

# THE FIELDWORKER

## LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS NEWSLETTER

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### 1. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum and the speaker will be Matthew Beamish of University of Leicester Archaeological Services. Entitled '**From Ice Age to War Games: Test Pits and aerial LiDAR lift the veil on past lives in Bradgate Park**'. Matt will talk about the survey of the park for the new Management Plan including the LiDAR survey and the walkover survey of identified features, the excavations of the Upper Palaeolithic site found originally by Graham and Christine Coombs and the results of Season One of the University training school in the Park. Originally scheduled for September 2015 we are delighted that Matt can present it now.

### 2. DIARY DATES FOR 2016 (at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised)

June 16<sup>th</sup>: AGM and Turi King: The Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain  
September 15<sup>th</sup>: to be confirmed and November 17<sup>th</sup>: to be confirmed

### 3. EXCAVATION NEWS

**ULAS** have continued their work at **Lubbesthorpe**. Close to the Middle Bronze Age burials reported in the last issue, round houses have now been found. At the other end of this large development a series of enclosures, a post built rectangular house and other features remain as yet undated. Some are probably Prehistoric with flint finds associated but there is a little Roman and Saxon pottery in the area. Close to the M1 in **Enderby** stripping of an Iron Age site found some years ago by fieldwalking has revealed 4 round houses and over 100 features with much of the area yet to be revealed. More news next time. Work continues at **Oakham Castle**, where the walls are being stripped of vegetation and recorded. At **Broughton Astley** (Thomas Estley College) stripping has revealed a well defined pit alignment and pits and ditches, some are probably Iron Age. At **Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester** work in advance of new access to the museum has produced a burial (probably associated with the nearby church) and Roman floor levels. At **Cosby** a 34 trench evaluation produced two parallel ditches, probably prehistoric and representing a trackway, along with an enclosure ditch of Iron Age date. There was also a cluster of substantial pits, possibly Bronze Age and a little way off a little pit containing 99 worked flints. At **Houghton on the Hill** evaluation produced gullies and ditches, along with a single inhumation burial. Diagnostic sherds of pottery indicate a mid-late Iron Age to early Roman date. At **Market Bosworth**, next to the church, a medieval pit, an undated gully and a number of small post-medieval features were found. At **Melton Mowbray** evaluation following geophysical survey revealed what was probably a very large (7.5 hectare) Iron Age settlement and extensive Roman settlement associated with rectangular anomalies. There was also a pit, gully and a potential buried soil sealed under a colluvium deposit. From the pit came sherds of rusticated Beaker.

At **Waltham on the Wolds** further work revealed a large curvilinear gully, probably the western part of an early Roman enclosure, with the majority situated beneath the road and field to the east. The shallow remains of several regularly spaced gullies were also found projecting from this feature and these may be part of a field system. A small ring gully was found to the north and this is probably contemporary with the large enclosure. In addition to the gullies the site contains pits with evidence of small scale industrial activity in the form of fuel ash, hearth lining and limestone blocks which have been heated on one side.

**Allen Archaeology** are excavating an Iron Age and Roman site at Lubenham Hill, **Market Harborough**. This has revealed rectangular enclosures and drove ways. The focus of occupation has not yet been located but this might have been on the ridge top where Early Roman pottery and Iron Age features have been disturbed by quarrying.

**Albion Archaeology** have found ditches and pits associated with Iron Age pottery at **Melton Mowbray**, and at **Uppingham** a north-south pit alignment on a site with Roman pottery finds

**Wessex Archaeology** have been evaluating at St George's Barracks, **North Luffenham**. Round houses, pits and ditches and Iron Age and Roman material have been found.

**Phoenix Archaeology** have found round houses, pitting and enclosures suggesting an Iron Age site that continues into the Roman period at **Bardon**.

**Rubicon Heritage** (in a first Leicestershire appearance) have revealed medieval plot boundaries at **Twycross** that lie at right angles to the road with features at the road end of the plots. There is a good amount of medieval pottery, but nothing later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

4. **TEST PIT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Charnwood Roots will be undertaking their third test pitting exercise, this time in Rothley, over the weekend of July 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>. While much of the digging will be done by the owners of the properties involved they are looking for experienced diggers to help over the weekend. If you are interested please contact Julie Attard at jad17@le.ac.uk.

5. **GRACE DIEU FRIENDS RELAUNCH**

The Friends of Gracedieu are having an evening event to re-launch their group. After 10 years of hard work they have decided that they need some new blood to take this beautiful site forward. The event will take place 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. For more information please contact David Whitt 01530 223201

6. **THE TRIAL OF RICHARD III**

By popular demand and back for 1 night only the Tyraby Players present: **The Trial of Richard III** at Jewry Wall Museum on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm (performance commences at 7.30pm). The King is put on trial for his alleged crimes. You will hear the testimony of key historical characters of the day and then you, the audience, are the jury! Following previous sold out performances another chance to witness this play and have your say on history! Tickets are available from the Museum or telephone 0116 225 4971. £8.00 or £7.00 concessions. Bar available

7. **GROUP NEWS**

As the weather has been so poor the **Lutterworth Fieldworkers** have completed three garden test pits - the most interesting being at Wyclif House which produced a good mix of pottery as well as a number of Roman sherds. They have also started walking 40 acres at **Ashby Parva**. This has yielded a number of Roman sherds including mortarium as well as the usual Potters Marston - but for once, some good rims. As far as we know these fields have never been walked before.

**Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers** now meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2pm in a new venue, Wigston Fire Station in Bullhead Street, Wigston. There is no parking at the station but there is parking in nearby streets.

**FLAG** have been continuing their excavations of the service buildings at **Croxton Kerrial** manor house. Exploration of the cobbled crew yard have revealed two earlier levels of cobbles beneath the 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> century yard, both these levels have been dated by pottery finds to the 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> century. It seems that the level of the yard has been lifted on two occasions, possibly coinciding with the building of the tithe barn. Trial pits in the tithe barn have uncovered a cobbled floor.

FLAG have also undertaken a geophysical survey of open areas in the village, as part of a planning exercise. Ditches were evident in the centre of the village, which were at 45 degrees to the established medieval layout of settlement, indicating that they are likely to be pre medieval.'

The **Parish Boundaries Project** meeting attracted 39 attendees. Another meeting will be arranged, please email Kathy at [info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk](mailto:info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk) to register your interest.

8. **SUMMER TRIP**

We are staying local this year with a 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 enclosed.

9. **FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2016**

The 2016 Festival, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, is now planned and looks (weather permitting) to be another great success.

The launch event will be called **BRINGING OUR PAST TO LIFE** (an echo of the fabulous events of the late 80s and 90s) and will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> at Jewry Wall Museum. This is planned as a fun family event but also the chance 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](mailto:peter.liddle51@gmail.com) if you'd like to be involved.

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