

Newsletter

Autumn 2009
Number 80



The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

New themes for the new season

From the Iron Age 'suburbs' of modern Leicester to the Third Radiocarbon Revolution, from changing perceptions of Britain in the Roman Empire to what Leicestershire's topographical artists tell us about the past.

The 2009-2010 LAHS lecture series promises a wide range of subjects and a remarkable assembly of speakers. Full details of the speakers and their topics on the centre pages.



The Society is supporting the Leicestershire Victoria County History plans

The Committee has agreed to support the recently-formed Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust which meets under the chairmanship of our President, Squire Gerald de Lisle (pictured left at the Trust's launch at Quenby Hall in May).

The original VCH Trust was set up in 1899, but work stopped in 1964 after the ground-breaking volume on the city of Leicester. In this newsletter, an outline of the Trust's plans for completing the remaining VCH volumes for Leicestershire.



The Kibworth Big Dig

Over one weekend in July 2009, local families working with volunteer diggers opened no less than fifty test pits across the villages of Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Smeeton Westerby.

Maya Vision International, an independent television production company, has chosen these villages as the focus for a six-part series to be presented by well-known television historian Michael Wood (pictured left). Filming will continue until May 2010 and the series will be screened on BBC2 and BBC4 in either late 2010 or early 2011.

Also in this edition

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Full details of the 154th Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held at the New Walk Museum on Thursday 26 November 2009 are on Page 17.



The Big Red Books are coming back



After a break of thirty-five years, work on the Victoria County History volumes for Leicestershire is to resume.

On Tuesday 5 May 2009, the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust held its official launch event at Quenby Hall attended by historians and leading members of the local community. Subsequently, the LAHS Committee voted to support the Trust with a gift of £1250

The Victoria County History Trust was created in 1899 to publish the history of every village, town and county in England from earliest times to the present day in a series of the familiar 'big red books'. It's been described as the 'greatest publishing project in English local history'.

Work on the Leicestershire volumes stopped in 1964, leaving the histories of some 300 Leicestershire towns and villages yet to be researched and written about.



Lars Tharp, a vice-chairman of the Society, speaking at the launch of the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust at Quenby Hall in May 2009



One of the several distinguished guests at the LVCHT launch was John M Lee, editor of one of the original volumes. John presented a talk to the LAHS on 'The Gartree Hundred' in September 1964

The Trust intends to complete this research so that the history of the whole of the county can be made available to all.

The project will be a partnership between professional historians and local communities and local volunteers will be encouraged to be involved. As well as the publication of the 'big red books', all the work will be made available on the internet and in low-priced print formats.

The completion of the Leicestershire volumes will be a major undertaking. The cost of publication of the final texts will be covered by the Victoria County History Trust nationally, but the local Trust has to provide the necessary financial support for the gathering and editing of the material.

The English Story

Across one weekend in July, local families and volunteers opened fifty test pits in the Kibworth area.



Two hundred villagers, volunteer diggers and professional archaeologists worked together on 25-26 July 2009 to open fifty test pits in the villages of Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Smeeton Westerby.

The event was part of the research for 'The English Story', a television series being produced by London-based television company Maya Vision International, which will be presented by Michael Wood.

Local residents gathered in Kibworth Grammar School Hall on the Saturday morning to receive a briefing from Dr Carenza Lewis of Access Cambridge Archaeology. Stockpiles of tools including mat-tocks, trowels, tarpaulin and sieves were available as well as detailed instructions on how to record finds.

Throughout the weekend a 'flying squad' of experts was on hand to respond to calls from sites seeking advice on their finds. The digs were also filmed by three roving film crews.

The headquarters for the project was the Coach and Horses pub where the restaurant was converted into a 'command centre' with aerial maps, wireless broadband and relevant printed histories and documents relating to Leicestershire. From this location, experts could reach any of the test pits across the three villages within a matter of minutes.

Andrew Southerden from the Coach and Horses opened his own pit in the corner of the pub car park. As part of the final programme a time capsule will be buried in the excavation, recording the various stages of the project.

Members of the Hallaton Fieldworking Group undertook a geophysical survey of the area surrounding The Munt in Kibworth Harcourt, which was the location of first-ever LAHS site visit. Over 2500 finds were recorded and labelled, and are now at Cambridge University for analysis. By Carenza Lewis and her team

'The English Story' will be broadcast late next year or early 2011, first on BBC4 and then repeated on BBC2, and filming continues until May 2010. Elements of the weekend's events will be included in all six programmes in the series.

Further information about the research for the series is available from the production company's website at www.mayavisionint.com



Networks History Day

Tickets are on sale from the end of August for the LAHS Networks History Day at Appleby Magna on Saturday 31 October from 9.30am to 4.45pm.

Tickets cost £15 per person.

The LAHS is generously sponsoring the main costs of the day, but the ticket price will cover morning coffee, a super buffet lunch and afternoon tea with home-made cakes. LAHS members will receive an application form and full details from the Hon. Secretary.

The event takes place at the Sir John Moore School in Appleby, a stunning building designed in 1697 by Sir Christopher Wren, which now incorporates a prestigious museum and innovative heritage centre.

The nature of the venue suggested an overall theme for the day of 'the history of education', and following requests to Networks groups regarding their own research projects, we have received some marvellous offers of speakers.

They will talk on such diverse topics as village schools, an aristocratic school patron, school buildings, girls' education, canal boat children's education, framework knitter apprentices, the methodology and data trails of a school research project, the Workers' Educational Association, and a nineteenth-century reform institution for 'naughty boys'

We are honoured to have as our Official Opener, Mr Peter Moore, a direct descendant of Sir John Moore (b. 1620 – Sir John, not Mr Peter!), founder of the Appleby school.

The two-hour midday break will include a host of exciting activities. There will be group tours of the original Victorian Sir John Moore schoolrooms, now an award-winning Museum, and lunch in the converted dairy Cellar Bar.



A special feature will be the family history workshop, run in several sessions at the on-site Appleby Online Centre (a not-for-profit community interest company) where a qualified tutor will assist you in logging on to Births, Marriages and Deaths Registers; Census Returns; and Parish Registers.

Tickets for this workshop are free of charge but limited, and will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis on the day.



In the midday period there will also be a demonstration of Victorian games by children in period costume, local history literature sales, PowerPoint slide shows, a local history 'education' quiz, a photographic display of the Sir John Moore Heritage Centre renovation project, object handling of authentic Victorian artefacts, and – when you are exhausted by all that! – the opportunity to stroll and relax in the attractive Sir John Moore gardens.

Caroline Wessell

If you are still full of energy after teatime, there is a village walk with trail leaflet.

The perfect end to your day could be dinner at the high quality Appleby Magna restaurant. You can contact The Black Horse on 01530 270588.

Nailstone, Neulebi or Neluestone?

In the last Newsletter, Steve Mitchell asked whether there is a conspiracy to exclude Nailstone from the map of Domesday Leicestershire. Here, LAHS members **Vincent Porter** and **John Seary** offer two further views

There are several pieces of evidence to support my claim. First, Nichols (p. 807, not p. 973, Steve) simply asserted that the Domesday entry for Nailstone is that for Neulebi. He gave no proof for this. He also claimed – wrongly – that Oddeston and Barton lay to the East of Nailstone, and that Bagworth lay to the West! Nevertheless, in their *Domesday Gazetteer* (Cambridge University Press, 1975), H. C Darby and G. R Versey follow Nichols in identifying Neulebi as Nailstone.

If we now turn to the Phillimore and Alecto editions of Domesday, it would seem that neither of the editors bothered to consult the *Domesday Gazetteer* before going into print. In their ‘Note on the Text’, the publishers of the Alecto edition make it clear that when a place name is printed in double inverted commas, as is the case with “Neulebi”, then for them it indicates a place name found only in Domesday Book, for which there is no known later equivalent, or for which the form may be corrupt. In addition to “Neulebi” [folio 232v], they print at least two other Leicestershire place-names in double inverted commas. These are “Windesers” [folio 233v] and “Evelege” [folio 236].

The failure of Ekwall to make the connection with subsequent place names is trickier to explain, for he is concerned to establish etymological and phonetic links for a spoken, rather than a written, language. He is the first to admit that his dictionary ‘cannot lay claim to completeness’ (Introduction, line 1), and the link which he makes between Nailstone and the 1209-1235 ‘Neylliston’ is clearly a phonetic one. The phonetic leap from Neulebi to Neylliston is clearly a substantial one, however. Nevertheless, here is my hypothesis.

According to Ekwall, the Scandinavian element was particularly strong in Leicestershire, and many place-names may have been formed by people who spoke a Scandinavian language. Moreover, he suggests that in some cases, some apparent hybrids are due to the substitution of English sounds or synonyms for Scandinavian ones. (Introduction, p. xxvi). Thus, in the case of Neulebi, the old Scandinavian *byr*,

or *by*, could have been superseded by the Old English *tun*, or town, making it ‘Neulston’ or ‘Neylliston’

The lesson, I suggest, is for all of us to recognise that even scholars can make mistakes, or may fail to follow up the implications of every footnote.

Vincent Porter

Steve Mitchell’s letter asked “Is Nailstone a Domesday village?” I believe that the answer is yes; but that it was not *Neuleby*. The reasons for discounting the latter are firstly, the general persistence of place-name endings, making it unlikely that Neulebi became Nailstone, and secondly the sequence of Domesday place-names which includes *Neulebi*.

The information which forms the content of the Domesday Book was originally collected on a geographical basis using lists of places arranged in sequence that create what, in a Saxon context, Prof Nicholas Howe¹ called written maps. When the data was recompiled by tenant-in-chief, creating the Domesday Book, some fragments of the original order were preserved, particularly where one tenant-in-chief held lands in several places in a single hundred. As a result it is possible to reconstruct from the fragments much of the original sequence of places in the county of Cambridgeshire. But Leicestershire is more complicated, not least because of the absence of hundredal headings. Nevertheless it is possible with caution to use the sequence to suggest locations for some Domesday Leicestershire places and *Neulebi* is one such. The sequence concerned reads:

Sutone	-	Sutton Cheyney
Catebi	-	Cadeby
Neulebi		
Bereluestone	-	Barlestone

From end to end the sequence covers a distance of about four miles. This appears to place *Neulebi* to the south of Barlestone in the area around Naneby and Newbold Verdon, whilst Nailstone lies to the north of

¹ N.Howe, *Writing the Map of Anglo-Saxon England*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2008

Nailstone, Neulebi or Neluestone? (continued)

The alternative I suggest as the antecedent for Nailstone is *Neluestone*, which in the Phillimore numbering system occurs at 1,4 and 17,16. This name clearly could, over time, have evolved to give Nailstone, but has hitherto been associated with Ilston on the Hill. There are two records for Ilston as *Eluestone* at 8,3 and 13,13. These two are clearly linked by the fact that one virgate of the assessment of 13,13 has been transferred to that of 8,3. It was possible to consider *Neluestone* and *Eluestone* as the same place on the basis of the long-held belief that the Domesday Book was produced by careless scribes. But in fact the writing of the Domesday Book was remarkably precise and when the scribe wrote *Eluestone* he meant the place now known as Ilston, and when he wrote *Neluestone* he meant somewhere else.

There is an apparent problem with the idea that the somewhere else was Nailstone. This is the fact that entry 1,4 covers the king's manor of *Bugedone*, and Nailstone is some 22 miles from Great Bowden. At 11 miles, it is closer to the centre of another of the king's manors, at Rothley. This may be the reason that, in the past, *Nelustone* has been confused with Illston. There is however a parallel, in that Allextun which was in the manor of Rothley is 16 miles from the latter place, and only 8 miles from Great Bowden. Perhaps the explanation might be that Rothley was the centre for manorial holdings in Goscote Wapentake, whilst Great Bowden was the centre for Gartree and Guthlaxton.



Nailstone Parish Church

If it is possible to regard the Domesday names of Nailstone and Barlestone as Nel Weston and Berul Weston then one could introduce to the discussion the lands of Ralph of Mortimer. Ralph had only two holdings in Leicestershire and in both the sub-tenant was Roger. Whilst this is not proof, it is certainly consistent with the possibility that both holdings were in the same locality as one another. One of these holdings was *Westone* (21,2) and the other *Sbernestun* (21,1). The latter has been equated with Osbaston and Prof Barrie Cox² has recorded a convincing series of place-names charting the transition from *Sbernestun* to Osbaston. Osbaston lies just to the south of Barlestone leading to the suggestion that *Westone*, *Neluestone* and *Beruluestone* might all have been part of the same vill.

When *Neluestone* is accepted as Nailstone, attention turns to Carlton. Leicestershire has two places with this name; one to the north of Market Bosworth, close to Nailstone, and the other, Carlton Curlieu, close to Illston. The Domesday Book has two names: *Carlinton* (13.17), which from the sequence of places is clearly Carlton Curlieu, and *Carleton* (1,4), written on the same line as *Neluestone*. On the basis that the two Domesday spellings denote two different places, Carlton near Bosworth becomes the Domesday village of Carleton and this supports the idea that *Neluestone* was the Domesday Nailstone.

John Seary

² B.Cox, *A Dictionary of Leicester and Rutland Place-Names*, 77. English Place-Names Society, Nottingham, 2005

Keep in touch

If you have recently acquired email access or have changed your old email address, do please let Alan McWhirr know.

The LAHS email list is not used excessively but it is a valuable means of contacting members quickly if the need arises.

With only two *Newsletters* a year, it not easy to alert members to any event which suddenly becomes known such as excavations open for viewing, exhibition at a museum or a lecture which may be of interest to members.

Giving a voice to the past



Oral accounts preceded recorded history, and it was only in the 19th Century that oral testimony could be recorded as sound. Now, there is increasing use of oral testimony as an adjunct to other forms of local history research. Colin Hyde runs the East Midlands Oral History Archive based at the University of Leicester

Oral history – recorded interviews with people about their lives and experiences – has been practised in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland on a large scale since the early 1980s. Over the last quarter of a century well over a thousand recordings have been created in all corners of the counties, covering many aspects of life during the 20th century and even, occasionally, the 19th and 21st centuries.

Based in the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester, the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA) was created in 2001 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish the first large-scale archive of oral history recordings for Leicestershire & Rutland. This archive includes collections from Leicester, North West Leicestershire, Market Harborough, Hinckley and Melton Mowbray.

Broadly, EMOHA's brief is to digitise and preserve existing recording and, through training and support, encourage the creation of new recordings. Most of the older recordings in the Archive were made on 1/4" reel to reel tape and the two main problems encountered with these are the deterioration of the tape and the increasing scarcity of machines to play the tape on. As well as the reel to reel tapes, cheaper cassettes from the 1980s are now breaking and shedding their surface, and these issues are a concern for all sound collections created in the 1980s or before.

EMOHA also travels the length and breadth of the East Midlands running training sessions with community groups and museums. To complement this we have also put a large amount of information on our website about how to plan a project, improving interviewing skills, and advice on which recording equipment to use. On the website there is also a searchable catalogue of around 1,000 recordings, sound clips from a variety of local projects and even a collection of full length interviews from the National Forest.

As well as oral history EMOHA also looks after the BBC Radio Leicester collection. This is an archive of

around 2,500 recordings from 1967-2001 which contains everything from current affairs documentaries to gardening programmes. Although only a small amount of the collection has been digitised, this is a unique resource for students of Leicester's history in the final third of the 20th century.

Thanks to funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, in recent years oral history has played a part in an increasing number of local history projects, examples of which include memories of coal mining, natural history, sport, foxhunting, and villages and towns. Indeed, one of the challenges for EMOHA at the moment is to continue cataloguing and preserving the many recordings which are being created by the individuals, community groups and museums of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



All EMOHA recordings are available to be listened to at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland by appointment.

You can consult the EMOHA catalogue at the Record Office or look on the online catalogue on the EMOHA website at: www.le.ac.uk/emoha.

News from the LAHS library

Since the last report from the Guildhall, the Library has had a quiet summer. However publications continue to be received.

Books and Pamphlets

ADAM, R. comp. Jewish Voices: Memories of Leicester in the 1940s and 50s, 2009

BEARDSLEY, M. and BENNETT, N. eds. 'Gratefull to providence': the diary and accounts of Matthew Flinders, surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife 1775-1802. Vol.II 1785-1802. (Lincoln Record Society Vol.97) 2009. NOTE: Vol. I is already in stock.

BENNETT, J. A Leicester calendar: 365 dates in the history of Leicester. 1995

BENNETT, J. The street names of Leicester. 1985

COX, B. The place-names of Leicestershire Pt.4 Gartree Hundred. (English Place-Name Society Vol.84) 2009. NOTE: earlier parts are already in stock.

Timken Tubes of Desford. (Leicestershire Industrial History Society) 2007. CD-ROM (Please do not ask to read this at the Guildhall)

Wills at Salisbury 1464-1858. (British Record Society Index Library Vols. 122-123) 2009

Periodicals

In this section I draw to your attention articles that may be of particular interest to members of this Society.

Archaeologia Cantiana Vol.CXXIX 2009 includes an obituary of Alan Everitt by Joan Thirsk

Architectural History Vol. 51 2008 includes Schooled by Wren, or a school by Wren? The conception and design of Christ's Hospital Writing School, London. This article has references to Sir John Moore School Appleby Magna.

Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol.112 2008 includes Excavations at Witherley Lodge, Witherley, 1993-1994.

Ecclesiology Today 41 Dec.2008 includes The English Squarson (or The Black Squires of England) which has references to Leicestershire and Rutland. Thanks are due to member Ian Stevens for the kind donation of this journal.

Essex Archaeology and History Vol. 38, 2007 includes obituary of Geoffrey Martin

Hinckley Historian 63 Summer 2009 includes among other Leicestershire articles "Alney revisited". Where was Alney?...read and find out! We are grateful to the Hinckley Local History Group in the person of Phillip Lindley for the donation of this and all other issues in the file.

Do you belong to a similar Leicestershire society that produces such a journal or other publication? We should be pleased to receive it.

Historical Research. The new editor this year intends "to encourage and support submissions from across the history spectrum in the U.K...."

Research News (English Heritage) 11. Spring 2009, includes "Whose blue?" The true story behind the sky-blue roof of St. Pancras International Station.

Branchline, published by Leicestershire County Council, has a new format from the Spring 2009 issue and now includes archaeology and museums, e.g. Lost manor of Newbottle. The current copy only of this newsletter is available on the Library table.

Publishing News

Information on new publications of local interest:

HARRIS, Darren. A history of Maplewell in Woodhouse Eaves. This is described as 120 A4 pages crammed with interesting facts, stories and colour pictures about the buildings and people who have inhabited Maplewell over the past 1000 years. However it is only available on CD-ROM for £6 + P.& P. from darrenjharris@hotmail.com

News from the LAHS Library (continued)

The Victorian Society has published *Powerhouses of provincial architecture 1837-1914*, edited by Kathryn Ferry, 2009. It includes two papers by Geoff Brandwood: Victorian provincial architects in England and Wales, together with a bibliography of architects practicing outside London...AND *The churches of Lancashire* partnership Paley and Austin. £12.50 + £1.50 p.&p. from The Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT

English Heritage Historical Review Vol.3 2008 £25 includes 3 articles on buildings in counties bordering Leicestershire: Kenilworth Castle in 1563; The iconography of the State Apartment at Apethorpe Hall; The plaster decoration of the State Apartment at Apethorpe Hall.

The Future

I should finish with a word of thanks to Linda Butt, archivist at De Montfort University, and incidentally wife of the new Editor of this Newsletter, for all the work that she has put in to developing a database listing the contents of the Library at the Guildhall. This will initially help to inform the Society's Committee in its decision making about the Library's future, which has been mentioned in these pages previously.

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

Whitehall Farm Roman Villa visit

In July, members of the Society visited the Whitehall Farm Roman Villa and Landscape Project in Northamptonshire.

The site was found in 1996 by metal detectorists. Fieldwalking, geophysical surveys and preliminary excavations followed soon afterwards. The site has been the subject of a major annual excavation each year since 2000.

The Project is run by Nick Adams, the farmer who owns the site, and Stephen Young, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Northampton.

University of Leicester HE Certificate in Archaeology

Have you considered converting your interest in archaeology into a recognised University qualification that can contribute towards a degree in Archaeology? The University's School of Archaeology and Ancient History offers a part-time certificate course over two years on the main campus, which many members of the Society have undertaken during the last 30 years.

The course runs from 6.00pm to 9.30pm on Thursday evenings during term time, thirty weeks each year, with occasional weekend field trips. It covers the Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology of Britain alongside modules on Archaeological Methods, Public Archaeology, and the Analysis of Archaeological Materials, Environmental Remains, and Pottery.

Assessment of the course is by essays during term time with a single seen examination at the end of the first year. The Certificate is one of the most comprehensive in the country and good value for money at £575 per year. If you are interested please contact the Course Director, Nick Cooper at the School of Archaeology, University of Leicester (0116) 2522847/8 (email njc9@le.ac.uk) or Heather Roach at Vaughan College on (0116) 2517368 (email hcr5@le.ac.uk).

There is a course induction morning on Saturday 26 September from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The course begins on Thursday 1 October at 6.00pm in the Archaeology and Ancient History Building.

Nick Cooper



Photograph - David Ramsey

New voices, new themes, new season

8 October 2009

Early Roman Leicester: Iron Age Transition - Lynden Cooper

Lynden is a project officer with the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. He graduated from Sheffield University in 1986 with a degree in Prehistory and Archaeology. He has maintained an interest in prehistoric archaeology ever since, directing sites and undertaking lithics analysis for ULAS. However, modern field archaeologists often have to be generalists such that Lynden has found himself directing sites of more recent periods. He has long had an interest in the Bath Lane area of Leicester, this being the apparent focus of the late Iron Age and early Roman settlement. An evaluation near West Bridge in 1992 provided tantalising glimpses of a late Iron Age boundary ditch that was directly overlain by a Roman military rampart and ditch of mid 1st century date. Recent archaeological work on three Bath Lane sites provided an opportunity to reveal further evidence for early to mid first century Leicester, Ratae Corieltavorum. It is suggested that Ratae developed into an oppidum around the cusp of the 1st centuries BC and AD. The defences of the oppidum were strengthened at the time of the Conquest but were taken over or relinquished to the Roman military soon after. These Iron Age and early Roman defences, and their internal layouts, provided a skeleton for the development of the Civitas Capital later in the First Century.

22 October 2009

A Promise Unfulfilled - the rise and fall of the Coleorton Railway - Fred Hartley

Fred attended Stockport Grammar School and Leicester University before taking up the first of several consecutive posts with the Leicestershire Museums Service in 1978. He is now Keeper of the Museum Collections Resources Centre at Barrow on Soar. The Coleorton Railway was promoted by Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont to link his Coleorton Collieries to the Leicester and Swannington line. It was completed in 1835 but failed to secure sufficient traffic to pay its way. It was abandoned about forty years later, and has been largely forgotten, but it played an interesting part in the development of local collieries, and its extension line to Cloud Hill was unique in being able to convey standard railway wagons and also the wagons of the Ashby Canal tramway. The first history of the line was written by Clement Stretton over 140 years ago, yet even today the earthworks of the line and three buildings survive to add interest to the historic mining landscape of Coleorton and Swannington.

5 November 2009

Leicestershire's Topographical Artists and what they tell us about the past - Alan McWhirr

The Society was given a collection of pictures by Jane Elgood in the 1940s, and Alan has been looking at these and collecting examples of other works which show buildings and landscapes. He will trace chronologically various artists who have portrayed Leicestershire. Part One of a two part contribution.



26 November 2009

The 154th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.30pm at the New Walk Museum, Leicester. Agenda on Page 17

10 December 2009

The Village People? Two Iron Age 'Aggregated' Settlements in the hinterland of Leicester.' - John Thomas

John has worked in professional archaeology since 1986, formerly with Warwickshire Museums Field Archaeology Unit and since 1995, with ULAS. He was awarded a BA in Archaeology from Leicester University in 1998 and an MA in Landscape Studies from Leicester in 2006. He has directed many large-scale excavation projects with a particular expertise on prehistoric sites, landscape studies and early land allotment. His talk will outline the results of two large excavations of Iron Age settlements, at Humberstone and Beaumont Leys, that have produced evidence of extensive and long-lived occupation on a previously unseen scale for the county.

Many thanks to Hon Lecture Secretary Neil Finn for arranging this season of fascinating lectures, and for assembling this material for the newsletter

Not quite a village: the archaeology of Domesday Book - Dr Paul Courtney FSA

Dr Courtney is a freelance archaeologist and historian who specialises in the medieval and post-medieval periods. He began his digging career in Northampton as a schoolboy before moving to Leicester and the Gateway School as a 16 year old. The first of over a hundred papers (on monastic granges) was published in the TLAHS in 1981. His research has ranged from directing excavations at Tintern Abbey to researching the origins of the Saintonge pottery industry in 13th century France. This lecture is based upon historical research undertaken for excavations by Northamptonshire Archaeology and ULAS. He shares a house in Leicester with his wife, the head of Leicestershire museums, two cats and many thousands of books

21 January 2010

Community histories and contemporary collecting - Margaret Bonney



Chief Archivist for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland since April 2008, but previously Assistant Keeper of Archives there since 2001. Previously, a rather eclectic career, starting with a stint in the House of Commons Library, Research Division, and proceeding to the University of Leicester in 1984, teaching in the Department (as it was then) of English Local History and in the Department of History. My research started with the reconstruction of the street plan of the medieval city of Durham, published as 'Lordship and Community' by Cambridge University Press, continued with work on the medieval trade and has since diversified into research on a wide variety of local topics inspired by enquiries in the search room, most recently, exploration of prisoner of war camps in Leicestershire and Rutland during and after WWII.

11 February 2010

The Welland Valley Project (provisional title) - Jeremy Taylor

Jeremy Taylor took both his BA and PhD degrees at the University of Durham, and then worked as a research associate for Durham and Historic Scotland. He subsequently moved to Leicester to take up a Leverhulme Research Fellowship at the School in 1999 before being appointed as a Lecturer in Archaeology in 2001. His research interests centre on social change in Iron Age Britain and the Western Roman provinces through study of their rural landscapes, as well as on the interrelationship between theory and method in survey-based archaeological research (e.g. geophysics, geochemistry, and aerial survey). Much of his work has focussed on the role and significance of rural social interaction and agency on the development of wider Late Iron Age and Roman society in Britain. This is part of a longer term interest in the significance of rural communities in determining broader trajectories of social change during and after their incorporation within the Roman World.

25 February 2010

The W. Alan North Memorial Lecture : Imperial Possession? Changing perceptions of Britain in the Roman Empire - David Mattingly

Following a BA in History at the University of Manchester, David completed a PhD under the supervision of Professor Barri Jones at the same University. He was a British Academy Post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford (1986-1989), then Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan before coming to Leicester in December 1991 as a Lecturer. He was promoted to Reader (1995) and Professor (1998). He held a British Academy Research Readership award from 1999-2001 and was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2003. His research has been wide-ranging in chronological and geographical terms, as well as in subject matter. There are strong unifying trends running through and he is essentially a specialist in the archaeology of the Roman empire. He is an active field archaeologist and has organised projects in Britain, Italy, Libya, Tunisia and Jordan.

11 March 2010

Mills, Millers and Milling - Susan Tebby

Taking the 'pre' out of prehistory: the Third Radiocarbon Revolution Alex Bayliss (English Heritage), Frances Healy & Alasdair Whittle

Alex Bayliss is Scientific Dating Co-ordinator of English Heritage. For more than fifteen years she has pioneered the routine use of Bayesian statistics to model archaeological chronologies. This lecture outlines the generational narrative emerging from this work for the early Neolithic of southern Britain.



25 March 2010

8 April 2010

Society Notices



Minutes of the 153rd Annual General Meeting of the Society held at The Guildhall, Leicester, on 20 November 2008

The Society's President, Professor Rosemary Cramp, took the chair. Forty three members of the Society were present.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from 16 members.

2. Minutes of the 152nd Annual General Meeting held on 22nd November 2007

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the President.

3. The 153rd Annual Report for 2007-8

The chairman of the committee, Dr G. T. Rimmington presented the annual report on behalf of the committee. A full version will appear in Vol 83 of Transactions in November 2009. On the proposal of Mr Duncan Lucas, seconded by Professor Patrick Boylan, the 153rd Annual Report was approved unanimously and adopted.

4. Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2007

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Johnson, took members through the accounts which had been circulated at the meeting and offered to answer any queries. He indicated that the committee would need to consider increasing the subscription in due course. It was proposed by Professor Patrick Boylan that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Mr Duncan Lucas.

5. Honorary Scrutineer

It was proposed by Mr M. H. Johnson and seconded by Dr Rimmington that Mr R. P. Scuplak be invited to continue to serve as the Society's scrutineer. This was approved unanimously.

6. Election of President

Thanks were expressed to Professor Rosemary Cramp for serving as our President for the past three years and she was congratulated for attending every AGM during that time even though she lived in Durham. On behalf of the Committee, the chairman proposed that our Vice-President, Squire Gerard de Lisle be elected as president of the society for the next three years, seconded by Dr Alan McWhirr and approved unanimously.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents

It was proposed by the Honorary Secretary that the existing Vice-Presidents as listed on the agenda paper be elected en bloc. This was agreed on the proposal of Dr McWhirr and seconded by Mr M Calne.

8. Election of Officers

The officers listed on the agenda paper were elected en bloc. Mr Neil Finn agreed to be nominated to the vacant post of Honorary Lecture Secretary. This was received with enthusiasm.

9. Election of Committee

The committee was elected en bloc on the proposal of Mr T. Y. Cocks, seconded by Mr R. A. Rutland.

10. Honorary Secretary

Some routine announcements were made by the Honorary Secretary. It was agreed that the AGM should be held in our usual meeting room at New Walk Museum in November 2009 as an experiment. Members had expressed difficulty in parking in town and proceedings were frequently drowned by the cathedral bells.

11. Other Business

None. Following the formal part of the Meeting the President spoke briefly about the Heritage Protection Bill and the Cultural Property Bill. She was supported by a contribution from Professor Boylan.

LAHS on the web

In the first week in March 2009, the LAHS website was accessed by 7569 requests from users to visit web pages (.html) or Adobe PDF documents (.pdf), with a transfer of 5.47 gigabytes of data.

The bulk of all requests - 7174 - was for Adobe PDF files, which means remote users are downloading large numbers of documents, principally Transactions articles, but also the cumulative index (393 requests), newsletters (133) and Leicestershire Historian (147).

The article with the most downloads was 'Post Medieval Cossington' (185 hits; Vol20, part 2) followed (curiously) by the Annual Report (115 hits; Vol 37) and 'Elms Farm Humberstone' (89 hits; Vol 74). The bulk of the requests come from the UK, but also significant numbers from the USA, Canada and the EC, together with a few from elsewhere (Russia, South Africa, Argentina and Moldova). Curiously, there are some requests from the US military, perhaps someone researching their family history at lunchtime!

The statistics provided are difficult to interpret - particularly whether a 'request' is a reliable indicator of a bona fide hit to a particular page. Nevertheless, the statistics show that the revamped website has been a great success and that the research contained in transactions is reaching a wider readership than ever before.

The project to upload all volumes of Transactions to the web is progressing well - all volumes from 1941-2005 are now available, together with a fair proportion of volumes 1-20. The latter are more problematic due to the multiplicity of parts and in many cases, the lack of contents pages, but certainly by the end of 2009, the project should be completed.

Richard Buckley

National Archaeology Week

A crocodile of field-walkers following in the footsteps of Hon Secretary Alan McWhirr at Borough-on-the-Hill on 20 July 2009. No less than 107 people attended this event!

There was an even greater attendance at Alan's Bree-don-on-the-Hill walk creating local traffic chaos and traffic jams! Alan's account of the three walks can be read on page 15.

Open Archive

Open Archive is a relatively new library of user generated reports and publications allowing everyone from professional archaeologists to community groups to share their discoveries with a wider audience.

The designers of the site claim it is easy to use. It combines intuitive document searches by period, type and map based location which can be viewed as either a short description or as the complete publication.

Uploading documents is also said to be 'remarkably easy' and will not compromise the value of the information gathered. All that is required is a pdf of your document and then to follow the step by step guide to upload it.

According to the Open Archive team, *"this secure publicly accessible archive has the potential to become Britain's past by you the people who know it best.."*

They can also help take older paper records and transform them into searchable digital formats at a small cost thus helping to stimulate a renewed interest in previous research.

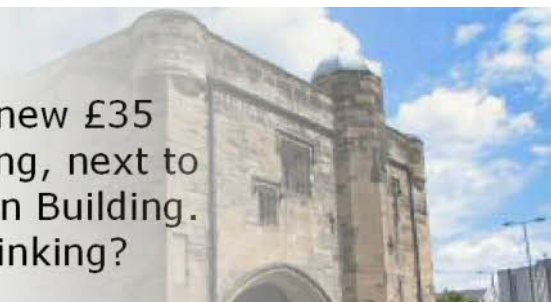
"Open Archive is a shared resource and whilst using cutting edge web technology to create the site its beauty is in its simplicity of use and the information that it holds. What it becomes though is up to you; please help us in our campaign to make information free and accessible to all."

<http://www.openarchive.co.uk>



Who's Hugh?

De Montfort University has named its new £35 million pound Business and Law building, next to the Magazine Gateway, the Hugh Aston Building. But how does Hugh figure in DMU's thinking?



De Montfort University can claim a pedigree of education and learning which reaches back to the time of the Wyggestons.

Indeed, all three Wyggeston brothers lie buried beneath Magazine Square or nearby, and early technical classes in the original School of Art and Design were taught at the Alderman Newton's School, formerly the Wyggeston School on Highcross Street.

The chapel of Trinity Hospital, now known as Trinity House and which accommodates the office of the Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors, is part of the original collegiate buildings of the Church of St Mary of the Annunciation in the Newarke, founded in 1331 by Henry, Third Earl of Lancaster and Leicester.

In this church and its associated buildings, Hugh Aston worked as the college's organist and choir master.

Aston died in November 1558. He had been a leading figure of his time, serving at different times as Coroner, Mayor and Member of Parliament for Leicester; but beyond and above all those roles he was one of England's foremost Tudor composers, and head of music at the College and Hospital of the Newarke.

Few details of Aston's life are certain. In 1510 he attempted to obtain a BMus at Oxford by submitting a mass and an antiphon but it is not certain if the degree was granted. Between 1510 and 1525 he may have lived in London, and may have had some association with the court of Henry VIII.

He was organist and chorus master at Leicester between 1525 and 1548. He was an applicant for the position of chorus master at Cardinal Wolsey's new

Cardinal College, but John Taverner was installed in the post instead. Aston's precise date of death is not known, but he was buried on 17 November 1558 in Leicester, at St. Margaret's parish. Additional records show that no less than seven pensions were paid to him up until that date.

De Montfort University sees strong links with the legacy of Aston's innovative music. Aston bridged the gap between the sacred and the secular. Arguably, he could be described as a man of the community in representing Leicester in Parliament. He was closely involved in the life of the town as its Mayor; and was an inventive and creative musician, producing fine music which can be enjoyed for its beauty and quality today.

450 years later, De Montfort University is a leading institution in the teaching of Music, Technology and Innovation with a worldwide reputation. Students and staff of the BA Hons and Masters degrees in Music, Technology and Innovation use several facilities on campus for composing and playing cutting-edge music including the recently renovated Chantry; the small stone building opposite Trinity House on The Newarke, which would have been familiar to Aston.

In the words of Simon Emmerson, Professor of Music Technology and Innovations at DMU:

"Hugh Aston is noted for his innovative keyboard and choral writing ... to think that the creative techniques we are now teaching our students were pre-figured nearly 500 years ago by this inventive composer is remarkable, especially since he is such an important figure in the history of Leicester working right here where we work now."

Stephen Butt

References

Patrick J Boylan, **Hugh Aston (ca 1485-1558) : Composer and Mayor of Leicester**, in *Leicestershire Historian*, LAHS, No 22, 2008, pp26-30.

A. Hamilton Thompson, **History of the Hospital and New College of the Annunciation of St Mary in the Newarke**, LAHS, 1937.

Vale of Belvoir Angels

Pauline F & Bernard V Heathcote

Many members will be familiar with a unique group of Swithland slate headstones which dot the churchyards of the Vale of Belvoir. They usually carry a motif at the top (but not always) of a winged angel and the inscription is laid out in a fairly regular way.

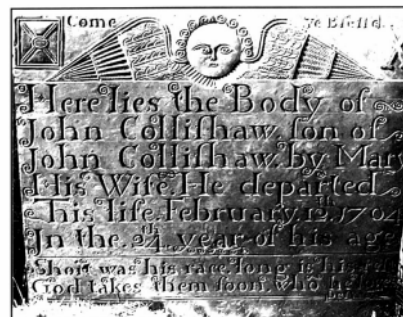
In addition some lettering is raised which is most unusual. Various groups have been collecting details of these headstones and we now have a published list produced by one such group. Others are still collecting data and analysing the symbols and the origins of this fascinating group of headstones.

It is A4 size with 112 pages, including many photographs and costs a mere £5 (plus £2 postage). For copies please contact:

Bernard V Heathcote
27 Plough Lane, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7AT.
0115 966 3468
bernardheathcote@dsl.pipex.com

VALE OF BELVOIR ANGELS

A SURVEY OF A GROUP OF EARLY SLATE HEADSTONES WITH CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES WHICH ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE CHURCHYARDS OF THE VALE AND SOME SURROUNDING PARISHES OF LEICESTERSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & RUTLAND



COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED

BY

PAULINE F. & BERNARD V. HEATHCOTE

National Archaeology Week



This event, organised by the Council for British Archaeology, extended over two weeks this year for the first time. Societies in the county combined to put on a Leicestershire Festival of Archaeology under the umbrella of Leicestershire County Council and organised by Pete Liddle.

Our Society led three guided walks and the numbers attending was amazing and did cause some problems! On Monday 20 July, 107 people arrived in the car park of Burrough Hill and the walk passed without any rain and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday of the same week 57 people joined a tour of the Jewry Wall site and museum and the

culmination of the series was the tour around Bree-don-on-the Hill on Tuesday 28 July.

Here over 120 arrived in cars causing minor traffic chaos which was eventually resolved with the opening of locked gates to additional parking which Pete Liddle was able to arrange - thanks Pete!

So somewhere in the region of 300 people joined guided tours organised by this society and a number of membership forms were handed out, so we may gain some new members.

Alan McWhirr



Society Notices



Officers of the Society 2008-9

Honorary Treasurer	Mr M. H. Johnson
Honorary Secretary	Dr A. D. McWhirr
Honorary Librarian	Mr A. W. Stevenson
Honorary Membership Sec	Mr G. Clark-Monks
Honorary Newsletter Sec	Vacant
Honorary Buildings Panel Sec	Mr D. H. Smith
Honorary Lecture Sec	Mr N. Finn
Honorary Minuting Secretary	Vacant
Honorary Editors Transactions	Ms J. Bourne
	Dr G. Jones
Honorary Editor Record Series	Dr M. Page
Honorary Editor Leics Historian	Ms J. Lee
Web Manager	Mr R. J. Buckley

Vice-Presidents of the Society 2008-9

The High Sheriff of Leicestershire
The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council
The Lord Mayor of Leicester
Professor P. J. Boylan
Mr R. J. B. Keene
Squire G de Lisle
Mr O. D. Lucas
Miss J. E. Mellor
Mrs W. A. North
Mr R. A. Rutland
Mr L. Tharp
Dr K. M. Thompson
Dr D. L. Wykes

Members of the Committee 2008-9

Mr R. J. Buckley
Mr R. Clark
Professor C. C. Dyer
Mr R. F. Hartley
Mr R. Jenkins
Dr G. Jones
Professor M. Palmer
Mr D. Ramsey
Dr G. T. Rimmington
Mrs C. M. Wessel
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Society Notices



The 154th Annual General Meeting

The 154th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 26 November 2008 at 7.30pm at the New Walk Museum, Leicester

Agenda

[Please bring this agenda with you to the AGM]

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 153rd Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2008
3. Presentation of the 154th Annual Report for 2008-2009 – The Chairman, Dr G. T. Rimmington
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2008-2009 – Honorary Treasurer Mr M. H. Johnson
6. Adoption of the Accounts
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Election of President.
9. Election of Vice-Presidents
10. Election of Officers
11. Election of Committee
12. Honorary Secretary
13. Any other business (to be communicated to the Honorary Secretary by 1st November 2008).

Following the formal part of the meeting, extracts from some archive films of Leicester will be shown which are from a donation to the society made some years ago.

A Century of Fatherhood

Bristol-based television company Testimony Films is making the first-ever television series charting fatherhood in Britain over the past 100 years to be shown on BBC4 in 2010.

The company is particularly interested in stories from the older generation, the thoughts and feelings of men now in their 90s and over reflecting their role as fathers. They also wish to hear from fathers who left their families to fight in the Second World War.

Further details are available from their website at www.testimonyfilms.com or on 0117 925 8589

Asfordby, Loughborough Road (Wayne Jarvis, David Parker, James Harvey)

Having explored options for preservation, Jelsons have asked for the Mesolithic buried soil to be recorded. This is now in progress and additional funding from EH is being explored. We are continuing our methodology of removing 20mm spits, 3Ding all flint (and other material), and additionally wet-sieving all spoil by metre square for small tools/debitage. The whole process is very time consuming, but the results are very significant! Flint recovered includes cores, blades, occasional geometric microliths, saw-like retouched blades and waste material. We are collecting over 700 flint artefacts per spit over the area by hand-recovery alone. The concentration of flint does seem to be centred on the area identified from earlier test-pitting, with over a hundred flints being recovered by hand per square metre here, and similar amounts of chips/debitage coming from the sieving. Larger stones are being recorded in plan with the potential for identifying occupation/structures (e.g. tent „footprints), although so far no concentrations of hearth material or activity have been identified.

Blaby Hall, Blaby (Sophie Clarke)

ULAS have carried out a DBA and a Heritage Statement for proposed development at Blaby Hall, a Grade II listed building, currently owned by Everards Brewery (photograph opposite). The present manor house was constructed in 1838, on the site of a medieval hall. Proposals to construct a large three-storey office block in the grounds of the Hall will impact upon the garden landscape and the associated outbuildings, rather than impacting directly on the Hall itself. As a result of our input, Maber are proposing retention of an early outbuilding, rather than partial demolition and have asked us to submit a costing for further work to cover a wider part of the Blaby Conservation Area.

Brooksby Quarry (Matt Beamish, Matt Morris)

As extraction of Phase 5 nears its end, the watching brief on the quarry faces and rejects heap is ongoing, with non-flint artefacts continuing to be found. Borehole model data (which initially signalled the Bytham channel beneath later geologies), re digitised

last year, has now been incorporated with current surface topography and loaded into visualisation software. This shows the deepening incised channel of the Bytham River likely to be exposed by extraction in Phases 6 and 7. Topsoil strip for phase 6 just started and a possible IA pit located.

Croxton Kerrial, Town End House, Chapel Lane (Jon Coward)

A survey meant to add the finishing touches to a few areas inaccessible to a buildings assessment done by CgMs on an odd farmhouse/chapel combination



opened up a blocked passageway between the farmhouse and the added chapel to reveal complex restructuring, some of which probably predates the chapel being bolted on. Further extensive work circa 1970/80s has complicated the story, and removal of modern cladding in another area showed multiphase restructuring and alteration, often re-using original fabric. It all goes to show that these unassuming village buildings can undergo quite intensive alteration over a relatively short timespan.

Groby Old Hall (Neil Finn, Jon Coward) The survey of Groby Old Hall is nearing completion and has served to clarify the chronology of this fascinating multi-period building. Major remodelling of an earlier manorial site was begun by Thomas Grey, first marquis of Dorset, in the late 15th century, probably between 1488 and 1492. This scheme appears to have been conceived on a grand scale and executed in brick, a fashionable, high-status building material at that time; Groby Old Hall is one of only a handful of 15th century brick buildings known in Leicestershire.

The last curtain call at the Gaiety Theatre

Leicester's last Victorian theatre, and the city's last physical link with Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man, was demolished in March 2009



Undoubtedly, it was a building with a chequered history. Originally constructed in 1862 as the Gladstone Hotel and Concert Hall on the corner of Wharf Street and Gladstone Street, it was never a commercial success. In the 1870s it was even used as a Mission Hall for the Ragged School which had its own building further along Bedford Street.

Successive owners changed its name and introduced new entertainments, but then frequently became bankrupt. It was perhaps appropriate that the building next door on Wharf Street was later to become Harry Lief's Pawn Shop.

Its most famous proprietor was Sam Torr who re-launched the building as the Gaiety Palace of Varieties on 3 September 1883 with Leicester's own Vesta Tilley topping the bill. It was Torr, with his music hall associates who took Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man under his wing.

Merrick was born in 1862 in nearby Lee Street, which connected Wharf Street with Bedford Street. He attended Syston Street Board School and worked for a time at Freeman's cigar factory in Lower Hill Street - all in the near vicinity of the Gaiety. In some accounts, Torr is seen as the one who exploited the hapless Merrick, but it was indeed Merrick himself who chose to contact Torr in order to extract himself from the Leicester Union Workhouse and 'to get my living by being exhibited about the country'. He walked away from the workhouse on 29 August 1884.

Merrick moved on to London to find a certain fame, but back in Leicester, Sam Torr's career foundered. His daughter recorded the family's downfall in her diaries:

"Everything was going lovely as we thought. We had a manager. He looked like a parson and knew about as much as one concerning the profession. We had several barmaids sometimes taking farthings for half-sovereigns. We had several waiters always missing when they were wanted... We also had a chairman which they played all kinds of jokes on... But the crash came all too soon. One morning my dear Mother came

to me in terrible distress saying, 'Clara, everything will be sold' in a few days and we shall be homeless. Whatever will become of us?'"

The old music hall went dark after Torr departed, and in 1892 plans were submitted to architects Langmore and Bankart for a partial rebuild. The necessary investment was found and three years later the building re-opened as the New Empire Theatre of Varieties.

It fared no better in the 20th Century, becoming the Royal Empire Theatre in 1902 and the Hippodrome in 1921. In June 1908 it was turned over to the full-time screening of films, operated by The New Bioscope Trading Co Ltd. The theatre closed finally around 1940 despite attempts to modernise its interior. In the 1950s it narrowly missed being demolished during the Wharf Street slum clearance following the 2nd World War, and in recent decades was used as a retail warehouse, its top storey having been removed.

On Saturday 15 May 2004 a plaque was unveiled on the Gladstone Street exterior of the building to commemorate its associations with Merrick. The event was arranged by Jeanette Sitton who runs a website dedicated to the Elephant Man. The plaque was removed in 2008 when a planning application was accepted for redevelopment of the site, and the building was demolished on Friday 20 March 2009.

William Eyre, who runs the salvage yard Lost World in Leicester, rescued the last remaining evidence of the building's theatrical past, namely 150 bricks and tiles which together created a frieze that ran above the second storey. Each of the handmade blocks had been numbered by the maker.

Leicester City Council has approved outline planning consent for a new development including residential and commercial facilities which is now under construction. The developers have confirmed that when their project is complete, the new building will be named Merrick Towers, and the plaque will be returned.

Stephen Butt.

Tea at the Town Hall

The Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Roger Blackmore, has invited members of the society to the Town Hall in Leicester for tea and a chance to view the many pictures which are hanging on the walls of the building including past Lord Mayors and old views of Leicester.



If you would like to visit the Town Hall on **Tuesday 20 October** at 5.00pm., please contact the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible. There is a limit of 30 people so attendance must be on a 'first come first served' basis. If the visit is over-subscribed, the Honorary Secretary will try to arrange a further visit.

The Brian Billson Legacy

Members will recall that in a previous Newsletter (No 77, Spring 2008) the death of member Brian Billson was announced. Over the years Brian had built up an extensive collection of local history books which he left to the society. Many of these were already in our own library and as we are so short of space at the Guildhall the committee could not contemplate adding any significant number to our existing stock. It was decided to sell the collection and this was done at an auction organised by Gildings of Market Harborough which took place on Tuesday 9 June 2009. The society will benefit to the tune of £11373.78.

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1 May 2009. Members who pay by cheque or cash please send your payment to the Membership Secretary, Geoff Clark Monks at:

15 Stanhope Road
Wigston
Leicester
LE18 3SJ

Tel: 0116 281 3684
bocks@btinternet.com

It would help if all members paid by standing order.

Films at the AGM!

After the formal business of the AGM there will be a short viewing (20 minutes) of some cine films given to the Society in 1984. Now digitised it is more convenient to show them with the facilities in the lecture room. They were taken by C. Lawrence between 1935 and 1956.

He was a school master in Leicester. As some of the films show groups of boys from Westcotes Boys' School, one assumes he taught there for part of his career. The films include shots of the excavations of the Jewry Wall site, Judge McNabb at the cathedral and various other events in city and county.



The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

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