Archaeological and historical connections

News from organisations in contact with the LAHS

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Leicestershire
www.finds.org.uk

Most LAHS members will be aware of the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme which encourages the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of objects are discovered, many of these by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. Such discoveries offer an important source for understanding our past.

Their website provides background information, news articles, events listings and access to their remarkable database of objects and images.

The Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire is Wendy Scott, whom members met at our last Annual General Meeting. She is also available to advise on finds and to work with local field working, field walking and history groups.

Wendy can be contacted by phone on 0116 305 8325

Treasure Trails - in Leicestershire and Rutland
www.treasuretrails.co.uk

Treasure Trails Ltd was founded in Cornwall in 2005 by Steve Ridd MBE. Treasure Trails are self-guided murder mystery, spy mission and treasure hunt themed walking, driving and cycling trails which aim to get people outside, exploring, learning and having fun. Most have a strong historical element within them.

There are over 800 Trails nationally, written by a team of Licensees who all have specialised knowledge of the most interesting and historic features of their region. This network of Licensees is supported by a Head Office team based in Truro.

Currently there are 24 trails available for Leicestershire and Rutland. They can be purchased online and personalised. Each covers a distance of about two miles.

The Council for British Archaeology
www.britarch.co.uk

The CBA is an educational charity working throughout the UK to involve people in archaeology and to promote the appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

Members receive newsletters, a subscription to British Archaeology magazine and access to a wide range of events and activities. Membership costs from £28.00 per annum.

The CBA positively welcomes youngsters. So perhaps an imaginative birthday present for your grandchildren could be a subscription to YAC- the Young Archaeologists Club. Members (aged 8 - 14 years) have the opportunity to get involved in real digs.

CBA - British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography

A further and invaluable online facility provided by the CBA in association with many other major heritage bodies in the UK is biab online, the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography.

The site contains over 200,000 references to books, journal articles and PHD theses from 1645 to the present day. The web address is www.biab.ac.uk. A quick search using the keyword ‘Leicestershire’ produced over 1700 references including papers published in our own Transactions. The website catalogue is free, but there may be charges for downloading from certain sources.
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Join us for this major event in our 2012 calendar

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Commemorating Sir Harold Ridley, whose work has enabled over 200 million people to see more clearly

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Cover photograph of Quorn and Woodhouse station © Neil Pulling 2010
www.flickr.com/photos/27045884@N05
Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology

Planning for the 2012 Festival of Archaeology is now well under way. The Festival is now well established locally with Leicestershire and Rutland organising more events than any other part of the country.

This year the Festival runs from Saturday 14 July to Sunday 29 July. There will again be talks, guided walks, museum events and displays.

The programme will be available in May, but ideas and offers of additional events are still welcome.

Contact Peter Liddle by email at: peter.liddle@leics.gov.uk or by phone on (0116) 305 8326

Keeping in touch

Postage is a major cost to any society, and yet it is vital that we keep in touch with all our members, including those who live some distance from Leicestershire.

Your officers believe that our funds (derived from your annual subscription) should be used to maintain the quality of our three publications, and to pay for occasional events and field trips, rather than be spent on envelopes and postage stamps.

Paying your subscription by Direct Debit has real cost benefits to the Society. In addition, we will be pleased to keep you informed of our talks and events by email, and of course our website can also provide you with a wealth of information.

If you would like to receive regular news online, please send a brief email to: lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk

Talking History - BBC Radio Leicester

Tune in to BBC Radio Leicester – 104.9 FM and DAB - on Sunday lunchtimes and hear Dave Andrews’ “Talking History”.

It’s a relaxing mix of music and stories and features which all have a local history twist.

From the History of Leicester City Football Club told through artefacts found in mystery boxes at the King Power Stadium, to a review of the local papers of exactly one hundred years ago; from the City and County’s ‘Hidden Gems’ to the history of the theatre or of aviation in Leicester. There is sure to be something of interest to you.

You might like to let Dave and his listeners give you a helping hand with trying to track something down in the ‘History Mystery’ feature. Recently they’ve been solving the mystery of a ‘King’s Speech’ microphone supposedly used by the Duke of York in 1929 to open the Lutterworth Show, as well as trying to pinpoint the date of some photographs taken in Abbey Park more than eighty years ago.

They’ve also been helping sisters Joan and Joyce track down information about their grandfather and his Syston Iron Foundry.

You can also find out in what period local celebrities would like to have lived if not the present and who from the past they would most like to ask to join them for dinner.

The programme is a fascinating fusion of the light-hearted and the serious at 1.00pm on Sunday lunchtimes. You are encouraged to join in by calling or texting the studio during the show or emailing Dave – dave.andrews@bbc.co.uk - or following him on twitter - @davearadio.
Sir Harold Ridley commemorated

The Kibworth man who changed the way 200 million people saw their world is commemorated in the village of his birth

The pioneering work of one of the greatest names in ophthalmic surgery is been commemorated in the village of his birth. A blue plaque has been unveiled at the former home of Sir Harold Ridley, the man who pioneered intraocular lenses and cataract surgery techniques.

It is easy to under-estimate the importance of a brief observation made by eye surgeon Sir Harold Ridley during World War II.

Whilst removing splinters of Perspex, fragments of shattered aircraft cockpits, from the eyes of injured RAF crew, Sir Harold realised that there were no signs of rejection of the plastic by the pilots’ immune systems.

In a remarkable example of lateral thinking, Sir Harold used this profound observation to develop and eventually manufacture plastic lenses for use in contact with the eye, and thus the intraocular lens was created.

Worldwide, the sight of over 200 million people has been improved as a result of Sir Harold’s work, even though he faced immense opposition to his surgical techniques from others in the profession.

Ridley was born in Kibworth in a Victorian Gothic house known then as The Gables and now as Little Lebanon. Every day, many thousands of commuters pass the entrance to the house as it is located on the busy A6 in Kibworth Harcourt.

The manufacture of the plaque was paid for by KiT, the Kibworth Improvement Team, from Heritage Lottery funding. Additional funding for the unveiling ceremony was provided by Rayner, the company that worked with Ridley to develop intraocular lenses.

The plaque was unveiled on Saturday 18 February 2012 by Sir Harold’s son, Nicholas Ridley.
The History Fair

Sharing our past. We are proud to announce the history event of the season!

The officers of the Society extend a cordial invitation to all members to our 2012 History Fair, which will take place on Sunday 25 March, from 10.00am until 4.00pm at Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, LE12 8TX. Admission: adults £3, children free

Beaumanor Hall is a fascinating mansion, built in 1848 in Jacobean style and retaining many period features, that is now owned by the Leicestershire County Council.

Almost fifty Leicestershire history and heritage organisations will be taking stalls, offering information and advice, and sharing their research and resources, with many selling their own publications.

Visitors can also sign up for one of the four tours of the Hall (at 11.00, 12.30, 2.00, 3.30) to see the principal rooms, the servants’ work areas in the cellars, and their tiny bedrooms in the attics. They can learn about Beaumanor’s remarkable history, the Herrick family, and its role during World War II as reflected in the award-winning film ‘Enigma’.

Children and young people (six years old and over) will be entertained with supervised activities in the Victorian Schoolroom or Cellars.

These areas were featured in Michael Wood’s ‘Story of England’ and offers a remarkable insight into life ‘below stairs’ in the nineteenth century.

Visits can also be made to nearby Woodhouse Church to view the medieval heraldic stained glass erected in 1450 by Viscount Beaumont, whose powerful family owned Beaumanor at the time of the Wars of the Roses. The church will be open and attended during the mid-afternoon.

There will also be a programme of 20 minute Mini-Talks from leading authorities on topics related to Beaumanor and surrounding area.

11.15  Proud Owners of Beaumanor 1086-1947
12.00  WW2: Beaumanor’s ‘Secret Listeners’
12.45  A History of Quorn & Woodhouse Steam Railway: some intriguing tales
1.30   The Beaumanor Armorial Window: a Herrick pedigree
2.00   Victorian Cavaliers: the Passion for Early Stuart Dress in 19th century Britain
2.45   Charnwood Villagers to trace their roots: a Leicestershire
3.30   John Flower, an 18th century artist in Charnwood

The day includes an Archaeology Roadshow, to which you are invited to bring your own coins, metalwork and pots, and to discuss them with the experts.

All Tours, Mini-Talks, Visits and the Archaeology Roadshow are free of charge.

The GCR is offering a substantial discount on all their journeys from Leicester and Loughborough for those attending our Fair. Alighting at Quorn and Woodhouse station, visitors will be transported to Beaumanor Hall by vintage bus – and every visitor who presents a GCR rail ticket will gain free admission to the Fair.

Quorn and Woodhouse station is set in the period of the Second World War. You are invited to experience the atmosphere of the NAAFI!

The coffee shop at Beaumanor will be open all day for light refreshments and there is ample free car parking, not only at the Hall, but also at both Loughborough and Leicester stations on the GCR.
Thursday 15 March 2012
Friars and Towns

Deirdre O’Sullivan
Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, University of Leicester

Deirdre O’Sullivan is Lecturer in Archaeology in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. A graduate in History and Archaeology, her MPhil research dealt with the Early Christian Archaeology of Cumbria. She has previously worked as a field archaeologist and as a post-excavation researcher at Durham and St Andrews.

Here in Leicester, Deidre was responsible for introducing and running a Masters programme in Post Excavation Skills. She has directed fieldwork projects at St Bees Priory, Cumbria, the early Christian monastery on Lindisfarne (Holy Island) Northumberland, and locally at the post-medieval pottery manufacturing centre at Ticknall, Derbyshire.

Deidre’s current research work has been centred on the archaeology and histories of the Dissolution, and on friaries.

Thursday 29 March 2012
Burrough Hill Uncovered: Results of Recent Research Excavations

John Thomas
Project Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

John has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1986, formerly with Warwickshire Museums Field Archaeology Unit and since 1995, with ULAS. He was awarded a BA in Archaeology from Leicester University in 1998 and an MA in Landscape Studies from Leicester in 2006.

He has experience of a wide range of field and post excavation techniques, and has directed many large-scale excavation projects with a particular expertise on prehistoric and gravel sites. In the Summer of 2000 he directed excavation and recording of the nationally important Early Upper Palaeolithic site at Glaston in Rutland.

He has also directed excavation of regionally important sites at Thorney (medieval abbey and Dissolution remains) and Humberstone in Leicester where an extensive area of Iron Age aggregated settlement has been revealed.

In addition to reports on his site work, John has published two papers based on the results of his research into the introduction and use of pit alignment boundaries in the First Millennium BC.

Thursday 12 April 2012
James Pickering – Leicestershire’s Aerial Archaeologist

Fred Hartley
Curator of Working Life, Leicestershire County Council Museums Service

James Pickering of Hinckley (1915-2004) was an RAF fighter pilot, a successful businessman, and one of Britain’s most eminent amateur archaeologists.

He joined the RAFVR in 1937 and returned to the RAF in 1940 flying Spitfires with 63 Squadron during the Battle of Britain. During the 2nd World War he flew over eighty different types of aircraft.

A Fellow of both the Geological Society and the Society of Antiquaries, Pickering discovered thousands of sites across England, taking tens of thousands of photographs and making them freely available to the National Monuments Record and numerous county planning departments. Fred had the privilege of flying with Jim many times from 1979 to 1996, and in this talk he will attempt to give a true appraisal of the scale and importance of his work.
Then and now - Long Street Wigston

A familiar location to members of the LAHS and to all visitors to the Record Office for Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland

Taken from a 3.25” lantern slide, this view (above) is of Long Street in Wigston looking towards All Saints Parish Church and was taken in about 1895. Apart from the valuable historical detail, there is much charm in the comparative emptiness of the older image: a dog sits in the road, its attention drawn to something out of view, possibly the workman who has left his wheelbarrow in the road; a man is riding a bicycle towards the photographer, and in the far distance, a horse-drawn carriage or cart is approaching.

The Greater Wigston WMC,(on the left) opened in 1869. The light-coloured building on the corner of Central Avenue, opposite the WMC (below) was built in 1910. The retaining wall in front of Avenue House (set back on the opposite corner of Central Avenue) has survived.
Until the age of the email, the BBC was an organisation that thrived on the ‘internal memo’. Indeed, the BBC Internal Mail System - which still exists - was a vital means of communicating between the corporation’s outposts across the UK and beyond.

Today, these documents have become a valuable and fascinating archive in their own right, often providing an insight into why certain programmes were made, and why others were not.

The BBC is gradually publishing selections from their archives online. These have been assembled into various collections which enable researchers to follow the way in which the Corporation managed a certain issue or responded to external challenges.

One of the many fascinating collections already available is the correspondence between the BBC and Enid Blyton. These reveal the troubled relationship between the author and the BBC managers.

Another remarkable collection covers the broadcasting history of a certain Eric Arthur Blair. For two years, between 1941 and 1943, George Orwell - real name Eric Blair - was BBC staff member 9889, hired as a Talks Producer for the Eastern Service to write what was essentially propaganda for broadcast to India.

From recruitment to resignation, these documents reveals the high regard in which Orwell was held by his colleagues and his own uncompromising integrity and honesty. They include letters written from the Hebridean island of Jura which provide an insight into the writing of ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four’.

The main index of the BBC Archives online is at http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/collections.shtml
Local history and heritage groups are invited to take part in a major international conference at Leicester University in January next year.

In 2013, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the largest organisation in the world dedicated to the archaeological study of the modern world, will be holding its annual conference in Leicester.

In addition to a three-day academic programme, the conference will include a free public event which will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 12 January 2013 in the O2 Academy at the university.

The SHA conference typically attracts in excess of one thousand delegates drawn from academic institutions worldwide, and this will be only the second time that this prestigious conference has been held in the UK. It will be hosted at Leicester University by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

The theme of the event will be Tracing Your Heritage Through Archaeology and History, and its main aim is to stimulate public interest in archaeology and history by showcasing the depth and breadth of these subjects and raising awareness of the societies and groups that members of the public can join to further their interest. The event intends to provide something for the youngest child to the oldest adult.

The programme for this nationally-significant event will comprise two headline public lectures which will be delivered by television personalities, re-enactment performances, living history displays, archaeological exhibits and activities for all ages, as well as displays and stands relating to local and national archaeology and history societies.

Formed in 1967, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) is the largest scholarly group concerned with the archaeology of the modern world from 1400 to the present day. The main focus of the society is the era since the beginning of European exploration.

Professor Colin Haselgrove, Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, expands on the goals of the conference:

‘Most of the world’s leading historical archaeologists will be attending the conference from as far away as Australia.

As well as raising the profile of later historical archaeology in other European countries, we expect the Leicester conference to open up new interest in the field in continents like Asia and Africa where archaeological research has traditionally concentrated on earlier periods.’

Historical Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past societies that also left behind historical documentary evidence. It studies the emergence, transformation, and nature of the modern world.

The society is specifically concerned with the identification, excavation, interpretation, and conservation of sites and materials on land and underwater. Geographically the society emphasizes the New World, but also includes European exploration and settlement in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

The University is working closely with Leicester Shire Promotions and other agencies within the city to provide accommodation for the delegates and to ensure that that city as a whole benefits from the event.

If your society would like to take part in the public event on Saturday 12 January, please contact Debbie on 0116 252 5251 (deb@leicester.ac.uk) or Dr. Richard Thomas, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology on 0116 252 3343 (rmtf2@leicester.ac.uk)
Recent News from ULAS
University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Brooksby Quarry (Matt Beamish, Jen Browning, Wayne Jarvis)

Despite the continued quasi-drought conditions in the East Midlands limiting the permitted pumping of water at Brooksby Quarry, and the effect this has had on limiting extraction of the deeper deposits of sands and gravel, there have been significant recent developments.

The modeling of borehole deposits over ten years ago suggested that a deeply incised Bytham channel of varying width passed through the quarry area. Part of the western edge of this incised channel has now been observed, falling within metres of its anticipated location. The width of the channel in the current phase may be up to 200 metres.

The incised channel is filled with so-called Brooksby deposits – sands and gravels belonging to a temperate phase that pre-dates the Thurmaston member which overlies it. Where the Brooksby deposits have recently been excavated for a quarry sump, they were several metres deep and contained abundant organic material including branch wood, in total contrast to the overlying inorganic Thurmaston member. Quaternary scientists at Royal Holloway College are alert to these findings, and we hope to sample the organic deposits at an appropriate stage.

The quarry has now re-flooded. When water levels have been lowered, we hope to develop a strategy with Lafarge for discovering further information about the Bytham and early human occupation.
Recent News from ULAS
University of Leicester Archaeological Services - continued

Topsoil stripping in late autumn/early winter 2011 on the higher ground towards the western end of the quarry revealed evidence for occupation in the form of a series of post-holes and a couple of curvilinear gullies. These are located adjacent to post-holes and a possible hearth which were recorded during a previous strip (and have now been quarried away). Quite a few stratified sherds of Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery and flints were recovered.

The features were well-spaced, fairly well-defined and clearly form some kind of structure. The fills contained a lot of charcoal and a number of fire-cracked pebbles, so whatever activities were taking place they certainly involved fire. However, no in situ scorching was observed. Coarse material discarded by the quarry – the rejects heap – is still producing Palaeolithic artefacts, now more than 200! Recent finds include quartzite cores and a good secondary flake of quartzite too.

**Broughton Astley (Gerwyn Richards, Gavin Speed)**

A large scale evaluation south of Broughton Astley revealed a prehistoric pit alignment, one end of which had been truncated by a backfilled borrow pit. To the north, nearer the village, medieval remains were recorded, including standing earthworks and what look like toft boundaries in one of the evaluation trenches. In the south-east a trench was located across a windmill mound.

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**Great Bowden, Nether Green (Leon Hunt)**

A small excavation was carried out at the site of the Fernie Hunt Kennels in Great Bowden. The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out in July, when a number of archaeological features dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval period (c.A.D 850-1250) were revealed.

A series of large and medium sized ditches and a couple of large pits were revealed, most aligned south-east to north-west, with a few inter cutting with smaller gullies and ditches running on a more east-west alignment. The pottery all seems to be late Anglo-Saxon to medieval and there appear to be a number of phases to the ditches and gullies. All this looks like agricultural activity at the edge of the village of Great Bowden. Ridge and furrow are still extant just to the north and north-west of the site.  *(Above: large pit cut by small gully)*
Castle Donington, Park Lane (Roger Kipling)

Excavations at Park Lane Castle Donington were completed in late October. Having completed the southern Area 1 and its two Bronze Age collared urn burials, possible barrow and pit alignment (see photos), the later stages of the project targeted the northern Area 3 and its network of ditched Roman enclosures.

Although post-excavation work is in its early stages, it would appear that we have a complex series of ditches defining a network of agricultural stock pens/field boundaries, seemingly all broadly early Roman in date, and ranged across a substantial area down slope of Area 1.

Although plough truncation had effectively removed most features within the ditched areas, there were indications of a single small timber post and beam slot-built structure on the eastern edge of the site, associated with substantial (sandstone) quarry pits, one of which produced a decent assemblage of Roman fine wares.

Hallaton, Hare Pie Bank (Vicki Score, Hallaton Fieldwork Group)

While the publication of the hoard site is now at the printers, the Hallaton group took the opportunity with Vicki’s help to follow up some interesting geophysical survey results.

Excavations on suspiciously Roman Temple-shaped geophysical anomalies turned up far more questions than answers. It turned out that the approx 20 x20m
square boundary appears to have been marking the line of a bank, now badly ploughed out. In the centre was a structure with a plaster floor covered by a metre of building rubble/demolition.

Dates for the building have yet to be confirmed but this could be a candidate for St. Morrell’s chapel that was mentioned in the 14th century as a place of pilgrimage. Tailby writing to Nichols in the late 19th century mentions low mounds of a ruined building on Hare Pie Bank. Some of the finds include painted wall plaster (red) and some with whitewash as well as roof tile, slate and a couple of pieces of dressed stone.

Buried beneath all this is what appears to be a ‘dark soil’ full of Roman pottery (cursory inspection suggests late 1st – 2nd century), so possibly contemporary with the settlement to the north of the shrine site.

Not quite a Roman temple but perhaps St Morrell’s Chapel was built on the site of an existing Roman sacred place?

Ketton, Kilthorpe Grange (Mathew Morris, John Thomas and Leon Hunt)

Observation of groundworks during the construction of a new fishing lake uncovered remains of two ring-ditches and an associated scatter of features. Both ring-ditches were c.15m diameter but both were only partially exposed.

One of the ditches had a C-shaped feature lying roughly central to the ring, suggesting an associated feature of unknown function. Apart from a flint flake no other finds were associated with these features or any of the outliers to the ring-ditches.

The plan of the lake was subsequently re-designed to preserve the archaeology in situ.

Kirkby Mallory, Bosworth Road (Cadeby Quarry ext) (James Harvey and Tim Higgins)

Work in the area of Bronze Age funerary activity and an overlying Iron Age enclosure towards the centre of the site was completed with also a couple of notable large storage pits dug to the east on the enclosure (one containing a couple of nice saddle querns).

Also of note was a small shallow pit excavated to the west of the enclosure that contained flint including a lovely barbed and tanged arrowhead. An area to the south-east of the site revealed a reasonably dense area of Roman activity consisting of ditches, pits and a possible post-hole/beamslot structure.

Some of the features were producing fairly high-status material including a fragment from a glass vessel and also an amphora handle.

The activity appears to spread eastwards into Kirkby Mallory racetrack suggesting it represents only a part of a larger complex of Roman settlement activity
nearby??). Finally a cluster of features was excavated to the extreme south-west. Half of a large ring ditch was recorded (c. 45m in diameter) that appeared to have associated post-holes on its inner edge.

Within the half ring two rectangular trough-shaped features were recorded that contained a dense quantity of fire-cracked pebbles. They were clearly associated with one other given their similar shape, orientation and fills but one was markedly larger than the other.

Cut into the eastern side of the ring ditch was a small Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB) of classic design. It consisted of a rectangular pit, 3.1m long, 2.3m wide and c.0.15m deep, at either end of which was a large post-hole. Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from within the pit.

To the north of the ring ditch a much larger sub-rectangular pit/SFB was recorded. It was 4.2m long, 3.5m wide and c.0.5m deep with vertical sides. The site is now finished and post-exavcation work has just started.

Kirkby Mallory: smaller SFB with deep postholes

Kirkby Mallory: larger possible SFB

Enderby (Wayne Jarvis)

Initial geophysical survey suggested an enclosure with associated boundary ditches. Seventy-three trial trenches were subsequently excavated, revealing a spread of archaeological features, with a concentration in the southern part of the site.

The latter included a series of significant Iron Age structural and other features indicating occupation and industrial activity with a really good assemblage of finds and environmental material. Interestingly, a secondary focus of activity was identified to the south-west of the main geophysics results indicating perhaps a second enclosure, or a larger settlement than initially thought.

To the north, quarrying of probable early Roman date was identified, and north of the scheduled DMV site of Lubbesthorpe, medieval activity was identified including structural evidence. Good evidence for waterlogged deposits survived in this area, although as yet, none can be shown to be of any antiquity. Occasional undated features were also recorded across the site area.
Recent News from ULAS

University of Leicester Archaeological Services - concluded

Enderby: Sample excavating some of the Iron Age features on site. One feature produced 1.3kg of IA pottery.

Measham, Minorca opencast site (Gavin Speed)

While most of 34 trenches were negative, an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB) was located to the south of the area where permission has been granted for opencast coal extraction. This had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and finds included 128 sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery from eight vessels, a possible iron dress pin and lumps of haematite and vesicular limestone (both often used with iron working).

The pottery has been identified by Nick Cooper as from globular or biconical jars with upright or slightly out-curving rims, typical of the Early Anglo-Saxon period from the mid-5th to the 7th century. The stamped decoration is often found on urns although these appear to be domestic. The soil sample showed only one type of cereal (barley) suggesting that the deposit may have accumulated as a single event.

The presence of both hulled and naked barley suggests human consumption, and the small quantity of these remains suggests small scale processing and food preparation, pointing to domestic refuse. To the east of this were two linear features – probably ditches or shallow drainage gullies.

Weston by Welland, Northants (James Harvey)

Although in Northamptonshire, this site is of particular interest in relation to early Roman Leicestershire. Aerial photographs showed a two-sided cropmark with a quarter circle corner crossing part of the site, interpreted as a possible Roman fort. Two trenches located a large ditch that correlated with the cropmark. In one trench, a large ‘V’ shaped ditch was recorded that supports the interpretation that the cropmark relates to a Roman military structure. The ditch was 2.3m wide, 1.7m deep and had an ‘ankle breaker’ or ‘cleaning slot’ in the base of it. In another trench, a clearly large square ditch terminal was partially exposed and confirmed as an entranceway suggested by a break in the cropmark shown in the aerial photograph. The lack of material recovered appears to suggest the activity was relatively short lived, and possible evidence of deliberate back-filling was also recorded, represented by possible lumps of turf that may have formed part of a rampart. Two trenches were also excavated inside the cropmark but contained no archaeology. The combination of the evidence suggests that the ditches recorded form part of the remains of a Roman marching camp. This represents the first confirmed Roman military installation recorded in Northamptonshire.
Continuing our occasional series on Leicester’s lesser-known topographical artists, Andrew Macleod writes about the life and work of his great-grandfather

Edward Davies was a successful landscape artist. He was also my great grandfather, but in my youth I knew very little about him other than being familiar with two old photographs and a selection of his watercolours hanging on our living room wall.

These were badly damaged by smoke in a chimney fire in the 1950s but fortunately the Art gallery in New Walk, Leicester, has more paintings by him in good condition. Their bright, clear colours were a revelation to me when I first saw them.

My father’s father was Dr Alexander Lewis Macleod, who lived in Leicester for most of his working life, and married Fanny Davies who was one of Edward’s family of fifteen children.

Edward Davis, as the family name was originally spelt, was born in London and first appears in the 1841 census as a three month old baby. His parents were Isaac and Louisa and I have found records of six other siblings.

They lived in the vicinity of Duke’s Place and Houndsditch in London in the same area as the Blacking Factory in which Charles Dickens worked as a boy. The area was a byword for poverty, as can be seen in the well known Daumier etching, although that was made some twenty years later. It was also an almost entirely Ashkenazy Jewish area, which adds some mystery to the Davies ancestry. The neighbourhood was destroyed during the Blitz and is now occupied by high rise buildings, part of the Square Mile of the City of London.

Isaac was a hairdresser, I think, (the records are difficult to read), then an Oilman, selling lamp oil. This was a family business and involved his wife and two of his children. By 1861 he was working as a commercial traveller, selling cigars, and Edward, now twenty years of age, was part of that same business and a cigar maker.

At some point in the 1860s he moved to Leicester, still working as a cigar maker, where he married Hannah Powell. Hannah was the daughter of Framework Knitters in Wigston and was also in the cigar making business, so it was doubtless a workplace romance. They were to live together for over fifty years.

It is not clear as to how or why Edward took up painting, but in the 1881 census he gave his profession as ‘Landscape Artist’. There are some further clues. I have seen an undated watercolour that is very much in his style but looks comparatively amateurish, and the watercolours that I grew up with were nearly all dated 1881 and are very much in his mature style. It may be that at first, as a young man, he painted for pleasure, and decided later, when he was in his late thirties, to become a professional artist.

His first public showing was at the Royal Academy in 1880 and he exhibited there regularly. In 1896 he became a member of the Royal Institute, then later of the Institute of British Painters in Water Colours.
He travelled and painted throughout Britain. Locally of course, but also in Wales and often to the Western Isles of Scotland. My brother has twice found the precise locations where he sat and painted and it is a curious feeling to be driving along then find the view that hung over our fireplace 60 years ago slowly reforming then seeing it quietly dissolve. In this case he took the train to Kyle of Lochalsh and walked a mile out of town.

I have always enjoyed my great-grandfather’s paintings. They are good and strong and not sentimental. They seem to come from an enjoyment of the world he lived in and a pleasure in his materials and draughtsmanship. He had to earn a living, of course, but there is very much a feeling that he painted in the way that he wanted and not in order to satisfy his public.

In 1881 his first son, George, was fifteen years old and was already working as a lithographic artist, so there were shared interests in his home.

George later exhibited two paintings at the Society of British Artists, London; 'Street in Newlyn, Cornwall', and 'Stormy Weather'. He never achieved the recognition that his father received and died relatively young, at 47. I only have one sketch by him and it looks competent and has a pleasant family likeness.

Edward, Hannah and George are buried together in Welford Road Cemetery.

Andrew Macleod owns a shop in the University area of Edinburgh, and has an interest in art and design.
News from the society’s library
Aubrey Stevenson
Hon Librarian

BOOKS BY MEMBERS

I have become aware of the following new books by members of the Society which may be of interest. Please note that they are not in the Library stock.

BRANDWOOD, G.  The architecture of Sharpe, Paley and Austin. English Heritage, £50.00, 2011. 9781848020498

BRANDWOOD, G. and others  Licensed to sell: the history and heritage of the public house. 2nd ed. English Heritage, £17.99, 2011. 9781848020856


LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY

Following my note in Newsletter 84 about a lack of index for this society’s publications, I am pleased to pass on information received from Rob Wheeler, a member of both societies. He reports that the LRS is in the process of digitising previous volumes in order to make them available via the web. The software includes the ability to search across all volumes, which effectively provides the facility of an index.  www.lincoln-record-society.org.uk

CHURCH GUIDES

My appeal for church guides has resulted in one donation. I am grateful to member Brenda Hooper for a copy of “Guide to All Saints’ church, Thurcaston” by B. Hooper and M. Greiff

ACQUISITIONS

Books and Pamphlets

ADAM, R.  Children’s history of Leicester. 2011. (Note: Local history consultant: Richard Buckley)

BEHR, C.  An unusual new gold A-bracteate from Scalford ( In Studies in early Anglo-Saxon art and archaeology: papers in honour of Martin G. Welch. 2011 )


News from the Society’s library
continued

COX, B. Place-names of Leicestershire part 5 Guthlaxton Hundred. 2011. (English Place-Name Society vol. LXXXVII)

DYER, C. and JONES, R. eds. Deserted villages revisited. 2010. (the starting point of this book was a meeting in 1948 in Leicestershire when historians and archaeologists visited newly identified sites of deserted villages) ch. 4 Dr. Hoskins I presume! has particular Leicestershire relevance.

DYER, C. and others, eds. New directions in local history since Hoskins. 2011. (based on papers given at a conference at the University of Leicester in 2009)


JENKINS, R. World War ancestry. [2011]. (Record Office for Leicestershire... Guide no. 1)

LANGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP The life and families of 17C Langham. 2009 (with work by member Freda Smithson and husband Keith)

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY Leicester faith trail. 2011.

LOCKLEY, D. The house of the cure: life within the Leicestershire Lunatic Asylum. 2011.


News from the Society’s library concluded

incl. p. & p. from Mrs. H. Schultka, 18 Edgeley Road, Countesthorpe, LE8 5QN, or anntrue@tiscali.co.uk. Also includes Willoughby Waterleys, Peatling Magna & Parva, Bruntingthorpe, Foston and Kilby, Newton Harcourt and Wistow.

STODDART, H. Know your place: an introduction to the maps in the Record Office for Leicestershire... . 2009.


The following are all published by ULAS in the Leicester University Monographs series:


THOMAS, J. Monument, memory, and myth: use and re-use of three round barrows at Cossington. 2008.


PERIODICALS
(current copies only on Library table)

Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter Autumn 2011 has a short piece on St. Barnabas church, Leicester (now closed ).

South Derbyshire Heritage News has ceased publication with issue 33 Autumn 2011.


Aubrey Stevenson
Hon Librarian

THE LIBRARY

A reminder that members visiting the Library on the first and third Sundays of the month have permission to use the car park of St. Martins House in return for a contribution to the jar on the Library table which will then be passed to the Director.
Join the LAHS
Connect up to the history and heritage of Leicester and Leicestershire

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society has been a major influence on the historical and archaeological study of Leicestershire since 1855.

For over 155 years we have been reporting on the latest research and debate and providing members with publications of the finest quality.

All members receive the society’s highly-respected Transactions which, every year, present authoritative and important articles by leading local experts in the fields of history and archaeological research.

Additionally, members enjoy the annual Leicestershire Historian, a lively publication containing a rich variety of features, and two issues of our informative Newsletter.

As well as these publications the Society organises a season of ten Thursday evening lectures, held at the Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, plus a Members’ Evening, and our Annual General Meeting.

We also arrange occasional field trips, fairs and other events, all designed to keep you in touch with the history and research activity of our area.

Our well-stocked library at the Guildhall in Leicester is open to members on two Sundays every month. It is an old and remarkable archive where you can browse for as long as you like, and you can also explore online on the Society’s website.

The website offers many resources to assist you in your research including past issues of our Newsletter, and a growing archive of our Transactions, some of which are now keyword searchable.

The Society also publishes occasional books and papers which are offered to members either free of charge or at discounted rates.

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The Society’s financial year starts on 1st May

Full members receive all Society publications; students receive the two Newsletters

Please pay by standing order and gift aid your subscription.

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

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There is a Standing Order mandate form and Gift Aid Declaration on the opposite page. If you prefer not to cut up this Newsletter, an application form is also available on our website.

www.le.ac.uk/lahs
Join the LAHS
Connect up to the history and heritage of Leicester and Leicestershire

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To ..............................................................Bank/Bsoc

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Please pay Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society £........... now and on 1st May each year thereafter to their bank at:

NatWest Bank
14-16 Haymarket
Leicester LE1 3NT

Sort Code 60-60-06
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Signature .................... Date ............

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK tax payer and I would like the Society to treat any subscription I pay on or after 6 April 2012 as a Gift Aid Donation

Surname ......................................................
Title ......  Initials .................
Address: ......................................................
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Signature .................... Date ............

How to join us

Currently, we have a membership of just over 400 individuals - which is really good, but we would be delighted to also welcome you to our Society.

You can join by completing the forms on this and the previous page. You can also download these forms from our website.

You will be welcomed at any of our events and at our Thursday evening lectures at the Museum and Art Gallery in New Walk. You can be assured of a warm welcome - especially if you choose to pay your subscription on the night!

If you are visiting our History Fair at Beaumanor Hall on Sunday 25 March, the Society will refund your admission fees when you pay your subscription.

If you have any questions or queries, do please get in touch. Please email the Newsletter Editor and Hon Secretary at lahs@stephenbutt.co.uk

www.le.ac.uk/lahs
Tracks in the landscape

Beaumanor Hall, the location of the LAHS Spring Heritage Fair, and Quorn and Woodhouse Station on the Great Central Railway share a close affinity. Tom Ingle explains why this insignificant halt has a place in English social history.

Quorn & Woodhouse station on the Great Central Railway has all the charm you might expect in a village railway station. There is little of the bustle found on the national rail network, or even just down the line at the award-winning Loughborough headquarters of the GCR.

Indeed one can imagine that in the days before preservationists, when main line trains thundered south to London Marylebone or north to Sheffield that its presence was an inconvenience. Merely another stop for a local train which in turn slowed down a following express.

However, it has in the past had its fair share of important passengers. Opened in 1899 as part of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway’s grand extension to London, it was run as part of the Great Central network until 1923. The government of the day ‘grouped’ the railways into four larger companies. The GCR found itself part of the London and North Eastern Railway.

The timetables of the 1920s tell us that the first train of the day called at 6.30 in the morning and the last at 10.30 at night. There was a sizeable complement of staff including a Station Master, a booking clerk, three porters, two signalmen and five track gangers. A complement fit for a royal reception perhaps? Certainly! Before he became King Edward VIII, Edward the Prince of Wales, would stop off at the station on his way to the Quorn Hunt and would change into his hunting apparel in the Booking Office before going to join the riders.

However a look across the yard tells the story of the station’s real importance and the role it played in World War Two. The goods yard was a feature of many of the wayside stations built by the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire railway as it pushed south to London.

These were the days before motorways and mass transportation. The railway brought goods and trade from across the country. Today there are air-conditioned warehouses which sprawl but then there was a small shed staffed by a porter who could arrange your precious cargo to be sent onwards or alert you when that important delivery arrived.

The weigh house, tin and brick sheds still standing today are testament to those times when the railways really changed how we lived.
The large yard also gave the station a strategic value. Initially Quorn was simply the closest destination for personnel arriving to take up a post at the listening station at Beaumanor Hall. Later, extra sidings were laid, part of the site had a metalled road laid on it and munitions traffic was handled. For a few months prior to the D-Day landings, when part of the US Army’s 82nd Airborne Division (No. 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment) was based in Quorn, much of their equipment was stored in the station yard. The paratroopers boarded the trains which would take them onwards to the south coast, to Normandy and to their fate.

These paratroopers were involved in liberating the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise in France on the morning of D-Day and included John Steele who famously became caught on the town's church spire. A memorial stone in the centre of Quorn, next to the war memorial, remembers the Americans' time in the town. Close by, an avenue of lime trees was planted in salute to the fallen.

Though their stay lasted but a few months, the Americans were popular guests, often frequenting local pubs including the Apple Tree. A handful of the surviving veterans have occasionally returned to Quorn to mark the anniversary of D-Day.

After the war Quorn station was operated by the newly-created British Railways. Within a few short years it was run down and then closed in 1963. A few years later the express trains which could now race through its platforms unimpeded by local stoppers disappeared too.

Rebirth has come through volunteers and preservationists. The spirit of life on the line in the dark days of the early forties is kept alive through an annual Wartime weekend event, recognising the sacrifices made, and how the railway put Quorn on the military map.

As a postscript, in 2000, the railway scenes for the 1940s set film ‘Enigma’ were shot at Quorn and Woodhouse. However, the station was standing in as ‘Bletchley’ where the top secret code breakers carried out their war-changing work. They were translating and cracking the radio signals which had been picked up at listening posts such as Beaumanor Hall, which was also featured in the film.

Quorn station has had a long life, many owners and operators, and continues to develop today. However, those times of conflict have perhaps shaped it most of all.
Thomas Ingram (1810-1909)
A brief portrait of the society’s first secretary - by the present Honorary Secretary

The Leicestershire Archaeological Society was formed at a meeting in the Guildhall in Leicester on 10 January 1855.

The Archdeacon of Leicester, the Venerable T K Bonney, was in the chair, and the brief minutes were taken by a local solicitor, Thomas Ingram who was to become the Society’s first secretary and a founder member.

Thomas Ingram was born in Little Bowden on 31 March 1810. He was the youngest of two children born to Thomas Ingram senior who was a partner in a legal practice in Market Harborough.

He was educated at private boarding schools in the locality and in London from 1816 to 1825.

In about 1830, Ingram’s father decided to set up his own law firm, and consequently moved to Leicester. Thomas was articled to his father, was admitted in the Michaelmas Term of 1833, and eventually took over his father’s practice. The name lives on in the present legal practice of Harvey Ingram.

He was appointed Clerk to the Billesdon Poor Law Union in 1836, a post he held for 55 years by which time he was the oldest Clerk in the country.

He became highly regarded in legal circles locally. He was the Leicester Law Society’s first treasurer (in 1861, one year after its incorporation) and later served as the President (in 1868).

Ingram was also Registrar of the High Court of Justice (Leicester Division) from June 1860 and Registrar of the Leicester County Court for many years. When he finally retired from his legal roles he had the distinction of being the oldest working solicitor in the country.

He married Frances Jackson who was the daughter of a Leicester draper, at St. Martin’s Church in 1837. The couple had no children.

In about 1862 he purchased about seventy acres of land in Wigston where he built Hawthorn Field, his own house. He frequently made his land available for public events.

He served as churchwarden for All Saints’ Church and acted as chairman of many local committees. A wealthy but generous man, he contributed considerable sums of money to All Saints Church including the costs of a new south porch, a stained glass window, boundary wall and a sixth bell. He also funded refurbishments to a similar extent at St Thomas, South Wigston and St Wistan’s, Wigston.

Ingram died on 23 March 1909 just before his 99th birthday. His funeral at All Saint’s Church was attended by many mourners, including many from the legal profession. He lies buried at Welford Road Cemetery.
Alice’s typewriter under the hammer in Market Harborough

Memories of the famous children’s author and Oxford intellectual Lewis Carroll were evoked at Gildings in Market Harborough on Tuesday 21 February when one of his typewriters was offered for auction.

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was a lecturer of mathematics at Christ Church, Oxford. In addition to the well-known adventures of Alice, he wrote humorous verse including The Hunting of the Snark and Sylvie and Bruno, and also academic volumes such as Memoria Technica, Curiosa Mathematica, Principles of Parliamentary Representation and Symbolic Logic.

The typewriter’s provenance indicates that Dodgson completed a mathematics treatise on it and also a small number of items of correspondence. It is still in working order, in its original polished wood fitted case.

Inside the lid, at the top of the manufacturer’s instructions, in clear, spidery black ink handwriting, it is inscribed ‘Rev. C.L. Dodgson, Ch.Ch. Oxford’.

An entry in Dodgson’s diary for 4 May records the arrival of the typewriter, with the words: ‘Chandler came across to show me how to work the ‘Hammond Type-Writer’, which arrived yesterday’.

Auctioneer Mark Gilding said: ‘It is a very exciting item to be handling and we are pleased to be offering it for sale in our Fine Art and Antiques auction.

I am sure that it will attract great interest through its association with such a well known Victorian gentleman who has achieved so much popularity over so long.

To see his name and college handwritten in the lid is a fascinating personal link with him too.’

‘Also the typewriter itself is of tremendous appeal as it is so early when such office equipment was only really just being developed. These machines were made by James Hammond who became successful in the 1880s.

The fact that it is in such fine condition and of such a great design, complete in its original box just adds to its interest to collectors from this country and further afield.

My client has decided to offer the typewriter for sale in the hope that it will find a new home with a private collector or institution who will treasure this important object.’

The pre-sale estimate for the typewriter was £2000-3000.
The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

History Fair

Sunday 25 March 2012

10.00am - 4.00pm

Beaumanor Hall, Old Woodhouse

Over forty different history and heritage organisations
Guided tours of the hall including the cellars
Organised activities for children
Six mini-talks from guest speakers
Refreshments available all day
Free vintage bus service from GCR Quorn & Woodhouse station

Admission £3-00 (accompanied children free)
No further charges for any activity!

Come to the fair on the Great Central Railway and save money! The GCR is offering special discounts, and if you come by rail, admission to the fair is free. There is free parking at Leicester North and Loughborough stations. The GCR’s Quorn and Woodhouse station is set in World War II. You are invited to sample its unique atmosphere and enjoy the NAAFI tearoom.

Full details of fares and timetables at www.gcrailway.co.uk