

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GUILDHALL · LEICESTER · LE15FQ



NEWSLETTER 98 Spring 2018

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018 – and a Happy New Year to all LAHS members. Contributions to future editions are very welcome, and can be sent to the Newsletter editor, Cynthia Brown, at newsletter@lahs.org.uk, or by post c/o Honorary Librarian, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, LE1 5FQ.

LAHS NEWS

LECTURE PROGRAMME

The LAHS lecture programme continues in 2018. Details of the dates and topics are below. All lectures take place on Thursday at 7.30 pm at New Walk Museum, Leicester. Members are requested to arrive in good time to avoid disruption to the lectures.

8 February 2018

The Rise and Fall of Cult Worship in the Gwash Valley of Rutland

Jim Brown, Museum of London Archaeology

22 February 2018

Members' Evening

This year's members' presentations will be by Bob Trubshaw on the Leicestershire and Rutland Carvings Project; Ian Jones on the Greyfriars oral history project, and Moira Ackers on monumental sculptures.

8 March 2018

W. Alan North Memorial Lecture

Roman London's First Voices: the Bloomberg Tablets and their archaeological context

Roger Tomlin, Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford, and John Pearce, Department of Classics, Kings College, London.

12 April 2018

Stibbe's Secrets Revealed: unearthing Roman mosaics, houses and streets in Leicester

Gavin Speed, University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

26 April 2018

How to Read a Church: the view from the Middle Ages

Dr Miriam Gill, University of Leicester.

24 May 2018

'Let Steeple Bells be Swungen': the history and Archaeology of bells and bell-founding

Chris Pickford, of the John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum and Archive, Loughborough.

LIBRARY REOPENING

The LAHS Library at The Guildhall has been closed for the winter, but will reopen on Sunday 4 February 2018. Please note that it will be closed on Sunday 15 April as the date coincides with the LAHS History Fair at Beaumanor Hall (see below).

LAHS RESEARCH FUND

The LAHS research fund was established in 1923 and aims to support research that focuses on the archaeology, architectural history and history of Leicestershire or Rutland. Research that places evidence from these counties into a broader regional or national framework is also welcome. Average grants in recent years have been in the region of £500 - £1000, but additional resources mean that considerably larger sums are now possible if this can be justified by the importance of the project. For further guidance and an application form, see https://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/research/guidance_notes.html.

LAHS HISTORY FAIR

Joe Hall, LAHS Special Projects Officer, reports that arrangements for the History Fair on Sunday 15 April 2018 are now well in hand. This will take place at Beaumanor Hall in Woodhouse, Leicestershire, and bring together many of the county's heritage-related groups and projects to showcase the work they do in expanding our knowledge of local history. Here they can both exhibit their own research to the public and network with one another. The theme of this year's Fair will be the First World War, with a special focus on the final year, its aftermath, and the centenary. Over the past four years many local history groups and projects have been looking at how the war affected their part of the county, and the Fair will offer them the opportunity to show what they have discovered. Numerous talks have also been scheduled for the day, including what was happening in Leicestershire during the war, the roles played by local Suffragettes during hostilities, and how the county's first War Memorials came in to being. There will also be a dramatisation of a court-martial – recreated from historical documents – of a Private in the Leicestershire Regiment.

For those groups who have not been researching the First World War, and for visitors interested in a wider variety of eras and topics, there will also be non-themed exhibitors and talks. Those already confirmed include an illustrated look at some of the many fascinating headstones found around the county; an archaeological update on what has been uncovered in Leicester since Richard III's discovery; the story of a troublesome 15th century Leicestershire knight; and a talk on Vikings in the East Midlands. Information on the final details of the History Fair and how to pre-book talks will be sent to members nearer the time. If you are part of a local group which has not already received a booking form and would like to exhibit, please contact Joe Hall at networks@lahs.org.uk.

TRANSACTIONS - DIGITAL ISSUES

For the past few months Joe has also been working to make every volume of *Transactions* word-searchable and available online through the Society's website. With only a small number of the earliest volumes still to be adapted, in the very near future we hope to have every volume of *Transactions* from 1855 - 2012 online and available to view, download, and search. To do this, just visit the website at www.lahs.org.uk, click on 'Publications' at the top of the page, then on 'Transactions' on the right-hand side. Runs of volumes will be presented on the right, with the articles comprising those volumes listed in the centre. Click on any of these underlined article titles to view the article itself. To search for key words within the article, click on 'edit' (top-left), then 'find'. Type in a word, then every time you

press 'Enter' you will be taken to the next location within the article where that word appears. By removing the time-consuming task of reading through every page of a large document to find the relevant information, this search function will doubtless prove to be a valuable asset. During the process of uploading these documents we also managed to add articles missing from earlier uploads, with over 20 articles previously unavailable online added from Volume 1 alone. These earlier issues can be viewed at http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/publications/vol13_20.html.

'NEWS & EVENTS' EMAILS

The fortnightly 'News & Events' emails sent out to members have proved to be a popular way of communicating what is going on locally, with information on upcoming talks, exhibitions, workshops, and volunteering opportunities all being passed on to our members. To help us continue this, members are invited to let us know of any history, archaeology, or heritage-based events going on around the county which other members may be interested in attending. Similarly, if you are part of a local group which hosts talks or other such meetings and wish to promote these events to a wider audience, please contact Joe Hall at publicity@lahs.org.uk with the details. The Society also promotes local events through social media, so to see what else is going on around the county you can follow us on Facebook (@leicsarchandhistsoc) and Twitter (@LAHSoc).

LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIAN – REVIEWERS NEEDED FOR 'RECENT PUBLICATIONS'

Additional reviewers would be very welcome for the 'Recent Publications' section of the *Leicestershire Historian*, to replace those no longer able to contribute. If you would like to know more about what this involves, please contact the editor at newsletter@lahs.org.uk.

OTHER NEWS

GREEN PLAQUE SCHEME – UPDATE

The Green Plaque Scheme was introduced by Leicestershire County Council in December 2013 to mark people and places of historical importance. Recipients are nominated by members of the local community and selected by public vote. Sixteen plaques have been unveiled so far, the first to philanthropist Charles Booth in Thringstone, and the most recent to commemorate the former Palitoy factory in Coalville. In February 2018 a new plaque will be unveiled to honour William Cotton, inventor, designer and manufacturer of the 'Cotton's Patent' knitting machine, which was produced in Loughborough until 1993. A further six plaques will be unveiled in due course. For further details of the scheme, see <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/green-plaque-awards-scheme>.

VOLUNTEERING AT HARBOROUGH MUSEUM

A range of opportunities for volunteering at Harborough Museum can be viewed on the Museum's website at <http://www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/get-involved/>. These include meeting and greeting, local studies, research, events and activities, and web volunteers. Volunteering Supervisor Kate Skoczylas, will be pleased to discuss these with anyone who may be interested on 0116 305 3670, or she can be emailed at kate.skoczylas@leics.gov.uk. Please note that she works part-time, usually Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

BRINGING VIKINGS BACK TO THE EAST MIDLANDS

'Bringing Vikings Back to the East Midlands' is an AHRC-funded project examining how the Viking diaspora in the East Midlands shaped the development of the area. As part of this, the University of Nottingham is hosting the travelling exhibition 'Viking: rediscover the legend', and a complementary exhibition, 'Danelaw Saga: bringing Vikings back to the East Midlands', which highlights the Scandinavian presence in the region. The exhibition focuses on the evidence for this, which includes artefacts recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, writes that: Voluntarily recorded objects are extremely important when it comes to plotting possible Scandinavian settlement. Most of the items are casual losses in areas which may never be subject to archaeological investigation. In Leicestershire we are lucky enough to have a few key items which strengthen this evidence and complement other sources, such as place names, historical documents, maps and personal names.



The most illuminating finds are 'Anglo-Viking' coins. As well as featuring the important Thurstaston hoard (LEIC-C6D945) containing Anglo-Viking, Anglo-Saxon and Islamic coins, 'Danelaw Saga' will include recently recorded 'St Edmund memorial' coins ([LEIC-B7F405](#) and [LEIC-4FC58C](#)). The coins were issued by Viking leaders in England and along with the silver ingots from Breedon, also being

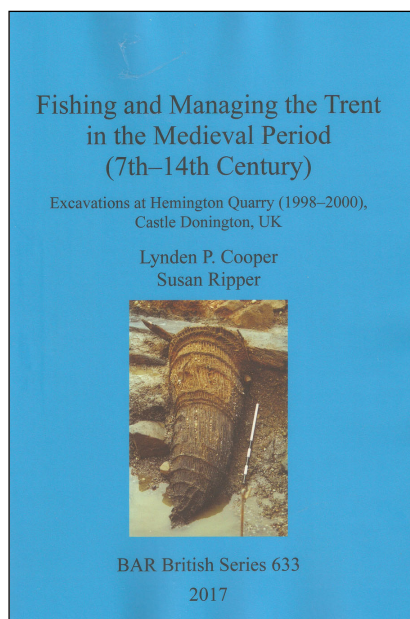
displayed ([DENO-34FB88](#) and [DENO-CE6103](#)), are good evidence of what is known as a 'dual economy' in the County.

Vikings had no coinage in their homelands and would use silver by weight in any form, coins, ingots, broken up objects (hack silver), as currency. When they settled here, their leaders began issuing their own coinage which was used interchangeably with hack silver, creating a 'dual economy'. York produced the most varied types, but a 'St Edmund memorial' issue was introduced by East Anglian Vikings at an unknown mint. We have recorded 34 examples across eastern England, the bulk coming from Suffolk. No English person could legally use these coins and as recovered coins make up a tiny proportion of all in circulation, these finds hint at a substantial Scandinavian population in the area. The images of coins above and below show 'St Edmund memorial' issues found near Melton.



Exhibitions at the University of Nottingham:
[Viking: Rediscover the legend'](#) – Djanogly Gallery, runs from Saturday 25 November 2017 to Sunday 4 March 2018. ['Danelaw Saga: Bringing Vikings back to the East Midlands'](#) – Weston Gallery, runs from Friday 15 December 2017 to Sunday 8 April 2018. Admission to both is free.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Among the new publications received for review in the 2018 edition of the *Leicestershire Historian* are *Fishing and Managing the Trent in the Medieval Period (7th – 14th Century): excavations at Hemington Quarry (1998 – 2000)* by Lynden P. Cooper and Susan Ripper (BAR British Series 633, 2017; ISBN 9781407316178, £20). This includes a contribution by LAHS Membership Secretary Matt Beamish.

Rothley Soke, Leicestershire: landscape and people by Vanessa McLoughlin (Cloister House Press, 2017; ISBN 9781909465640, £20), which has been donated by the author, examines the origins and function of medieval Rothley, its manorial holdings, its soke and its parish. Both publications will be deposited in due course in the LAHS Library at The Guildhall.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LEICESTER GROUP VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Tuesday 6 February 2018

Thurnby Court: the story of an extravagant but short-lived Leicestershire mansion

Brian Screatton

The lecture will be preceded by the Leicester Group AGM.

Tuesday 6 March 2018

Cathedrals, Roof Tops and More: the restoration of old buildings

Dr Jonathan Castleman, formerly of Norman and Underwood Ltd.

All lectures take place in the Bishop Street Methodist Church, 10a Bishop Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF at 7.30 pm. Meetings are open to all, but all attendees, whether or not they are members, are asked to register in order to comply with Fire Regulations, and to make a contribution of £2.50 per person towards the costs of room hire and other expenses. For further information see <http://victoriansociety.org.uk/leicester>.

HISTORICAL TRAILS – LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE

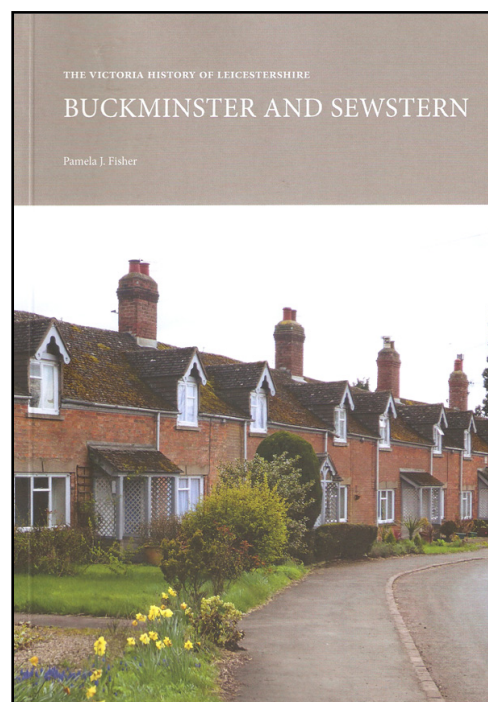
Historical trails covering Leicester and Leicestershire are available to download from www.goleicestershire.com/history-and-heritage/heritage-trails.aspx. They include an Arts and Crafts trail exploring Ernest Gimson's holiday home, along with examples of Gimson's engineering projects; a Melton heritage trail; and a fashion trail telling the story of over 350 years of fashion heritage in Leicester and the County.

BUCKMINTER AND SEWSTERN - VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

Pamela Fisher, author of *Buckminster and Sewstern*, sends this report of its official launch at Buckminster Village Hall on 17 October 2017:

‘Several residents and former residents attended the event and VCH Leicestershire patron, Sir Lyonel Tollemache, who kindly wrote the foreword to the book, was also present. The displays included remnants of Sewstern's lost medieval chapel, and Pam Fisher gave a talk introducing some of the key themes of the book.

‘*Buckminster and Sewstern* reveals the fascinating history of these two contrasting villages, which were joined together within a single parish for most of their history. Their completely different economic and social profiles, which stretch back many centuries, add a perhaps unexpected layer to the rich and varied history of a parish in rural north-east Leicestershire’. This is the second ‘Short’ from VCH Leicestershire following the publication of *Castle Donington* earlier in 2017. Copies are available from Leicestershire VCH at 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR, email leicsvch@le.ac.uk).



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LEICESTER – ‘CENTENARY CITY’

Leicester has been named as one of the ‘Centenary Cities’ for the hundredth anniversary in 2018 of women having the right to vote. It is closely connected to the suffragette movement through Alice Hawkins, leader of the Leicester branch of the Women’s Social and Political Union, who was arrested and jailed for her activities five times in both Leicester and Holloway prisons.

Alice Hawkins’ contribution to the movement is already marked by a Blue Plaque on the former Equity shoe co-operative factory in Western Road, and a statue of her is due to be placed in Leicester’s Market Place in February 2018. For more information about her, visit

<http://www.alicesuffragette.co.uk/aliceslife.php>.

A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

LAHS started its existence in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. This report of a joint meeting with the Lincoln Diocesan Society in 1877 is from the *Leicester Journal* (22 June 1877).

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Wednesday and Thursday week this society held its annual summer meeting in conjunction with the Lincoln Diocesan Society, at Southwell. The morning was occupied with an examination of the grand Collegiate Church, and hearing an explanation of its various features from Mr. Ewan Christian, architect of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The explanations were rendered specially intelligible by plans of the original Norman Church, of the additions made during the 13th century, and of the building in its present condition. Mr Christian stated that a part of the church was very early work, he believed executed before the Conquest, and that from a letter from Thomas II, Archbishop of York from 1107 to 1114, addressed to the parishioners, exhorting them to do all that was possible towards the completion of the church, it appeared that was commenced at the beginning of the twelfth century.

In the afternoon a visit was paid to Thurgarton Priory, the residence of Mr. R. Milward, J.P., and the Ven. Archdeacon Trollope gave an account of the history of the building and the adjoining church of St. Peter. He stated that the founder was one of the Conqueror's barons named D'Eyncourt, who had very large possessions, especially in Lincolnshire. The existing remains were a beautiful specimen of the early English style, certainly of the first half of the thirteenth century! The church was originally cruciform with a third central tower, and was of considerable dimensions, there being seven bays, and a chancel of three or four. No conventual remains now existed. The present house was erected alter 1777, and under it there was a large fine crypt, 70 feet long and 25 feet wide, divided by a central arcade.

In the evening a meeting was held at Southwell, the Bishop of Lincoln presiding, at which papers were read Mr. M. H. Bloxham on the "Coritani"; by Rev. Canon Harvey, in the absence of Rev. Precentor Venables, on "Charles the First's surrender to the Scots at Southwell 1640"; and by Rev. Poole, on "The Monument of Bishop Remigius". The Bishop in his address alluded pointedly to the very probable event of the early creation of the new see out of that of Lincoln, of which, if formed, Southwell is expected to be the Cathedral Church. On Thursday an excursion took place to several churches between Southwell and Sherwood Forest, which was enjoyed by 130 or more of the two societies, under the able and intelligent conduct of Archdeacon Trollope. Among other places visited was the noble seat of Earl Manvers. In the evening the closing meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, Southwell, where papers were read by Rev. F. H. Sutton, rector of Brant Broughton, on "Renaissance Glass", and by Rev. R. H. Whitworth, on "The Documentary History of the Church and Town of Southwell." A brief address from the Bishop concluded the proceedings.

This newsletter is edited by Cynthia Brown and published by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. Further information about the Society, its publications and other activities can be found on its website at www.lahs.org.uk

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I enclose a cheque/ I have paid by Paypal/ I have made a Standing Order arrangement with my bank/Please send me a Standing Order form *(delete as applicable)*.

If paying by Standing Order please either make your own arrangement with your bank/building society, or request a form from Hon. Mem. Sec. Please make any payments to Sort Code 60-60-06, Account Number 87270080.

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



Data Protection Act

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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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