

THE FIELDWORKER

LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS NEWSLETTER

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FIELDWORKERS

1. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday January 18th** at 7.30pm when our own **Mathew Morris** will speak on **Beneath Bus Stations and Breweries: Recent discoveries from Roman Leicester.**

Mathew Morris from ULAS will provide a review of some of the recent archaeological discoveries in Leicester and what they tell us about the Roman town. The talk will focus on recent excavations at the former Southgates Bus Depot and the All Saints' Brewery site on Highcross Street (visited by the Fieldworkers last year), which have both revealed exciting new evidence for Roman roads, buildings and mosaics.

The meeting will be held in **Lecture Theatre 2** in the **George Davies Building, Centre for Medicine, University of Leicester.** This is the striking new building on the corner of University Road and Lancaster Road. Lecture Theatre 2 is on the first floor but there is a lift. Reception is also manned until 10pm. Parking will be available across the road in the Medical Sciences Building car park on the left side Lancaster Road from University Road. It is intended that this will be our regular lecture venue. Information and pictures of the venue and car park are on the front page of website. www.leicsfieldworkers.co.uk

2. DIARY DATES FOR 2017-8

March 15th John Thomas: The Iron Age cauldrons from Glenfield Park
May 17th: To be arranged
June 21st Peter Liddle: Excavations at Thistleton – a Roman town, villa and temple.
September 20th Matt Beamish: LiDAR in Charnwood
November 15th Gavin Speed: Excavations at the Stibbe site, Leicester

3. EXCAVATION NEWS

At **University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)** have, as usual, been busy both inside the county and further afield. At **Cadeby Quarry** a mini - Sunken Featured Building has been found to add to the Anglo-Saxon buildings excavated here and part of a medieval close, associated with Brascote DMV, has been identified associated with medieval pottery, including a large pit containing green glazed sherds.

At **Donisthorpe** a complex of Romano-British field systems or stock enclosures has been excavated. Geophysical survey in two neighbouring fields to the east indicates that the enclosure system is widespread. There appears to be at least two clear phases of boundary system within our area, both on slightly different alignments. A small section of compact pebble metalling has survived between the east-west ditches, probably a deliberately laid trackway between different enclosures.

At **Bath Lane, Leicester**, the excavation of a Roman building, along with medieval burials and pits continues – and is likely to continue for several months. Recent finds include a possible flax retting pit and a well preserved fragment of Roman cloth.

At **Market Harborough**, on the northern edge of the built up area evaluation of a site revealed by geophysical survey has confirmed what may be stock enclosures, while in the field to the east a probable boundary ditch defined an area of early Roman settlement, comprising pitting and probable structural features, occupying the higher ground.

At **Lockington Quarry**, on a site adjacent to Iron Age features excavated during an earlier phase and, across the road from the Scheduled area containing an Iron Age village and Roman villa, the team have found a large recut boundary ditch, with Roman tile and pottery in the upper fill and several heavily truncated linear features, on a slightly different alignment, and of Iron Age date. At **Easthorpe, Bottesford** medieval village features have been excavated.

Post-excavation work has continued on two important Iron Age finds. The very rare **Enderby bark shield** has now been conserved, and is back in Leicester. Now that it is possible to handle the fragments and view both sides simultaneously, some outstanding basic questions on the construction of the object are being addressed. Funding has now been agreed for the remaining post-excavation work on the **Glenfield Park, Kirby Muxloe cauldrons**. This will involve micro-excavation and conservation work on the cauldrons by MOLA, and then scientific analysis by the British Museum. This is expected to take around 2-3 years, beginning in early 2018.

PCA have been excavating at **Kibworth Beauchamp** on a site revealed by geophysical survey. A track runs broadly east-west with enclosures to north and south associated with some Roman material and bone. A group of inhumation burials have been excavated and a small hoard of iron objects, perhaps Late Saxon in date.

PCAS have been working on the Roman town site at **Ibstock**.

Cotswold Archaeology have been evaluating just north of Watling Street to the south-east of **Burbage**. 2 separate sites have been found, one with curving ditches and the other rectilinear. The first is probably Iron Age and the second Roman. A cremation burial is associated.

MOLA have been evaluating at **Blackfordby** and have uncovered the tops of bell pits.

Allen Archaeology have returned to a site near Croxton Kerrial and found more Roman period ditches.

Trent and Peak Archaeology have been evaluating at Bottesford and revealed a complex Roman site.

4. LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The Hallaton Group were delighted that Vicki Score won the Council for British Archaeology Marsh Award for Community Archaeologist of the Year, the award is presented to an individual who inspires others with their love of archaeology. Vicki has given up her own time to assist the group and is a valued mentor to all members. Further information can be found at <http://new.archaeologyuk.org/news/marsh-archaeology-award-winners-2017>. The group are continuing with fieldwalking just outside Slawston at Othorpe and carried out Geophysics survey at Keythorpe Hall.

Harringworth Fieldwork Group is hosting a lecture on **The Archaeology of Wakerley Quarry** by Phoenix Archaeological Services at Harringworth Village Hall on Friday **February 9th** at 7.30pm. This will be a presentation of the history of Wakerley Quarry from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages through to the Roman and Saxon industrial and agricultural landscape discovered during the archaeological surveys of the site.

At **Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers** New Year meeting there was a presentation by Michael Miller who attended the training on the new Rights of Way legislation which requires all rights of way to be registered with the County or they may be lost.

The "shake down the Christmas Pudding" walk on 28th December was cancelled because it snowed - not ideal conditions for spotting finds. Walks are planned as soon as conditions allow.

5. MELTON GROUP LECTURE

Melton Fieldworkers Group present **Medieval Manor Houses of Leicestershire**, a talk by Peter Liddle at Melton Carnegie Museum on Wednesday 17th January. All are welcome. Admission is £5. Doors open at 7.00 pm for the talk at 7.30 pm. Limited places are available. These talks have proved very popular so please book early to avoid disappointment. Phone 0116 305 3860 or email Amy.Barrs@leics.gov.uk to reserve seats.

6. COMPUTERISING FIELDWALKING RECORDS

Members of the Oadby and Wigston Group have been working on computerising the Fieldwork Diary Sheet and the Finds Analysis sheet. It is now hoped to roll this out to other groups but also to link these to a mapping system. It is planned to arrange a meeting for local groups – and for those with expertise in this area - in the next few weeks. Please contact Peter Liddle if you would like to be involved.

7. **LATEST LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS**

Leicestershire Museums have loaned some Viking period ingots and a replica Thor's hammer pendant to the *Danelaw Saga: Bringing Vikings Back to the East Midlands* exhibition being held at Nottingham Lakeside Arts until 8 April. This local themed exhibition sits alongside the blockbuster *Viking: Discover the Legend* exhibition in the Djanogly Gallery also currently at Lakeside. There are many associated events and talks which are worth a visit and the exhibitions are free!

For any community archaeology or archaeological collections enquiries contact archaeology@leics.gov.uk.

8. **PETER GODFREY**

We are sad to report the death of long standing member, Peter Godfey, who was in his 90th year. He was a regular attender of lectures and took an active interest in the archaeology of the Lubbethorpe area. Members may well remember Peter sharing his pottery skills at Museum events and with the Young Archaeologists Club. He had great patience and, above all, was a thoroughly nice man.

9. **COURSES AT MELTON AND OAKHAM**

Peter Liddle will be running two courses starting in February: **The Anglo-Saxons in Leicestershire and Rutland** at **Melton Carnegie Museum** starting on Friday, February 9th and **7 Key Projects in the Archaeology of Leicestershire and Rutland** at **Rutland County Museum** starting on Thursday, February 15th. Details from Peter.

10. **MEMBERSHIP and EMAIL**

Please check your spam folder for email particularly if you are on Btinternet. We have had some problems with email from the info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk address being rejected as spam – one solution has been implemented and the situation will be monitored. It appears there is a general tightening up across all email providers.

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