The Magazine

The magazine and newsletter of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society was founded in 1855 to promote the study of the history, archaeology, antiquities and architecture of Leicestershire.

Each year, the Society produces its Transactions as well as the Leicestershire Historian and two editions of the Magazine. The Society also arranges an annual season of talks at the New Walk Museum, issues occasional publications and offers excursions and other special events.

For membership information and enquiries please contact the Membership Secretary, Matthew Beamish, by email to: mgb3@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 5234.
The W.Alan North Memorial Lecture

We are delighted announce that the 1026 W.Alan North Memorial Lecture will be given by Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, University of Cambridge.

The title of the lecture is Herculaneum: past perfect, future conditional. The date is Thursday 10 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Victorian Gallery at the New Walk Museum.

As we know this will be popular with our membership, we ask you to please book your seats in advance. Please see Page 24 for full details.

A major bequest for the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

In September 2015, the LAHS received a communication from a firm of local solicitors to advise that the Society had been mentioned in the will of a gentleman whose estate they were managing.

They asked for confirmation that we were a registered charity as this would have a bearing on any monies that could come our way. It was further explained that the bequest was intended ‘to provide a lecture each year on the High Medieval Period of the East Midlands to be given by anyone from Leicester University or other suitable qualified person …’

We had no further communication until just before Christmas, when the Honorary Secretary received a large package of papers by recorded delivery. It was only after reading through many pages of legal notices, that the actual scale of the (pre-tax) bequest was indicated - and the figure required several attempts to read in order to ensure that there were no misunderstandings or misconceptions. We discovered that Mr John Scarborough has bequeathed to the Society investments with a current value of £863,843.00.

In the last financial year, the LAHS enjoyed an income of just over £25,000, and spent almost as much. Over the past five years, the Society’s income has averaged about £18,000, and we have struggled to keep within that budget whilst maintaining our regular publications at a consistently high standard.

Although the fine detail of the bequest is still to be indicated to us, including any tax for which we may be liable, and how much of this sum may be immediately available to us, this is a major event in the Society’s 161 year history. Needless to say, we shall be keeping the membership fully informed of deliberations in the months to come.
Mary Sloane - A Portrait of the artist

An important exhibition of Leicester born artist and one-time LAHS member Mary Annie Sloane (1867-1961)

In the 2013 edition of the Leicestershire Historian, LAHS member SHIRLEY AUCOTT wrote an article about Mary Sloane which attracted the attention of a member of Mary’s family. Meetings and discussions followed which led to negotiations with the New Walk Museum and has resulted in this much-welcomed exhibition.

‘We are all agreed that her contribution to the Arts and Crafts Movement needs to be acknowledged and valued in Leicestershire, as well as further afield.’

Writing in the Spring 2015 issue of this Magazine, Shirley also emphasised that Mary should be recognised as a pioneering woman who helped to forge a path for other women artists to follow at a time when their artistic talents were not always recognised, or valued.

‘Her watercolours and etchings of Leicester and Leicestershire scenes and its past trade of Framework Knitting are an important part of the county’s heritage.’

The exhibition opens on Friday 25 March 2016 and continues until Sunday 3 July 2016 in Gallery 7 of the New Walk Museum.

Members of the Society are invited to a private viewing of the exhibition on Thursday 12 May 2016 at 7.30pm as part of the 2015/16 Lecture Season. The viewing will be led by Simon Lake, Curator of Fine Art, Leicester Museum Service.
November is a time of great change at the Park with the green trees transformed to autumnal hues and the beginning of their leaf fall. The deer ended the rut and entered a period of gathering. The elusive red deer can be seen in large social groups of mixed gender – a herd of 33 deer were spotted on the floodplain last week. Unfortunately for the deer this is also the time when the culling programme restarts.

While we ponder the possibilities of witnessing ecological changes that may have been the raison d'être for the Late Upper Palaeolithic occupation the excavation continues. Seven spits of 20mm depth have now been removed systematically with all worked flint of 10mm+ size plotted by GPS (all team members are now proficient at this). The GPS data is downloaded daily allowing updated plots which inform our interpretations and demonstrates any need for extending the site limit. We have been exploring the limits to east, west and south and feel confident that we have found the main locus of activity. The wet weather is used as an opportunity to clear the sieving backlog and process the finds. On-site flint assessment allows for identification of the tools and by-products: identification lags behind the excavation logging by a week or so. There are circa 2,500 logged finds and countless pieces of micro-debitage from the sieving. Tools number over a 130 and it seems that every day another text book tool is revealed.

The plots suggest that the scatter has good spatial integrity with identifiable knapping zones and activity areas. Most of the tools are broken which bodes well for future spatial analysis – tools were likely left at their point of breakage. The tool classes and dispositions suggest that we have gearing up for the hunt (projectile point manufacture), re-tooling (replacement of damaged points) and subsequent processing of the catch (numerous scrapers, retouched blades and piercers). If there is a palimpsest of activities this may well have occurred over a period of weeks during one autumn c. 14,500 years ago. This seasonal model has some support from the findings from the Creswellian cave sites: summer hunting of wild horse is known from the southern caves (eg Gough’s Cave) while there is evidence of over-wintering at Creswell Crags. The two known open air Creswellian sites, Bradgate Park and Wey Manor Farm, Surrey) suggest that small groups operated in the landscape with seasonal aggregations at the cave sites.

Our best find? Very difficult to say as many exquisite examples of tools have been unearthed. However, there was some audible rustling of anorak when a core was found last week. The blade core had been carefully worked by an expert artisan, but the final workings were inept, almost certainly the hand of a young child. A similar core was found at Wey Manor Farm.

Left : A solitary young stag feeding .
Right: A successful stag parades with his harem on the floodplain. Perhaps similar behaviour occurred in the Late Glacial period and heralded the start of the hunting season where aggregations allowed successful kills.

Broughton Astley, Broughton Way (Tim Higgins)
Back in October 2012 trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed mixed use development, off Broughton Way at the northern edge of the village of Broughton Astley. Geophysical survey had identified linear anomalies, some of which were probably Iron Age or Roman. The evaluation trenches subsequently confirmed the presence of a ditched
Hallaton (Vicki Score)

This year at Hallaton saw us abandoning the medieval chapel to try and find more information about the Roman features underneath of which there is much, many intercutting with pottery dating from the first to fourth century although some earlier material and two Iron Age sherds were also found.

The square enclosure around the chapel was shown to comprise a medieval stone wall on the alignment of a Roman ditch, although we were unable to find either of the corners we were looking for.

enclosure, probably a Late Iron Age farmstead. In September this year an excavation confirmed the presence of an extensive rectangular farmstead with large number of internal post holes, possible storage pits and potential livestock pens. The alignment and arrangement of some of the post holes suggest potential structures. Some of the pits displayed near vertical sides and may have been used for storage. The upper part of a Beehive quern and a possible saddle quern were found within two of these pits. A large number of Iron Age pottery sherds were also found within the various features.

The results of the fieldwork suggest that there was evidence that the enclosure was possibly remodelled with the southern extension added and some of the ditches were recut and cleared. However the arrangement and number of internal features would suggests that farmstead was a short-lived settlement.

Bradgate Late Upper Palaeolithic site - The excavation as spit 5 is completed. The exposed rocks are a talus deposit derived from the weathering of the grano-diorite outcrop during the Late Glacial Maximum. The flints are situated in the top of the deposit while the stone-free head deposit (to left) yields lots of bracken roots but few tools. It is suspected that this area was always damp and was avoided.

Leicester, Bath Lane, Friars Mill (Donald Clark, with Sue Henderson, Luis Fareleira Gomes and Carlos Merino)

Following on from John Thomas’s evaluation of a small area earmarked for a new building close to the Bath Lane frontage, and the discovery of a well preserved Roman structure, a larger area was stripped for more detailed investigation.

Although partly robbed, several courses of superstructure of the north-south wall of a substantial building survived, together with an associated mortar floor on the east side. The northern end of this wall then joined an east west wall with much deeper foundations. Although some tesserae and fragments of wall plaster were found on the site, the overall impression seems to be of a large utilitarian structure, presumably tucked in adjacent
indicating a deep and apparently long lived sequence of Roman activity on this part of the site including a complex series of occupation layers & floor surfaces associated with possible post-holes or beam slots at the base of the sequence. Above this were layers of made ground upon which there was later Roman occupation, represented by robbed stone walls mostly running N-S (with one E-W exception).

The walls may represent one large or two smaller buildings associated with with tessellated floors, of which fragments survived. Pottery from the medieval pits indicate a wide span of occupation. Several contained complete or substantially complete pots, whilst others had preserved timber linings, and were probably cess pits, rubbish pits and wells in the backyards of Southgates properties. Some stone-lined pits represent later medieval activity whilst 18th century occupation is indicated by a brick-lined well that contained an interesting ceramic and glass assemblage that had been dumped in as the feature went out of use. This included a range of fine and coarse ware pottery

The site is also that of Leicester’s earliest factory – Friars Mill – which has now been restored after a major fire. We were treated to the spectacle of the cupola being craned into position watched by a small crowd, including the City Mayor and, from the top of a cherry picker, Dave Myers (of Hairy Bikers fame ) who is making a programme for the BBC on the restoration of historic buildings.

Leicester, Southgate Street (John Thomas, Mathew Morris)

At very short notice (the piling rigs were already on site) ULAS were appointed to carry out excavations on the site partially evaluated by Albion Archaeology in 2012 where well preserved Roman archaeology had been revealed. Two areas were examined in the autumn of 2015 where new student blocks were to be constructed. The northern was close to the Southgate Street frontage and covered what appeared to have been two medieval plots delimited by the remains of at least two boundary walls. Medieval pitting covered much of the excavation area, leaving tantalising ‘islands’ of Roman stratigraphy between them.

(Above and below) Examples of the ceramic assemblage from the 18th century well

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including early porcelain plates, tea bowls and saucers as well as several miniatures including a teapot. Coarse wares included a number of Pancheon ware bowls and dishes.

The assemblage also contained a collection of complete wine/brandy bottles and medicinal bottles. Useful dating evidence was provided by one pottery sherd decorated with a raised dot crown motif above a hand-painted ‘G R’. It is hoped that clearer idea of the dating will be established if the decorative style on the pottery can be identified.

The southern area, close to the Southgates frontage, was relatively unscathed by medieval activity, with just large pits quarrying Roman street gravels. One large rectangular pit produced a very fine assemblage of late medieval/early post-medieval table wares, glazed ridge tiles, roof slates, iron fittings and a number of interesting small finds including an iron arrowhead and a copper alloy spear head. Gaps between pit clusters and surviving gave clues to medieval plot boundaries, otherwise there was little evidence of medieval structures. The Roman sequence was very well preserved, the area covering the north-western corner of a Roman insula with the intersection of two cambered gravelled streets, one north-south and one east-west, running along the western and northern sides of the excavation. The north-south street is of particular significance as it is previously unrecorded in this part of town. Running along the eastern and southern side of the streets was a substantial stone boundary wall, mostly robbed but with two sections still in-situ. There were five courses of surviving superstructure, with evidence at the base for clay waterproofing as protection against water run-off from the street.

In section, activity behind the wall, inside the insula, was quiet with a thick deposit of ‘garden’ soil building up against the face of the wall. However, in the later Roman period, a series of crude structures appear to have been built up against the wall – shallow stone wall footings, crude stone floors, post-holes and a series of industrial features very reminiscent of those seen on the Highcross site Freeschool Lane. A large number of late Roman coins have been recovered from these surfaces, as well as other copper-alloy artefacts and slag and it might be that the furnaces are for reclamation of metals. The excavations finished in October 2015.
Excavation provided supplementary constructional details of the manor house, including evidence for a chimney and hearth base and beamslots and hints of north and south cross-passages in the central hall range.

The hearth base (15) was constructed from flat sandstone slabs, degraded from heat reddening, with a chimney built around it on three sides. A lip around the front of the hearth possibly represented a second hearth, and was associated with a fragment of cobbled flooring. The entire structure was set upon a rough rubble base and measured 3.4m x 1.2m and 0.26m in height.

Post-medieval window masonry fragments from the fabric of a modern drain indicate post-medieval modifications to the building subsequent to its c.1505 construction date. A modern associated external drain produced several window masonry fragments, reused as drain lining. The ovolo moulded mullioned and transomed masonry is likely to derive from a late 16th or 17th century phase of building alteration.

Lubbesthorpe, Lubbesthorpe Bridle Way (Wayne Jarvis)

Further trial trenching and excavation in the area of the MBA cremation burials. Although the site had been badly ploughed out, further pits were excavated which produced cremated bone, and what is probably pyre material in a larger pit nearby. Trenching is continuing (at the time of writing at Trench number 183!), and has mostly been quiet, confirming previous trenching results and geophysical survey. However an area of good features potentially of Neolithic date has been identified and this will entail further work with trenching and an open-area strip.

Melton Mowbray, Sysonyby Riverside Farm (Wayne Jarvis)

Series of features identified here, in a follow up to previous work that had only identified c.18th century activity. Most of the features from the current work are probably related to the medieval ‘lost village’ site of Sysonyby, as we are adjacent to the church, and a medieval moated site lies just to the south-east. These features consist of some occupation and also large ditches. Some evidence may be later and associated with the ornamental gardens of 17-18th century date, and a couple of early features with a background ‘noise’ of struck flint hinting at earlier activity.

Oakham Castle (Leon Hunt)

The first phase of a continuing series of archaeological interventions throughout November during restoration work at Oakham Castle. This first phase focused on the widening of the pathway around the western side of the Hall, the footprint of a new toilet block (partially under the footprint of the newly demolished boiler house) and a slot through the northern rampart to evaluate the level of survival of the rampart wall, which had been recently cleared of foliage.

Time Team (with some members of ULAS) carried out a dig here in 2013 where they found sections of two walls (or different phases), possibly the remains of a solar block which once lay to the west of the Great Hall. In light of some remains we discovered during a test pit excavated along the line of the pathway we also resurrected the Time Team trench to try to relate our new remains to theirs.

Tugby, Manor Farm, Main Street (Roger Kipling)

ULAS carried out a strip, plan and sample excavation at Manor Farm, Main Street, Tugby, Leicestershire, unfortunately following the recent demolition of the manor house. An earlier building survey by Neil Finn had established the Old Manor Farm House was probably constructed as a 2-storey hall and cross-wing house around 1505, based on tree ring dating of roof timbers. The hall range was of timber-frame construction and the high end cross-wing to the south of the hall had a stone-built ground storey and timber-framed upper story.

The east front of the hall range was rebuilt in the later 17th or 18th century and alterations to its rood structure were made around the same time. A substantial north cross-wing was added towards the end of the 18th century, replacing the original in-line service end, and resulting in a house of near symmetrical H-plan.

Excavated plan of the manor house (above) and the fireplace and hearth base (below)
The Blue Box - still moving forward

KEITH PARE

With demolition notices up at Snibston Discovery Museum, what is the future of Leicestershire's largest museum artefact, the ‘Century Theatre’?

Known affectionately as ‘The Blue Box’, this unique former mobile theatre has been designated a ‘Theatre at Risk’ by the Theatres’ Trust, which is deeply disappointing after the tremendous work put in by council staff and volunteers over the last few years to build a programme and attract increasing audience and revenue.

Conceived in 1948 by engineer John Ridley, and constructed in Hinckley 1948-52, the entire structure, which had space for an audience of 225, could be folded up and moved to a different location every two weeks. Four ex-RAF Crossley tractors were needed to pull each of the four 30ft trailers which made up the auditorium. Imagine the scene as it took to the road in 1952 with these huge juggernauts, followed by six trailers for the cast and crew, - two bed-sitting rooms, a dining car, kitchen, booking office and bathroom. It must have been a welcome sight to communities devastated after the war.

The Century Theatre toured the country for twenty-three years before becoming a permanent fixture at Keswick, where it gained the nickname ‘The Blue Box’. It remained in Keswick until 1996 until returning home to Leicestershire in December 1996, to be sited at Snibston Discovery Park in Coalville. A new two storey front of house addition was added in 2011 providing a mezzanine lounge bar, toilet facilities and disability access.

Despite the closure of Snibston Discovery Museum in July 2015 due to County Council budget cuts, the Century Theatre programme continues to provide a wide variety of acts. Friday night Century Cinema has a cult following with heritage ‘B’ movies including items from the Pathe collection and British Transport Films accompanying the latest commercial films. High quality touring theatre is a regular treat and a strong series of stand up comedy acts such as Alan Carr, Alistair McGowan and Jon Richardson has produced regular sell out shows. As someone joked on Twitter “Comedy in a folding theatre? You’ll be creased!”

For heritage lovers, I have to recommend “A Brief History Of Music” on the 15th April. Beginning in the Middle Ages and ending up in the 20th century this fun and fast-moving show takes in 600 years of musical history in 90 minutes! Another highlight of our forthcoming attractions will be the touring drama "Call Mr. Robeson - A life, with songs" on Friday 18 March. Written and performed by Tayo Aluko, this award-winning portrayal of actor, singer and political activist Paul Robeson received a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall, New York.

New brown tourist signs now direct theatre lovers from Ashby Road. Please don’t be put off by the bulldozers dismantling the former Discovery Museum. If this unique treasure is to survive, it needs your support. Have a look at the website for what’s on next http://www.centurytheatre.co.uk
The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society
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A Matter of Transcription?

During recent research, LAHS Officer DAVID RAMSEY encountered a particularly challenging document, the transcription of which requires an element of imagination and lateral thinking.

David writes ‘I came across the extract taken from a letter written in the 2nd Marquess of Dorset's own hand recently (The insert below is from (British History on Line) and wondered if the father of the Marquess (Elizabeth Woodville's eldest son) had also had, what appears to be problems similar to Dyslexia.’

Thomas Grey, the 2nd Marquess, as a young lad, was taken to the safety of France by his father, where he joined Henry Tudor who was preparing for his return to England. This may well have upset his subsequent periods of education.

Dorset owned land in sixteen English counties and was a justice of the peace in several of them. In 1516, during a rivalry in Leicestershire with George, Baron Hastings, and Sir Richard Sacheverell, Dorset unlawfully increased his retinue at court and was brought before the Star Chamber and the Court of King's Bench. He was bound over for good behaviour. As part of this rivalry, he greatly enlarged his ancestral home at Bradgate, here in Leicestershire.

For those who enjoy (relatively trivial) historic associations, it is interesting to note that in 1530, in the final months of his life, Dorset assisted the King in the condemnation of Cardinal Wolsey who, as we know, died in Leicester on his way back to London to face the charge of treason.

Furthermore, a contemporary of Dorset was Thomas White whose local philanthropy is commemorated on Leicester’s clocktower. White was member of the Commission for the trial of Lady Jane Grey. Jane was Dorset’s grand-daughter.

Since the writing of his "other" letters a packet of letters and instructions had arrived from the King. Being on the point of dispatching other matters they judge it best to proceed, and not to join those matters and the other together. [Thus far in a clerk's hand; the rest in Dorset's own.] The first time Suffolk broke with the French King of their charge he desired Dorset to help him and spoke only of Navarre, "to see how he would take it, and to prove further his mind and see what we could get of him; who byhawfe (behaved) him with marvellous good words touching our master, but nothing to the purpose of Navarre, but ever to grope us and know the uttermost of our minds. And why assure (we answer) hym wete plesante vorde agayn ever [now] and thane gropanye ake him agayn; and when [he] saw it vholde by none hodyre vheys (otherwise) a kalyth (he called) [us to] bankete, and made hus ete and draynge by his bede; [and] that done a bade us goude nyde, and sayd [his Council] sude come in the mornynge to hus [; and we determin]yd to by has golse (?) to theyme ha[s we were to the] kyng and vy vher in dyd (we were indeed) by the ... ynynge to theyme. ... that we had none hod[yre] ... they demandyt ofe hws vyder [v]y had any] tynge eles to say, and why sayd vy trote and p[rayed them] to be pleyne vythe hus and ife vy so fonde they[m we] voldé by so vythe theyme; and so they departyth to [the] Kyng, and kame the nex day to hws and opy[nyd] ther to hus the Kyngys plesyre and myndé so largely to hus that why vhele parse vyth (we well perceived) they [dealt] pleyne vyth thus and hes thanges kyfynge (thanks given) to [them and] prosedet farder in hore mater; and thane they b[egan] to lóke hone apone.

(From Henry VIII 1514 21–30 British History on line)
Membership Matters
MATT BEAMISH, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Society membership is stable at around 420 private members with a steady flow of new members to replace those who resign or are deceased.

Institutional membership includes around 70 societies and libraries in the United Kingdom, mainland Europe and further afield including the United States, Japan and Australia.

As membership secretary, my role includes managing day to day enquiries, joining new members, and posting out society publications to new members and institutional subscribers. I maintain a database in which membership records are kept – this includes contact information, email addresses, records of payments received, Gift Aid declarations, invoices sent out, and publications despatched. I have developed the relational database in Microsoft Access using some custom scripting, and the database is encrypted to protect member’s information.

Subscription rates remain unchanged at £20 Individual, £25 Family, and £6 Student. Some 20 members have still yet to update Standing Orders which are still paying at the old rates which were increased as of May 2012, and have also yet to send me top up cheques for any balances due. Email remains a very effective way of contacting members directly – I can now communicate with 84% of the membership electronically.

If you have not received any emails from me (mgb3@le.ac.uk), and you have an email address do please let me know! If you do not have an email address then consider having one!

All subscriptions paid directly to the Society from member’s bank accounts are Standing Orders rather than Direct Debits: 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 am unable to alter a Standing Order arrangement on your behalf. 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 some of these with same initials - quoting your membership number can help me not to make simple mistakes!

If you are unclear on the state of your subscription, please do just ask – email, write or call. I can give you up to date, accurate information by return of email.

I am continuing to make Gift Aid claims from HMRC – this is giving a very useful boost to the Society’s income: If you cannot remember having made a recent Gift Aid Declaration and you are a UK tax payer, then please do make one in favour of the Society. It will increase the value of your subscription to LAHS by 1/5. If you are a higher rate tax payer, you can claim back the amount of tax paid on the subscription above the base rate. If you have previously made a Declaration and your circumstances have changed (i.e. you no longer pay tax, or have started to pay tax) then please do contact me so I can adjust my records. If you cannot remember if you have or haven’t made a Declaration, then please do contact me and I will tell you. My database system is quite sophisticated, and the relevant information is quickly at hand.

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

History Group seeks British United Memories and Documents

The BU History Group is planning a follow-up publication to their ‘BU People’ book which was published in 2014, and are inviting past employees of the British United Shoe Machinery Company and their relatives and families to submit material and memories which could be included.

The BU History Group was formed in 2012 with the aim of recording the history of the BU from the people who were connected with it. The history of this major company represents a significant part of the history of Britain’s recent industrial past.

W.Alan North (centre right), whose legacy the LAHS celebrates each year, was an apprentice at British United, following in his father’s footsteps. He rose to serve as the company’s Overseas Manager. At that time, BUSM was the world’s largest manufacturer of footwear machinery, exporting to over fifty countries, and employing in Leicester alone more than 4500 people. The BU History Group can be contacted through Burt McNeill by emailing burtmcneill@ntlworld.com.

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De Montfort University Heritage Centre

ELIZABETH WHEELBAND

Built around the only remaining ruins of the medieval Church of the Annunciation, De Montfort University’s Heritage Centre immerses visitors into the fascinating story of The Newarke.

The area grew into a significant religious precinct during the 1300s with the foundation of the Hospital of the Honour of God and the Glorious Virgin and All Saints (thankfully shortened to Trinity Hospital in 1614) by Henry, 3rd Duke of Leicester and Lancaster.

Henry was the grandson of King Henry III and chief advisor to King Edward III. Upon his retirement he took residence in Leicester Castle and founded the hospital, which cared for fifty of Leicester’s poor and infirm, as an act of noble piety.

Following Henry’s death in 1345 his son, another Henry (the 4th Earl of Leicester and 1st Duke of Lancaster), continued his father’s charitable spirit and built the Church of the Annunciation just across from the hospital. Locals coined the construction of the church and its surrounding buildings as the “new work,” which was eventually corrupted to Newarke, giving the area its name.

The church performed a chantry function for the house of Lancaster (meaning deans, canons and vicars prayed for the souls of local people or those who could afford to endow a chantry chapel in the church) until it was destroyed during the Reformation in 1548.

The land was then sold into private hands and a large manor house with gardens was constructed on the site, which had several prestigious local owners in its lifetime including the Coltmans and Edward Shipley Ellis.

In 1897, the house and surrounding land was sold for the creation of the Leicester Municipal Technical and Art School (now known as the Hawthorn Building of De Montfort University).

Construction of this building took place in several phases and the old house was not demolished until 1935 when two arches from the ruins of the Church of the Annunciation were surprisingly discovered in the cellar, along with bones, coffins and artefacts.

The arches were considered a significant find and the School decided to retain them within the institution, incorporating them into the design of the new building. They remain in their original location today and can now be seen by the general public in the Hawthorn Building as the centrepiece of the new DMU Heritage Centre.

The motivation to create a Heritage Centre within the university arose for many reasons, one of which was the desire to give more prominence to the ruins in the wake of the discovery of the remains of Richard III. There is contemporary evidence that Richard’s body was displayed in the Church of the Annunciation following his defeat at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. It is documented that he remained in the church for three days before his burial at Greyfriars.

Joining in the local interest of Richard III’s discovery, there was a desire within the university to make more of these seemingly random arches on campus and highlight their connection to the story that captivated historians world-wide.

Partly driven by Leicester City Council’s Heritage Team, who included the previously isolated ruins in their Richard III walking trail, DMU began to consider the importance of having the arches available...
The DMU Heritage Centre itself has been divided into four separate galleries, focusing on different aspects of the university’s life: the Timeline Corridor, The Arches area, a Temporary Gallery and the Student Gallery. Visiting the DMU Heritage Centre requires walking down a length of corridor in the Hawthorn Building, which has been turned into a timeline of significant dates in the institution’s history, drawing almost exclusively on material from the archive for illustration. Using the corridor in this way has the added bonus of enticing curious students, staff and internal guests who use the space daily, and pop-in after noticing the displays.

The panels around the arches tell the story of the Church of the Annunciation and the wider development of the campus site from Roman Settlement, with a case displaying some fantastic examples of local medieval artefacts.

Two gallery spaces, the Temporary Gallery and the Student Gallery, are planned to change every six months and highlight some of the remarkable objects we have in our Special Collections- consisting of archives, artworks and objects dating back to our foundation in 1870, which may not have been on public display otherwise. These two galleries will also allow us to showcase the outstanding contemporary work of our staff, students and alumni.

As the curator, I am (secretly) most excited about working with these galleries as they will allow me to work hands on with some amazing and revolutionary projects going on in the university. In fact, having this unlimited diversity and constant academic discovery available at our fingertips is what makes the Heritage Centre unique.

A fundamental aspect of the Centre is its function as an active teaching and learning space. Being connected to a university has sparked several fantastic relationships with academics looking for the appropriate place to host projects, or even to provide inspiration for ones yet to be conceived.

The Heritage Centre has its origins in this type of thinking as the space itself was partially created with the help of students. Second year Interior Design students were invited to submit proposals to the overall layout of the space, guided by their tutor who has a background in museum design.

Aspects of designs from eight different students were realised in the final layout of the centre and they were thrilled to be involved in a ‘live’ project, finding the experience highly beneficial as a real world experience.

Other projects include work from DMU’s Digital Building Heritage Group, who contributed two remarkable pieces to the Centre; firstly, a stunning digital reconstruction of the Church of the Annunciation.

Although no images of the original church exist, the Group used a mixture of documentary evidence, maps and drawings to imagine how the church would have looked. They also went on field trips to examine examples of similar buildings of the same age in the area. The reconstruction images are currently on display in the Heritage Centre and prove popular with visitors interested in the arches.

Additionally, this recreation has now been printed as an impressive 3D model which shows, for the first time, how the church may have looked, both inside and out. The model allows guests to examine both the exterior and interior of the church and see for themselves how the arches might have appeared in context within the building.
The Group is currently working on a fly-through of the Newarke, which will debut later this year and showcase a virtual tour of the church and surrounding buildings.

This standard of student involvement is something that will continue throughout the life of the Heritage Centre, and helping to drive its success as a perpetual archive of student achievement.

The Special Collections Team is very proud that the university has invested in its heritage in such a prominent way, and that it has been received so warmly by colleagues, partners and strangers. We are ecstatic that the Heritage Centre is being used to promote teaching and learning and that the space provides a focal point for the university community to gain a sense of its shared past, celebrate its present successes, and look forward to the future.

The Centre has several current temporary exhibitions which are on display until 8 April 2016.

**Road to Reform**

Last year the country celebrated two major anniversaries in the evolution of Parliamentary democracy – 750 years since the first Parliament and 800 years since the sealing of the Magna Carta. Timed to complement these anniversaries, *Road to Reform* highlights some of the most radical events in British political history, exploring the growth of democracy and the struggle many have endured in pursuit of representation and the right to vote. These moments have ignited passion and change, shaping the contemporary rights we have today.

*Road to Reform* also explores how Leicester has always been something of a radical city, its citizens eager to campaign for reform. The exhibition considers the careers of some local figures prominent in reform, abolition, temperance and suffrage.

**Contemporary Protest**

Organised in partnership with De Montfort University’s Media Discourse Group, this exhibition examines the resurgence of social movements in Europe and beyond, with special reference to events in the UK and protest on the Spanish mainland.

*Contemporary Protest* explores the themes of austerity, national identity and political discontent to understand the experiences of those who have decided to resist.

**Building DMU - Later in 2016**

In line with exciting recent developments taking place throughout De Montfort University – including the £136 million transformation project to create the modern, inspiring environment our students deserve – this exhibition will explore the history and people behind the buildings that shape our campus.

**Showcase: Leicester School of Architecture**

The Leicester School of Architecture (LSA) is one of the oldest schools of architecture in the UK, with a 125-year history of technical excellence and creativity.

Today the LSA is a contemporary design school offering the full spectrum of architectural education, with particular interests in sustainable architecture, urban regeneration and the role of clients and users in cross-disciplinary design education.

The school’s BA programme was placed in the top 10 architecture courses in the country in the latest Sunday Times league tables.

This exhibition highlights the history behind this notable programme and showcases a range of student work and achievement.

Elizabeth Wheelband is De Montfort University’s Heritage Centre Co-ordinator. For more information on the Heritage Centre including opening hours please visit www.dmu.ac.uk/heritagecentre or ring 0116 207 8729.
Textile Town

DAVE POSTLES

Although a native of Leicester, from an unskilled working-class background on the Northfields Council Estate, I now regard myself as a son of Loughborough, having moved to its vicinity in 1989.

Having completed an open-access book on this town (which acquired borough status only towards the end of the nineteenth-century) from origins to c.1650, I am now embarking on an analysis of the development of the textile town between c.1750 and 1890 (the end-date the approximate conjunction of borough status and the Housing of the Working Classes Act). The first element will be published in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society in 2016, consisting of the structural transformation of land ownership between c.1650 and 1890.

Another piece will then elaborate the spatial expansion of the town between c.1812 and 1890. It will reveal the spatial differentiation of expansion, with some locations already 'polluted' or blighted by the wharf, the gas works, so that working-class housing was concentrated here, whilst other locations, associated with the aristocratic and gentry parks above the town, were more conducive for higher-quality housing (Sibley). For the development in the crucial 1880s, the minutes of the Local Board building committee contain the details of plans submitted, which allows some consideration of the building process.

Currently I am engaged on two particular aspects: enterprise and eclipse; and the boatpeople in Loughborough and the lower Soar valley. The first extracts data on boatpeople in Loughborough and the lower Soar valley (in particular Mountsorrel and to a lesser extent Kegworth) reveals that in Loughborough the families were not separate but well integrated into their local society. They lived in houses interspersed amongst other occupations. Their children took advantage of the local industrial occupations, daughters (and wives) especially entering into the textile factories. Boatmen were recruited from other families which had no involvement in the occupation.

These research projects are still in progress. These tentative conclusions are provisional. Loughborough was undeniably a textile town and the economic, social and cultural ramifications of that character will have to be confronted, as also the technical aspects of mixed cloth like Angola and the variety of coarse textiles produced.

DAVE POSTLES, formerly Marc Fitch Research Fellow in the School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester, and latterly University Fellow in the School of English in the same university, is now Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire.
Looking for Richard III

Writer, producer and President of the Scottish Branch of the Richard III Society, PHILIPPA LANGLEY talks to Magazine editor, Stephen Butt

We first met in 2012 as you were completing your research into the Greyfriars, and I was intrigued. How had a screenwriter launched the first ever search for the grave of an anointed King of England?

I’d been researching Richard’s life-story for a biographical screenplay I was writing. Part of that research work had taken me to Bosworth in 2004/5 when some Ricardians (members of the Richard III Society) suggested that I also visit Leicester. Amongst the places of interest was the New Street car park and a piece of medieval wall in an existing wall there which they believed may have formed part of the large Greyfriars precinct that had once existed in the area, and where we believed Richard had been buried in its church in 1485.

These visits to Leicester changed everything for me. It was in the adjacent Social Services car park that I first conceived the idea of finding the king’s grave. It also changed my research focus from Richard’s life, to his death and burial.

In your lectures you speak at length about the challenges you faced. Can you tell us a little about them?

It soon became clear that to have any hope of being able to go in search of Richard’s grave I needed to answer three key questions, which in 2005 looked insurmountable: How could we identify Richard if we found him? Was his grave really there, or had his body been thrown into the River Soar as everyone believed? And where was the Church of the Greyfriars located within the large friary area? But within a few months new research was published.

It was the ground-breaking discovery. Dr John Ashdown-Hill had discovered an all-female line of descent from Richard’s eldest sister Anne of York to the Ibsen family in Canada and with it the potential mtDNA sequence of Richard III. Question one was answered. We could potentially identify Richard if we found him. Then, a few years later, John also published research that confirmed for me that the ‘bones in the river’ story was a myth, and that Richard’s body remained where it had been interred in 1485 in the Greyfriars Church. As my own research dovetailed with John’s in terms of the River Soar account, only one question now remained – where was the Greyfriars Church in the large precinct area?

By now I was searching the Richard III Society’s archives and a key article on the Grey Friars had been published in 1975 by Ricardian Audrey Strange who lived in Oadby. Audrey was the very first person to mention the three central car parks as the potential location of the church, and the king’s grave, but an omission in the footnoting gave no explanation for this belief.

However, two local historians, David Baldwin and Ken Wright, also questioned the ‘bones in the river’ story and placed the church and grave in the north-east of the precinct site in Grey Friars (street) under a bank building and road. But in 2007 a block of flats was being demolished and a dig undertaken at that location. No trace of the church was found. This dig was key for me as together with the accounts of local writers (from the seventeen and eighteen century), it now suggested that the church must be further west, where the Social Services car park is located.

At the 2012 dig, my mantra (which was edited out of the documentary) was ‘church-road-church’ as research into these various writers spoke about the ‘Gray Friars’ being to the south of St Martin’s church (Leicester Cathedral).

From what I could glean the position of friaries was generally discussed in relation to the church, not the kitchens, refectories, dormitories and orchards. It was though only a working hypothesis.
It seems that meeting Dr John Ashdown-Hill was a key moment for you?

It was the catalyst to the launch of the Looking For Richard Project on the very day we met in Edinburgh in 2009. I had invited John to give a series of talks on his mtDNA discovery and the king’s burial to my branch of the Society and we discovered that by different research routes we had both reached the same conclusion: the Greyfriars Church (and the king’s grave) must be situated in the northern end of the Social Services car park.

My research had unearthed two plans of Leicester that seemed to confirm this hypothesis. Billson’s plan and his ‘church-road-church’ was by now my smoking gun.

So why was your plan to investigate all three car parks?

They were open spaces which to my knowledge had never been investigated but were also situated directly ‘south’ of St Martin’s Church (Leicester Cathedral).

Moreover, the New Street car park might be important because of a plan by Throsby and the school playground also became important when I finally met Richard Buckley who had undertaken his own research and found Thomas Roberts’ map of 1741. This was a very exciting discovery as it showed what looked like Herrick’s garden which had held the last known marker to the king’s grave (1612, Wren). As a result, I asked Richard to overlay it on a modern map of Leicester. This showed the circular central area of the garden to be located in the school playground and partly under the school building. If this layout was correct, could the king’s grave be in the playground? Finally, John had also produced a layout of the Greyfriars church (based on the Greyfriars in Norwich) which showed the church in the northern end of the precinct stretching from the Social Services car park into New Street. Sadly I could not obtain permission to dig the private New Street car park but in hindsight this helped the focus of the project.

I now waited for John to publish his book (Last Days of Richard III, July 2010). The world of film and TV is necessarily acquisitive and securing the rights to this would also help protect the search project. In August 2010 I approached Leicester City Council, the owners of the Social Services car park, about a search and they agreed. I had also pitched it to Channel 4 and they were interested. This was important because we were in the worst recession in living memory and the project needed a powerful incentive and enabler. As the client in the search project, I was now given personal permission to cut the tarmac.

We’re you happy with the layout of the trenches?

Yes, very much so. I didn’t need the test pits I’d discussed with Richard Buckley because ULAS’s Trench One went right over my key area in the northern end of the Social Services car park.

The diagnosis at the gravesite had a big impact on you as we could all see from the documentary. Why was this?

By the time I got to the dig I’d been researching Richard III for many years. The contemporary source material spoke about a man who was clearly very physically able, fighting in three battles, running constant skirmishes with Border Reivers and invading Scotland with an army of 20,000. Also, physical descriptions of the king by those who met him did not mention any abnormality. So to hear the remains being described as ‘hunch-backed’, the stereotypical description of the king by Shakespeare and the Tudor writers, was a shocking moment because it didn’t fit with what I knew about him. But, I could see the remains were ‘hunched’ in the grave. The evidence was there.

However, when the remains were analysed, they discovered that he did not suffer from kyphosis (when the head is pushed forward and onto the chest) but scoliosis. This new diagnosis fitted with a contemporary description of the king a year after his death when he was described as having one shoulder higher than the other. Our queen today has one shoulder higher than the other but we only know about it because she has placed it on record. Similarly with Princess Eugenie who had such a severe scoliosis that it required medical intervention.

With hindsight it seems so ironic that of all the graves to be cut too short so that the remains were ‘hunched’, it had to be Richard’s. It’s sad also because many people still want to believe the misdiagnosis with Richard as the stereotypical ‘hunchback’. A screenwriter I very much admire, Julian Fellowes, stated this belief on television during the reburial. I can only hope that more people read the university’s research papers.

The project started with a strange catalyst, an intuition?

Curiously, what happened to me in the car park (with the letter R) is not unique. It happened to Kathleen Martinez in 2009, the lawyer going in search of Cleopatra’s tomb at Taposiris Magna, Paul Gething in 2012 when he discovered the Bowl Hole Cemetery in Northumberland, Howard Carter in 1922 and Edith Pretty in the 1930’s. Edith’s is one of the most famous accounts where she had an intuition about

Greyfriars, August 2012. (Photograph courtesy Colin Brooks)
one of the large earth mounds in her Suffolk garden being a grave. Archaeologists discovered Sutton Hoo, the remains of a 7th century burial believed to be of King Raedwald of East Anglia. It was described as one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time and helped change our thinking about the ‘Dark Ages’ so that today, this pejorative term is falling out of use.

You have been called ‘emotional’. What do you think of this?
Going in search of the grave and mortal remains of a named individual who died on the field of battle is a very specific aim that I did not undertake lightly or without great care and attention as our Reburial Document attested. It was important that Richard (if found) be given what he didn’t get in 1485 and honoured as a fallen warrior so that the project could make peace with the past. For me, there was nothing more powerful that we could do.

Moreover, during my research, the CWGC had sent, under strictest confidentiality, details of their reburial process. It was clear that it was for them on many occasions an emotional process for identified, and unidentified, remains; they all had a story to tell. I am a screenwriter and we bring to life stories about the human condition. For me, and many others, Richard’s story is an extraordinary one. Not the saint or sinner but the medieval man.

It didn’t help of course that the two occasions where I got emotional over the course of the 7.5 year project, both ended up on screen with the context edited out. As someone who questions the Black Legend (and is also female, and Ricardian) sometimes people prefer stereotypes and archetypes.

What was it like to be at the dig, watching your search take place?
It was fascinating, and exciting; every day brought something new as I experienced first-hand the incredible professionalism of the archaeologists. On a personal level, it was also incredibly challenging and stressful. I was the risk-taker and I knew it was a risk but for me even if we found nothing, that would still tell us something and move our knowledge forward.

Now that Richard is reburied what do you feel were the successes of the project?

‘I knew it was a risk but for me even if we found nothing, that would still tell us something and move our knowledge forward.’

People are reading widely about Richard III for the very first time and as a result are questioning the received wisdom and dogma. The importance of this cannot be overstated because only by reading widely do you come to fully understand the many complexities surrounding his story.

It’s also been incredibly important for the myth busting the project has achieved, particularly with the ‘bones in the river’ story. If you look back to the traditional accounts pre-2012 they all detail this story as factual. We also now know, for example, that Richard was not hunchbacked and the Tudor writers used his scoliosis to denigrate him with the most powerful propaganda when you take a small kernel of truth and exaggerate it.

We also know that he had no limping gait and withered arm and his head did not strike Bow Bridge, and there is a further discovery from John Ashdown-Hill that will be announced shortly. The Looking For Richard Project was a triumph for the open mind, and for me as a Ricardian this is what history is about – questioning.

The project also tells us that we have to be really careful when studying history as to what is truth and what is myth because even now what we did in 2012 is being rewritten. My shock at the gravesite is now being described as being because of the misdiagnosis of the ‘hunchback’ being written out of the story in my own lifetime, even though it was recorded on camera and broadcast around the world. As a result, I’m trying to set the record straight but it is a powerful reflection of how history is written.

Are you doing any other projects on King Richard III?
There is a very exciting new research project which I can’t say too much about at the moment, and I’m also hoping that the first cinematic telling of Richard’s historical story may take place.’

Philippa is a TAPS writer, a BAFTA Rocliffe shortlisted writer, and finalist in SWF’s Scriptmarket and Channel 4’s ‘Son of the Pitch’ competition. Her 90 minute documentary, The King in the Car Park, made with Channel 4 and Darlow Smithson Productions, was Channel 4’s highest rated specialist factual show ever, going on to win the Royal Television Society Award for 2013 and a 2014 BAFTA nomination.

Her screenplay Blood Royal on the life of Richard III is based on Bosworth 1485: Psychology of a Battle by military historian Michael Jones, with whom she co-authored The King’s Grave: The Search for Richard III in 2013. Founder of the Richard III Society’s Scottish Branch, and made its Honorary President in 2015, she is a regular contributor to the Ricardian Bulletin magazine and was awarded the Society’s Robert Hamblin Award in 2012 for finding the mortal remains of Richard III.

In 2014, she co-authored Finding Richard III: The Official Account, the book that details the research behind the Looking For Richard Project that got Philippa to the northern end of the Social Services car park in Leicester in search of the king’s grave.

In 2015, she was awarded an MBE by HM The Queen in recognition of her services to ‘the Exhumation and Identification of Richard III’.
Further academic recognition for Nichols’ scholar, Julian Pooley

CAROLINE WESSEL

Julian Pooley has made his name in Leicestershire during 2015 as a highly respected and admired scholar on John Nichols, whose massive eight-volume History of Leicestershire (1795-1815) reached its bi-centenary last year.

Julian is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Public Services Manager at the Surrey History Centre. He is also the creator and Director of the Nichols Archive Project that calendars over 14,000 letters, journals and papers of the Nichols family, now housed in major libraries all over the world. We are proud that Julian has twice received an LAHS grant towards his significant project.

We were pleased to welcome Julian as speaker for the keynote opening lecture of our 2014/15 lecture programme; and at our Nichols Bi-Centenary Celebration Dinner at the City Rooms in May 2015 he delighted us with his informative and highly entertaining after-dinner talk about Nichols, the bon vivant. In addition, the two chapters that Julian contributed to Caroline Wessel's LAHS publication Nichols' History of Leicestershire: a bi-centenary celebration 2015 were welcomed and appreciated by interested readers.

Now Julian has two more 'Nichols' feathers in his cap. Firstly, the new edition of John Nichols's The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth I: A New Edition of the Early Modern Sources 5 vols. (Oxford University Press 2014), with which he was involved, has been awarded the 2015 Roland H. Bainton Book Prize for Reference at the Sixteenth Century Society's annual conference held in Vancouver.

In its citation, the award committee praised the new edition of Nichols as 'a treasure trove that is sure to delight not only British historians but any early modernist with an interest in politics, ritual, or social history.

Secondly, Julian has had a paper published in the Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies vol. 38 no. 4 (2015), pages 498-509, entitled "A Laborious and Truly Useful Gentleman: Mapping the Networks of John Nichols (1745-1826), Printer, Antiquarian and Biographer’. This piece, in turn, is based upon a lecture that Julian gave at a conference at the University of York in 2015. As there are references to Leicestershire in this article, it will no doubt be of interest to some LAHS members.

Julian is certainly a man of many parts; his knowledge on the greater Nichols family is deep and wide ranging and his enthusiasm for his specialist subject is both infectious and inspiring. We wish him well and offer him our sincere congratulations.

Obituary: Mr Francis Nichols (1932-2015)

CAROLINE WESSEL

We were very sad to receive news of the death of Mr Francis Nichols (1932-2015), a direct descendant of John Nichols, compiler and publisher of the eight-volume History of Leicestershire (1795-1815).

The bi-centenary of the History was celebrated in great style by our Society last year, and the guest of honour at our Nichols Bi-Centenary Celebration Dinner in May 2015 was to have been Francis Nichols. Unfortunately, he became seriously ill a short while before the Dinner and was unable to attend, although other members of his family were able to do so. Mr Nichols passed away on 21 June 2015 aged 82.

Francis was a quite remarkable man of extraordinary talents. Educated at Winchester, Oxford, and winning a scholarship to Yale University, he became an economist with the Colonial Development Corporation. He travelled most of the globe, working for much of his time in the West Indies and in Africa. In 1966 he married Maureen Cleave, a journalist and the biographer of the Beatles.

He was always interested in helping and encouraging the people he met. In Central Africa, in the early 1960s, he became an expert in the highly difficult skill of sexing Tung trees, which were crucial to the local economy. In the West Indies he took an interest in the role of oranges in the Jamaican economy and wrote a definitive book on this hitherto neglected subject. He brokered mining deals for a multi-national company in South America and sold prefabricated houses in tornado-ravaged part of the Caribbean. He worked with victims of leprosy in Hyderabad, raising half a million pounds for the charity, Lepra, and cycled 400 miles across the desert to raise funds. Other astonishing travels included driving from India to Afghanistan riding on horseback through the mountains of Turkmenistan, and trekking in Tibet. After eventually settling in England, he became a dedicated prison visitor, especially supporting 'lifers'.

Francis was a man of good humour and famous hospitality. He gave tremendous support to our friend, Julian Pooley, during the years he was setting up his Nichols Archive Project - indeed, Julian regarded Francis as one of his closest and dearest friends.

Perhaps Francis Nichols' most unorthodox venture was into Zen meditation which he took up late in life, studying for a master's degree in yoga and meditation at the age of 80, and this practice sustained him during his final difficult illness. We join in mourning his loss and send our kind thoughts to Maureen and his family.
Since the early 1950s the Library has owned a two volume manuscript work by the well-known Leicester author Ernest Morris entitled “Church Bells of Leicester (diocese and county) Parishes “ A –L, L –W. Because of its nature it has only ever been available for reference use in the Library.

Now, following a request from, and work by, the John Taylor Bell Foundry Museum in Loughborough, this extensive survey has been scanned. CD copies have been made and deposited with the Library and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. It can also be consulted on the Society’s website (www.le.ac.uk/lahs). We are grateful for the work done by Chris Pickford and George Dawson in making Morris’s research widely available.

The Library has a file of Ecclesiology Today: the journal of the Ecclesiological Society [ issues 22, Apr.2000; 26, Sep.2001-50, Jul.2014 ]. These were donated by the late Ian Stevens, as previously recorded, and so there will be no more added. However this journal is now available on the website of the Society (for those who love churches) (www.ecclsoc.org).

Two publications from English Heritage Conservation Bulletin and Research News that were newsletters rather than substantial journals are no longer available in hard copy. We received copies from the publisher but had incomplete files of both titles, which have now been discarded. Research News 5 Winter 2006-7 has been retained as it includes a local article “A late mediaeval / Renaissance garden at Ashby-de-la-Zouch [Castle]”.

The former Drawing Office at John Taylor Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

ACQUISITIONS
All published in 2015 unless otherwise indicated

BOOKS and PAMPHLETS

BALDWIN, D. Richard III the Leicester connection.

BARTON, S. Church of the Martyrs: 125 years in the community of West Leicester.

BIDDULPH, E. & BRADY, K. Excavations along the M25: prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity between Aveley and Epping. (Essex Society for Archaeology and History Occasional Papers, New Series, No.3).

BUTT, S. Leicester in the 1970s: ten years that changed a city.

DAVIES, D. Leicestershire dialect: a selection of words and anecdotes from around Leicestershire.


LUKE, M., BARKER, B. & J. A Romano-British farmstead at Stretton Road, Great Glen.

PORTER, I. The last of the Luddites: Leicestershire can lay claim to being both the birth and death place of the Luddites. St. Mary de Castro [Leicester]: a visitor’s guide to the church. 2014.

ZIENTEK, J. All Saints’ Church Shawell: church guide. Donated by the author (j.zientek12@btinternet.com).

**FILMS**

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) has digitised, as part of the national Unlocking Film Heritage project, 2 films owned by the Society and deposited there. A DVD copy has been given to the Library and the films can be seen on the Society’s website. The films are: Scenes in and around Leicester 1935-36, which includes the Jewry Wall excavation, and Lawrence: Leicester and Trip to Banbury.

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**PERIODICALS**

Antiquaries Journal 95 EXCHANGE

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Past and Present: the journal of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Museum 17 Includes: The Callis - a history (or is this Calais ? – read and discover!); Ashby Baths; History of the Mammatt family. Donated by the Editor.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings CIV EXCHANGE

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal 135 Includes a topical article: Discovery and survey of W.W.I practice trenches, Burbage (Derbys. that is) EXCHANGE

English Place-Name Society Journal 46 2014 (but pub. 2015)

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**NEWSLETTERS**

(A current copies only)

Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter

Essex Society for Archaeology and History Newsletter EXCHANGE

Friends of Friendless Churches Report

Lincoln Record Society News Review AND Trustees’ Report

SPAB Regional Groups Events Newsletter

Worcestershire Recorder: newsletter of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society EXCHANGE

NOTE: those publications above marked EXCHANGE are part of long-standing arrangements whereby societies such as L.A.H.S. exchange publications without charge with similar organisations that have libraries.

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**LIBRARY CLOSURE**

Please note that the Library will NOT be open on Sunday 15 May 2016.

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**A PERSONAL NOTE**

For many years David Smith as Hon. Minutes Secretary and I sat next to each other at Committee meetings in the Library. We would from time to time exchange quiet comments or mutually raised eyebrows at some of the words we heard around the table. His knowledge of local vernacular architecture was unsurpassed. He will be much missed.

Aubrey Stevenson Hon. Librarian
Herculaneum, Past Perfect, Future Conditional

THE W. ALAN NORTH MEMORIAL LECTURE, 2016

Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, OBE, FBA, FSA is Professor of Roman Studies and Director of Research in the Faculty of Classics at the University of Cambridge.

He was Director of the British School at Rome between 1995 and 2009, and Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge from August 2009 to July 2013. He will be familiar to many people as the presenter of television features about Herculaneum. It will be both a pleasure and a privilege to welcome him to the Victorian Gallery at the New Walk Museum in Leicester on Thursday 10th March, 2016 at 7.30pm to present the W. Alan North Memorial Lecture.

The W. Alan North lecture is held by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society annually. The lecture's purpose is to advance public understanding of the Roman Republic and Empire.

When he was a teenager, Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill visited Italy and became fascinated by the ancient Romans and the remnants of the world they left behind. Later, as director of the British School at Rome and head of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, he pursued a mission to preserve Herculaneum, Pompeii’s neighbour and the other, lesser-known victim of the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

As controversy rages about Pompeii and the challenges of its conservation, the neighbouring site of Herculaneum has, thanks to the Packard Humanities Institute, seen a 15 year experiment in trying to preserve some of the most precious remains of antiquity. Why does it matter to preserve an ancient site? What new insights into Roman life can we gain from doing so? The speaker has been involved in the Herculaneum Conservation Project from its inception and will offer fascinating insights on heritage preservation, a subject as relevant for Leicester and Leicestershire as it is for Herculaneum.

‘Pompeii has become a name recognized around the globe over the last two centuries. Herculaneum suffers from being the “little sister.”

Prof. Wallace-Hadrill says: ‘For numerous reasons, Pompeii has become a name recognized around the globe over the last two centuries. Herculaneum suffers from being the “little sister.” Crucially, there were no excavations in Herculaneum in the nineteenth century, when the great modern myth of Pompeii – Last Days of Pompeii – was formed. There have been many important scientific projects at Herculaneum since Amedeo Maiuri relaunched excavations in 1927. Ours was not even conceived as an excavation project, but as a conservation project. It is unique because it is not a dig, but a conservation project, which aims to preserve what has already been excavated, but which even so generates abundant new archaeological knowledge. It is innovative because it is in undertaking conservation not through the state, but as a privately-funded, private-public collaboration.’

Admission to the lecture is free to members. Visitors are welcome and invited to donate £2.00 each, refundable if joining the society. Tickets must be booked in advance using our online service at www.eventbrite.co.uk.

Members who are not able book on line can contact the LAHS Membership Secretary, Matt Beamish, LAHS, c/o ULAS, School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH. Phone - 0116 252 5234 or Email mgb3@le.ac.uk
Back to school in Cotesbach

An innovative project has recreated day-to-day life in a Victorian school room and is providing access to an important local family archive.

The small village of Cotesbach near Lutterworth is the location of a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund which has brought back to life two buildings which were part of the social fabric of the local community, and has made available to researchers and villagers a family archive of considerable significance.

The Cotesbach Heritage Trust, a heritage education charity, was formed shortly after the discovery of the archive, and now organises interpretative events to encourage a new awareness of this valuable asset. In 2012 it was awarded an HLF grants of £672,000 together with other smaller match-funding support to restore three dilapidated buildings.

At the centre of the project is a Grade II listed Georgian Schoolhouse, reputedly one of the first of its kind in the country. It was purpose-built in the late eighteenth century for educating the children of Cotesbach and the surrounding villages by the Rev. Robert Marriott (1741-1808), whose descendants have now lived on the Estate for seven generations.

The Marriott family, residents of Cotesbach Estate for 250 years, stored away receipts, letters, diaries, maps, deeds and more offering a rich picture of every day housekeeping to current affairs and global adventures in Georgian and Victorian times.

The Trust’s archive volunteers have yet to find evidence to prove the exact date of the Schoolhouse’s construction. During the restoration, much of the original brick floor was re-laid, the walls were rebuilt using lime-plastering, and sheep's wool insulation was inserted into the ceiling cavity.

Built about fifty years after the Schoolhouse, the small Coach House has been converted into a temperate archive to house over documents, photographs and illustrations relating to the Marriott family covering almost four hundred years.

To date, the earliest document to be found records a land transaction in Cotesbach in the time of Henry VI (1422-1461). The Archive also contains Elizabethan documents from around the time of the Enclosures Riot, detailed records of the administration of the Estate in the nineteenth century, including plans and Estate maps and extensive family correspondence. The whole archive, which contains more than six thousand documents, has been confirmed by the National Archives as of considerable historical importance.

‘The Marriott family, residents of Cotesbach Estate for 250 years, stored away receipts, letters, diaries, maps, deeds and more offering a rich picture of every day housekeeping to current affairs and global adventures in Georgian and Victorian times.’

The restored eighteenth century Grade II listed School House.
The project is being seen as a fine example of how local heritage can not only be rescued and protected, but used in education and even recreation in the twentieth century, thus fulfilling the requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Trust has constructed a glass and oak activity space and café including a toilet block, in the former milking parlour. The school house and the activity space is available to hire because the Trust is self-funding and not part of the Cotesbach Estate.

Activities include nature walks across the Cotesbach Estate viewed through the eyes of Cotesbach Hall children, and a Victorian school re-enactment from the perspective of a village child. These include sight of the original school registers for Cotesbach as well as Victorian-inspired ‘lessons’.

Associated with the constant need to fund the ongoing cataloguing and maintenance activities, the Trust is also working with local artists to produce a range of relevant heritage and art-based gifts. Family History Research Day gift vouchers are also available for sale.

Part of the funding for this project has derived from the nearby Magna Park Distribution Centre, an arrangement which enables employees of Magna Park to take part in events free of charge.

As with all well-formulated local heritage projects, the Cotesbach Educational Trust is becoming a catalyst for wider community events. In the Trust’s current programme these include an Open Farm Day, a Murder Mystery Supper, a Pop-up Wool Week and a Music in the Yard Festival.

Full details of all events as well as the Schoolroom and the Marriott archive are available from the Trust’s website at: www.cotesbachschoolhouse.org.uk

The archives represent the day-to-day activities of generations of the Marriott family including detailed nineteenth century estate management records.

‘The Schoolhouse was purpose built by the first Rev Robert Marriott in the late 18th Century. They learnt to read and write and how to become good Christians. Some of the poorer children were provided with boots, so they didn’t have to go barefoot on their walk to school, and we assume that with the milking parlour next door they had plenty of fresh milk to drink in its unadulterated state straight from the cow.

The girls worked hard at their needlework and won a prize in 1871. Once we found an old copper dressing pin in a crack between the bricks.

In the late 19th Century, with the Elementary Education Act of 1880 which made schooling compulsory for children from aged 5, the Sherrier School in Lutterworth took over as the catchment school.

We know that a family wedding party took place there at New Year in 1896, that children attended a Sunday School there in the 1940s and that there were often whist drives held there – there were the remains of World War blackout curtains round the windows. On such occasions, the villagers would probably have used paraffin lighting and had an open fire in the grate to create a relaxed atmosphere – but being within earshot of bombs falling on Coventry, these must have been tense times to live through.

The old Schoolhouse remained the main gathering place in the village until the early 1950s, when an opening was made in the south all to form a door for a tractor shed, with part of the floor replaced by concrete to form a firm base.

The tractor shed era was relatively short, because farming operations ceased after the A426 was built and opened in 1959.

Sam Towers, the game keeper, made it into a hen house in return for a ready supply of fresh eggs, the floorboards rotted away and the leaded windows became full of cobwebs until the Millennium, when we started making new plans for its future.’
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