Financial support for history and heritage groups

Many members of LAHS are involved in other societies and organisations that need at times to seek financial support. The Funds and Figures Project and the Idlewild Trust are two potential sources of funding, one local, one national. The Editor would be pleased to hear of further potential funding sources recommended by members.

The Funds and Figures project

Funds and Figures is a partnership project between Voluntary Action South Leicestershire and Voluntary Action Melton.

It is a five year project working within the defined catchment area of the Harborough and Melton districts of Leicestershire. Our prime purpose is to improve the financial stability of local voluntary and community groups so that they can meet their longer term goals.

In our catchment area we offer free advice sessions to help your voluntary group fundraise and manage finances. Typically we can cover issues such as strategic planning, gift aid, banking, funding and generating your own income.

We hold regular training sessions for groups in our catchment area, for example “Finding & Managing Funding” and “Strategic Funding & Finance Management” as well as peer group support sessions. For dates and more information see contacts below.

We also provide a comprehensive, up-to-date bulletin providing information on funds and grants. We feel this is excellent value for money at only £20.00 for an annual subscription.

The team at Funds and Figures is Christine Barrett (Financial Management Development Officer) and Nick King (Fundraising Development Officer).

If your group does not operate in our catchment area but you need support or advice, do please contact us and we will consult further.

cbarrett@vasl.org.uk or nking@vasl.org.uk
01858 439264
Funds & Figures, The Settling Rooms
St. Mary’s Place, Market Harborough, LE16 7DR

The Idlewild Trust

The Idlewild Trust is a grant-making trust that supports registered charities in a number of different areas of activity

It provides funding for projects concerned with the encouragement of the performing and fine arts, the advancement of education within the arts, and the preservation for the benefit of the public of lands, buildings and other objects of beauty or historic interest in the United Kingdom.

Peter Minet founded The Peter Minet Trust in 1969 to support social welfare projects particularly in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

In 1974 he then established The Idlewild Trust. Peter Minet died in 1988 and his widow, Wilhelmina, an American, died in 1997.

Idlewild was the name given to the International Airport in New York that was built in 1948 and was renamed John F Kennedy Memorial Airport in 1964.

During the last financial year to 31 December, 2010, the Trust received 373 applications (2009: 301) and awarded 65 grants (2009: 59) totalling £129,305 (2009: £125,000).

The Idlewild Trust is a registered charity, number 268124.

Enquires by email or telephone are welcomed but applications for grants must be made through the Idlewild website

info@idlewildtrust.org.uk
0208 772 3155
1a Taylors Yard, 67 Alderbrook Road
London SW12 8AD
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LAHS Publications: special offers - back cover
ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETIES
Reports and Papers

A recent enquiry about Leicestershire articles in this series, to which this Society contributed before starting to publish its own Transactions, prompts this note about Indexes.

A complete file of the periodical is available in the Library, for reference use only, along with some of the published Indexes, all but one having been bound with the volumes. The final publication by C.W. Foster and R.C. Dunning, published in 1929, has a very lengthy title but does reveal what can be found in this frequently overlooked resource:

An Index to Volumes XXVI – XXXVI (for the years 1901 – 1922) with which is incorporated an Index of the articles in Volumes I – XV of Reports and Papers of the Associated Architectural Societies of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Worcestershire, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, St. Albans and Sheffield.

A Prefatory Note states that four Indexes have previously been published:

I – VIII, 1850 – 1866
IX – XIV, 1867 – 1878
XV – XIX, 1879 – 1888
XX – XXV, 1889 – 1900

and continues ‘It should be borne in mind that the present index does not claim to be exhaustive. A complete index would have involved an impossible expenditure of labour.’

As well as the Society’s file, there is also a file at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, along with the Indexes. Copies can doubtless be found in the respective counties.

LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY

A similar enquiry about Leicestershire references in this on-going series (and there are many) has no such positive answer.

I have been unable to trace any such index, other than the index in individual volumes. Perhaps that Society can be prevailed upon to commission a cumulative index as this Society did for its Transactions up to Volume 74 (2000).

Incidently, there are still copies of the Index available if any member does not have one. Please see the back cover of this Newsletter for full details.

Library closure

Please note that the Library will NOT be open on October 2 and February 5 (2012). The Guildhall will be shut as usual for December and January, so the Library must also be closed for those 2 months. The Library will therefore reopen after that period on 19 February.

ACQUISITIONS

Books and Pamphlets


Goodacre, a native of Lutterworth (1829 – 1855), was a zoologist and priest.

Copies are available at £7 + £1.15 p. & p. from J. Goodacre, The White House, Ashby Parva, LE17 5HY. John is a past editor of the Leicestershire Historian.
AUCOTT, P. The ‘Town’ charities of Market Harborough, Great Bowden and Little Bowden. 2010

BENNETT, J. Who was who in Leicestershire 1500 – 1970. 1975. Thanks are due to the author for his kind donation.


GREAT BOWDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Great Bowden historic village trail. [c.2010]

HICKMAN, T. Market Harborough and the local villages. 2011.


SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS Annual review 2010.

TOWNSEND, R. Innocent or guilty ?. 2009. (John Fenton, Leicester, 1778).


The Press has now moved from Leicestershire to 113 High Street, Avebury, Marlborough, Wilts., SN8 1RF. albion@indogogroup.co.uk online catalogue: www.hoap.co.uk

The book has over 80 pages of black and white photographs. £9.95 9781905646197.
Church guides

We are grateful to the estate of the late Alan McWhirr for the kind donation of an extensive collection of Leicestershire church guides. They are of various dates (1980s) and are mostly leaflets or small pamphlets. The parishes are:


I am now prompted to ask whether your Leicestershire or Leicester church or chapel has such a guide that you would be prepared to donate to the Library. All such contributions will be gratefully received.

Periodicals

A selection with local connections

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Past and Present
13 July 2011

The Journal of Ashby Museum has six illustrated articles including ‘The Manor House’, ‘Coal mining in the Lount area’ and ‘From Market Street to Mesopotamia’. Thanks are due to Ken Hillier for the kind donation of this and earlier issues.

Ecclesiology Today
40 (7/08)

Four recent issues kindly donated by Ian Stevens. has ‘Temple Moore revisited’ by LAHS member Geoff Brandwood, 42 (6/10) ‘Seven church architects 1830 – 1930; ed. G. Brandwood includes an article on Ewan Christian, architect of St. Mark’s Leicester, 43 (12/10) ‘One thousand years of English church monuments’

Historical Research
84.224 5/2011

Includes ‘Between king and pope: Thomas Wolsey and the Knight mission’ and ‘Securing the monarchical republic: the remaking of the lord lieutenancies in 1585’.

Journal of the English Place-Name Society
42 2010

‘Harrow’ has several Leicestershire references.

Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain
Newsletter 102 Winter/Spring 2011


The review states that “the price seems on the high side”! I regret that in spite of Hansom’s Leicestershire connections the book will not be purchased for the Library.

I must finish with a sad announcement. As I was preparing this report I heard that a professional colleague Mr. M.D. Raftery had died unexpectedly; he had not yet retired.

Mike was not a member of LAHS but will be well known to many members who have carried out local studies research at the Record Office and previously at the Reference Library in Leicester, where he has been Assistant Local Studies Librarian for many years.

He had a particular interest in local music (perhaps because he was a guitarist himself) and has been responsible for the very extensive collection of sound recordings in the local studies library.

He was also an author and in 1984 produced the interesting and useful “The Writers of Leicestershire”. Mike will be much missed.
Recent news from ULAS
University of Leicester
Archaeological Services

Burrough Hill (John Thomas, Andy Hyam, Gavin Speed)

Two areas were targeted for excavation this year as part of the field school for students in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester.

Work in Trench 3 focused on an area within the settlement remains on the outside of the hillfort, targeting two roundhouses and a D-shaped enclosure that had been revealed during the geophysical survey.

Both roundhouses were represented by eaves-drip gullies only, unusually with each having a north-east facing entrance, and produced an array of Iron Age pottery, daub and animal bone. A number of pits were excavated, one of which was partially clay-lined and probably a storage feature. Iron Age pottery and bone was recovered, while one contained a near complete top half from a beehive quern. Another had evidence for iron-working and a complete iron spear-head.

Early impressions suggest a relatively long period of activity, at least some of which must have been contemporary with occupation inside the hillfort. Investigation of the D-shaped enclosure ditch showed that although it seemed to have Iron Age origins, frequent Roman pottery in the final silts indicated a fairly late Iron Age date for its disuse. Further Roman evidence was recovered from a ditch that formed part of a large enclosure to the north of the three structures.

Trench 4 effectively extended the construction of the entrance passage and to access the remainder of the entrance chamber/guard room. Two clear phases of development in the construction of the rampart could be seen, an initial phase of inturned entrance, with a later extension, incorporating the recessed entrance chamber.

The eastern half of the latter proved to be very well preserved, with upstanding walls and multiple clay and silt floor levels, some of which contained good assemblages of pottery and animal bone. At the level of the main hearth, crushed pottery and bone were littered around the fire, almost as a living surface frozen in time. A midden deposit to the rear of the rampart contained much Iron Age pottery, animal bone, two lower pieces from beehive querns and a late Iron Age brooch. Pre-dating the rampart extension was a large pit which contained a remarkably well-preserved crouched inhumation, evidently buried with some respect in a stone cist, probably topped with a cairn.
Outreach and public involvement formed a big part of the project this year. A grant from the Ernest Cook Trust, who own Burrough Hill, enabled us to employ Gavin as an Education Officer and we had a number of very successful school visits from which we hope to build upon in future seasons.

A resource pack was also produced to accompany their visit and provide activities for follow on lessons. We also had a day when the Young Archaeologists Club helped out, and a three day Summer School to enable a group of 15/16 year olds to participate in the excavation. A very well received open day attracted over 600 visitors while the annual guided walk brought in another 90+ people.

Finally we have helped to take the magic of Burrough Hill to a much wider audience by being involved with two new archaeology programmes for the BBC; the first being *Digging for Britain* which should air in September and the second, the new Michael Wood series *Story of the Nation* following on from his Kibworth series, to air next year.

Indented colour-coated beakers with curved rims were also present, not made after about 225 in the adjacent Lower Nene Valley industry. Most significant of all was the occurrence of a colour-coated beaker sherd decorated with a later 2nd or early 3rd century. The head is very similar to a representation of the god Bacchus found on another vessel from the Lower Nene Valley Pottery.

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Great Casterton Primary School (Leon Hunt, Andy Hyam)

Investigations at Great Casterton Primary School revealed a 2m-diameter circular limestone-built pottery kiln. Large quantities of pottery and kiln bars were recovered from lower fill of the kiln which was producing colour-coated wares between about AD 175 and 225. The material included examples of a rare mortarium form which seems to be attempting to copy an unusual samian mortarium made from about AD 150 until the early 3rd century. Another example came from the recent Highcross Leicester excavations at Vine Street.

Excavation of the kiln and the possibility of others in the immediate vicinity represent an incredibly important discovery which could modify the accepted model of how fine ware pottery production began in the region.
Melton Mowbray, The Anne of Cleves, Burton Street (Neil Finn)

A report has been completed on this important late 14th century building, pulling together the results of a recent survey and archaeological investigations and tree-ring dating undertaken back in 1995.

It was built around 1384 to a standard medieval hall plan, to house the priests who served the adjacent church of St Mary. A century later the building was substantially remodelled: the roof structure was replaced, the open hall was floored over and three first floor chambers were created. Tree-ring dating of the roof timbers indicates a date of 1479 for these alterations.

The unusual upper floor plan consisted of a small but elaborate central chamber with a decorative arch-braced truss across its centre and larger chambers either side of this. The building is said to have housed fourteen chantry priests in the 16th century. After the dissolution, the house served as the vicarage to the parish church and was re-fronted around the mid 17th century.

A new vicarage was built on the opposite side of Burton Street about 1760 and the old vicarage became a private residence. The building was extended in the 18th and 19th centuries with a major refurbishment around 1860. In the early 20th century it became a café called The Anne of Cleves and is now a bar and restaurant of the same name.

The name commemorates the fact that in 1540 the building had formed part of an estate, the revenues of which made up the divorce settlement of Henry VIII’s fourth wife. In the course of the survey a carved stone fragment was found in the garden, which appears to be a piece of pre-conquest sculpture. This is likely to derive from the old minster that occupied the site of the present St Mary’s church.

Eye Kettleby (Neil Finn)

Investigations in June 2011 for Kettleby Foods near Melton Mowbray revealed further evidence for the Anglo-Saxon settlement located during the Eye Kettleby excavations of 1996-7. The remains included a sunken featured building, a post-hole building, other structural features and a pit. Analysis of the Anglo-Saxon settlement is now underway.

Preliminary results from the analysis of the bone/antler artefacts (combs, pins, needles, spindlewhorls, etc) suggests that, in addition to 5th-6th century activity, there is a later, middle Saxon component to the settlement. Another important recent discovery has been the location of a number of Anglo-Saxon brooches and other metalwork recovered by metal detector survey in a nearby field, which almost certainly indicates the site of the cemetery associated with this settlement.

Leicester, Newarke Street, small area of archaeological survival. Context 29 is a 2nd century cremation, cut by two north-south ditches, with an adjacent area of metalling.

Excavations in Leicester (Wayne Jarvis)

Trenching was carried out at the former MFI warehouse between Narborough Road and Braunstone Gate in the 1970s, revealing evidence for Roman industrial activity and burials, including one in a preserved timber coffin. During the current work, features identified included an early Roman ditch and a continuation of a possible medieval watercourse. Archaeological features are to be preserved beneath the new building.

On Newarke Street, the former Elfred Thomas Law School site excavated in 1993 was to be redeveloped and archaeological investigations revealed a small area of intact archaeological deposits with evidence for two probable Roman cremations in small pits, one associated with a pottery vessel. These were in an area with a surviving metalled surface and the finds included an assemblage of deposits and also occupation material. Initial dating so far suggests earlier Roman rather than later. Two north-south later ditches cut this area, and to the north a related perpendicular ditch was excavated.
A Summary of the minutes of the 155th Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, on Thursday 23rd November 2010

The Society’s President, Squire Gerard de Lisle, took the chair supported by the Acting Chairman, Mr David Ramsey and other officers

1. Apologies:
Apologies were received

2. Minutes of the 154th Annual General Meeting
The Minutes of the previous AGM were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the President.

3. The 154th Annual Report
The Acting Chairman of the committee, Mr David Ramsey, presented the annual report on behalf of the committee. It was approved unanimously and adopted.

4. Annual Accounts for the year
The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Johnson, took members through the accounts and offered to answer any queries.

5. Election of Officers and Committee
The officers and the Committee were elected en bloc.

Visit the Society’s website for more news and resources

The Society’s Transactions (1862-2009) are available for free download from the LAHS website. Volumes 1-20 have now been scanned to create fully-searchable pdf files. These will gradually be uploaded over the coming months to replace the rather patchy coverage currently online. The web-maintainer is sympathetic to requests from researchers to upload particular volumes which are not currently available.

www.le.ac.uk/lahs
The 156th Annual General Meeting

The 156th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 24 November 2011 at 7.30pm at the New Walk Museum, Leicester

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

Please bring this agenda with you

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Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 155th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2010
3. Presentation of the 156th Annual Report for 2010-2011 by the Chairman, Mr R Buckley
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2010-2011 by the Honorary Treasurer Mr M. Johnson
6. Adoption of the Accounts
7. Election of Officers
8. Any other business (to be communicated to the Chairman by 1 November 2011)

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Following the business element of the meeting, the original artwork by Mike Codd for the recently-published *Visions of Ancient Leicester* (reviewed on pages 21-22 of this newsletter) will be on display.

In addition, Wendy Scott (Finds Liaison Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Leicestershire) will be providing a number of choice artefacts for members to view
The Lecture Season 2011-2012

Thursday 6 October 2011
Leicestershire Worthies

Danny McAree
Senior Project Officer, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Danny directed the excavations of the remains of ‘sod’ kilns (lime kilns) at Cotes Road in Barrow upon Soar in 2006 in which fourteen linear kilns were recorded which had been in use until 1475-1600.

Thursday 3 November 2011
Recent Research on Guildhalls: Boston (Lincs) and Stratford-upon-Avon

Kate Giles
Lecturer in Archaeology of Buildings, Department of Archaeology, University of York

This meeting will be held at the Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester. The Guildhall will be open from 6.30pm for members to look round the building. The talk will commence at 7.30pm.

Kate Giles BA MA, PhD, York is a buildings archaeologist with a specialism in the recording, archival research and theoretical interpretation of historic buildings. She is particularly interested in the relationship between people, places and possessions and in the archaeology of pre-modern ‘public’ buildings, such as guildhalls.

Thursday 24 November 2011
The 156th Annual General Meeting of the Society

Followed by a presentation of finds by Wendy Scott and display of original artwork by Mike Codd prepared for the recently-published Visions of Ancient Leicester volume

Thursday 8 December 2011
The Evolution and Secularisation of the Funeral in Leicester 1830-2011
Eleanor S Davidson

Eleanor S Davidson is a celebrant of humanist and non-religious funeral ceremonies and has researched the development of funerary practices in Leicester.

With the exception of the talk on 3 November 2011, all lectures take place in the Lord Mayor's Rooms of the Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, at 7.30pm. Please use the main entrance to the Museum from New Walk.

Visitors and non-members are most welcome at all our lectures, and are asked to make a contribution of £2.00, which is refundable if they decide to join the society.
Thursday 12 January 2012

Prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon Landscapes: Excavations at Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire

Neil Finn
Project Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Neil is a Project Officer with ULAS as well as Lecture Secretary of LAHS. He directed the extensive excavations in 1996-7 in advance of development of the Samworth Brothers site near Melton Mowbray and ran student training excavations on the site of the adjacent Deserted Medieval Village of Eye Kettleby in 1998-9.

The excavations revealed evidence of prehistoric activity spanning at least four millennia from the Mesolithic to the end of the Bronze Age. Mesolithic exploitation, in a woodland clearing close to a carr, was followed by further seasonal use in the Neolithic.

Thursday 26 January 2012

Members’ Evening

If you would like to present the results of your research to fellow members please contact the Hon. Lecture Secretary

Thursday 16 February 2012

Fighting Bosworth: Participants in the Battle of Bosworth, Causes and Consequences

Chris Skidmore MP
Historian and Author

Chris was born in Bristol and educated at Bristol Grammar School and Christ Church, Oxford, where he was President of the Oxford University Historical Society. Chris conducted postgraduate research at Oxford, where he was a convenor of a graduate seminar on the Tudor nobility.

He was an adviser and researcher to Bristol's bid for European Capital City of Culture 2008 and was research assistant to Robert Lacey for his Great Tales of English History series.

Chris has also written for the Western Daily Press and People Magazine. Chris currently teaches Early Modern History part-time at Bristol University. He is the Member of Parliament for Kingswood.

Thursday 1 March 2012

W Alan North Memorial Lecture

Alpha and Omega: The Beginning and end of Roman Cirencester

Neil Holbrook
Chief Executive, Cotswold Archaeology

Neil Holbrook gained a first class degree in archaeology from Newcastle University in 1984 before starting work in professional archaeology. He went straight from University to direct excavations on Hadrian’s Wall for English Heritage.

He moved on to Exeter Museum where he worked on Roman finds before being appointed Archaeological Manager at Cotswold Archaeology in 1991. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at Reading University.

Thursday 15 March 2012

Friars and Towns

Deirdre O’Sullivan
Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, University of Leicester

Thursday 29 March 2012

Burrough Hill Uncovered: Results of Recent Research Excavations

John Thomas
Project Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thursday 12 April 2012

James Pickering – Leicestershire’s Aerial Archaeologist

Fred Hartley
Curator of Working Life, Leicestershire County Council Museums Service

James Pickering of Hinckley (1915-2004) had three overlapping careers; as an RAF fighter pilot, a successful businessman, and one of Britain's most eminent amateur archaeologists.

He discovered thousands of sites across much of England, taking tens of thousands of photographs and making them freely available to the National Monuments Record and numerous county planning departments.

Fred had the privilege of flying with Jim many times from 1979 to 1996, and in this talk he will attempt to give a true appraisal of the scale and importance of his work.
Subscriptions

Your committee would like to announce that for the Society year 2012-13 (May 2012-May 2013), subscriptions will rise to £20 for individual members, £25 for family members (one copy of Transactions and the Historian) and £6 for students (no publications, just the newsletters).

Although we have tried to hold off an increase for some time, costs for printing and postage have risen considerably over the past few years. We hope members agree that it is still good value: a varied programme of lectures, two newsletters, two publications with articles covering a wide range of subjects and a website providing access to many previous editions of Transactions.

We are taking action to reduce our operating costs wherever we can. We have, for example, recently transferred the Newsletter to new printers, and this issue is being mailed to you in the same envelope as the Historian.

It helps the Society - and the Membership Secretary in particular - if members can pay by Standing Order using the mandate printed in this newsletter. It saves much time in having to pay in individual cheques and in sending out letters.

Society Excursions

Fifty members of the Society enjoyed an excursion on 11 September 2011. Our President, Squire de Lisle gave us an informative and entertaining tour of Quenby Hall in the morning – a rare opportunity to see inside this wonderful Jacobean hall which has been extensively reported on in Transactions, vol. 74 (2000) - and we are very grateful to him, his son, and daughter-in-law for making this possible.

After a picnic lunch, the party headed off in cars to Launde Abbey, and a tour led by Peter Liddle which provided a fascinating insight into the archaeology of this 12th century Augustinian priory (see Transactions Vol 69, 1995). The afternoon was rounded off with tea (and for many, cake) in the Launde tea room.

The limited places for this trip were taken up within a matter of a couple of days, so sorry that some members had to be disappointed. We hope to be able to organise further excursions in 2012, one possibility being the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Hall.

Any ideas, or indeed offers to organise excursions, would be gratefully received by your committee.

Society Dinner

The committee is considering organising a dinner to be held in May or June 2012 to round off the lecture season which finishes on 12th April. A date and venue have yet to be decided, but it is likely to be a Friday or Saturday evening, so that members from further afield can combine it with a visit to the Leicestershire Records Office.

There will be full details in the next issue of this Newsletter

Your Society - Your Call

Your Committee and the officers of the Society exist to serve the membership. We are delighted that the LAHS is prospering - with over 400 subscribed members - but such a large membership presents a challenge in terms of communication.

We would like to keep you informed of all our plans and arrangements, society visits and special days. We also want to hear about your own research, your successes and your research needs.

Do please keep in touch. Email is by far the most efficient means - and costs nothing!
Please pay Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society £________ now and on the 1st May each year thereafter to their bank at:

NatWest Bank
14-16 Haymarket
Leicester, LE1 3NT
Sort Code 60-60-06
Account Number 87270080

Name (print): ____________________________________________

Account Number: ________________________________________

Account Name: __________________________________________

Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________

Standing Order Mandate

To: ____________________________________________________ Bank/Soc

Address: _______________________________________________

Post Code: _____________________________________________
The Mausolea and Monuments Trust
www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk

The MMT is a charitable trust which was set up to protect and preserve mausolea and sepulchral monuments in the UK and Northern Ireland. It has taken six ‘friendless’ mausolea into guardianship:

- The Bateman Mausoleum, Morley, Derbyshire
- The Heathcote Mausoleum, Hursley, Hampshire
- The Wynn Ellis Mausoleum, Whitstable, Kent
- The Nash Mausoleum, Farningham, Kent
- The Guise Mausoleum, Elmore, Gloucestershire
- The Boileau Mausoleum, Ketteringham, Norfolk

Two of these, the Bateman Mausoleum (above) and the Heathcote Mausoleum were in poor condition. The Trust has now fully restored the Bateman Mausoleum and are currently re-roofing the Heathcote Mausoleum. It has replaced the oak doors of the Wynn Ellis Mausoleum in replica, incorporating the original grilles, and carried out minor works to the rest of the building. The Nash Mausoleum was handed over to the MMT in good condition so did not need repair, while the Guise Mausoleum is, and will remain, a maintained ruin.

The Trust has also compiled a gazetteer of all the mausolea known to exist in England. Besides brief histories of the buildings, it contains information on their condition when last visited.

The MMT runs a programme of events, lectures and visits to buildings of interest. Their work has been supported by grants from The Pilgrim Trust, English Heritage and other charitable bodies, as well as donations from members of the public.

British Archaeology, published by the Council for British Archaeology
www.britarch.ac.uk

Described by the publishers as ‘an authoritative, in-depth source of information and comment on what’s new, interesting and important in the world of archaeology’.

This journal is published bi-monthly. The current subscription terms offers the next seven issues for the price of six with free postage and packing, with further savings if you pay by direct debit.

Archaeology Scotland
www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

Archaeology Scotland is the national centre for knowledge and expertise for Scottish archaeology. Members pay an annual subscription and receive an annual journal and a quarterly magazine.

Environmental Archaeology:
The Journal of Human Palaeoecology
www.maney.co.uk

This journal publishes authoritative papers on many aspects of scientific historical research. Two issues are published each year. Further articles are published online. The journal’s complete archives (from 1996) are also available. This journal is not available through the LAHS library.
The LAHS is delighted to report another local success in the British Association for Local History awards for 2011.

We reported in our last issue that Edna Blake and Erica Statham had won the Short Article Award for their article: *Do it with Pride: working lives at Joseph Johnson’s Department Store*, which was published in the Leicestershire Historian No 45, 2009.

A further award was gained by David Holmes, who is also a member of the Kibworth History Society and serves on the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust.

David gained the award for his research and paper on the development of the boot and shoe industry in Leicester during the 19th century, published in the LAHS Transactions (Vol 83, 2009).

The article was based on the research he undertook for his PhD thesis in 2009. This is the first time that BALH has given an award to anyone in Leicestershire, and David was delighted to be named as a joint overall winner.

Edna, Erica and David were presented with their awards by the BALH President, Professor David Hey at a ceremony in London in June.

Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project  
www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials

The project’s database and website are now on line and combine information from several main sources and many smaller ones, often individuals working in their own parish.

Leicestershire County Council’s contribution comes from its interest in working with the Armed Services group and its position in having countywide responsibilities, ICT expertise and a Historic and Natural Environment Team which looks after the county’s Historic Environment Record and provides support for the Heritage and Archaeology Wardens’ networks.

The largest comprehensive source is that supplied by researcher Michael Doyle and his five (soon to be six) volume work: “Their Name Liveth for Evermore - The Great War Roll of Honour for Leicestershire & Rutland” published privately in 2009.

This was a twenty year project started with Michael Doyle’s late father, Peter Doyle, who realised that unless some effort was made, the memory of the people behind the many thousands of names on the First World War memorials of Leicestershire (and Rutland) would be lost.

So began an extraordinary effort of not only recording names but adding biographical information and details of the engagements their units were involved in. The result is a unique record and a fitting tribute to those service men and women, and civilians, who died but it is also an invaluable aid to many wanting to know more about their family history or the history of their area.

The War Memorials Officer  
Room 400, County Hall, Glenfield LE3 8RA  
Email -warmemorials@leics.gov.uk  
Phone - 0116 305 6187
Heritage Lottery Fund backs VCH Charnwood Roots Project
Julie Deeming

The Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust has been awarded a development grant of £19,100 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project titled ‘Charnwood Roots’.

Over the next nine months, the Trust will develop detailed plans for a major heritage project that will research the history of twenty-seven towns and villages in and around Charnwood Forest.

The first round pass means that the Trust can now progress to the second round application process and has up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for the £335,000 of HLF support that it is seeking for the project.

If the project goes ahead, around 400 volunteers from across the Charnwood area will have the opportunity to participate and will receive free, high-quality training from historians and heritage professionals.

As well as learning how to use and interpret maps and archival records, local people will have the chance to get involved in archaeological digs, a major oral history project, and building and landscape surveys.

There are also plans for a series of outreach activities with local schools in the area.

The results of the research will be made available on the web through podcasts, exhibitions, school resources, trails, a book and a concluding Charnwood Roots Heritage Festival, open to all. The intention is then to incorporate the research within the Victoria History of the Counties of England.

Leicestershire VCH Trust is keen to hear from any individuals or groups who would like to contribute to the project. We will be looking for people with all sorts of skills from archival research and archaeology through to website design and marketing.

If you would like to know more about this project or the wider plans and work of the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust, please contact the Trust Secretary, Dr Julie Deeming by email: jad17@le.ac.uk or by mobile: 07941 852941

www.le.ac.uk/lahs
The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland has been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme (2010) to fund a sixty week project to complete the cataloguing of the Archives of the Noel Family (Earls of Gainsborough) of Exton Park, Rutland and to make a fully-searchable catalogue available online.

These archives, dating back to the twelfth century, were feared to have been lost forever when, in 1810, the Old Hall at Exton was consumed by fire. However, much of this archive was rediscovered in the late 1980s at Exton Park and deposited by the Earl of Gainsborough, alongside nineteenth and twentieth-century family and estate records, in the Record Office.

I have been enjoying exploring the collection, which comprises of 700 archive boxes and over 100 plans. These boxes contain a wide variety of documents, from twelfth-century property deeds to nineteenth-century family correspondence. They range in size from small bills to table-sized maps and plans. I am now considering how best to arrange the collection before I begin inputting information regarding the records into the Record Office’s online catalogue database.

Though the Friends of the Record Office managed to obtain grant funding to catalogue the collection, more archival material was found, the funds dried up and work on the collection gradually came to a stop. That is, until now!

I joined the team here at the Record Office as Project Archivist at the beginning of August. This is my first professional post after studying for my Masters in Archives and Records Management at the University of Liverpool.

If you would like to learn more about this collection, please visit the project page (under ‘Our Resources’) on the Record Office website for regular updates, news, events and features on the collection:
www.leics.gov.uk/record_office.htm

Any queries can be addressed to Rachael Marsay at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
Long Street, Wigston Magna, Leicester LE18 2AH
Email: rachael.marsay@leics.gov.uk
Queen’s Birthday Honour for former LAHS President

Distinguished Leicestershire-born archaeologist and former President of the LAHS, Professor Rosemary Cramp, was been made a Dame in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

Professor Cramp was awarded the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her services to scholarship.

She was educated at Market Harborough Grammar School and later at St Anne’s College, Oxford.

She dug her first archaeological trench with Frank Cottrill here in Leicestershire. It was in a field behind her father’s farm in Glooston and a note of this brief archaeological investigation appeared in volume 28 of the LAHS Transactions.

Here began a distinguished archaeological career. She became the first female professor in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University in 1971 and was honoured in 1984 by the University of Leicester by being awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

Rosemary was a lecturer at Oxford from 1950 before moving to the University of Durham in 1955. In 1966, she became senior lecturer, then Professor of Archaeology and Emeritus Professor in 1990. Later she was appointed a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford.

Professor Cramp has held numerous titles and played a key role in a range of organisations. She was honorary Vice-President of The Society of Antiquaries, and from 1978 to 1999, a Trustee of the British Museum. She has also served as the President of the Council for British Archaeology.

From 1973 to 1999 She was a Commissioner for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland. She has continued to pursue her research on Early Medieval archaeology and has carried out major archaeological work on monastic sites, notably at Monkwearmouth and Jarrow and also in France and Italy.

While at Durham she expanded the department from its original Roman and Anglo-Saxon base to cover all periods.

She was made a CBE in the New Year Honours list in 1987.

The Rosemary Cramp Fund, set up on her retirement, has facilitated numerous small grants to students and staff, supporting fieldwork, research and conference visits.

On being included in the 2011 Birthday Honours list, Dame Rosemary said: ‘It is a great honour. And it is great for archaeology and for women.’

The Chairman of the LAHS, himself a former student of Dame Rosemary whilst at Durham, has sent a congratulatory card on behalf of all members of the Society.
Visions of Ancient Leicester
Reconstructing life in the Roman and Medieval town from the archaeology of the Highcross Leicester excavations

Visions of Ancient Leicester is a new publication from the University of Leicester drawing on research derived from recent excavations and using commissioned paintings to portray the town of Leicester during various phases of its early development.

Excavations at Vine Street revealed a large Roman townhouse. But rather than a single snapshot of Roman life, the dig’s many layers have enabled researchers to piece together how the buildings on this particular plot of land or insula changed between the early 2nd century and the late 4th century when Roman occupation ended.

A series of four paintings from the same angle graphically depict how new buildings were erected or extended as earlier buildings were torn down or fell down. Turning each page is like sitting in a time machine, jumping forward several decades without moving from the spot.

After the Romans left, much of their infrastructure crumbled, often being reused by the city’s Saxon inhabitants for their own buildings.

By the time of the Domesday book, seven centuries later, Leicester was once again a thriving community and over the next few centuries a series of churches, abbeys, priories and other major buildings were added to the city.

The book is based on research from the excavations which formed part of the Highcross retail development together with a series of detailed paintings specially commissioned from artist Mike Codd.
By the 15th century, the defensive walls were being demolished as suburbs developed outside them, although parts of Leicester were still semi-rural. Beyond the city itself were the three great open fields common to Medieval cities.

Two long-lost Medieval churches – St Peter’s and St Michael’s – were believed to lie under the Highcross development area and were discovered as part of the dig, together with their graveyards which yielded nearly 1,600 skeletons.

The accompanying text by Richard Buckley and Mathew Morris provides a fascinating, succinct history of the city and describes the importance of the Highcross dig while placing it in the context of what was known from earlier 19th and 20th century investigations into Leicester’s history.

There are also photographs of the excavations and of artefacts recovered, including two brilliant ‘curse tablets’. These small lead sheets would be thrown into a sacred pool, imploring a particular god to take vengeance for a wrongdoing.
Our President-elect, Michael Wood, has continued to be very active in the Leicestershire area over the past months.

Michael has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Leicester. He has been filming in the area for his new series for BBC Television, and speaking at a number of events including the re-opening of the Central Library, an event in Kibworth to launch a new heritage project following a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid and a fundraising evening for the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust.

At his graduation ceremony in July, Michael spoke of his longstanding association with the county:

‘I've had many connections with Leicestershire and filmed here for a number of different series. Last year's series in Kibworth was inspired at a very early age by my school and local history from student days.

I've had a particularly creative relationship with Leicestershire as well as a historical interest so it's a real delight to be given this honour – in a sense this is for all those who worked on the Kibworth project’.

Work on his new television series, Story of the Nation, has taken Michael and his team to Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough, the ULAS dig at Burrough Hill, and the settlements of the Wreake Valley.

The eight-part series will be broadcast in the Spring of next year.

The lottery-funded project in Kibworth arose directly from the participation of so many residents in the Story of England series. It will fund training for volunteers in storytelling, research, translation and website development and administration.

Andrew Southden, Chairman of KIT (The Kibworth Improvement Team) says the project will involve designing and producing virtual, visual and written interpretation material, for use within the villages, producing study packs for Key Stages 1 to 4 with local schools, and making relevant film and oral history material available to regional archives.

Roger Johns - foundry foreman
Bill Bowes - foundry man
Anthony Gorn - foundry apprentice

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Double Omega Coffin Lids
Keith Randon

Margaret Greiff raised the lid on this subject with her account of the ‘double-omega’ coffin lid in All Saints, Thurcaston in the last edition of the Newsletter.

The piece drew the attention of Keith Randon who has provided these additional comments.

Margaret Greiff’s account was of great interest, particularly as she speaks of slabs that carry a double-omega emerging from the central shaft along the ridge of the lid. Roundels at both ends are also specified in the article.

Four double-omega lids are to be found at Gaddesby. They can be termed A,B,C,D respectively. However, none have roundels.

The first three are outside in the Churchyard and heavily eroded. The most interesting of these, A, is the furthest west. B&C are alongside each other, C being cracked across.

The final slab is sited inside, in the tomb recess within what is believed to be a former Chantry, in the West part of the South Aisle.

Interestingly, Nichols shows a Gaddesby coffin lid (fig. 23) following his survey late in the 18 century. Although item D has a virtually identical double-omega, gripping a double headed arrow, transversely set, very little else matches; in fact D has a stepped base, which is absent in Nichols.

Nichols reported ‘three or four’ coffin lids at the time of his visit. Perhaps the best one has gone, or perhaps the images were produced later, with inconsistencies.

Returning to A, now much eroded (see sketch); at the head end is an interrupted garland of six smaller omegas. The pitching is for eight (45 degrees), but the two which would lay on the central shaft are not there. Some elaboration is applied to the foot, which appears to be a cross (similar to one at the head of D).

It would be very interesting to know if the secondary omega group of A is met elsewhere.

Dating of these coffin-lids is allocated to the 12th and 13th centuries. As Gaddesby was attached to Rothley and held by the Knights Templar at least part of this time, could these be Templar or Hospitaler coffin-lids?
The Recording of Second World War Structures
Gerwyn Richards, Jon Coward and Neil Finn

Monuments in Leicestershire dating from World War II are a gradually diminishing resource and a number have been assessed or recorded recently by ULAS.

As part of proposed re-development by the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) on the site of RAF Nuneaton at Higham on the Hill, two Nissen Huts and a blast shelter were recorded in advance of demolition.

The huts were of the largest type made, with a span of 9.2m and were constructed of overlapping curved corrugated steel sheets supported on steel ribs with an interior skin.

The ubiquitous Nissen Hut was invented by Major Peter Norman Nissen, a Canadian serving with the 29th Company, Royal Engineers during the First World War. The blast shelter, common on British Airfields, was designed to house fifty personnel offering shelter to ground crew and airmen caught in the open during an air raid.

RAF Nuneaton was opened in February 1943 within 93 Group, Bomber Command as a satellite airfield for RAF Bramcote. It closed on 21 November 1945.

In Leicester, one of two large World War II air raid shelters in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth College (formerly Wyggeston Boys School) on Victoria Park Road has been recorded prior to demolition. It comprises four narrow principal corridors in a square formation, accessed via a single entrance and constructed of pre-cast concrete panels.

One corridor contains the remains of a possible hand-operated ventilation fan and there is extensive evidence of graffiti, including a sketch of Adolph Hitler, a German aeroplane and various other written slogans which it would be indelelte to record here!

By contrast, the shelter for the Wyggeston Girls School (now Regent College) on University Road, assessed in advance of proposed redevelopment, proved to be much more complex. Here, there was a labyrinthine arrangement of corridors, constructed of the same pre-cast concrete panels. It is possible that this is slightly later, a modified design with shorter corridors and many corners, considered better able to protect the occupants from blast in the event of a direct hit. Again the remains of a ventilation fan survived.

As with the other shelters, few interior fittings survived, but there were again the remains of hand-cranked ventilation fans. Braunstone Hall was in use as a school during WW2 and the shelter was presumably for the pupils and staff.
The Recording of Second World War Structures
(concluded)

At Braunstone Hall, another large and well-preserved shelter, immediately to the rear of the Hall, was visited and was of similar design to that at Regent College.

Of particular interest were the stencilled warning signs in red paint opposite the entrances and the fact that each corridor in the shelter was named after a London street, with the name chalked on the pre-cast concrete walls at the intersections; these included Piccadilly, Marble Arch and The Strand.

The apparently wartime graffiti on the walls was also of interest and included reasonably accomplished figurative art depicting naked women, some with 1940s hairstyles, and again other material best not mentioned here!

As with the other shelters, few interior fittings survived, but there were again the remains of hand-cranked ventilation fans. Braunstone Hall was in use as a school during WW2 and the shelter was presumably for the pupils and staff.

MACE has moved

The Media Archive for Central England, the screen archive for the Midlands, has relocated to the University of Lincoln.

Thanks to nearly £500,000 from the Screen Heritage UK programme, supported by investment from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, as well as the generous support of the University of Lincoln, from Monday 12 September MACE has moved to purpose-built facilities alongside the University's School of Media.

The new facilities include a new temperature and humidity controlled film and tape store which will ensure that the moving image collections MACE cares for will be held in the best environment possible. Adjacent to the store is a specially designed technical suite as well as new offices and viewing suites.

Although MACE will be based in Lincoln, they promise to continue to offer a service to all the East and West Midlands, through their outreach work, online catalogue, their work in schools, and their supply of material to museums and exhibitions throughout the Midlands.

MACE’s team of nine will also split their working week between office bases across the Midlands, making meetings and visits to events easier for both their personnel and MACE’s partners and supporters.
LAHS Publications

One of the historic and principal roles of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is the publication of authoritative books, transactions and reports relating to the area.

Members receive the Society’s Transactions, the Leicestershire Historian and two Newsletters as part of their annual subscription. The Society is also pleased to offer the following publications, which were published to commemorate its 150th Anniversary, at special rates to members.

Please contact the Editor if you wish to purchase either of these books.

Cumulative Index of the Transactions of the Archaeological and Historical Society’s Transactions Volumes 21-74 (1940-2000). With an appendix containing a reprint of the index for volumes 1-20 (1862-1939)

Compiled by Auriol Griffith-Jones
Published by the Society in 2005 to mark its 150th Anniversary

288 pages. Hardback. Blue hard-bound covers, title embossed in gold on spine

Free to members - excluding postage and packaging charge of £4.40

Leicester Abbey - Medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies.
Edited by Joanna Story, Jill Bourne and Richard Buckley

Unique in being the only full account of Leicester Abbey embracing all previous material and including newly-discovered charters and documents


Original cover price - £25.00
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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society
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Submissions, letters and comments are always welcomed
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The Morales painting in Leicester Cathedral

Terence Cox, Cathedral Archivist and LAHS member, has kindly replied to the back page article in the last issue of this newsletter regarding the painting attributed to Luis de Morales.

Terence reports that the painting *The Scourging of Christ* was presented to Leicester Cathedral in 1966. The donor was a Leicester resident who stated that it had belonged to his father, a clergyman in London, but knew nothing of its earlier provenance except that it had been bequeathed to his father.

On the back of the painting is an ink stamp KONIGL. SACHS. GEMALDE GALERIE (no date) indicating that it had been in the collection of the kings of Saxony in Dresden.

In 1974 the late Canon Dudley Gundry contacted Dresden and was told that the painting was not listed in the Royal Gallery catalogues dating from 1826. This would seem to indicate that the painting left the Dresden collection sometime between 1806 - when Saxony became a kingdom - and 1826.

Similar enquiries were made by Sothebys in 2000 after examination of the painting, but no further information was forthcoming.

LAHS Research Fund
Marilyn Palmer

Readers are reminded of the Society’s Research Fund, which makes small grants towards the costs of primary research and publication.

These have usually been in the region of £200 - £500. Applications might be for travel to do field work or visit archives, costs of equipment and consumables, such as finds bags or excavation tools, or work connected with preparing reports for publication, such as drawings and photographs. See the Notes for Guidance and downloadable application form on the Society’s website.

I have taken over the administration of the Research Fund from the Hon. Secretary, and applications should be sent to my home address of 63 Sycamore Drive, Groby, Leicestershire LE6 0EW.

Queries should also be sent to me at my University email address, mai@le.ac.uk. Please send in your application well in advance of needing the money, as applications have to go to the Trustees of the Research Fund and then be ratified at a meeting of the Committee.

There have been few applications lately, so please do think about making one soon!