCK, D.  
**Freemasonry in Leicestershire and Rutland:  
the "Other" orders and degrees.** 2012.

PEACOCK, D.  
**Short history of the parish church of St. Catherine, Burbage.** 2010.

**Registers of Henry Burghersh 1320 – 1342. Vol. 3.** 2011. (Lincoln Record Society 101 ). There are numerous Leicestershire references in the index.



SATO, K. ed. Mr.Sarup Singh, M.B.E., and Mrs. Gurmit Kaur: **life stories of a Sikh artist and his wife.** 2012. Mr. Singh has been a Leicester resident since 1959.

SPAB. **Annual review** 2011.

TEDD, M.  
**Naming in Anstey 1850 – 1950: a mirror of social structure.** 2012.

WRIGHT, R.  
**Memories of a Bowden boy: a collection of memories of Great Bowden, its people and village life during the nineteen twenties and thirties.** 2006.

The following have been kindly donated by Mr. T. Cocks, Hon. Archivist of Leicester Cathedral:

COCKS, T.  
**A cathedral for Leicester: how Leicester got its cathedral.** 2001.

HUMPHREY, W.  
**Henry Fearon: a maker of modern Loughborough.** 1985 (2004 reprint).  
McEVOY, J.  
**A history of Our Lady of Victories Church** [Market Harborough]. 2005.

The following pamphlets were all published specially for the LAHS History Fair at Beaumanor Hall earlier this year, published by the extremely hard-working Caroline Wessel, not the Society:

CARLING, K.  
**The personal recollections of a civilian radio officer at Beaumanor 1945 – 1970.**

WESSEL, C.  
**The Beaumanor armorial window: a Herrick pedigree.**

WESSEL, C.  
**A Herricks & Beaumanor picture book.**

WESSEL, C.  
**Medieval heraldic stained glass (1450) in the church of St. Mary-in-the-Elms, Woodhouse.**

WESSEL, C. **Proud owners of Beaumanor 1086 – 1974.**

WESSEL, C.  
**Robert Herrick 1591 – 1674: poet and cousin of the Herricks of Beaumanor.**

One of the local societies exhibiting at the History Fair was the Mowsley Heritage Society. Two of its publications were thoughtfully donated to the Library by Mr. J. Lacey, to whom we are grateful:

LACEY, J.  
**St. Nicholas: the parish church of Mowsley.** 2008.

WOOTTON, J. & LACEY, J.  
**Mowsley: a Leicestershire village.** [c.2001].

# News from the Library (Continued)

## Periodicals

Issues continue to arrive regularly to join the frequently lengthy files of titles covering the Society's fields of interest. Much material is published in these journals that is unavailable elsewhere. Do not neglect them in your research. Some articles of particular local interest are mentioned below:

**Ancient Monuments Society Transactions 56 2012** includes: Vernacular stone architectural details of the Cotswolds and the Stamford region compared (incl. part of Rutland).

## Antiquaries Journals

**Archaeologia Cantiana:** being contributions to the history and archaeology of Kent CXXXII 2012 incl. Elizabethan and Jacobean deer parks in Kent.

**Architectural History 54 2011** including an article on the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, a building doubtless known to many members.

**Ashby-de-la-Zouch Past and Present 11 2009,** 12 2010, 14 2012. 13 is already in stock and so there is now a complete file in the Library. 11 has Ashby's Great War Memorial; Packington village; Coalville childhood. 12 has Crocker collection (re. Coleorton/ Beaumont family); Ashby Dramatic Society; 'The Honourable Mrs. Shirley'. 14 has A regular on the Western Front in 1915; Courts and yards of Ashby.

**British Archaeology 123** Mar./Apr. 2012 has a brief mention of the Hallaton Helmet

**Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings 2011** includes. Archaeological excavations at 'The Walnuts', Oundle Road, Woodston, Peterborough. (work by ULAS)

## Conservation Update (CBA)

**Cornerstone (SPAB) 33.1 2012** has an extensive article on a mud cottage at Blaston. Recent issues

have advertisements to tender for conservation works in the churches of Ab Kettleby, Appleby Magna, Kirby Bellars, Shackerstone, Wartnaby.

## Derbyshire Archaeological Journal

### Essex Society for Archaeology and History Transactions

**Harborough Historian 28 2011** This 60 page illustrated journal has articles on Nevill Holt Hall; Bible verses on the Old Grammar School; Pre-Reformation wall paintings in Leicestershire and Rutland churches; John Hull the first American minter.

LAHS congratulates the Market Harborough Historical Society on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first meeting in November 1931.

**Historical Research 85.227 2/2012** includes Below stairs at Arbury Hall..(which is close to our county boundary with Warwickshire in Chilvers Cotton.)

### Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Transactions 85 2011

### Leicestershire Historian 47 2011

### Leicestershire Industrial History Society Newsletter

**Medieval Archaeology 55 2011** includes St. Mary's Guildhall, Boston, Lincs.; the archaeology of a medieval "public" building, by Kate Giles. (subject of a lecture to LAHS. in November 2011).

## Research News (English Heritage)

**The Searcher:** the journal of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland 2 2011 Art and Architecture. Articles cover artists John Flower, Benjamin Marshall, John Ferneley, F.F. Palmer, architects Frank Seale, Arthur Hind, Albert Herbert, Shirley Harrison, Leicester School of Art, Leicester Kyrle Society, De Montfort University Archive.

**Shropshire History and Archaeology 84 2009 and 85 2010** (both published 2011). 84 including Shropshire ice houses gazetteer, by Bob Jarrett, one-time Collections Officer at Leicester City Museums.

# News from the Library (Concluded)

**Tilton & District History Group Journal. 1 2004, 4 2008.** There is now a complete file to date in the Library. 4 includes History of Lowesby and Lowesby Hall; Pottery in Lowesby; Sauvey Castle.

## A Cancellation

Our sister Society in Staffordshire with whom we have had an exchange arrangement for Transactions for many years has brought this to an end. As its publications (Lichfield and South Staffs./ S. Staffs./ Staffs. Archaeology and Historical Society Transactions 1959 – 2009) have received hardly any use here they have been withdrawn from the Library to slightly ease the enormous space ( or lack of it ) problem at the Guildhall.

## Newsletters

Current copies only of various Newsletters (i.e. not substantial journals ) and Annual Reports are displayed on the Library table:

English Place-Name Society  
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)  
Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain  
Victorian Society Leicester Group  
Worcestershire Recorder

The Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter, Summer 2012, reports that Hallaton Museum has received a grant of £39,700 to re-site the Museum into the local tin tabernacle gifted to the village in 1895 by Canon Chetwynd-Stapleton. There is also a notice

that copies of 'History of Caldecote' by Prof. Chris Dyer (member of LAHS Committee) are being sold for the benefit of church funds for £3.50 from Caldecote Church Friends, c/o 4 Meadow Cottages, Caldecote, Baldock, Herts., SG5 5LE. Caldecote is described as being 'particularly important as a deserted medieval village'.

## For the specialist

'English Ironwork of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries' by J. Starkie Gardner was first published in 1911 and is an invaluable reference book. In its contents is 'The Midland Counties'. It has 512 pages with 240 illustrations and in February this year it was republished by Donhead Publishing of Dorset at £60 plus £11 carriage. ISBN 978 1 873394 96 0. [www.donhead.com](http://www.donhead.com). It will not be purchased for the Library.

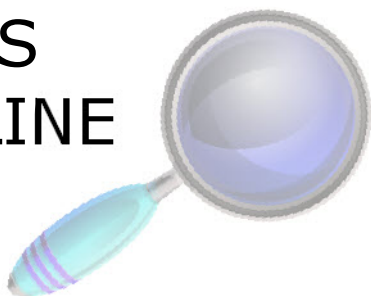
## Library Closures

I regret that the Library will not be open on Sunday 2 September, as it will be my Ruby Wedding Anniversary, and my wife and I will be away.

The final opening day of 2012 will be Sunday 18 November before the Guildhall closes as usual during December and January.

**Aubrey Stevenson**  
Hon. Librarian

**LAHS  
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# A New map of Leicestershire appears, fifty years too late

Rob Wheeler asks whether a recently-published map from the 1960s accords with historical fact

**Half an inch to the mile is not a scale that many associate with the Ordnance Survey. Nevertheless, in the 1950s the OS did have a plan to produce a half-inch series covering the whole of Great Britain.**

In the event, only a handful of sheets were produced. A *Leicester* sheet, conveniently covering the whole county, was taken as far as colour proofs in 1960 but was never actually published. The Charles Close Society has now published it..

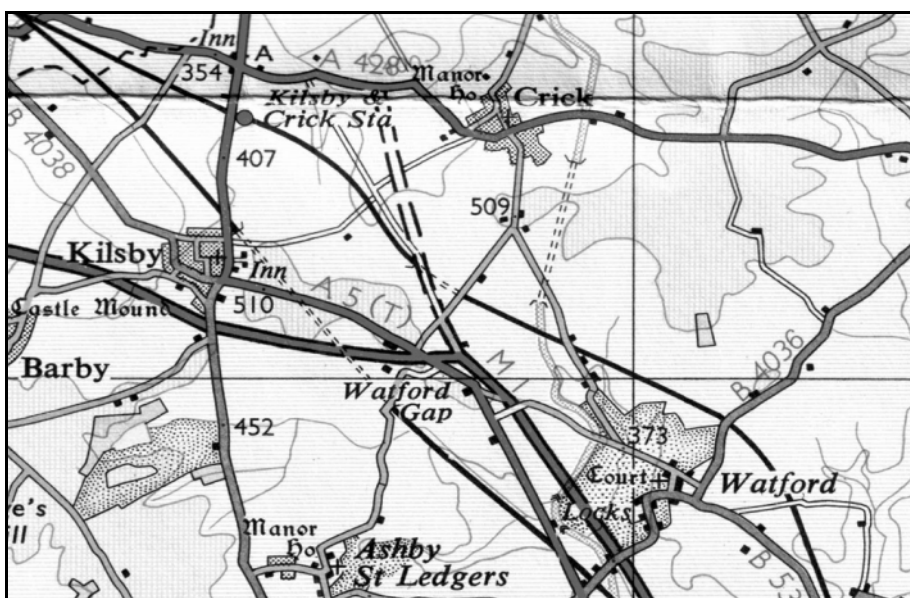
The OS regarded the half-inch as a derivative series which would not require any survey work beyond that which had been done for the one-inch maps. So in principle this map should not show anything one could not see by looking at the latest one-inch sheets.

In practice, because information on dual carriageways had been *collected* for one-inch survey but not *shown* hitherto, this is the first OS map to show the lengths of dual carriageway on the A46 Six Hills road. More critically, it was felt impossible to omit the new M1, opened in November 1959, but policy did not allow a surveyor to be sent out for the

sake of a half-inch map. Consequently, the motorway was inserted on the basis of the contract specification.

Unfortunately, after the contract had been let in 1955, it was decided to extend the M1 another two miles, from its junction with the M45 to the present Crick junction with the A428. It can be seen from the extract below that the OS marks these two miles as still a 'Motorway under construction'. Careful inspection shows the M45 to cross the A5 on the level rather than passing underneath it as it actually does: presumably that had been the point at which in 1955 it had been intended that traffic from the Leicester direction should join the new motorway.

So we have the odd situation that both Shell and BP could issue accurate strip-maps of the new motorway in time for its opening (images at [www.ianbyrne.free-online.co.uk/special/m1-maps.htm](http://www.ianbyrne.free-online.co.uk/special/m1-maps.htm)) but the country's official mapping agency was getting it wrong almost a year later. Perhaps that was one reason the map was never published.



The Charles Close Society, named after Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, Director General of Ordnance Survey from 1911 to 1922, offers a range of books and historic maps. Their website is at [www.charlesclosesociety.org](http://www.charlesclosesociety.org)

# John Theodore Kenney

Continuing this Newsletter's occasional series on the topographical artists of Leicester, Stephen Butt presents a brief portrait of the artist who created many of the familiar images of his childhood

**John Theodore Eardley Kenney was the man who brought the character of Thomas the Tank Engine to life, following in the wake of another graduate of the Leicester College of Art, Clarence Reginald Dalby**

Kenney was born in 1911. He studied at the Leicester College of Art which at that time was based in the Hawthorn Building in the Newarke.

After his graduation, Kenney joined J.E.Slater, the Leicester firm of commercial artists for whom he worked for over forty years. It was at Slaters that he met his future wife, Peggy.

The Second World War disrupted Kenney's work, and he was called up. He served with the 44th Searchlight Regiment and the 121st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He landed in Normandy on D-Day and, although he was not an official war artist, he recorded the scenes that he witnessed in a series of impromptu black and white drawings. As his regiment moved across Europe with the Allied Forces, he continued to create a visual record of the events as he saw them.

Returning to Leicester, he resumed his work with his former employer, but after less than five years, working as a commercial artist, he resigned to concentrate on his painting, particularly of sporting scenes. His declining health was, it seems, another factor in his decision to work for himself.



His first freelance projects included the illustrations for two self-written books, *The Grey Pony* in 1954 and *The Shetland Pony* in 1955.

It was as a sporting artist that Kenney principally made a living and gained his reputation in the post-war years. The hunting landscape of Leicestershire was an inspiration for his vivid and energetic scenes. As a mature artist he preferred to sketch directly at, for instance, a hunt and then transpose those sketches to oils on canvas. His preferred canvas size was two feet by three feet, but he was also able to adapt with ease to the small scale and constraints of book illustration demanded by Ladybird Books and Thomas the Tank Engine.

Kenney's animal studies led him to assume the role of mentor to the equestrian artist Neil Cawthorne. Cawthorne was born in Leicestershire in 1936, and began painting seriously in the late 1950s. Kenney provided guidance to Cawthorne during the first four years of his artistic career.

Kenney's freelance status came to the attention of the Revd W. Awdry, author of *Thomas the Tank Engine*, who was seeking a replacement for Clarence



Dalby. Although Dalby's pictures, which were bold, lively and colourful, undoubtedly set the tone for the Thomas series, Awdry had become increasingly concerned by the problems caused by his lack of attention to detail.

Employing John Kenney as his replacement has, in retrospect, been regarded as a fortuitous move by Awdry. 'We got on splendidly', Wilbert Awdry recalled. 'John Kenney was as different from Dalby as chalk from cheese. He was interested in the work and used to go down to his station and draw railway engines from life.'

The steam engines which Kenney painted were longer, larger and less like the 'toy trains' of Dalby's pictures. His human characters became *real* people: pushing barrows, leaning on shovels, running along station platforms; and the scenery recalled the airy, relaxed country scenes that featured frequently on 1950s railway posters.

Kenney brought a much-needed lightness of touch and a naturalism that had been previously lacking. In the first book he illustrated, *The Eight Famous Engines*, which was the twelfth in the Thomas series, Kenney's acclaimed draftsmanship and his attention to detail are already obvious.

He also introduced new characters including Donald and Douglas (the Scottish Twins), Daisy, Diesel and Duncan. Kenney's last illustrations in the Railway Series were for the 1962 publication of *Gallant Old Engine*, but by that time his eyesight was failing and he was unable to handle the fine details required.

Edmund Ward, Awdry's Leicester-based publisher, also commissioned him to illustrate a series called *Hunter Hawk*, and *Skyway Detective*.

Kenney illustrated no less than 31 books for Ladybird Books of Loughborough at the commencement of what is now regarded as that publisher's 'Golden Age'. These included a series on important British historical figures including Charles Dickens, Admiral Nelson, Captain Scott, Oliver Cromwell, Florence Nightingale and Queen Elizabeth I.

He also illustrated one of the best-loved fiction books, *Tootles the Taxi* and the early Robin Hood series, *The Ambush* and *The Silver Arrow*, and provided the artwork for a 1956 book of motor vehicle characters which had a strong artistic and thematic affinity with the Awdry books.

Sadly, ill-health was a constant limiting factor in Kenney's artistic career. It was his health that forced him to stand down as Awdry's key artist. His eye sight began to fail and in 1968 he lost the sight of one eye. He died in 1972 at the age of 61.



# Creating our digital heritage

Dr Douglas Cawthorne outlines the latest activities of the ground-breaking Digital Building Heritage Project at De Montfort University

Spring and summer have been busier than ever for the Digital Building Heritage group at De Montfort University.

May saw the Digital Building Heritage Group (DBH) group host the hugely popular 2012 Digital Building Heritage conference and open day.

This was sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under their Connected Communities—Research for Community Heritage programme.



Held in De Montfort University's Hugh Aston building a range of speakers including representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) gave fascinating presentations during the day, the gloriously sunny weather allowed luncheon to be taken in the courtyard and there was an exhibition of digital technology for community heritage applications in the foyer.

In early July DBH group member Nick Higgett launched DMU's Virtual Roman Leicester Mark II version at the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester. This is a revised version of the real-time, interactive digital 3D recreation of the roman town of *Ratae Corieltavorum* from the year 210AD which was first shown at the opening of the Phoenix Square digital media centre in November 2009. Nick is currently working on a number of heritage apps for mobile devices, an increasingly important area of the group's work..

Dr. Douglas Cawthorne completed work for BBC East Midlands on a 3D digital reconstruction of a 'lost' design of 1693 by Sir Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor for the TV series *Great British Story*. With a demanding turnaround time of eight weeks from inception to delivery, as with so much

of the groups work, this was not simply a 3D modelling exercise.

Considerable analysis and background research had to be undertaken to fill in the gaps in Hawksmoor's drawings and understand the complex proportioning system he had used. An innovative design for a suspended first floor structure was discovered as were links to ancient precedents in the ground plan and section which showed that this design was intended as a 'temple' of learning.

The original drawings were photographed at very high resolution for the very first time specifically for this project by the staff at the Codrington Library at All Soul's College Oxford where the drawings have lain for the past three hundred years. These digital images formed the basis of this highly detailed 3D reconstruction and revealed previously unrecorded dimensional data.

The model and its animations were exhibited for the first time at the BBC's Great British Story event at the Sir John Moore School in Appleby Magna on Sunday 8 July and were used to explain how this

# Digital Building Heritage (concluded)



very advanced design was created and eventually abandoned by the builder in a twisting story of provincial intrigue and corruption which reflected major changes in philosophy and allegiance at the end of the seventeenth century.

August saw the Digital Building Heritage group attend the launch of Leicester City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby's 'Connecting Leicester' initiative to use key historic buildings within the city of Leicester as focal points for improving the connections between shopping, leisure, heritage, housing and transport facilities. The launch of Connecting Leicester marks a significant opportunity for public engagement with historic buildings as functioning parts of a living city

and De Montfort's campus lies at the heart of this historic area. In fact the campus and the fifteenth century magazine gateway form the backdrop to Sir Peter's on-line introduction to this welcome new initiative.

Finally the DBH welcomes a new PhD Student to our postgraduates, Mr. Assem Al Bunni who will be researching issues surrounding the use of digital technologies for heritage interpretation. Assem comes to De Montfort University with considerable experience of architectural heritage and conservation work in the Middle East.



For contacts details and the latest news on the Digital Building heritage Group at De Montfort University go to:

<http://digitalbuildingheritage.our.dmu.ac.uk/>

For an on-line copy of the presentations go to:

<http://digitalbuildingheritage.our.dmu.ac.uk/conference-open-day/>

For Sir Peter Soulsby's Connecting Leicester presentation please see:

<http://citymayor.leicester.gov.uk/welcome/connecting-leicester/>

# All the fun of the Beaumanor Fair

On the last Sunday in March, the LAHS staged its 2012 History Fair at Beaumanor Hall. Over 1000 visitors attended the event, networking with more than fifty local societies



**It was a remarkable day. The Society had organised similar fairs in the past, the last being at the Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna, but Beaumanor exceeded all our expectations.**

Planning began before Christmas, and discussions with the Hall's management team suggested that a maximum of fifty stalls could be accommodated. By January 2012, well over that number had already signed up, and our strategy was revised.

It was the first day of British Summer Time, which meant that each member of the organising team, had to rise one hour earlier than expected! But the impressive eighteenth century facade of Beaumanor Hall welcomed us, positively glowing in the early morning sunshine.



The event included not only the displays and stalls set up by so many of the history and heritage groups and organisations in Leicestershire (including village societies and university departments), but also a programme of short talks, all based on Beaumanor and the surrounding area.

These became over-subscribed with a matter of an hour, and your officers worked hard to arrange additional talks later in the day.

Visitors were also able to arrive at Beaumanor using the transport of the past: a steam train from Loughborough or Leicester North on the Great Central Railway and a vintage bus connection from Quorn and Woodhouse Station to the hall. The Society has expressed its grateful thanks to both the GCR and the Leicester Transport Heritage Trust for their tremendous support in conveying many hundreds of passengers to us over the day.



The Society's officers were delighted (if not overwhelmed) by the support of the public, and for the assistance of so many other organisations and history and heritage groups. Above all, your officers wish to express their gratitude and thanks to Caroline Wessel for her amazing management of the entire project and her hard work which brought about a truly successful event.

# John Stewart Wachter 1927-2012: A Personal Recollection

Neil Holbrooke, Chief Executive, Cotswold Archaeology

**John Wachter died on 26 February 2012 aged 84. He was one of the foremost archaeologists of the post-War era and a prolific excavator.**

John's expertise in investigating Romano-British sites is well known, and his first hand experience of the intricacies of excavated evidence, and the dynamic process of interpreting mute data, informed much of his wider thinking. This influence is clearly discernable throughout the book for which he is most widely known, *The Towns of Roman Britain* published in 1975, as is a logical deductive approach which springs from his initial training as a scientist.

John Wachter was born in Canterbury, and took part in excavations in the city as a schoolboy. Following national service he took a degree in chemistry and then worked as an industrial chemist. During this time he maintained an interest in archaeology, and in his spare time dug both in Canterbury and St Albans. John then made the risky leap away from a steady job to become a freelance excavator employed on contracts by the Ministry of Works.

His first contact with the archaeology of Leicestershire may have been his work on the Iron Age hillfort at Breedon Hill in 1957, but his best known project in the county was the excavation of a Roman town house at Blue Boar Lane in Leicester the following year.

Here he recovered a large quantity of painted wall plaster, painstakingly recovered and subsequently reassembled in the Jewry Wall Museum. John's links with Leicester became established when he was appointed to an assistant lectureship in British archaeology at the University in 1960, and there John remained until he took early retirement in 1987. Alan McWhirr recalled John arriving for the interview in the full outfit of a city gent complete with bowler hat and umbrella!

John moved to Cornwall following retirement and my first real contact with him came as he was preparing to update his *Towns of Roman Britain* (second edition published in 1995). John was undertaking a tour to find out what new discoveries had



John Wachter excavating at Cirencester in 1961. Also in the picture are Ros Dunnett and Mark Hassall

been made in the major towns of Roman Britain since the first edition, and I remember an enjoyable afternoon in my cramped office in Cirencester where I tried to recount as best as I could what new discoveries had been made recently.

This was a tough assignment as I had only just moved to Cirencester and I felt somewhat intimidated by a visitation from such an eminent archaeologist, and also my own palpable ignorance. I need not have worried – John was very understanding and good fun, and perhaps detected that I had a real interest in the Roman town, even if my knowledge at that time was pretty sketchy. We stayed in touch after that, and more regularly when I was successful in 1994 in obtaining a grant to write up a number of John's unpublished excavations in Cirencester. John had been appointed as Director of Excavations by the Cirencester Excavation Committee in 1960, a position he held until 1965. During this time he directed a number of important and influential excavations on the forum and basilica, shops, houses and amphitheatre.

During these five years a quantum shift occurred in our knowledge of the Roman town. Through lack of finance these excavations remained largely unpublished and my job was to try and finally achieve this with what could be best described as a highly challenging budget. Writing up other people's digs can be a difficult and thankless task. Original excavators can take offence if the new writer fails to agree with their original interpretation, or (has occurred on a number of occasions) is critical of the way the site was investigated without having any sympathy for the difficulties and limited resources available at the time.

I set out on the writing up trying hard to do justice to the evidence, but also to the excavators. The notebooks kept by the supervisors working for John were almost invariably of good quality, and are a testament to the way he organised his digs (I sensed something of a Wheeler-esque military-inspired regime). On those occasions when the evidence, when fully analysed, couldn't support some of John's earlier theories I said so, but was also at pains to present his views. We quickly developed a good working relationship – I would produce a first draft and send it down to John. He would then comment on it, replies often coming by return of post with long

notes in the margins. He displayed a remarkable memory, recalling details of features in individual trenches and his thoughts upon them. I think he enjoyed correcting my often appalling grammar as well.

We both appreciated what the other was doing, and our work resulted in my edited publication in 1998 of *Cirencester: the Roman Town Defences, Public Buildings and Shops*. This is the work of which I am most proud, and it owed a lot to the cooperation of John and another Leicester stalwart and good friend Alan McWhirr.

John was good company – he liked a drink and a chat. I recall one summer lunchtime when he insisted we visit his local in Cornwall. Normally I would have been delighted, but I had had a particularly heavy night the evening before, and was feeling somewhat green about the gills. There was no stopping him, however, and it is fair to say that an hour or so later I felt quite a lot better! It was on that day that I also discovered John's interest in butterflies, and typical of the man, he told me with pride how he was going to co-author an atlas of Cornish butterflies (published in 2003).

Field archaeology has changed out of all recognition since John practiced it. Indeed he played a part in the path towards a professional discipline as a founding member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists in 1982, although latterly he had little truck with it. Modern excavations are described and reported on in ever increasing detail, which can make them something of a dry read (to put it mildly).

There can also be a reticence to interpret and make a story out of the findings, often on the grounds of insufficient evidence. John never felt such tentativeness, and was always looking for what the evidence in the ground could tell us about Roman Britain and the Roman world more generally. That was his great skill, and if his work is now the subject of revisionism then so be it. It surely cannot be long before a book is published entitled 'Romano-British Towns After Wachter' – and even if that overturns a number of his theories it will still be a testament to the influence that he exerted on Romano-British archaeology in the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

**Neil Holbrook**  
(with thanks to Geoff Dannell for information supplied)



# William Burton's Notebook

Last year the LAHS responded to an appeal for funding to restore a portrait of William Burton. Now that conservation work has been completed, Dr Pam Fisher writes about Burton's notebook and its place in Leicestershire's History

William Burton was Leicestershire's first county historian, but his *Description of Leicestershire*, published in 1622, is not as well known today as the monumental *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* published by John Nichols between 1795 and 1815.

To the general reader wanting to know more about the place where they live, Burton's concentration on the pedigrees of the lords of each manor is of little interest. Yet Burton's *Description* was a remarkable work for its time. His questioning attitude, honed by his training as a lawyer and coupled with his determination to support his statements by clear evidence from primary sources, set new standards in a genre that was becoming increasingly fashionable.

For many years a volume containing Burton's handwritten notes, taken from original documents and used by him to compile his history, has rested largely forgotten in the Bodleian library. It was bequeathed to them by antiquarian Richard Rawlinson in 1755; how it came to be in Rawlinson's hands is not known.

The book comprises 231 handwritten folios, and four centuries later it remains an important source of information as well as a finding aid for the history of the county's towns and villages. The first 63 folios contain information about the whole of the county, including two different transcriptions of the Leicestershire Hundred Rolls of 1279 for Guthlaxton, Sparkenhoe and Gartree hundreds.

Historians believe that the original rolls were condensed into a shorter version in around 1290, but whether Burton saw the original 13th century documents or later copies and summaries is not known. Burton ends one of these transcripts with the words 'Finis. Lapworth', and Sandra Raban in her study of



The newly restored portrait of William Burton, owned by the Society of Antiquaries. This portrait was presented to the Society of Antiquaries in 1837. It is unique in being the only surviving contemporary panel portrait of a pioneer of English antiquarianism. It shows Burton at the age of twenty-nine years and is the earliest surviving likeness of him. (Photo Credit: Collections of Society of Antiquaries of London)

the Hundred Rolls<sup>1</sup> has suggested that this may indicate that one of the documents he was using was in the possession of physician Edward Lapworth, who is known to have held other original medieval records. The word 'Finis' clearly misled John Nichols, who included a transcript of the Rolls in volume I of his *History*, which acknowledges Burton's notebook as his source, but stops at this point. Nichols failed to notice that this was simply the end of one document. Burton's transcription of

1. S. Raban, *A Second Domesday? The Hundred Rolls of 1279-80* (Oxford, 2004)

## William Burton's Notebook (continued)

the remaining part of the Hundred Rolls follows five intervening folios giving details of Leicestershire justices of the peace, sheriffs, knights and gentlemen in the 13th and 14th centuries. The longer version of the Hundred Rolls for Gartree then follows, which includes entries for 47 places omitted from the first list as well as additional information for other villages in that hundred.

The 166 folios which follow the county-wide information contain abstracts from documents in the public records, arranged on a parish by parish basis from Ab Kettleby to Peckleton. Unfortunately, no second notebook appears to have survived covering the parishes from Pickwell to Wymondham. The majority of the documents summarised are inquisitions post mortem, taken on the death of

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## William Burton's Notebook (concluded)

A tenant-in-chief and detailing his landholdings. These are vital documents for the history of Leicestershire's manors and estates. While modern calendars now exist, these currently run only to the end of the reign of Henry VII; some of Burton's notes were taken from later documents which have been neither calendared nor even catalogued by the National Archives, effectively putting them beyond the reach of historians.

What else can we learn from Burton's notes? One fascinating snippet from the entry for Groby comes from the will of Thomas Grey, 2nd marquis of Dorset, written in 1530 (which in this case could be read by visiting Kew or paying for a digital image of the document).

In his will, the marquis left his best gelding to king Henry VIII, together with a couple of his best hounds and £100 to buy a saddle; he also left £20 to the future queen consort, Anne Boleyn. The nature of the bequest to the king suggests they might have once hunted together, perhaps at Bradgate.

Burton said that he published his *Description*, 'to give light to the County of Leicester, whose beauty has long been shadowed and obscured'. His determination to produce a history of every place in the county, based on primary sources to ensure accuracy, is shared by Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust, and work is now underway to research and publish histories of the 300 Leicestershire towns and villages that are not yet included in the acclaimed VCH series of volumes.

This is a long-term project involving many volunteers, which will provide local people with free training in research methods and bring Leicestershire's rich history and heritage to the attention of new audiences.

Thanks to a grant from the Society of Antiquaries, Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust has been able to purchase digital images of Burton's notebook, giving us local access to summaries of primary sources, including some that cannot be consulted, and providing us with a useful finding aid for other documents.



On 31 May I was kindly invited to the Society of Antiquaries to present a short paper on Burton's notebook, and had an opportunity to view the newly restored portrait of William Burton which hangs in their meeting room in London.

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and its members contributed towards the restoration of this painting, and it was wonderful to be able to see this early portrait of the county's first historian almost as the original artist had intended him to be seen.

**Dr Pam Fisher**  
Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust  
[pjf7@le.ac.uk](mailto:pjf7@le.ac.uk)