News from the AGM

New President takes the chair
Professor Rosemary Cramp presided over her first AGM in November 2006 and we were all delighted that she should travel from Durham to be with us on that evening. After the business of the AGM Professor Cramp described her current research project.

No increase in subscriptions this year
The Honorary Treasurer, Michael Johnson, persuaded the committee to withdraw the AGM resolution requesting an increase in subscription from 1st May 2007. He felt that the Society’s finances could stand another year with a £16 per annum subscription. However, he did warn that an increase was inevitable in the next 2-3 years. We can increase our income if those who are able would gift aid their annual donation to the society. If you would like a form to do this please contact Geoff Clark-Monks our Honorary Membership Secretary.

Another new publication from the Society

As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations, a history of the Society has been written by Robert Rutland – The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005. Consisting of 228 pages and 77 illustrations it is on sale to members at £12 and to non members at £18. The Honorary Secretary will have copies at future lectures and it will be available when the library is open at the Guildhall. Alan McWhirr would prefer not to have to post too many copies, but if members living out of Leicester would like one posted then they should add £3 to cover post and packing, all cheques made out to the LAHS and sent to Dovedale Road.
Publications available

Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies

Edited by Joanna Story, Jill Bourne and Richard Buckley 2006

Leicester Abbey was founded in 1138 and became one of the most important Augustinian monasteries in medieval England, but it is one of the least known of the Midland monasteries because of the almost total destruction of its buildings and archives after its dissolution in 1538. This is the first volume on Leicester Abbey for more than 50 years, produced to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

The book presents eleven papers by leading scholars and local historians on the social, political and landscape history of the abbey as well as its archaeology, manuscripts, charters, urban rentals and library. Newly discovered charters are published here for the first time, as well as accounts of recent excavations in the abbey and gatehouse that formed the core of the post-dissolution mansion known as Cavendish House.

314 pages, illustrated in black and white and colour. Hard back. Free to members

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005

by Robert Rutland

In 1955 when the Society celebrated its centenary a short history of the Society was published. To mark the 150th anniversary the committee agreed to publish a more detailed history to cover that period. Robert Rutland expressed an interest in compiling an account and worked tirelessly over the past 4-5 years reading minute books, press cuttings, details of excursions and Transactions (all volumes covering 1862 to 2005). Alan McWhirr put the text and illustrations together and the printers of Transactions 4Word have produced a fine product at a reasonable price. It has been digitally printed to help keep costs down and a professionally compiled index has been included. Only 150 copies have been printed and so if you want to be sure of one, buy now!

Consisting of 228 pages and 77 illustrations it is on sale to members at £12 and to non members at £18. The Honorary Secretary will have copies at future lectures and it will be available when the library is open at the Guildhall. Alan McWhirr would prefer not to have to post too many copies, but if members living out of Leicester would like one posted then they should add £3 to cover post and packing, all cheques made out to the LAHS and sent to Dovedale Road.

Index of Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

compiled by Auriol Griffith-Jones

This index which was published in 2005 has proved to be a valuable tool to researchers in Leicestershire and further afield. It consists of a contemporary index of volumes 21-74 (1940-2000) and a reprint of the index produced in 1951 covering 1-20, all in one hard-backed volume of 388 pages.

Members can purchase a copy at £10 (plus £5 post and packing in the UK). Non-members can purchase a copy at £22 (plus £5 post and packing in the UK)

There is an order form on our web site:
http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/publications/orderform.html

Other occasional publications can be found on the Society’s web site at:
http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/publications/occasional.html
**Members’ evening in lecture programme**

We plan to have another members’ evening in the lecture programme when members can tell others about their research, or talk about an artefact, an excavation, an old picture or ‘whatever takes their fancy’. We can only fit in three members in one evening and we would need to offer a variety of topics. If there is an overwhelming response it might be possible to organise a second members’ evening. If you would like to take part email Sybil Rutland at: bobandsybil@rsrutland.fsnet.co.uk

We are very grateful to those who spoke at the members’ evening held in December 2006, Mark Calne, Jeff Knight and Bob Trubshaw in what was a very good evening, appreciated by all who attended.

**Can you help in this research project?**

**Were you a Supermarket Shopper in the 1950s and 1960s?**

Researchers at the Universities of Exeter and Surrey are being funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to conduct a nationwide survey into consumer reactions to the supermarket between 1945 and 1975.

Was the rise of the British supermarket desirable or inevitable? If you can remember using self-service food shops or supermarkets during the period from the 1950s to the 1960s, please contact Dr. Adrian Bailey at the University of Exeter: Tel. 01392 262523. Leave a message and you will receive a questionnaire and learn more about their exciting oral history project. To find out more, please visit their research website www.sobe.ex.ac.uk/shopping

**Two new vice-presidents elected at AGM**

The Society elected two new vice-presidents at the AGM in November 2006, Robert Rutland and Lars Tharp.

**Robert Rutland**

Robert was born in Kent, and studied Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham before moving to Keele for postgraduate work. He has held archaeological posts in museums at Chester and Reading before moving to Leicester in 1972. Here he looked after the Jewry Wall Museum and all aspects of archaeology, except excavation, until retirement in 2000. Since then he has written the history of this Society and served as Chairman of CBA East Midlands.

**Lars Tharp**

Lars is a ceramic historian, broadcaster and writer. He was born in Copenhagen and went to Wyggeston Boys School Leicester. In his teens he did voluntary work at the Jewry Wall Museum where our other newly-elected vice-president was curator at the time. He also gained excavation experience on our Honorary Secretary’s excavations in Cirencester. At Cambridge University he read Palaeolithic archaeology after which he became a director of Sotheby’s, specializing in Chinese ceramics and works of art. Since 1993 he has run his own arts consultancy business and, after more than twenty years of appearances, he has become a stalwart of the BBC Antiques Roadshow while also presenting other TV and radio programmes, notably for Radios Three and Four.

**Society’s web site**

The newly designed web site was launched in July 2005 and since then the number of visitors to that site has grown steadily and is averaging around 520 per week. We have resisted ‘tweaking’ the content and design for a six month trial period, but now our web manager, Richard Buckley, is updating and adding new pages on the site.

We are considering putting on the site more volumes of Transactions, or possibly some groups of major articles which have appeared in Transactions. There may be scope for a members’ page on which ideas can be floated or requests for help. It would be good to involve members more and to make available some of valuable resources which we have in our publications. Likewise members may have important information which would benefit by being publicised more.

If you have any ideas for improving the web pages or have material you would us to consider adding to the site, do please email Richard (rjb16@le.ac.uk) or Alan McWhirr (alan@dovedale2.demon.co.uk)
Calling all local history societies

Committee members, Caroline Wessel and Dr Graham Jones, are currently working on the setting up of a networking and contacts forum for the various history societies of the county. The questionnaire being sent out will assess the details and range of local societies’ aims and activities, and also asks what services their members might wish to access from us.

An Autumn Fair for county history societies is being considered, at which local history (and related) groups could take a stall to display their publicity material, research, or publications, and also enjoy a pleasant day out making useful contacts with other like-minded people. A speaker, or some kind of training or activity, at this event might also appeal.

If you know of any recently formed society with historical interests that is not already listed on the Leicestershire County Council Links website, we should be pleased to add them to our mailing list. Or if you have any bright ideas about running a History Fair, please let us know.

Contact Caroline Wessel on cmwessel@aol.com, or Graham Jones on graham.jones@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Caroline Wessel and Graham Jones

Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG)

For many years the Vernacular Architecture Group held its winter conference in London, but in December 2006 they met in Leicester, at the University’s Oadby halls of residence, and will be coming again next year.

The 2006 meeting took as its theme Houses of Mud and Earth, which was of course appropriate because of Leicestershire’s mud walling tradition. Mud potentially provided a slightly depressing title for a conference, but in fact the proceedings were varied, interesting and distinctly cheerful. The VAG is a lively, sociable and upbeat group, which helped to dispel any gloom at the prospect of hours spent discussing different types of clay, cow dung and other materials, and the Oadby halls were bright and welcoming.

Papers were given on the general theme of mud or earth walls, based on field observation and documents, mostly on buildings of the 14th-19th centuries. Experts on building conservation spoke about the various practical problems and planning issues raised by this material, and papers were given on earth construction in various parts of the country, such as Devon, Scotland, Wales and the Solway Plain, and in America. The mud buildings of the east midlands, and in particular of south Leicestershire, were presented by David Smith and Neil Finn, and this paper reported important recent research.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA)

The Council for British Archaeology claims on the front cover of its bi-monthly publication, British Archaeology, to be ‘the voice of archaeology in Britain and beyond’. This is a big claim, but it can be justified. It is not the oldest national archaeological organisation, but it is the most comprehensive. Membership is open to any person or organisation (The LAHS is a member) who is any way involved with, or interested in, archaeology in Britain. It is a national body, but with a regional structure. My first experience of CBA was over 40 years ago in Chester and I have remained involved, on and off, ever since.

It was therefore natural that shortly after retiring in 2000 I should join the committee of the East Midlands group, subsequently serving three years as its chairman. What struck me, however, was how unrepresented Leicestershire and Rutland were both on the committee and at meetings, even when they were held locally. I thought, therefore, that members of this Society might like to have some kind of idea of the activities of CBA, concentrating on the regional group.

CBA-East Midlands, covering Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland, holds two reports meetings a year, at which members (and guests) can find out what has been going on within the last year in the region. The Autumn 2006 meeting was held at Wing and had reports on several sites, including Hamilton and Oakham, but also on activities, such as experimental pottery kiln firing, and the development of community archaeology in Nottinghamshire. In October there was a full day at Cresswell Crags with an opportunity to see and handle material finds and hear about the nationally important discoveries of cave art, and in July members visited the Derbyshire Ware kiln firing experiment. The Spring meeting and AGM was held at Calver in Derbyshire and again included a wide variety of reports on work in the region.

The easiest way to find out more about the CBA is to look on its website www.britarch.ac.uk. The next reports meeting, and AGM, of CBA East Midlands is on Saturday 17th March 2007 at Washington, Lincoln, when reports will focus on recent work in the Witham valley. The contact for this is the meetings secretary, Daryl Garton, daryl@dgarton.plus.com

Why not give it a try?
In July 2006 the Society was contacted by a dealer in stereoscopic photography living in Suffolk telling us that he had a ‘rare collection of stereoscopic views of Leicestershire dating from 1850s/early 1860s. They bear all the hallmarks of the work of George Bankart, but bear the initial of ‘F.B.’ rather than ‘G.B.’ The pictures were for sale and available to view on the dealer’s web site.

It was decided that, after consultation with the Record Office, the Society should make an offer and attempt to buy these pictures so that they could be returned to Leicestershire. The offer was accepted and the Friends of the Record Office agreed to contribute to the purchase.

There were 46 pictures in total, many of Bradgate Park, but there were also views of slate pits, some buildings including Bishop Latimer’s House and Ulverscroft Priory. There are also some which include people such as William Perry Herrick.

The Society has now presented these pictures to the Record Office. Because of their age these pictures do not scan all that well, but I have attempted to do some and my attempts are shown here.

Alan McWhirr

Top right: Handwritten on this picture is ‘Slate pits near Grooby, Leicestershire by F. Parsons.’

Bottom left: Labelled ‘Johnson’s Views of Leicester, No 1596, Spinney, London Road’.

Bottom right: ‘The bridge near the ruins, Bradgate’. The two gentlemen are named ‘J. Hunt and ‘Old Perry’ who is almost certainly William Perry Herrick.

Can you help? Many of these pictures were published by Thomas Parsons, 30 Gallowtree Gate and same state ‘photographed by F. Parsons’. Many carry the initials F.B. One appears to have been taken by George Bankart (1829-1916) who was president of the Leicester Photographic Society. Can anyone tell us about any of these?
In our last Newsletter we reported on the major, extensive excavations taking place in Leicester ahead of the Shires Extension being conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). On 8th February Tim Higgins and Jon Coward gave members, despite some technical difficulties, an informative resume of the major discoveries and of post-excavation work in progress. Here we present some plans of the buildings found and how they fit into the plan of early Leicester. On the right is a composite plan of the Roman buildings found on the site known as Vine Street and below is where this group of buildings are situated within the Roman town. Some wording will not be readable at this level of reduction, but one can clearly see four wings of a Roman building around a central courtyard with an apsidal room on the north wing very reminiscent of

One of the most interesting finds from Vine Street was a ‘curse’ tablet – a sheet of lead inscribed in the second or third century AD and intended to invoke the assistance of a chosen god. It has been translated by a specialist at Oxford University, and reads:

‘To the god Maglus, I give the wrongdoer who stole the cloak of Servandus. Silvester, Riomandus (etc.) ... that he destroy him before the ninth day, the person who stole the cloak of Servandus...’ Then follows a list of the names of 18 or 19 suspects. What happened to them is not recorded.

Before the discovery of this object, archaeologists only knew of the names of three or four of the inhabitants of Roman Leicester, so the find is of great significance. “The Leicester curse is unusually well preserved and had not been rolled up. After initial cleaning by a conservator, it was clear that it was covered in handwritten script, including a column of text which looks rather like a list. The specialist examining the curse notes that the Latin of the script reflects the spoken language in several ways. There are 18 or 19 names, a mixture of commonplace Roman (like Silvester and Germanus), Celtic (like Riomandus and Cunovendus), and ‘Roman’ names found in Celtic-speaking provinces (like Regalis). The god’s name might be a title - ‘prince’ in Celtic.”
This excavation area was located in a medieval block, and one of the principal streets of Roman Leicester runs underneath the 16th-century Free Grammar School and an 18th-century town house. Highcross Street itself was the major North-South street of the medieval town. Very rarely has it been possible in Leicester to investigate a medieval street frontage, as on most sites the archaeology has either been destroyed by 19th century cellars, or the structural evidence is now under the pavement due to road widening schemes.

Excavation on The Highcross Street frontage revealed part of the school which had been demolished in the 19th century, together with a complex sequence of medieval and post-medieval buildings within three narrow plots. The frontage buildings were probably timber framed, resting on stone foundations. In the back yards of the properties were the usual range of cess pits, wells and outhouses, together with a number of other structures pointing to specific activities. For example, one property had a series of stone ovens believed to be associated with brewing and identified as mash ovens and a malting kiln.

Finds from the medieval phases included this triangular piece of rivetted chain maille of c.1350-1475, thought to have been a decorative piece designed to be attached to a larger maille garment to enhance its appearance and probably worn by a person of high status.

Towards the closing stages of the excavation, fragmentary evidence for timber buildings tentatively dated to the 10th-11th centuries was identified – the first structures of this period found in the city so far. The Anglo-Saxon period was also represented by two ‘sunken featured’ buildings on opposite sides of the site. Also, a large post-built structure was discovered, perhaps a hall, cutting into a substantial deposit of that appeared to be Roman granite building of rubble and tile.

Closer examination of the rubble beneath the Anglo-Saxon features revealed one of the most remarkable discoveries of the excavation – the collapsed wall of a large Roman building. This was almost certainly the macellum (the Roman shopping centre), which mostly lay beneath the modern casino and Travelodge across the road. The wall had collapsed across the main Roman road and was at least 8m high, constructed of granite rubble with regular tile bonding courses.

Cutting into the edge of the Roman road, were a series of Roman hearths which may have been used for the extraction of silver from coinage near the end of the Roman period. Shown here is a steelyard complete with a pan, from site. These Roman ‘weighing scales’ may have been used for weighing out such precious metals.

Jon Coward
Members’ activities

We would like to report on what our members are up to but can only do so if you send in details.

PLEASE tell us about your activities.

Member Ned Newitt is busy writing and this volume was published late in 2006. We are promised more in 2007 and 2008, so watch this space.

The Anthology of Leicester
Chartist Song Poetry & Verse
Ned Newitt (editor)

THE TIME shall come when wrong shall end,
When peasant to peer no more shall bend;
When the lordly Few shall lose their sway,
And the Many no more their frown obey.

Thomas Cooper

In the 1840s, Leicester was in the forefront of the battle for democracy. It was a town where life expectancy was under twenty-five years for a working man or woman. It was a town where those who campaigned for the right to vote faced persecution and repression, where pro-democracy demonstrators were met with mounted cavalry with drawn swords and cutlasses.

In the midst of this struggle against what they called the tyranny of the few against the many, local Chartist poets rallied to the cause. Their songs and verses became popular with supporters of universal suffrage throughout Britain.

Tony Squires is well known for his research on forests and parks and we were all delighted to hear that he was one of the winners of the British Association for Local History’s publication awards in 2006. This was for an article he wrote which was published in Rutland Record 23 entitled ‘The Medieval Park of Ridlington’.

Each year the BALH receives 150 or more local history journals and other publications for review containing around 800 potentially award-winning articles. A panel of judges then selects the winners on the following criteria: originality of theme, an appropriately scholarly approach, academic quality, liveliness of style and quality of writing.

The presentation was made at the BALH Local History Day held in London in June 2006.

Copies of back numbers of the Rutland Record are still available and for details of the latest one see opposite on page 9.

Stereoscopic picture see page 5. This one is labelled ‘George Bankart 1858 “Victor”, the property of Matthew Burridge Esq, Ingarsby.’

THE ANTHOLOGY OF LEICESTER CHARTIST SONG, POETRY & VERSE

Edited By Ned Newitt

This anthology has drawn much of the local poets’ verse together. It includes work from Thomas Cooper, William Jones and John Bramwich amongst others. From their writing it is possible to gain a sense of their dignity and commitment in the face of oppression and starvation.

Paperback – 64 pages
8 illustrations – 147 x 205mm Price £5.95
Modern technology!

D espite the advances in geophysics and all other technological techniques used on archaeological sites, when it comes to hearing about the results of excavations we run into serious technical problems! What am I talking about? I am referring to the growing trend by speakers to use a computer package known as PowerPoint which has resulted in some stunning presentations – when it works. For such presentations one needs a computer, usually a laptop, and a data projector. The talk is prepared on the computer and and once one links the laptop with the projector these ‘stunning’ presentations appear before ‘your very eyes’. That is the theory. However, as those who have attended our recent lectures will know, we have had one or two difficulties, culminating with one occasion when it did not work at all, and so fifty people all looked at the laptop screen. The speakers on this occasion did extremely well and I think most of the audience managed to get something out of the talk. The problems arise when the laptop computer will not communicate with the projector and so we always advise speakers to bring their own equipment and to check it before the meeting. Even this sometimes fails and so your committee is going to buy its own laptop and projector to try and minimise the problems which can arise. This may not happen until the 2007-8 season.

Apologies from the committee and the speakers for problems which have arisen. We are trying our best to remedy the situation.

Some publications by other groups

TILTON AND DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

The Tilton and District History Group has now produced three editions of its Journal and they are a credit to the group. The latest is Issue 3, Autumn 2006, and this runs to 28 pages and contains five articles including topics on the school, church, a wind engine and the will of Everard Digby. There is also an account of a prisoner of war who was based at the POW camp at Billesdon and worked at Oxey Farm, Tilton.

Copies of the Journal are on sale at £3.50 and can be obtained from several local bookshops including Browsers in Allandale Road, Leicester

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

This Rutland society has a commendable publication record. Their annual publication is the Rutland Record and they have also produced eight very valuable occasional works. In the Rutland Record Series there are four splendid books.

The most recent occasional publication is number 8 in the series, Common Right and Private Interest: Rutland’s Common Fields and their Enclosure, by Ian E Ryder (2006). This is a detailed account of how Rutland’s enclosures evolved, with historical background, case studies, gazetteer and indexes (£7.50, members £6.00)

The latest Rutland Record is number 25 Rutland in Print: a bibliography of England’s smallest county, compiled by J D Bennett (£3.50, members £3.00) Subject index and index of publishers. This lists 529 books and pamphlets and in addition there is a list of directories, almanacks, periodicals and newspapers relating to Rutland published before the end of 2005.

To help the Society communicate with its members please let the Honorary Secretary have your email address if you are on line.

For latest news visit the Society’s web site at www.le.ac.uk/lahs
The library returns to its regular hours of 2.00-4.00pm on the first and third Sunday each month now that the Guildhall has reopened. Unfortunately I must be away on March 18 and April 1 so it will NOT be open on those two afternoons.

Books and pamphlets
Old and new books and pamphlets continue to be acquired even during our enforced closure:
Brandwood, G. All Saints’ church, Highcross Street, Leicester. 2006.
Gelling, M. Place-names of Shropshire pt.5 Hundred of Pimhill and Bradford North. 2006 (English Place-Name Society).
Hillier, K. and Ryder, P. Grace Dieu Priory. 2006 Donated by Ken Hillier. This glossy, attractrive booklet is a history, description and tour of the site and is an essential work for the understanding of the ruins now that they are more accessible. Its 24 pages are well illustrated, has plans, and there is a detailed bibliography. It is published by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Museum and the Grace Dieu Priory Trust at £5 (ISBN 0954779908)
Hollingworth, D. 700 year walk through the Newark and the old town of Leicester. 2002
Jennings, T., Temporary site bellfounding technology and the itinerant bellfounder’s technique: the archaeological and archival evidence in Great Britain anad Europe before 1950. 2006
Parish and collegiate church of St Mary de Castro: history and guide. rev. ed. 2006
Riddett, A., Sketchbook of Great Bowden. 1998
Somerby remembered: a Leicestershire village in words and photographs c. 1300-1945. 1994
S.P.A.B. Report 2005
Staunton Harold visitors’ guide [2007]

Periodicals
Periodicals relevant to the Society’s areas of interest: archaeology, architecture, history, and covering an extensive geographical area, continue to be acquired by donation, exchange and purchase. The latest issues of the following titles have arrived; a few particular articles are noted:

Antiquaries Journal Vol. 86. 2006
Article by A. Catalari and S. Pearce ‘... communications by women to the Society of Antiquaries between 1776 and 1837 ...’ includes Elizabeth, Countess of Moira.

Architectural History
Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings
Cornerstone
Ecclesiology Today 35 2005 – donated by Ian Stevens
Article by M. Thurlby ‘Romanesque churches of St Mary Magdelene at Tixover and St Mary at Morcott’.
Essex Archaeology and History.
Historical Research.
Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions.
Leicestershire Historian.
Medieval Archaeology 50 2006
Article by H. Hamerow ‘Special deposits in Anglo-Saxon settlements’ – includes Eye Kettleby, and a ten page report on Leicestershire 2005.
Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
Research News: newsletter of the English Heritage Research dept. 4 Sum 2006 focuses on Chester amphitheatre project.
Shropshire History and Archaeology.
Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions.
Village Voice
Worcestershire Archaeological Society Transactions

Current copies of:
British Record Society annual report
Community History Newsletter
Lincoln Record Society annual report
as well as those listed in the previous issue of this Newsletter

Our chairman continues to be busy. His latest article ‘Congregations in rural Leicestershire and Rutland 1863-1914’ appears in Midland History XXXI, 2006, p.91-104. A permanent file of this periodical is available in the library at the Record Office.

Finally, a reminder that as well as back copies of Transactions and Leicestershire Historian there are copies still for sale of other Society publications:
Brandwood, G., Bringing them to their knees: church-building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800-1914. This is currently available to members at £12
Greenhill, F., Incised slabs of Leicestershire and Rutland. £10
Rimmington, G., and McWhirr, A., Gallowtree Gate
Congregational Chapel, Leicester 1823-1921: a history of the chapel and a list of interments in the graveyard. £3
Please collect any of these from the library when open or at lectures when certain volumes will be available.

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian
Leicestershire Archaeology Week
part of National Archaeology Week – Saturday 14th July – Sunday 22nd July 2007
A chance to find out about the archaeology of Leicestershire and Leicester with events, talks and guided tours

PROVISIONAL EVENTS AND DATES

Saturday 14th July to Sunday 22nd: 2pm – 4pm daily: OPEN EXCAVATION AT DONINGTON le HEATH MANOR HOUSE
Leics County Council, Leics Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group and the Friends of Donington invite you to have a look at the excavations to reveal more of the Manor House’s history.

Saturday 14th July ARCHAEOLOGY DAY: Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester.
A hands-on day of archaeology with guided walks of the Jewry Wall site by Alan McWhirr.

Saturday 14th July IDENTIFICATION DAY: Old Rectory
Bring along your finds and Loughborough Archaeological Society will identify them.

Saturday 14th July to Sunday 22nd July: 2pm – 4pm daily: OPEN EXCAVATION AT DONINGTON le HEATH MANOR HOUSE
Leics County Council, Leics Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group and the Friends of Donington invite you to have a look at the excavations to reveal more of the Manor House’s history.

Sunday 15th July A TRANSECT OF RATBY HISTORY; Meet? A guided walk from the village to Old Hays moated site and Ratby Bury Iron Age hillfort.

Sunday 15th July ANCIENT ASHBY: Ashby Museum
Witan Archaeology in connection with Ashby Museum will show the evidence for archaeology around Ashby.

Monday 16th July: 2pm? GUIDED WALK AT BURROUGH HILL:
Burrough Hill Country Park: meet in the car park
Dr Alan McWhirr will guide you around the Iron Age ramparts of Burrough Hill.

Tuesday 17th July OPEN DAY AT COLLIER DIG AND GUIDED WALK
Gorse Field, Swannington
Swannington Heritage Trust and Leicestershire Industrial History Society will guide you round the latest excavations, the reconstructed horse gin and Hough Mill

Wednesday 18th July: 2pm - 4pm: THE ROMANS ARE COMING: Donington le Heath Manor House, Coalville.
Event aimed at children with hands-on activities, games and craft (activity every Wednesday through the holidays)

Thursday 19th July: 2pm and 7pm: GRACE DIEU PRIORY GUIDED WALK:
Grace Dieu Priory near Thringstone.
Ernie Miller from the Friends of Grace Dieu will show you the secrets of Leicestershire’s medieval nunnery. Meet at the Bull’s Head Car Park.

Friday 20th July: times: PAPILLON HALL REVEALED
Papillon Hall, near Lubenham
Upper Welland Archaeological Group will show visitors the remains of this fascinating 17th century building, remodelled and extended in the early 20th century and demolished in the 1950s.

Saturday 21st July: 11am – 4pm ARCHAEOLOGY ALIVE: Donington le Heath Manor House, Coalville.
A look at local archaeology with hands-on activities, crafts, displays.

Sunday 22nd July STEP BACK IN TIME:
Beacon Hill, Woodhouse Eaves.
Beacon steps back 3000 years and more with flint knapping, bronze smithing, guided walks and more.

Sunday 22nd July ANCIENT IBSTOCK:
Ibstock Community Enterprise Shop
Witan Archaeology will be showing their finds from the Ibstock Roman villa and other local sites.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE EVENTS DURING THIS WEEK
Did you know you can view online images relating to England’s Heritage for free?

There are two great English Heritage websites you can visit when looking for historical or current photographs of England’s Heritage.

Over 45,000 images, dating from the 1840s to the present day, can be found on Viewfinder: www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder.

The photographs cover the industrial age, architecture and archaeology, as well as some social history.

Have a look and see what we have for your part of the country, or other parts of England you’re interested in researching. Or you can search through more than 50 themes already selected for you, from Festivals and Fairs, to the First World War or Fires and Floods.

Alternatively the Images of England website: www.imagesofengland.org.uk has nearly 280,000 contemporary colour images of England’s listed buildings, covering everything from churches to phone boxes, mile posts to manor houses, bridges to barns. It is a ‘point in time’ image library, based on the buildings listed at the turn of the Millennium.

You may be able to find images of buildings where you, or your family, have lived, worked and played. There may be a photograph of the church where your grandparents were married, the school they attended or the bridge they walked over every day.

These are only two of the great resources brought to you by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage. We hold over 10 million photographs, drawings, reports, records and publications covering England’s archaeology, architecture, social and local history. Look at our website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/NMR to see what you can discover.

Frame knitters’ workshop, 42-44 Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicestershire
The hosiery industry maintained an almost exclusively domestic system of production until the mid-19th century, of which this frameshop with an attached house is a unique survival. It was built in 1880 and the machines seen here were last used in 1972 (when this photograph was taken).

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