

# Newsletter

Autumn 2013  
Number 88

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society



# LAHS member receives accolade for new English Civil War

<http://www.englishcivilwar.org>

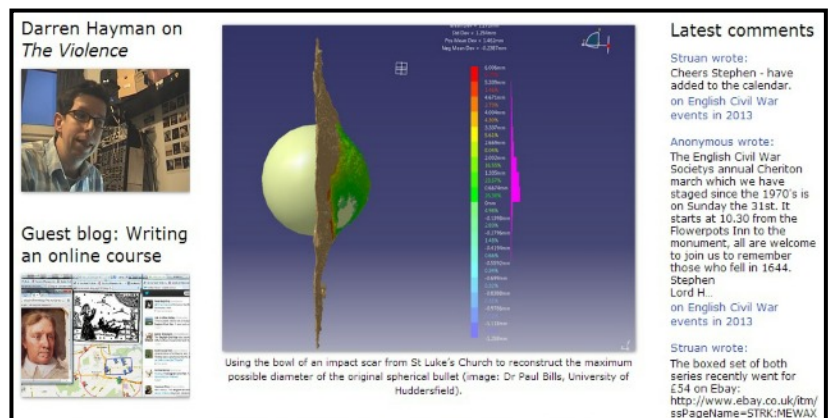
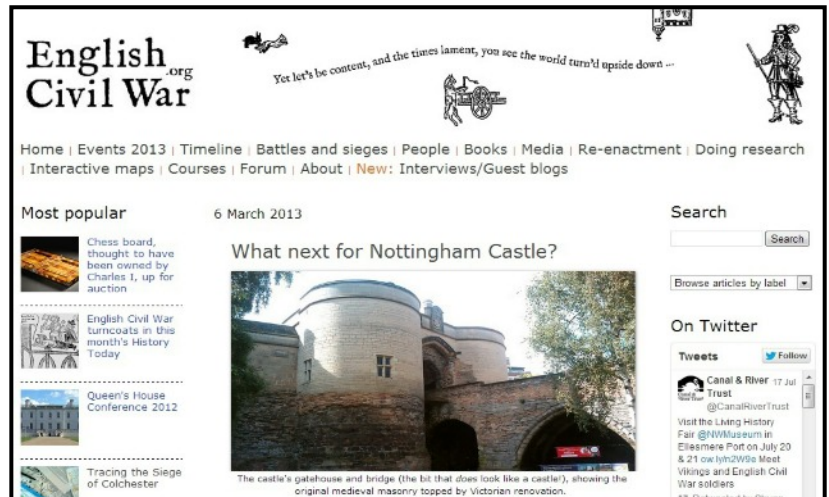
An English Civil War website published by a LAHS member recently featured in *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine as one of the best on the web.

Disappointed that there was no on-line platform for enthusiasts to discuss the mid-seventeenth century conflict, Struan Bates, originally from Leicestershire but now living in London, set about creating one.

His site launched eighteen months ago with the intention of bringing the period to a wider audience. Features include interviews with academics, a calendar of Civil War-related events, interactive maps, as well as videos, a forum and links to primary and secondary sources. A recent addition to the interactive map section is a map of Leicestershire sites with relevance to the conflict.

Struan invites members who know of other sites of interest not presently included on the map, and those interested in writing an article for the site, to contact him.

[struan@englishcivilwar.org](mailto:struan@englishcivilwar.org)



## Wartime Leicestershire at Beaumanor Hall

A special history fair organised by the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

Sunday 23 March 2014





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Editor - Stephen Butt  
07805 459764 lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk

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

## A Woodland for Wyggeston

An LAHS vice-president inaugurates a growing tribute to William Wyggeston's legacy

## The Red Swastika in Market Harborough

Fact and fiction appear to merge in the novels of Mark Harborough

## The 2013-2014 Lecture Season

Highlights of the Society's forthcoming series of talks

## Corah's loud bequest to Leicester

One of the city's least-noticed treasures celebrates its centenary

## Wartime Leicestershire at Beaumanor

News of a major forthcoming LAHS event

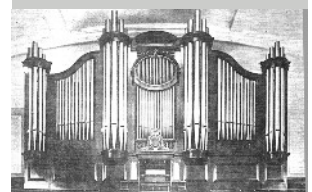
## Nichols: A research bedrock for 200 years

The Society's plans to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Nichols' great work

## Latest acquisitions by the Society's library

Recent reports from ULAS

Society news and announcements



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Scan me

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

Newsletter No 88 Autumn 2013

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Editor - Stephen Butt

Submissions, letters and comments are always welcomed

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# The Red Swastika, or a curiously prescient tale

STEPHEN ALLEN

In September 2009 the official opening of the Hallaton Treasure Exhibition, whose centrepiece is the magnificent silver plated<sup>2</sup> iron Roman helmet, took place at the Market Harborough Museum. The treasure, which included a huge hoard<sup>3</sup> of mostly Iron-Age coins found near to many pig bones, was discovered in 2000 by Ken Wallace, a retired lecturer, using a metal detector on a spur of land, where previously he had uncovered a couple of broken coins.<sup>4</sup>

On a quiet spring afternoon in 2013 Hazel Wallace, who is also a retired lecturer, drew my attention to a children's book, which turned out to be remarkably prescient.

1931 saw the publication by Oxford University Press of *The Red Swastika* by Mark Harborough, which was a title listed in a series of Stories for Scouts. Embossed on the blue cloth cover of the second printing of 1933 is a swastika<sup>5</sup> surrounded by a square, upon which sits a Roman helmet complete with a splendid plume and is clearly depicted as having cheek-plates, whilst the tale embraces the discovery of an earthen-ware pot containing 'a good handful of coins of different sizes and metals' facilitated by dowsing. In addition human bones are discovered not far from the pot.

Mark Harborough was the pseudonym of Herbert George Coales<sup>6</sup> (1863 to 1944), who was a surveyor at the Harborough Urban District Council. Indeed the frontispiece to *The Red Swastika* is designed by his daughter, Kathleen Coales, whose signature can be clearly made out. In partnership with H Winter Johnson, HGC designed the Market Harborough Cattle Market Settling Rooms and the Robert Smyth School.

The setting of the rattling boys' own adventure tale is very transparent being in and around The Gartree Road near to Lawston (Slawston), which is a five mile bike-ride for the bustling scouts from Marborough (Market Harborough) via Wetham (Welham) or Neston (Weston) overshadowed by the windmill on Lawston Hill. To enlarge the fictional topography, whereby one letter is changed in the actual names, Great Dowden (Great Bowden) is also mentioned. Furthermore the image on the book's title-page is identical to that of the rebuilt windmill<sup>7</sup> on Lawston Hill, which was painted white in order to provide a landmark for the local hunt.

'Be through my lips to  
unawakened earth  
The trumpet of a  
prophesy!'<sup>1</sup>

Extraordinarily, does not this tale for boys prefigure actual events some seventy years later when Ken Wallace found far more than 'a good handful of coins' and bones, albeit mostly those of pigs together with those of two dogs, in Hallaton but one and a half miles from the fictional Scouts' site? Moreover, despite no mention in the story, he found the celebrated Hallaton Helmet, which bears an uncanny likeness to the motif on the cover.

Of course, rather than dowsing, he used a modern metal detector but exponents of the former describe the tingling sensation as not unlike an electric current.

Surely, all these parallels manifest the hallmarks of a supernatural story from the early twentieth century by M R James<sup>8</sup> – A Warning to the Curious!

1 Percy Bysshe Shelley's 'Ode to The West Wind' Stanza V, lines 12,13.

2 The helmet is a fine example of repousse metalwork, whereby silver leaf is hammered on the reverse side by hand onto the iron. Such an exquisite piece would have been used for ceremonial purposes.

3 The hoard comprised circa 5,500 coins, mostly of the Iron Age but with some of Roman origin. Discrete clusters of coins were found separately buried at the site.

4 In September 2000 the local field walking group, of which KW was a member, had found some shards of Iron-Age pottery on the spur and had noticed various scattered bones. He returned to examine the bones more closely and upon moving some with his foot two broken coins were unearthed.

5 It is worth noting that in the tale the swastika has no dark shadow of the Nazis but, rather, is described as having been 'used by pagans... as well by Christians'. On the other hand archaeologists would be appalled at the assault on subterranean Roman brickwork by spades, picks and shovels, whilst Health and Safety would despair of teenage boys descending into and clearing a blockage in such a tunnel.

6 OUP has lost its records for the relevant period but two articles in the weekly Harborough Mail - p16 in the issue for 11th March 1993 and p21 in the issue of 6th December 1990 – refer to HGC's pseudonym. The identification is corroborated in the Local Authors' Section at the County Records Office in Wigston, Leicester.

7 In his comprehensive erudite book *Leicestershire and Rutland Windmills* (Sycamore Press 1981) Nigel Moon relates the tale that a windmill on Slawston Hill destroyed by lightning in July 1930. One account is that it was a replica rebuilt as a present for Mrs Fernie from her husband. The destruction of the windmill is woven into the tale but as a result of arson during a thunderstorm, which all but those who struck the match misconstrued as the consequence of being struck by lightning.

8 MRJ was Provost of Kings College, Cambridge and subsequently Eton College and author of *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary* and other collections of ghost stories.

# Treasure! Shedding Light on Leicestershire's Past

Helen Sharp

Archaeology Officer, Leicestershire County Council



**LAHS Chairman Richard Buckley viewing the Bosworth Boar, a silver-gilt livery badge, the symbol of Richard III, found on the site of the Battle of Bosworth by systematic metal detector survey.**

© Leicestershire County Council Museums

Snibston Discovery Museum has welcomed over 13,000 visitors into a very special temporary archaeology exhibition since the end of March this year. *Treasure! Shedding Light on Leicestershire's Past* has delighted visitors with beautiful objects and intriguing stories relating to the Treasure process.

The exhibition was formally opened by LAHS Chairman Richard Buckley on 8 May 2013 at an event celebrating the work of the county's amateur and professional archaeologists and responsible metal detectorists who liaise with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Leicestershire County Council Museums to unearth these wonderful discoveries.

The exhibition brings together all of Leicestershire County Council's Treasure finds in one exhibition for

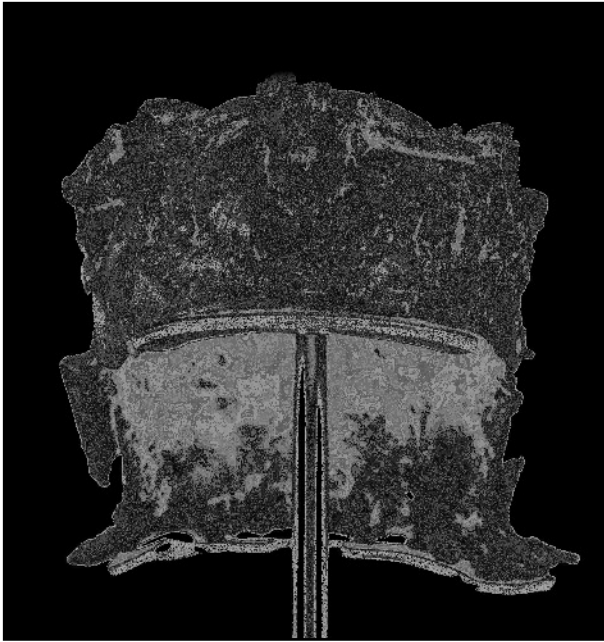
the first time and explains the complex issue of Treasure and the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in administering it.

Treasure has been defined legally since the eleventh century, first as Treasure Trove then under the Treasure Act of 1996. In recent years Treasure has been administered by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The PAS employs Finds Liaison Officers in England and Wales and Leicestershire and Rutland's 'FLO' is Wendy Scott, employed since 2003.

The exhibition features a glittering array of Treasure finds spanning the period from 4500 years ago up to the seventeenth century. It is the first time the finds have been displayed in one place – usually they are displayed around the county at Charnwood Museum, Melton Carnegie Museum, Harborough Museum and Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre or are viewable by appointment at the Collections Resources Centre. The Dalby Mount, an eighth century Anglo-Saxon object, which the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society helped the Museum Service to acquire, is on public display for the first time.



**The Dalby Mount, a mysterious 8<sup>th</sup> century silver-gilt and niello Anglo-Saxon object decorated with pairs of fantastic beasts. Was this a sword scabbard mount? Experts are divided. © Leicestershire County Council Museums**



**Silver-gilt and iron cavalry helmet from the Hallaton Treasure. © Leicestershire County Council Museums**

Many people have been amazed to discover that had The first century AD Roman cavalry helmet from Hallaton been discovered on its own, it would not have been legally protected by the Treasure Act because it does not contain enough gold and silver by weight. It is only 'Treasure' by being associated with the many other finds from the Hallaton Treasure.

Loaned items from local finders also feature as well as a Roman coin hoard from Leicester City Museums and a Bronze Age hoard from Rutland County Museum. A coin timeline includes many coins from the City's numismatic collection and also loaned items from local finders. Over the past few months, local people have filled in some of the gaps in this timeline by loaning issues of Mary I and Richard III.

The exhibition runs until Sunday 3 November 2013 at Snibston Discovery Museum. For further details please contact the Museums Archaeology Team - [archaeology@leics.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@leics.gov.uk)



## LAHS President celebrates Kibworth Alumni

LAHS President Michael Wood returned to Kibworth Harcourt in the Spring to speak at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to Anna Letitia Barbauld (1743-1825).

Anna was born in the Old House in Kibworth Harcourt, on the junction of Main Street with Albert Street, on 20 June 1743 and became a celebrated essayist, poet, and innovative children's author.



Her brother, John Aikin (1747-1821), was born four years later on 15 January and became a consulting physician, biographer, and editor. Both are included on the plaque which was installed on Saturday 11 May 2013.

It was unveiled by Sir Edward Garnier QC, the MP for Harborough. Also present were Bill McCarthy, Professor Emeritus of English at Iowa State University, and Dr Naomi Lightman, Sessional Lecturer on the Literature Certificate at Birkbeck College.



# Castle Hill -an enigma in slate

DAVID RAMSEY

This slate, found by Stefan Cabaniuk, Park Ranger, in 2012 at Castle Hill Park, Beaumont Leys, Leicester. was at first thought to be of Roman origin. However, the slate colouring would suggest it is from the Swithland slate beds, which would be post Roman.

This is not from Groby where other Roman roofing slates have been found in numbers. My own suggestion would be that it was used as a weight on a

rope and thrown over a thatched roof with a reciprocal weight on the opposite side of the house. It weighs in the region of 4gm, a substantial down force. Castle Hill was and is very exposed to the wind. Certainly a neat watertight seal is going to be difficult to achieve if this is indeed a roofing slate.

Can any reader suggest other uses for this strange shape?



(Above) The Castle Hill, Beaumont Leys, slate object. Note the hole on the right hand edge.

(Left) Slate 31cm (L) x 18cm (W) x 4cm at ridge peak, tapering to edge with single fixing hole (damaged) at extreme edge

# LAHS Vice-Presidents inaugurate a woodland for Wyggeston

## STEPHEN BUTT

Two of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society's vice-presidents were together in June to inaugurate a new woodland area in commemoration of the founding of the Wyggeston Hospital.

The event formed part of a year-long celebration of the Hospital's quincentenary involving many diverse activities. The first inmates of the Hospital were admitted in 1521 but Wyggeston's charter was signed in 1513.

The formal 'opening' of the land was performed by BBC Antiques Roadshow expert Lars Tharp who was educated at Wyggeston Boy's School. His speech offered a number of anecdotes from his schooldays in Leicester as well as an outline of the achievements of the Hospital and its founder.



The Wyggeston Wood was the brainchild of Duncan Lucas, another of this Society's vice-presidents, a long-time resident of Wigston, and part of the Committee that has planned the various quincentennial events for the Hospital. Duncan has been very 'hands-on' with the project, having undertaken much of the planting and landscaping.

The opening ceremony was attended by members of staff, trustees and friends of the Hospital. It is intended that the area will provide a quiet retreat, and will also be used by children from local schools. The location was chosen for its proximity to Wigston where it is thought the Wyggeston family originated.

As reported in the last edition of this Newsletter, LAHS Officer and Editor of our Transactions, Dr Jill Bourne has written a book to mark the quincentennial. Copies of *William Wyggeston and his World*, are available from the Hospital.



# Notes and News to and from the membership

## Dear Editor

My name is Chris Chapman and I'm currently working on both a film and a biography of the late Exmoor artist and author, Hope Lilian Bourne.

In 1944 and at the age of 26, Hope was commissioned by the Leicestershire publisher, Edmund Ward, to illustrate 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' by Maurice Roy Ridley, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. The book is interesting in that as well as a standard print run a special edition of two hundred leather bound copies was also produced. The address of the publisher at the time was: Edmund Ward, 16 New Street, Leicester, England

Given that this book was printed during the Second World War, and eight of the illustrations are in full colour, I'm keen to learn more about the publisher, but to date have found little information other than his involvement with the Rev W Awdry and the Thomas the Tank Engine books.

If any of your readers have information regarding Edmund Ward, including knowledge of his direct descendants, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Chapman

Tel: 01647 231508

Email: [chapman88@btinternet.com](mailto:chapman88@btinternet.com)

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



Sir Gawain's Return by Hope Lilian Bourne from 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' by Maurice Roy Ridley

## Furlong and Furrow

This book, which was reviewed in a recent edition of the Society's Transactions, is now available only from the Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology Group.

Copies can be purchased, priced £5.00 plus postage and packing from the group's website.

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## RIII In Print

It is not surprising to see a flurry of new books and republished works relating to the life and times of Richard III.

*The Last Days of Richard III and the Fate of His DNA: The Book That Inspired the Dig* by John Ashdown-Hill, who was closely involved with the Richard III Society's initiative to seek funding for the Greyfriars dig, has been at the top of the best sellers during the summer.

Another popular work has been the Kindle edition of *Richard III: Return of the King* by Patricia J Collins. Its popularity may be due in part to the very low price of just £1.98.

David Baldwin's excellent *Richard III*, published by Amberley Publishing, and updated this year, has remained a best seller. The Kindle edition costs £6.32. Alison Weir's *The Princes in the Tower* has also seen a well-deserved revival in sales.

Readers who want to dig deeper may wish to consider *A Glimpse of King Richard III* by Matthew Lewis (just 99p in the Kindle edition) or *Richard III and the Murder in the Tower* by Peter A Hancock, reprinted recently by the History Press.

Looking ahead, *The King's Grave: The Search for Richard III* by Philippa Gregory and Michael Jones is due to be published by John Murray in October 2013.

For the true book lover, a Christmas gift to hope for could be Glenn Foard and Anne Curry's *Bosworth 1485: A Battlefield Rediscovered*, published in August 2013 and priced in hardback at £45.00.

# Wartime Leicestershire At Beaumanor Hall

Wartime Leicestershire, a major Society event to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, is planned for Sunday 23 March 2014. The event will take place at Beaumanor Hall which was the venue of our very successful History Fair in 2011.

Plans are still being confirmed, but the day will include short talks by a range of speakers on different aspects of warfare relating to Leicestershire from the Roman Invasion to the present day, and there will be many exciting 'wartime' displays and activities.

One of the many highlights of the event will be the chance to handle a German Enigma cypher machine. Given that Beaumanor Hall was the location of a 'Y' Station during World War II, this is a most appropriate location for an appraisal of the role of British codebreakers in facing the challenge presented by such technology.



Dr Mark Baldwin, a leading expert in German cryptography and the work of the codebreakers of Bletchley Park and the other stations that provided intelligence, including Beaumanor Hall, will be attending the event and will present several mini-talks during the day. Visitors will also be able to watch a screening of the WW2 codebreakers film *Enigma*, which includes sequences filmed on the Great Central Railway near Beaumanor Hall.

A variety of local history and heritage groups will take part in the day as well as historical re-enactors, and there will be performances of live music from the eras of the two world wars. Artefacts from conflicts throughout Leicestershire's history, including costumes from the two Great Wars will be on display.

# John Nichols - The Bicentenary

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is planning a short season of events to mark the bicentenary of the completion of John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*.

The first part of Nichols' epic work, Vol 1, Part 1, The Town of Leicester, together with Vol 2 (Parts 1 and 2, Framland and Gartree, respectively) were published in 1795. East Goscote (1800), West Goscote, (1804) and Guthlaxton (1807) followed. A second edition of Guthlaxton (Vol 4 Part 1) was published in 1810, with Sparkenhoe (1811) and the final part of The Town of Leicester with indexes in 1815.

The scale of Nichols' work is remarkable, by the standards of any age of historical research - 4500 folio pages excluding the huge indexes, 704 plates and five million words. The engraved plates that illustrate the work so liberally depict a multitude of objects of historical interest including churches with their monuments and furniture, houses and coats of arms in a quantity never approached in a work of this kind before, and rarely since.

Despite the inevitable and often emphasised inaccuracies in such a massive undertaking, Nichols is arguably still the most-consulted text on Leicestershire in the twenty-first century. It is still the first source to be consulted by any historian researching the history of the area

The Society's commemorative events will include a talk by Julian Pooley, Honorary Visiting Fellow of the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester who has been researching the papers and letters of the greater Nichols family for many years, and was a recipient of an LAHS Research Grant for this purpose in 2001. Julian has compiled, and runs, the Nichols Archive Project, a database with calendars of over 12,000 Nichols family letters and papers, including those from private collections.

LAHS Officer Caroline Wessel will be producing a Society publication reflecting on the legacy of Nichols' 'Leicestershire', and other plans, still to be confirmed, include a 'Night with Nichols' round table dinner with menu based on a feast described in a Nichols' letter, and a Society excursion to some of the many locations described and illustrated by Nichols and his engravers.

# News from the Society's Library

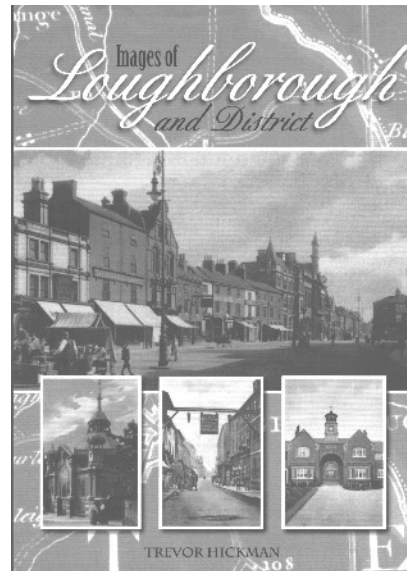
AUBREY STEVENSON, HON LIBRARIAN

## HALLATON

We are grateful to Society member John Morison for the kind donation of a copy of "Hallaton, Hare Pie Scrambling & Bottle Kicking: facts and folklore of an ancient custom" by John Morison and Peter Daisley, published by Hallaton Museum Press in 2000.

This substantial illustrated hardback of over 300 pages is the definitive work on this ancient custom. It is topical in view of the discovery of the Hallaton Treasure some years ago and the more recent location of the site of St. Morrell's Chapel. The latter part of the book deals with the historical importance of this hilltop site.

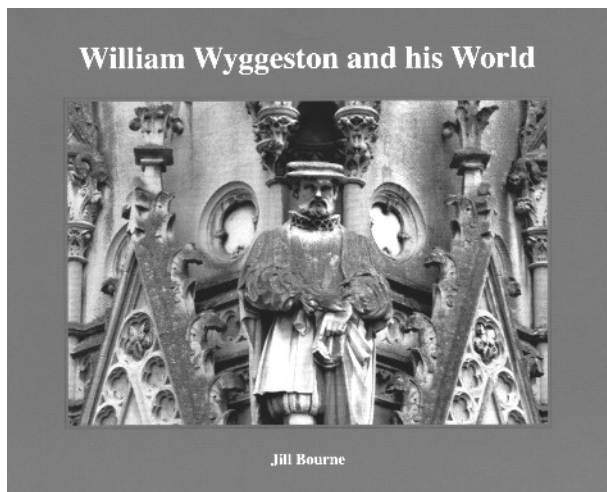
There is an account of archaeology in Hallaton in last year's "Transactions" (Vol.86. 2012. p. 224 -227).



Evington Village Hall centenary 1912 – 2012: a short history of the building of the hall through the Parish Magazines of the time. 2012. Kindly donated by the compiler Mr. C. Hossack, a member of the Society.

Freemasons' Year Book and Directory for the province of Leicestershire and Rutland 2012 – 2013. (140<sup>th</sup> year of publication). 2012. (donation)

Grace Dieu Priory: the draft account book of the Treasures 1414 – 1418. Transcription and translation by Dominic Johnson; introduction by Ken Hillier; preface by Christopher Dyer. Published by Grace Dieu Priory Trust in a limited edition of 300, price £35 + £4 p. & p. from Mrs. Ann Petty, 174 Leicester Road, Whitwick, Coalville, LE67 5GJ.



HICKMAN, T. Images of Loughborough and district. 2009.

JONES, D. Loughborough – a history and celebration. 2005. (pb. ed. 2011).

LYONS, A. The architecture of the Universities of Leicester. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2012.

SCHULZ, M. Gracedieu and Garendon revisited. 2009.

SHELDON, N. Not a guide to Leicester. 2013.

SLY, N. A grim almanac of Leicestershire. 2013.

S.P.A.B. Annual review 2012.

SWIFT, A. The parish churches of Leicestershire. Vol. 1: A – La. Vol. 2: Le – W. 2013.

WELLS, B. Billy's book of Loughborough boozers. 2013.

## ACQUISITIONS

### Books and Pamphlets

"...and it won't go away." 25 years of Leicestershire AIDS Support Services. 2012. (donation)

ARTHUR, D. Loughborough: the way we were! An album of photos during the 1960s and 1970s. 2010.

BOURNE, J. William Wyggeston and his world: his life and times 1467 – 1536. [2013]. The author is the Editor of Transactions.

BUTT, S. Loughborough through time. 2013.

BUTT, S. Market Harborough and around through time. 2013.

BUTT, S. Secret Leicester. 2013. The author of all three titles is Secretary of the Society and Editor of this Newsletter.



## Periodicals

Ancient Monuments Society Transactions 57. 2013.  
Archaeologia Cantiana 133. 2013.

Ashby Past and Present 15. June 2013. ( kindly donated by Ken Hillier ). This issue includes the first part of History of the Mammatt family, Ashby 1675...the first road maps [ re. John Ogilby ], Halls of the Coleorton estate, Lost village of Willesley.

English Place-Name Society Journal 44. 2012. Includes What was a Caldecot ? with 2 Leicestershire references.

Essex Society for Archaeology and History Transactions 2. 2011.

Hinckley Historian 71. Summer 2013. This is the final issue edited by Hugh Beavin. The new editor is David Knight. Kindly donated as usual by Phillip Lindley.

Historical Research 232. May 2013; 233. Aug. 2013 "Early medieval law in context".

Lincolnshire History & Archaeology 40. 2005 – 45. 2010.

Research News: a newsletter of historic environment research ( English Heritage ) 19. Spring 2013.

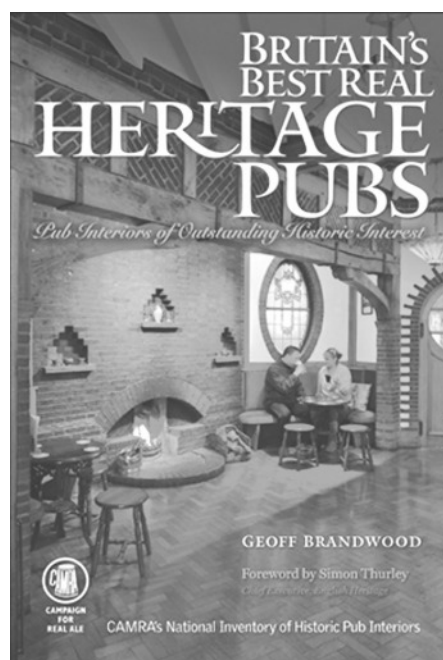
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings Magazine Spring and Summer 2013.

Staffordshire Studies 20. 2009 (pub. 2012 ).

Tilton and District History Group Journal 6. Autumn 2012. Articles include part II of the Thomas Clulow affair, Retailing in Tilton, The Reyntiens window, All Saints Church Lowesby, Time in Tilton – our missing timepiece ( of particular interest to those who like sundials). Kindly donated by Paul Herrington. There is a complete file to date of this interesting and varied periodical in the Library. This issue is A4, has 28p. with illustrations including colour for the Reyntiens article and is available from Norma George (Secretary of the Group ), Cherrygate, Leicester Road, Tilton, LE7 9DB

## Publications not in the Library

Geoff Brandwood , member of the Society and author of "Bringing them to their knees: church building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800 – 1914 " published by the Society in 2002 (copies still available for purchase (see the Society's website for details ), has recently produced "Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs: pub interiors of outstanding historic interest".



Sadly there is only one in Leicestershire and Rutland...the Three Horseshoes in Whitwick. The book, published by CAMRA at £9.99, is extensively illustrated in colour and is very easy to use. Recommended. And no, Geoff is not buying me a pint for saying so!

Surtees Society 215. 2011 published "The letters of George Davenport 1651 – 1677" ed. B. Pash with M. Harvey. George was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of John and Elizabeth Davenport of Wigston Magna; 148 letters are principally concerned with his clerical career, family and friendships. His older brother John became vicar of Wigston in 1693.

## A new periodical

I have been sent a sample copy (available for inspection on the Library table) of "History West Midlands" a new title covering the West Midlands, which does not include our area, of course, but interestingly does include Derbyshire, usually regarded as being in the East Midlands. Vol.1 issue 1 Spring 2013 costs £4.95. The magazine will be published 3 times per year and there is a website to complement it [www.historywm.com](http://www.historywm.com)

## LIBRARY hours

The final Sunday opening for 2013 will be 20 October. Following the regular winter closure it should reopen on Sunday 2 February 2014 2pm – 4pm.

# Membership Information

MATT BEAMISH

Membership Secretary

Thanks to all of you who responded to my note in the Spring newsletter requesting that you pay your membership subscriptions at the new rates which came into effect on 1 May 2012, and that you also complete a Gift Aid Declaration so that we can claim back the tax that you have paid on your subscription.

From the Society's membership of some four hundred, I now have Gift Aid declarations (both positive and negative) from 174 members, and 93 of those I have received this year. If you are unsure whether you have completed a Gift Aid Declaration recently, please look at the **address label** on your Newsletter envelope.

A date after 'GAD' indicates the date of any declaration I have from you on file: if there is no date, please send me a completed form as I do not have one for you.

Fifty members have yet to pay this year's subscriptions which became due on 1 May. Please do send me your subscriptions as soon as possible. 218 members have paid the correct amount for your membership but unfortunately 113 of you have not!

If you have not paid your subscription at the correct amount (or at all) then again this is written into the address label of your newsletter. A negative number after '2013:' shows what I think is owing for this year. This may be due to a Standing Order failing (which is not uncommon). If you have paid your subscription, there will be a '0' showing.

Please do let me have any outstanding balances, preferably by sending me a cheque payable to 'LAHS'. If you think I have made an error please do contact me preferably by emailing me, and I will be happy to amend our records.

A Gift Aid form is printed on this page, and can also be downloaded from our website. Please go to [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs) and follow the links to 'Application form for membership'.

The form can be sent to me digitally to save on postage. Please print out, complete, scan and email. The Gift Aid declarations really are important in adding to our income and helping fund the Society's publications.

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: \_\_\_\_\_ (Bank/Bsoc)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS) £ \_\_\_\_\_ now and on 1 May each year thereafter until further notice to their bank at:

Natwest Bank Leicester Customer Service Centre  
11 Western Boulevard, Bede Island, Leicester LE2 7FT

Sort Code : 60-60-06    Account No: 87270080

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Bank Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and 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 Council Tax and VAT do not qualify. I understand that LAHS will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5/4/2008 and will reclaim 25p tax on every £1 I give on or after 6/4/2008

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Sir Alfred Corah greeting King George V and Queen Mary in Leicester on 10 June 1919**

In order to accommodate the tall bass pipes, part of the rear of the De Montfort Hall, which had only recently been completed, had to be rebuilt.

The organ was routinely tuned and maintained for several decades, but with the changes in musical tastes and entertainment that came about in the 1960s, it was no longer regarded as an attribute to the venue. It continued to be used by several of the local choral and music societies and for music events, but its maintenance was neglected.

It was not until 1985, when Leicester City Council commissioned an inspection of the organ, that its value as a musical instrument and as part of Leicester's cultural heritage was re-discovered. The inspector, Justin Sillman, commented that of the hundreds of organs he had surveyed in his career, including many of the principal Town Hall instruments, this was amongst the three finest civic organs in Britain. He noted that it was a rare survival of Taylor's arts and crafts ideals, and had escaped any modifications of 'enhancements' by lesser more recent builders.

In fact, the period of neglect had meant that the original mechanism - its tracker movement - had never been replaced or modernised. The only way in which

it differed from as it had been built, was that the dark mahogany casing had been painted light grey.

In 1996, repairs to the instrument cost Leicester City Council more than one hundred thousand pounds. The work was undertaken by Richard Young, the son of a Taylor apprentice.

In February 2004, another celebrity recital took place at the hall, this time to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of this grand old instrument. Richard Young and Stephen Taylor were both present, and prior to the concert provided tours backstage. The demand for tickets had been so great that two additional tours were hastily added to the day's itinerary.

Today, the people of Leicester should be aware that the city has not one, but three fine organs, all of which have been restored at considerable expense within the last fifteen years.

In addition to Taylor's DMH instrument, the organ at Leicester Cathedral has a fascinating history, beginning its life as a instrument built by John Snetzler in 1766. J.W.Walker and Sons, of Ruslip and York, rebuilt and re-sited the organ in 1873, and in 1930, Harrisons of Durham completed a further rebuild. Harrisons returned in 1983 to provide further refurbishment.

The third of these fine instruments is the organ of St James the Greater. This is another Taylor organ completed about five years after the De Montfort Hall instrument, rebuilt by Walkers, and finally refurbished in 2003 by Nicholson of Worcester.







The 158th Annual General Meeting  
will be held on  
Thursday 5 December 2013 at 7.30pm  
at the New Walk Museum, Leicester

All members are requested to attend. The Annual General Meeting is an important event in the Society's calendar

Please bring this agenda with you

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## Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 157th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29 November 2012
3. Presentation of the 157th Annual Report for 2011-2012 by the Chairman, Mr R Buckley
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2011-2012 by the Honorary Treasurer Mr M. Johnson
6. Adoption of the Accounts
7. Election of Officers
8. Any other business (to be communicated to the Chairman by 1 November 2013)

Following the official business, there will be a presentation on the Charnwood Roots Project by Dr Julie Attard of the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust



## THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29 November 2012  
at the New Walk Museum

The Meeting was chaired by Vice-President Mr Bob Rutland in the absence of the President, Dr Michael Wood, who had tendered his apologies.

### **1 - Apologies**

A list of members who had tendered their apologies was received by the Chairman and accepted by the Meeting.

### **2 - Minutes of the 156th annual general meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2011.**

These were approved unanimously.

### **3 - The 156th Annual Report for 2011-2012 by the Chairman, Mr Richard Buckley**

The Society's Chairman presented his report which was adopted unanimously. Proposed by Caroline Wessel and seconded by David Ramsey. The text of the address is printed in the forthcoming edition of the Society's Transactions.

### **4 – The Financial Accounts 2011-2012**

The Hon Treasurer, Michael Johnson, presented his report. He drew the attention of the membership to the increasing difference between the cost of the Society's publications and the income from subscriptions which in recent years has been subsidised by the Society's assets.

A question was received from the floor relating to the potential use of the Snow Bequest. The Committee agreed to consider using some of the bequest to fund an essay competition for students.

The Hon Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. It was also agreed that the Hon Auditor should be re-appointed.

### **5 - The Election of Officers for the year 2012-2013**

The re-appointments of the officers and roles was approved unanimously including the appointment of Mr Matthew Beamish as Hon Membership Secretary.

### **6 . Any Other Business**

The Committee (in addition to the Officers) were-re-appointed following a unanimous vote.

The Hon. Librarian informed the members that library has closed earlier than planned because Leicester City Council had closed the Guildhall earlier without consultation. He had expressed his concern at the lack of communication in writing.

The Hon. Membership Secretary reminded the members to update their standing orders because of the new slightly increased subscription rate.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Acting President.

# The Lecture Season 2013-2014

**The Society is delighted to announce that the opening lecture in its new season, will be given by the Society's Chairman, Richard Buckley.**

On Thursday 10 October 2013 Richard will be presenting *Greyfriars, Leicester and the Search for Richard III*. Appropriately, Richard will be giving his lecture in the Guildhall, the Society's historic home, and close to the Greyfriars site.

Another highlight of the forthcoming season will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Alan North Memorial Lecture which will be given on 13 March 2014 by Dr Will Bowden, Associate Professor in Roman Archaeology at Nottingham University. Dr Bowden will be outlining new research at Venta Icenorum (Caistor-by-Norwich) titled 'What the Iceni did next'.

The 159<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on Thursday 5 December 2013. All local members are urged to attend in order to approve the Society's business. The agenda and the draft minutes of last year's AGM are printed on the previous page.

The ever-popular Members' Evening is planned for early next year. Our Lectures Secretary, Neil Finn, would be pleased to hear from any member who would like to speak briefly (15-20 mins), perhaps on a topic that they are currently researching.

The Society's season aims to provide a balance of topics both local to this region and of a wider relevance. A further balance between is sought in representing the two separate but closely related aspects of the Society's work, namely history and archaeology.



**Burrough Hill**



**Avebury**

Members will be brought up-to-date with the latest activity at Burrough Hill on 20 February 2014 when John Thomas from ULAS presents 'Burrough Hill Uncovered part II: Excavations of the Hillfort Interior.'

Relating to a site further afield, Avebury is the subject of Dr Mark Gillings' talk on 24 April 2014. The title of his presentation is 'Between the monuments – ongoing fieldwork at the Neolithic monument complex of Avebury, Wiltshire'.

Two further very local subjects will be dealt with in April and May 2014. David Crook looks at aspects of the history of the Royal Forest of Leicestershire c1122 to 1235 on 3 April, and Revd Alan Betteridge, on 15 May 2014 will be giving a talk titled 'Forever Beginning: an overview of protestant nonconformity in Leicestershire and Rutland'

In contrast, archaeology at work in a far more distant location will also be covered in this year's series. 'Landlord Villages of the Tehran Plain, Iran' will be the subject of a talk by Dr Ruth Young (University of Leicester).

Members of LAHS receive an annual Membership Card (accompanying this Newsletter) which provides the details of all the season's Thursday evening talks. Guests are welcome on payment of a nominal fee.

Owing to the limited accommodation in the Guildhall, admission to Richard Buckley's talk on Thursday 10 October 2013 will be by pre-booked seat reservation only.



# ULAS Brief summaries of current projects

## Brooksby Quarry (Matt Beamish, Lynden Cooper, Wayne Jarvis, Jamie Patrick)

Land to the east of the Midshires Way bridleway and north of the Rearsby Brook is now being stripped. Although mostly negative, we have identified some ditches and gullies that may be part of the wider Iron Age and Romano-British landscape already identified. The watching-brief during the current extraction identified some areas of organic preservation within the Brooksby deposits including these well preserved fragments of wood, although no more animals following the Straight Tusked Elephant tooth pictured below. The condition of the wood is staggering considering it is many 100,000s of years old although the age has taken its toll on the cell condition which is critical for positive identification: Graham Morgan has provisionally identified a pine-like species, and tentatively, beech.



Straight Tusked Elephant tooth recovered from quarry



Organic deposits with waterlogged wood in the surface of the Brooksby deposits.

## Burrough Hill (John Thomas, Andy Hyam, Tim Higgins)

Following a survey of erosion of the ramparts for Leicestershire County Council a fourth season of excavation at Burrough Hill took place in June/July with two large areas (Trenches 8 & 9) being the focus of work this year. Both trenches contained significant new archaeological information relating to Iron Age activity, but we also discovered evidence of earlier and later human activity on the site, stretching the story of Burrough Hill further than we had previously been able to.



Trench 8: the rampart wall can be seen on the left, the roundhouse on the right and the C-shaped ditch in the centre

Trench 8 was located in the south-western corner of the hillfort to target geophysical anomalies and test the idea that a conspicuous gap in the ramparts there may have been an Iron Age entrance (it leads downslope to where natural springs are found). The geophysical survey results for this area appeared to show a roundhouse with adjacent enclosure, similar to the set-up we had recorded in Trench 7 and we were hopeful of getting comparable information.

In the event, what we had thought was an Iron Age enclosure turned out to be part of a group of features with a probable Early Bronze Age date. The focus appears to have been a large C-shaped ditch with a  $\approx 10\text{m}$  diameter and an opening to the north. Within the opening a squared shallow feature contained flint scrapers, an arrowhead and knapping debris and may have been a structure. To the rear of the C-shaped ditch a small pit contained fragments of at least three Beaker pots. Similar fragments of this pottery were found in the ditch and the possible structural remains hinting at broadly contemporary activity.

Iron Age activity was focussed on a complete roundhouse which, unusually, had remains of the buildings wall slot surviving, as well as the eaves-drip drainage gully. Several small pits, post holes and burnt areas also survived within the building. The entrance had been sealed at some point by two short gullies, both of which were rich in finds, contrasting with the main roundhouse features that were relatively finds free. A number of pits were located to the rear of the roundhouse, all of which contained different information. Two large pits contained predominantly animal bone assemblages, while another, affectionately nicknamed the 'house clearance' pit contained a series of domestic deposits including pottery, bone, hearth waste, loom weights and a virtually complete, but smashed rotary quern. Finally a pit behind the roundhouse contained layers of industrial waste and ash and at the bottom, a significant collection of decorative metal fittings from a chariot and what may be other horse-related equipment.

As for the possible 'entrance' well, we are still none the wiser on this but our work did reveal a well-constructed drystone wall running across the gap. This quality of stonework has only previously been seen in the main hillfort entrance so finding it here too may be significant. This wall may have defined or blocked an (as yet unseen) entrance in this corner of the hillfort. More questions than answers on this one I'm afraid... A small undated structure (dare I say it, reminiscent of a Saxon sunken featured building) had been constructed in the rubble tumble of the rampart.



**The complicated Trench 9 with multiple roundhouses, boundary ditches and Roman walls**

Trench 9 was one of the larger and as it proved, more complex trenches that we have excavated so far. This area was located in the north-eastern corner of the hillfort and designed to investigate geophysical anomalies of several roundhouses. Once the trench was machined and cleaned it became clear that it contained more than the geophysical survey had predicted, with multiple overlapping curving gullies that probably represent a sequence of roundhouses occupying this area of Burrough Hill.

In terms of our understanding of how the hillfort was organised this trench is painting a different picture to the apparently 'single use' model shown by the roundhouse in Trench 8 for example. One complete circle (top right in the photo) appears to represent a full roundhouse but others were less well preserved. Associated pits produced assemblages of pottery, animal bone, loom weights and querns, including one that had been deliberately mis-shapen before deposition, in a similar way to the smashed quern in Trench 8. Some of these roundhouse remains may have been used until quite late in the Iron Age occupation of the hillfort as several features contained transitional 'combed ware' pottery. A long-lived linear boundary (running up the right hand side of the photo) also spanned the Iron Age- Roman transition indicating continuity of use here.

One big surprise in Trench 9 was a series of wall fragments which appear to date to the later Roman period. These did not show on the geophys but apparently relate to some sort of structure of the 3rd-4th century. The walls were badly damaged by medieval ploughing so it is difficult to determine exactly what these walls once belonged to but they do provide a focus of activity for the spread of late Roman pottery that has been recovered from the northern part of the hillfort during earlier excavations.

This was another good year for bringing the results of our work to a wider audience and we worked hard on promoting the site via a series of local tv and radio interviews. We hosted seven school visits (approx. 300 children) one of which was filmed for BBC East Midlands Today for a future edition of 'Inside Out', due to air in September, four society visits, a Summer School and a day of digging for the Leicestershire YAC's.

Our Open Day this year attracted over 500 visitors and we also held a day at Melton Museum which had over 100 visitors to see finds, meet re-enactors and listen to talks about the year's discoveries. Not a bad couple of months work on many levels. One more year to go...



### Countesthorpe, 4 Green Lane (Sophie Clarke)

An historic building survey was undertaken of farm buildings associated with a Grade II listed, 18th century farm house located at 4 Green Lane, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire, in advance of residential conversion. The courtyard-style farm complex comprises a cart-shed, stables, barn, cow-shed and a store set around a central, formerly cobbled yard area. With the exception of the stables, which may be 19th century, the buildings appear to date to the 18th century, with 19th century and later modifications, and may be contemporary with the farmhouse.



Farm house located at 4 Green Lane, Countesthorpe

### Leicester Greyfriars 2 (Mathew Morris et al)

Another year, another excavation, another thunderstorm heralding the discovery of an interesting burial – it must be the return to Greyfriars! We have just wrapped up a successful four week excavation back in the Social Services car park, this time examining a much larger area of the site (approx. 17m by 25m) around last year's Trenches 1 and 3. This is the last time we would get to examine this part of the site because part of the new heritage centre will be built over the top of it.



The site from the east with the viewing platform in the background to the right

Last time, because it was only an evaluation our interpretation of how the church once looked was a bit of a case of joining the dots together, so this was a great opportunity to confirm the plan of the east end of the friary church, learn more about its dating and architecture and investigate other burials known to be inside the building – including a rather fine stone coffin we found last time but ran out of time to investigate. It was also hoped that the new results would allow us to better understand how Richard III's grave is placed inside the church choir and demonstrate how different it is to other graves in the same space.

During the four weeks ULAS staff, two interns and a host of volunteers successfully battled the hot weather, the media, Channel 4 and thousands of visitors to our viewing platform (from all over the world) to excavate some fascinating archaeology.

We have uncovered valuable new information about the chancel of the Greyfriars church and now have a better idea of the church's layout and how Richard III's grave fits inside the church choir (he is indeed buried up against the southern choir stall at the very western end as we suspected), confirming wall lines, finding evidence for the northern choir stall and importantly the choir's western wall. We have found a small fragment of in-situ tile floor, the first piece of intact flooring to be found inside the church; and a new building has been found to the south of the church. This is a substantial structure with large buttressed walls and it could possibly be the remains of an earlier church or chapel or another building connected with the friary.



In-situ floor tiles

Three more burials have been exhumed, one from the presbytery, one from the eastern end of the choir and one half under the choir and presbytery so presumably from an earlier phase of the building. The latter two were both in wooden coffins with the one in the choir buried like Richard III up against one of the choir stall. The burial in the presbytery is more or less central within the space, probably fairly close to the high altar and is the one buried in a stone coffin.

This is the first fully intact medieval stone coffin to be discovered in Leicester during a modern archaeological excavation. The outer coffin is carved from limestone and is 2.12 meters long, 0.6 meters wide at the 'head' end, 0.3 meters wide at the 'foot' end and 0.3 meters deep. On 23 July we carefully removed the lid. It was so heavy it took eight people to lift it up. Inside we found an inner lead coffin, intact except for a hole at one end of the casket through which we could tantalisingly see someone's feet. No writing was visible on the coffin lid but it does bear a crude cross soldered into the metal.



**Stone coffin with lid removed to show inner lead**

Despite the atrocious weather that day (we managed to pick the one day it rained) we were able to successfully lift the lead coffin out of the stone coffin intact. We then used an endoscope camera to have a look inside. We had a look from both the foot end, through the damaged area, and through a widened hole at the head end. The body inside is only skeletal with no significant soft tissue or fabric surviving. However, close to the skull is a mass of matted hair-like material, possibly hair or mummified muscle tissue, whilst near the knees are small fragments of woven 'cord'. The inner coffin was opened in the lab on August 12<sup>th</sup> and early indications suggest that it is of a woman, possibly a benefactor to the Friary.

It hasn't all been successful, however. One of the goals of Phase 2 was to find some evidence of the church's nave and walking place to the west of the choir but the western edge of the excavation, where these parts of the church should have appeared was badly truncated by extensive post-medieval disturbance, perhaps some sort of large robbing event of something like a tower base, or local quarrying. Amazingly, this had just missed Richard III's head by millimetres. In fact, now that we have excavated completely around his grave it is apparent that it is a miracle he has survived at all.

### **Sheepy Magna, Twycross Road (Roger Kipling, Wayne Jarvis)**

A trial trench evaluation on land at Twycross Road, Sheepy Magna, Leicestershire, produced evidence for medieval occupation in the form of pits and ditches dating to the early 12th to mid-14th centuries and likely to represent activity to the rear of properties fronting Twycross Road immediately to the east. The recent work reflects the findings from previous field-work undertaken by ULAS adjacent to the site in 2002-3 to the south and on the road frontage.

### **Stapleton, Barn Farm, Ashby Road (Sophie Clarke)**

A building survey was undertaken at Barn Farm, Stapleton. Barn Farm is an isolated farmstead located to the south of Stapleton village core, which is likely to have been established following enclosure in 1650. The buildings proposed for demolition comprise a barn and cow-shed which form an L-shaped arrangement around a central farmyard and are likely to date to the second half of the 18th century, with some 19th and early 20th century modifications. A small, detached loose-box also proposed for demolition is later and may have been built c.1930. The working dairy farm is occupied by tenant farmers and the buildings proposed for demolition are no longer in use.



**Part of the range at Barn Farm, Stapleton**



# Festival of Archaeology 2013

HELEN SHARP

This year's Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology (part of the nationwide Festival organised by the Council for British Archaeology) was another resounding success with over seventy events and exhibitions taking place in the counties attended by around 10,000 people.

The Festival provides a unique chance to discover the rich archaeological heritage of Leicestershire and Rutland through a fascinating range of talks, guided tours, hands on archaeological activities and family friendly events.

Many events are organised and delivered by local community groups and heritage organisations showcasing the strong tradition that Leicestershire and Rutland have in this area and the knowledgeable and enthusiastic individuals involved. A special preview event on 22 June at Snibston Discovery Museum highlighted the work of these local groups with many of them attending and chatting to members of the public.



Members of Melton Fieldworkers showing off their latest discoveries

an overview of the Greyfriars excavation at Snibston Discovery Museum by Richard Buckley of LAHS and ULAS and various talks in local libraries and museums by Peter Liddle of Leicestershire Fieldworkers.



Kerri Wheeler of the Leicestershire Young Archaeologists Club.

Many of this year's events capitalised on the public's current fervour for all things Richard III related and talks on various aspects of Ricardian archaeology were held across the county, including sell-out lectures by Prof Caroline Wilkinson on the facial reconstruction created from the King's skull held at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre,



Facial Reconstruction of Richard III produced by Prof Caroline Wilkinson of the University of Dundee displayed at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. (Copyright Leicestershire County Council.)

Of course, it wasn't all about the king in the car park. The Festival is wonderful at bringing out local stories and sites which may often be overlooked. Some of this year's gems included events at St Mary in Arden Church, Market Harborough run by Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology, a guided walk along the Coleorton Village Heritage Trail and a presentation on John Wycliffe and tour of St Mary's Church, Lutterworth.

Leicestershire County Council produced a leaflet listing all events across the region which was generously supported by Leicestershire Fieldworkers, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, University of Leicester School of Ancient History and Archaeology and the Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum.



**Prof Caroline Wilkinson's lecture on recreating the facial appearance of Richard III. Copyright Leicestershire County Council.**

For further information about or to get involved in next year's Festival contact [archaeology@leics.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@leics.gov.uk) or visit [www.leics.gov.uk/archaeologyfestival](http://www.leics.gov.uk/archaeologyfestival) or [www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk)

## Woodhouse - A French Connection?

**A Society member holidaying in France during the summer visited the town of Beaumont-sur-Sarthe, formerly named Beaumont-le-Vicomte (Viscount), and made a possible connection with this small French town and Woodhouse, Leicestershire.**

For John, sixth Lord Beaumont, was in 1439 created England's first ever Viscount, and his heraldic shield is the same as that which is now used as a civic



emblem for Beaumont-sur-Sarthe (the mural crown denotes a town).

In 1450 Viscount Beaumont installed a quantity of stained glass heraldic shields in Woodhouse church, and the gold erect Beaumont lion is one of nine remaining shields still there today. The small fortified castle at Beaumont, now converted to a private residence, proudly flies a flag bearing this same heraldry.

In 1441 Viscount Beaumont was elected a Knight of the Garter; in 1446 was created Constable of England; and in 1450 Lord Chamberlain. As a soldier he distinguished himself in the Hundred Years War with France and for this the King created him Count of Boulogne. In 1444 he was granted precedence over all future viscounts and over sons of all earls.

Could it be that Beaumont-sur-Sarthe came to Viscount Beaumont as one of the spoils of war? Clearly more research is needed and the links between the two places verified. Perhaps the Hundred Years War is not over, after all?



# Networks Project Database now available on line

Details of the many local societies and groups that work with the LAHS in researching aspects of Leicestershire and Rutland's past are now available on line.

Compiled by the Society's Networks Officer, Caroline Wessel, the database contains information on more than eighty organisations and individuals with a particular research interest in the area. Many of the groups on the list has previously joined with the Society at one of its Network events and history fairs.

The database is updated on a regular basis, and can be downloaded as a PDF file from the LAHS website at [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs). All members receive regular updates on the Networks Project activities and events.

If you would like to add your group to the list, or you need to update an entry, please email Matthew Beamish at [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk).

# Visual Archive in the making

An organisation that began life as a group where amateur cine film makers could compare notes is becoming a valuable resource for historical research in the Market Harborough area.

Formerly the Market Harborough Cine Society, the Market Harborough Movie Makers have a fascinating archive of amateur footage recorded in the town and surrounding villages over the past fifty years.

These include film of the famous Hallaton Bottle kicking, the history of the Foxton Locks and a record of excavations at St Morrell's Chapel in Hallaton.

Although much of the society's archives are of recent date, the members share a fine sense of the importance of recording the present for the benefit of future historians and researchers. Further details are available on their website at [www.harboroughmoviemakers.org](http://www.harboroughmoviemakers.org).

## DR PAUL COURTNEY FSA

Officers and members of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society were saddened to hear of the death, earlier this year, of Paul Courtney.

Paul was born in Bristol. He began his digging career in Northamptonshire before moving to Gateway School in Leicester at the age of sixteen where he dug with the Archaeological Unit. His first degree was in Archaeology at Cardiff. This was followed by an MA in English Local History at Leicester and a PhD thesis on the landscape history of Gwent in South-east Wales.

Paul was an expert on Welsh pottery and on medieval and later small finds. He was co-editor of the journal *Post-Medieval Archaeology*. His main interests were in the combination of historical and archaeological evidence having had training in both disciplines. He had a long interest in North American historical archaeology and also had interests in pan-European archaeology but especially France and the Low Countries. His research ranged from directing excavations at Tintern Abbey to researching the origins of the Saintonge pottery of thirteenth century France.

The first of over one hundred papers (on monastic granges) was published in this Society's *Transactions* in 1981. He was honoured with an award by the American Society for Historical Archaeology at their Leicester conference in January 2013. Locally, his work on monastic granges, Anstey and on various aspects of Leicester's history and archaeology will be a valuable asset to other researchers for many years to come.

He was married to Yolanda Courtney, formerly Head of Leicestershire Museums, with whom he collaborated on several of his publications.



# Day Conferences in the Century Theatre

Snibston Discovery Museum, Ashby Road, Coalville, LE67 3LN

Saturday 21 September 2013

Recent Discoveries in Leicestershire

## Archaeology - *Life After Time Team?*

- 9.00 Reception, tea/coffee
- 9.30 The Search for Richard III - Matthew Morris
- 10.10 A Roman Cemetery at Oxford Street /Newarke Street, Leicester - John Thomas
- 10.35 Questions and comfort break
- 11.00 Bronze Age Burials and Roman Settlement at Castle Donington - Roger Kipling
- 11.30 The Bytham Deposits at Brooksby Quarry - Matt Beamish/Lynden Cooper
- 11.55 Questions
- 12.00 Buffet Lunch in the Century Theatre Foyer
- 13.15 Excavations at the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Coleorton Pottery Site - Tim Higgins
- 13.45 New Discoveries at Califat Colliery, Swannington - Denis Baker
- 14.15 New Information on the Ticknall Pottery Industry - Janet Spavold and Sue Brown
- 15.00 Questions and comfort break
- 15.15 Leicestershire's Historic Environment Record - Helen Wells
- 15.25 The Community Archaeology Training Placement - James Earley
- 15.35 Time Team and Leicestershire - A Look Back - Peter Liddle
- 16.30 Conference ends

Saturday 26 October 2013

The Hallaton Treasure Conference

## Archaeology, Anthropology and Folklore


- 9.00 Reception, tea/coffee
- 9.30 Hallaton Customs - Prehistoric Archaeology to Living Folklore - Vicki Score
- 10.10 Burrough Hill, an Iron Age Hillfort and its Environs - John Thomas
- 10.40 Questions and comfort break
- 11.00 Additional Work on the Burrough Hill Project - Melton Fieldworkers
- 11.30 Roman Rings and the Cult of Toutatis Adam Daubney
- 12.00 Buffet Lunch and opportunity to view the exhibition 'Treasure - Shedding Light on Leicestershire's Past'
- 13.45 Hallaton Treasure and the Treasure Process - Ian Richardson
- 14.10 Roman Coin Hoards and the Hallaton Finds - Eleanor Ghey
- 14.40 Jewels from the Midlands: images and identity on Roman signet rings - Ian Marshman
- 15.10 Questions and comfort break
- 15.30 Recent Work in Hallaton - The Hallaton Fieldwork Group
- 16.00 Progress on the Refurbishment of Harborough Museum
- 16.15 Conference Ends

Both conferences cost £15 including morning refreshments and a buffet lunch

To book a place please contact the Sales & Enquiries Team at Snibston by phone on 01530 278444, by email at [snibston@leics.gov.uk](mailto:snibston@leics.gov.uk) or book online at [www.snibston.com](http://www.snibston.com)







## What lies beneath

What lies beneath, below us?  
What hidden tales, what lore  
Concealed in silence in the earth,  
Agog to tell us more?  
Secrets unearthed, interpreted,  
Far on in time, we come to know  
The truth of what the land reveals,  
Of what the experts say is so.

Beneath the car park's bustle  
Hidden and alone he lay,  
Richard the king who'd fought and lost  
His battle on that Bosworth day,  
His head's deep wound,  
Uncovered now,  
Deadly, elusive, living proof  
Of Richard's fate, the where, the how.

Passion and science made it so,  
Solving at last the mystery, the case  
Of this maligned and stricken king  
Who came, thus humbled, to his resting place.  
Five hundred years his sojourn  
In that unknown lonely spot  
Two years, but two, his reign had seen  
Before five centuries of worms and rot.

Here lie the answers, when and why,  
The substance now discovered, proved;  
But there are questions still to pose  
Which science, archaeology, unmoved  
By nought but fact, cannot resolve.  
We'll never know what made him weep,  
What brought him grief, anxiety and angst,  
Or caused his missing heart to leap.

# The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

Founded 1855

President - Michael Wood

Leicestershire's premier archaeological and historical organisation for over 150 years



Your subscription will bring you:

- Your own copy of 'Transactions', the Society's major annual reference work for Leicestershire
- Regular updates from 'The Leicestershire Historian' and the best essays and articles from local researchers
- Two Newsletters every year to keep you in touch with history and heritage news
- The Society's Library in the Guildhall - free access to a fine local collection
- A season of fascinating talks and lectures - all free to members
- Access to visits, history fairs, guided walks and special events

For membership details, please visit our website or join us at any meeting as our guest

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

