History and Heritage Fair – your help and support needed!

Saturday 27th October at Vaughan College and Jewry Wall

The Society is organising a History and Heritage Fair on Saturday 27th October 2007 at Vaughan College. When the Leicestershire Local History Council ceased to function in 1996 our Society took over some of the functions of the LLHC including the publication of the *Leicestershire Historian*. However, we never managed to organise events to help local history societies exchange information and to make their activities more widely known. Committee members Caroline Wessel and Graham Jones took up the challenge and the response has been most encouraging. Over 30 groups from around the county have asked to have a stall and other activities have also been arranged – more details can be found on page 11.

Can you help on the day by staffing the LAHS table and handing out membership details?

Can you help move tables early on Saturday morning (or Friday evening if we can gain access)?

Please contact Alan McWhirr if you can help, we do need it!!

The first lecture is on Thursday 11th October and the AGM is on 22nd November

Please can we have your email address. Email it to the
Newarke Houses Museum re-opened to the public on 23rd June after a £1.5 million refurbishment

The refurbishment has been funded by a £1 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant and a further £250,000 each from Leicester City Council and the Royal Leicestershire Regimental Association. The first floor of the museum will be home to permanent displays about The Royal Leicestershire Regiment – ‘The Tigers’.

The museum includes new displays in the galleries on the ground floor, which tell the story of Leicester and its people in the 20th century. Highlights are the reconstruction of a First World War trench, living rooms from the 1950s and 1970s, street scenes, and stories from local people. The museum also includes a cinema experience, a collection of toys from Tudor times to present day and a play area for children to try various games.

The community galleries – ‘My Home’ and ‘Moving Here’— tell the stories of different communities in Leicester and displays will change annually. The St Matthew’s community has contributed to the first displays.

There are also some old favourites to enjoy. The 1920s draper’s shop that used to be displayed at the former costume museum is now at Newarke Houses. This leads on to a re-creation of a scene inspired by 1950’s Wharf Street, including a chemist, grocer, pawnbroker and a pub, complete with sounds and conversations from the times. There is also a new gallery dedicated to Daniel Lambert.

A variety of different techniques tell these stories, including oral histories, archive film, computer interactives and newly acquired objects.

The general theme ‘Ordinary Lives: Extraordinary Lives’ underpins the museum displays.

The museum closed for refurbishment in July 2004.

Opening hours and admission details
Open Monday - Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm, Sunday 11.00am to 5.00pm. Admission: FREE
Closed 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st December and 1st January.
Tel: 0116 225 4980

Aerofilms archive acquired for the nation

English Heritage, in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), has agreed to purchase the Aerofilms Historic Collection of 800,000 aerial photos of Britain from Blom Aerofilms. The purchase is made possible by financial support from English Heritage’s donors and supporters, the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), and the Friends of National Libraries.

The Aerofilms Historic Collection is the best and most significant collection of oblique aerial photography of the United Kingdom remaining in private hands. Its chronological and geographical coverage is superb and documents the face of Britain dating from 1919 to recent years, providing unique evidence of a period of intense and unparalleled change.

The fragile prints, negatives and documentation which comprise the collection will now be transferred to the specialist archival storage provided by English Heritage and its partners. This will ensure not only that the collection can be used and enjoyed by the public, but also that it is preserved for future generations of researchers.

English Heritage and its partners have begun planning for the comprehensive cataloguing, conservation and digitisation of the collection. The transfer and initial sorting of the archive will take some months, and as soon as access to the photographs can be provided details will be posted on the EH website.

News from the Leicestershire Industrial History Society

The LIHS has just published their Bulletin (no 18) which is devoted to the Early Slate Quarries in North West Leicestershire. It has been authored by LAHS committee member David Ramsey and is a substantial piece of work running to 80 pages with the majority of illustrations in colour. Copies can be obtained at £15 (plus £2 p&p) from David Lyne, 10 Somerville Road, Leicester, LE3 3ET. The LIHS has also released a DVD on Timken Tubes of Desford, copies of which can also be obtained from David priced £5 (plus £1 p&p).
New ULAS appointments
Two new senior management posts have been filled recently at University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). Nick Cooper has been appointed Post-Excavation Manager and Vicki Score is now Project Manager. Both have been with ULAS for a number of years and have a detailed knowledge of the archaeology of the region.

New website encourages wider participation in study of local history
A new, interactive website, which will provide free access to thousands of local history resources, was launched by historian Michael Wood at an event at the Houses of Parliament last month. Speaking at the event Michael Wood illustrated the importance of personal stories in building a history of our communities. He also emphasised the key role technology plays in reaching new audiences. The launch was also attended by Rt Hon Ruth Kelly, MP (then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) who launched an exhibition of Victoria County History work to coincide with the website launch.

The website, Explore England’s Past is a key outcome of the Heritage Lottery funded Victoria County History (VCH) project, England’s Past For Everyone (EPE). Resources have been collected by local volunteers and historians working on EPE projects in ten counties. Visitors to the Explore site will be able to access a wide range of materials including images, historical documents and audio files and the site can be searched by location, place, people, theme and time period. Volunteer research will also contribute to a series of 15 paperback publications and schools resources.

To find out more about the EPE project visit www.EnglandsPastForEveryone.org.uk
To explore the history of your community visit www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk

50th anniversary of teaching archaeology at the University of Leicester.
The first course in archaeology at the University of Leicester was taught in 1957-8 and in 2008 the current School of Archaeology and Ancient History will mark the occasion with an event, details of which are still being worked out. If you are an ex-student and are interested in receiving further details email Pauline Carroll at pvl1@le.ac.uk or write to her at the university.

ArchLib is launched
The Council for British Archaeology and the Society of Antiquaries of London announce the launch of ArchLib: an electronic library of publications for archaeology. This new, not-for-profit service provides access to material from a consortium of archaeological publishers, offering researchers a range of publications through one easy search and buy interface. Initially comprising journal papers and books from eight different publishers, the CBA and SAL will be expanding ArchLib to include a greater range and number of publications in the coming months.

To use it click on http://archlib.britarch.net, enter a term or keyword in the search box and you will receive results from over 2000 pages of material. You can then view the opening page of a publication to check it is what you need, then go ahead and buy it. You will receive a PDF file which can be immediately downloaded and kept.

More content will be added in the coming months from a wider range of archaeological publishers. In time, ArchLib will link with both the Archaeology Data Service http://ads.ahds.ac.uk and the CBA’s British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography www.biab.ac.uk to become the first port of call for anyone in need of published information about archaeology, including material which is free to access.

Our W Alan North Memorial lecturer?
Members may have seen reference in Leicester Mercury to the fact that J. K. Rowling studied at Exeter University and was taught by Professor Peter Wiseman who spoke to the Society earlier this year when he gave the W Alan North Memorial lecture. It has been suggested that Harry Potter’s headmaster, Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore was based on Peter Wiseman. ‘Both are imposing, tall and thin with twinkling eyes and white whiskers, and both are renowned for their serenity and gentle wisdom’, writes the Mercury.

Peter Wiseman lectured in Ancient History at the University of Leicester from 1963-1976 before being appointed Professor at Exeter University.

Do you have your copy of the History of the Society?

[Image: The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005]

Robert A. Butler
Congratulations to Peter Liddle and others who devised the Leicestershire Archaeology Week as part of National Archaeology Week which took place between 14th and 22nd July. The event was supported by a number of societies including our own.

On the first Saturday there was a steady stream of visitors to the Jewry Wall Museum where Wendy Scott was present to explain the Portable Antiquities Scheme and a metal-detecting group showed how they work and how they liaise with Wendy reporting their discoveries. The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was present with displays of recent work in Leicester described by Wayne Jarvis, Jon Coward, Dan Stone and John Tate, and Angela Monkton described the work of an environmental archaeologist. Also from ULAS were others describing how various finds were dealt with including pottery with Liz Johnson and Heidi Addison, and human remains, Liv Van den Eynide. Tours of the Jewry Wall site were also popular with around 60 people listening to pearls of wisdom from Alan McWhirr; around 45 people also joined Alan for a tour of Burrough hill fort on Monday 16th July.

Our roving reporter also visited two other events. On Thursday 19th July tours were arranged around the remains of Grace Dieu Priory expertly lead by Ernie Miller and on Sunday 22nd July the Upper Welland Archaeological
Group conducted visitors around the remains of Papillon Hall which they are currently investigating. Alan Clarke and his team are to be congratulated on their work and effort for Archaeology Week – a most enjoyable visit.

Our reporter did not visit the other activities which were staged for Archaeology Week and if anybody did visit them, do please let us have your comments.

This successful week must be repeated next year and publicised as early as possible. The leaflet for the week was excellent and congratulations to all involved – we have something to build upon for 2008.
The Victoria County History (VCH) began as a national project, at the end of Victoria’s reign, to write the history of every county in England. A number of counties were completed in the first few years, such as Berkshire and Hampshire, but the majority were begun but not developed further. The VCH has gained a reputation for accuracy and a high standard of scholarship, which was maintained by its general editor in London (eventually based in the Institute of Historical Research in the University of London). The work of researching and writing depended often on the enthusiasm in the individual counties. The volumes (the ‘red books’) were published by the central organisation, and sold to libraries throughout Britain and over much of the world. They are consulted as authoritative works of reference by professional historians, but also have a wide readership among local historians, genealogists, amateur archaeologists and anyone interested in their own village or town.

In Leicestershire the work began before the Great War, and was then revived in the 1950s and 1960s. Work ceased in 1964.

The future

Around 300 parishes remain to be covered. Many of these are small, and do not have vast amounts of documentation, but also included are large and complex places such as Melton Mowbray and Loughborough. Experience in other counties has shown that two editors working full time can produce a volume every 5 years, and therefore the completion of Leicestershire might need 8 volumes additional to the 5 already completed.

The Victoria County History is managed as a federal structure, with each county having its own staff and management committee or trust, while the central office in London trains and advises staff, keeps a check on quality, and arranges for the publication of the red volumes, without direct cost to the counties.

The end product would appear initially on a ‘Leicestershire’s past’ website, and then be published as a ‘red volume’. Individual parishes could be published as separate paperbacks at modest price, and the completed final version would also be accessible on line. The work produced by the VCH is valued highly by local people. It helps to develop local pride and a sense of belonging to the parish and to the county. There are many beneficial side effects for local history in the county, as VCH staff would be able to promote the subject with societies and schools, and encourage local people to participate. The VCH aims to be inclusive, to make the past available to everyone.

Funding and support

The University of Leicester has agreed to provide facilities such as rooms, access to computing, library etc. The staff of the Record Office have shown interest, and the County Council has been encouraging: it has offered a little financial backing to help with the first stage of fund raising.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is at present financing a number of counties, but that organization is very reluctant to provide any more funds, and its support diverts rather than helps the central activities of research and writing. The regional HLF might be a better source in the long run, but they will also be reluctant to commit themselves to long-term financial support, or to pay for research.

Trusts seem to be the way forward, and they have been set up with some success in Durham, Herefordshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. They tap local funds, and persuade individuals and firms to make donations.

This Society is supporting this project and the idea of setting up a Trust to raise funds in order that the work can be restarted.

If any member is interested in helping in the formation of a Trust, or willing to undertake administrative tasks on behalf of a Trust, do please contact the Honorary Secretary. Or, if you know of sources of funding which might support such a venture, again contact Alan McWhirr.

Chris Dyer and Alan McWhirr

Currently the following volumes have been published:

Volume I  Natural History; Prehistoric and Roman; Domedays; Ecclesiastical History. 1907
Volume II  Religious Houses; Political History; Agrarian History; Forestry. 1954
Volume III Industry; Transport; Population; Education; Sport. 1955
Volume IV City of Leicester. 1958
Volume V Gartree Hundred (parish histories of the south-east of the county, including Market Harborough) 1964

The Victoria History of the County of Leicester

Edited by William Page, F.S.A. Volume One

London Archibald Constable and Company Limited 1907
The southeast Leicestershire hoard

Extract from a Press release from Leicestershire County Council 2nd April 2007

The southeast Leicestershire hoard is coming home following the announcement from the Heritage Lottery Fund that the bid to bring the hoard back to the county has been successful.

The hoard – found in a southeast Leicestershire field by local amateur archaeologists and dating back some 2000 years – will be purchased, conserved and fully documented before it goes on display at Harborough Museum, with travelling exhibitions and events around the county and beyond, a website and resources for local schools.

Excavations by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services have shown that the finds, consisting of over 5000 silver and gold coins, a unique silver gilt Roman cavalry helmet and many other objects, were deposited in a religious enclosure. The bulk of the finds date to just before the Roman Conquest, around 2000 years ago.

The Heritage Lottery Fund are awarding £650,600. This joins £100,000 from the Art Fund and £35,000 from the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund, as well as local contributions.

The hoard in more detail

More than 5,000 (5294 at the last count!) silver and gold coins, around 2,000 years old, were found. Most were Iron Age British coins from the Corieltavi tribe, bearing pictures of horses and names of their kings. Some were Roman coins, mostly Republican but including some with images of early emperors including at least one of Claudius. A total of around 16 separate coin hoards were found there, with some of the coins still standing on edge – suggesting they had been left there in purses or bags as offerings to the gods.

It is believed they were left on a religious site, which is the first site of its kind to be found in Britain. The site could have served the wide range of Iron Age farms that have been found around the area. Shaped like a polygon, the religious site would have had a trench with a wooden palisade fence and a gateway. The coins were deposited immediately inside the gateway. The helmet is of international importance and will need an expensive 5-year programme of delicate work to reveal all its secrets. There are various theories as to why the helmet was there. It could have belonged to a member of the tribe who served with the Roman army and left it there afterwards as a tribute. Or it could have been a trophy after the tribe clashed with the Romans. Or it could have been a diplomatic gift by the Romans to a local king or noble.

This is one of the most significant Iron Age finds in Britain and one of the best for the Corieltavi – the tribe that covered the entire East Midlands and had its capital in the Roman period at Leicester. They were the most northerly Iron Age tribe in Britain to use coins.

A silver ingot and the contents of a crucible were found immediately outside the site, suggesting that someone had been taking some of the coins out of the hoards and melted them down. It is unclear who was doing this.

Leicestershire’s hoard was found by a fieldwork group during one of their regular walks. One of their members went over the site with a metal detector after the group had found pottery fragments.

The coins and the helmet are currently being conserved by the British Museum in London.
Recent fieldwork

Some brief reports taken from ULAS News July 2007

Donington-le-Heath
As part of the National Archaeology Week a small-scale volunteer excavation took place at Donington-le-Heath manor house. Earlier fieldwalking and geophysical survey had identified the possible presence of the short-lived gatehouse serving the manor. Although somewhat hampered by the weather (you can’t force volunteers to dig in the wet!) four trenches were opened up during the nine days. In the main trench a small post pad and possible linear feature along with reasonable quantities of ceramic ridge tile were the only evidence of the gatehouse seen during the excavation.

A probable property boundary extending from the road towards the gatehouse was seen in another trench. A shallow bank with a stone core, which is thought to have formed the southern boundary for the manor house, was uncovered in another trench.

Leicester Abbey
The annual student training excavation returned to Leicester Abbey for the 8th season to investigate the infirmary area first looked at in 2006. This may be the final year at the abbey although there are still many areas that remain to be investigated.

This year the western half of the infirmary hall with a well-preserved mortar floor was uncovered. Sections of the original ashlar wall with chamfers, a mason’s mark and later buttresses survived along with evidence for robbing and subsequent rebuilding at a later phase.

The stone capped drain running from the main complex to the river was again investigated and environmental samples were taken. A second drain with a corbelled roof was also revealed to the west of the hall where evidence of a building, possibly a kitchen, was found. Evidence of mortar surfaces within this building was noted. Fragments of painted wall-plaster which may have come from the nearby guesthouse were recovered from a dump of robber material.

A large stone base measuring at least 5m² between the hall and the main abbey buildings appears to form the base of a substantial structure although the function of this is not known. Ideas include a cistern, the ‘King’s Tower’ among others.

Leicester, Bath Lane, Merlin Works
Excavation has started with additional machining which has increased the size of the site and revealed extensive evidence of major Roman structures. Wall footings for part of the Western Defences have been revealed and extensive Roman floor levels and stratification.

More news can be found at ULAS’s web site www.le.ac.uk/ulas

Book review

To the Last Round: The Leicestershire and Rutland Home Guard Austin J. Ruddy

It was a real pleasure to read this book and it well deserves the publicity it is receiving.

We are taken on a journey from when, suddenly, in early 1940 the ‘quiet war’ livened up as the Germans pushed rapidly through Belgium and overran the French and British forces. England was not properly geared up to warfare, and after Dunkirk we were alone in facing the enemy. It had been quickly realised that invasion could come from the air as well as from the sea, and when Winston Churchill followed Neville Chamberlain to lead the country in all-out war, the Local Defence Volunteer groups were formed – men, youths and old soldiers in villages and towns enrolled to defend their own areas. The author explains the forming of these groups in Leicestershire and Rutland in great detail, telling how under Churchill the L.D.V. became the Home Guard in July 1940. Of course weapons and uniforms were very scarce, but great vigour and action were plentiful. (I well remember my father, a sergeant in the Cropston and Thurmaston Home Guard, taking part in attacking neighbouring Rothley – crawling along hedges to keep out of sight if it was moonlight. I know he enjoyed it!)

A lot of gentle fun has been made of those days, mainly through the television series ‘Dad’s Army’, but I remember they were frightening times to live and work through.

There is so much detail in this book that each page needs full attention, but the whole picture of those years given by Mr Ruddy is amazing – how during the early stages of the Second World War ordinary youths and older soldiers from the First World War fused together, led by a few ex-officers and NCOs, to make an army determined to defend our two counties against a vastly superior force. Thank you Mr Ruddy.

Kay Gowland
Our web site

Transactions on line

Former editor of the society's Transactions, Richard Buckley, is coordinating a project to put back all issues of the journal online, the aim being to create a resource available to all on the web, free of charge. So far, most of the run has been scanned at high resolution by Audio Visual Services at the University, creating Adobe Acrobat, or 'pdf' files. These files then have to be divided up into individual articles, 'optimised' to reduce file sizes and download times and finally uploaded on to the web site. It is a rather protracted process and will take Richard several months to complete, but members are urged to have a look at the volumes that have been done so far. Although the quality of some of the photographs has had to be reduced, we do still have high resolution versions of the volumes, so as computers become faster over the next few years, we will have the option of uploading higher-quality scans in due course.

The volumes that have been scanned have come from the ULAS and Society (duplicate) runs and it has meant trimming off the spines so that the pages can be fed through an automatic sheet feeder. On completion, the volumes are then 'perfect bound' to make them useable again. Although it goes against the grain to damage books in this way, it is certainly a small price to pay to make 150 years of research available on a world-wide basis, to anyone with an internet connection.

We are still short of some volumes, so if any members are prepared to help, this would be much appreciated. Vol 4, parts 1-4; Vol 5, parts 2-4; Vol 6 1-3 & 5; Vol 7, part 4; Vol 8, part 4.

Please contact Richard on 0116 2522848 or by email, rjb16@le.ac.uk

Bankart continued...

Member Linda Butt writes:

I was most interested to read Alan McWhirr’s short piece about George Bankart’s photographs in the Spring Newsletter.

I have come across some members of this family while investigating the archive of the Leicester School of Art, which eventually became De Montfort University. S.S. Bankart was the School of Art’s first treasurer, holding the post from 1870, the year of its foundation, until 1891. Since his name continues to appear in the list of subscribers for some years after this date, one concludes that he had retired.

His antecedents came from The Netherlands, allegedly with William of Orange, and by the nineteenth century the family was making a living by financial dealing. I understand that there was until very recently an insurance company in Leicester still bearing the family name. S.S. Bankart’s son, George Percy, was a pupil at the Leicester School of Art, appearing in the student register as having enrolled on March 3rd, 1883, aged 17. This would fit perfectly with his birth date of 1866. His occupation was given as “Archi. Assistant” so one would assume that he was already articled to Isaac Barradale, one of Leicester’s most eminent architects.

He does not seem to have distinguished himself as a student – I have been unable to find any mention of him in the lists of students who had been awarded prizes or been successful in passing examinations.

He went on to teach under Augustus Spencer, who became Headmaster in 1888.

George Percy was a contemporary of Ernest Gimson, the furniture designer, and they maintained a lifelong friendship. They were both taught by Wilmot Pilsbury, the first headmaster of the School, himself a talented watercolourist.

It was at the Bankart residence that George and Ernest met William Morris, who exerted a powerful artistic influence on the two young men.

George went on to specialise in decorative plasterwork, his largest contract being for work at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He wrote “The Art of the Plasterer” in 1908, and in partnership with his son, George Edward, wrote the two volume “Modern Plasterwork Construction” in 1926.

Neither of the George Bankarts mentioned here can be the George Bankart of Alan’s photographs. He must have been a contemporary of, or from an earlier generation than, S.S. Bankart.

So, if anyone has any further information to add to the story, do join in!

See this year’s Leicestershire Historian for more examples of the stereoscopic pictures to which this note refers.
The 200th anniversary of the final enactment of the Whitwick, Thringstone and Peggs Green enclosure award is celebrated this year, 2007. The act authorising enclosure to be effected was passed by Parliament in 1803 and following four years commissioners were appointed, the award drafted, notices displayed on the parish church door, fields ploughed, allotments, footpaths and roads set out, boundary hedges planted and financial issues settled. There is a voluminous set of papers appertaining to Whitwick enclosure in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland which include minutes of the commissioners meetings, a full financial statement of income and expenditure, the award and maps appertaining to pre- and post-enclosure.

Whitwick enclosure took place somewhat later than the adjacent townships of Hugglescote (1775) and Swannington (1750). In a very significant respect those with lands previous to the Whitwick enclosure award were much better served than their Hugglescote neighbours, some 32 years earlier, in that the coal and minerals under the Whitwick open fields remained in the ownership of the original strip owners, whereas under the Hugglescote award the coal and minerals were assigned to the Lord of the Manor. In 1827 some 20 years after enclosure William Stenson and his partners sank Whitwick Colliery and to get much of the available coal Stenson had to purchase the coal from the owners of the strips that existed pre-enclosure. Almost 160 years later the writer, following Dr Colin Owen, came by this windfall of information as the deeds appertaining to the vast majority of the strips in the Whitwick open fields had found their way through the various owners of the Whitwick Colliery Co. to the National Coal Board (NCB) and were archived in the NCB regional offices at Coleorton Hall. These deeds give great insight as to land ownership from as early as the 16th century up to enclosure in 1807 as well as a large number of forgotten field names.

**Whitwick: Information as to the destruction of enclosures**

*From the Huntington Library in California (extract of full document)*

To Thomas Griffin, Whitwick

**Question**

To find out the number that were assembled yesterday as near as you can.

**Answer**

John Lydall shoemaker no common
Thomas West stocking maker no common supposed
John Fullelove stocking maker doubtful common
John Clay carpenter no common
George Jesson son of a labourer
Thomas Sharpe stocking maker
Thomas Simpson journeyman stocker no common

Who saw John Fullelove do any mischief and what?

Thomas How saw Fullelove with gorsehook and hatchet cut down

Who saw John Clay do any and what damage?

John Dobson saw John Clay do the like offence. He swore that he would pull down.

Hawthorn the Constable is said to have encouraged them yesterday, take care to find out what he said and take down the names of them who heard him.

Jeff Knight
What's on?

History/Heritage Stalls
Hands-on archaeology
Workshops: family history & old documents
Guided visits to adjacent historical sites
Brass rubbing
Dinosaur Detectives
Archaeology roadshow
Meet the Romans
Live music
Children’s activities
Local groups’ research & activities
Books to purchase: local history, heritage, culture, archaeology
Metal detecting & field walking
Church and multi-faith heritage
Garden history
Framework knitters' history
Museums information
Education courses information
Hands-on archaeology

Guided Visits
Jewry Wall
St Nicholas Church (probably Leicester’s Anglo-Saxon cathedral)
Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Sikh Temple)

Workshops/Activities
Family history
Using old local documents
Brass-rubbing – have a go!
Archaeology Roadshow: bring along your coins, metalwork and bits of pot!

Children’s Activities
Meet the Romans at Jewry Wall Museum
Sandpit archaeology search (not for under fives)
Hands-on activities and fun
Dinosaur Detectives

Live Music
Demonstration of 19th-century wind instruments
Cadenza Singers – ‘In Madrigal Mood’

Please advertise this event wherever you can. Leaflets will be available so do please contact the Honorary Secretary if you would like some to distribute.

Programme

10.30 – 3.30  Brass-rubbing – have a go!
10.30 – 4.00  Archaeology Roadshow – your coins, metalwork and pots
10.45 – 12.00 Workshop – family history
11.00 – 12.30 Dinosaur Detectives
11.00 – 11.20 Tour of Jewry Wall
11.45  Tour of Gurdwara Museum (lunch available)
12.00 – 12.20 Tour of Jewry Wall
12.00 – 2.00 Children’s activities
12.30 – 1.00 Demonstration of 19th-century wind instruments
1.00 – 1.30  Cadenza Singers ‘In Madrigal Mood’
1.00 – 1.20 Tour of Jewry Wall
2.00 – 3.15  Workshop – using old local documents
3.00 – 3.30  Tour of St Nicholas church

This programme may be subject to alteration without prior notice.
**About the lecture programme**

**Thursday 11th October 2007 at 7.30pm**

The unquiet, the disobedient and the criminous: the work of the Archdeaconry Court  
Anne Tarver  
Thousands of names are buried in the treasure trove of seldom-used documents produced by the Leicester Archdeaconry Court in the course of their work of settling disputes within communities. These contain descriptions of the minutiae of daily life that give unique glimpses into the real world of the past. This material will be of interest to both local and family historians. There are some wonderful documents that will be of interest to so many people and these will be put into their context. Use will be made of material from earlier research on tithes and other items that have come to light recently during the digitisation of the listings of the court records.

**Thursday 22nd October 2007 at 7.30pm**  
Sadly mangled by the insulting claws of time: the church of Crowland Abbey, Lincolnshire  
Jenny Alexander  
Crowland abbey was a major Benedictine abbey and held the relics of one of England’s own saints, St Guthlac. The history of the church can be read in the stones, and the building periods described in the abbey’s chronicles identified. It was clearly dependant upon Lincoln and this aspect helps us understand both buildings better.

**Thursday 8th November 2007 at 7.30pm**

Printing and the book trade in the life of Leicester up to c. 1850  
John Hinks  
An exploration of how the coming of printing to Leicester, along with the development of bookselling and other related trades, contributed to the economic, social and cultural life of the town, especially in the ‘long eighteenth century’.

**Thursday 22nd November 2007 at 7.30pm**

Annual General Meeting  
At the Guildhall, Leicester  
Followed by a presentation on the Victoria County History for Leicestershire – past, present and future

**Thursday 6th December 2007 at 7.30pm**

Thomas Babington and the Leicestershire link to the abolition of the slave trade  
Terry Sheppard  
This illustrated lecture will tell the story of the abolition struggle through Thomas Babington’s detailed staff work for Wilberforce in London and at Rothley, and the recruitment of his brother-in-law Zachary Macaulay to the cause.

**Thursday 10th January 2008 at 7.30pm**

Monuments, memory and myth: the use and reuse of three round barrows at Cossington  
John Thomas  
Analysis of three Bronze Age round barrow excavations at Cossington quarry has revealed a long and complex sequence of use and reuse over time. Evidence of a variety of Bronze Age burial traditions was recovered, including both inhumation and cremation burials. One barrow, which survived as an earthwork mound, had seen later reuse in the Iron Age and Roman periods, and finally became the setting for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The remarkable history of this barrow highlights the continued presence of such monuments as important focal points in the landscape.

**Thursday 24th January 2008 at 7.30pm**

From folklore to intangible heritage: the 2003 UNESCO convention  
Patrick Boylan  
Action to protect and promote the cultural heritage has so far been overwhelmingly focused on the physical heritage: historic buildings, sites and monuments, museums and archives in particular. The intangible heritage, such as traditional arts and crafts, music, dance and theatre performance, and languages, are in fact under far greater threat around the world, and UNESCO has at last adopted a new treaty aimed at preserving and enhancing such traditional cultural expressions. Patrick Boylan is Editor-in-Chief of the new International Journal of Intangible Heritage.

**Thursday 7th February 2008 at 7.30pm**

Human impact in the Trent Valley: occupation, clearance and alluviation in the fourth to second millennium BC at Willington, south Derbyshire  
Matt Beamish  
The analyses of 1998/9 excavations of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity on the floodplain of the Trent. Extensive radiocarbon dating has confirmed that Peterborough ware pottery was a middle Neolithic tradition, with no link to the Early Bronze Age. Two burnt mounds were of Bronze Age date, whilst extensive areas of fire clearance, sealed within the alluvium were of third and second millennium date.

**Thursday 21st February 2008 at 7.30pm**

Building reconstruction as a means of archaeological interpretation: a view from Virginia, USA  
Marilyn Palmer  
The 400th anniversary of Jamestown in Virginia, where the first permanent English settlement took place, was the culmination of extensive excavation and reconstruction over more than a century. Nearby is Colonial Williamsburg, the second capital of Virginia which was largely reconstructed with money from John D Rockefeller Jr in the 1930s. This illustrated lecture will look at the practice of building reconstruction on an archaeological footprint in Virginia and contrast this with prevailing attitudes towards reconstruction in Britain.

**Thursday 13th March 2008 at 7.30pm**

W Alan North Memorial Lecture  
The villa of Tiberius Claudius Severus: a window into the past  
Roy Friendship Taylor  
Twenty-eight years of excavation at Piddington, Northamptonshire, by the Upper Nene Archaeological Society, has produced evidence of activity from the Mesolithic onwards. A Conquest period Roman fort was constructed close to a high status late Iron Age site (from c. 50BC), succeeded by a series of well-appointed Roman villas. An abrupt end to villa life, in the late 3rd century, gave way to ‘squatter’ occupation, concluding with a modest Anglo-Saxon presence and small pagan burial ground.
News from the library

Earlier this year the Department for Culture, Media and Sport issued a White Paper for consultation, ‘Heritage Protection for the 21st Century’. The society, as an interested party, was sent a copy which is currently with the Honorary Secretary. Details can also be found at: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8380

Other books and pamphlets added to stock
Aucott, S. Elizabeth Heyrick 1769-1831; the Leicester Quaker who demanded the immediate emancipation of slaves in the British colonies. 2007. Copies available from Mrs S. Aucott, 24 Chestnut Road, Glenfield, LE3 8PB. £2.50 +65p p&p
Barton, S. ‘One more step .......’ St Christopher’s church, Leicester 1927-2007
Garner, T and Young, R. Syston past vol 2 2006
Newitt, N. ed. Anthology of Leicester Chartist song, poetry and verse. [See Newsletter no. 75 Spring 2007]
Sheppard, T. and Whyte, J. Rothley and the abolition of the slave trade: the mutual endeavours of Babington, Gisborne, Wilberforce and Macaulay. 2007

Periodicals
Articles of Leicestershire interest and local relevance appear in some surprising places. Here is a selection of recent arrivals:

Thursday 27th March 2008 at 7.30pm
‘What bard has sung of thee?’ – Women’s contribution to Leicester’s history 1780 to 1920.
Shirley Aucott
This talk will explore the challenges, the importance and the excitement involved in researching local women’s histories. All of the women featured are connected with Leicester in some way, but their stories have largely been untold. They have all made significant contributions to Leicester’s history, whether it be in an ‘ordinary’ or ‘extraordinary’ way.

The Library is currently open for business at the regular times. However, it will be closed on 21st October and 18th November. Members are reminded that the Guildhall is now closed to the public during December and January, so the library must also be closed for those two months.

Ancient Monuments Society Transactions Vol. 51 2007 – includes an article on Jacob Schnebbelie, draughtsman to the Society of Antiquaries, and well-known as the artist of Nichols’ History of Leicestershire.
Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Vol. 127 2007
‘Cistercian ware kiln at Ticknall: note on 2006 excavations’ is by Janet Spavold and Sue Brown, both of Leicestershire.
Hinckley Historian Winter 2006 Includes articles on Burbage.
Research News: newsletter of the English Heritage Research Dept. 5 (2006/7). The main focus is on Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire, but there are four pages on a late medieval/Renaissance garden at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

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Thursday 17th April 2008 at 7.30pm
Members’ Evening
Details of the contributors to this evening and their topics have still to be decided. The Spring Newsletter will list the topics and speakers.

Any member who wishes to take part should contact Sybil Rutland
Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society
Autumn 2007 Newsletter

Agenda for Annual General Meeting
22nd November 2007

The 152nd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 22nd November 2007 at 7.30pm in the Guildhall, Leicester

AGENDA
[Please bring this agenda with you to the AGM]

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 151st Annual General Meeting held on 23rd November 2006
3. Presentation of the 152nd Annual Report for 2006-2007 – The Chairman, Dr G. T. Rimmington
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2006-2007 – 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 2007).

Following the formal part of the AGM there will be a short presentation on the Victoria County History for Leicestershire – past, present and future. (see page 6 of this Newsletter)
The chairman, Dr Gerald Rimmington, welcomed the Society’s president, Professor Rosemary Cramp, to her first AGM.

Forty seven members of the Society were present.

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the 150th Annual General Meeting held on 24th November 2005
The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the President.

3. The 151st Annual Report for 2005-6
The chairman of the committee, Dr G. Rimmington, presented the annual report on behalf of the committee. A full version of this report will appear in volume 81 of Transactions. On the proposal of Mrs J. North, the 151st Annual Report was approved unanimously and adopted.

4. Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2006
Copies of the audited accounts were circulated at the meeting for members. The Honorary Treasurer took members through each page of the accounts before taking questions. He also explained that he did not think it was necessary to increase the annual subscription for the time being and so would not be proposing such an increase later in the meeting.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr D. Ling and seconded by Mr D. Ramsey and unanimously approved.

5. Honorary Scrutineer
The Honorary Treasurer proposed and Dr McWhirr seconded, that Mr R. Scuplak be invited to continue to serve as the Society’s scrutineer. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

6. Election of President
The chairman proposed that Professor Rosemary Cramp be elected as president of the society. This was seconded by Dr McWhirr and approved unanimously by the meeting.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents
Dr Levi Fox, a member of the society since 1936-7, died on 3rd September aged 92. It was proposed by the Honorary Secretary that the existing Vice-Presidents as listed on the agenda paper, minus Dr Fox, be elected en bloc. In addition, the committee proposed the addition of two vice-presidents. Mr Robert Rutland and Mr Lars Tharp. This was agreed on the proposal of Dr McWhirr and seconded by Mr M. Calne.

8. Election of Officers
It was proposed by Mr D. Boynton that the existing officers as listed on the agenda paper be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Mr A. White and approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Committee
In addition to those listed on the agenda paper, two members were co-opted on to the committee during the past year, namely Dr Graham Jones and Mrs Caroline Wessell. It was proposed by Mr K. Oldham and seconded by Mr M. Carne that the committee plus the two additional names be elected for a further period of office. This was agreed.

10. Subscription
As had been reported under the Honorary Treasurer’s report earlier in the meeting the committee, on Mr Johnsons’ advice, did not wish to proceed with the proposal on the agenda paper to increase the subscription from 1st May 2007.

11. Honorary Secretary
Dr McWhirr announced two forthcoming events and in particular urged members to visit the Jewry Wall Museum on Saturday 2nd December to view some of the finds from the major city centre excavations which had taken place in 2006. He also referred to the society’s new web site and the recently published Leicester Abbey book which was still available free to members. The book being written by Robert Rutland on the history of the society would be published in December 2006. He again urged members to consider volunteering for a post on the committee especially as several existing officers would like to retire. Nobody had come forward to express an interest in becoming an administrative assistant for which they would be paid an honorarium. The committee are still very keen to find somebody to take on this role.

12. Other Business
None

Following the formal part of the Annual Meeting Professor Rosemary Cramp gave details of her research project on Anglo-Saxon sculpture. Later members partook of refreshments and collected their copy of Transactions for 2006.
HE Certificate in Local History Research, Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Leicester

Local history and family history have never been so popular. If you are thinking of starting your own research, or would like to extend your existing knowledge and skills, this new Certificate offers an exciting opportunity to combine your personal interests with a comprehensive introduction to sources for local history, and the techniques for accessing, recording and interpreting them in a wider historical context. It is open to anyone with an interest in this area of research, but it may be of particular relevance if you are applying for or receiving funding for local history research from the Heritage Lottery Fund or similar body.

The emphasis will be on developing practical research skills through a combination of seminars, workshops and hands-on research activities in libraries, museums and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The course will be taught by a range of tutors with expertise in particular areas of research, with additional input from local studies librarians, archivists and museum professionals. The Certificate will focus on the history of Leicestershire and Rutland, but the knowledge and skills that students gain will be directly transferable to the study of other localities.

No prior qualifications are needed, just a real commitment to learning. Previous educational achievement may be taken into account to give exemptions from some elements of the Certificate.

For further information, please contact Margaret Milsom, 0116 242 2608, mam@le.ac.uk, or visit http://www.le.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/courses/local_history_research.html.

Introductory courses in archaeology by distance learning

The School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester offers a series of modules in archaeology which can be studied purely for interest, or as part of a programme towards a Certificate in Archaeology. They are equivalent to the first year campus-based degree course in archaeology (Level 1). The modules (20 credits each) are:

- Aims and Methods in Archaeology
- Early Prehistory
- Later Prehistory
- Introduction to Classical Archaeology
- Saxon/Medieval Archaeology
- Post Medieval (Historical and Industrial) Archaeology
- South Asian Archaeology
- African Caribbean Archaeology
- The Archaeology of Egypt and Nubia

These courses are as open as possible and so there are no basic entry requirements – the modules are available to anyone who wishes to take them. The level of work expected from students is equivalent to the first year of a university course and before students commit themselves to these courses they should ensure that they have the necessary reading and writing skills, as well as the available time – perhaps around 12 hours a week.

For each module we will send you a workbook, which takes you through the course week by week, textbooks, a Course Handbook and a Study Guide. Everything you need to complete the course is sent in the module pack.

For further details phone 0116 252 2772 or email archdl@le.ac.uk

Do you have your copy of these two publications?

Members are entitled to a free copy of Leicester Abbey and they can also purchase a copy of the history of the Society for only £12. See our web site for an order form or contact the Honorary Secretary.

Please support the History and Heritage Fair on Saturday 27th October

For latest news visit the Society’s web site at www.le.ac.uk/lahs