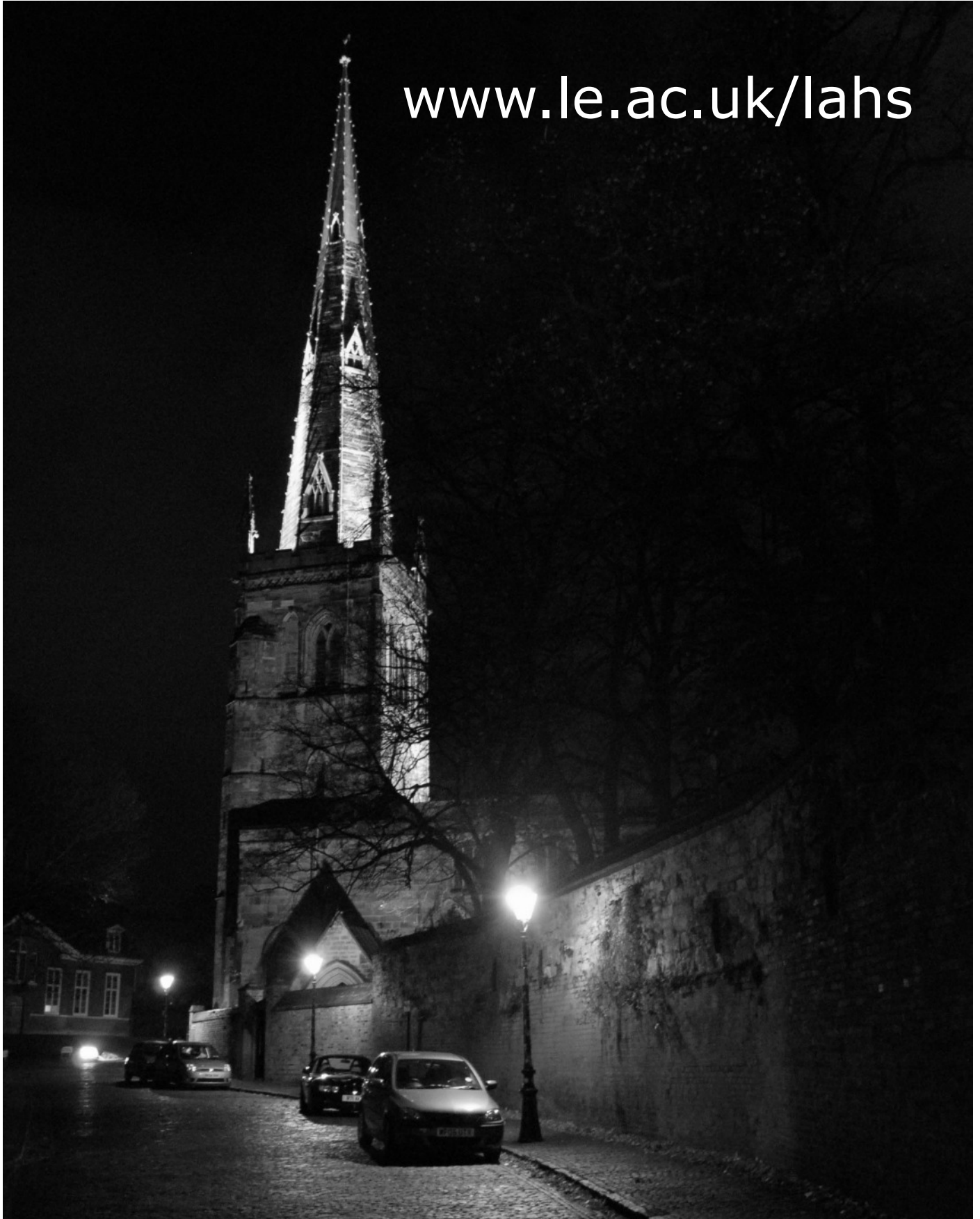


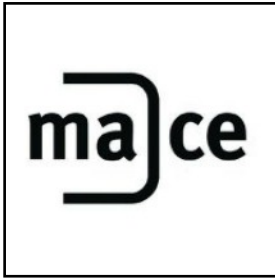
# Newsletter

Spring 2014  
Number 89

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

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





# MACE gains top national archive services accreditation

[www.macearchive.org](http://www.macearchive.org)

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE), the screen archive for the East and West Midlands, which was previously based at the University of Leicester, is among the first six archive services in the United Kingdom to be given Archive Service Accreditation. This is the new national quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery.

MACE is the only film archive to be awarded this status, the other accredited services being the archives of Cumbria, Tyne and Wear and Worcestershire, the Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives and the Network Rail Corporate Archive.

*'This was a very strong application and [we] noted the excellence of the documentation provided... the diversity of funding sources on which the service rests is a strength and the achievement in strategic fundraising and commercial revenue is very substantial. MACE offers excellent online access and the sheer range of opportunities to access the archive collections impressed the Panel.'*

**Report from the Archive Service Accreditation assessors**

Accredited Archive Services ensure the long-term collection, preservation and accessibility of the country's archive heritage. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that MACE has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and what the service offers to all its users.

The material MACE preserves is used in a wide variety of educational and community projects including the highly successful Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Full Circle',

which worked with nearly seventy groups across the region over the past three years. Films have also been exhibited at many museum exhibitions including Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery and screenings are hosted across the region from Quad in Derby to the MAC in Birmingham.

*'We are delighted to be amongst the first archives to achieve accreditation under this new scheme. The Archives Accreditation standard reflects the progress that MACE has made in developing a fully rounded and professional service for the regions we represent. The formal recognition of that from the national panel is fantastically affirming of our value.'*

**James Patterson  
Director, MACE**

MACE's online catalogue of 50,000 titles, which includes over 4100 video clips, is a resource that is used extensively in research by both academics and filmmakers. MACE have also released a range of high quality DVDs with sales income used to fund the continuation of preservation and access work.

MACE is based at the University of Lincoln. A registered charity, it selects, preserves, documents and provides public access to film, video and digital moving images which document the rich culture and history of the region's twelve counties from Lincolnshire to Herefordshire.

To contact MACE, email them at [info@macearchive.org](mailto:info@macearchive.org) write to MACE, MHT Building, University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln LN6 7TS or ring them on 01522 837750

# Newsletter

Spring 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)

## WARTIME LEICESTERSHIRE

The Society's major History Fair at Beaumanor Hall

## ERLUND HUDSON

The wartime artist of Ashby Magna

## THE ALAN NORTH LEGACY

Remembering Alan and celebrating his life

## SAVE OUR SPIRE

St Mary de Castro seeking your support

## GUMLEY

Seeing the wood for the trees

## MEDIA ARCHIVE FOR CENTRAL ENGLAND

Top archive accreditation for MACE

## PETER MOORE 1921-2013

Gallantry, service and good humour

## ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATES

ULAS and Mercian Archaeology reports

## THE LAHS LIBRARY

Latest acquisitions

## LIKE LAHS!

Join the Society on Social Media

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Important information for all members

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Newsletter No 89 Spring 2014

Distributed free of charge to all members

The editor, Stephen Butt, welcomes articles, letters and comments

Email - [lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk](mailto:lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk) Phone - 07805 459764

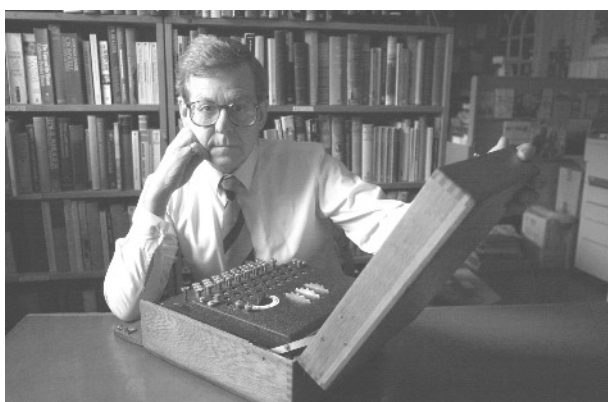
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# Wartime Leicestershire at Beaumanor Hall

**News that the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was planning another major History Fair, this time on the theme of Wartime Leicestershire, has been received enthusiastically by local history and heritage groups and by the public.**

All the available stalls and stands at Beaumanor Hall were booked up within a matter of days, reflecting the richness and diversity of historical research in Leicestershire.

Displays, stalls and mini-talks will follow the wartime theme from the Roman Invasion to the present day. Featured will be Roman interactive displays, Richard III, The Wars of the Roses, the Civil War, the Napoleonic Wars, and of course both World Wars. Some displays will reflect on World War I in its centenary year, whilst Beaumanor as a World War II secret listening 'Y' Station will be celebrated with the demonstration of a genuine Enigma Machine. An archaeology project to assist in the recovery of soldiers wounded in Afghanistan will reflect upon the present day.



**Dr Mark Baldwin and a WWII Enigma Machine**

Sixteen twenty-minute talks have been arranged, and will be presented in two of the Hall's first-floor rooms. Seats can be booked in advance using a special website at [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk). Judging by the response to date, it is likely that there will be very few seats available on the day. Society members are therefore urged to visit the website and make their bookings as soon as possible.

The Richard III talks will be given by Richard Buckley OBE, Chairman of the Society and the lead archaeologist on the Richard III dig, who will invite his audience to view Beaumanor's Richard III bedroom built in 1848 by William Perry Herrick, especially to house the

famous Richard III bed. In this 'Gothic' room Richard Buckley will show guests the 3D reconstruction of the Blue Boar Inn, where the last Plantagenet king is reputed to have slept the night before the Battle of Bosworth.

World renowned Enigma machine expert, Dr Mark Baldwin, will have his Enigma machine on display at the Fair and, during his intriguing three mini-talks about the most famous cypher machine in the world, members of the audience will have a chance to try out the machine for themselves. It is widely known that the success of the WWII Bletchley Park codebreakers hastened victory in 1945, but not everyone realises that Beaumanor's secret listening station also played a vital role.

Leicestershire's Charnwood Forest was also home to a highly secret WWII operation. In a field in the parish of Charley, men in the RAF 80 Wing (Signals) Unit were operating, jamming transmitters that were able to 'bend' the German Luftwaffe bombers target-finding beams, and as a result many significant military equipment factories were spared from destruction. At the Beaumanor Fair, displays and a mini-talk on the 'Charley Beambenders' will reveal all.

The Defence Archaeology Group was founded in 2012 to utilise both the technical and social aspects of field archaeology in the recovery and skill development of soldiers injured in the conflict in Afghanistan. There is a close correlation between the skills required by the modern soldier and those of the professional archaeologist, and Surgeon Commodore Dr Peter Buxton's display and mini-talk on the DAG will bring the History Fair's programme right up to the present day.

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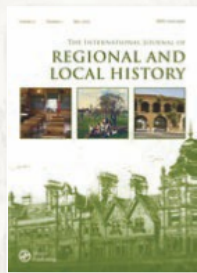
**WARTIME LEICESTERSHIRE**  
**Sunday 23 March 2014**  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**  
**[WWW.LAHS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LAHS.ORG.UK)**

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Other 'wartime' activities will include live music and reading presentations with tunes from both World Wars; an Air Raid Experience in Beaumanor's cellars; outdoor tours to the 'Y' Station huts; exhibitors in period costumes; and many local history group stalls presenting their own 'wartime' topics. There will be the usual link-up with Quorn Steam Railway Station, itself themed as WW2 complete with NAAFI tea-room, and veteran buses will transport visitors between the two venues. For timetable and train fares with great History Fair discounts see [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

# Regional history titles from Maney

Recommend these journals to your library or read free sample articles on the journal homepages.



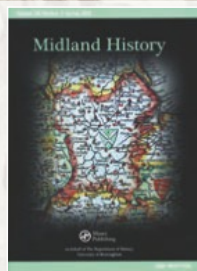
## **The International Journal of Regional and Local History**

aims to publish high-quality academic articles which address the history of regions and localities in the medieval, early-modern and modern eras.

Recently-published articles include:

- 'Always a Good Programme Here': The Records of the Tudor Cinema, Leicester, 1924–1932
- Post-Industrial Place, Multicultural Space: The Transformation of Leicester, c. 1970–1990

To find out more about this journal visit: [www.maneyonline.com/jrl](http://www.maneyonline.com/jrl)



**Midland History** is the principal journal covering the history of the English midlands. First produced in 1971, the aim of the journal is to encourage scholarly work on the history of the midlands from Roman times to the twenty-first century. Subscribers will receive a special issue on 'The Great War' in Autumn 2014.

Recently-published articles include:

- Legacy of Partition, 1947–2009: Creating New Archives from the Memories of Leicestershire People

To find out more about this journal visit: [www.maneyonline.com/mdh](http://www.maneyonline.com/mdh)



## Bring your family medals to Beaumanor



**A local military medals expert will be providing a medal advisory service at the LAHS Wartime History Fair at Beaumanor Hall on Sunday 23 March 2014.**

Mark Gamble is a member of Thurmaston Heritage Group and a long-time member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society. He has a particular interest in British military history. Mark is the LRFHS's recognised expert in family military history research and he also maintains the online Thurmaston Military Indexes.

Mark will be using his wide knowledge of military medals to provide a service at our History Fair. For many families, this is an area of research which is rarely undertaken, but it could lead to a much broader understanding of a family's history.

Many different Leicestershire history and heritage groups will be represented at Beaumanor offering a remarkable range of knowledge and expertise. Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day, and live music from the the periods of the two World Wars will be performed by 'Sounds Familiar'. Tickets will cost just £5.00 per adult on the door on the day. Children will be admitted free of charge, and car parking is also free.



# Notes and News

## NEW YEAR HONOUR FOR LAHS CHAIRMAN

It was with a true sense of pleasure and pride that we received the news that our Chairman, Richard Buckley, had been recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours List and had been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

The Government's own website describes the Honour as 'recognising the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the United Kingdom'. We would question whether Richard can be described as 'extraordinary', but certainly his objective commitment to the very finest methodology of archaeology with regard to the Greyfriars project has been an extraordinary achievement for him, his ULAS team and his many colleagues in associated disciplines at the University of Leicester and further afield.

The LAHS Committee offered their congratulations to Richard at its meeting on Wednesday 22 January 2014.

### What Lies Beneath

Owing to a editorial misunderstanding, this Newsletter failed to credit the author of the poem 'What Lies Beneath' which appeared in the last issue.

The Editor is pleased to offer his apologies and full acknowledgement to Eileen Carruthers, and wishes to thank her for her retrospective permission to publish her work.

## FRIENDS OF THE RECORD OFFICE

Since its first Annual General Meeting in May 1984, the Friends have been dedicated to the promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

We are mindful of the wide range of services provided at Wigston, including those in response to the Statutory Obligations laid upon the three local authorities, but we are also particularly conscious of the great potential that exists for the better education of our children.

Local history material represents a massive resource, and Leicestershire and Rutland are fortunate in the survival of so many items that can illustrate life in earlier centuries, and the richness of our local heritage.

The new county Department for Communities and Wellbeing embraces libraries, museums, adult learning and the Record Office. There is a rapidly growing lay interest in local and family history, particularly by the over-fifties, including many who have often had little formal education beyond the age of fourteen or fifteen. Yet their research is developing the records and adding material to the archives. In the process they are developing research skills of critical analysis and lateral thinking which are transferable to other aspects of their lives.

Some of the benefits of providing a Record Office accrue to the Office itself, but many of the benefits are experienced elsewhere, in business and commerce and in other budgets such as health. We hope that our elected members have the vision to see the broader picture and the financial benefits of supporting the Record Office and its services, rather than finding it a soft target to cut.

In the meantime, it is important that our elected representatives recognise that we are not an significant minority that can be ignored.

Come and join us at our next Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the Record Office, Long Street, Wigston, on Wednesday 21 May 2014, commencing at 7.15pm.

John Lloyd Marlow  
Hon Secretary  
Friends of the Record Office for Leicestershire,  
Leicester and Rutland

## NEW LECTURE SECRETARY REQUIRED

Having arranged several seasons of fascinating talks and lectures, our Lectures Secretary Neil Finn has decided to stand down.

The officers of the Society would be pleased to hear from any member who would like to take on this role from the 2015/16 season. Neil has agreed to work alongside his successor in arranging next year's season (2014/15).

Neil is happy to have an informal conversation with anyone who is interested in following in his footsteps.

# Notes and News

## WALTER DEARING WELLS

The Vaughan Archaeological and Historical Society has informed us of the death of Walter Dearing Wells on 30 October 2013.

With his wife Mary, Walter had a lifelong interest in history, and was a member of several local societies including the Friends of Leicester Museums.

The son of a West End actor, Walter was born in 1923 in Leamington Spa, but much of his childhood in Surrey where his parents had bought a poultry farm. He joined the Home Guard when war broke out, and when called up, was enlisted in the Oxfordshire and Buckingham Regiment. He took part in the Normandy landings in 1944.

After the war he studied Geology at Lincoln College, Oxford, and on graduation became a Geological Field Office with the newly-formed National Coal Board at its Staffordshire office, where he and his wife were to meet.

When it became apparent that the open-cast mining programme was being wound down, Walter resigned, trained as a teacher and joined the staff of Coalville Technical College where he taught mining students. He later moved to Guthlaxton College to teach Science and Mathematics, and after early retirement, became a part-time technician in the Department of Geology at Leicester University.

Walter was always regarded as a true gentleman by all who knew him, but his genial nature was combined with a lifelong boyish enthusiasm for the subjects that fascinated him. He built a fully-operational astronomical telescope at Guthlaxton, and constructed a sun-dial for the college which was accurate for each month of the year. He was a member of the British Sundial Society, belonged to a local Latin study group and attended local classical music concerts.

The Society sends its condolences to Walter's family, and shares with them, memories of a very fine gentleman.

## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Society has always been keen to encourage research, and its publications contain the results of such research. Occasionally the Society itself has promoted research projects, but on the whole individual members carry out research over a period of time, sometimes resulting in books or papers in Transactions.

Over the years sums of money have been left to the Society to encourage research and this money forms the Research Fund to which members and others can apply for grants.

Application forms and guidance notes for those intending to apply for a grant are available on the society's website.

Completed applications should be sent to Prof. Marilyn Palmer, 63 Sycamore Drive, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0EW, or by email to: [marilynpalmer@virginmedia.com](mailto:marilynpalmer@virginmedia.com).

All applications are considered by the Trustees of the Research Fund, and grants are normally issued twice yearly.

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SOCIETY

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter, which is published twice-yearly in Spring and in Autumn. We would like to keep in touch with you throughout the year, by providing regular up-to-date information about the Society's activities and relevant local history and heritage events. If you would like to benefit from this service, please send your email address to our Membership Secretary, Matthew Beamish at [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk)

For general information about the Society, and to download previous research material and publications please visit our main website at [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs). For details of our Wartime Leicestershire History Fair and to reserve seats for the talks and tours, please visit [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk)



[WWW.LE.AC.UK/LAHS](http://WWW.LE.AC.UK/LAHS)

[WWW.LAHS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LAHS.ORG.UK)

# News from the Society's Library

AUBREY STEVENSON, HON LIBRARIAN

Use of the Library during 2013 was about the same as in the previous year. The final opening day in October, however, was the busiest afternoon for a long time with returns, borrowings, enquiries, donations being brought in and useful contacts made between members. A most fortunate coincidence happened when a book was donated only some 30 minutes after it had been asked about!

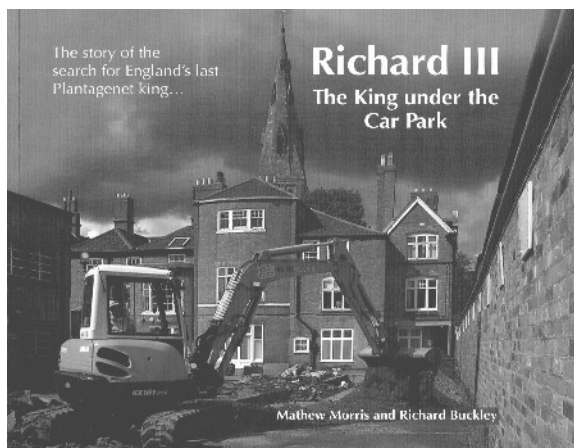
As many will be aware the Cathedral garden is being redesigned and, as a result of the ongoing work, the car park of St. Martins House is being used by the contractors. It is not, therefore, available for use by Library users at present. Donations of £11 from members using the car park were passed to St. Martins House as a small gesture of thanks for the kindness. Thank you.

## ACQUISITIONS

Material continues to be acquired for the Library in the form of books, pamphlets, periodicals and newsletters by purchase, donation and exchange with other societies. The Society is particularly grateful to members, friends and publishers for the generous donation of appropriate local publications. If you have produced something please do not be shy about notifying the Librarian. It is good to know of members' research.

## BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

ANTHONY, V. The survival of a village: the history of Allexton. 2009.  
BALDWIN, D. Richard III: the Leicester connection. 2013.  
BENNETT, N. Lincolnshire parish clergy c.1214 – 1968: a biographical register. Part 1: the Deaneries of Aslaoe and Aveland. 2013. (Lincoln Record Society Vol. 103)  
BUTT, S. History of Leicester in 100 people. 2013. Amberley £14.99 9781445616858. Written by the Society's Hon. Secretary and Editor of this Newsletter.



Illus. in black and white and colour. If you do not know who Volisios and Geoff Rowe are, this is the book for you.

CARROLL, J. & PARSONS, D. eds. Perceptions of place: twenty-first-century interpretations of English place-name studies. 2013. (English Place-Name Society supernumerary volume for 2012)

COCKS, T. Trinity Hospital: Leicester's royal foundation: the Hospital of the Holy Trinity. 2nd ed. 2013. (1st pub. 1997). Donated by the Clerk to the Governors. The author is a member of the Society.

COLLETT, P. The parish churches of Rutland. 2012.

CRUTCHLEY, N. Leicester Symphony Orchestra: the first 90 years. 2013. Donated by the L.S.O.

DUCHESS OF RUTLAND Belvoir Castle: 1000 years of family, art and architecture. 2009.

FREER, W., OWEN, A., STOKES, D. All of a lather: soap manufacture in Ashby-de-la-Zouch 1890 – 2011. 2013. Ashby-de-la-Zouch Museum. 9780957464001. Donated by Ken Hillier on behalf of the publisher.

FRIENDS OF EVINGTON Old Evington trail from Evington Park to St. Denys Church. [2013]. Donated by the publisher.

HICKMAN, T. Uppingham and the villages through time: Barrowden, Belton, Edith Weston, Ketton, North and South Luffenham. 2013.

INGRAM, R. Life in Arnesby 1851 to 1901. "What changed?" A demographic portrait of a Leicestershire village in the second half of the 19th century. 2012.

JOHNSON, B. 100 years of Leicester cinema. 2007.

LANGLEY, P. & JONES, M. The king's grave: the search for Richard III. 2013.

LARK, S. The Battle of Bosworth 1485 and the burial of Richard III. 2013.

LICENCE, A. Richard III: the road to Leicester. 2014.

MARLOW, A. with RATCLIFF, M. City Boys' School, Leicester: the story of a grammar school. 2012. Donated by the Wyvernians. £19.99 or £25.99 incl. p. & p. from B. Screamon, 25 Cambridge Road, Cosby, LE9 1SH. [brscreaton@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:brscreaton@dsl.pipex.com)

MARSAY, R. ed. Rutland's phoenix: the archives of the Noel family of Exton Park, Rutland: an introduction and essays. 2013. Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, £7.50 + £1.20 p. & p. 58p. illus. Donated by the publisher.

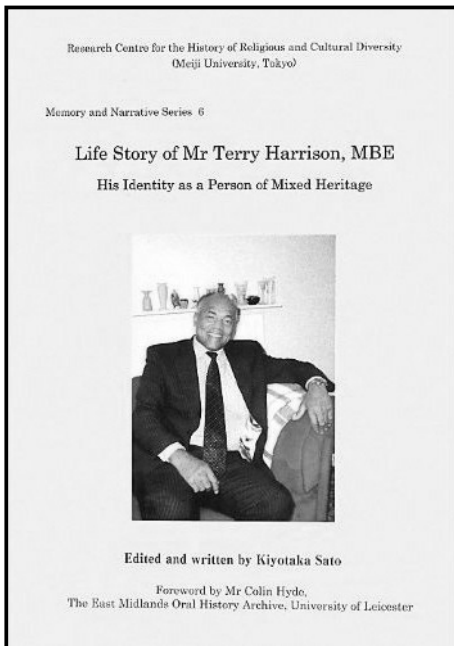
MATTHEWS, R. The sieges of Leicester 943 and 1645. 2013.

MORRIS, M. & BUCKLEY, R. Richard III: the king under the car park: the story of the search for England's last Plantagenet king. 2013. University of Leicester Archaeological Services, £8.95. Donated by the publisher. Yes, it really is all the fault of the Society's Chairman! This is THE book to read.

READ, I.L. 'Dick' Of those we loved: a Great War narrative remembered and illustrated. 2013. (1st pub. 1994). The Library does not usually collect military material but the author served with the Leicestershire Regiment. Donated by the publisher.



SATO, K. Life story of Mr. Terry Harrison, M.B.E.: his identity as a person of mixed heritage. 2013. Mr. Harrison was born in Gaddesby in 1944 and worked in Leicester. Donated by Prof. Sato, Tokyo.



SHEPPARD, T. Church planting in Charnwood Forest. 2013.

SITTON, J. & STROSHANE, M. Measured by the soul: the life of Joseph Carey Merrick also known as the Elephant Man. 2012. Donated by the Hon. Secretary.

SMITH, M. The story of Belgrave: the life and death of a Leicestershire village 1086 – 1892 & Bygone Belgrave in 120 photographs. 2012.

It should be noted that listing of new publications here does not preclude their possible review in the Leicestershire Historian or Transactions. All publications submitted for review are subsequently treated as donations to the Library. They are always welcome.

**NOT a book!**

Made in Leicester. [DVD]. [2012]. Produced by MACE in the series Midlands on Film. Donated by the publisher ( Media Archive for Central England ).

PERIODICALS

The usual range of titles have been received. To highlight a few articles of local interest in places where you might not think of looking:

Antiquaries Journal 93 2013 p.163 – 216 Hall and chambers: Oakham Castle reconsidered and p.353 – 400 William Stukeley in Stamford: his houses, gardens, etc.

Harborough Historian 30 2013 incl. Richard III Greyfriars project; Jane West; Slate engraving on Leicestershire tombstones

Hinckley Historian 72 Winter 2013 incl. article on Earl Shilton; Old Hinckleyans in World War I

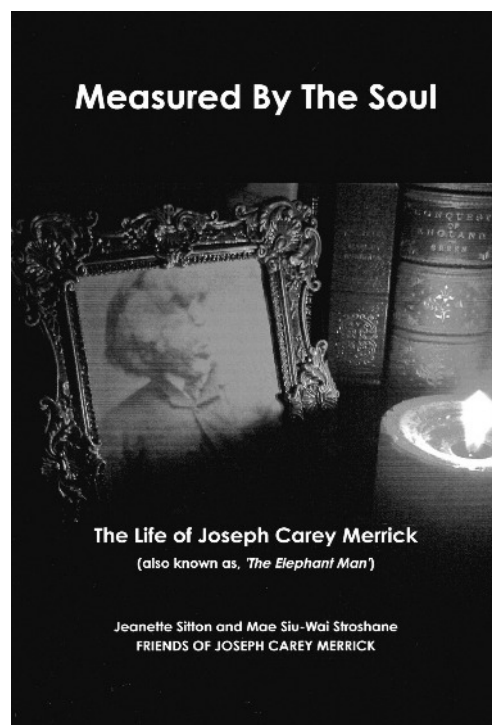
Historical Research 86.234 Nov. 2013 incl. Eggs, rags and whist drives: popular munificence and the development of provincial medical voluntarism between the wars. (Leicester Royal Infirmary is one of four case studies).

Leicestershire V.C.H. News 1.4 Summer 2013. See [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/leicestershire](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/leicestershire)

Medieval Archaeology 57 2013 incl. A deposit of early medieval iron objects from Scraftoft.

Rutland Record 28 2008 – 31 2011 (32 2012 is already in stock). The file is now complete apart from no. 8 Who was Who in Rutland which is out of print.

The Library has been sent two further sample issues of History West Midlands, mentioned in my previous article. The most recent, no.3 Winter 2013, includes Spreading the word: bookselling and printing before 1800 by John Hinks, a Leicester author and previously Reviews Editor of the Leicestershire Historian, and an article on William



# Gumley - Seeing the wood for the trees

STEPHEN ALLEN

## *Look on my works, ye Mighty....*

Gumley, according to Arthur Mee, 'is perhaps the prettiest village in the county<sup>ii</sup>...' Standing at the trig point marking the highest point on the ridge to the north of the village, it commands extensive views northwards over the county towards the Charnwood Hills skyline, whilst to the south there are views across the Welland alley to where the Royalist cause in the Civil War was decisively undermined in 1645.

At the end of a spur leading southwards down from the ridge but well below the skyline there is a noticeable roundish hill designated as **Mound<sup>iii</sup>** on the OS map, the dimensions of which are comparable to the Castle Hill motte at Hallaton. Unlike the latter, mature trees sprout from the mound. Just to the south west of the mound is an artificial roughly triangular shaped lake, whose earthen bank is clearly discernible, that is designated **The Mot<sup>iv</sup>** on the OS map. Consultation of Barrie Cox's authoritative *'The Place-names of Leicestershire'* reveals the following:

'THE MOT, v mote; at present the name attached to a Gumley Hall park water-feature by Capability Brown, but may have been transferred from what appears to be an early mill mound one hundred yards to its north-west<sup>v</sup>.'

There are, then, three topographical propositions: the Mot is a park water-feature; there is what appears to be an early mill mound one hundred yards to the north-west of the Mot; Capability Brown designed the park water-feature. Questions, however, are begged by all three.

Although Gumley Hall was demolished nearly fifty years ago, the site and the avenue leading from the Hall through woodland, looking south-west from where the central doorway once stood, are still extant together with the later built stable-block.

It is worth noting that the landscape is such that the Mot is not at all visible from the Hall site<sup>vi</sup>. Moreover, to the north-east and considerably closer to the site is a much larger artificial lake embowered in Gumley Wood, which is marked as a **Fish Pond<sup>vii</sup>** on the 6 inch OS map. To the north west of the Mot, beyond the mound, is a much smaller water-feature<sup>viii</sup> of similar shape, which is clear on the 2.5 inch OS map and can still just be discerned in



The site of Gumley Hall, photographed in 2013, looking north-east along the avenue from Debdale Lane

The mound lies in a deep fold of the terrain well below the skyline so that a mill constructed thereon would be minimally exposed to wind. But where was the parish windmill? The County Record Office has a copy of the Gumley Enclosure Map dated 1773, whereon the mill is clearly marked<sup>ix</sup> in 'Mill Field' adjacent to the road at the summit before it descends to Debdale Wharf, thereby affording much greater exposure to wind. Parallel to the road but beyond the map-site what appears to be the vestige of a terrace can be made out. That there is possibly some confusion in the Place-name entry is borne out by the incorrect direction - the mound is not about a hundred yards "to its north west" of the Mot but to the north-east.

Apropos Gumley Hall Capability Brown is not mentioned by any topographer of Leicestershire – John Nichols<sup>x</sup>, JB Firth<sup>xi</sup>, Arthur Mee<sup>xii</sup> – but in two early twentieth century local newspaper articles<sup>xiii</sup> it is stated unequivocally that it was built by Joseph Cradock in 1764 and that the grounds were laid out in imitation of St Cloud, outside Paris destroyed in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1.

In the introduction to the *Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs* of J Cradock<sup>xiv</sup> it is emphasised that he was an excellent landscape gardener in his own right and, furthermore, was of limited means. Why then, would he pay the foremost celebrated landscape gardener of his day to carry out such works? Whilst Brown is referred to in his Memoirs<sup>xv</sup>, Cradock makes no claim about the former's involvement in the creation of the landscape.

So what was the basis of Barrie Cox's statement? I emailed him a note on my misgivings, to which he responded with both grace and alacrity. He had relied on a statement made in *The Leicestershire and Rutland Village Book* compiled by the Women's Institute. It reports thus: 'The gardens and lake were laid out by Capability Brown<sup>xvi</sup>'. An ambiguity is immediately apparent since the 'lake' is, surely, that denoted as **Fish Pond** mentioned above and not the Mot.

In his glossary of place-name elements Cox notes that 'mote' can refer to 'a moat, protective ditch filled with water around a building'<sup>xvii</sup> but the structure and distance from the mound counter this interpretation. Mention of the Mot is made in the Victoria County History<sup>xviii</sup> - 'Gumley was a meeting-place for the witanagemot of the kings of Mercia in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. On the south side of Gumley Covert there is a pond called 'the Mot' which may be Saxon.'

Tantalisingly, another possible element offered by Cox is 'mot' referring to 'a meeting, a moot'<sup>xix</sup> but to suggest that the name of the pond is a distant echo in folk memory of such gatherings is, surely, fanciful.

I would like to propose another interpretation of the archaeological features in Gumley. *The Mound* is a defensive motte built at the end of a natural spur, whilst the two triangular water features are fish ponds, the larger of which is now known as *The Mot*, the name, as Cox suggests, having been transferred from the mound. The so-called *Fishpond* is an artificial lake, being an integral part of the landscape designed by Joseph Cradock.



St Helen's Parish Church, Gumley, looking south-west from Debdale Lane



A rare photograph of the Fernie Hunt meeting at Gumley Hall in November 1923

- <sup>i</sup> Percy Bysshe Shelley 'Ozymandias' line 11.
- <sup>ii</sup> Arthur Mee *The King's England. Leicestershire and Rutland*, Hodder and Stoughton, 1937.
- <sup>iii</sup> O.S. Nat. Grid 679 899.
- <sup>iv</sup> O.S. Nat. Grid 679 897.
- <sup>v</sup> Barrie Cox *The Place-names of Leicestershire Part Four Gartree Hundred*, Nottingham English Place-name Society, 2009, p88.
- <sup>vi</sup> In an article published in LAHS Transactions 71.27 (1997) Oliver Creighton suggests that the *Mound* is a prospect mound but if contemporary with the Hall, then the latter would, surely, be visible from that point.
- <sup>vii</sup> O.S. Nat. Grid 681 902.
- <sup>viii</sup> O.S. Nat. Grid 678 899.
- <sup>ix</sup> Not marked on the O.S. map but O.S. Nat. Grid 687 911.
- <sup>x</sup> John Nichols *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester Vol II part II*, John Nichols, 1798, pp587-92.
- <sup>xi</sup> J B Firth *Highways and Byways in Leicestershire*, Macmillan & Co, 1926.
- <sup>xii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xiii</sup> In 'Picturesque Leicestershire No 12', a newspaper cutting from the 'Leicester Mercury', in the Cable Collection held at the County Records Office, Wigston : viii 160; xxvii 128.
- <sup>xiv</sup> J Cradock *Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs*, JB Nichols, 1828, pp xxx, xii.  
It is worth noting that 'The Cradock Arms' public house in Leicester is named after JC.
- <sup>xv</sup> Ibid, I 57, I 82, iv 146.
- <sup>xvi</sup> *The Leicestershire and Rutland Village Book* compiled by the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes from notes and illustrations sent by institutes in the County, 1989, Gumley section.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Ibid p347.
- <sup>xviii</sup> JM Lee, RA McKinley *Victoria County History A History of the County of Leicester: Vol 5: Gartree Hundred*, 1964, p116.
- <sup>xix</sup> Ibid p347.

# Notes and News

## Foxton Inclined Plane Trust drops boat lift restoration campaign after 23 years

The campaign to restore the canal boat lift at Foxton Locks has been dropped after more than 23 years.

The Foxton Inclined Plane Trust has decided it is unlikely to be able to raise the £11 million needed to complete the project.

It also believes it would not be able to afford the £30,000 a year needed to replace cables and maintain the site.

President of the trust David Stephenson said: 'The trust has reluctantly accepted that the complete physical restoration of the boat lift would not be attainable in the foreseeable future.'

The Foxton Inclined Plane was built in 1900 as a solution to operational restrictions imposed by the flight of ten locks. However, it was not a commercial success and remained in full-time operation for only ten years. It was dismantled in 1928.

The trust had hoped to recreate the lift, which would include two counter-balanced tanks called caissons that would haul canal boats up and down the 75ft-high incline. In 2008, £3 million was spent clearing the site of trees and shrubs, preparing it for full restoration. The canal at the top of the lift was re-watered and an observation platform was created, among other improvements.

Mr Stephenson said: 'We have estimated the rebuilding costs would be in excess of £11 million and we believe it unlikely that the Heritage Lottery Fund would give financial support to the lift replication project.'

'Nevertheless, the trust remains open to the possibility of full restoration in the longer term should circumstances allow.'

The trust was set up in 1980 and has held regular fund-raising activities over the years. Mike Beech, trust member and curator of Foxton Museum, said: 'One factor that has led to this decision is that health and safety legislation requires that the main cables of the lift – those attaching the caissons to the main drive – must be replaced on a regular basis, every three years.'

'The cost of replacing the cables would be £30,000 a year. This does not include any provision for installing them, nor any other ongoing maintenance costs.'

## Major repairs to the Grammar School in Market Harborough are underway

The landmark Grammar School celebrates its 400th anniversary this year but an inspection last summer revealed it needed attention. In January, despite the inclement weather, the team conducting the renovation constructed a weather-proof covering, to shield the structure from the elements during the refurbishment.

The Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity, which manages the building, intends to replace the slate roof, restore the bell turret and repair the timbers, facings, plaster work and windows.

Jim Jacobs, steward of the charity, said the programme is being overseen by English Heritage and should be completed by the end of the summer.

He said: 'People will be surprised to see what is the town's trademark completely shielded while the work is carried out.'

'The scaffolding and the covering, which is much stronger than a tent, will be able to withstand rain, snow and frost. We want to be able to protect the fabric while the work is under way.'

The building will be returned to what it used to look like before changes carried out in the nineteenth century. He said the roof will be replaced with top quality Welsh slate.

Mr Jacobs said: 'We had planned to take down the turret and repair it elsewhere, but it is now being repaired in situ.' He said the windows are being removed and repaired, complete with fresh obscured glass, in Leicester.

Specialist architect Bryan Martin, who drew up the programme, said the roof repair was a priority. He said parts of the panels had come away from the timber frame and some of the windows could be in danger of falling out unless repairs were carried out.

The school was erected in 1614 and paid for by Harborian Robert Smyth, who was comptroller of the City of London. It remained in school use until 1908. It continues to be used widely by market traders and various groups. It has become a symbol for the town, appearing on souvenirs and featuring in the logos of many organisations. It was renovated in 1789, extended in 1869 and given a £30,000 restoration in 1977. It is Grade I-listed.

# Erlund Hudson and her images of Wartime Ashby Magna



**Women preparing dried herbs in Ashby Magna for treating wounded soldiers, by Eleanor (Erlund) Hudson**

## **Historian Jo Brompton is seeking local information regarding the watercolourist, etcher and designer Erlund (Eleanor) Hudson who died in 2011.**

For part of World War II, Erlund Hudson lived with her brother Paige, who was the vicar of Ashby Magna, in Leicestershire, his wife, Susan, and their three children. The rectory had large outlying barns where the local farmers' wives worked at trestle tables to prepare dried herbs and flowers that were sent to hospitals for medicinal purposes. Hudson sketched this scene, as well as the large canteens in Leicester where she helped to pack supplies for prisoners of war.

Hudson was born in St. Marychurch, near Torquay in Devon in 1912. She was the youngest of seven children to Henry Hudson, a businessman from Liverpool, and Helen Ingeborg Olson, a Norwegian-American from Boston. At the age of ten she was confined to bed for a year with a spinal injury and spent much of her time drawing. She attended Torquay School of Art before securing a place in the school of engraving at the Royal College of Art.

After her time in Leicestershire she moved to London, living in a fourth-floor flat in Earls Court and witnessed

first-hand the death and destruction of the Blitz. She volunteered as a driver of a mobile canteen, actually a converted laundry van, and made tea and sandwiches for the rescue services attending at bomb sites.

Later, she recalled how after a block of flats were bombed, bodies and limbs were strewn around. Visiting her mother in Torquay, she witnessed a similar scene in the aftermath of a bomb destroying a school. Hudson didn't draw these scenes, instead preferring to concentrate on depicting women volunteers hard at work for the war effort. She produced hundreds of paintings and drawings during the war

After the war Hudson designed costumes and scenery for Sadler's Wells and Ballet Rambert. This interest in ballet led her to meet Nesta Brooking, who had opened a ballet school in Primrose Hill. Hudson became the Brooking School of Ballet's artistic director. As well as colleagues, the two became lifelong companions, and shared their lives until Brooking's death in 2006, aged 99.

With the musical director Norman Higgins, Hudson and Brooking worked on projects with Cecchetti scholars and with the BBC as well as producing Brooking's own shows. Hudson was also a fine portrait painter, working mainly in watercolours and continued to exhibit in Britain, Scandinavia, Canada and the United States. In the 1960s she resigned from the various artistic societies she was a member of and worked as a restorer for The Rocking Horse, an antiques shop in St. John's Wood.

In 2002, the Black Star Press reprinted some of her finest etching plates. In 2007, the Imperial War Museum held a party in her honour, which she attended with two of her contemporaries, Phyllis Diamond and Malvina Cheek. Their conversation was recorded by the BBC for the Woman's Hour programme.

As well as the Imperial War Museum, works by Hudson are held in the collections of the British Museum, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, the Wellcome Library, the National Gallery of Canada and the Yale Center for British Art.

Readers who can offer further information regarding Erlund Hudson's time in Leicestershire are invited to contact the Editor who will be pleased to pass on contact details.



# Peter Moore : 1921-2013

## A man of gallantry, service and good humour

**Peter Moore, who maintained a close life-time association with his family's former manorial estate at Appleby Magna, died on 23 July 2013 at the age of ninety-one years. He won a Military Cross during the liberation of Italy and was descended from the Byron family. Peter performed the formal opening in 2009 of the LAHS History Day at Sir John Moore School.**

Peter John de Appleby Moore was born in December 1921 at Much Wenlock in Shropshire, and educated at Oundle School. He joined up in 1940 and, after his basic training in the ranks of the Royal Artillery, was transferred at his request to the Leicestershire Regiment, where he was commissioned in 1942.

In August 1944 Peter was a platoon commander serving with the 2/5th Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment (2/5 LR) near San Giórgio, west of Pésaro, close to the formidable Gothic Line. On the night of August 30 he was ordered to clear a pass through a minefield and seize an objective at the top of a steep slope.

After marking a route through the minefield, he went forward with a section to reconnoitre the objective when he was suddenly confronted by a party of Germans, 15-strong. He charged the enemy. Although his gun jammed, he continued the assault, routed the Germans and, encouraging his tired men, led them on to the objective on the hilltop. His coolness, courage and outstanding leadership were recognised by the award of an Immediate MC.



**Peter and Cynthia Moore at the LAHS Networks Event at Appleby Magna in 2009 with LAHS Networks Co-ordinator Caroline Wessel**



**Peter and Cynthia Moore at the LAHS Networks Event at Appleby Magna in 2009**

His father, had served with the Leicestershire Regiment during the First World War and had also won an MC. Peter was posted to 2/5 LR and took part in fierce fighting in the North Africa campaign before landing at Salerno in September 1943.

For three days and nights he and his comrades took up a position in slit trenches in vineyards some distance behind the German lines. The Germans thought that they must be paratroops and, instead of attacking, were content to keep them pinned down by mortar and machine-gun fire.

By the third night, however, with ammunition running low, short of food and with the wounded needing treatment, the regiment crept back through enemy lines and rejoined their battalion. He was hit in the leg by shrapnel and underwent an emergency operation in a hospital ship lying offshore.

## Peter Moore (concluded)

After rejoining his battalion, he next saw action in the assault on the Gothic Line. In November 1944, his brigade was flown to Greece to help prevent a communist takeover.

After the war he went up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, to read Agricultural Science, and won a blue for Rugby. He became a dairy farmer on what is now the Donington Park race circuit until 1968, when an injury to his back forced him to give up.

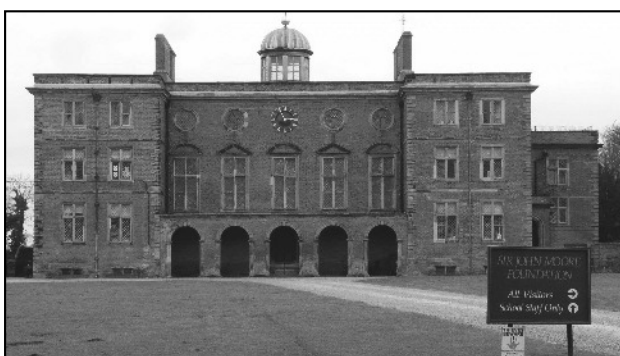
He was a direct descendant of the 7th Lord Byron, a cousin of the poet, and first cousin to Rupert, the 11th Lord Byron, who died in 1983.



The Moore family had been Lords of the Manor of Appleby in Leicestershire since 1599, although the estate was sold by an uncle two years before Peter was born.

He was chairman of the trustees of the Grade One-listed Sir John Moore School at Appleby Magna, Leicestershire, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built by an ancestor whose other great endowment was Christ's Hospital, now at Horsham.

He held the post for 50 years, continuing an unbroken line of family trustees since the school was founded, guiding what he fondly described as the grandest village school in the country from semi-dereliction to thorough refurbishment.



## LAHS Lecture Season Concluding Talks

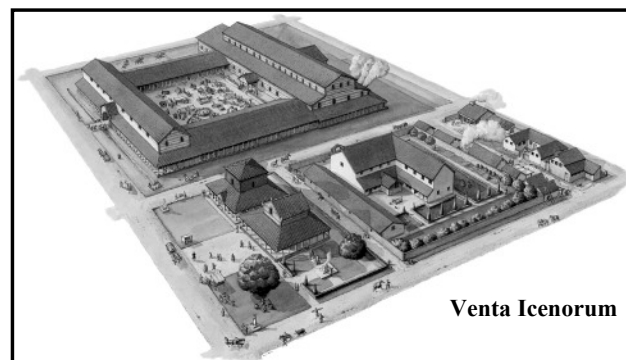
Thursday 13 March 2014

### **The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual W Alan North Memorial Lecture**

#### **What the Iceni Did Next: New Research at Venta Icenorum (Caistor-by-Norwich)**

Will Bowden

*Associate Professor in Roman Archaeology, University of Nottingham*



Tuesday 3 April 2013

### **The Royal Forests of Leicestershire c1122 to 1235**

David Crook

*Former Assistant Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office*

Thursday 24 April 2013

### **Between the Monuments: Ongoing Fieldwork at the Neolithic Monument Complex at Avebury, Wiltshire**

Mark Gillings

*Reader in Archaeology, School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester*

Thursday 15 May 2013

### **Forever Beginning: An Overview of Protestant Non- conformity in Leicestershire and Rutland**

Revd Alan Betteridge

The season will conclude with a Presidential talk by Dr Michael Wood. Due to his filming and research commitments, the date is still to be confirmed.

Guests are welcome at all LAHS talks and events, and will be invited to offer a donation of £2.50, refundable on applying for membership.

All the above meetings will be held at The New Walk Museum.

# Membership News

MATTHEW BEAMISH  
Membership Secretary

**Our society's membership remains strong, with over 410 members. However, to help boost the Society's income (expenditure substantially exceeds members subscriptions), I am preparing to make a claim for a Gift Aid tax rebate from HMRC, and have been collating the Gift Aid declarations that I have.**

Every member was written to in September 2013 indicating if I had individual's declarations within my records - thanks to all of you who responded to this request. Claims can be backdated 4 years, and being worth 25p in the pound could be worth up to perhaps £2000 a year - but this is only if I have members' signed declarations on which to base a claim. This is income that is needed to help balance our books.

I now have declarations, or an indication that no declaration can be made, from 270 members, leaving some 140 for which I have none. Those members for whom I have an email address have been contacted again, so hopefully you will know who you are - please do respond to my message and either send me a declaration or let me know that you cannot make one. If you have not received any email from me, and you do use email, please let me know your details so that I can contact you - email me [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk) (perhaps also check that any messages from me have not disappeared into your junk mail folder).

My other tasks continue to include chasing up unpaid and underpaid subs. As a reminder, as of May 2012 Individual membership is £20 and Family membership is £25: 83 members have not topped up their 2013 subs, and 60 2012 subs remain underpaid. Again, everyone was written to last year, and recently I have contacted members for whom I have email addresses requesting that subscriptions are topped up and Standing orders adjusted. A standing order form (along with Gift Aid declaration) can be found on the Society's website - [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs) and on the following pages of this Newsletter. Again, if you have not received an email from me, and you do use email, please get in touch: an email is a fraction of the cost of a letter and writing individual letters chasing up these things is an expensive last resort.

If you are unclear about the status of your membership or have any questions, please do feel free to contact me. Email is best, and I will usually respond very promptly. If you have no email please call me on 0116 252 5234 during office hours.

# Like LAHS!

The Society on Social Media  
IAN MARSHMAN  
Social Media Officer



**On 7th November 2013 the Society took its first steps into the brave new world of 'social media', joining Twitter and Facebook.**

It was hoped that having a presence on these websites would help the Society attract new audiences, and keep members up to date with the lecture program and other local heritage news and events.

For the uninitiated, Twitter is a micro-blogging service that allows users to publicly share succinct posts - known as tweets - of up to 140 characters. Facebook posts may be more familiar to members, and allows institutions such as LAHS to maintain a page where it can share posts, photos and videos. This last feature has already proved useful when it meant that we could share the video introducing the Charnwood Roots Project, mentioned by Julie Attard during her lecture.

Whilst this move puts the Society ahead of many local societies, it also enables us to interact with a range of archaeological and historical organisations already using these new media. Locally this includes the likes of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society, the Leicester Civic Society, the Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum, and the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society. As well as a range of national bodies such as the Council for British Archaeology, English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Society of Antiquaries of London.

In just three months the Society has already managed to attract 56 'likes' on Facebook, and sum 280 'followers' on Twitter.

If you would like to find out more you can find links to both on the Society's website [www.le.ac.uk/lahs](http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs) or by searching @LAHSoc on Twitter.



**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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



President:  
*Michael Wood*

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**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:..... Forename:..... 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.*

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

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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.

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AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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



President:  
*Michael Wood*

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Leicester LE1 7RH  
Tel 0116 2525234 Email [mgb3@le.ac.uk](mailto:mgb3@le.ac.uk)



# St Mary de Castro -saving the spire

**Last year, the Parish Church of St Mary de Castro was closed for the first time in centuries after building experts warned that the spire was in imminent danger of collapse. The painstaking task of dismantling the spire is now underway, as is a major appeal to finance its reconstruction**

Fears that the spire of St Mary de Castro could collapse first began in 2012 when several large cracks appeared in the structure. The Save of Spire Appeal was launched with the hope that there would be time to raise enough finance to address the problems.

Rosemary Mason, from the *Save our Spire* Appeal said they had hoped to have more time to raise funds and avoid closure.

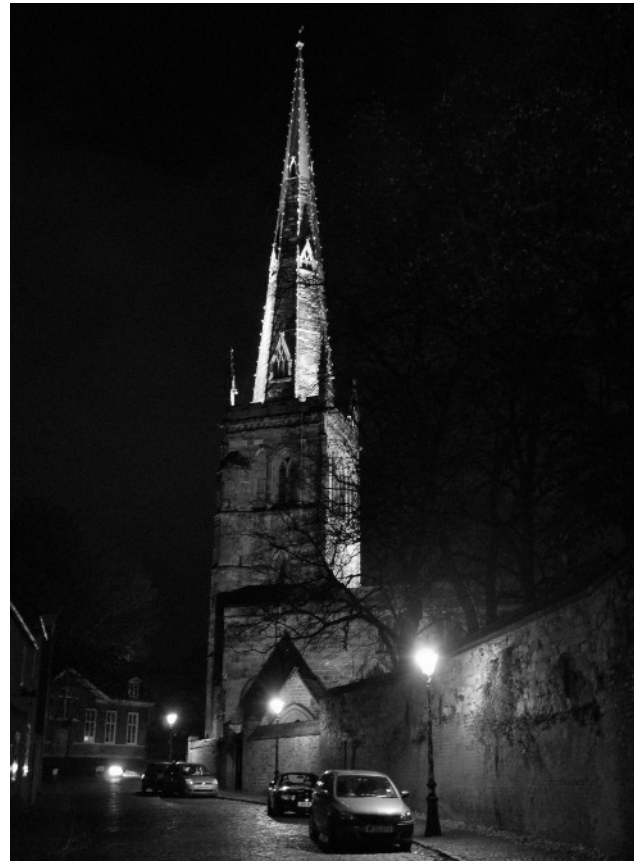
'We thought we wouldn't have to move out and had more time to raise money.' Last year the spire was reinforced with steel bands but inspections in September 2013 revealed it was in a dangerous state and extensive repairs were needed. It is thought the work will take six months to complete and could cost up to one million pounds.

Ms Mason said only £20,000 had been raised and added: 'The spire is on the skyline of Leicester. It is a recognisable landmark and we have got to work hard to get the money now which is not easy.'

The church had two thousand more visitors between January and July 2013 than three years ago, and on the 2013 August Bank Holiday Monday, five hundred people came through the door. Visitor numbers have been increasing at various historic and heritage sites across Leicester as the city is becoming a place people want to visit. The old town has attracted much attention of late due to the publicity surrounding the Greyfriars project.

Founded in 1107, St Mary de Castro stands within the precincts of the Royal Castle of Leicester of which it was once the chapel. Sovereigns of England who came to Leicester, stayed at the castle and worshipped in this church.

Here too came Simon de Montfort, and Parliament heard mass before its Leicester meetings. King Henry VI was knighted in St Mary's in 1426 and it is also thought that Geoffrey Chaucer was married here. Perhaps the last reigning Monarch to worship in St Mary's was King Richard III, and it is possible that his body may have rested briefly in the church after the Battle of Bosworth.



The church is within the conservation area which includes the Castle Park area. Architecturally, St Mary's is complex. A Grade I listed building, it has been described as 'the jewel of Leicester's churches'

The richest display of Norman architecture is to be found in the Chancel, documented by Pevsner as 'a showpiece of late Norman sumptuousness'. The famous triple sedilia, he regarded as 'the finest piece of Norman decoration in the county'. In his book 'England's Thousand Best Churches', the author, Simon Jenkins, describes the sedilia as 'Leicester's Treasure'.

Early English work from the church's first enlargement survives in the southwest arcade and clerestory, the lovely sedilia in the south aisle and the beautiful font. The church continued a collegiate establishment with a Dean and Canons until the Reformation, and perhaps owes its survival to its adaptation as a parish



church in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, resulting in the enormous south aisle with its vast east window - the largest in Leicestershire - and its noble tower and slender spire soaring to 179 feet.

The whole building is capped with the amazing fifteenth century open timber roofs. From more recent times, there is excellent Victorian restoration work, notably by Sir Gilbert Scott, and a splendid High Altar Reredos by G F Bodley. On the walls of the church are a number of interesting monuments to leading citizens of Leicester and the churchyard has many fascinating slate headstones.

There is much good nineteenth century stained glass, especially that by William Wailes of Newcastle; the east windows of the chancel, with their brilliant blue, being the best examples. Primarily a place of worship for 900 years which celebrated its 900th anniversary in 2007, the church is also used extensively as a venue for concerts and other events held throughout the year, (including Leicester's Early Music and Castle Park Festivals), and for special occasions by neighbouring De Montfort University.

Following a visit by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales in January 2000, a letter from St James's Palace reads: 'It is such a special place which is so clearly loved by those who worship in it. It deserves to be conserved and preserved for future generations to enjoy and treasure'.

The Save Our Spire Appeal was launched on 8 September 2012, and the Patron is Lady Gretton. The restoration project could be as long as two years in duration. When the top of the spire was replaced in the early 1900s, inappropriate stone was used, and pointed with concrete. This has now begun to erode the stonework beneath it, acting as an inflexible 'crown' adding additional pressure to the rest of the structure.

The base of the spire is secure, but above, the spire is supported by a steel 'ring' which has rusted, damaging the stonework. The severity of the rust means that the entire spire is being held up by no more than two inches of corroding rusty steel.

The severity of the damage has meant that remedial work has had to commence before all the necessary funding is in place. The church, its congregation and its supporters now face the task of raising the remaining finance, and is proposing various innovative ways in which members of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society can contribute. These include sponsoring a single stone (£15.00), a double-width stone (£30.00) or a decorative stone (£250.00)

There are, of course, many other ways in which one can support the appeal including a direct donation, or by fund raising through arranging meetings and events. If donations are gift-aided, then the appeal will receive a further 20% for each pound received.

St Mary de Castro has faced many challenges over its nine hundred year history. This is one in which we can play a positive role in resolving.

**'It is such a special place which is so clearly loved by those who worship in it. It deserves to be conserved and preserved for future generations to enjoy and treasure'**

Letter from St James' Palace following the visit by His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales in January 2000.

**St Mary de Castro Church,  
Leicester  
Save Our Spire**

**Appeal Co-ordinator:  
Rosemary Mason  
17 Sorrel Road  
Hamilton  
Leicester LE5 1TE**

**Tel - 07710 531792**

**Email -  
sosstmarydecastro@btinternet.com**

# Excavation of an 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery kiln at Ley Farm, Heath End, Ashby de la Zouch

DAVID BUDGE, MERCIAN ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES CIC

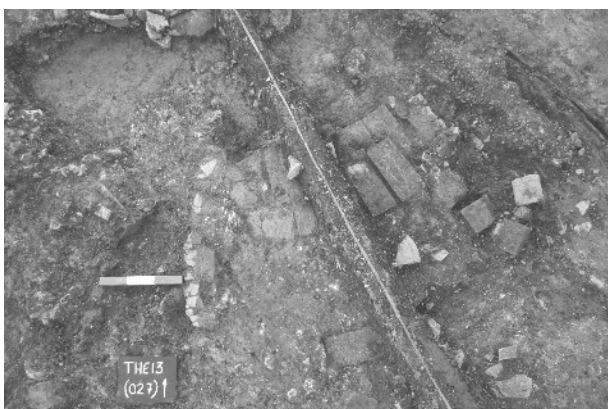
Ticknall in South Derbyshire was home to an extensive and long lived ceramics industry, producing pots from the medieval period until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and supplying customers throughout the East Midlands region from late medieval times onwards. The Ticknall Archaeological Research Group (TARG) has been researching the industry since 2010 with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund 'Your Heritage' grant.

TARG's research has shown that production occurred not just in the village centre but also at a number of other locations within and around the parish.

One of these is Heath End, a tiny settlement occupying the point at which three parishes meet and spanning the county boundary between Leicestershire and Derbyshire. Ley Farm is in the Leicestershire side of the settlement.

Henry Tetley (1637 – 1684) is the first of the Tetley family who can certainly be linked to Ley Farm. In addition to being one of the wealthier farmers in the area he was also a potter. When he died his equipment included two wheels, 117 boards, a large quantity of lead, clay weathering on the common and £1 worth of unfired pots.

Clay rents and other sources indicate the Tetley family continued potting at Ley Farm throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, while a 1735 map depicts a circular structure in the middle of the yard. An 1802 lease suggests the family had abandoned potting by this time.



Surviving kiln wall and the remains of two flues, one (containing the 0.3m scale bar) still full of clinker and with light grey ash spilling from it into the firing chamber (top left to top middle of the picture). Traces of the second flue can be seen three bricks to the right of the electricity cable running diagonally across the picture, which hampered excavation somewhat!



Volunteers exposing the remains of the kiln

A geophysical survey of the yard identified three areas of enhanced magnetic response, interpreted as kilns. Over six days in May (2013) volunteers from TARG, directed by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC, excavated part of the central anomaly, which was considered most likely to represent the 1735 structure.

The excavations proved the anomaly represented a kiln. The kiln had been heavily truncated by ploughing, but enough remained to recover the plan, which was similar to a broadly contemporary kiln at Old Hall Street, Hanley. The Ticknall kiln was of brick and clay construction and coal fired. The internal diameter of the firing chamber was 6' (1.83m). The spacing of the surviving flues suggested there were originally seven or eight.

Around the kiln were the remains of a metallised surface, a retaining wall (possibly for a coal storage area), a dump of kiln furniture and wasters and a single large posthole. The main products of the kiln were mottled ware (particularly cylindrical mugs with reeding), which was fired in saggars, and large flared bowls and cylindrical jars in black and brown glazed earthenware. The fabric of some of the saggars included pieces of mottled ware used as grog!

After the kiln had been razed a land drain was cut across the site, the fill of which yielded a complete late 18<sup>th</sup> century bottle.

Work is continuing on the assemblage. When complete, the full report will be available on-line through the Mercian Archaeological Services website at ([www.mercian-as.co.uk](http://www.mercian-as.co.uk)).

# John Nichols

## Bi-centenary Events

Plans are well in hand to mark the bicentenary of the completion of John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*.

By liaising with and working in association with other Leicestershire organisations including the University of Leicester and Leicestershire County Council, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is arranging a number of events to mark the anniversary and to increase public awareness of this remarkable antiquarian history.

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 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 complete work was re-published in 1971 by SR Publishers in conjunction with Leicestershire County Council.

The scale of Nichols' work is remarkable by the standards of any age of historical research with 4500 folio pages, excluding the huge indexes, 704 plates and no less than 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.

LAHS President Michael Wood, in his *The Story of England*, writes of the work: 'It has many errors of course, but its vast assemblage of material, though uneven in its scholarship by today's standards, was an indispensable tool for the searcher after the history of Middle England. He (John Nichols) taught them, and us, where, and how, to look.'



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 grater 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 twelve thousand letters and papers, of the Nichols family including those from private collections.

LAHS Officer Caroline Wessel will be producing a Society publication reflecting on the legacy of Nichols' 'Leicestershire'. The book will include contributions from several local organisations and researchers.

Other plans include a 'Night with Nichols' dinner at The City Rooms in Leicester with a menu based on a feast described in a Nichols' letter, and a Society excursion (still to be confirmed) to some of the locations described and illustrated by Nichols and his engravers.

LAHS Honorary Secretary Stephen Butt is compiling a book which will compare a selection of the engravings of buildings commissioned by Nichols with the same locations photographed in 2014. This will be published in Autumn 2014 by Amberley Publishing.

# The W Alan North Legacy 1989-2014

STEPHEN BUTT

A significant anniversary will take place at the Society's meeting on Tuesday 13 March 2014 when Will Bowden, Associate Professor in Roman Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, will give the 25th Annual W.Alan North Memorial Lecture.

Stephen Butt pays tribute to the man whose life and enthusiasm for history is commemorated by these lectures which are a mainstay in the Society's calendar.

William Alan North was born in Leicester in 1922. Alan's father, William Alfred North, worked at the British United Shoe Machinery Company in Belgrave, Leicester, and became his son's 'guardian' when Alan began an engineering apprenticeship there in 1940, aged eighteen years.

Alan was a quiet, gentle and sensitive man of catholic and scholarly interests ranging from choral music, scouting and politics to his extraordinary enthusiasm for the archaeology and cultures of ancient and classical civilisations. He was treasurer of the 24th St Philip Scout Group for twenty-five years, and founder treasurer of the Leicester branch of the Cheshire Home at Staunton Harold.



During the war, Alan joined the RAF and flew Mosquito aircraft as part of the Pathfinder Force. The RAF recognised his academic potential and funded him to study at Clare College, Cambridge. His distinguished and gallant war record was something he preferred to keep to himself.

After the war Alan returned to Leicester and rejoined BUSM. The company had set up a special committee 'for supervising the reinstatement of ex-servicemen', and in 1946 he was welcomed back into the BUSM community.

He married Joan, and their son Nigel was born. Alan rose to become manager of the Moulded Sole Department and later, the company's Overseas Manager. In this role he made a notable contribution to the commercial life of the city. Alan travelled the world in search of new markets. At that time, BUSM was the world's largest manufacturer of footwear machinery, exporting to over fifty countries, and employing in Leicester alone more than 4500 people.

Alongside his demanding career, Alan was one of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society's most loyal and active member. He served as the Membership Secretary and Joan worked tirelessly on the Social Sub-Committee for many years.



Once retired, he and Joan were able to continue their long-held interest in archaeology which took them on extensive excursions to Egypt, North Africa and the Levant as well as to the southern fringes of Europe.

Alan was a passionate conservative in both politics and religion. He loved the traditional language of the Prayer Book and particularly enjoyed the Choral Services at Cathedrals and on the radio. His love of traditional worship brought him and Joan to St James the Greater where they enjoyed the ordered worship of that church.

Following his untimely passing in March 1987, Joan chose to endow the Alan North Memorial Lecture, as Daniel Williams wrote in the Society's Transactions of the following year, 'to perpetuate his memory and ensure his immortality'.

In one of many letters and tributes, a former colleague at BUSM, J.C.Foster, wrote of Alan, 'his tenacity, imagination and great spirit was and remains an inspiration to me.'

It has been a pleasure to welcome Joan to many of the lectures given in her husband's name over the past years, but she will be absent from the proceedings on 13 March 2014 because of advancing years. She now lives in a care home in the south of England near to their son, Nigel.

On behalf of the membership, the Hon Secretary has sent a greetings card to Joan, together with the assurance that we are all thinking of her, and still celebrating her husband's fine legacy.



Alan North with visitors to BUSM, Leicester

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nigel North, Daniel Williams, Burt McNeill (<http://www.buhistory.org.uk>) and Revd Canon Derek Hole

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## Society's historic 'home' receives grant for new galleries

Leicester's Guildhall, where the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was formed in 1855, is to receive a grant of £69,000 to create two new galleries in which the city's medieval history will be displayed.

The Guildhall is one of forty museums across the country to be awarded a share of a £4.6 million joint grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Wolfson Foundation charity.

The grant will help create two new permanent galleries at the Guildhall to house the city's entire collection of medieval objects. Some are currently on display at the Jewry Wall Museum and others which have never previously been displayed.

The work will be carried out later this year and early next year. Leicester assistant city mayor for culture, heritage, leisure and sport, Cllr Piara Singh Clair, said: 'We are delighted and grateful for the support of the DCMS and Wolfson Foundation.

'Not only will this project connect the stories and collections at the new King Richard III visitor centre, it will also tell visitors about Leicester's remarkable medieval history and how it has shaped the city in which we live.'

The grants, from the DCMS and the Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund, are designed to pay for renovation and improvement projects in museums and galleries, to improve displays and increase visitor access. The Wolfson Foundation awards grants to support science and medicine, the arts and humanities, education and health and disability.

# Recent reports from University of Leicester Archaeological Services

## Barrow upon Soar, Melton Road. (Leon Hunt)

As part of an archaeological assessment in advance of proposed development, geophysical survey of a large field known as The Breaches at Barrow upon Soar located a few dozen probable limekilns (or perhaps dumped material associated with kilns), along with many pits and other anomalies, including linear features and possible enclosures. As well as being known for its lime production, the area also contained the putative line of the Roman road known as the Saltway and in 1945 is believed to have been the crash site of a Douglas Dakota Mark IV, which exploded killing the 3-man crew.

The 26-trench evaluation revealed around 20 'sod' or clamp kilns (or parts thereof) and several other areas of dumped kiln material and burnt clay patches. It also showed that most of the 13.5 hectare site had been previously quarried for limestone, with most of the kilns apparently excavated into the backfill of the quarry. Good clean natural clay was only located within the trenches on the eastern side of the site, with the possible workforce of the quarries running through the western end of the three trenches placed across the eastern area.

Three kilns were excavated, each consisting of a lozenge-shaped pit, measuring around 7m by 1.5m, surrounded by a 'halo' of burnt clay, ash and trample. The fill was a mixture of subsoil, ash and limestone dust, with a lower compacted fill of burnt limestone chunks. Joined to the main part of the kiln was a rounded larger pit, also containing soil, ash and limestone, which in places appeared somewhat amorphous and 'smeared' as if the area had been very disturbed (see photo). This is in keeping with the accepted process of clamp kiln lime production, where limestone chunks and fuel are piled up and then covered in turves to form a clamp, which is then lit and after some days (in a long process comparable to charcoal production), the lime is raked into the rounded pit at the base of the kiln.



Barrow upon Soar :the remains of a 'sod' or clamp kiln, with main kiln body and associated collection pit, prior to excavation

No other earlier archaeological remains were discovered, which may be due to most of the field being quarried for limestone in the recent past. No dating evidence was found either, and, although the shape and form of the kilns suggest a very simple type of technology, there is every possibility that these are late 19th or 20th century in date and represent parochial lime production for the use of the local farmers to lime their fields. However they may be a lot older; nearby kilns of a similar type have been dated to the 15th - 16th century. Further work may involve a more detailed archaeo-magnetic dating programme.



Quartzite handaxe from Brooksby

## Brooksby Quarry (Matt Beamish, Wayne Jarvis)

Recent work has included a trenching and test pitting programme on the quarry floor, on the surface of a deep deposit of sands and gravels that will not be extracted. Free running sands and waterlogging has made this extremely challenging! Investigations of the deposits started earlier in the year with deep resistivity geophysics by the British Geological Survey. OSL (optically stimulated luminescence dating) samples were taken by the Oxford Lab recently, and some samples of palaeoenvironmental material recovered. Further drilling and core extraction will take place imminently before the phase is backfilled and becomes inaccessible.

An intermittent watching brief has continued on the current quarry floor and rejects heap. Recent finds have put the count of lower Palaeolithic artefacts at 500+, and include a rather splendid handaxe made of quartzite (see above). This is a rare find indeed as the intractable stone is not ideal for the more delicate flaking needed in forming these tools. We have only had one before like this, the other few being in more easily flaked volcanic rock.



# Recent reports from University of Leicester Archaeological Services

## Broughton Astley, Broughton Way (Roger Kipling)

A 71 trench evaluation was undertaken covering two areas east and west of Broughton Way. As anticipated by the geophysical survey, a small Iron Age ditched enclosure measuring  $\approx 60\text{m}$  square, aligned north-west to south-east was located. The eastern side was absent, probably due to plough erosion.



## Recut Iron Age enclosure ditch at Broughton Astley

There were indications of a single hornwork entrance positioned midway along the southern side. The survey suggested the presence of several internal features, including post-holes and gullies, the latter perhaps representing internal subdivisions.

## Leicester, Jubilee Square (Wayne Jarvis)

A watching brief has been maintained during groundworks for Leicester's new Jubilee Square open space at the west end of the High Street in the former Castle Park car park. This lies above medieval street frontages on Highcross Street and the former Thornton Lane and St Nicholas Street, together with the more deeply buried remains of parts of the south and east ranges of the Roman forum. The majority of recent work has been at shallow depth but has nevertheless exposed masonry on the Highcross St (now St Nicholas Place) frontage, just north of medieval Wygston's House. The exposed wall line is on, and parallel with, the former frontage and the site of the Golden Lion public house, a timber framed and cellared building with medieval origins. South-west of this, the line of the former medieval street of Hotgate (later Thornton Lane) was also identified, with much levelling of stone buildings indicated from the amount of rubble encountered.



## Roman architectural fragment found at Jubilee Square, Leicester

Whilst most works are too shallow to expose archaeology, let alone reach the Roman levels, in one area the street metalling of the projected line of the Fosse Way in front of the south range of the forum was recorded, surviving almost a metre deep. Adjacent to it was a short length of tile-bonded wall superstructure of at least 6 courses, indicating a hitherto unrecorded substantial Roman structure in this area. The wall had an offset on the south side, adjacent to the surviving metalling of the Fosse Way. Slightly further south, a later wall, perhaps post-medieval in date, had reused Roman material including a fine architectural fragment which has been lifted and transported to the Jewry Wall museum as part of their new display. It is perhaps the upper part of a cornice-block or, more likely, a moulded pedestal (altar, base, or small building?).



## Roman tile-bonded wall found at Jubilee Square, Leicester

# Recent reports from University of Leicester Archaeological Services

## Lutterworth, Leaders Farm (Mathew Morris; Steve Baker)

Two large area excavations followed up previous evaluative investigations, targeting geophysical anomalies and archaeological features identified in trial trenches. One field was stripped in its entirety, together with a significant proportion of another. In the eastern half of Field 1, several large polygonal enclosures were uncovered, their ditches exhibiting a complex sequence of re-cutting. Adjacent to the enclosures were two roundhouses which contained pottery, burnt daub and a possible loom weight. A third, partially exposed on the edge of the excavation, appeared to have been enclosed within a timber stockade. There were few finds, but those from the trial trenching suggest the features are mid-late Iron Age. Field ditches crossed the rest of Fields 1 and 2 and appeared to be late Roman based on pottery recovered from them, but there is seemingly no continuity between the two landscapes. The general impression is that the site lies on the periphery of Iron Age and Roman activity – the Iron Age focus most likely being to the north-east and the Roman to the west closer to Watling Street.



Lutterworth Field 1: Iron Age activity to the right, Roman to the left

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

After careful inspection of the contents using an endoscope at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, the lead coffin found at the second Greyfriars excavation in 2013 was finally opened. This had been discovered inside a stone coffin in the presbytery of the church, in a prime position in front of the high altar. Inside was a well preserved skeleton with some small fragments of fabric, cord and hair still surviving as well.

Preliminary analysis suggests that it is a woman, thereby ruling out all other named people known to be buried in the Grey Friars Church – so not a knight or a medieval friar, but almost certainly a major benefactor. Full analysis will be carried out over the winter.



Inside the lead coffin from Grey Friars

## Melton Mowbray, King Edward VII School (Leon Hunt)

A geophysical survey had picked up a number of anomalies, some which looked suspiciously like large drains and some which looked like they could be archaeological. Twenty trial trenches were examined and most of the western side of the site proved to be negative, with trenches revealing land drains, storm drains, made-up ground and former field boundaries. Trenches across the possible archaeological anomalies revealed several large ditches, mostly containing Romano-British pottery, fuel ash and a reasonable amount of animal bone, including most of the skeleton of a dog. The pattern emerged of a small group of quite large enclosure ditches, dating from between the 2nd and 4th centuries, with the focus apparently under the adjacent sixth form college grounds.

## Measham, Minorca Surface Mine (Wayne Jarvis)

A watching brief here on behalf of UK Coal has recently recorded the remains of pillar and stall mining activity in the top seam of coal. This mining most probably dates to the late 19th –very early 20th century, after which these workings at the extremity of operations were abandoned still leaving much coal in situ. The stalls were  $\approx 1.5\text{m}$  high and  $2.5\text{m}$  wide and still survived largely as partly water-filled voids. In the very north-east of the exposure the stall had infilled but wooden pit props still survived against the faces. The workings targeted a seam up to  $3\text{m}$  thick in total but only taking the top metre and a half.

The floor of the stalls was therefore still coal but probably for logistical reasons this was not mined, whilst only the top half metre was good quality housecoal. The face of some of these workings still showed toolmarks. Below this seam is further bedrock and deeper seams - these being deeper than were mined using traditional techniques, but available for extraction today. Additionally, the remains of a coal wagon with an iron chassis and oak boards, and a short stretch of iron trackway were recovered.



Wartime Leicestershire History Fair  
Beaumanor Hall  
Sunday 23 March 2014



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