

THE FIELDWORKER

LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS NEWSLETTER

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1. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting** on **Thursday June 16th** at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 4LB. This will involve the normal reports on last year, elections of officers and committee and discussion of future work. As usual, we are keen to have volunteers to join the committee or to help out with specific tasks or as helpers at events. Please email info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk if you are interested or speak to a committee member.

After the AGM (which we promise will be quick) the guest speaker is **Dr Turi King**, lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology at the University of Leicester. She will be speaking on '**Am I a Viking? Vikings, migrations and genetic ancestry**'. She will NOT be speaking about her work on the Richard III project but rather her other work on the link between surnames, genetics and the Viking migrations - which got put on the back burner when Richard came along. This talk discusses how genetics can be used to examine the Viking migration by looking at the DNA of men alive in the U.K. today.

2. DIARY DATES FOR 2016 (at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised) September 15th and November 17th: speakers to be confirmed

3. EXCAVATION NEWS

ULAS have continued machining at **Enderby** where the Iron Age site has proved to be very large with many enclosures and roundhouses. This is just across the M1 from the Iron Age sites excavated before the Grove Farm development and may prove to be part of the same complex. At **Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester**, the six test pits in advance of the new entrance walk way have found beneath a tangle of service pipes well preserved Roman archaeology, including a collapsed wall, floor levels and wall plaster suggesting high status buildings perhaps connected to the baths or to the building that contained the peacock mosaic. At **Cossington Church** there has been work inside and outside the building, while at **Diseworth** a watching brief has produced medieval pits.

Allen Archaeology are continuing to strip new areas at **Lubenham Hill**, finding more complex Iron Age and Roman archaeology.

Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) are digging at Nether Broughton and have revealed medieval features.

4. SUMMER TRIP

There are still places available on the trip to see the Tudor garden at Stonton Wyville, a chance to see the newly refurbished Oakham Castle and Brooke Priory, the only medieval priory in Rutland that later became the mansion of the Noel family. It has the largest formal garden earthworks locally – a contrast to the small but perfectly formed Stonton. Cost is £9 and a booking form is attached or for postal members was enclosed with the last newsletter.

5. FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2016

Planning for the 2016 Festival, from the 16th to 31st July, is now complete. Over 70 events have been arranged in all parts of the 2 counties – from Bottesford to Lutterworth and Ashby de la Zouch to Oakham! As ever, there are displays, talks, family friendly events, have a go events and, of course, guided walks. The Festival leaflet is with the designer and should be available mid-June while all the events are on the national Festival website and will be on our website soon as a downloadable PDF. Please check the website before attending any event as that is where any changes or cancellations will be notified.

We are still looking for help with the launch event, called **BRINGING OUR PAST TO LIFE**, on July 10th at Jewry Wall Museum. We have re-enactors representing many periods and stalls from local groups the Young Archaeologists Cub, and ULAS who will bring displays of recent finds. We want to showcase the work done by groups and individuals across Leicestershire and Rutland. If you can bring displays or help staff stalls it would be much appreciated. As 2016 is the Fieldworkers 40th anniversary we would like to see the Group well represented this year. Contact Peter on peter.liddle51@gmail.com if you'd like to be involved. A separate leaflet advertising this event will be available shortly. A copy is attached or enclosed.

6. **ROTHLEY BIG DIG**

Please contact Julie Attard (jad17@le.ac.uk) of Charnwood Roots if you can help with the test pitting at Rothley over the weekend of July 23rd -24th. While much of the digging will be done by the property owners involved they are looking for experienced diggers to help.

7. **GRACEDIEU FRIENDS RELAUNCH**

The Friends of Gracedieu relaunch evening is at Gracedieu Manor School on June 21st at 7pm in the school Hub. There will be a presentation of the work that has been done in the last 10 years followed by light refreshments. The group manage the priory ruins, which are near Thringstone. For more information please contact David Whitt 01530 223201

8. **SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE REPORT**

A Conference of the Medieval Settlement Research Group arranged by Professor Carezza Lewis was held at the University of Lincoln on 30th April-1st May. This was attended by 5 members of Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology and Mike Southall of Lutterworth Fieldworkers. Presentations on local amateur test pitting projects were given by Mike Southall for the Lutterworth group and Rosemary Culkin for GBHA.

9. **GROUP NEWS - SUBSCRIPTIONS**

2016-7 subscriptions will be due at the AGM and if you owe for this coming year you will receive an email containing the form in late June or if you are postal then with this newsletter. It does take Kathy a great deal of work in chasing up subscriptions so prompt payment is appreciated. Note some people have already paid in advance and some by standing order and if so you will NOT receive a reminder. A form can also be downloaded from the website but please wait until after the AGM when we hope our new website will be up and running. The address on the form has changed and forms will now go back to the Membership secretary Kathy Elkin, not to the Treasurer, John Maloney. Queries to Kathy on info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk

The **Lutterworth Group** started walking a new field at **Great Poultney**. Good finds of flint flakes and a few scrapers were found, as well as medieval pottery and the odd piece of Roman pot. Although now under crop we will be able to complete walking this field in June.

Continuing excavations by **FLAG** at **Croxton Kerrial Manor House** have uncovered evidence of Anglo Saxon settlement on the site. A large number of sherds of Middle Saxon pottery and jewellery, which includes two bronze pins, a silver sceat coin, minted around 700 AD, and a pair of bronze ladies eyebrow tweezers, decorated with a ring and dot design. Other finds include a 13th century bronze ring brooch and a bronze Roman coin of Constantine the First, circa 330 AD. This was very worn and so may have been in circulation into the Anglo Saxon period.

10. **BRADGATE PARK EXCAVATIONS**

The University of Leicester Field School starts on June 6th and runs for 6 weeks. This year the main excavation will be on the moated site. This proved to have a medieval building with stone footings and a slate roof. It is hoped to complete the excavation of this site this year. There will also be test pitting around the park. An **Open Day** is planned for Sunday **July 3rd** when there will be guided walks, re-enactors and many activities for all the family. An end of dig **guided walk** is being held on **July 16th** – the first day of the Archaeological Festival.

11. **PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME**

Wendy Scott will be at the Harborough Museum on June 9th from 11- 5 at Coalville Library on June 20th from 11 - 5 and at Melton Museum from 11 - 3 to record finds.

12. **DONINGTON le HEATH – THE 1620s HOUSE**

Donington le Heath Manor House has re-opened following a period of refurbishment. It is now dressed as a period property set in the 1620s, shortly after the addition of the mullioned windows and new roof. Changes include King Dick's bed, which has been moved and has had new drapes made, and a new wattle and daub partition upstairs. Details of opening times, admission prices, events and volunteering opportunities for 'The 1620s House and Gardens at Donington le Heath' can be found at <http://www.doningtonleheath.org.uk/>

13. **NEW CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST**

A new city archaeologist has been appointed following Chris Wardle's retirement last October. Grahame Appleby has joined the Conservation Team at City Hall having worked for the past decade in Cambridge for the Cambridge Archaeological Unit writing reports, carrying out post-excavation data analysis, giving public lectures and some teaching.

Grahame came to archaeology as a mature student having started his career as a volunteer and deciding to take the leap and pursue his passion full-time having caught the bug after reading about the Dark Ages. Grahame has a keen interest in Bronze and Iron Age and Roman metalwork, particularly weapons (and has looked at a lot of nails!) and is fascinated by the transition between Late Iron Age and early Roman Britain and the end of the Roman Empire and emergence of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

As city archaeologist Grahame advises his colleagues in the planning department and applicants of the potential impact of developments on the city's archaeology, as well as maintaining the Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record) and helping with outreach, events and local groups when this is requested.

14. **GREAT BOWDEN VILLAGE FESTIVAL Saturday 27th August**

An advance date for your diary – please come and support the Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology Group who will be doing teas in the Village Hall for the Great Bowden Festival and also putting on a display for the Group and the Fieldworkers 40th Anniversary and particularly paying tribute to those members from all over the county who have helped the Group with excavations over the last few years. The Festival is a great day out.

15. **FIELDWORK TRAINING DAY**

The Fieldworkers training day will be on Sunday 25th September at Jewry Wall. The Out-Field training will take place at Othorpe between the 3rd and 7th October with a round-up day for anyone interested plus additional talks on Saturday 8th at Slawston village hall. Further details in the September newsletter.

The FIELDWORKER editor is PETER LIDDLE, 57 STANFELL ROAD, LEICESTER, LE2 3GE. 0116 2214508, e-mail: peter.liddle51@gmail.com. Contributions welcome!

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