THE 2014/15 LECTURE SEASON
The dates, the speakers and their subjects for the forthcoming season

SIR TIMOTHY BROOKS, KCVO
Remembering a much-respected and well-loved former LAHS President

JOHN NICHOLS AND THE MYSTERY OF EDMUND ROOS
Neil Fortey finds a mystery in the pages of Nichols' Antiquities

BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE
News of a new international group committed to furthering understanding of the events of 22 August 1485

LITERARY LEICESTERSHIRE
Stephen Allen notes some visitations by 19th century literary greats

THE DIARY OF SARAH OGDEN
A gentlewoman's 19th century diary now transcribed and published

NEW RESOURCES FOR LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE PROJECTS
Pam Fisher outlines new resources available from Leicester University

DR PAUL COURTNEY MEMORIAL CONFERENCE
News of a special day of talks in memory of Paul

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK
Updates from member groups of the LAHS Networks Project

BEAUMANOR IN RETROSPECT
Looking back to the Society's highly-successful Spring History Fair

COUNTDOWN TO NICHOLS 200
Events and publications to mark the bi-centenary of John Nichol's landmark work

FIFTY YEARS OF CARING FOR THE COUNTY'S CHURCHES AND CHAPELS
Celebrating the golden anniversary of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust
Within a matter of weeks, the Society's 159th lecture season will be commencing. One of the annoying but also pleasing aspects of our Thursday evening meetings at the New Walk Museum has been the need, on almost every occasion over the past season, to set out more chairs to accommodate the increasing number of members and guests who are attending.

This is in no small way due to the work of our retiring Lectures Secretary Neil Finn, who over the past years has brought a wide range of fascinating and authoritative speakers to the society covering many diverse topics within the fields of both history and archaeology. We now welcome Yolande Courtney as our new Lectures Secretary, and look forward to the Society's 160th season of talks!

In November, the acts of Remembrance which will take place in towns and villages across the country will be defined by the significance of the year, being the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities in the First World War.

The Society's Wartime Leicester History Fair in March was clearly an event that touched a nerve for many people. Over 1400 people shared in the stalls, stands, talks and tours.

The Society is grateful for all the organisations and groups who took part and made the day memorable for so many visitors.

Perceptive readers will have already noticed a new look to this issue, and a subtle (we hope!) change of name. Your comments, as always, will be welcomed.

www.le.ac.uk/lahs
The Secret Listeners

New information about the secret role of Beaumanor Hall during WWII is still being discovered.

Prof. Chris Dyer provided the officers of the Society with some notes on Beaumanor’s wartime past which he uncovered whilst researching the life of Joan Thirsk for her obituary in The Guardian.

According to Jimmy Thirsk in his book *Bletchley Park: An Innate’s Story*, he arrived at Beaumanor Hall, having been transferred from the artillery, probably in the Spring or Summer of 1942.

He describes Beaumanor as ‘the secret headquarters of British intelligence’. He had joined a branch of M18, called the Central Party.

He was one of fifty log readers. The messages were collected from intercept stations (of which Beaumanor was the largest one) and delivered to the log readers whose job was to begin the process of finding out the whereabouts of different German army units.

After Jimmy spent about four weeks at Beaumanor (the Central Party had been there for some time) they were told of the move to Bletchley, and eventually the furniture, equipment and huge numbers of logs were loaded into army lorries and taken there.

Bletchley had been the Government Code and Cypher School but grew during the early years of the war. It grew very fast when the log-reading was centred there, and Beaumanor remained as an intercept station providing data which was sent to Bletchley.

Also in 1942 Joan Watkins (to become Joan Thirsk), having completed part of a degree in modern languages spent a month at Beaumanor (presumably after the Central Party had left) being trained in signals and wireless telegraphy. Then they went to Bletchley to work on the messages.

Beaumanor 2014

More than 1400 visitors attended the Society’s Wartime Leicestershire History Fair on Sunday 25 March 2014. There were stalls and stands representing more than fifty local history and heritage groups, complementing a full day of talks and tours relating to Beaumanor’s past and the history of conflict in Leicestershire from the Wars of the Roses to present-day Afghanistan.

One of the most popular attractions on the day was the German Enigma coding machine and the talks provided by Dr Mark Baldwin, an expert in the history of Bletchley Park. But all the talks and tours throughout the day were fully booked well before the event.

A full account of activities at Beaumanor Hall during WWII titled ‘England Needs You: The Story of Beaumanor, Y Station,’ has been written and published by Joan Nicholls

The village of Woodhouse Eaves fell victim to a loan raider who hit the main street with at least one bomb on 16 December 1940. This raid was followed by bombs falling on fields north of Old Woodhouse.

In ‘Winds of Change: Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves in Pictures’ is a chapter with photographs of U.S. GIs with local people and ATS girls working within Beaumanor Hall.

In this book is an interesting aerial photograph taken by U.S. reconnaissance aircraft (the book states Luftwaffe), on 22 April 1944. This clearly shows the neat rows of tents erected by the 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division.

Did You Miss?

- David Ramsey’s fascinating account of Beaumanor’s Secret Listeners?
- Sounds Familiar - the family of musicians reflecting the atmosphere of England during both WWI and WWII in evocative words and music?
- The vintage buses, provided by the Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, which transported nearly 400 people between the GCR station and Beaumanor?
- The very latest on the biggest archaeological news story of the year from Richard Buckley OBE, Chairman of our society?
- The chance to explore the wartime cellars of Beaumanor?
Understanding Burrough Hill

Thirty members of the Society enjoyed a pleasant and enlightening evening on Wednesday 2 July 2014 learning more about the archaeology of Burrough Hill from ULAS archaeologist John Thomas.

The excavations and research, which began in 2010, have been a major student training and research project for ULAS and Leicester University, directed by Dr Jeremy Taylor and John Thomas. Our LAHS Chairman, Richard Buckley, has been the project manager.

Over the seasons, thousands of schoolchildren have experienced their first real taste of archaeology.

Hillforts are widely seen as emblematic of the Iron Age, but are unevenly distributed. Burrough Hill is one of very few in the East Midlands, comparable in national significance to the important (but now destroyed) site at Hunsbury in Northamptonshire.

A series of small archaeological excavations at Burrough in 1935, 1960, 1967 and 1970-71 show occupation from the Neolithic period (c.4000-2000 BC) to the 4th or even 5th century AD. The most intensive period was in the later Iron Age (c. 100 BC–AD 50) and, more unusually, in the 1st century AD; later use was sporadic at best. As at Hunsbury, the finds indicate wide ranging trading contacts, in both cases very likely linked to the proximity of good-quality iron ores.

About Burrough

After people stopped living at Burrough Hill, the interior and surrounding fields were farmed, in the medieval period, and were ploughed until the parish was enclosed in the 17th century.

The hillfort was in fact also used as a fairground in medieval times and later became the venue for steeple-chasing organised by the Melton Hunt for a large part of the 19th century.

Archaeological fieldwork since the 1970s has shown that Burrough Hill sits in a densely occupied landscape of enclosed farms, larger aggregated settlements and important ritual foci. This information provides a new perspective on Iron Age societies in a part of Britain once written off as sparsely inhabited and culturally peripheral.

As well as providing a secure foundation for further research, this work has exposed the inadequacy of our understanding of the centrality (or otherwise) of Burrough Hill in its region.

What was its social and economic status and relationship with other communities? Do these change over time? Did the occupation at Burrough overlap with other settlement types or were they mutually exclusive? Why was there a hillfort here at all when such sites are so rare in the East Midlands?
To celebrate its golden anniversary, all past issues of the Leicestershire Historian are being digitised and made accessible on line for research and consultation.

The project has been funded from monies which have accrued in the Snow Bequest which was made to the Society several years ago in memory of the Leicester historian Edward Eric Snow.

Eric was born in Leicester in 1910 and, as well as being a successful businessman, became the librarian and historian of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club. He served the club in many non-playing capacities, including forty years as librarian and thirty years on the committee, and wrote two histories of the club. His History of Leicestershire Cricket, published by Edgar Backus in 1940, is still the authority on the club’s earlier years.

He also wrote a history of Sir Julien Cahn’s XI. He was a fount of knowledge on Leicestershire lore, and cricketing in general. His elder brother was C. P. (later Lord) Snow the writer; and his younger brother Philip represented Fiji on the International Cricket Council. Eric died on 18 September 1998, the day before his beloved Leicestershire won the County Championship.

A proposal to make practical use of the Snow Bequest was placed before the Annual General Meeting of the Society in 2012. After discussion and consideration, the officers approved its use to fund this project which will enable a wide range of local theses and articles to be available for the benefit of members.

The Society took responsibility for the annual publication of the Leicestershire Historian in 1997 following the demise of the Local History Council. The first edition under the auspices of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was edited and produced by the then Honorary Secretary, the late Dr Alan McWhirr.

LAHS welcomes new Lectures Secretary

The officers of the Society are delighted to announce that our new Lectures Secretary is Yolande Courtney. Those of you who know Yolanda will be aware of her considerable organisational skills and long association with both the City and County Museums services, which means she has a wide network of contacts.

For the current season (Commencing September 2014) Yolanda has been working alongside our retiring Lectures Secretary, Neil Finn. Yolanda will be appointed formally as an Officer of the Society at our Annual General Meeting.

We are immensely delighted that Yolanda has volunteered to take on this role, and we are also extremely grateful to Neil for the hard work and commitment over the past years which have resulted in a series of memorable and highly successful seasons of talks.

The Story of the Badge

According to the 94th Annual report of the Society, recorded in Trans Vol XXV, 1949, p20, the present badge of the society was designed by A.E. Christopherson of the Leicester College of Art in 1948.

It is based on the original badge adopted by the society at the instance of Col. Bellairs at its meeting on 28 January 1878, and is described in the Annual Report for that year as a ‘slightly modified copy of an ancient seal of the time of Edward III, which once belonged to the Corporation of Leicester.’

‘The matrix of this seal’, the report continues, ‘has long been lost, and only one impression (now in the possession of Mr Llewellyn Jewitt) is now known to exist’.

The original and more detailed badge is reproduced below. The editor would be pleased to hear from any reader who can add further to our knowledge of the design and its early history.
£10,000 grant for Castle Hill Archaeological project

The Cooke e-Learning Foundation, working with the Castle Hill Archaeological Project, has been awarded £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Budget grant.

The project will investigate the story of the area from the early Roman days through the medieval Knights Hospitallers occupation to the more recent City Farms and sewage works, and relate this to the wider community.

Sharing Heritage is a new funding programme to help people across the UK explore, conserve and share all aspects of the history and character of their local area. Castle Hill Archaeological Project aims to identify the historical features of Castle Hill Country Park and place them within the overall context of the neighbouring estate. It aims to help local residents to learn new skills, increase knowledge and to participate in discovering more about the local area.

This community group will look at developing the research into the Bronze age and Roman finds uncovered in the 1980’s during the park’s creation, researching the history of the site from the ownership of the old Leicester Forest by the Earls Of Leicester and their grant of land to the Knights and its later farming usage, including events here during the Second World War.

“This grant will enable the Castle Hill Archaeological Project to carry on exploring the parks ancient history and reveal some of its hidden secrets to the community- a quest we started some six years ago now.”

The aim is to encourage local residents to learn about undertaking research and also some of the techniques of archaeology including field walking, supervised test excavations and identifying artefacts. This will culminate in exhibitions at schools and in the local community. Commenting on the award, Robin Matthewman, Project Coordinator, said: “It’s great that we have been awarded this grant and we can’t wait to get going. We love the parkland and know there’s so much more to discover about our past. We are all really excited about telling other people about our findings and sharing our heritage and history with them.”

Vanessa Harbar, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund East Midlands, said: “We are delighted to be able to offer this grant so that the Castle Hill Archaeological Project can embark on a real journey of discovery.” Interim Head of Parks and Green Spaces, Stewart Doughty says ‘Leicester City Council are looking forward to working in partnership with the project to help uncover the hidden past of this fantastic green space on the edge of the city. The Friends of Castle Hill Country Park wish to congratulate the Cooke e-Learning Foundation on obtaining the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This grant will enable the Castle Hill Archaeological Project to carry on exploring the parks ancient history and reveal some of its hidden secrets to the community- a quest we started some six years ago now!”

About the Project

The Castle Hill Archaeological group was originally launched in the late summer 2013. So far, more than forty people have signed up to help.

The group is working in partnership with the Cooke e-learning Foundation at Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association on Astill Lodge Road, Leicester.

Readers who would like to help, or can provide any insight into the more recent uses of the site, are invited to contact Robin Matthewman at robinandbren@ntlworld.com or telephone 0116 223 6889.

About Castle Hill

The Castle Hill Country Park is also home to two Scheduled Monuments.

The Castle Hill Earthworks located off the Astill Lodge back road, comprises of an earthen rectangular banked enclosure and fish pond dating to the medieval period. The site is associated with the Knights Hospitaller and seems to have functioned as a monastic grange or sheep farm.

King Williams Bridge historically known as the ‘Dambridge’, crosses over the Rothley Brook. This is a medieval stone packhorse bridge, and local tradition has it that it was widened in 1696 for King William III’s visit to nearby Bradgate House. As it’s name suggests, there was once a sheepwash associated with the bridge.
New resources for local history and heritage projects

PAM FISHER

The number of active local history and heritage groups within Leicestershire, and the public interest in their work, was readily apparent to anyone who attended the society’s very successful History Fair at Beaumanor in March.

Local history is clearly thriving in the county, buoyed by a number of popular television programmes and the success of many Leicestershire groups in obtaining grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In this period of local authority austerity and budget cuts, the role that volunteer groups can and do play in researching, recording and conserving heritage, and then sharing their knowledge, is becoming increasingly important.

Anyone who has ever been involved with such a project will know that many different skills are required. The recent inclusion of local history within the national curriculum, for example, and the development of technology and social media, present opportunities to engage with new audiences, but also present challenges to groups lacking volunteers with experience in those areas.

To help community groups and individuals involved in local history or heritage projects, the University of Leicester has produced a series of written and audio guides covering more than 30 different topics under the collective title ‘Building and Enriching Shared Heritages’. These are based on a series of workshops run by the University of Leicester in 2013 for history and heritage groups from Leicestershire and other East Midlands counties who had received ‘All Our Stories’ grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and were tailored to meet the specific requests of the groups.

Some wanted to know, for example, how they could find out more about their village by studying the gravestones in their churchyard, while others wanted to know how to create a website, or how to catalogue their collection of documents, photographs or artefacts. Sessions on running an oral history project, and on publishing a book or pamphlet, proved especially popular. Other topics included putting on an exhibition, obtaining television coverage and, now the groups had generated strong interest in their local heritage, how to get funding for their next project.

The training was delivered by University of Leicester staff from many different disciplines and departments, including English Local History, Archaeology, Digital Humanities, East Midlands Oral History Archive, Museum Studies, and the press office which arranged the recent global coverage on the discovery of the grave of Richard III. Funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council through their Connected Communities programme supported the workshops and has enabled this training to be converted into a web-based resource, so that groups and individuals involved in other history and heritage projects can benefit from this expertise.

Recordings of a number of workshop sessions have also been made available as audio files (podcasts) and a few short videos have also been created. All the resources can be downloaded from the menu at: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/history/outreach/besh

Many of the guides and podcasts contain information which is not readily available elsewhere, or is difficult to locate, and which can help with every stage of a local history or heritage project. Although designed for groups, many of the topics are equally suitable for individuals who want to share the results of their own research with a wider audience, and should be of interest to many members of LAHS.
Sir Timothy Brooks KCVO
1929 - 2014

It was with deep sadness that officers and members of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society learned of the death, after a short illness, on 2 May 2014 of a former President of the society, Sir Timothy Brooks KCVO.

Sir Timothy Gerald Martin Brooks served as President of this Society from 1993 until 2005 and was Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire from 1989 to 2003. He served on the Council of the University of Leicester and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2002.

He was born near Loughborough in 1929, the son of a diplomat. His childhood years were spent in Shropshire, being schooled at Abberley Hall and Eton, followed by the Royal Agricultural College.

His public duties included being a magistrate on the Castle Bench in Leicester, a councillor and later chairman of Harborough District Council and High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1979.

He worked assiduously as Lord Lieutenant to bring together our diverse communities and to represent the Crown on all major public occasions. He was particularly involved in the Queen’s Golden Jubilee visit to Leicester in 2002.

He supported armed services charities, Wyggeston’s Hospital, the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust, Loughborough Endowed Schools, the county’s universities, the Scouts Council, the Royal Society of St George, the Early Music Festival, Leicester Charity Link, the Community Foundation, and the Leicestershire branch of the Prayer Book Society.

He was a great supporter of the work of the churches and of Leicester Cathedral as a committed Christian and a Patron of many charities in the city and the county.

He was a scion of the Barons Crawshaw and was knighted in 2003. Sir Timothy played squash for the county and enjoyed tennis and shooting.

Sir Timothy is survived by his wife, their five children, eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

His son Richard, a partner with estate agency and surveyors Strutt and Parker, said: ‘Behind all that he did was a strong Christian belief. My father was a fantastic and awe-inspiring man who was always incredibly down-to-earth, too.’

The present Lord Lieutenant, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, said Leicestershire had lost one of its most endearing and respected statesmen.

She said: ‘Tim was a very special and true gentleman whose reach across the communities of Leicester and Leicestershire was immense. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.’

The Bishop of Leicester, the Right Revd Tim Stevens commented: ‘Sir Timothy was a courteous, gentle, generous, faithful servant of the people of the city and county and we remember him before God with thanksgiving. There will be a memorial service later in the year, but in the meantime we assure his wife Ann and all the family of our prayers in their sadness and loss.’

‘Sir Timothy was a courteous, gentle, generous, faithful servant of the people of the city and county’
Looking back over ninety issues

In the beginning, the Society’s ‘news’ was to found in its annual Transactions. It was in these volumes that changes in membership, appointment and retirement of officers - and the occasional obituary would be published.

As Robert Rutland comments in his history of the society (2006), the advent of a separate newsletter changed the content of the Transactions so that it became the source for academic theses and reports rather than detailing the matters that the Society had actually ‘transacted’ during the previous year.

The earliest surviving issue of the Newsletter in the Society’s files is No 14, published in January 1979. At that time, it comprised twelve pages of duplicated sheets. Its content is very similar to that of this issue, including news of forthcoming talks, recent archaeological excavations, specifically a Bronze Age round barrow near Saltby, and brief review of new publications.

In the Editorial, the Honorary Secretary, David Wykes, considered the future role of the Society, and underlined its role as ‘the focal point for all archaeology in its area, providing communication between all the interested parties, opportunities for the publication of all significant material, no matter how slight, technical and financial support for worthwhile projects, and opportunities for spreading the gospel.’

On the back page is an invitation to an ‘end of season party’.

Perhaps this is a tradition that the present Officers and Committee should consider reviving!

The 160th Lecture Season

16 October 2014
Julian Pooley (Hon. Visiting Fellow, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester)
‘The very nerves, sinews and vitality of local history’ John Nichols and the county history of Leicestershire, 1775-1815.

13 November 2014 The Presidential Lecture. Professor Michael Wood, President of the Society

27 November 2014 The 159th Annual General Meeting

11 December 2014 Dr John Sutton
We will not Fight: WW1 Conscientious Objectors

15 January 2015 Dr Pamela Fisher (Leics. Victoria County History Trust)
An unholy conflict: church and chapel in early 18th-century Lutterworth

5 February 2015 Robert Ovens
Lost Buildings of Rutland

26 February 2015 Members Evening

12 March 2015 W. Alan North Memorial Lecture Tony Wilmott (English Heritage)
Temples, altars and religious change on the northern frontier: recent work at Maryport and Birdoswald

2 April 2015 Adam Slater or Nick Daffern (Wardell Armstrong)
The Blackfriars Excavation

23 April 2015 Robin Jenkins (Keeper of Collections, Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland)
Leicestershire at War

14 May 2015 Dr. Mark Gillings (Reader in Archaeology, University of Leicester)
Between the Monuments: Ongoing Fieldwork at the Neolithic Monument Complex of Avebury, Wiltshire

The above two lectures will take place in the Victorian Gallery, New Walk Museum. Members are requested to book in advance by registering at www.lahs.org.uk or by ringing the Hon Secretary on 07805 459764.
Thurmaston and the Great War, 1914-1918

A new book was published on 4 August 2014 - the anniversary of the day Britain declared war on Germany - which details the contribution of Thurmaston families to the Great War. The author is Mark Gamble, a member of the Thurmaston Heritage Group and the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society.

The book contains stories that relate to over 320 people with Thurmaston connections, and is the result of many years of research. It records not just those who served in the British Army, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Air Force, but also those who served in the imperial forces of the British Empire. Those included in the book are in the main those who were living in Thurmaston when they were called upon to serve their King and country. Not all those listed in the book fought in battle, as some remained in home defence forces or were employed in maintaining the nation’s ability to feed itself during the conflict. The details of individuals have been sympathetically recorded.

Although the book has an outline of the road to war and its eventual effects, most of all, as the author states, it is intended as both a work of record and of tribute to a generation that no longer speaks for itself.

The book details and order form can be found online by searching for the Thurmaston Military Indexes’ website. Copies are also available at Thurmaston Print Shop, 814 Melton Road, Thurmaston, and Gamble and Hollis, 1193 Melton Road, Syston.

Belgrave Cemetery Heritage Open Day

The Friends of Belgrave Cemetery are holding an Open Day on Sunday 14 September from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War and the tenth anniversary of the Friends. Visitors will be able to undertake self-conducted guided walks of WWI soldier’s graves.

Marlene Pearson, chair of group, said: “For many local people, Whitwick Historical Group and the Old Station are naturally linked together.

Belgrave Cemetery Heritage Open Day

John Nichols and Hinckley

Hinckley Museum is planning to create a small temporary exhibition on Nichols in 2015, to highlight that John Nichols' second wife, Martha Green, came from Hinckley. The Museum is open from Easter to October each year and is run entirely by volunteers.
Most, if not all, readers will be familiar with the relatively modern Leicestershire literary associations of the playwright, Joe Orton, and the creator of ‘Adrian Mole’, Sue Townsend but there are several such connections with the county amongst the great literary giants of the nineteenth century.

Again, the inspiration fomented in Sir Walter Scott when in the summer of 1819 Sir George Beaumont took him to the top of a watch tower, now long disappeared, to view the keep of Ashby Castle across fields, where knightly tournaments had taken place in medieval times, to be used in Ivanhoe, which was published later in that year, is well known.

Sir George Beaumont commissioned the building of the Gothic styled Coleorton Hall, at which he entertained several leading literary figures. During the spring of 1807 the Lake Poets, William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the latter of whom had very recently returned from a lengthy sojourn in the Mediterranean, stayed at nearby Coleorton Farm (the Hall was full of workmen) for several months. It was there that for the first time Coleridge heard Wordsworth give evening readings of his autobiographical work The Prelude.

Early on during their stay, in a mood of despair arising from a possible liaison between his adored ‘Asra’ – Sara Hutchinson – and Wordsworth, Coleridge started drinking the ‘strong ale’ at the local inn, the Queen’s Head. Their letters to Sir George and Lady Beaumont, together with those from Dorothy Wordsworth, Robert Southey and, indeed, Sir Walter Scott are collected in Memorials of Coleorton.5

In the winter of 1814–15 Thomas Love Peacock, poet and author of wonderful eloquently written gentle satirical novels, stayed with his old friend Mrs Zipporah Simpson in Gumley, whose second husband, John, was unsuccessfully trying to make a living there by farming until they emigrated to Canada in the summer of 1815. Peacock was an intimate of Percy Bysshe Shelley and effectively his agent after the latter’s final departure from England in 1818.

‘What fairer path shall woo the wanderer’s tread, Soothe wearied hope, and worn regret assuage!’

Zipporah’s young son, John Arthur Roebuck, who became a radical MP, recalled that Gumley farmers marvelled at the sight of Peacock reading two books simultaneously. In fact Peacock was reading a Greek dramatist alongside a commentator. Headlong Hall, Peacock’s first novel, was published in 1815 and, although I have not been able to demonstrate the case conclusively, I am convinced that Gumley Hall, was a source of inspiration.

Furthermore, in a later novel Melincourt Peacock satirises the sometimes impenetrable Germanic metaphorical ideas of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, where his thinly disguised fictional character, Mr Moley Mystic, rows across the lake, referred to as the Ocean of Deceitful Form to the Island of Pure Intelligence, whereon was perched his Cimmerian Lodge.

The description of the path that ‘wound along the shores of a lonely lake, embosomed in dark pine-groves and precipitous rocks’ is redolent of Gumley Lake.

Charles Dickens, one of the greatest literary luminaries of that century, published a curious short piece ‘Out of the World’ in an 1859 journal entry of his literary magazine ‘All The Year Round’.

At the outset of a flying Christmas-eve visit to a ‘lone monastery, situated in a desolate part of the country’ Dickens wonders whimsically if he shall ‘partake of the merriest cheer,....... will [the monks] indulge in perpetual bouts at quarter-staff like so many friar tucks?’.

After travelling by train from London he alights at Buffborough (Loughborough) to be driven by a ‘very neat phaeton’ to a heavy Gothic building, near to which is ‘a huge mass of rock surmounted by a tall cross’ (Mount St Bernards Abbey).

His guest-master, Father Lawrence, walks him for a service at the close-by reformatory for Catholic boys but Dickens’ brief stay is rendered ‘Out of the World’ not only by the physical and social remoteness of his surroundings but also by the sudden death of Father Lawrence, who is then borne on an open bier by four fellow monks, before making his return journey by the night train.
Given the county associations with major Romantic poets mentioned above, insofar as Rutland was an integral part of Leicestershire from 1974 until 1997 a notable literary connection, for even such a short-lived expanded county and in any event with part of the unexpanded county, cannot pass without mention.

In 1824 Lord Byron's funeral cortege passed out of London to stop overnight at Welwyn, Higham Ferrers, Oakham and Nottingham to leave early in the following morning for burial in the family vault at Hucknall, near to Newstead Abbey, the ancient seat of Lord Byron's family.

An examination of the map will show that the likeliest route from Higham Ferrers to Oakham is via Kettering and Uppingham. The cortege, then, crossed the River Welland at Rockingham to follow the northerly route through Rutland and thence the unexpanded county.

Forgive the extended quotation:

"A fine looking honest tar was observed to walk near the hearse, uncovered, throughout the morning; and on being asked by a stranger whether he formed any part of the funeral cortege, he replied that he came there to pay his respect to the deceased, with whom he had served for two years and a half in the Levant, when he made his tour of the Grecian Islands. This poor fellow was kindly offered a place by some of the servants who were behind carriages, but he said he was strong, and had rather walk near the hearse."

In close proximity to the remains of his adored leader, the noble poet, that 'honest tar' strode along what is now the A6003 and subsequently the A6006 from Melton Mowbray to Nottingham.

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**NOTES**

1. Robert Stephen Hawker. *Records of the Western Shore First Series*. 1836, ‘Clovelly’ v, lines 7,8. RSH was the famous Vicar of Morwenstow in North Cornwall from 1834 to 1875.


3. Coleridge contributed four poems including *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* to *Lyrical Ballads with a few other poems* by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, first published in 1798. This ground-breaking work was described as the manifesto of the romantic movement to, inter alia, use everyday language in poetry.

4. Ibid p 83. The North West Leicestershire Mining Heritage Fund website reports that a large house, rebuilt in 1827, stands at the beginning of The Rowlands, which used to be a licensed pub bearing the name ‘The Queen’s Head’.


9. *All the Year Round. A weekly journal conducted by Charles Dickens*, Saturday 21 May, 1859

10. Samuel Palmer, ed., *Byron painted by his Compeers, or all about Lord Byron from his marriage to his death, as given in the various newspapers of his day...,* 1869, p 76.

11. Ibid p 74.
The diary of Sarah Ogden 1842-51

A diary which records the life and attitudes of a young woman from a Strict Baptist family from Leicester, living in Leicester, Uppingham and Grantham in the middle of the nineteenth century, has been published by the Rutland Local History and Record Society.

Sarah Ogden (1817-95) was a daughter of Benjamin Cort who was a prosperous iron founder in Leicester and the owner, through his father, of one of the largest foundries in the city, the Britannia Foundry located at the public wharf in Belgrave Gate.

Sarah was brought up in an impressive eight-bedroom house in Welford Place in the city. Her diary commences with her marriage in 1842 to her first cousin Benjamin Cort Ogden, an employee of Clarke, Phillips, Mitchell and Smith, Bankers of Leicester.

However, the bank's collapse the following year led to Ogden's appointment as manager of the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Company in Uppingham, where the couple lived for the next five years.

In 1848, Ogden opened a branch of that bank in Grantham, where they then settled. Sarah's diary ends in 1851 when they were living at 18 High Street, Grantham with a groom and two servants.

The Ogdens were a prosperous middle class couple. They had no children and were Strict Baptists. The diary gives a vivid picture of their social life in Leicester, Uppingham and Grantham.

The diary has been transcribed and annotated by Nigel Webb, a descendant of Sarah's father. Uppingham historian Peter Lane has provided a commentary as an appendix with notes on individuals appearing in the diary for the Ogdens' time of residence in Uppingham.

Any reader who would be willing to undertake a similar appendix for the Leicester and Grantham periods, or can provide any background information regarding the events recorded in the diary, is invited to contact Nigel Webb at nandcwebb@gmail.com.

The transcript can be downloaded from the Rutland Local History and Record Society website at: www.rutlandhistory.org/sarahogden.htm

“Tuesday June 7th 1842.

The eventful day in which I was united to my beloved Benj; a truly happy day indeed.

Went to church at past 8 o’clock, Mr Boyer with us, he came to breakfast, also Miss Dulley and Mrs Ogden; we started for London at 12 o’clock. Arrived at Woods Hotel at 6, dined,

Mr Hand called, spent a very pleasant evening”
To celebrate its Golden Anniversary, and also the 25th Anniversary of the Leicestershire Ride+Stride, the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust has held a series of special events across the county, which is to culminate in a Service of Thanksgiving at St James the Greater, London Road, Leicester on Sunday 28 September 2014 at 6.30pm.

The Trust was formed in 1964, principally to provide grants to help repair the historic churches and chapels of Leicester and Leicestershire that are open for public worship, but also to encourage interest in and knowledge of these buildings, and to generate enthusiasm for their care and preservation.

Much of the Trust's income comes from the annual Sponsored Ride+Stride. It also receives donations from individuals, church councils, other trusts and legacies. All of its officials and helpers are volunteers. The Trust is non-denominational and is an independent charity.

Ride+Stride is the major annual fundraising event in the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust calendar, and always takes place on the second Saturday in September.

The first Ride in Leicester and Leicestershire was held in 1990 and has been going strong ever since. The total amount raised in Leicester/shire now exceeds £877,000. Half of this sum has been donated directly to churches and chapels nominated by participants while the other half has been given out by the Trust to churches and chapels eligible for, and deemed by the trustees deserving of, a repairs grant.

Participants plan their own routes (which may cross county borders), with the assistance of each county's printed list of churches and chapels that are open on the day. Riders and striders ask their relations, friends and colleagues to sponsor them for an amount for each church or chapel they visit between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on the day, or a lump sum. This is recorded on a special sponsor form, and participants can take part for as long or short a time, within the day, as is convenient for them.

50% of sponsorship money goes to the church or chapel chosen by the participant, with the other 50% going to the Trust.

This year’s Ride+Stride takes place on Saturday 13 September 2014. Details of the Leicestershire event can be obtained by contacting the County Co-ordinator, David Knowles on 01509 268354.

50th Anniversary Celebrations for Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

With thanks, from Cadeby

‘Cadeby Church is currently being re-roofed and having guttering and rainwater goods repaired as part of a £161,000 project supported by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The work was part-financed by a generous bequest and small fabric fund but residents of the 70+ household rural parish were left to find another £50,000 within a year to enable the work to go ahead.

As well as personal donations, grants were sought from organisations and trusts, including the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust, which gave us our biggest single donation, of £7,500.

Although we didn't know it at the time, this also turned out to be the biggest single grant the trust has issued, so we feel doubly grateful for its support.’

Rachel Parrish, Co-ordinator, Cadeby Church Roof Appeal

Members of the LAHS are invited to join the Trust at its Service of Thanksgiving at St James the Greater, London Road, Leicester on Sunday 28 September 2014 at 6.30pm.
New society formed to further research at Bosworth

A new society has been established to foster and promote archaeological and research work in and around the site of the Battle of Bosworth. The Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Society is supported by honorary patron, Robert Hardy, CBE, FSA. Their first official event coincided with the anniversary re-enactments in August.

With the motto “Two Kings – One Battle”, the intent is to be neither a Yorkist nor Tudor organisation, but to learn about the battle in every aspect from the commanders and the men who fought, to artefacts and battlefield archaeology, and the geophysics of the site itself.

Over the past two decades, up until 2011, research has provided a better understanding of the battle, and the discovery in 2013 of the remains of Richard III has sharpened interest in the battlefield site.

The permanent preservation of the battlefield site is vital to future research. The geographical aspects of the site need to remain as a point of historic interest and for the benefit of the general public. The Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Society aims to promote the area as an integrated educational resource leading to raised public awareness of the events leading up to the battle. Working in conjunction with landowners, individuals and organizations the Society will help develop and communicate knowledge of the battlefield and the surrounding areas. These objectives will be supported by the fostering and promotion of programmes that encompass fieldwork, archaeology, geography, geophysics, research, interpretation, genealogy and conversation.

Considerable emphasis will be given to archaeology and research and a proposal is in development to work in cooperation with the Leicestershire County Council. This project is designed to augment the efforts undertaken in the late 1990’s when a small group of volunteers undertook metal detecting around the current battlefield Heritage Centre. The addition of a grant to the Leicestershire County Council in 2005 enabled the expanded effort to include experts brought in to determine the exact location of the battle. Continued refinements in searching led to an announcement in 2009 by the team and Leicestershire County Council that the question of where the battle had been fought could at long last be answered. With the answer to this question came many more unanswered ones. Along with the fifteenth century finds, discovery of evidence from other historical periods were made. With the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Society’s quest to continue the archaeological research.

The Society proposes that any research undertaken into the battle would include aspects of all sides; intending to understand who was involved and where the fighting took place as well as why it took place in a specific area. Evidence of camp sites and possible lines of route will also be scrutinised. To achieve these aims the BBHS suggests that the research area be widened to include areas around the site of the former Meremable Abbey and an area southwest of Stoke Golding, known locally as the ‘Dining Table’. The Abbey could prove to be a resting place for Henry Tudor on the eve of the battle where he met with Stanley.

In addition to archaeological research the Society will look to undertake various other possible projects. Individuals and groups with related projects and ideas are invited to submit a brief to the Society.

“The battle of Bosworth is one of the iconic battles in British history. I have long felt the necessity of further advanced study of the battle. We need to instil the importance of the historical aspects while also preserving, maintaining and making the battlefield site accessible for further research.”

Joe Ann Ricca, Founder and CEO/President

News and information on how to join The Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Society is available through various social media including a dedicated Website, Facebook page, Twitter and a future e-newsletter.

Email: Bosworthbattlefieldheritage@aol.com.

Facebook: ‘Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Society’, a fast growing community for discussion, news, video, photos and links to articles and membership forms.

Twitter: BBHS@BosworthSoc
John Nichols and the mystery of Edmund Roos

Local historian Neil Fortey finds a mystery in the pages of Nichols' *Antiquities*.

Nichols' account of the history of Belvoir contains the passage (right) within the transcript of an Act of Parliament of 1492, by which Edmund Roos (Ros) was obliged to remain at Elsing Manor, Middlesex, his mother's property, under the restraining 'guidance' of Sir Thomas Lovell. What had he done to be deprived of his property? Was he mad, bad, or snared in the intrigues of Henry VII's government? Edmund lived on until 1508, after which the Ros estates became, under the 1492 Act, property of Lovell who, on his death in 1524 left them to his great-nephew Sir Thomas Manners, later Earl of Rutland.

Edmund Roos, son of the attainted 9th Baron Ros, had lived in exile through the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III. Nichols reproduces the petition he presented to Henry VII in 1486 for restoration of his father's estate and titles, which was granted but with a rider requiring that the 'profits' be delivered to the king. This presumably meant that occupants of Ros properties became tenants of Edmund, who was to pass the income they generated to the crown. He was in a difficult position. The main residence, Helmsley Castle, was probably held by Sir Robert Manners, his wife Eleanor (Edmund's sister) and son George. Would they have willingly yield income from 'their' estates to Henry Tudor? Belvoir, its castle ruined, may have been vacant following the execution of Hastings and the death of Richard III. Returning it to Edmund Roos would resolve the question of its ownership while retaining the profits of the Belvoir estate for the king.

Henry VII needed funds to strengthen his government. The 1492 Act makes sense if Roos had failed to deliver the expected funds, and was perhaps suspected of squirrelling 'his' money away. Time to send in a strong man, Sir Thomas Lovell, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Speaker of Parliament. In effect, Lovell appointed himself to farm the estates for the king's benefit. The Act provided for 700 marks to be paid annually, over £100,000 today, and was back-dated to 1486, adding possibly a further 4200 marks of arrears. After Henry VII's death in 1509, Sir George Manners was released from the annuity. Lovell re-fashioned Elsing as a Tudor palace which he left to Sir Thomas Manners, son of Sir George, who then sold it to Henry VIII.

We can see Edmund as trying to restore the past glory of his family but becoming engulfed in the energy and ambitions of a new aristocracy. Ironically, had he been content to live quietly at Elsing after 1485 he could have spared himself the effort of petitioning for his father's estates and all the trouble that brought him.

This account contains a good deal of supposition, and there remain many uncertainties. Additional information and suggestions would be most welcome: neilfortey@metronet.co.uk.

(History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire Vol.II Part I, p.39).
Countdown to John Nichols Bi-centenary

John Nichol’s epic work, the History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire, was completed in 1815 when the final volume (on the town of Leicester) was published.

Two hundred years later, this vast compendium of Leicestershire’s history is still consulted, quoted and recognised as an indispensable source for anyone researching the county’s past.

LAHS President Michael Wood, in his The Story of England, writes of the work: ‘It has many errors of course, but its vast assemblage of material, though uneven in its scholarship by today’s standards, was an indispensable tool for the searcher after the history of Middle England. He (John Nichols) taught them, and us, where, and how, to look.’

LAHS Officer Caroline Wessel is producing a Society publication reflecting on the legacy of Nichol’s ‘Leicestershire’. The book will include contributions from a number of local researchers and experts. An order form for members and readers will be included in the next issue of this Magazine.

Your Society has also organised a ‘Night with Nichols’ dinner at The City Rooms in Leicester on Friday 15 May 2015 with a menu based on a feast described in a Nichols’ letter. Please make a note of this date now as we expect this event to be over-subscribed.

‘The very nerves, sinews and vitality of local history’: John Nichols and the county history of Leicestershire, 1775-1815.’

A special lecture to celebrate the bi-centenary of this landmark publication will be given by Julian Pooley on Thursday 16 October 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Victorian Gallery, New Walk Museum, Leicester.

This event will also be open to all members of the LAHS Networks Groups, and is an addition to the 2014/15 season of Thursday evening talks.

Admission for LAHS members is free. Non-members will be invited to make a donation on the door of £2.00 per ticket.

To book your seats please go to www.lahs.org.uk
Reports from ULAS
Recent work by University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Barrow on Soar, Cotes Road, Strancliffe Hall
(Leon Hunt, Jamie Patrick)

An excavation on the north-western edge of Barrow on land associated with Strancliffe Hall along the Cotes Road identified four examples of clamp kilns. The remains of a post-medieval-modern outbuilding were also discovered. Pottery retrieved from a pit associated with a clamp kiln gave a modern date for the feature, suggesting this type of clamp kiln was used locally into the 20th century.

One trench, excavated where the pond bank burst during a flood in 2002, found that much of the earthwork was constructed using recycled building material. The project generated much interest amongst the Friends of Grace Dieu.

Bradgate Park
(Lynden Cooper, James Harvey)

Test pits at the locus of the known Late Upper Palaeolithic site have identified a focal point to the flint scatter. Surprisingly there were deeper deposits than anticipated and flints have been located at considerable depth (500mm+) towards the centre. One of the first finds from the first pit opened was a Cheddar point, while there are also very many broken piercers/borers which, together with several burins, are probably remnants of an antler workshop. The work was assisted by Graham and Christine Coombs who made the first finds from the site back in 2000/1.

The analysis of 0.5m resolution Lidar survey data of Bradgate Park commissioned from the Environment Agency has helped to further expand the extent and number of new features within the Park, some of these features having been identified in recent years by Fred Hartley and Tony Squires following bracken rolling and aerial photography.

Belton, Grace Dieu Priory
(Mathew Morris)

Four small trenches have recently been excavated into the large earthwork bank of one of the medieval/post-medieval fishponds next to the priory ruins. This was to try and explain why water is being lost from the pond so that the Friends of Grace Dieu can implement repairs and re-flood the pond.

Trenching revealed that the bank was a very complex structure, its early ‘medieval’ core being clay and stone rubble which had subsequently been built up with large quantities of recycled building material, probably scavenged from the priory ruin during the site post-dissolution mansion phase. Narrow walls were found along the top of the bank, possibly garden features, but no evidence of water management systems was found despite trenches being placed as potential outfalls. Water loss appeared to be due to damaged pond and subsurface water retention in alluvial sand and gravel beneath the pond.

Remains of clamp kiln at Strancliffe Hall, Barrow

Suggested hafting positions of Cheddar points from Bradgate on wooden spears—the arrangement provides both tip and barb
Burrough Hill  
(John Thomas, Andy Hyam, Sophie Adams)

The final season of the University field school has been completed at Burrough hill.

A trench was located in the centre of the hillfort to examine a large amorphous anomaly revealed by the geophysical survey. This appears to have been a large quarry, probably for clay extraction. Pottery recovered from the backfill suggests a Late Iron Age – Early Roman date. One large Iron Age pit in the trench corner hinted at more exciting activity beyond the excavation area. This produced a good assemblage of domestic material including pottery, a cattle skull and the upper part of a beehive rotary quern.

The second trench revisited last year's excavation in the south-west corner to try and pin down the elusive ‘backdoor’ of the hillfort – was it really there or had the ramparts been slighted at a later date? A few more Iron Age pits were revealed including one very deep cylindrical example and a large and shallow feature containing a large domestic assemblage and a bronze, possible finger ring. The western terminal of our Early Bronze Age ‘hengiform’ feature located in 2013 was also excavated and another sherd of Beaker pottery found.

Closer examination of the ramparts revealed evidence to support the idea that the gap in the SW corner was indeed an original entrance (access to a water source via the natural springs on the western side of the hillfort perhaps being one reason for this).

Excavation of the rampart contents showed a clear terminal to the western arm of the defences as it reached the gap, and hints of a framework of larger ironstone boulders supporting the whole construction, as we had previously seen in the main entrance. The gap was blocked at some point during the Iron Age by a well-built drystone wall – this year’s work revealed a shallow foundation cut into the earlier deposits. Layers overlying the wall, and collapsed rubble from it, contained Iron Age domestic remains suggesting that the blocking wall had started to collapse before occupation of the hillfort had ceased.

Finally two trenches on the outside of the hillfort were opened to gain further information on the external settlement. The first was located over a large enclosure/roundhouse that appeared to be cut through on its western side by the hillfort quarry ditch. The relationship between the two features was not established but it is possible that the large quarry ditch acted as a western edge for the enclosure/roundhouse, which was also Iron Age in date.

A small square annexe to the southern side was also found, which had evidence for stake holes in the base. Some evidence for Roman activity was also found in this trench. A spread of stone & cobbles incorporating several re-used saddle querns was apparently part of what had once been a larger surface. It had been badly damaged by ploughing but adds to increasing evidence for a late Roman farmstead located in and around the northern part of the hillfort.

The last trench re-visited a trench first examined in 2011, to complete the picture of buildings and enclosures that had previously been examined. The rear of one of the 2011 roundhouses was revealed, as well as a smaller, circular roundhouse/enclosure, within which was a pit cluster. It is possible that the pits were deliberately contained within the circular ditch, as we have seen on other areas of the hillfort. Pottery from these features indicated a very late Iron Age – Early Roman date for their backfilling, with several sherds of transitional combed ware recovered. A nice little glass bead was also found in one of the pits.

It has been a real privilege to work at Burrough Hill and everyone involved has done a fantastic job in recovering the evidence that will enable a detailed account of the hillfort’s history to be told. Hopefully in the future, Burrough will be viewed in a similar way to some of the more well publicised hillforts.
Charnwood Roots
(Matthew Beamish)

Analysis of existing Environment Agency LiDAR data within the Charnwood region for the Charnwood Roots project has brought to light hundreds of possible new sites and extensions of existing ones from Desford to Whitwick to Quorn. New sites include enclosures of various sizes and forms, field systems, and routeways, whilst extensions have been identified for moated sites and rabbit warrens.

Previously unidentified earthwork enclosures have been found in woodland (LiDAR scanning can penetrate deciduous woodland and provide detailed ground survey), an example of which is in Felicity’s wood, to the north of Beacon Hill (below). Other notable new discoveries are large rectangular enclosures within Martinshaw Wood, and unsuspected medieval field systems within areas of woodland.

Coalville, N and S of Grange Road
(Gavin Speed)

An archaeological evaluation (over a vast c. 173.25ha) by trial trenching on land to the south-east of Coalville was undertaken in advance of a major proposed development. The evaluation revealed archaeological settlement evidence dating to the Mid to Late Iron Age (400 BC – 43 AD) and the mid-late Roman period (2nd to 4th centuries AD). This included an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure (c.65m by 55m), which contained a possible roundhouse. Surrounding this were numerous field boundaries (including a very large ditch over 3m wide, which contained at least three recuts), together with pits and post-holes, some dating to the Roman period.

Leicester, The Newarke, De Montfort University, Former Fletcher Building
(Mathew Morris and Tim Higgins)

An evaluation and subsequent excavation have been completed on part of the recently demolished Fletcher Building on De Montfort University’s campus.

The western half of the site was located between the Newarke close and the river and little archaeology was recorded, evidence suggesting that much of the area was low-lying ground prone to flooding up until the late 19th century when the ground was deliberately raised. The work did reveal the Newarke precinct wall which had very wide partial freestanding foundation cut.

The stone foundation measured approximately 1.20m wide and 1.20m deep, and was constructed with large roughly hewn Dane Hills sandstone blocks and had inner rubble core, which were all mortared bonded.
Leicester, Jubilee Square  
(Wayne Jarvis)

A watching brief during groundworks for the Jubilee Square development revealed stone walls on the frontage of St. Nicholas Place, next to the 15th century Wygston’s House, and just 500mm down from current ground levels.

The substantial new treepits have come down onto medieval levels and in areas onto Roman stratigraphy too. The surfaces of the medieval street of Hotgate survived in one treepit, in an area otherwise cellared during the Victorian era. Some medieval occupation has also been identified, with slate lined cesspits being exposed.

The Roman levels have produced the edges (both sides) of the Fosse Way as it runs through town here just south of the forum. South of the road, was a roadside ditch and wall and the north-west corner of a stone building. Floor levels adjacent to this may be associated with a ‘mud-brick’ structure.

The Fosse Way itself survives well, with over 0.75m still preserved, and including metalling and areas of levelling on its margin. Half of a column drum of millstone grit was recovered from demolition above these levels.

**Newarke Precinct Wall Foundations looking north**

**Right - Fosse Way:- metalling surviving at the top.**  
**Left - Hotgate street levels in the west of site.**  
**Below - Roman stratigraphy surviving in one of the larger treepits. North-west corner of stone structure and Roman levels on the south side of the Fosse Way.**
Remembering Paul

Paul was born in Bristol, and began his digging career in Northamptonshire before moving to Gateway School in Leicester at the age of sixteen where he dug with the Archaeological Unit.

His first degree was in Archaeology at Cardiff. This was followed by an MA in English Local History at Leicester and a PhD thesis on the landscape history of Gwent in South-east Wales.

Paul was an expert on Welsh pottery and on medieval and later small finds. He was co-editor of the journal Post-Medieval Archaeology.

His main interests were in the combination of historical and archaeological evidence having had training in both disciplines. He had a long interest in North American historical archaeology and also had interests in pan-European archaeology but especially France and the Low Countries.

His research ranged from directing excavations at Tintern Abbey to researching the origins of the Saintonge pottery of thirteenth century France.

The first of over one hundred papers (on monastic granges) was published in this Society’s Transactions in 1981. He was honoured with an award by the American Society for Historical Archaeology at their Leicester conference in January 2013.

Locally, his work on monastic granges, Anstey and on various aspects of Leicester's history and archaeology will be a valuable asset to other researchers for many years to come.

Paul Courtney Memorial Conference
18 October 2014

On Saturday 18 October 2014 a conference will be held in the Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre in the Henry Wellcome Building at the University of Leicester in memory of Dr Paul Courtney, long-standing member of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and former editor of the SPMA’s journal ‘Post-Medieval Archaeology’.

The meeting, held jointly by the Finds Research Group and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, in collaboration with Yolanda Courtney, will be a celebration of Paul's many interests including his contribution to local history, finds research, ceramic studies and fortifications both here and abroad, and there will be a chance at the end of the day for those attending to raise a glass in Paul’s memory.

The Henry Wellcome Building is located on Lancaster Road, with ample car parking nearby.

Conference registration costs £15 for students/retired/unwaged delegates, £20 for others, and includes all refreshments, lunch, and a post-conference wine reception. To register for the conference download this registration form and send it with a cheque for the required amount made payable to “Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology” to:

Emma Dwyer
c/o Enterprise & Business Development Office
Fielding Johnson Building
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Programme (chaired by David Barker, Independent Archaeologist)

10.30–11.00 Registration & coffee
11.00–11.10 Welcome and introduction
11.10–11.25 Yolanda Courtney: Images of Paul
11.50–12.15 John Allan (Independent archaeologist): “Church woodcarvings and the archaeology of immigrant communities in South-West England, 1500–1600”
12.15–12.40 Deirdre O’Sullivan (University of Leicester): “From Places to Spaces: Recovering monastic dissolution in English towns in the 16th century”
12.40–14.00 Lunch and Finds Research Group AGM
14.00–14.25 Duncan Brown (English Heritage): “Ceramics, Cloisters, Castles and a little bit of Courtney”
14.50–15.15 Hugh Willmott (University of Sheffield): “A Bawdy Joke or Refined Dining? The Problems of Assigning Status and Meaning as Exemplified by Phallic Jugs”
15.15–15.45 Tea break
15.45–16.10 Julie Cassidy (Portable Antiquities Scheme/Finds Research Group): “Some finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme”
16.10–16.35 Stuart Campbell (Treasure Trove, National Museums Scotland): “The archaeology of a subculture; the material culture of the Georgian army”
16.45 Close; wine reception with canapés by Claire Hill
Use of the Library, both for borrowing and research, has been very low this year. Members must have stopped reading, or, what I suspect is more likely, is that access to this part of the city is now so difficult, both for walkers and especially for motorists, that people have given up trying to reach the Guildhall. The busiest day was at the beginning of June when a Guildhall tour came into the Jury Room and I was able to give the Society some publicity by telling the visitors about our presence there and how the Society “saved” the building years ago. Membership leaflets were duly handed out too.

Time has also been taken dealing with a number of enquiries from non-members (often with no subsequent thanks) who think that the Society runs a free research service. Nevertheless material continues to be acquired for the Library in spite of the lack of shelf/cupboard space. We are particularly grateful to those authors (some members, some not) and publishers who generously donate copies of their books, pamphlets, and periodicals.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

BANBURY, P. The Leicester & Swannington Railway in a nutshell. 2014. Donated by Mr.C.Hossack for the Leicestershire Industrial History Society.


CARROLL, P. The towers and bells of Leicestershire. 2014.


COX, B. The place-names of Leicestershire. Pt 6 Sparkenhoe Hundred. 2014.

DAVIS, B. & ZIENTEK, J. St. Leonard’s Misterton church guide. 2014. Donated by the authors.

ELVERSTONE, R. Absent through want of boots: diary of a Victorian school in Leicestershire. 2014. [Albert Road Board School, Hinckley].


HOLYOAK, V. But for these things: Leicester and its people in World War II. 2014. Donated by the author.

Lest we forget: in memory of the fallen in the Great War: North West Leicestershire. 2014.


These three volumes are the first in a series of five and have been donated by the North West Leicestershire Heritage Forum. A further volume is to be published at the end of this year with the final due in 2015.
News from the Society’s Library (concluded)

LUCAS, D. and others Wigston in the First World War. 2014.
PARKIN, D. The history of the Hospital of Saint John the Evangelist and of Saint Anne in Okeham. 2000. This is Oakham in Rutland.
PITTS, M. Digging for Richard III: how archaeology found the king. 2014.
RICHARDSON, M. Leicester in the Great War. 2014.

Mr. O. Cufflin of Knighton, Leicester kindly donated copies of two older local books:
HARTOPP, H. Roll of the Mayors of the Borough and Lord Mayors of the City of Leicester 1209 – 1935.
WADDINGTON, R.G. Leicester the making of a modern city.

PERIODICALS

Current Archaeology is not a magazine to which the Library has ever subscribed. However we have acquired a copy of Issue 294 Sept. 2014 which has two articles of particular local interest:
Finding Richard III: behind the scenes at the Grey Friars dig, which features the Committee’s Chairman Richard Buckley.
Richard revisited, about the new Visitor Centre.

The regular range of local and national titles continues to be received; some are from other societies in exchange for our Transactions. Some items of interest:
Ecclesiology Today 47 & 48 Jul. 2013 (pub. 2014) has an article on the Ledgerstone Survey of England and Wales which is looking for assistance. Any volunteers? Donated by Mr. I. Stevens.
Hinckley Historian 73 Summer 2014 is published in a new A5 format and includes Hall’s War (2nd Lt. Ernest Louis Hall, d. 6 Nov. 1917) and Burbage Charities. Donated by Mr. P. Lindley of Hinckley and District Museum.
Leicestershire Industrial History Society Newsletter Spring 2014. Donated by Mr. C. Hossack.
SPAB Magazine Spring 2014 includes a supplement Energy Efficiency in Old Buildings.
Summer 2014 has a report on Oakham Castle.
West Midlands History Vol.2 no.1 Spring 2014 features the glass industry of that area. (Sample issue).
Worcestershire Recorder Spring 2014 includes Bromsgrove Cemetery and the John Adams Memorial. John Adams was born in Ashby de la Zouch in 1766, the son of Thomas and Mary. By 1792 he was a partner in Coltman Adams & Co., hosiers, of Leicester. He died in 1858.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

Please note that the Library will be closed as usual from November to January. Sunday 19 October will be the final opening this year. It should reopen on Sunday 1 February 2015.
The story of our parks

Now in the Development stage of the Heritage Lottery Fund application process, the project team is looking to develop and design an Activity Plan which sets out a programme of events and activities that will run until the end of the project in December 2016.

This will include archival research and oral history projects as well as events such as guided walks, family fun days and an exhibition.

If you would like to help develop any activities, please get in touch; we would love to hear any suggestions and to create new partnerships.

Victoria Park, Leicester:
Gate Restoration Project

Leicester City Council is developing a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the historic wrought iron gates located in Victoria Park, designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and commissioned by Sir Jonathan North in memory of his late wife.

Lutyens, born in London 1869, was one of the finest British architects of his time. He is best known for designing country houses, a number of high profile buildings in New Delhi and war memorials across Europe including the memorial in Victoria Park, which incidentally is a very close match to the India Gate, another of Lutyns’ memorials. He also designed the Park Lodges on London Road, along with the gates, and those at the end of Peace Walk, leading out onto University Road.

Little is known about the gates or in fact the lady they were dedicated too, other than her husband was Sir Jonathan North. Born in Rothley in 1855, North became Mayor of Leicester in the First World War. He was re-elected three times and remained Mayor for the majority of the war. He was responsible for the development of the war memorial and commissioned the development of the lodges and gates in memory of his late wife, who died in 1930.

The gates are now Grade II listed and in poor condition so it is therefore essential to restore the gates and preserve this important piece of local and national history. We will be undertaking research into the gates themselves and would like anyone with knowledge or an interest in this subject to get involved.

The project will also look to connect residents to their local parks by researching the history of all the other large parks in Leicester. This includes; Abbey Park, Aylestone Hall Gardens, Aylestone Meadows, Beaumont Park, Bede Park, Braunstone Park, Castle Gardens, Castle Hill Country Park, Evington Park, Humberstone Park, Knighton Park, Shady Lane Arboretum, Spinney Hill Park, Victoria Park, Watermead Country Park and Western Park.

Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens,
OM, KCIE, PRA, FRIBA
1869-1944
Membership Matters
MATT BEAMISH (Membership Secretary)

The summer months have been quiet ones for your Membership Secretary so far as my LAHS duties are concerned. The late winter was busy with administrative duties and a need to establish clear communication with the Inland Revenue in order to secure the Gift Aid tax rebates which will give a very welcome boost to the Society's income.

The arrangement is now in place, and we will be starting to reap the benefit of the Gift Aid declarations that members have made. Each declaration increases the value of a membership to the Society by 1/5\textsuperscript{th} and for those higher rate tax payers among you can reclaim the surplus of tax paid over and above the basic rate gifted to the Society.

Society membership stands at 412 – a slight increase on previous years which is good news and reflects the benefits of membership and the excellent value that the subscription gives.

All members now have their own membership number – you can find yours on the letter that accompanies this Newsletter. The letter contains important information about your membership – your subscriptions paid, if we have an email address for you, and whether or not you have completed a Gift Aid declaration for your subscription. A reminder that the Individual rate is now £20, the Family rate is £25, and the Student rate is £6.

The great majority of members have paid their subs for 2014, although there are fifty or so of you yet to pay and quite a number of you are still paying at the old rates which were increased as of May 2012. Please do check and act on the information in the enclosed letter.

You can appreciate that continually chasing members for outstanding subscriptions takes a considerable time, and although the sums involved are generally small, they all add up. You can also appreciate that the cost of sending individual letters requesting these small amounts substantially reduces their value to the Society – so please do let us know an email address which can be used to contact you if need be if we do not have one for you.

I am unable to directly increase any subscriptions with the banks as all arrangements are Standing Orders rather than Direct Debit, and any increase has to be requested by you either by contacting your bank, or completing a new mandate form and returning it to me. I will record the details and forward on to your bank.

Members can now make any payments to the Society by PayPal in addition to the existing methods. The email address for payments is payments@lahs.org.uk.

Although not essential, there are a number of members with the same surnames, and the same initials, and quoting your membership number can help me not to make mistakes!

If your subscription is up to date, I have a current email address for you, and your Gift Aid declaration is up to date and reflects your wishes, you need do nothing.

However, some of you do need to:

- Send me a cheque for subscription arrears from this, or possibly also previous years.
- Update your Standing Order Mandate with your bank for 2015.
- Let me know a current email address which can be used to communicate important information about the Society and your membership.
- Complete and return a Gift Aid declaration.

Forms for Standing Orders, address and email updates, and Gift Aid Declarations can be found as part of the Membership Form on our website – www.le.ac.uk/lahs

Please accept my apologies for any mistakes on my part.

Value for money from the LAHS

Our printers, 4word Ltd (Bristol) and Central Print at Leicestershire County Council provide an excellent service, and quality products at a reasonable price.

However, the rising cost of distribution means that the overall cost of delivering the Transactions, Leicestershire Historian and Magazines to your door is more than your annual subscription.

You can really help by ensuring that your subscription is up-to-date and is gift-aided.

Providing an email account enables us to communicate with you without costly mail-outs.
Membership Form

Individual Membership £20 □
Family Membership £25 □
Student Membership £6 □

Surname ______________________ Forename ______________________ Title ______ Initials ________
Address    ________________________________________________________________________________
Post Code _________________ Telephone  _________________________
Email Address __________________________________
(Email is essential but is only used for communicating information with members)

I wish to become a member at the rate indicated above. I enclose a cheque/completed Standing Order form/I have made a
Standing Order arrangement with my bank/I have paid by PayPal (delete as applicable).

If paying by Standing Order please make your own arrangement with your bank/building society, or complete
and return the mandate below to the Hon Membership Secretary. Pay online by Paypal at www.lahs.org.uk

Data Protection Act - I/We agree to my/our names being stored on a computer database

Signature/s   ______________________________________ Date _______________

Gift Aid declaration
Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society
Please treat my subscription payments as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax
for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs
that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand
the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Title _______ First name or initial(s) _________________ Surname ______________________________________________
Full Home address _______________________________________________________________________________________
Postcode ________________ Signature _______________________________________ Date _________________________

Please notify LAHS if you change your name or home address, wish to cancel this declaration, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Standing Order Mandate
To __________________________________________ Bank/Building Society
Address: __________________________________________
________________________________________ Postcode __________

Please pay Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS): £____ now and on the 1st May next, and annually thereafter (delete as applicable), to their bank at:
Nat West Bank, Leicester Customer Service Centre, 1 Western Boulevard, Bede Island, Leicester LE2 7EJ.
Sort Code 60-60-06 Account Number 87270080

Name (print) __________________________________________ Account Name __________________________________________
Sort Code ___ ___ ___ Account Number ______________________

Signature _______________________________________ Date _______________