

# Newsletter

Spring 2013  
Number 87

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society



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

**IMPORTANT NEWS**  
for all members  
on centre  
pages

# A new history marks 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vaughan College, Leicester

**LAHS Committee member Cynthia Brown has written a history of Vaughan College, Leicester to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

The College was founded in 1862 by Rev David James Vaughan, Vicar of St Martin's in Leicester, as a Reading Room for his parishioners, and soon developed into a Working Men's College and Institute. Women were also admitted from 1880.

The subjects taught there ranged from basic literacy and arithmetic for those who had little or no formal schooling, to literature, Bible study, history and geography, music, philosophy, and natural history – all offered for many years for just a penny a class. In many cases the tutors were unpaid volunteers, often educated at the College themselves, and it also worked closely with other organisations such as the Workers' Educational Association.

The College placed great emphasis on the pleasures of education for its own sake – 'education tended to make life enjoyable, and led to

'happiness', as one member of its Committee said in 1882 – as well as the wider benefits to Leicester of working class 'self-improvement'. It was always non-denominational, and was open to anyone who wanted to enrol. Over the years it developed a thriving social life with many clubs and societies, among them rambling, chess, folk dancing and the award-winning drama group, the Vaughan Players.

In 1929 the Vaughan Working Men's College became the Extra-mural department of University College Leicester, and then part of the Adult Education Department of the University of Leicester, offering accredited Certificate courses and a part-time degree alongside shorter courses for professional development. It now forms part of the University's Institute of Lifelong Learning.

*A Blessing to the Town: 150 years of Vaughan College, Leicester* is available from the Reception at Vaughan College, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, and from the University of Leicester Bookshop, ISBN 9780901507723, price £10, or £12 by post. It can also be ordered online at <http://shop.le.ac.uk>

## New DVD release from MACE Made in Leicester [www.macearchive.org](http://www.macearchive.org)

**MACE, the Media Archive for Central England, which was formerly based in Leicester, has released the fourth of nine DVDs in a series, Midlands on Film, capturing in different ways the history, people, culture and traditions of the Midlands through moving image.**

The latest addition to the series, *Made in Leicester*, is presented and narrated by Leicester's business and enterprise 'ambassador' Rosemary Conley CBE. It celebrates the legacy of two significant trading areas that have evolved as part of the city's heritage: Manufacturing and Leicester Market.



Leicester had a global reputation for being at the forefront of manufacturing. 'Leicester Clothes the World' was an apt slogan with around one hundred distinct industries from hosiery to boot and shoe making. Engineering also became a major industry in Leicester with well-known brands like the Imperial Typewriter Company based in the city.

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# Richard III and the Grey Friars of Leicester

DAVID BALDWIN

**In his paper ‘King Richard’s Grave in Leicester’ in the Transactions of this Society for 1986, David Baldwin suggested the possible location of the grave, given the information available from known documents and sources.**

**David also looked forward with remarkable perception to the events of Summer 2012.**

**In this exclusive article for the Newsletter, David continues his previous themes.**

The Warwickshire ecclesiastic John Rous has been much criticised for his description of Richard III ‘retained within his mother’s womb for two years and emerging with teeth and hair to his shoulders’, but some of his information has proved to be surprisingly accurate.

He knew that the King’s *right* shoulder was higher than his left (Thomas More, writing a generation later, said the opposite), and that he had been buried ‘in the choir of the Friars Minor at Leicester’.[1]

The excavations undertaken on the site of the Grey friary have confirmed both these statements, but how and why was this particular church chosen as Richard’s final resting place? There were no fewer than sixteen churches and chapels then in use in medieval Leicester, some of them far older and more substantial than that of the friary, and the deceased King could have been buried in any one of them.

Lord Bacon says that Henry VII ‘of his nobleness gave charge unto the friars of Leicester to see an honourable interment given’ to his late adversary, [2] but Henry would have had more pressing matters to consider after Richard’s body had been displayed in public and his death proved beyond doubt.

The Franciscans had established a presence in Leicester by 1230, although this is unlikely to have been at the invitation of Simon de Montfort who did not obtain the lands of the earldom until the following year. A chapel is first mentioned in 1255 and a benefactor gave them an additional dwelling house in 1349, but they were perhaps never numerous. At the Dissolution their property was surrendered by a warden and just six others, and contemporary account records net revenue of only £1. 2s.[3]

There is nothing to suggest that the Leicester Franciscans had reason to be grateful to Richard III personally – he had not, apparently, given them money or land or assisted them in other ways – but they would have undoubtedly recalled an event which had affected their relationship with the Crown at the beginning of the century. Leicester was the most Lancastrian of towns – several prominent members of the dynasty were buried in the Collegiate church in the Newark and in 1426 Henry VI had kept his knightly vigil in St Mary de Castro – but the friars had not always seen eye-to-eye with their royal overlords. In 1402 eight members of the order and a master of divinity still loyal to the deposed Richard II were accused of plotting against his Lancastrian supplanter Henry IV, and were taken to London where they were tried and executed.

**“It is possible (though perhaps now unlikely) that at some time in the twenty-first century an excavator may yet reveal the slight remains of this famous monarch”**

DAVID BALDWIN  
TRANSACTIONS VOL 60, 1986

Two others who had apparently escaped to Lichfield suffered the same fate there, and the remaining brethren were warned not to speak against the King in any way.

It is likely that those who were left were so cowed by the loss of their fellows that they kept their opinions to themselves thereafter; but that is not to say that attitudes changed over time. The blow would be remembered as a defining moment in the history of the Leicester friary, and the prevailing sense of injustice and ill-feeling would be instilled into each new brother who joined the order.



**The statue in bronze of Richard III by James Walter Butler RA was unveiled on 31 July 1980 by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. The statue was commissioned and paid for by members of the Richard III Society.**

“The friars had not always seen eye-to-eye with their royal overlords. In 1402 eight members of the order and a master of divinity still loyal to the deposed Richard II were accused of plotting against his Lancastrian supplanter Henry IV, and were taken to London where they were tried and executed.”

Nearly sixty years would pass before the Yorkist Edward IV seized the throne in the ‘Wars of the Roses’, but there can be little doubt that a later generation of friars believed that Henry VI’s deposition was a direct consequence of his grandfather’s usurpation - a divine sentence vindicating the stance taken by their deceased brethren. The House of York would have had few more committed supporters in the years after 1461, and an alternative scenario is that the friars offered to bury Richard III because they regarded him as *their* king.

The only factors that could be seen to cast doubt on this argument are Bacon’s remark ‘that the religious people themselves [the friars] (being not free from the humours of the vulgar) neglected it [the body]; wherein nevertheless they did not then incur any man’s blame or censure’;<sup>[4]</sup> and the apparently hasty, undignified



### The Facial Reconstruction

Richard III's facial reconstruction, carried out by Caroline Wilkinson from Dundee University, and a comparison with the familiar portrait of the king. A further photograph of the facial reconstruction is reproduced on Page 9 (Photographs courtesy of ULAS)

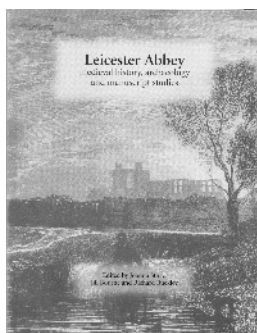
manner of the King's burial, wedged into a grave that was too small for even his slight frame without a coffin.

But Bacon's source, whatever it was, is lost to us, and the friars may have been constrained by lack of money and the need to bury the corpse quickly after it had been exposed for two days in high summer.

Ironically, it was Henry VII who provided the funds for a memorial to his late adversary ten years later in 1495.

### References

1. B.M. MS. Cotton Vesp. A. XII ('Historia Johannis Rossi Warwicensis de Regibus Anglie' ff. 131v-136r. Translated by Alison Hanham in *Richard III and his early historians* (Oxford, 1985), pp. 120-1.
2. Francis Bacon, *The History of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh*, ed. J. Weinberger (1996), p. 27.
3. The little that is known of the history of the friary may be found in *The Victoria County History of Leicestershire*, vol. 2, ed. W.G. Hoskins (London & Oxford, 1954), pp. 33-4.
4. Bacon, *Henry VII*, p. 27.



### Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies

Edited by Joanna Story, Jill Bourne and Richard Buckley, 2006

Produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the Society.

Hard back with dust jacket, 314 pages. Many illustrations, some in colour

ISBN 0 9542388 1 8

Non-members can purchase a copy at £25 (plus £5 post and packing in the UK)

# Greyfriars, Leicester and the Search for the Grave of Richard III

RICHARD BUCKLEY, MATHEW MORRIS, LEON HUNT (ULAS)

**On Monday 4 February, following extensive scientific analysis, the University of Leicester announced that the human remains found in the Greyfriars dig in August/September 2012 were, beyond reasonable doubt, those of Richard III the last Plantagenet King of England.**

The Chairman of the Society's Committee, and lead archaeologist for the project, Richard Buckley, had the honour of imparting this information at the packed press conference. He says: 'the atmosphere was absolutely electric. Over a hundred press representatives were present, ranging from the Melton Times to the Washington Post and it was absolutely amazing to get a cheer at the end!'

The archaeological evidence tells us that Skeleton 1 (his official designation) was buried in the south-west corner of the church choir, just in front of the southern choir stall.

Jill Atherton's excellent reconstructions of the church are based on the archaeological evidence, with red staining on the window fragments recovered suggesting that the east end was possibly built of brick. The grave appears to have been hastily dug and was not quite long enough, leaving Skeleton 1's torso twisted and the head propped up in one corner of the grave. There was no evidence for a coffin, shroud or clothing as might be expected for a high-status burial. This fits with contemporary accounts that Richard III was buried with little pomp or ceremony in the choir of the Friars Minor, Leicester.

The skeleton was in good condition and, apart from the hands and sternum, remained in articulation. The feet were missing, almost certainly as a result of later disturbance; and of course, the evidence for scoliosis, or curvature of the spine, can be plainly seen. An iron object was found beneath two of the vertebrae. Although initial



Skeleton 1, now identified as King Richard III

x-rays of this heavily corroded object suggested the presence of a barb, indicating that it was perhaps an arrowhead, more detailed analysis has now confirmed that it is most likely to be a Roman nail disturbed from earlier levels. The disposition of the arms (right hand over left, placed precariously on the right pelvis) is unusual, raising the possibility that the hands could have been tied at the time of interment, although this is impossible to prove through scientific study as bindings would have decayed and would not leave any trace on the skeleton.

Radiocarbon dating, carried out by the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford, show that Skeleton 1 had a high protein diet, including significant amounts of seafood, meaning that the individual was likely to be high status. Both laboratories produced results in very close agreement and consistent with the contention that the individual *could* have died in 1485. The modelled results from Glasgow placed the date of death between AD 1475 and 1530 whilst those from Oxford suggested a date between 1456 and 1520.



Greyfriars, Leicester - Jill Atherton 31013

## The Osteology

Osteological analysis of Skeleton 1 by Dr Jo Appleby has determined that the individual is male, in his late 20s to late 30s (most likely 30-33), with a gracile or feminine build. He had severe idiopathic adolescent onset scoliosis, occurring for unknown reasons after the age of 10. This may have been progressive, continuing to get worse as he got older. This would have put additional strain on the heart and lungs and may have caused some shortness of breath and pain. Unaffected by scoliosis, the man would have stood around 5ft 8in (1.61m) tall. This would have been above average height for a medieval



Greyfriars, Leicester - Jill Atherton 31013

man. However, his disability would have reduced his apparent height significantly and raised his right shoulder higher than his left. This is entirely consistent with the little we know about Richard III's physical appearance. He was 32 when he died.

Ten wounds have now been identified on the skeleton, of which eight are on the skull, all of which suggest that by the time they were inflicted, Richard was no longer wearing a helmet. A large hole on the back of the skull (1) could only have been caused by a large, very sharp blade wielded with some force, perhaps a halberd or something similar, which took off a slice of bone. An injury like this would have been fatal. Also on the back of the skull, another wound (2), also likely to have been fatal, suggested the penetration of a sword or similar bladed weapon to a depth of 10.5cm.



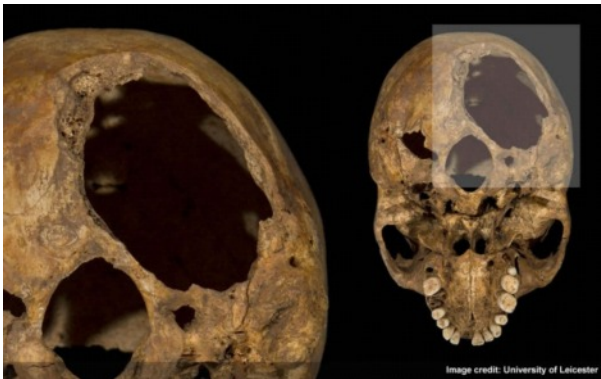
Greyfriars, Leicester - Jill Atherton 31013



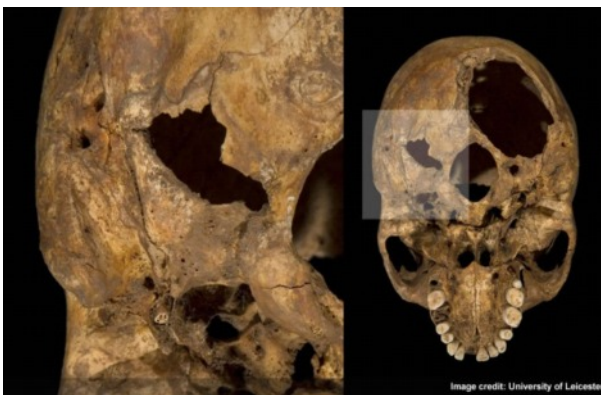
On the top of the skull was evidence for a sharp blow from a pointed weapon on the crown of the head with enough force to split the inside of the skull, leaving two small flaps of bone (3). In addition, there were three non-fatal wounds on the skull, removing thin slices of bone, together with a cut on the lower jaw and a rectangular hole in right cheek, perhaps caused by a dagger or similar implement. Those to the jaw and cheek, plus a cut on the rib and one on the pelvis, may indicate insult injuries inflicted after death, the latter indicating a stab wound to the right buttock.



Wound 3 (Above and below)



Wound 1 (above) and Wound 2 (Below)



### The DNA

Dr Turi King has found a match between mitochondrial DNA from Skeleton 1 and two direct descendants of Richard III's sister Anne of York on the female line.

The genealogical link between the two modern-day descendants, Michael Ibsen and a second person who wishes to remain anonymous, and Richard III has also been verified.



### The Facial Reconstruction

Richard III's facial reconstruction carried out by Caroline Wilkinson from Dundee University:

(A further photograph of the facial reconstruction is reproduced on Page 6)

# New local history website launched

[www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk](http://www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk)

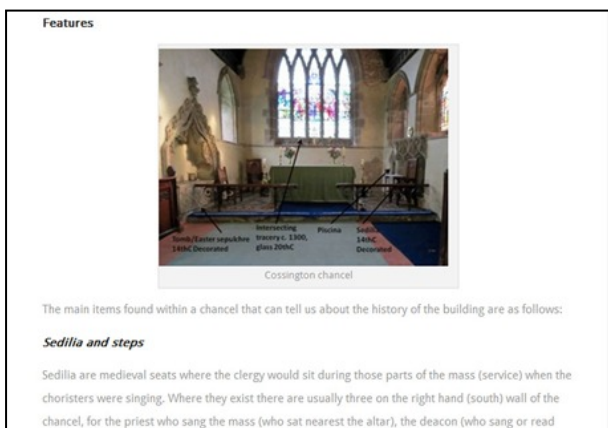
PAM FISHER

A new website has been launched by Leicestershire VCH Trust, containing a series of research guides that will help local historians and VCH volunteers discover more about the history of their parishes.



The first five research guides cover Exploring your parish church (interpreting the building, architecture, fittings and documentary sources), farming and enclosure, 1480-1790, Sources for the history of farms and farming from 1790, the history of your local school and maps before the Ordnance Survey.

Each of these guides leads readers through the sources available, including where they can be found, what they contain and how to interpret them. Photographs of some of the documents will be added shortly.



[www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk](http://www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk)

## Sporting glory for Leire – but who is the man in the blazer?

At the other end of the county, a local cricket competition was set up in 1903 by two public- and sport-minded gentlemen in south-west Leicestershire. Major Hugh Harry Robertson-Aikman was the lord of the manor of Dunton Bassett, a Justice of the Peace, member of the County Council and a retired captain of the Royal Dragoons. Reverend Christopher Rodwell was the rector of Kilmcote and Walton and a rural dean. Together they inaugurated the Lutterworth District Village Cricket Challenge Cup, for teams from smaller villages that did not compete in the South Leicestershire league.



A. G. SORRELL, A. WYANT, C. H. LAWFORD, A. BONEHAM, T. H. WRIGHT, W. WHITTLE, S. A. JOHNSON, L. A. COURT, T. JOHNSON, A. SPRIGGS, C. HODEN, M. WHITTLE, W. N. RICHARDSON.

Leire Cricket Team

## The section on the history of our communities includes information uncovered during VCH research

We are grateful for a donation from the Grocers' Charity, which has enabled us to produce this resource. If you find the information useful, or if you think we have forgotten something, then please let us know through the comments section on the website, or by email to [leicsvch@le.ac.uk](mailto:leicsvch@le.ac.uk).

The website also includes short articles about aspects of Leicestershire's history, including information that has been discovered during the course of research for further Leicestershire volumes in the *Victoria County History* series. There is also a section detailing how you can help this project, as volunteers are currently being sought to collect specific information for us from trade directories, most of which are available online.

Completing the *Victoria County History of Leicestershire* is an ambitious, but long awaited, project. Work on parish histories is progressing well, and we are very grateful for the help and financial support we have received from the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and its members. We now have transcripts of around 100 probate inventories available through the VCH website, and hope to post several parish history sections online during 2013.

# A Certain Hospital For Ever

JILL BOURNE



**This year is the quincentenary anniversary of the founding of William Wyggeston's *domus elemosina* – his almshouse - which became known as *William Wyggeston's Hospital*.**

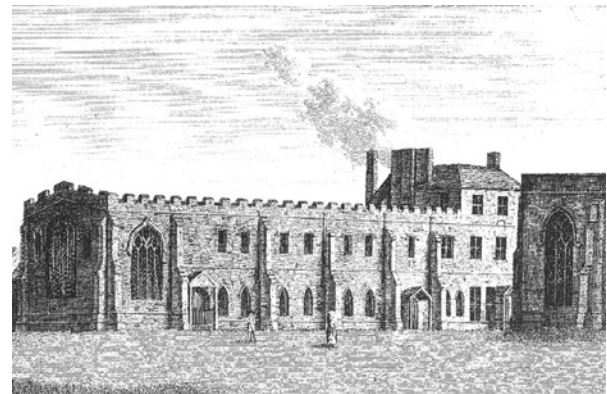
At the time of its founding the term 'hospital' carried a subtly different meaning from today; essentially it meant offering hospitality to a guest and was usually applied to a charitable institution for the old or destitute, or for the needy young and vulnerable.

William Wyggeston (1467-1536) came from a family of prosperous Leicester wool merchants who had arrived in the town in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries as economic migrants from the nearby village of Wigston (Magna). The family thrived through their business of wool merchants becoming over the years the wealthiest family in the town. William was not only the richest member of the family but was perhaps the richest single individual the town has ever bred. He bought wool locally and sold it on, still as raw wool, at markets around the country and on the continent through the Staple port of Calais. William, his father, and his cousin Roger, were all merchants of the Staple with William reputed to have served as mayor of the Staple on four occasions.

The family were also prominent in the governance of the town. William's grandfather, father, and cousin, all served terms as mayor and William in his turn was twice mayor. The men in the family were all members of the Gild Merchant, an ancient institution which regulated the trade in the town and conferred on its members the freedom of the city.

England at this time was a Catholic country and Christianity in all its many manifestations would have been as dominant in the town as any other aspect of daily life and work. The division between the secular and the sacred was intertwined intrinsically, with everyone, at least outwardly professing the same faith. Christianity was the only religion and Roman Catholicism was its

sole manifestation, with the doctrine of salvation by good works being a core belief. William would have had the Roman Catholic mind of his time and at least part of his motivation in establishing his alms house would almost certainly have been to ensure that after his death his journey through purgatory was swift as he went to join his lord in heaven. As a fabulously wealthy man William was in a position to use his money to save his soul but this does not necessarily preclude his being a man of humane conscience who sought to bring comfort to the needy at the end of their days.



**The Hospital from John Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* (1795-1815)**

## The founding of the Hospital

To secure the future of his *domus elemosina* William purchased considerable quantities of land across Leicestershire and neighbouring counties and it is largely these same endowments that underpin the work of Wyggeston's Hospital to this day. The introductory words of the Deed of Endowment of the hospital, drawn up by William himself, indicate a modest, almost humble person. He states that he has established the hospital so that '*the blind, lame, decrepit, paralytic or maimed in their limbs, and idiots wanting the natural senses, that they be peaceable*'.

The land for the hospital was purchased in 1512 from William Grene in the parish of St Martin. The original plot which was 132 feet ran

*They shall make the beddes of the weake, lame and blynde, they shall keepe all their chambers cleane, they and get them dryncke, they shall washe their clothes, make their fires in their kitchyns at due and convenient seasons, light their lampe and keepe it burning at the tyme appointed, they shalle keepe not onlie the kitchyn but also other places to which the poore men and the poore women doe resort swept and cleane from all filthe and from every thinge whiche maye brede any evell or unwholesome aire’.*

### **The Hospital from St Martin’s Churchyard, c1812**

between Friar Lane and land belonging to a Richard Lowth; the land adjacent to it was owned by the Corpus Christi Guild, and there were two more plots towards St Martin’s churchyard. William was now ready to build and in 1518 the almshouse was ready to receive its first ‘inmates’ – twelve poor men and twelve poor women.

The building was in St Martin’s West fronting on to a passage at the west end of the churchyard leading from Peacock Lane to Town Hall Lane. It was a long two storied timber-framed building with a stone parapet and buttresses, all covered in plaster. There was a small gothic chapel at the south end of the building with the master’s house sited at the northern end: this was enlarged in 1730 by the addition of another storey.

The care of the souls of the inmates was considered to be as important as their bodies. To this end the endowment provided for two chaplains – a Master and a Confrater - who were charged to care for the day to day spiritual needs of the inmates and to say masses for their souls whilst living and when dead. The Confrater’s job included daily contact with the inmates to see that they attended services daily at St Martin’s, evening prayers in the Hospital chapel, and to train them in the ‘*learning of godliness, so they shall endeavour themselves to lyve godley*’

There were twelve rooms on the ground floor for the male hospitalers, and a kitchen and a nurse’s room. On the upper floor there were nine rooms for the women, plus a kitchen and the ‘keepers’ rooms. The ‘keepers’ were two of the more able women whose task was to care for the more needy inmates. Their duties were set out in the statutes in some detail:

For these services the keepers received 8d a week, the same as the men, who had no duties at all! The other poor women received 7d a week and two loads of wood and three loads of coal. The allowance for the men was eights loads of wood and three loads of coal! The reason for this discrepancy is not immediately obvious.

The statutes also laid down precise rules about whom the Master could select as residents. To qualify a would-be inmate must not be married or have relatives who could offer support: they must all be ‘*sorely needing help*’. They must be natives of Leicester or a place where the Foundation owned land. No one could be admitted who was suffering from:

*The leprosie, French pocke, the falling sickness, or any other fowle and lothesome disease. They must not be ‘swearers’, ‘cursed speakers’, ‘drunkardes’, ‘haunters of taverns’, ‘stealers’, ‘tale tellers’, ‘brawlers’, ‘quarrel puckers’, ‘common beggers’, carders’, ‘keepers of dogges’, or ‘hawkers within or without the hospital’.*

### **The end of William Wyggeston’s Hospital on the St Martin’s site 1875**

There was an outcry from many quarters when the demolition of the old Hospital was proposed. The members and committee of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society (the forerunner of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society) fought hard to save it even to the extent of attempting to purchase it themselves. This was rejected out of hand with no reason given. The letter reads: ‘*The Governors cannot hold out any expectation of their entertaining an*



**William Wyggeston, The Clocktower, Leicester.**  
(Photograph - Barry Kendall)

*application to purchase the buildings*'. The contents of the Hospital and the valuable building materials of which it was constructed were auctioned and the buildings demolished in a great rush. In an impassioned note in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society* 1875-6 Thomas North wrote:

'We have thus to record the destruction - without as most of us think an adequate reason - one of the very few ancient buildings standing in Leicester; a building which, erected in his [William's] own age, and most probably from designs approved by himself, should have been preserved as a memorial to the munificence and charity of one of Leicester's greatest benefactors. And what will the trustees get in place of the old Hospital - a proposed modern gymnasium, at a considerable cost, and ninety-two pounds!!'

It cannot be denied that William used his extreme wealth to save his own soul but that was the Catholic custom and practice of the time. However, and this is the salient point, he used his great good fortune to give food, comfort and a

roof over their heads to hundreds of poor men and women at the end of what for many of them would have been hard and impoverished lives. And not only were William's gifts free, each of the hospitallers received a pension for life and a decent burial in their own graveyard.

To this day the estates with which William endowed his Hospital still provide revenue from which enable the spirit and the work of 'A certain Hospital for ever' to continue to thrive and grow 500 years later.

### **The Free Grammar School**

Within months of William's death in 1536 his widow Agnes and his brother Thomas, who were the trustees of his estate, began the process of founding the Free Grammar School. This must have been a project that William had been working on already for it to be considered so soon after his death. After this swift start there was a long period of time during which nothing seems to have happened until in 1572 we read of the appointment of the first schoolmaster, John Pott.

The school's first home was the church of St Peter (which stood where John Lewis now stands) which was in an advanced state of decay. By 1572 the lead had been stripped from the roof and all the timbers removed except for the south aisle which is where the school was housed. In 1573 the church was dismantled completely and a new school built in High Cross Street behind the Wyggeston Hospital buildings. Stone and timber was re-used from the church and the school roof constructed from its roof timbers.

With a year the building was ready for the boys to move in to what is regarded as one of the finest and most important ancient buildings in the town. William's name carries on in the *Wyggeston Queen Elizabeth I VIth Form College*. The name of the girl's school has been abandoned and is now known as *Regent College*.

*William Wyggeston and his World* by Jill Bourne can be purchased from most booksellers in the town, the City Information Bureau, Gallowtree Gate, and from all Museum bookshops at £8.95p. Or, at £10.00 (including p&p) directly from:

**The Clerk to the Governors, Wyggeston's Hospital  
Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0UX**

# Membership News

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

**Let me introduce myself as your new Membership Secretary. I have been helping to run the Society's membership database for the last year or so, and was formally elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2012.**

I have worked as an archaeologist in Leicestershire for the last 23 years, and have been a Society member for most of that time. My archaeological interests have mostly been in the prehistoric and also in the County's landscape and how its use has changed. I have developed expertise in various land survey techniques and also in the design and development of databases – and this is where I am of use to the Society.

You may be aware of the deficit between the Society's income and expenditure account in recent years- a deficit of £6,974 for 2012, and £5,621 for 2011. These have been made good by taking money from our capital reserves, the John

Willet bequest. This can only last so long, and therefore we must find other ways to help increase our income and/or decrease our expenditure.

Most of you will have either had formal or verbal reminders of unpaid subscriptions with your copy of Transactions 86. Many thanks to those of you who have now paid your balances and increased your standing orders. If you haven't either increased your standing order to the new rates for the 1<sup>st</sup> May, and paid your balance, **please do both as soon as possible!**

**I have completed Gift Aid declarations for less than one quarter of the membership.** If you are a UK tax payer it would be very beneficial for the Society to have your declaration as this can significantly increase our income from your membership subscription.

Please look at the address label on the envelope your newsletter came in. At the top you will see your membership number and then 'GAD'. If this is followed by a date, then we have a signed Gift Aid declaration from you on that date. If there is no date, we have no signed current declaration from you.

Please complete **all** the membership sections on the form on the following page (if we have no Gift Aid declaration, we most probably have no Data Protection consent form either). Please also include your email address as this means we can communicate if necessary more quickly and more cheaply than by post. If you have access to a scanner, it is quite acceptable to complete the forms, scan, and return to me digitally rather than by post.

If you no longer have your envelope, contact me and I will let you know what paper work I have for your membership.

Looking forward to hearing from you!!

Matthew Beamish  
Hon. Membership Secretary  
mgb3@le.ac.uk

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	£6,264	£7,353
Literature Sales	£3,018	£3,471
Interest	£19	£176
Special Events	£2,457	£0
Investment Income	£602	£594
	<b>£12,360</b>	<b>£11,594</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Publications	£14,183	£13,197
Lecture Expenses	£306	£347
Library	£412	£191
Society Subscriptions	£170	£385
Insurance	£992	£938
Administration	£1,566	£1,500
Rent	£130	£30
Donations	£0	£200
Special Events	£1,575	£427
	<b>£19,334</b>	<b>£17,215</b>
<b>Income - Expenditure</b>	<b>-£6,974</b>	<b>-£5,621</b>
John Willet Bequest	£7,000	£6,000
Surplus	£26	£379
Balance b/forward	£14,308	£13,929
Balance c/forward	£14,334	£14,308

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



President:  
*Michael Wood*

**Membership Form**

**Categories**

- Individual Membership      £20
- Family Membership          £25
- Student Membership         £6

Mr. Matthew Beamish,  
Hon. Membership Secretary,  
LAHS, c/o ULAS,  
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,  
University of Leicester, University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
*Tel 0116 2525234 Email [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk)*

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

Address: .....

.....

.....

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

Email Address.....

*(Only to be used for communicating information with members)*

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

I enclose a cheque/ a completed Standing Order form/ I have made a Standing Order arrangement with my bank *(delete as applicable)*.

*If paying by Standing Order please either make your own arrangement with your bank/building society, or complete and return to the Hon. Mem. Sec. the mandate below.*

**Data Protection Act**

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

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

**Gift Aid Declaration**

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

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

Address: .....

.....

.....

Post Code: .....

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

*Please notify LAHS of any changes in your details, or if you wish to cancel your declaration, or you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

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



President:  
*Michael Wood*

**Standing Order Mandate**

To: .....Bank/Building Society

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

Post Code: .....

***Please pay Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS):***

£..... now, on the 1<sup>st</sup> May next, and annually thereafter, to their bank at:  
(delete as applicable)

Nat West Bank  
Leicester Customer Service Centre,  
11 Western Boulevard,  
Bede Island,  
Leicester. LE2 7EJ

Sort Code 60-60-06 Account Number 87270080

Name (print): .....

Account Name: .....

Sort Code: ..... Account Number: .....

Signature:.....Date:.....

*Please return completed forms (or direct any queries) to:*  
Mr. Matthew Beamish,  
Hon. Membership Secretary,  
LAHS, c/o ULAS,  
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,  
University of Leicester, University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
*Tel 0116 2525234 Email [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk)*



# News from the Society's Library

AUBREY STEVENSON, HON LIBRARIAN

## ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETIES - Reports and Papers

Further to the item in this piece in LAHS NEWSLETTER 84 Autumn 2011 p.4, I should bring to the attention of those who need to know a relevant article:

Papers relating to Leicestershire published in Reports and Papers of the Associated Architectural Societies 1877 – 1931, by Jack Simmons in Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Vol. 28 1952 p.84 – 88. Note that Vol. 28 has long been out of print but is now available online at the Society's website [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs)

## RICHARD III

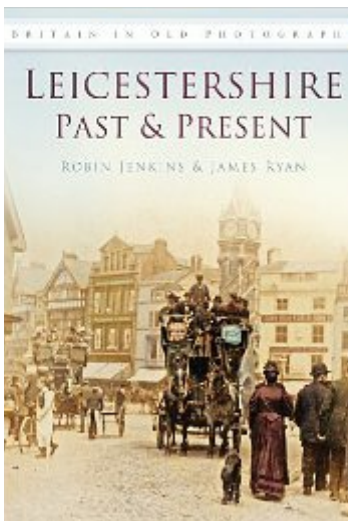
King Richard's grave in Leicester, by David Baldwin was published in Transactions Vol. 60 1986 p. 21 – 24. There are still a few copies available to purchase from the Library at regular opening times at a bargain price of £4.00.

## VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

We are grateful to the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust for a copy of each issue of Leicestershire VCH News published to date and the promise of future copies:

Vol.1 issue 1 Autumn 2010; 1.2 Summer 2011; 1.3 Summer 2012.

To find out more about the Trust's work, see [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/leicestershire](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/leicestershire)



## ACQUISITIONS

### Books and Pamphlets

ARGUILE, R. A church in a landscape: a history of South Creake church. 2011.

BROOKS, J. & THE ROTHLEY HISTORY SOCIETY The changing face of Rothley: the story of steady development from 1780 to 2012. Part 1: From 1780 to the 1930s Part 2: From the 1950s to 2012. 2012. 2v. Attractively and extensively illus. b & w/col. Plans

BROWN, C. A blessing to the town: 150 years of Vaughan College, Leicester. 2012. The author is Reviews Editor of the Leicestershire Historian.. See Page 2 of this Newsletter.

BUTT, S. Leicestershire through time. 2012.

BUTT, S. Melton Mowbray through time. 2012 The author is the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

CHARLEY HERITAGE GROUP World War II in Charley: Charnwood's hidden parish. 2009.

CRAM, L. Harby St. Mary's church an historical guide. 2012.

DAVEY, B & WHEELER, R. eds. The country justice and the case of the Blackamoor's Head: the practice of the law in Lincolnshire 1787 – 1838. 2012. (Lincs. Record Society 102).

DUNHAM, W. Lord Hastings' indentured retainers 1461 – 1483: the lawfulness of livery and retaining under the Yorkists and Tudors. (Trans. of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences 39. Sept. 1955)

We are particularly grateful for the kind donation of this rather fugitive publication.

GODDARD, J. & GARRATT, C. The enchanted village: Newton Harcourt. 2012.

INGRAM, M. Bosworth 1485. 2012

JENKINS, J. The burning question: the struggle for women's suffrage in Leicestershire. [ 2012 ].

JENKINS, R. & RYAN, J. Leicestershire past and present. 2012.

Mr. Jenkins is a member of the Society's Committee.

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY Leicester faith trail. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. [2012]

LOUNT, B. & SPURR, R. Drink and damnation: a light-hearted look at Leicester's drinking dens. 2012. ( extensively illustrated )

MILLER, C. A degree of swing : lessons in the facts of life; Leicester 1958-64. 2012.

Nostalgic Leicester. 2012.

PORTER, P. Kibworth to Smeeton: a stroll down memory lane III. rev.3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2008.

PRITCHETT, A. We will remember them: the roll of the fallen in two World Wars, Broughton Astley... 2002.

SCOTT, P. St. Philip's church Leicester an illustrated history. [2009]

THOMPSON, M. ed. When we were young: wartime memories of Countesthorpe and beyond. 2011.

WALKER, P. ed. We are South Highfields: life in our area, past and present. 2012.

WESSEL, C. LOROS celebrating 25 years helping others. 2012.

The author is the Society's Networks Project Co-ordinator.

### LIBRARY CLOSURE

Please note that the Library will not be open on Whitsunday 19 May 2013.

### Periodicals

Antiquaries Journal 2012

Architectural History 2012

Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society 2011

Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings 2012

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal 2012

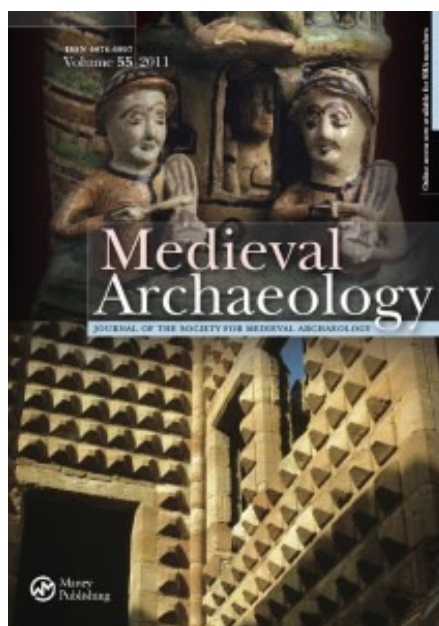
Ecclesiology Today 46 July 2012 ( donated by member Ian Stevens ) includes: British church sites on the WWW. The article highlights online resources by county, e.g. [www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk](http://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk) )

English Place-Name Society Journal 2011

Harborough Historian 29 Oct. 2012 ( donated by Dr. L. Holden ) includes: Hallaton helmet; Sir Richard Roberts; Aldwinkle's Yard in 1809.

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions 86 2012

Leicestershire Historian 48 2012





## Newsletters (current copies only)

Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter.  
 Friends of Friendless Churches Report.  
 Friends of Welford Road Cemetery Leicester  
 Newsletter.  
 Lincoln Record Society News Review AND  
 Report.  
 Society of Architectural Historians of Great  
 Britain Newsletter.  
 SPAB Newsletter.  
 Worcestershire Recorder.

Hinckley Historian 67 Summer 2011 – 70  
 Winter 2012 ( donated by Mr. P. Lindley )  
 Issue 69 includes: Archaeological field survey of  
 Fosse Meadows near High Cross.  
 Hinckley Local History Group has merged with  
 Hinckley & District Museum, so Hinckley Histo-  
 rian will become the journal of the Museum and  
 continue to be published twice a year

Historical Research 229 Aug. 2012 – 231 Feb.  
 2013

Medieval Archaeology 2012

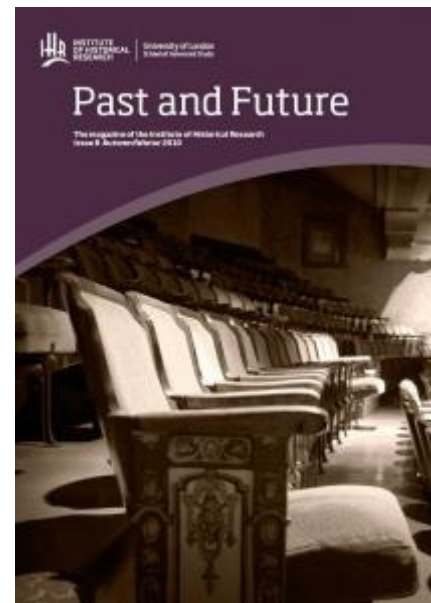
Rutland Record 32 2012 annual journal of the  
 Rutland Local History & Record Society, Rutland  
 County Museum, Oakham. 48p. illus.  
 Includes: William Henry Fox Talbot and Rutland;  
 Oakham School's Masters and Ushers 1584 –  
 1875.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Proceedings  
 141 2011 (pub. 2012)

SPAB Magazine Aut. 2012; Wint. 2012 ( previ-  
 ously Cornerstone )

The Searcher: the journal of the Record Office  
 for Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland 3  
 Sum.2012 History of Sport.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Transac-  
 tions 2012



## LIBRARY BORROWERS

This is a gentle reminder to any members who  
 still have items on loan that they have had for  
 some considerable time. Please return them at  
 your convenience for stock-taking and re-cata-  
 logging.

If you are uncertain whether you have any of the  
 Society's property now buried in your bookcase  
 please contact me. I know who you are ! The  
 society has never had loan periods or charged  
 overdue fines but members can be deprived of  
 research material if loans are kept too long by  
 others. I do not want to publicly 'name and  
 shame'. Thank you for your consideration.

# Measured by the Soul

STEPHEN BUTT

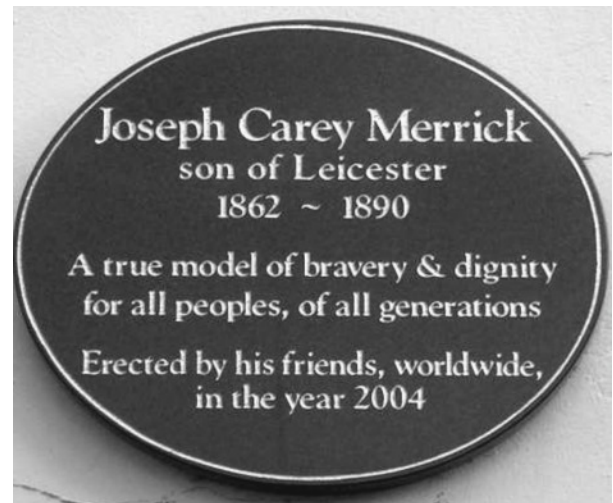
**The first new biography for over thirty years of Joseph Carey Merrick, the so-called ‘Elephant Man’ was published at the beginning of 2013.**

This new volume has been written by Jeanette Sitton and Mae Siu-Wai Stroshane who campaign actively for better recognition of the disorder which affected Merrick, now known to have been Proteus Syndrome. Although the book is in part a means of supporting those who cope with the illness - there is, for instance, an appendix titled *What is Proteus Syndrome?* - it also contains a wealth of new information about Merrick and his family which has come to light since Michael Howell and Peter Ford’s well-known biography, first published in 1980, which was the basis for the popular film that starred John Hurt.

Much of the new ‘on the ground’ research has been undertaken by Jeannette Sitton who founded the Friends of Joseph Carey Merrick website in 1993. Although the principal events in Merrick’s life are well-known and documented, the authors’ research over many years has found more information about the Merrick and Potterton families as well as tracing memorials to both families in Welford Road and Belgrave cemeteries.

**“ A man whose never-ending quest for human dignity touched the hearts of those who came to know him.”**

JEANNETTE SITTON  
MEASURED BY THE SOUL  
FoJCM, 2012



The book includes a substantial number of appendices including an article by the surgeon Sir Frederick Treves, a letter to *The Times* by Francis Carr-Gomm, Governor of the London Hospital, and detailed family genealogy records.

The book has been published by the Friends of Joseph Carey Merrick by the print-on-demand process, and is available from various online booksellers priced £14.83 or less. All proceeds from the book are being donated to Proteus Syndrome Research



# Dr Ian Keil, 1933-2012

ANNE TARVER

Ian was born at Streatham Hill in south London on 11th September 1933, the only son of Harry and Lillian Keil. The family moved to Warminster in Wiltshire in the autumn of 1938. Ian began school the following April, attending the village school. He passed the 11-plus examination in 1944 and attended the High School for Boys in Trowbridge. The history master at the school, Herbert Lambert, encouraged Ian's interests in history and archaeology, and the Headmaster, Geoffrey Bucknall, remained a friend until his death.

Ian won the T.H. Green Open Scholarship at Bristol University. Green supported humanist policies that appealed strongly to Ian, who then underwent an oral examination by David Douglas. The Professor of History asked which side he would have supported in the Civil War. Ian immediately replied, 'Roundhead', explaining that Oliver Cromwell's toleration, both religious and racial, of the Jews was to be commended. It is perhaps as well that Ian was not aware of the Professor's enthusiastic support for the monarchy of the period!

Bristol University was a revelation in many ways, teaching Ian to think in wider terms than had been taught in secondary school. During his period at Bristol he stayed in Wills Hall and lived amongst men who became lifelong friends. He graduated in 1955 and his scholarship was extended, so that he could continue with a study of 'The Estates of Glastonbury Abbey in the later middle ages', culminating in the award of a PhD in 1964. His research through manorial account rolls led to several fascinating discoveries including an account of building a windmill and a survey of the Abbot's three-acre garden.

In 1957 Ian obtained a job at Liverpool University as Tutor in Economic History, seeing life that was very different from that in a city like Bristol. He met Teresa, who was then working in the department of Social Sciences, housed in the former Bishop's Palace. Her work involved industrial concerns on Merseyside, with the occasional excursion to Bakewell, Chester and Rufford Old Hall.

Ian and Teresa were married when he obtained a secure job at Loughborough College of Technology in April 1962. They enjoyed a long and happy marriage and continued to support Historical Studies at Bristol, both believing that the experience of university life should be available to others. Ian's work at Loughborough combined teaching Liberal Studies and tutoring in the brand new Royce Hall. The tutor's accommodation was the height of luxury, a centrally-heated flat. Teaching facilities were a different matter – another colleague, John Angus, joined the department and Ian and John were allotted a room at the end of a hut, containing a single item of furniture - a well-used dentist's chair.

Loughborough was upgraded to a University in 1966 and the new head of department Professor Cherns requested Ian to assist him to devise degree courses that would provide room for expansion. Two years later one of the new staff appointed was Teresa who had been working at Aston University. He continued to teach at Loughborough, first as Lecturer and then as Senior Lecturer until his retirement in 1990. He sat on numerous University Committees, Council and Senate, and acted as Secretary to the Association of University Teachers.

During his period of teaching history at Loughborough he became interested in the sources for local history. This interest continued to develop and he played a large part in the writing and promotion of local history in Loughborough and the surrounding area. Loughborough is a typical Midland town, predominantly red-brick housing with very few historic buildings, whose history had seldom been explored in any depth. In 1998 Ian compiled a book, 'Loughborough Past and Present' with Wallace Humphrey and Don Wix. This small Ladybird volume sold 10,000 copies in the first week that it was issued, demonstrating the local need for such publications.

In the community Ian was involved with a number of organisations. He played an active role in the community as Honorary President of the Loughborough and District Archaeological

Society from 1997 until his death in October 2012.

- President of the Civic Trust.
- Patron of the History of Advertising Trust.
- Served on the Committee of the Friends of Charnwood Museum from its inception until 2009.
- Served as a Member of the Local Studies Volunteer Group of Loughborough Public Library.

He was also involved in the Town Team that helped the council to produce a Masterplan for the future of the Town.

His publications on the town and its locality, as well as organisations that worked within it including, 'The First Three Hundred Years: History of Rawlins School, with Don Wix in 1992 and the history of the Amateur Swimming Association with Don Wix in 1996. He contributed 50 entries to the 'Oxford Companion to British History, edited by J. Cannon in 1997.

He published several volumes of old photographs including the areas of Charnwood Forest; Bygone Quorn; the River Soar and Charnwood's Silver Jubilee, 1974-1999 with Don Wix. His two most important contributions to the History of Loughborough included, 'Loughborough 1888-1988, Birth of a Borough', with W. Humphrey, M.L. Walters and D. Wix and 'Dispensary to


Hospital, Loughborough Hospital from 1819 to 2003', with members of the Archaeological and Historical Society, including John Brownlow, George Lowe, Janet Slatter and Don Wix, published in 2006.

Ian was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. His research skills and wide historical knowledge were brought to bear on the local area. He always had a good word for everyone and encouraged everyone to take an interest in history and archaeology. His advice was always of the best, constructive and sympathetic, and his gentle sense of humour was always appreciated.

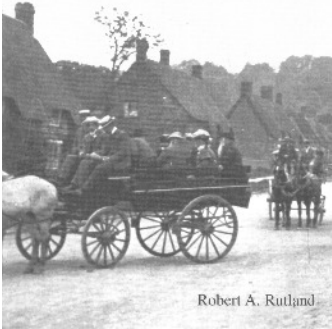
Professor Ronald Hutton of the arts department at Bristol paid tribute to Ian, commenting on his 'love of history, as a medievalist, and for his affection for its teaching at Bristol, by making donations to assist post-graduate research students. We have lost a true friend, the department which has become accustomed to drinking his health now raises a glass to him and his wife Teresa who survives him'.

Ian was a Humanist who planned his own funeral and wrote the celebration of his life himself. He quoted Geoffrey Chaucer's description of The Clerk of Oxford in his prologue to the Canterbury Tales, 'And gladly would he learne, and gladly teche'. This Ian did, with infectious enthusiasm to the benefit of the University and the town of Loughborough.

The Leicestershire  
Archaeological and  
Historical Society  
1855-2005



**The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005**  
By Robert A. Rutland 2006



Produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the Society. Members can purchase a copy at £12 (plus £3 post and packing in the UK). Non-members can purchase a copy at £18 (plus £3 post and packing in the UK)

Paperback, 227 pages, 77 illustrations.

Robert A. Rutland

# Rutland's Phoenix: The Archives of the Noel Family of Exton Park, Rutland

RACHAEL MARSAY, PROJECT ARCHIVIST, ROLLR

The extensive archives of the Noel Family (Earls of Gainsborough) of Exton Park, Rutland held at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland are now fully catalogued.



The project, funded by the National Cataloguing Grants Programme (2010), has enabled the production of an online catalogue of the Noel Family Archives containing over 12,600 entries, each describing one or more records in the collection.

The catalogue will be launched at a major event at the Record Office in the summer of 2013. There will also be a touring exhibition celebrating the project and collection that will be displayed at the Rutland County Museum and at the Record Office in Wigston.

The collection contains a wealth of records dating from the 1130s to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

These records were created and collected by the Noel family in the course of building up and administering their estates in Rutland, Leicestershire, Gloucestershire, Kent, Middlesex and Ireland.

The records vividly depict how landscapes and communities have changed and evolved over the centuries. The collection includes manorial court rolls, deeds, rentals, accounts, surveys, plans, tenancy documents, correspondence and legal papers, as well as pre-Reformation ecclesiastical and monastic documents.

Many records in the collection are of a more personal nature including papers relating to local politics; official, military or naval careers; business ventures and literary pursuits. The records chart the history of the Noel family, revealing their links to the broader social arena and wider world: stories of success, love and tragedy are all found in the collection.



If you would like to learn more about the collection, visit the Project Page (under 'Exhibitions and Events') on the Record Office website at [www.leics.gov.uk/record\\_office.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/record_office.htm)

Any queries can be emailed to [recordoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@leics.gov.uk)  
The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland,  
Long Street, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH

# Project Gargoyle: 8000 more 'mug shots' needed

BOB TRUBSHAW

**During last summer, while most of us were absorbed by the Olympics or staying at home dodging the showers, an ever-increasing number of photographers were out and about sneaking up on unsuspecting gargoyles and other medieval carvings in Leicestershire and Rutland.**

Indeed, so many of them were out and about that we now think at least one-fifth of all these carvings have now been carefully recorded.

With all that effort, why only one-fifth? Well, truth to tell, no one actually knows yet how many medieval carvings there are in Leicestershire and Rutland – there are so many nobody has ever tried to count them all. But as nearly one-fifth of the churches have been recorded – and that includes some of the ones with lots of such carvings – then the best guess is that there about ten thousand carvings in total. So that only leaves about eight thousand left to be shot!

‘This wealth of medieval art has never been properly looked at before,’ according to Bob Trubshaw, who is the Volunteer Co-ordinator

for Project Gargoyle, which was set up in 2009 by Leicestershire County Council. ‘No-one has tried to record all these medieval carvings in a whole county previously. So what the volunteer photographers are doing is a pioneering effort.

Once the database of photographs is more-or-less complete then all sorts of researchers can ask questions about these carvings – and hopefully get some interesting answers – in a way that has never been possible until now.’

The current team of hard-working volunteers is, however, looking for new recruits who have digital SLR cameras suitable for dealing with the challenges of recording these sculptures – which are often high up and sometimes in dark corners.

**Further information is available on line at:**  
[www.leics.gov.uk/gargoyle](http://www.leics.gov.uk/gargoyle)

**The Society's Project Gargoyle representative is Dr Jill Bourne**





# ULAS Brief summaries of current projects

## Higham on the Hill, MIRA test track control tower (Andy Hyam)

A photographic survey of the former RAF Nuneaton (Lindley) airfield watch tower was undertaken. The airfield opened in 1943 as an Operational Training Unit and was in use until late 1945. The watch tower was built to a standard 1941 Air Ministry design but has later 1943 modifications such as having some smaller windows for blast protection. The rooftop visual control room is a modern structure which replaced the old one which was given to RAF Duxford and can still be seen in use there. Until recently the tower has functioned as the Motor Industry Research Establishment (MIRA) test track control tower but a new purpose-built structure has replaced it. The building now faces demolition.



## Leicester, Western Road (Mathew Morris)

Work has now been completed to exhume the remaining skeletons on Western Road, bringing the total assemblage (excavated over two years) to fifty-eight burials. This is probably still only a minute percentage of the population of this Romano-British cemetery in the vicinity of the Fosse Way on its approach to Leicester from the south-west, via the crossing point of the river Soar at West Bridge. The possibility that there might also be Anglo-Saxon remains in the vicinity led to a program of radiocarbon dating of the

burials. However, this indicated that they were all roman, with dates of cal AD 78-127; cal AD 132-214; cal AD 230-324; cal AD 274-334; cal AD 282-324 and cal AD 328-389.

Burial traditions in the assemblage proved to be diverse, with orientations varying from north-south through to east-west. In general, where relationships survived, the east-west graves were typically later than the north-south graves. Many were buried in coffins, some with grave goods including pottery, hobnailed shoes, jewellery (beads, brooches, bangles) and one with a small glass vessel. Seven of the skeletons were found to have been buried prone and one had been decapitated (below). No cremations were found.



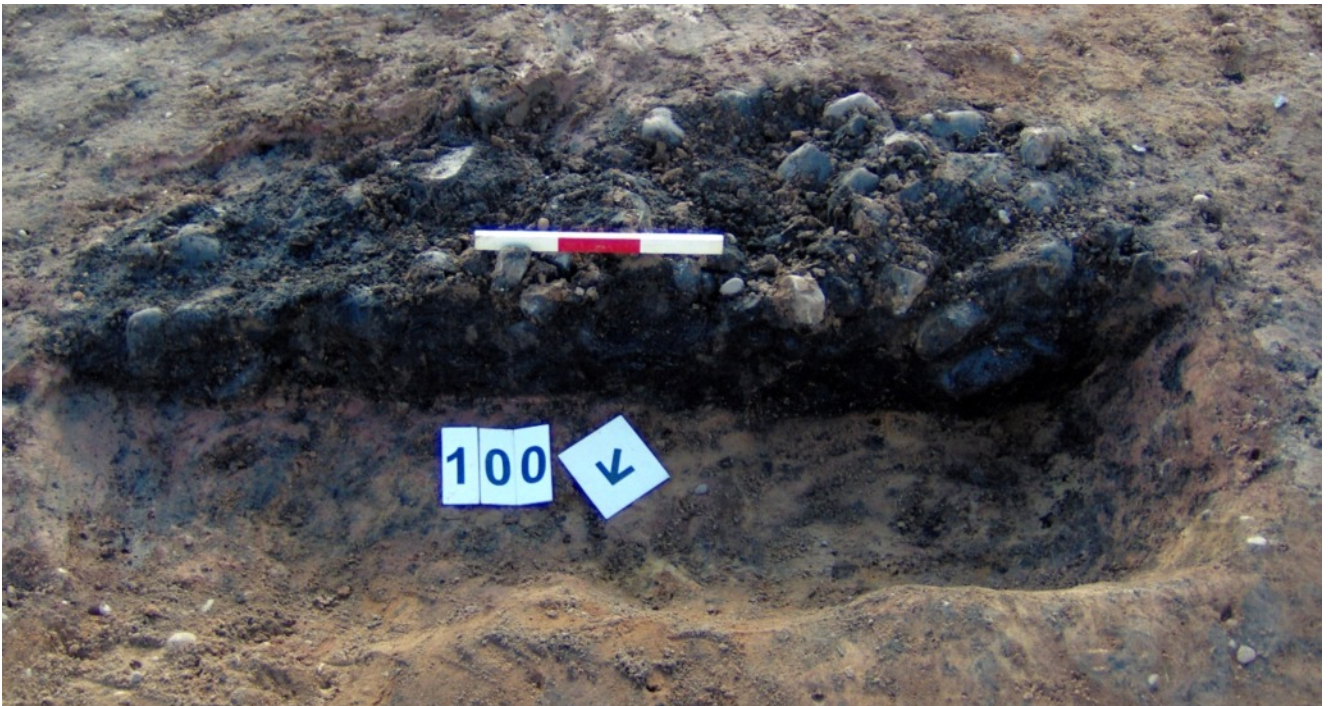
The star grave, in terms of grave goods (below - the skeleton itself was badly truncated), contained three pottery vessels, four bangles & a glass hairpin, all placed beside the person's right leg; whilst they were also wearing hobnailed shoes and a chain-link necklace.



### **Measham, Minorca (Wayne Jarvis)**

A probable Saxon 'fire pit' was located during a watching brief with good evidence for its construction. It lay close to Saxon features, including sunken featured buildings and ditches revealed by trial trenching, suggesting (if it is contemporary) that it probably dates to the early-mid Anglo-Saxon period.

At the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Eye Kettleby near Melton (Excavated 1996-7 by our lecture secretary, Neil Finn), similar fire pits were found in association with Anglo-Saxon Halls and sunken featured buildings. It is thought that they were used for cooking, the stones being heated in a fire, then laid in a pit with joints of meat and covered over with vegetation and soil.

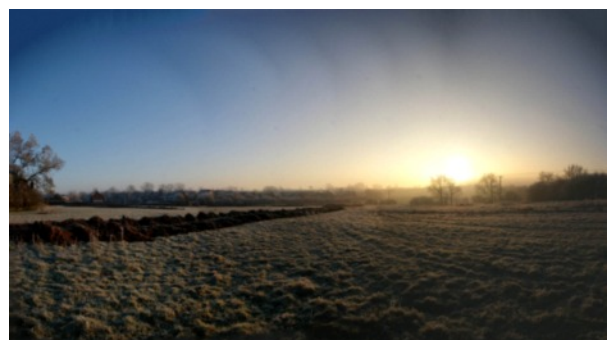


**Fire pit, probably early-mid Anglo-Saxon, at Measham surface mine (open-cast)**

### **Billesdon, Gaulby Road (Leon Hunt)**

This was a 12 trench evaluation on the outskirts of Billesdon, during a rather cold/wet snap just before Christmas, which turned into a 7 trench evaluation as the southern part of the sloping site was largely underwater.

Previously, a geophysical survey had highlighted a number of quite obvious linear features, interpreted as 'Iron Age/Romano-British field systems' and this was confirmed in the trenches, most of which revealed archaeological features, including several ditches, gullies and a couple of pits, with a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery. The field contained the outlying enclosures of a Romano-British settlement, with the focus possibly under the village core to the east.



**The trenches at Billesdon, early morning, looking south-east**

Ice and rain made the work really hard going, with struggling machines, stuck 4 x 4s, trenches 1m deep in water, pump not arriving and digital cameras failing.

# Inclined towards Conservation

## THE FOXTON INCLINED PLANE TRUST

**The Foxton Inclined Plane Trust (FIPT) is a Registered Charity run by volunteers drawn from its membership. FIPT runs the Foxton Canal Museum which is also the Trust's headquarters.**

Foxton Locks are at the centre of Britain's inland waterways network. The locks at Foxton and Watford Gap were constructed with a width of only seven feet in order to save water. In 1900, the Foxton Inclined Plane Boat Lift was opened to widen the canal, speed up traffic and save water. The Lift is a unique piece in the jigsaw of boat lift and canal history. Times have changed and, with modern traffic, it is time to restore the lift, this time for holiday boats rather than commercial carriers.

The Foxton Inclined Plane Trust was founded in March 1980 and, since then, volunteers have been working hard on the site. An early aim was to reconstruct the former boiler house as a Canal Museum. This project was completed in 1989. FIPT now has a full-time museum curator, and has forged excellent links with Leicestershire's Education and Museum Services.

Trust volunteers are now tackling the dereliction of the incline site itself and improving public access, working closely with the other members of the Foxton Locks Partnership.



The Trust's current challenge is to raise the £20,000 which has been pledged as its contribution to the Master Plan studies needed to satisfy a wide range of interested bodies including English Heritage, and British Waterways, that full restoration of the lift to working order is feasible and necessary.

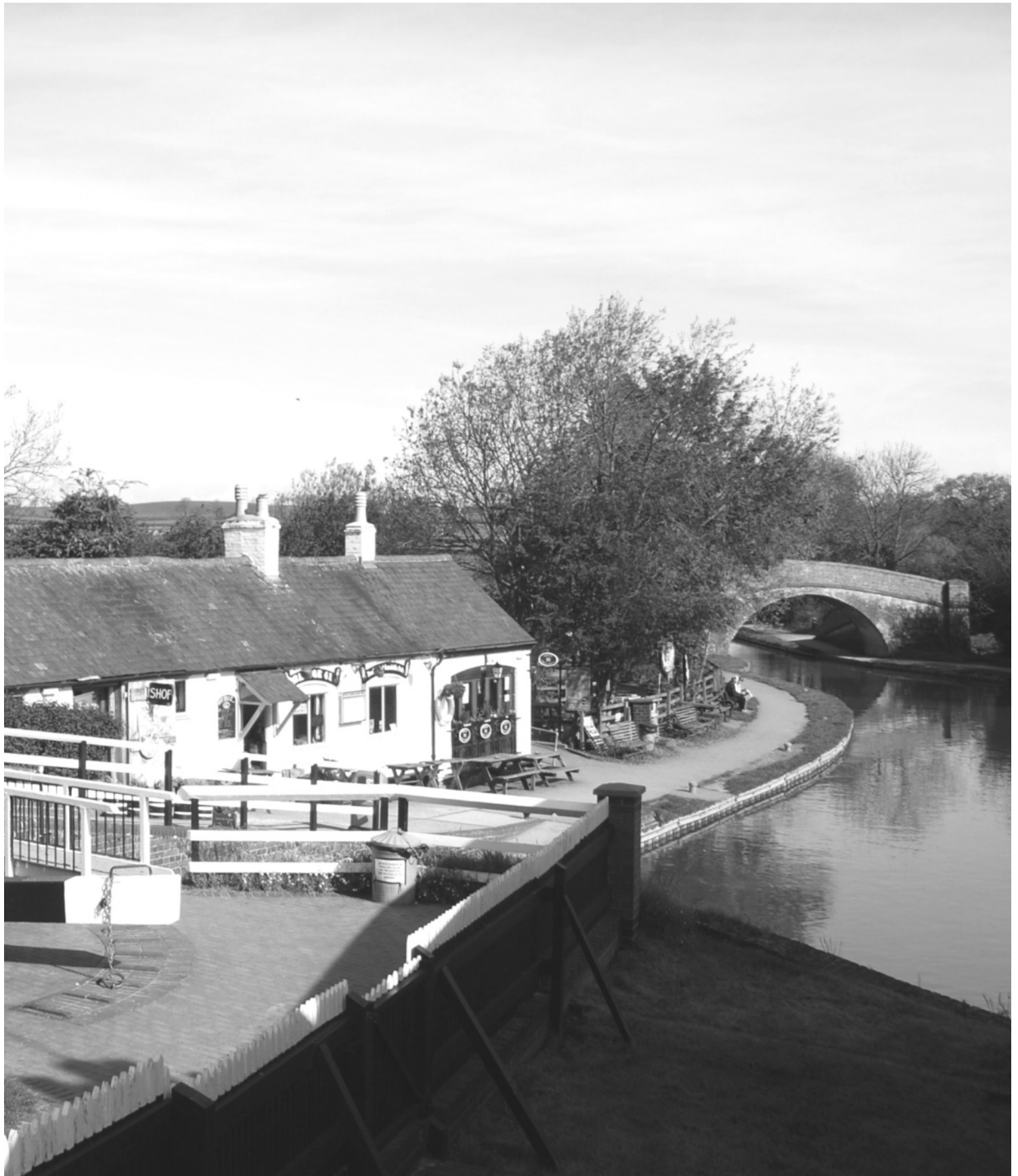
From the Trust's viewpoint, it is the engineering study which is the most important. This will follow with the next Lottery bid. However, studies will also be needed to cover other aspects of restoration including: environment and wildlife impact, visitor numbers, mitigation measures, sustainability, car parking and transport.

To achieve its aims, FIPT works with the Foxton Locks Partnership whose membership includes the Old Union Canals Society, British Waterways, the Inland Waterways Association, and Local Authorities. The Partnership was responsible for the recently completed, lottery funded, restoration works on site.

The £3m lottery project has removed the lift from the 'Monuments at Risk' register of English Heritage and made it possible to understand its layout. The trees have been removed and the roots ground away. Tree growth and the action of a century of winters has broken the surface concrete but the lower foundations are still in place. The brickwork has been consolidated using lime mortar but none of the lost material has been replaced. The top canal arm which led to the lift has been fully restored and the bottom dock has been dredged, its waterway wall repaired, with the wooden dock reconstructed in oak on the original foundations.

The lift will be maintained in this state until we have raised the money and gained the necessary permissions for full restoration.

[www.fipt.org.uk](http://www.fipt.org.uk)



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