

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GUILDHALL · LEICESTER · LE15FQ



NEWSLETTER 96 Summer 2017

Welcome to the summer edition of the LAHS Newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and informative. Contributions to future editions are very welcome, and can be sent to the Newsletter editor, Cynthia Brown, at cb@cydfx.net, or by post c/o Honorary Librarian, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, LE1 5FQ.

LAHS NEWS

LAHS PRESIDENT

Our new President, Bob Rutland, started his term of office on 1 May 2017. During his distinguished career as an archaeologist in Leicestershire, Bob was based at Jewry Wall Museum as Keeper of Archaeology for Leicestershire Museums and Arts Service, and later Managing Curator of the museum for Leicester City Museums Service. He has been a member of LAHS and one of its Vice Presidents for many years. He is also the author of the Society's history, *The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005* (LAHS, 2006). We are also pleased to say that our outgoing President Michael Wood has accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Life Vice President, and will be maintaining his contact with the Society.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Some dates and speakers for the autumn 2017 LAHS lecture programme. Further details will be provided nearer the time. All lectures take place on Thursday at 7.30 pm at New Walk Museum, Leicester.

28 September 2017 (tbc)

Scarborough Lecture – on a high medieval topic

David Hinton

26 October 2017

Equity and Co - Leicester's pioneering 20th century worker co-operatives

Peter Ackers

7 December 2017

Captain Pouch and the East Midlands Enclosure Riots of 1607

Len Holden

LAHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 22 November 2017 at The Guildhall, time to be notified

Please note the change from a Thursday to Wednesday in order to avoid the Cathedral bell-ringing practice.

MEMBERS' EVENING – ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday 22 February 2018

Members' Evening is an opportunity for LAHS members to share the results of their research with fellow members. If you would like further information, or to offer a contribution, please contact the Hon. Lecture Secretary, Yolanda Courtney as far in advance as possible, tel 0116 2120271, yolanda.courtney@ntlworld.com.

CHANGING LEICESTER EXHIBITION

1 July - 10 September 2017

Newarke Houses Museum & Gardens

The LAHS Changing Leicester project, in partnership with Leicester Arts and Museums, will be launching its exhibition in July. Until quite recently the city had no master plan for development. Buildings were demolished and put up randomly as the needs of the city evolved – which means today that ornate Victorian warehouses sit alongside concrete office blocks and medieval buildings are neighbours of factories. The latter years of the Industrial Revolution changed Leicester from a market town into an industrial powerhouse, full of factories and the housing and transport networks needed to support them. What we consider to be of historical value, or what we consider to be part of our heritage, has changed considerably over the last 70 years. The exhibition is an opportunity to explore this aspect of Leicester's recent history in more depth. A programme of free events has also been organised across the city to complement the exhibition. These will include lectures, guided walks, and a series of 'Life in Leicester' family days. BBC Leicester will also be hosting a 'Heritage Question Time' in which a panel of experts will answer questions from an invited audience. For further details, see the website <http://www.visitleicester.info/things-to-see-and-do/arts-museums/exhibitions/changingleicester/>.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU – AND A PLEA FOR HELP

Richard and Janet Lawrence have been providing tea, coffee and biscuits at LAHS lectures for nearly 20 years. They are now stepping down, and on behalf of members we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their services. In the words of Programme Secretary Yolanda Courtney: 'It was more than just tea and biscuits – there was always a kind word for everyone as well'. In future LAHS will be able to use the new hot water flasks provided by New Walk Museum for refreshments, but it would be very helpful to have volunteers to supervise this. If you might be willing to help, please contact the LAHS Newsletter editor, or speak to Yolanda or any Committee member at a meeting.

LAHS PUBLICITY OFFICER

LAHS is recruiting a Publicity Officer to assist with the promotion of the Society in general, and to promote our lecture series and other events, including special visits and other relevant local events. As well as liaising with local radio and press, a major part of this role will involve developing our profile on social media, to reach a wider target audience. The post-holder will work the equivalent of one day per month (96 hours p.a.). LAHS Secretary Chris Jordan (HonSecLAHS@gmail.com) will be pleased to provide further details.

BEAUMANOR FAIR

The LAHS Fair will be held at Beaumanor Hall on 15 April 2018. Networks Groups will be invited to contribute, and the Transport Heritage Trust has also agreed to support it. There will be further details in due course.

OTHER NEWS

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY – CASTLE DONINGTON

The first in what is intended to be a 'Shorts' paperback series, aiming to bring local research to publication as swiftly as possible, was published by Leicestershire Victoria County History (VCH) earlier this year. It is based in part on a history of Castle Donington parish (including the settlements at King's Mills and Cavendish Bridge) that was written by Michael Lee for the VCH in the 1950s but never published due to lack of funds. It has been expanded and brought up to date by Pamela Fisher, with the help of local volunteers and the benefit of access to the digital and online sources that are now available. It is the first Leicestershire VCH publication since Volume V of the Red Book series on the Gartree Hundred in 1964. It will be reviewed in the *Leicestershire Historian* and LAHS *Transactions* later this year. Details: *Castle Donington*, by Pamela J. Fisher and J.M. Lee, Leicestershire Victoria County History, 2017, 133pp, illus, ISBN 9781909646278, £12; Kindle edition £9.50.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

CHARLES I SILVER PENDANT OR 'PROTO' MEDAL FROM FLECKNEY

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, sends this report: This object contains a finely carved bust of the King. Found with a silver link still attached, it probably hung from a silver necklace. These medallions were issued to be worn by friends and partisans of the monarch, and would have been proudly worn by his supporters. It is also believed that some were given out as 'proto' medals for services rendered during the English Civil War. It is possible that this was actually given out by the King himself.



The events of 1645 may reveal how it was lost... The Royalists retook Leicester, which was a Parliamentarian stronghold, on 30 May 1645. The troops looted and destroyed much of the town, killing many civilians. This was considered to be an atrocity, and events in Leicester were used at the King's trial to illustrate his cruelty. The pendant was found in Fleckney, on the way to Market Harborough, where the Royalists went after the siege to recruit more troops. In the meantime Parliament's 'New Model Army' was massing at a small village called Naseby. After the resounding defeat (700 Royalists died) Charles and Prince Rupert retreated to Wistow Hall, north of Fleckney, and then rode through Leicester back to their stronghold at Ashby. Their troops followed, but Parliament caught up with them, killing at least 400 between Harborough and Leicester.

Did the owner sack Leicester, losing his medal on the way to Harborough? Did he survive Naseby to ride north with the king? Was he hacked down during the retreat back to the safety of Leicester? If only objects could talk! We will never know for sure, but it seems likely that the pendant may have been lost during one of the bloody events in Leicestershire during the English Civil War. Found in 2010, it can now be seen at Harborough Museum.

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (PAS) - LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY PAGES

As Wendy also notes, this and other stories relating to Treasure in County Museums highlight the importance of the Treasure Act in saving such 'treasures' for all, and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Act. They form a series of blog posts which will be published throughout the summer on the PAS website at <https://finds.org.uk/counties/leicestershire/>. The Leicestershire County pages are designed to introduce the archaeology of the County and highlight the work of PAS locally, but they also exist to advertise heritage and archaeology events and discoveries. If you have anything you wish to publish, please contact Wendy at wendy.scott@leics.gov.uk.

STIBBE BUILDINGS – GREAT CENTRAL STREET, LEICESTER

LAHS members will no doubt have been among the thousands of people who visited the site of the Stibbe Buildings in Great Central Street, Leicester in May 2017, and enjoyed the excellent tours by archaeologists from the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). This is the largest archaeological excavation in Leicester in over a decade, revealing the largest Roman mosaic found in Leicester in over 150 years. In due course it will be lifted and conserved for display at Jewry Wall Museum. There is more detail of this and other finds from the site on the ULAS website at <http://ulasnews.com/2017/04/25/largest-archaeological-excavation-in-leicester-in-over-a-decade-to-open-to-public/>. Findings from a series of trial trenches excavated on the site by ULAS in 2001 are also available.

THOMAS COOK TRAIL

Members may be interested in a walking trail around the sites that are connected with the Thomas Cook story in Leicester. It includes the site of Campbell Street Station, the Thomas Cook Building from where excursions were sold, the coffee houses Cook set up in the town to provide a non-alcoholic alternative to pubs, the chapels he visited, and the museum where his son donated material collected from his world travels. The walk starts on London Road outside the railway station and takes approximately one hour. Print copies cost 50p from Visit Leicester in Gallowtree Gate, or download it free of charge from their website at <http://www.visitleicester.info/things-to-see-and-do/heritage/thomascook/>.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LEICESTER GROUP VICTORIAN SOCIETY – AUTUMN 2017 PROGRAMME

Meetings at Bishop Street Methodist Church, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 6AF are open to all for a contribution of £2.50 towards the costs of room hire and other expenses.

Crowns in Conflict: Queen Victoria, European royalty and the tragedy of World War I

David Humberston

Tuesday 3 October 2017, 7.30pm

The History of Leicester's Secular Hall

Ned Newitt

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 7.30pm

Charles Dickens, Leicester and his public readings

Dr John Florance

Tuesday 5 December 2017, 7.15pm – seasonal refreshments will be served.

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY – LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND, JULY 2017

The Festival of Archaeology is co-ordinated annually by the Council for British Archaeology. It offers hundreds of events nationwide, organised by museums, heritage organisations, national and country parks, universities, local societies, and community archaeologists. The Leicestershire and Rutland Festival runs from Saturday 15 July to Sunday 30 July, following on from the launch event, 'Bringing Our Past to Life', at Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester on Sunday 9 July. A sample of some of the events on offer follows below. Please check the Leicestershire Fieldworkers' website for details of all events, times and bookings - <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Festival-2017-Programme.pdf>.

Victorian coalmine and 16th century coal getting area

Hough Mill, St John Hill, Swannington, Leicestershire

Sundays, 16, 23 and 30 July 2017, 14.00 – 17.00

See diggers at work and join in the experience on this large site which has yielded coal for over 400 years. There are several shafts, engine house, boiler foundations, winding drum pit, and ventilation tunnels, and the newly rediscovered mine shaft will also be on view. Look out for a rare 17th century 'haystack' boiler and visit the restored Hough Windmill. This event is organised by Leicestershire Industrial History Society and hosted by Swannington Heritage Trust. It is free but donations are welcome. There is no need to book in advance.

Bosworth Links - Community Archaeological Dig

Saturday 22 July 2017 and Sunday 23 July 2017, 09.00 – 16.00

The Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth

A community led archaeological project in and around the Conservation Area of the historic town of Market Bosworth, organised by the Market Bosworth Society and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will include the digging of 25 test pits and the processing of archaeological finds. The work will be carried out in conjunction with the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, who are providing the project manager, Mathew Morris. Volunteers, of all ages, experience and ability are welcome. Tel 07930149408 or email info@marketbosworthsociety.com to register an interest in volunteering.

Guided Tours of Oakham Castle

Monday 24 Jul 2017, 11.00 and 14.30

Join a tour of this rare surviving 12th century Great Hall, including the remains of the curtain wall and the older Norman castle motte, and a collection of over 230 ornate horseshoes from 8" to 5" high. The Castle also has an interesting history as a law court. Maximum group size is 25, so booking is highly recommended to avoid disappointment. There is a charge of £1.50 per person – pay on the day. The event is organised by Rutland County Council.

Castle Hill – in search of the Knight Hospitallers

Jewry Wall Museum

Wednesday 26 July 2017, 17:30

After a successful excavation in September last year of the suspected Knight Hospitallers site on Castle Hill Country Park, Mathew Morris from the University of Leicester Archaeology Services will provide an update on what was found during the dig. Hear about a second excavation happening this year to build on current findings, and how you can get involved. This free event is organised by the Story of Parks project. Advance booking is recommended – call 0116 225 4971. Light refreshments available for donations.

AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION - WILLIAM HENRY FANN

Joan Shaw has contacted LAHS to ask for information on the whereabouts of paintings by William Henry Fann. 'We are all familiar with the works of John Flower, George Henton and William Cooke whose paintings have contributed so much to Leicestershire's pictorial history', she writes: 'But what of William Henry Fann? No less talented, doubtless he too recorded many local scenes, but where are they? William was born at Nottingham in 1868, the youngest child of John Fann, a hosiery manufacturer, and his wife Elizabeth. William described himself as a landscape and portrait artist but he began his working life as a hosiery warehouseman, presumably in the family business, and may have spent some time at sea. In 1892 he enlisted in the 17th Lancers, but following an accident and two spells of illness, he was deemed unfit for service in a mounted regiment and transferred to the Scots Guards. In 1895 he was diagnosed with periostitis [inflammation of the connective tissue around the bone], which led to his discharge on medical grounds in the following year. He returned to Nottingham on an army pension, and moved to Wymeswold in 1897 to live with his sister Elizabeth, a dressmaker, following the death of his father and eldest brother. When she died in 1909 he set up home with his widowed brother, first in Burton on the Wolds and then at 11 Moor Lane, Loughborough.

'At the outbreak of the First World War, now aged 46, William was called to serve in the National Reserve, but was once again hospitalised and never re-joined his regiment. He died in September 1915 and is buried in Loughborough Cemetery. The only painting by him that I have been able to find is 'The Soar Brook', dated 1903, which is in the Ethert Brand Collection of Rotherham Heritage Services and was purchased by the museum in 1938. They have no further information about it. I have been unable to identify the bridge but it is likely to be in the Quorn area'. If you do have any information about this or other William Fann paintings, please contact the LAHS Newsletter editor. 'The Soar Brook' painting can be viewed on the ArtUK website

http://artuk.org/discover/artworks/view_as/grid/search/keyword:the-soar-bridge.

MY LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORY – MANUFACTURING PASTS

The Manufacturing Pasts section of My Leicestershire History, part of the University of Leicester's Special Collections Online, has many images and documents relating to the history of manufacturing industry in Leicester, much of which has now disappeared. They have been selected from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR) and the University of Leicester Library by subject experts at the University of Leicester's Centre for Urban History.

As well as photographs and factory plans, the collection includes company publications, insurance plans and maps. Some of these relate to specific factories, such as Corah, Liberty Shoes Ltd. and Byford & Co., and others to areas of Leicester, including Frog Island and the West End. Many can be reproduced free of charge under Creative Commons licences, like this image of the statue on the former Liberty shoe factory on Eastern Boulevard, which is from the Record Office collections. Visit the website at <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/myleicestershirehistory>.



A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

LAHS started its existence in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. This account of an Annual Meeting held in Hinckley is extracted from the *Leicester Chronicle*, 23 July 1864.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. The tenth annual meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday, at Hinckley. Although this town does not abound in ancient records or archaeological remains, its proximity to Bosworth Field and the circumstance of Richard's army having halted there on the eve of the battle, give the place a more than passing interest; while the neighbourhood is hallowed by associations which render it of peculiar interest to the enthusiastic antiquarian. The occasion drew together a number of gentlemen of prominence in the antiquarian world, and many others interested in archaeological pursuits; several of whom, who were not already members of the Society, attached themselves to it during the day. The weather was exceedingly fine, and the meeting was altogether of the most pleasing character...

A very large collection of antique and curious articles was exhibited at the Town Hall during the day, the extent and variety of which were matters of general comment, and the energy and activity of the Hinckley people in bringing together such an array of interesting relics were much commended, and hopes were entertained that henceforward this somewhat neglected town would be looked upon with more favour. This museum was visited by large numbers of the inhabitants throughout the day; indeed, once or twice the room was crowded to overflowing, and many had to go away in the hope of obtaining admission on the morrow. The articles were neatly arranged on tables extending entirely round the room, and were carefully labelled, — a matter of great importance to the general public and those uninitiated in the mysteries of archaeology (as many of course would be who visited the museum)... [Rev. W. Skibbow, Vicar of Hinckley] spoke of the connexion of John of Gaunt with the town of Hinckley, and of the Castle as the spot where the ancient inhabitants used to rally round the banners of their lords to withstand the foe; but, he remarked, they wanted war no more; it was to the arts of peace they looked for greatness; it was to the future development of their resources they looked forward with hope. But he should be wrong in stating that that was all they looked to for their greatness. They must not only look forward to the future; they must also look behind to the past... Antiquity taught them all to avoid the faults and the follies of their ancestors, and infused into them a spirit of reverence for the struggles of their forefathers, which were carried on under clouds darker than their own.

Editor's note: Many local newspapers are available at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Some can also be consulted online in the British Newspaper Archive, a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's collection. The archive is searchable by keyword, name, location, date or title. Local titles currently available include the *Leicester Chronicle* (1813 – 1915); *Leicester Daily Mercury* (1875 – 1950); *Leicester Journal* (1810 – 1915); *Leicester Mail* (1865 – 70); *Leicestershire Mercury* (1836 – 1864); and the *Rutland Echo and Leicestershire Advertiser* (1877 – 1887). The *Stamford Mercury* (1714 – 1910) and the *Grantham Journal* (1854 – 1957) are also useful sources for news of Rutland.

This newsletter is edited by Cynthia Brown and published by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. Further information about the Society, its publications and other activities can be found on its website at www.lahs.org.uk.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
THE GUILDHALL, GUILDHALL LANE, LEICESTER. LE1 5FQ.
Registered Charity No 503240
www.lahs.org.uk



President:
Robert Rutland

Membership Form

Categories

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

Mr. Matthew Beamish,
Hon. Membership Secretary, LAHS,
c/o ULAS,
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,
University of Leicester, University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel 0116 2525234 Email mgb3@le.ac.uk

Surname:..... Forename:..... Title:..... Initials:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:..... Telephone:.....

Email Address:.....

(Only to be used for communicating information with members)

I wish to become a member at the rate indicated above.

I enclose a cheque/ I have paid by Paypal/ I have made a Standing Order arrangement with my bank/Enclose a Standing Order form* *(delete as applicable)*.

**If paying by Standing Order please either make your own arrangement with your bank/building society, or download & complete the relevant page of the membership form from our website www.lahs.org.uk and enclose with this form. Please make any payments to Sort Code 60-60-06, Account Number 87270080.*

Alternatively pay by Paypal: Payments@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

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying previous and/or future subscription payments and/or donations I have made to LAHS (delete as applicable). I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) 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 that LAHS will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Surname: Title:..... Initials:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:

Signature/s:..... Date:

Please send completed forms to the Hon. Membership Secretary, address as above.