

# THE FIELDWORKER

## LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS NEWSLETTER

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June 2017



LEICESTERSHIRE  
FIELDWORKERS

### 1. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 4LB. Andy Gaunt, the Director of Mercian Archaeological Services will speak about **The Archaeology and History of Medieval Sherwood Forest** Andy is renowned for his knowledge of Sherwood Forest and it's medieval landscape and history, and is a community archaeologist who also specialises in landscape archaeology. Andy runs the Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project which aims to understand the medieval landscape, settlement pattern and development, pottery sequence, history and heritage of the world famous Forest. During his talk Andy will discuss Forest Law, it's administration, the landscape of Sherwood Forest, place names and historic mapping, life in the forest, settlement and hunting in the Forest, the royal heart of Sherwood, and imagining the medieval landscape. The talk will include archaeology from the recent work at King John's Palace in Clipstone, as well as excavations in villages including Clipstone and Edwinstowe. The talk is an introduction to this year's trip but, of course, will be of interest even if you are not able to come. The Annual General Meeting will be held later in the year.

### 2. DIARY DATES FOR 2017-8

September 21<sup>st</sup>: Prof David Mattingly: Dust, donkeys and drones: new fieldwork in the Moroccan Sahara.

November 16<sup>th</sup>: Prof Mike Parker Pearson: The Beaker Burial Project

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Mathew Morris : Recent excavations in Roman Leicester

March 15<sup>th</sup>; John Thomas; The Iron Age cauldrons from Glenfield Park

Jewry Wall Museum will be closed for refurbishment very soon. A meeting venue for will be advertised in due course.

### 3. GROUP TRIP TO SHERWOOD FOREST

This year's trip is to Sherwood Forest on **Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>**, and will follow-on from Andy Gaunt's talk on June 15<sup>th</sup>. It will look at the sites and landscape that he discussed, including a visit to King John's Palace, a royal hunting lodge in the Forest, where excavation and geophysics has revealed much about a previously neglected site, as well as the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, the Major Oak and Rufford Abbey. A booking form and more information is attached for email members (and was sent last time to postal members) and is available on the front page of our website under the Explore heading. Places are still available – to reserve your place prior to posting the form please email [info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk](mailto:info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk)

### 4. EXCAVATION NEWS

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)** continues to be very busy around the county and beyond. The **Stibbe site** in **Leicester** has grabbed the headlines and attracted over 5000 visitors. Work is now continuing. At **Lockington**, a dispersed scatter of features including a small ring ditch and a Middle Neolithic pit have been excavated in advance of quarrying. . A paleo-channel has been sectioned and sampled by Birmingham University and the early indications are that it was flowing during the late glacial- early Holocene. At **Launde Abbey** a 1m square test pit to evaluate the location of a proposed statue has found a possible wall in the scheduled area. At **Lubenham** large scale stripping is underway of a medieval and later site. Lots of ditches and 18th century cottages showing so far. At Cadeby Quarry extension in **Newbold Verdon** parish, following the first phase which located a double ditch roundhouse and other discrete features probably Iron Age, geophysics and evaluation trenches revealed a ring ditch, Romano-british period features, including evidence for a pottery kiln, alongside enclosure ditches and gullies and a substantial ditch running broadly

north to south, also containing Grey Ware pottery. At **Pickwell** further work revealed some Roman features.

**Cotswold Archaeology** have found a possible Iron Age field system and a few Iron Age pits at **Oadby**. At **Swinford**, **PCA** have been looking at earthworks on the edge of the village and produced medieval and later material. Work continues by **Wessex Archaeology** at the East Midlands Gateway site between **Castle Donington and Kegworth**. **MOLA** have been evaluating south of **Melton Mowbray** and have confirmed Iron Age and Roman features seen in geophysics results. They have also been working at **Sapcote** where Iron Age and Roman features have been found. **West Yorkshire Archaeological Services** have been working around Eye Kettleby Mill, **Melton Mowbray**. The mill leet has been found but the site is substantially damaged by gravel quarrying and tipping of material.

5. **GROUP NEWS – membership subscriptions are due**

We are still looking for a new membership secretary to work with the Treasurer. Kathy Elkin has been doing this for the last three years but would like to hand over to someone with organisational skills and a computer. You do not need to be otherwise active in the Group and can choose whether or not to join the committee. She will also still assist! Membership subs are due in June and Kathy will email you all in June with renewal forms from the [info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk](mailto:info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk) email address (or to remind you that you are paying by Standing Order!). Thanks to those who have already found the new form on our website. Membership currently stands at 398 households.

Also, as you are may be aware, our membership subscription has stayed the same for several years. In order to simplify the work of membership and also to increase our income a little the committee have decided to drop the distinction between 'waged' and 'unwaged' and also the £4 subscription. We will now have only two subscription levels - £6 for an individual and £10 for two people/family at the same address. We hope this is acceptable.

6. **NEW GROUP AT THURCASTON AND ROTHLEY**

A new local Fieldwork Group has been set up covering, in the first instance, **Thurcaston and Rothley**. The inaugural meeting was attended by 20 people and others have expressed an interest in joining. The Group will build on the work of the Charnwood Roots Project. A steering group was set up to organise the new group and liaise with local history societies. The first meeting will be on Monday 12th June at Wheatsheaf in Thurcaston. Robin Matthewman is acting as co-ordinator and can be contacted on [robinandbren@ntlworld.com](mailto:robinandbren@ntlworld.com)

7. **MELTON FIELDWORKERS TO REFORM**

The Melton Fieldworkers are set to be relaunched. A meeting has been called at the Harboro Hotel, 49/51 Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1EP. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining but can't make the meeting please contact Paul Dickinson on [ptd5.pd@gmail.com](mailto:ptd5.pd@gmail.com) . The plan is to get back into the field in Autumn.

8. **DAY TRIP TO CASTOR AND DUROBRIVAE**

Oadby and Wigston Fieldwork Group with other local organisations have arranged a trip to see the archaeology around Castor and the Roman town of Durobrivae. It is on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August** and will cost £35. Cheques are payable to Greater Wigston Historical Society with booking and dietary needs. Please email Colin Towell on [cftowell@aol.com](mailto:cftowell@aol.com) or phone 07813 782899 to book (full payment required) and to arrange payment. Booking deadline is 19 June 2017. The trip is open in the first instance to the organising groups but if spaces are available will be open to Leicestershire Fieldworkers. The price includes coach travel, coffee on arrival, a 2 course lunch at the Cedars Centre, an illustrated guide and a conducted tour by Professor Steve Upex, an expert on the area. The coach will leave Paddock Street Wigston, LE18 2AN at 9.30am. All day parking on Paddock Street car park is £3. There will be a second pick up at Hallaton Church at 10.00am and return from Castor at 5pm at the latest. As well as the Roman interest, St Kyneburgha's Church, with its glorious central tower, its unique dedication

to the daughter of Mercia's pagan king Peada and its consecration inscription of 1124 is the most complete Norman church in the county of Cambridgeshire.

9. **FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2017 – July 15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Festival leaflet is now available and for postal members is enclosed, and will soon be at Museums, Libraries and selected tourist and public houses around the 2 counties. Details can be found at <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/festival-of-archaeology> and also at [www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/whatson](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/whatson) and <http://www.visitleicester.info/things-to-see-and-do/arts-museums/leicestermuseumsevents/festival-of-archaeology/> for Leicester Museums.

**NOTE:** If anyone has already downloaded the printable leaflet from the website then note that Page 1 has changed. The Hinckley Archaeology Society talk from last year made it's way back into the listing by mistake – this year the topic is Must Farm and it will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July, there is **NO** talk on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Please re-download/reprint Page 1. Sorry about that! We are still accepting bookings for stalls at **Bringing Our Past To Life**, The Festival Launch Event, at Jewry Wall Museum on Sunday **July 9<sup>th</sup>**. **Please contact Peter asap.**

10. **BOSWORTH LINKS COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT – volunteers still wanted!**

Over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July residents of Market Bosworth and its wider community will carry out archaeological excavations, by digging test-pits and recording their findings, in their gardens and other places around the town in order to make new discoveries about the history of the spaces they inhabit. They are still looking for volunteers to support this work – especially those with some experience of digging. You can sign up by visiting <http://marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links/>

11. **CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY EXCAVATION**

Following the great success of the Big Castle Hill Dig 2016, the Story of Parks project is pleased to announce that a month-long follow up excavation will take place this September. This excavation is an opportunity for people interested in archaeology to learn the basics of field work including excavation, recording, finds processing and much more whilst actively participating in a real excavation under the supervision of ULAS. The dig will take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September and will be Saturday -Wednesday to allow weekend digging with an open day on the second Saturday. Owing to the popularity of the dig thus far places are limited to a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in participating please email [storyofparks@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:storyofparks@leicester.gov.uk) with the subject heading 'Castle Hill Dig' or call 0116 454 4923

12. **LATEST LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS**

To celebrate 20 years of the Treasure Act, there will be temporary displays of Treasure finds at Melton Carnegie Museum, Harborough Museum and Charnwood Museum, Loughborough this summer. Also look out for special Treasure 20 leaflets at these sites and Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre highlighting those Treasure items on permanent display. The Hallaton Treasure Travelling Exhibition is currently at Melton Carnegie Museum until mid-July featuring beautiful replicas and 20 real coins from this nationally important find. For any community archaeology or archaeological collections enquiries contact [archaeology@leics.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@leics.gov.uk).

13. **BRADGATE FIELD SCHOOL**

The University's training excavation has started – just in time for the weather to deteriorate! After initial de-turfing floor levels are already showing confirming the view that substantial stripping was undertaken – probably around 1930. It is hoped to arrange an evening visit for Fieldworkers in due course which will be notified by email. Bradgate Open Day is 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

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