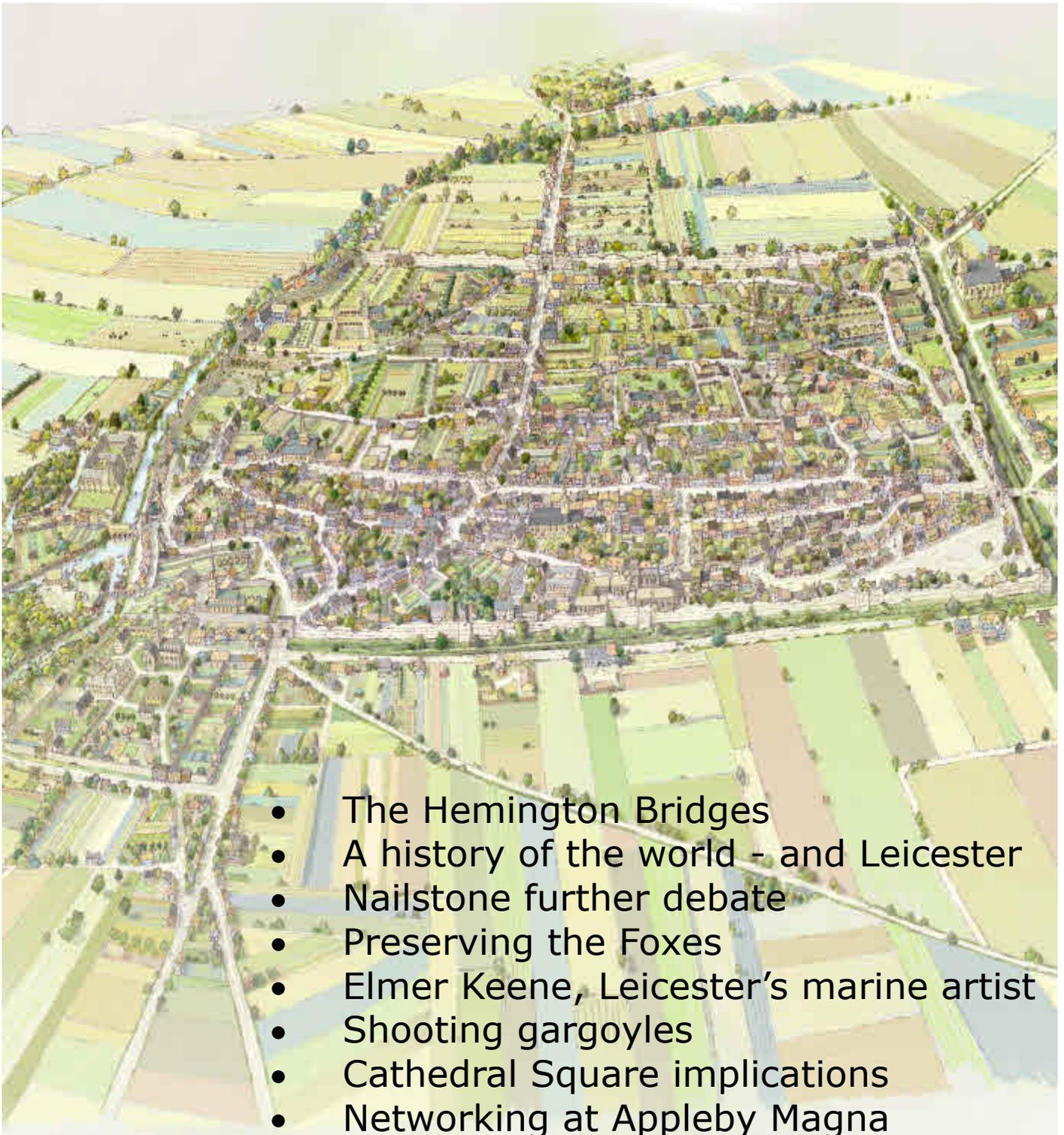


Newsletter

Spring 2010
Number 81



The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society



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- A history of the world - and Leicester
- Nailstone further debate
- Preserving the Foxes
- Elmer Keene, Leicester's marine artist
- Shooting gargoyles
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- Networking at Appleby Magna

www.le.ac.uk/lahs

LAHS Networks Education History Day

Marilyn Palmer

Caroline Wessel (and family!) organised an extremely successful Networks Day on Saturday 31 October 2009 at the Sir John Moore Heritage Centre in Appleby Magna.

The Centre is housed in the school buildings which date from the late 17th century. Sir John Moore was a local landowner who made his fortune in the City of London, becoming Lord Mayor of London in 1681.

Wishing to use his wealth to benefit his home county, Sir John financed the building of a school next to his family estate. He commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to prepare the initial drawings, and the work was then taken on by local architect Sir William Wilson. It opened as a Free School for boys in 1697, later becoming a boys' grammar school.

The building was closed between 1933 and 1957, when it re-opened as the village Church of England primary school which still operates within the original building. The Heritage Centre, also within the building, recreates life in the Sir John Moore School in Victorian times with the village boys' classroom, Headmaster's study, dormitory and clock room. This won the Leicestershire Heritage Museum of the Year Award in 2008.



Mr Peter Moore, Heir Male to Sir John Moore (b.1620) and his wife, Cynthia, enjoying lunch in the Cellar Bar

The Networks Day was opened by Sir Peter Moore, a direct descendant of Sir John Moore who maintains his family's links with the school. Numerous presentations were given throughout the day, including Shirley Aucott on Miss Beale and women's education in 19th century



Marilyn Palmer (Lectures Chairman) talks with Caroline Wessel and Mr and Mrs Peter Moore

Leicester, Cynthia Brown on one hundred years of the WEA in Leicester, Wendy Freer on the education of canal boat children, Paul Herrington on sources and methods for researching Tilton-on-the-Hill School and presentations on research into schools in Woodhouse Eaves, Rothley, Earl Shilton, Cropston and Thurcaston, ending with a presentation from Caroline herself on her research on Desford Industrial School – an institution for naughty boys! These were chaired by Marilyn Palmer, whose doctorate work (long ago!) was in education.

Lunch (excellent food!) was served in relays in the converted basement laundry, now known as the Cellar, which provides an entertainment venue for the village. This was the winner of the Leicestershire Heritage Awards Best Project in 2008, while it was also highly commended for its Appleby at War weekend in the Best Event category. Delegates then had the opportunity to tour the Heritage Centre, take part in a quiz on the local history of education, handle Victorian artefacts and research local family history. The afternoon ended with a presentation by Deana Morris, the enthusiastic curator of the Heritage Centre.

Many thanks to Caroline for all the hard work she put into this Networks Day. It was, as ever, impeccably organised and was much appreciated by all those who attended. If you were unable to get there for the day, a visit to the Heritage Centre is highly recommended: see <http://www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk/heritage-centre-and-community-gallery>.



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www.le.ac.uk/lahs

Editorial

A new Vice-President

The Society's officers are delighted to announce that J.D.Bennett, the well-known Leicester author and historian, has accepted our invitation to become a Vice-President of the LAHS.

Members will be aware of the remarkable work John has undertaken over the years in the field of local history and for the immense amount of work and research he has done in making the county's history so much more accessible.

Later in this edition of the *Newsletter*, our Hon Librarian has listed those of John's published titles that are in the stock of the Library.



Free bound copies of the Society's Transactions Index

In the spirit of good housekeeping, the Society is able to offer a number of bound copies of the Index to the Transactions to members free of charge. These can be collected from New Walk on lecture evenings or from the Library at the Guildhall during the usual Sunday opening times.

Wanted - A Committee Minutes Secretary

The Committee meets regularly to manage the Society's activities and to plan for the future. To help share the workload we need the assistance of a voluntary minutes secretary. This voluntary role involves attending all committee meetings (about six each year), taking the minutes, typing them up and circulating them to the Committee. If you would like to offer your services please contact any officer of the Society.

Your Newsletter

After forty years of publication, the Newsletter has finally gained a degree of colour! This has been achieved with due attention to cost and by using two different printing services. It is hoped

that the use of colour on the front and back covers will be welcomed by members. The Autumn Newsletter will be published in September. Contributions in any form, and at any length, will be most welcome. The deadline for material will probably be around the end of August. The editor can be contacted by phone or email, or in person at (most) lecture evenings.

In this edition

The Hemington Bridges project at Snibston: an exciting example of outstanding co-operation between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The work of two Leicester archivists with distinctly different archives located a short distance of from each other: De Montfort University and Leicester City Football Club.

Further discussion on Nailstone and Domesday, some implications of the Leicester Cathedral Square plans, the history of Girl Guiding in Leicester and an introduction to an online partnership between the BBC, the British Museum and museum collections throughout the United Kingdom including Leicestershire.

A History of the World

Stephen Butt

104.9 FM | DAB | bbc.co.uk/leicester

www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld

The BBC and the British Museum have joined forces in a remarkable partnership focusing on world history by involving the BBC's various services with museums throughout the country.

At the heart of the project is a landmark series on BBC Radio 4, 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' which began on 18 January 2010.

This series is a narrative global history told through the British Museum's world collection using the unique power of objects to tell stories and to make connections across the globe.

Across the UK, BBC staff and museum curators have selected a further 350 objects to add to those from the British Museum. All these objects have been selected for their power to tell an associated story that links the locality with a global perspective.



This gold stater coin (above) is one of the selected objects from Leicestershire. It was one of the 5294 British Iron Age and Roman coins excavated at the Late Iron Age shrine near Hallaton.

British Iron Age coins were influenced by coins made by tribes on the continent which were themselves copies of Greek coins. The head of Apollo wearing a laurel wreath has become a stylised wreath with pellets and crescents on the front. Greek coins depict a two-horse chariot on the back; here the design has been transformed into the distinctive Corieltavian horse made up of disjointed crescents. This coin features the inscription VEP CORF in the Latin alphabet thus showing that Roman culture was influencing Iron Age Britons in the 1st century AD.

At the heart of the project, and drawing together all the radio and television networks, is the BBC website where all the selected objects can be seen, and which can be searched in different ways to connect the objects both thematically and geographically.

It is hoped that by the end of the year as many as a quarter of a million objects could be indexed and available on the web site. All will be clearly and accurately documented, and their provenance confirmed. Intelligent search facilities will enable similar objects, or objects that connect together, to be highlighted.

Almost every part of the BBC is producing creative programme material from the project.

CBBC, the children's channel, is running a series titled *Relics* in which teams of young people search for some of the objects in the British Museum at night.

All forty BBC local radio stations including BBC Radio Leicester have broadcast features about the local objects that each have selected in conjunction with their local museums.

A recent *Objects Road Show* at the Guildhall in Leicester drew a good number of people with stories to tell about their personal objects. Museum staff including Yolanda Courtney, Philip Warren, Philip French and Jane May were on hand to receive the objects, many of which were then uploaded to the national BBC website.



Neil MacGregor, recording *A History of the World*

Elmer Ezra Keene

Helen McAllister-Ross
and Stephen Butt

In the past two lecture seasons, Neil Finn and Alan McWhirr have presented talks to the Society on Leicester's topographical artists. There are indeed many artists who have lived in Leicester but painted on a broader canvas.

Ezra 'Elmer' Keene was born in Osberton near Worksop in Nottinghamshire on 25 January 1853. He was fourth of nine children born to the Quaker family of Stephen Keene, a miller originally from Melksham in Wiltshire, and his wife Elizabeth whose family came from Ireland. They had married in 1845. Stephen Keene was himself an amateur artist but was unable to sustain a living from his work.



Whilst still in his childhood, the family moved to Strood near Rochester, where Elmer's long artistic association with the sea and marine imagery began.

The family later moved to Staffordshire where Keene began to work seriously as an artist. Although he had received no formal training, he took on various commissions to paint the portraits of his boyhood school friends.

In the 1871 Census, Elmer is listed as Ezra Elmer Keene, aged 18 years, a miller and baker, likely apprenticing for his father who was a Foreman Miller. Unlike Elmer's older brother Elihu, the life of a miller was not to be, as the 1881 Census occupation is given as 'photographic artist'. Keene married Eliza Elizabeth Darlow on 14 November 1880 in Scarborough Parish Church. In the census of 1881, Elmer and Eliza are recorded as being with Elmer's parents at 21 Rothbury Street in Fals-



grave, Scarborough, but by 1885 they had moved to 33 Rothbury Street. His father died in that year.

Keene painted a variety of landscapes including many marine subjects although he lived in the English county furthest from the sea. He was able to earn a living by painting for local patrons, so rarely exhibited. An exception was in 1895 when he exhibited one painting at the Royal Academy, a view of Burneston Bay in Yorkshire.

Elmer and Eliza had eleven children of whom five died before reaching the age of four years. Those who survived were Frank, Mabel, who died in 1906 aged twenty two years, Minnie, Dorothy and twins Marjorie and Percy. Percy, an art student when he enlisted, died on 11 January 1917 while serving as a driver in the Army Service Corp, and is commemorated at Gilroes Cemetery.

Marjorie's works were published by Crest Publishing, Frank's postcards by Gale & Polden, and he was a cartoonist for the Cambridge Picture Postcard Company. Keene's younger daughter, Dorothy, drew pastel portraiture, and some of her work was also published in postcard form with Tuck's, Newman, Wolsey of Leicester and the Milton Art Series.

In this remarkably busy and active artistic household, Elmer's other daughter Minnie also began painting. She specialised in pastels of animals. Some of her work was issued by the Leicester textile company Wolsey as well as Faulkners and Mansel.

Elmer Ezra Keene

(concluded)

Elmer had a younger brother, Caleb, who was born in 1863. Caleb Keene, also an artist, was known for his creations in lacquer and it is said that he made a suite of furniture for the Vatican. Caleb attended Scarborough Art School for four years on a scholarship. He was instrumental in the restoration of the Assembly Rooms in Bath. Caleb married Minna Bergman who became a well-known photographer, and was the first woman to become a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

Caleb and Minna, with their children Louis and Violet, emigrated to South Africa and later to Canada.



Elmer Keene was known for his moonlight landscapes with scenes from Scotland's lochs to Lands End. These moonlit views had a wide variety of landscape subjects including the English lakes, and distinctive buildings such as Holyrood Palace, Melrose Abbey and Warwick Castle, as well as locations in other countries, but his passion was for the sea.

In an interview for the Windsor Magazine given in November 1903, Keene explained that Leicester was an ideal location for a 'sea-painter' as almost any part of the British coastline could be reached in three or four hours.

"I have not done what I hope to do; but if I had to begin all over again, I should give my life to painting - and to painting the sea. And such is my love for the sea that, although now living far from it, I know that I shall have to die by the sea, even if I have to drag myself there on my hands and knees."

Keene was able to perfect an adaptability with his art for reproduction. This talent allowed for numerous prints to be produced as well as over 1100 original postcard scenes.

His work was used by publishers including Barton & Sons, E.T.W.Dennis, C.W.Faulkner, E.W.Savory, Raphael Tuck and C.Worcester. Postcards of his work were published by over fifteen separate companies. Many prints, postcards and stereo views based on his paintings were sold in Europe and the United States.

Thomas Cook's first railway excursion took place in 1841, and by 1860 the expanding railway network was transporting many thousands of town and city dwellers to the countryside and the coast. For many of these first-time visitors to the sea, a postcard of an Elmer Keene painting served as a souvenir of the holiday of a lifetime, framed for posterity, and kept perhaps on the mantelpiece as a reminder of a special time and journey.

Keene captured perfectly the romance and the excitement of that first experience of a dramatic coastline. Not only the tranquility of the English countryside, but also the sound of waves crashing against rocks, the whisper of the shingle and the taste of salt in the air.

Today, Keene's postcards and prints can be found on eBay and in antique shops around the world. His work remains extremely popular with collectors worldwide. His original paintings only appear occasionally for auction and consequently reach relatively high prices.

Elmer Keene died on 2 December 1929 at his home at 100 Uppingham Road, Leicester at the age of 78. He and his wife were buried at Gilroes Cemetery in Leicester along with his children Percy and Mabel.

Helen McAllister-Ross is a great-grand daughter of Elmer's brother Caleb Keene. She lives in Texas, USA.

Margaret Watson

Alan McWhirr

Members will be saddened to hear that soon after the close of our 2008/9 lecture season, Margaret Watson, a regular at our lectures, died on 21 April 2009, just short of her 91st birthday.

Margaret was a familiar figure around Clarendon Park and Stoneygate as she went everywhere on her trusty bicycle. She looked forward to the Society's lectures which she was able to attend thanks to the kindness of Richard and Janet Lawrence, who in recent years acted as her chauffeurs.

Margaret was born in 1918 and brought up at 28 Knighton Church Road. She went to Avenue Road School and Newarke Girls' School. Her father's insistence that Margaret play her part in the Wilkins' cake shop, the family business, meant that she was responsible for making deliveries around Knighton, Stoneygate and Oadby, one imagines by bicycle. This gave her an insight into the houses of those living in this part of Leicester between the wars which proved a great asset to Helen Boynton when she was researching and collecting material for her series of books covering this area. Margaret is acknowledged in most of her publications.



In 1936 Margaret went to Goldsmith's College, Lewisham and then for a while taught at Ashford Primary School in Middlesex, living at the time in a



flat in Chancery Lane. Here she saw Crystal Palace burn down, threw pepper in protest at Moseley's blackshirt parades in the docklands and booed von Ribbentrop, the German Ambassador, for flying a swastika flag at the coronation of King George VI.

In April 1940 after a whirlwind romance, Margaret married Jack Watson, a sergeant in the Royal Tank Regiment, after which Jack went off to war in France. He returned within a month or so badly wounded. Her parents insisted she return to South Knighton when they learnt that her flat had been destroyed in the blitz. For the remainder of the war she and her mother were the mainstay of the family bakery business.

As an army officer's wife, Margaret lived in Italy, Hong Kong and Germany. Eventually after Jack's retirement in 1960 the Watsons established the family home at 9 East Avenue. Up to the day Margaret entered hospital, and within a fortnight of her death, she was still riding her bike around the Queens Road shops from her house in East Avenue.

It was in the couple of months before her death that I asked Margaret about her memories of the swimming baths in Bath Lane. Typically she responded by sending me four pages of clearly legible, hand-written notes, an edited version of which appeared in the Leicestershire Historian for 2009. She gave them to me at the last lecture of the season on 2nd April 2009, three weeks before her death.

Margaret was a charming person who was known to many members of our Society, young and old, and she will be sorely missed.

De Montfort University archives

Linda Butt



Late in the summer of 1999 I received a phone call from the DMU Estates Department to say that a strong room in the basement of the Clephan building had been opened prior to a major refurbishment. No-one seemed to be sure how long it had been closed, but it was full of old papers and ledgers, and would I like to go and have a look?

Although working and chartered as a librarian, I am qualified in archive administration, so I'm usually called upon if anything old or of uncertain provenance turns up.

To my great surprise the "old papers" turned out to be staff, student and administrative records of the Leicester Schools of Art and Technology, the 19th Century precursors of our University. There was no obvious organizational scheme and no-one seemed to have any idea of how they had come to be there - and there was no documentation. The most likely scenario was that their original storage space had been needed for other purposes, so they had been removed to an unused area and forgotten. A few weeks later another telephone call informed me of a similar collection of documents in a strong room in the Hawthorn building, also needing a new home because of refurbishment. These papers did at least have a basic calendar, and were shelved logically and carefully.

It was decided that both sets of material should be removed to the Leicester University Store at Putney Road, which at that time we were permitted to use, as the building had full environmental control, and no similar safe environment was available at DMU. Speed was paramount and space limited, so I was not able to sort and arrange the papers prior to or immediately after moving. The DMU Alumni Office arranged for funds to be made available for me to organise and calendar the archive, which I did in addition to my "day job" of managing the journal subscriptions for the Kimberlin Library.

When Leicester University subsequently needed the whole of the space at the Putney Road Store, our material was transferred to the former HATRA building on Oxford Street. This building is a far from ideal repository for such precious items.



A junior crafts lesson in the Hawthorn Building of the Leicester College of Art in about 1923

There have been roof leaks, bird incursions, and it is impossible to secure a sufficiently large area to store the archive, leaving it vulnerable to anyone who can access the building. After years of lobbying, I have finally succeeded, with the help of the Director of Library Services, in securing the space recently vacated by the University Bookshop, which is part of the library building. Work is to be undertaken this summer to transform the space into a repository for the archives and special collections, which will be secure, fitted with appropriate storage shelving, and offer reader facilities.

The physical condition of the archive documents is on the whole good, due probably to the fact that the material had been "lost" and unused. Both strong rooms were windowless and sealed, thus preventing damage by light and polluted air. Some items needed to be repacked or secured, and as far as possible I removed metal paper fasteners and rubber bands, which corrode and subsequently damage paper. Some items had had adhesive tape attached to them - the conservator's nightmare! I have recently been able to secure a small amount of money to have custom made storage boxes produced for the oldest and most vulnerable minute books.

Because of the quantity of material it was impossible to sort it by handling the actual documents. I used the tried and tested archival practice of recording each item on an index card, and then

sorting the index cards. The cards alone took up three and a half bedrooms and a landing when laid out prior to sorting. The end result was a Calendar of Archives tracing the development of our institution from 1870 until the record system was transferred to microform in the 1960's and 70's.

So what can this archive tell us? What indeed is an archive? A dictionary definition will say that it is "documents or records relating to the activities, rights, claims, treaties, constitutions, etc., of a family, corporation, community or nation" (*Hamlyn Encyclopedic World Dictionary*, 1971). It is actually a great deal more than this. It is a collection of material that gives a history, tells a story, gives a context and a place in the world to the institution or family which it documents.

Although the academic institutions which eventually became De Montfort University did not begin until 1870, the land on which it stands had a much longer history. Hawthorn is built over the site of the Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady, founded in 1354 by Henry Plantagenet, First Duke of Lancaster as part of his College and Hospital of the Newarke.

Henry's daughter, Blanche, inherited the title and the property. She married John of Gaunt and it was through their progeny that the land and College reverted to the Crown. Because the land had been given and endowed as a religious holding, it was exempt from the usual taxes levied by the city. This state of affairs continued until the late nineteenth century, making the Newarke a sought after residential area for the well to do. The land on which the Hawthorn Building stands was purchased from a member of the Ellis family, prominent in local



The Campus Centre, De Montfort University

heavy industry and textiles, for £7,500. This building, opened in 1897, brought together the School of Art, founded in 1870, and the Technical School, founded as evening classes in 1877 by Rev. James Went in the buildings which until recently housed Leicester Grammar School, and have now been purchased for use by the Cathedral.

The founding of the first National School in London in 1812 had produced succeeding generations of literate workers wishing to improve their skills and status. The vocational courses offered by the Schools sought to fulfill and extend this need, providing tuition in grocery, butchery, confectionery, boot and shoe trades, interior decoration and building, catering, tailoring and dressmaking to name but a few.

The story of the growth and development of the Schools of Art and Technology, the Colleges of Art and Technology and the City of Leicester Polytechnic can be traced through the archive.

In addition to academic and estates records, the archive gives us the human side of the story. There are lists of staff and students, registers of fees, timetables, time sheets; documents dealing with those who taught, who were taught, and who supported the institution. The First Annual Report, produced in 1870, gives a list of subscribers to the School of Art. Many names of prominent Leicester families are included; Clephan, Ellis, Goddard, Halford, Herrick, Manners, Rowlett. The 'J Fulleylove' was the water-colourist John Fulleylove who taught the artist C.R.W. Nevinson, famous for his images of the battlefields of the Great War. Could the "Thomas Nevinson" on that list be a member of the same family as the artist? Wilmot Pilsbury, first Headmaster of the School of Art, bemoans the fact that the art students were very irregular attenders at lectures and classes. Ernest Gimson, the furniture designer, and George Henton, the photographer and watercolourist, and George Elgood, the painter, were students during the early years of the School.

There was the prominent member of SOE French section who organised and led Maquis groups during the last war, and became Principal at Scraftoft in the early 1960's. I am very curious as to why the Norwegian Hydro-Electric Company gave a small quantity of heavy water to the

De Montfort University archives (concluded)

Technical School in 1935; and then the Gifting Book records “The gift of a parrot” in the 1920’s. Presumably an ex-parrot, stuffed, for the students to use in drawing lessons. Motoring classes were offered during the 1920’s and there is a report of the ladies objecting to being taught separately from the gentlemen. The School of Art produced the costume designs for the 1932 Leicester Pageant, and the painted designs have survived in superb condition. These are just a few of the treasures and fascinating stories that I have unearthed thus far.

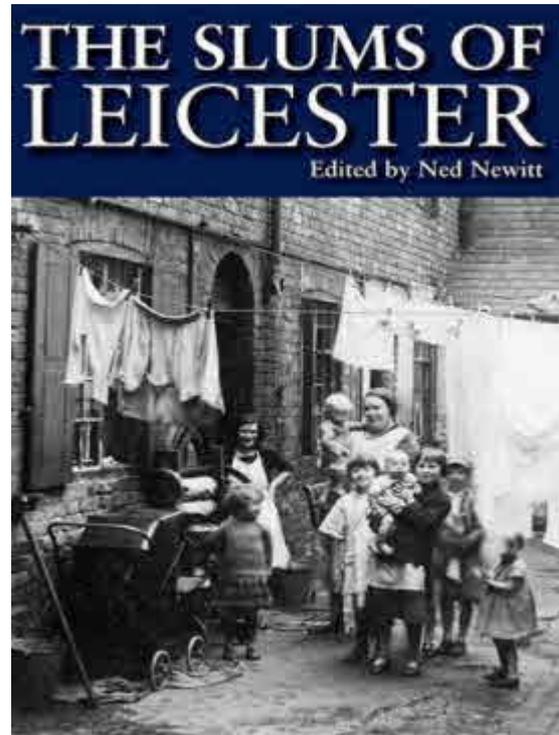
Looking to the future, I have been able to purchase bespoke software to catalogue and index the collection. This work is proceeding slowly, as I have only one day a week to undertake it. However, the fact that I have the software, that since October 2009 I am University Archivist on a permanent basis for one day a week, and that there will by the end of the year be a designated and properly equipped space for the archive is a far more favourable situation than I could have hoped for back in 1999.

The number of enquiries from within and without the University is steadily increasing, and just this month a new group has been formed to look at ways of promoting the archive and the history of our site to our staff and students, and to the City. I am attempting to fill the gaps in the archive created by the move away from paper records, and to ensure that these record series continue to be lodged within the archive as an official part of their life cycle.

The archive is an important part of our institutional heritage. It tells our story, makes us unique among our fellows, and gives us a firm and honourable past on which to build our future.



The Slums of Leicester



Ned Newitt’s most recent book is an appropriate sequel to his ‘A People’s History of Leicester’ and has been produced to the same high standard by Breedon Books.

It includes many previously unpublished photographs of Leicester, set out district by district, and gives a unique insight into the reality of life for many Leicester inhabitants who lived in the inner suburbs.

Between 1932 and 1975, slum clearance changed the face of the city. Vast swathes of housing, close to the centre of town were demolished and new estates, factories and roads took their place. Until then, the slums were home to thousands of people who had to live in conditions that were frequently cramped, unhealthy and sometimes dirty.

In this book, images, accounts and maps of a ‘different’ Leicester provide a glimpse of where and how thousands of poor people lived.

This book provides a unique pictorial account of a Leicester that has long disappeared. It is also the culmination of a lifetime of commitment on Ned’s part to this aspect of our city’s past.

Nailstone revisited

Christopher Rigg

In the last issue of the Newsletter (Autumn 2009) 3–4, Vincent Porter and John Seary replied to a previous letter by Steve Mitchell regarding the presence or absence of Nailstone from the Domesday Book. The debate continues with this contribution by Christopher Rigg.

I do not have access to the Phillimore edition or to the *Domesday Gazetteer*. They both make ill-founded assertions outside the question of Nailstone. My page references are to the Alecto edition.

My approach is partly from language evolution from the Anglian Period and partly on the clustering of settlements listed together in relation to communication between members of a cluster by the ancient road network. Alecto, unfortunately, gives only the modern forms of place-names in the text and, in the index, lists the ancient forms without indicating which form is on a given page. That makes it difficult to equate the references in Porter's argument which are based on the Phillimore edition.

Domesday data on *Neulebi*

Among the lands of Hugh de Grandmesnil under Goscote Wapentake (p.634–635, folio 233) were the following: *Endrebi*/Enderby, *Clanefelde*/Glenfield, *Brantestone*/Braunstone, *Cherchebi*/Kirkby Mallory, *Sutone*/Sutton Cheney, *Catebi*/Cadeby, *Neulebi*/Nailstone[?], *Berulestone*/Barlestone, *Scepebe*/Sheepy Parva, *Cotesbece*/Coton near Market Bosworth[?].

The clustering of these lands around the Roman road from Leicester to Fenny Drayton and an Iron Age or Anglian road through Cadeby and Barlestone to Bagworth suggests that *Cotesbece* cannot be Cotesbach (*pace* Alecto edition). It could be a settlement on a minor tributary of the Saint Brook on the Salt Road, which ran north-west through Stapleton, Shenton, Wellsborough, Temple, Twycross. The name suggests that it might have lain west of the modern hamlet of Far Coton. Nailstone would be on the edge of that cluster. It is hardly 2 km from the Barlestone, which is a firm identification, connected by a footpath, formerly a

bridle road. If *Neulebi* be Nailstone, one might expect it to be in a cluster focused on the Anglian settlements of Bagworth or Market Bosworth. To my knowledge, the *U*, which could represent a sound close to *U*, *V*, *W* or *F*, never evolves into *Y* or *I*.

Neluestone must be Illston on the Hill

Alecto gives three references to Illston on the Hill. On p.628 (Folio 231; Seary's 1.4), the lands the king holds under *Bugedone*/Great Bowden are *Medburne*/Medbourne, *Crauebo*/Cranoe, *Sanctone*/Shangton, *Carleton*/Carlton [Curlieu?], *Eluestone* or *Neluestone*/Illston on the Hill or Nailstone, *Galbi*/Gaulby, *Nortone*/King's Norton, *Stratone*/Stretton (Little and Magna) and *Foxestone*/Foxton. Alternative identifications are *Sanctone*/Shenton, *Carleton*/Carlton near Market Bosworth, *Nortone*/Norton juxta Twycross and *Stratone*/Stretton en le Field; though all are in western Leicestershire, they do not form a second cluster. Therefore there is a single cluster near the headwaters of the Welland and the Roman road south-east from Leicester to Corby.

On p.631 (Folio 232, Seary's 17.16?), the almsland of the King included *Petlinge*/Peatling (Magna), *Suesbi*/Shearsby, *Sutone*/Sutton in the Elms, *Eluestone* or *Neluestone*/Illston on the Hill, *Suin(es)ford*/Swinford, *Wicestan*/Wigston Parva and *Sce(r)neford(e)*/Sharnford, all in the south of Leicestershire, east of Hinckley, all easily reached by the Fosse Way.

On p.633 (Folio 233V), the lands of Hugh de Grandmesnil in Gartree Wapentake include *Eluestone* or *Neluestone*/Illston on the Hill or Nailstone, *Torp*/Thorpe Langton (or Thorpe Acre or Thorpe Arnold), *Sto(c)tone*/Stockerston, *Carleton*/Carlton Curlieu, *Noneslei*/Noseley (p.633). Only Carlton could possibly fall in western Leicestershire. Therefore they form a single cluster, all easily reached by the Roman road to Corby.

Intrusive *N*

If *Neluestone* be Illston as asserted by Alecto, the intrusive *N* is not the work of a careless scribe but the remains of a dative article, *den*, *ðen*, usually with a preposition *atten* *Ioluestūne* or *atten* *Olauestūne*, 'at the *tūn* of *Iolf* or *Olaf*. A simpler example is *Nayland* in Suffolk, 'at the island'. So Alecto is probably correct.

Intrusive L

Many dialects of Old English had a tendency to insert a ‘dark’ L or an R after an open vowel. Examples are Bristow → Bristol and *Sce(r)neford(e)* / Sharnford. Probable examples are Appleby, which seems to be a hybrid British–Scandinavian name: *apa*, ‘water, stream’ and *by(r)*, ‘settlement, homestead’, suggesting that the various Applebies were British villages until the Scandinavians arrived. All three Applebies in England grew up around streams and are not all in places for apple orchards. Appleford and Appleton seem to have the same origin.

Neulebi is a case in point. It could have originated as **Neweby*, ‘new settlement’, which would normally develop into Newby. It might be Newton Nethercote (adjoining Newton Burgoland) but is unlikely to have evolved into Newbold Verdon.

Persistence of place-name endings?

Porter argues for “the general persistence of place-name endings” so that he should not expect *–bi* to become *–bold*, which derives from Old English *bōþl*, *bōtl*, *bold*, ‘dwelling, building’. The Domesday Book has two references to *Nivebold*, the first listed alongside Brascote (p.633) and the second with Market Bosworth and Barton in the Beans (p.636). It is unlikely that Newbold was called both *Nivebold* and *Neulebi*.

Porter’s assertion is not a general rule, as indicated by Appleby and Ashby, which were both probably British settlements called by the few Anglian settlers **Apa tūn* and **(W)iske worþ*, after the names the Celts used for the streams there. Ekwall and Hanks et al. assume they are derived from ‘apple’ and ‘ash(-tree)’. Indeed **(W)iske worþ* implies that *Ascebi* evolved into ‘Ashby’ as did most names with Domesday *sc* or *sch* in Leicestershire, whether of British or Danish origin.

Could Aileston(e) be Nailstone?

With three entries for *Aileston(e)*, it is feasible that one or more could be Nailstone rather than Aylestone, which is explained as Old English *atten Ægiles tūn*.

On p.631 (folio 231V), the Count of Meulan held the following lands in Guthlaxton Wapentake: *Aileston(e)* / ‘Aylestone’, *Frel(l)esworde* / Froles-

Boseworde / Market Bosworth. Apart from Market Bosworth (Alecto), they all lie south-west of Leicester, east of Hinckley and near Fosse Way. *Boseworde* is therefore more likely Husbands Bosworth.

The identification with Aylestone looks correct. So at least one of the other references to Bosworth: *Bareswerde*, *Baresworde*, *Barrehorde* or *Basurde* (p.639, 642, 645) might be Market Bosworth. A possible is the single entry for the land of Gilbert de Ghent (p.645), though its setting in Gartree Wapentake, like the entries for Husbands Bosworth speaks against it.



All Saints, Nailstone

Countess Ælgifu held lands at ‘Aylestone’ and in Goscote Wapentake at *Duni(n)tone*/Castle Donington or Donington le Heath (p.632; Folio 232). Both Doningtons are far from Aylestone but Donington le Heath is linked to Nailstone by an Iron Age or Anglian road through Bagworth.

Lands of the “men of the Count of Meulan” (p.649; Folio 237V) were *Aileston(e)*/‘Aylestone’, *Bladi*/Blaby, *Westham*/Whetstone, *Petlinge*/Peatling Magna, *Brandinestor* or *Brunestanetorp*/Bruntingthorpe, *Claibroc*/Claybrooke, “Plotelei”, *Bagworde*/Bagworth, *Ibbestoche*/Ibstock (meaning ‘St Ebba’s Grange’) and *Chinelesworde* or *Cleueliorde*/Kilworth. This group has two clusters, the larger south or south-west of Leicester and east of the River Soar and Fosse Way. The other with either two or three places (closely grouped): Bagworth, Ibstock and perhaps Nailstone.

Nailstone revisited (concluded)

Carlton or Carlton Curleiu?

Searly's argument for "*Neluestone* = Nailstone" requires, as one might expect, that *Carletone* and *Carlintone* (p.628, Folio 231; p.633, Folio 232V) be distinguished as Carlton (near Nailstone) and Carlton Curleiu, but that seems not to be true from the groupings, which cover areas nowhere near Nailstone to the south-east and south of Leicester.

Sadly and inexplicably, Carlton seems not to be mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Vincent Potter found only three unidentified places in the Alecto edition for Leicestershire. The list is much longer (being in alphabetical order):

Abegrave (p.628), *Euelege* (p.646), *Godtorp* (p.644), *Hereswode* (p.627), *Lestone* (p.634), *Lilinge* (p.644), *Neulebi* (p.634), *Plotelei* (p.649), *Windesers* (p.637). They merit further thought by local historians.

Weston

Westone (p.642, Folio 235V), derived from Old English *wase*, 'marsh, swamp', is indeed listed with

Sbernestun/Osbaston as land of Ralph de Mortimer. However *Beruluestone*/Barlestone (p.635, 639) is unlikely to contain either Old English *west*, 'west', or *wase*, 'marsh, swamp'. It is on high ground, not a swamp, and is not west of any other settlement. Eilert Ekwall (*The concise dictionary of English place-names*) seems correct in explaining it as *Berulues* (i.e. Berwulf's) *tún*.

There is strong evidence for the large prosperous village of Bell Weston guarding the passage from Polesworth towards Repton and Derby north of Frog Moor, which formed the almost impassable marshy boundary between Mercia and Danelaw west of Sheepy.

The inhabitants of Weston were driven out by the monks of Merevale in the 14th Century. The presence there of four slaves in the Domesday record is typical of settlements near the boundary of Mercia and Danelaw.

Conclusion

One of the three Domesday entries on *Aileston(e)* (p.632; Folio 232) almost certainly means Nailstone.

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 quarterly meeting of the Committee.

Girlguiding

1910-2010

One hundred years of activity and service within the Girl Guide movement in this area is being marked by an exhibition at the Record Office.

The exhibition will move to Snibston Discovery Park from 20 April until the 20 June and will then travel to several other venues in the city and county.

Girls were attracted to Scouting from its inception in 1907 and the Girl Guides were founded in the UK in 1910. Agnes Baden-Powell led Girl Guiding in its early years. Janette Pearson at the Record Office has drawn together documents, photographs and other local records to create the display, but her work is far from over as October 2012 is the centenary of Girl Guide movement in Leicestershire.

Janette is looking for further material to enhance the collection, particularly from former guides in Leicestershire and Rutland. She can be contacted at the Record Office (0116) 257 1080, and by email recordoffice@leics.gov.uk

Archiving the Foxes

John Hutchinson

Leicester City FC Club Historian



Leicester City Football Club has played a hugely important part in the life of the city over the last 125 years.

The fact that over 43 million people have watched Leicester teams play their home games is a good indication of the club's wider role.

John Hutchinson is the Foxes' historian and archivist.



The Fosse Team 1889-1890 season

However, there had never been a systematic attempt to organize the masses of disparate memorabilia and archive material relating to the club's history.

This was rectified in 2006 when I established a project to organize, digitise and interpret the history of Leicester City Football Club and that of its predecessor, Leicester Fosse.

The aim of the project is to preserve, organize and explain the club's heritage through its memorabilia and through its archives.

The first stage was to create a database to include every item relating to the club's history that we could find. This included items on display around the stadium and also the many items and archives stored away behind the scenes.

Now containing over 10,000 references, the database can be interrogated by referring to any of the following categories: location, artefact, document, personnel, game, occasion, venue, date, and description.

The second stage was to create a digital image archive. Like the database, this is an ongoing project. To date, it has involved creating over 8000 digital images of the club's memorabilia and artifacts. They have been arranged into a hierarchical digitized archive. The first level of categorization

created a series of thirteen files, one for each decade from 1884 (the date of the club's foundation), to 2010. Each decade was then subdivided into eight main categories, and further subdivided as follows;

Artefacts by type

Staff

Directors, managers, coaches, non-LCFC players, LCFC Players (further subdivided into cartoons, individual pictures, social pictures, training pictures, tour pictures, team photos)

Documents

Autographs, board meetings, contracts, finance

Publications

Commemorative and programmes

Matches

Film, video, DVD and photographs

Heritage trail

Maps and photographs

Stadium

Plans and photographs

Newspapers and magazines

Complete copies, cuttings and scrapbooks

The third stage was to communicate the materials in the database and the digital archive to as wide an audience as possible through publications, educational packs, radio and television, web sites, museum exhibitions and by providing a service to deal with enquiries from university research departments and from members of the public.

By the end of this season the digital archive will have provided over 600 illustrations for over 150 articles I have written. The bulk of these have been in match day programmes since 2006. These have included two series of “1884 and All That,” two series of “Foxes’ Footsteps,” and a series entitled “Museum Piece”.

The database and digital archive have also been the basis of three series of illustrated articles in “The Fox”. (“Back to Square One”, “Those were the Days”, and “Scrapbook”). Hopefully the articles not only raise awareness of the history of the club, but also show how this is embedded into the social history of Leicester.

“The Foxes’ Footsteps” series won the Leicestershire and Rutland “Best Project” Heritage Award in 2009. The published articles often prompt readers to unearth items of memorabilia from their own lofts and attics which I add to the collection and then digitize.

The database and digital archive have driven several other projects. It was used to create a “Potted History of Leicester City” by BBC



Part of the current exhibition at Snibston Discovery Park

for a series of twelve weekly radio pieces for Radio Leicester’s “Talking History” programme, and it contributed to Radio Leicester’s three-hour documentary in 2009 on the history of the club.

It provided the raw material for a series of Leicester Mercury articles in 2009 relating to the club’s 125th Anniversary. Leicester University, De Montfort University and the University of Central Lancashire are using some of the digitized documentary archives for supporting students’ research projects.

The archive is also acting as a source of reference and illustration for six books currently being researched for national publication. It is also extremely useful for answering queries about the club’s history from members of the public. Some enquiries have even enabled members of the public to establish their own personal links with the club through discovering relationships with Fosse players of over a century ago. The data base and digital archive have also been used to create two educational packs which have been delivered to five schools in the city and county.

The most recent use of the archive has been its use to create the major exhibition currently on show at Snibston Discovery Museum called “From Shed to Stadium” which celebrates the club’s history. Elements of this exhibition will eventually be on show at Highcross Shopping Centre, at the Record Office and at BBC Radio Leicester.

The digital archive has also been used to create a series of picture galleries about the history of the club on the Radio Leicester website. A more developed version can also be found on Leicester City’s website www.lcfc.com under the News, 125 years menu. This is in the form of a four-chapter digital history of the club.

The next major development will be to use the archive to establish an on line museum hopefully in partnership with De Montfort University’s International Centre for Sport History and Culture.

This project is like painting the Forth Bridge. It is never ending!

David Tyrwhitt-Drake Clarke

David Clarke was Keeper of Antiquities at Leicester City Museums from 1949 to 1963. It was announced that he died on 27 November 2009.

David was born in St Albans on 30 September 1923 and educated at Haileybury College. His time at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge was interrupted by war service in the Royal Signals in Italy, attached to the Special Boat Service.

After the armistice he took his squad on a tour of classical sites. To provide a pretext for this journey, the squad carried with them a sealed box, full of stones, which they were “delivering” to a mythical army base.

David completed his degree in Classics and Classical Archaeology at Cambridge in 1947. During his time at Cambridge he dug for Sheppard Frere in Canterbury where he met the late Joan Radcliffe Kirk, also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquities, whom he was to marry in 1953.

During 1947/8 he held the Sir Charles Walston and Christopher James Studentships at the British School of Archaeology in Athens, whose collections he catalogued. He spent the following year as Lecturer in Classical Archaeology at Farouk I University, in Alexandria, where he again made a catalogue of the collections in Alexandria’s university museum.

From 1949 to 1963, David was Keeper of Antiquities at Leicester City Museums, and from 1963 until his retirement in 1988 he was Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum.

At Leicester, he redisplayed the archaeological galleries twice, originated the project for a museum at Jewry Wall and totally refitted, catalogued and displayed Newarke Houses Museum and the Chantry House.

At Colchester, he reinvigorated the museum, greatly increasing its staff. The Castle was totally refitted and the archaeological displays renewed. After nine years’ effort, Holy Trinity Church was acquired and opened in 1973 as a museum of country life and crafts. Tymperleys was opened in

1987 as a museum of Colchester clocks.

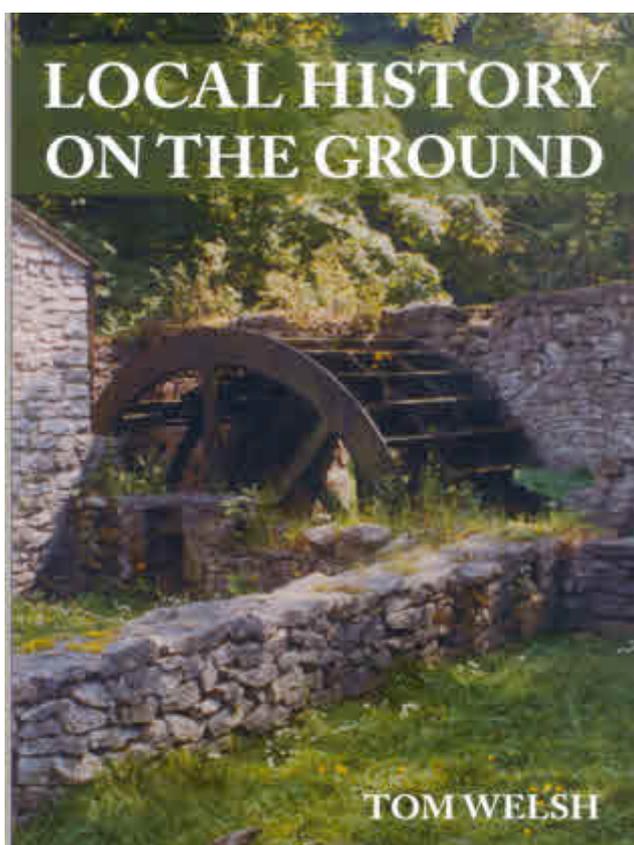
David’s influence reached far outside the museums in which he worked, and he was very active in promoting rescue archaeology in response to unprecedented development pressures.

At Leicester he carried out excavations in the town and created the first Field Archaeology post here. In Colchester he re-founded the Colchester Excavation Committee, which led to the formation of the Colchester Archaeological Trust, which has since added much to our knowledge of Colchester and its environs.



David combined great knowledge of artefacts and archaeology with a passion for the proper curation and use of museums in their local communities. He believed in what is now termed “outreach”, but he also believed that this had to be based on a very firm foundation of scholarship and professional standards of curation. He fought fiercely to maintain the independence of museums as centres of scholarship, learning and their communities.

David was Honorary Secretary of the LAHS from 1954 to 1963 and a member until his passing. The Society was represented at his funeral by Robert and Sybil Rutland.



The stated aim of this book is to help local historians combine archive research with an understanding of the landscape. At face value, this seems a sensible goal. However in the author's experience it is far from easy. While it may be a familiar home truth that to carry out historical research without visiting the actual site is flawed, the book extends the principle much further. It advocates an interactive approach, providing ongoing feedback to the research process. This can take the history of a site much further back than would normally be expected, to the medieval period or earlier.

The approach is down-to-earth, with chapters ranging from 'Reading the Landscape' to 'Exploring Suburbia'. The book fills a yawning gap in the field, and the principles have certainly reaped dividends for the author, whose discoveries range from local to national importance. He has located mottes and other earthworks by diverse means, from exploring local parks, to spotting sites from the top deck of a bus. In a readable and often entertaining manner, the reader is warned about the ongoing challenges to the wandering fieldworker, such as 'where's your dog?'

The book suggests that the great enemy of local history is indifference, typified by the put-down

line that 'everything interesting here has already been located'. Twenty five years ago the author published an article highlighting this threat to local history, entitled 'Nothing Ever Happened Here', which was the seed for this book.

Overall, the book's aim of combining historical or archive research with fieldwork turns out to be surprisingly controversial. The author is well-placed to be a critic at national level, having paid his dues by living and working in many corners of Britain, and interacting with numerous local heritage groups.

He has frequently been warned against expressing opinions about sites, in matters which are supposedly more the preserve of professional archaeologists. However he argues that, unlike the analogy of an amateur experimenting with brain surgery, the dangers presented by a local historian trying to make sense of the landscape are neither life threatening nor cataclysmic.

The book succeeds at several levels, firstly as a stimulating intellectual exercise. Although it is a personal account, opinions are backed up by an extensive literature review of the leading authorities. This ranges from historians to prominent archaeologists who feature in Channel 4's 'Time Team'.

Secondly it succeeds as a practical illustrated guide to fieldwork for the historian and is backed by numerous case studies and sketch plans. The only downside is that some sections are rather prescriptive. However this is a necessary evil in a guide-type approach, which can be returned to again and again as a reference work.

The way that we view history and the landscape never stands still, and the ideas and challenges presented in this book are always welcome. Dr Welsh's opinions about the interaction of history and archaeology continue to challenge thinking at the highest level in Britain. In the long run, the Heritage Establishment may be judged by the way that it handles such critics. Now, thanks to this book, there is no excuse for ignoring or misunderstanding the underlying issues.

Prophet or rebel? It is up to the reader to choose, by reading this stimulating book. 'Local History on the Ground' is published by the History Press in paperback priced £16.99.

Library news

Aubrey Stevenson

The Library reopened in February following the now regular closure of the Guildhall in December and January. It is good to report that the light bulbs in the Jury Room (i.e. the Library), some of which have been “blown” for many months (we were reduced to below 50% lighting in the autumn) have been replaced.

Stock continues to be acquired, even though the space to house it can not increase.

Books and Pamphlets

BROMLEY, I. Bromley: a Midlands family history and the search for the Leicestershire origins. 2007.

BROWN, C. ed. Still learning: 100 years of the Workers' Educational Association in Leicester. 2008.

CUDMORE, B. History of Great Bowden School 1839-2009. [2009]

DAY, K. Panic in the High Street: the story of the Harborough Bank 1791-1843. 2008.

FOX, A. A lost frontier revealed: regional separation in the East Midlands. 2009. This book examines “regional societies” in contrasting countryside in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

HARWOOD, D. ed. History of Ratby. Vol.2. 2006.

HARWOOD, D. ed. Ratby walks in the National Forest. 2008. (History of Ratby Vol. 3).

HICKMAN, T. Historic cheeses: Leicestershire, Stilton & Stichelton. 2009.

MOORE, A. Where Leicester has worshipped. 2008.

RUDDY, A. To the last round: the Leicestershire and Rutland Home Guard 1940-1945. 2007.

SHEPPARD, T. & WHYTE, I. Rothley and the abolition of the slave trade: the mutual endeavours of Babington, Gisborne, Wilberforce and Macaulay. 2007.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS Annual review 2008 & 2009.

SQUIRES, S. & HOLLAMBY, K. eds. Building a railway: Bourne to Saxeby. 2009. (Lincs.Record Society Vol.98). Charles Stansfield Wilson (1844-1893) was to this Lincolnshire/Leicestershire line what Newton was to the Great Central Railway.

TOWNSEND, C. Francis “Tanky” Smith (Leicester’s first private detective). 2007.

TOWNSEND, C. Inn-vestigated: the origins of public house names. 2005.

Westmorland hearth tax Michaelmas 1670 and surveys 1674-5. 2008[i.e.2009]. (British Record Society Index Library).

Wills at Salisbury 1464-1858. Pt.III Supplementary indexes. 2009. (British Record Society Index Library). Parts I and II already in stock. The Index of Places has no references under Leicestershire or Rutland, although Measham is listed under Derbyshire.

Some of the titles listed above have been reviewed in the 2009 edition of the *Leicestershire Historian*.

Members will be particularly interested in the latest acquisition and the Society is grateful to the author, the Editor of this *Newsletter*, for the kind donation:

BUTT, Stephen Leicester through time. Amberley Pub, £12.99, 2009. 9781848682528. This is an interesting and attractive book of contrasting photographs, more than 180, of all parts of the city. Many of the older views are relatively unknown and every page has modern colour pictures, something that has not been seen in other illustrated books on Leicester. Buy your own copy now.

Stephen is also the author of “Central Leicester” (Images of England), 2005. This summer will see the publication of another book. further details in the next *Newsletter*.

Periodicals

The latest issue of the regular titles continue to be received. At this time here are details of just a few:

Antiquaries Journal Vol.89 2009 Includes "Earl of Leicester's remodelling of Kenilworth Castle for Queen Elizabeth I". This title has a new- look glossy illustrated cover and coloured illustrations.

Historical Research Vol.82.217 Aug.2009 special issue "Who was Henry VII?"

Research News (English Heritage) 12 Summer 2009 mainly "Dover Castle". The list of Research Dept. Report Series 2009 (NOTE: not available in our Library) includes 2 of local interest:

17 CANTI, M. Review of geoarchaeology in the Midlands of England.

19 SMITH, P. Leicester Castle. The Courtrooms in the former Great Hall: Historic Buildings Report.

Shropshire History and Archaeology Vol.LXXXI 2006 (pub.2009) Issue devoted to Madeley Court.

Village Voice: quarterly magazine of the Rural Community Council. In future this will only be published in June and December.

J.D.Bennett

It is good to note (see elsewhere in this *Newsletter*) that the Society has appointed the well-known Leicester author J.D. Bennett as a Vice-President.

I list below, as a reminder, those of his published titles that are in the stock of the Library. I do not include all his periodical articles.

Discovering Leicestershire. 1970.

Discovering Leicestershire and Rutland. 1973.

Historical plaques in Leicester. 1964.

Leicester calendar: 365 dates in the history of Leicester. 1995.

Leicestershire architects 1700-1850. 1968.

Leicestershire architects 1700-1850. 2nd.ed. with an appendix of architects working 1851-1899. 2001.

Leicestershire portraits: 40 biographical sketches of Leicestershire characters from medieval time to the twentieth century. 1988.

Members of Parliament for Leicester 1832-1983 (with an appendix of M.P.s 1294-1832). 1984.

Rutland in print: a bibliography of England's small

est county. 2006. (pub. as *Rutland Record* 25 (for 2005).

Street names of Leicester. 1985

Vanished houses of Leicestershire. 1971

Writing about Leicester: a local history booklist. 2000.

The Library does not have a copy of "Who was Who in Leicestershire 1500-1970", 1975.

As the one-time County Local Studies Librarian for Leicestershire I feel I should take this opportunity to say a public "thank-you" to John for the immense amount of work and research he has done in making the county's history so much more accessible.

J.D.'s books certainly made the work of answering many local studies enquiries that much easier.

Publishing News

English Heritage East Midlands Region announced in October 2009 the publication of **Heritage Counts 2009**, the 8th annual report on the historic environment with regional summary **Heritage Counts 2009: East Midlands**.

They can be downloaded, along with maps and regional datasheets. The web address is www.heritagecounts.org.uk. Some earlier reports were published as hard copies and are in the Library.

Anniversary

On May 5 this year it will be 250 years since the hanging at Tyburn in London of Laurence Shirley, 4th Earl Ferrers, of Staunton Harold Hall, for the murder of his Steward, John Johnson.

The story is comprehensively told in: CRANE, A. The Kirkland papers 1753-1869: the Ferrers murder and the lives and times of a medical family in Ashby-de-la-Zouch. 1990.

Library closures

Please note that the Library will NOT be open on April 4 and May 16.

Cathedral Square

prayers and implications

Stephen Butt

The Diocese of Leicester's plans for the area around the Cathedral have been described in the local media as 'far-sighted', 'positive' and 'exciting', but also as being capable of 'destroying everything that is aesthetically and intrinsically pleasing' about the area.

The Church sees these plans as a vital part of their strategy for connecting with the secular community and for re-establishing the Cathedral in its environs at the heart of the city in the 21st Century.

The diocese wants to spend twelve million pounds on the three-stage project which involves creating a Cathedral Square, turning the former Leicester Grammar School buildings into St Martin's House for social outreach work and re-ordering the cathedral.

Few would argue that the area needs some attention. The footpaths along St Martin's East and St Martin's West suffer badly from constant vandalism. Groups of youths frequent these footpaths and the graveyard, and the consequent litter, including beer cans and worse, has to be cleared away by Cathedral staff before the first service of the day.

Workers in offices overlooking the precinct have said that they often turn away from their windows in order not to witness some of the activities taking place between the headstones.

The plans include straightening the path along St Martin's East, and removing the low walls and iron railings bordering the path along St Martin's West between the school and the Cathedral.

Historians have already pointed out that these are ancient pathways: the Guildhall's Eastern wall respects the line, as did Wyggeston's Hospital, constructed in 1519.



Certainly, the archaeology of this area has already been damaged by the 19th Century development and refurbishment and the landscaping of the churchyard in the 1970s.

At the time, the LAHS campaigned strongly against the planned demolition of the Tudor Wyggeston's Hospital, but it was destroyed in 1875 to make way for the Wyggeston Boys' School. The construction of the school involved creating changing rooms below ground level which extended in the direction of the Cathedral under the playground.

In turn, these buildings were threatened with demolition after their return to the city when Leicester gained unitary status in 1976. Plans were drawn which would have created a new vista and approach to the Cathedral precincts from the west as delineated by the line of Highcross Street, now renamed Applegate. The buildings were saved when they were purchased by Leicester Grammar School, which opened on the site in 1981.

This is a continuing debate. The Society has expressed the nature of its concerns, as have a number of other bodies. These brief notes seek only to underline the belief of the Society that the present plans need to be re-considered.

The views of members are now sought and will be welcomed.

The Hemington Bridges

£25.00 (£4.00 postage and packing)

To order your copy, please send a cheque to:

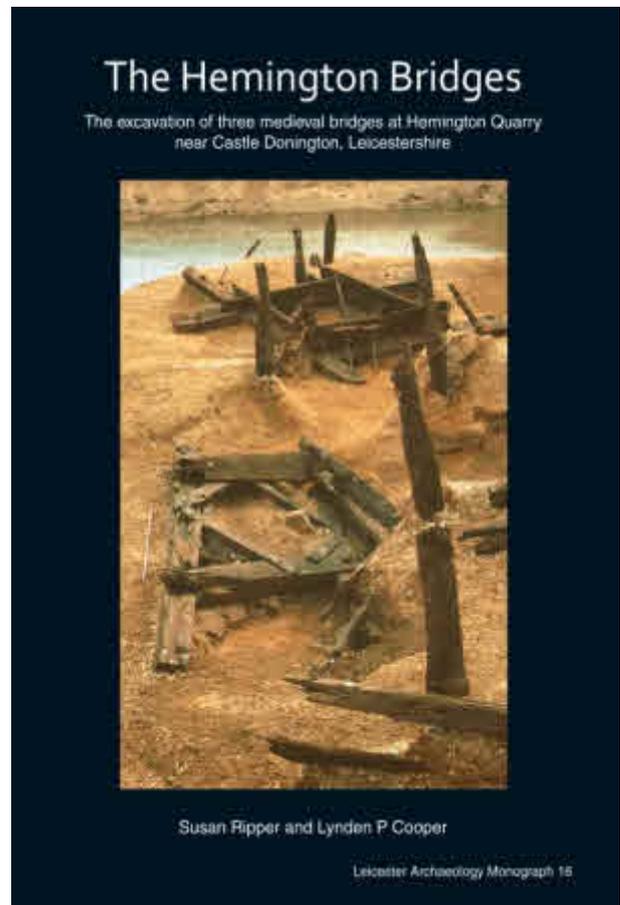
ULAS, School of Archaeology and Ancient History
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester
LE1 7RH

Or email: ULAS@le.ac.uk

Or go online at:

<http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/publications/staffpublications.htm>

Or talk to any LAHS officer at any Thursday lecture evening



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Wanted: photographers to shoot gargoyles

Bob Trubshaw

'Project Gargoyle' was set up last year by the County Council and other organisations to photograph all medieval carvings inside and outside the churches of Leicestershire and Rutland.

These include a wide variety of subjects from stylised or caricatured human heads to weird and wonderful imaginary beasties. Collectively they provide an excellent insight into the minds of medieval people as many are pulling faces, tongue-poking, or depict such fantastic entities as 'green men' or dragons.

Many of these carvings are superb examples of medieval art but have so far failed to attract the attention of art historians or other specialists. At this stage we do not know how many carvings exist in these counties, but there may be about ten

thousand of these sculptures. The images and information will become part of the Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) database and will eventually be available online. As far as we know this is a 'first' for any county to record their medieval and ecclesiastical heritage in this way.

Volunteer photographers who have suitable equipment and expertise to meet the standards required are now being sought. They will be introduced to local heritage wardens who know the churches and can arrange access. A limited number of places are available on a training day in May, but such training is not mandatory. Photographers will retain copyright of their images but will be asked to assign the rights for them to be used indefinitely in the HER database. Because Project Gargoyle is being run on an entirely voluntary basis, no costs can be reimbursed.

If you are interested in being part of this prestigious project, further information and relevant contact details are online at www.leics.gov.uk/gargoyle

The Hallaton helmet Vicki Score

Finds of silver and gold coins, bone and Iron Age pottery by Ken Wallace led to fieldwork on this site by ULAS between 2001 and 2003, and the discovery of the Hallaton Treasure, with over 5,000 gold and silver Iron Age and Roman Republican coins. These were found in a series of discrete groups next to a ditch with an entrance and were associated with evidence for feasting, in the form of large quantities of pig bone. Near the entrance was a pit which contained more coins and a large mass of silvered iron – identified as the remains of a first century AD Roman military helmet. This has now been largely excavated by Marilyn Hockey at the BM showing that the deposit includes one helmet – i.e. the helmet 'cask', brow band and neck guard – with six cheek-pieces, none of which seem to have been attached to the helmet before burial. At least two of them are a pair and have representations of the emperor on horseback. The others



Check-piece

may also be pairs, but are not as elaborately decorated. Buried with the helmet were several folded pieces of silver foil similar to that used to cover the helmet. This raises the questions of whether the helmet and pieces are part of a helmet-repairer's toolkit, in which case how did it get onto the site? The artefacts were very definitely deliberately buried with helmet – cheek-pieces, pig bones and coins were all carefully placed in layers within the pit. There are also some intriguing issues yet to be resolved with an unidentified material across the brow band (?leather?) and fatty deposits associated with the pig bones. Once all the parts are out and cleaned, Marilyn's next job is their reconstruction to create a replica for the museum.

A silver bowl found in the ditch along with two silver ingots, coins and two glass 'eyes' (possibly from a wooden statue?), has now been analysed by the Goldsmith's Hall. The techniques of manufacture were identical to those used today – a disc was marked out on silver sheet, cut out and hammered to shape on a hollowed-out wooden block. It was then planished (hammered smooth) on a metal stake – the evidence for this is shown by an area of damage on the stake (a cut mark) transferred repeatedly to the inside of the bowl. A groove around the top of the bowl and perhaps the folded top edge were added with a hammer. A compass scribed line is apparent around the edge of the bowl. The compasses would have been used throughout the process so that the bowl could be hammered in concentric circles to give an even shape.

The opinion of both the silversmith and the assayist (who tests metal for its purity) was that the person creating the bowl was a competent silversmith with good techniques who would have been used to creating such bowls. Samples have been taken to analyse the silver and to compare with the work that Julia Farley is currently doing on the coins and ingots in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester.

The treasure also included the oldest Roman coin found in the country, a Roman republican silver *denarius* of 211BC. This was fairly worn, perhaps suggesting its preceding 250 years were spent on the Continent, only later arriving in Britain in the purse of an invading Roman soldier post AD43.

However, some archaeologists think Republican coins were finding their way into Britain before the Roman conquest and are evidence of exchange through trade or diplomacy. If so, the coin is evidence of early Roman contact in the East Midlands – an area which was previously seen as something of a backwater during the Late Iron Age.



The coin shows the goddess Roma, wearing a helmet, on the front. On the other side are the mythical twins Castor and Pollux sitting astride galloping horses. The coin does not have a mint mark, making it four years older than the previous oldest known Roman coin, unearthed in Berkshire near the Ridgeway Roman road last year which does have a moneyer's mark.

Many of the coins and objects from the hoard are on display at the Harborough Museum.

Leicester, Red Hill Allotment Site (near Birstall) Neil Finn

The chance discovery of human bones during the excavation of a wildlife pond on an allotment site at Red Hill, Leicester, close to Birstall, led to a small-scale excavation in June 2008.

The recently completed post-excavation analysis and reporting suggests that the excavated late Rom-

an burials were part of a small cemetery associated with a nearby rural settlement. The discovery in 1938 of a Roman column drum and capital 200m to the east indicates a settlement of some substance, possibly a villa.

Documentary evidence for a field named 'street by close' also suggests that the present A6 may follow the line of a Roman road adjacent to the cemetery and settlement.

Leicester, 61 Oxford Street/Grange Lane Tim Higgins

The results of archaeological work on a number of neighbouring development sites on the south side of Leicester are gradually enabling us to build up a picture of life on the outskirts of the town in the Roman and Medieval periods.

A small excavation was undertaken by ULAS at 61 Oxford Street in November and December 2009 before construction of a new student block. The site lies to the south of the Roman and medieval town walls, next to the projected line of the Roman road to Tripontium (Caves Inn).

The surviving deposits consisted of probable Roman road surfaces, roadside ditch, pits, occupation layers and perhaps the remnants of a 3rd- to 4th-century structure.

Various Roman pottery sherds were found suggesting possible continual occupation from the 2nd to 4th century. No obvious Roman cremations were found during the excavations but a possible displaced cremation urn and a single disarticulated human bone were retrieved during the evaluation.

Nearby, disturbed urned cremations were revealed during the 52 Grange Lane excavations and evidence of inhumations recovered from other nearby sites suggested that the site potentially lies within a small roadside cemetery alongside the Tripontium Road.

Only a few medieval pits were found and there appeared to be various phases of quarry and refuse pits dating from the early post-medieval period onwards.

Current understanding of the site indicates that the inter cutting features date from the 12th to 17th centuries and probably represent the rear of medieval and post-medieval properties that once fronted onto Oxford Street or Grange Lane.

Leicester, Bosworth House, Southgates, Roger Kipling & Andy Hyam

A small evaluation in December 2009 alongside Bosworth House, Southgates, revealed a largely undisturbed 1 metre thick sequence of 1st-century AD deposits beneath 2 metre of modern overburden.

These appeared to fall away sharply to the north and may represent the Roman town rampart, suggested by its apparently early date. The southern two thirds of the trench were characterised by probable medieval or post-medieval occupation spreads.

Pottery recovered ranged widely in date from the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval periods, but was predominately of 16th or 17th century date. The deposit appeared to be banked against the aforementioned Roman stratigraphy, from which it dropped gradually away to the south.

A re-examination of nearby archaeological interventions suggests that the southern defensive sequence survives within the area of the Bosworth House evaluation, and that the undisturbed early Roman stratigraphy identified here represents the earthen defensive rampart. As regards the medieval period, it is possible that the archaeological deposits banked against the southern edge of the putative Roman rampart represent a backfilled robber trench targeting the medieval town wall.



Grobby Church Mathew Morris

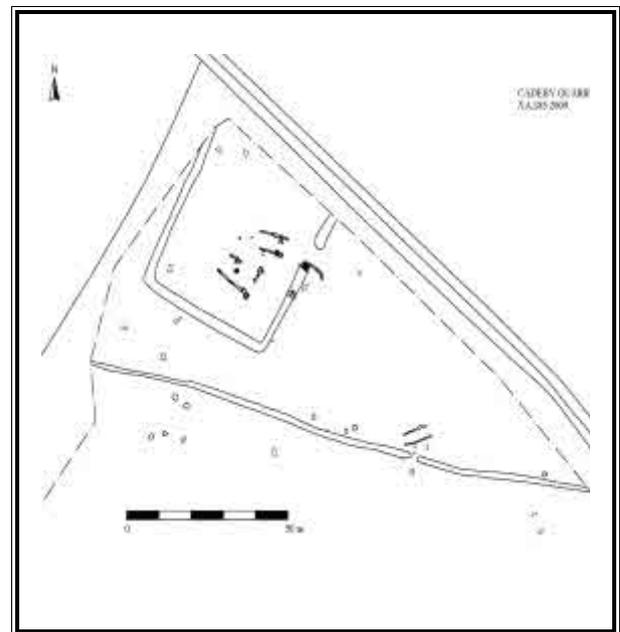
A watching brief observing the demolition of the current revetment wall around the churchyard east of the church, in preparation for rebuilding, identified a substantial wall footing on a parallel alignment \approx 5.6m north of the surviving ruined wall within the grounds of Grobby Old Hall, believed to be part of the 14th-century manorial complex.

To the north of this an extensive mortared tile floor surface was observed in section. Both features were directly sealed beneath substantial demolition deposits and made up ground.

The existing revetment wall is now believed to be mid 19th century and is likely contemporary with the establishment of the churchyard.

Cadeby Quarry (Gavin Speed)

Following a watching brief of the final quarry area, a short excavation was undertaken in October 2009. As indicated previously by geophysics in 2004, another Iron Age enclosed settlement was revealed.



Plan of late Iron Age enclosed settlement at Cadeby Quarry 2009

This one was a rectangular enclosure (of a similar size to Huncote and Enderby II), with a substantial SE-orientated entrance-way, and rectangular structures within. The pottery indicates very late Iron Age.

The enclosure was located close to a large linear ditched boundary with scattered features, one with pottery vessel beneath a quern suggesting structured deposition, while some early Roman features included one lined on one side with kiln bars.

For detailed information regarding ULAS services and research, please visit their website at <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas>.

Uncovering local film footage

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE), which is based at the University of Leicester, has been awarded £440,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The award is for a project which is intended to draw communities together in discovering the rich history available through film footage.

Over 60 communities will be supported in a region-wide search for local film footage. MACE will use the funding to support local history societies and other organisations to help them uncover film and to present it to the community.

Once film footage is found, MACE will process the films to make them accessible, and then they will be given back to the community to be used for film screenings, events and as a resource for local museums.

The project aims to enthuse and inspire local communities about the wealth of heritage available through film. Full Circle will run for three years, but aims to have a lasting impact on local communities across the region. By collecting and showing films in local communities, the project aims to build interest in local history and develop a sense of belonging and place in people throughout the Midlands.



James Patterson, Director of MACE (Media Archive for Central England) who is heading up the Full Circle project, commented: “We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has supported this exciting project. It will enrich people’s perception of local history and bring together communities across the Midlands region.”

Now is the Spring of our understanding?

In February, a new and precise location for the Battle of Bosworth was revealed.

The exact location, which has been the topic of much debate amongst historians for years, was confirmed as part of an archaeological survey funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Battlefields Trust archaeologist, Dr Glenn Foard, said: ‘Using the new techniques of battlefield archaeology we have recovered evidence which proves exactly where the iconic English battle was fought. The site, never before suggested as the battlefield, straddles the Roman road known as the Fenn Lane, near Fenn Lane Farm.’

It is three kilometres south-west of Ambion Hill and a kilometre west of the site suggested by Peter Foss.

‘The crucial archaeological evidence came from a systematic metal detecting survey. There may be relatively few finds from the battle, each of which has taken the team dozens of hours to locate, but several of the objects are amazing.

The most important by far is the silver-gilt boar, which was Richard III’s own badge, given in large numbers to his supporters. But this one is special, because it is silver-gilt. It was almost certainly worn by a knight in King Richard’s own retinue who rode with the King to his death in his last desperate cavalry charge. It was found right next to the site of a small medieval marsh - and the King was killed when his horse became stuck in a mire.’

Other objects, discovered as part of the survey, include silver coins of Charles the Bold of Burgundy, a silver-gilt badge found close to where we believe the Duke of Norfolk was killed, and the largest collection of round shot ever found on a medieval battlefield in Europe. These artillery rounds, which range in size from 30mm - 94mm have redefined the importance of artillery at Bosworth and open a new, archaeological avenue of research into the origins of firepower on the battlefields of Europe.’

The Hemington Bridges

Patrick Clay, Director, ULAS

The study of ancient bridges is not just of architectural, local or historical significance, as the design and construction of bridges is one of the most obvious ways in which humans have repeatedly faced an environmental challenge.

Two seasons of archaeological rescue excavations at Hemington Quarry, Leicestershire (1993 and 1998) allowed the recording of three successive bridges preserved beneath gravel bar deposits and alluvium. The bridges were constructed between the late 11th and mid-13th century, with each bridge apparently replacing the earlier. The excavations therefore provided a unique opportunity to study the changing solutions that our ancestors employed to crossing this stretch of the River Trent and how those solutions changed with the growing acceptance of technological innovation imported with the Norman Conquest.

The Hemington Bridges project is an example of outstanding co-operation between the public sector (English Heritage and Leicestershire County Council), the private sector (Ennemix Construction Materials, Lafarge Aggregates plc; British Sugar), the voluntary sector (Dr Chris Salisbury, Leicestershire Museum's community archaeology network through the Burleigh Archaeological group and other local volunteers) and the Higher Education sector (University of Leicester). Sadly one of the most important figures, Chris Salisbury, who actually found the first bridge piers died in 2004. Chris was an outstanding archaeologist and this book is dedicated to him.

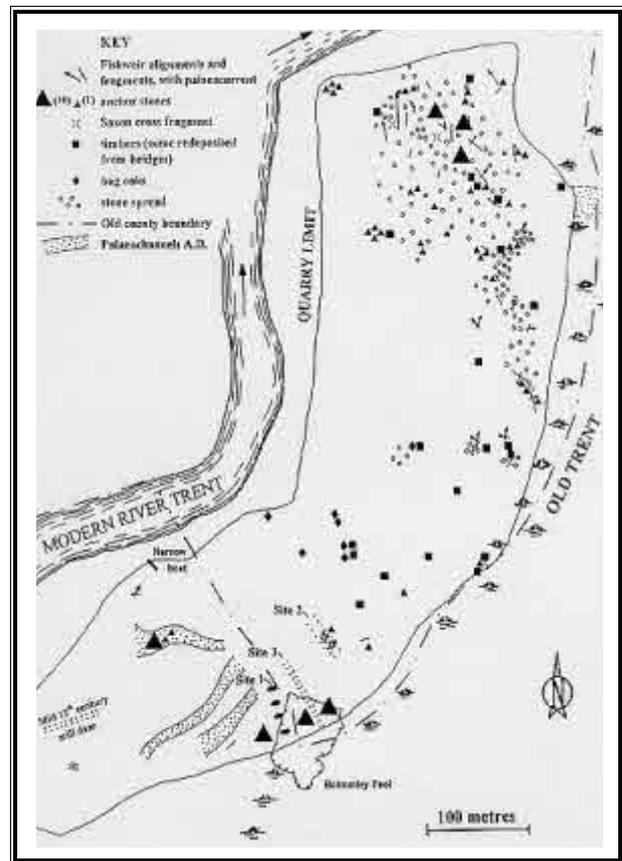


While the Hemington Bridges project is a story of collaboration, it is one that started some years before the discovery of the bridges. In 1985 the Burleigh Archaeological Fieldwork Group discovered a Norman mill at Hemington Quarry and undertook an excavation with the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit (LAU). A local retired GP and independent archaeologist, Dr. Chris Salisbury, joined the team bringing in a wealth of knowledge about the sub-alluvial archaeology of the River Trent. Chris continued to monitor the quarry for several years recording dozens of medieval fish weirs. His tenacity was rewarded in 1993 when the quarry box-scrappers revealed what was unquestionably a bridge pier, buried in a palaeochannel of the River Trent. Realising the enormity of his find, figuratively and actually, he contacted the LAU who, with the support of the quarry company Ennemix Construction Materials, English Heritage and a large group of volunteers, embarked upon recording the discoveries.

The post-excavation analysis was started by LAU and taken over by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) following the closure of LAU in 1995. The analysis and the subsequent publication have seen a furthering of this collaborative approach. Firstly, the three bridges are described in detail, highlighting the changing design of bridge foundations over two centuries. The precise dating of such technological change was made possible by a programme of extensive dendrochronological sampling. The exclusive use of oak as the chosen building material enabled over 150 samples to be compared, under the auspices of Robert Howard (Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory). This has not only allowed the precise dating of parts of all the bridges, but has also suggested 'collection periods' in which the bridge builders accumulated material for construction.

Much of the timber was extremely well-preserved, even to the detail of the 'signatures' of particular blades surviving (the ridges and furrows left by nicks in the sharp edge of a particular tool). Richard Darrah, an archaeologist who specialises in ancient timber, was commissioned to contribute a study of the bridge timbers. Toolmarks found on the excavated timbers gave information about both the methods used to shape the timber and the characteristics of the tools used. The 'tool kit' available to the bridge builders appeared to be the same from all three bridges, while the woodworking techniques were distinctly different. Within the early bridge not only were a set of joints hitherto unseen found, but there was rare evidence of hybrid carpentry; the Saxon 'earthfast' traditions meeting the new Norman framing technologies. A set of Saxo-Norman joints are described which will be of interest to historians of carpentry. The conservation of the timbers has been undertaken by Leicestershire Museums at Snibston Discovery Park with generous contributions from British Sugar and plans for their eventual display are in progress.

An un-anticipated byproduct of the dendrochronological studies was an opportunity to study the growth patterns of the timbers: their distinctive profiles allowed an understanding of the sources of trees used in construction and showed how timbers were selected for their suitability for the job. For each of the bridges knotty hedgerow trees were selected for their bulk in the construction of pier base plates. Straight grained timbers, procured from dense managed woodlands, were selected for load bearing duties.

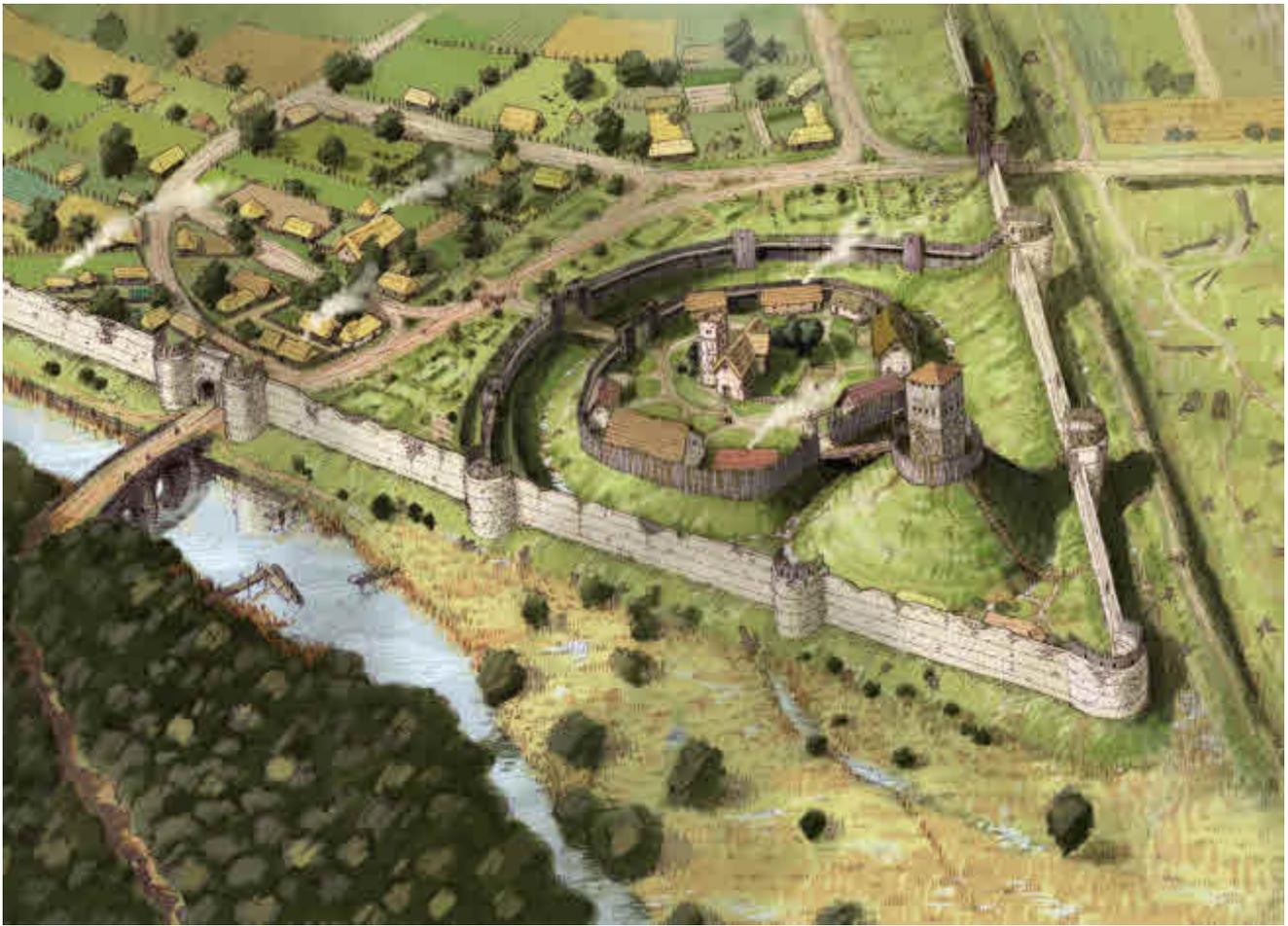


Geomorphological and hydrological modelling of the Hemington bridges, undertaken by Professor Tony Brown, provided data on the catchment hydro-climatic conditions during the Middle Ages. Analysis showed that this reach of the Trent was sensitive to climatic change due to its geomorphology and land-use history.

Dr. Paul Courtney describes a political framework for the estates each side of the crossing and speculates on the bridge builders and their motives. It is suggested that there were good economic reasons in terms of the rise in local markets. However, there may have been other reasons such as piety and the politics of largesse. Conspicuous construction.

Prior to extraction at Hemington Quarry this stretch of the Trent floodplain was little known archaeologically. The blanket alluvium effectively prevented the use of conventional prospecting methods, resulting in a landscape of archaeological invisibility. However, long term archaeological monitoring of extraction works has demonstrated the excellent potential of such areas.

The results amply justify a greater consideration of local floodplains in planning advice and fieldwork design, and have in turn led to a refinement of methods and the adoption of multi-staged evaluation and mitigation strategies for sub-alluvial sites. However, the importance of the long-term watching brief in detecting and recording the hidden landscape is not diminished.



Leicester Castle
Post-Conquest

Leicester: An artist's view of the past

John Cook is a Leicester-based designer and illustrator, originally from North Kent, who is interested in using his artistic abilities to bring to life aspects of early Leicester from maps, archaeological reports and descriptions.

His drawings, featured on the front and back covers of this edition of the *Newsletter*, are offered as 'works of imagination based on my limited knowledge'. With reference to his most recent drawing (of Leicester Castle - above) John comments 'when I started looking at the references drawn to date, it didn't make a lot of sense to me. The line of the Roman wall shaves the existing motte (as at the tower of London). Why would the Normans pull down a perfectly good wall to dig a trench? So I have drawn it imagining I was the new Norman lord, and setting it out in what I would imagine was a logical way.'

John would welcome feedback or observations regarding his work. 'Ultimately I would like to see a complete sequence of drawings of Leicester through time, to allow people to at least obtain a flavour of what might have been, and consequently want to find out more. Drawing these images has certainly been a fascinating and eye-opening journey.' The front cover illustration is the artist's impression of Medieval Leicester c.1420.

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society



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