

THE FIELDWORKER

LEICESTERSHIRE FIELDWORKERS NEWSLETTER

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1. THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Thursday March 15th** at 7.30pm when **John Thomas** of ULAS will speak on **The Iron Age cauldrons from Glenfield Park**. John has worked in the City and County for many years, directing some high profile excavations. Many people will know him from his work at Burrough Hill. In 2013 ULAS began work at **Glenfield Park, Kirby Muxloe** on a large Iron Age settlement that produced a unique collection of prehistoric metalwork, which is of international importance. These finds included a series of complete bronze cauldrons, a complete sword, spearheads, iron tools and dress items. The settlement was long-lived, with several phases of occupation and the metal finds occurred in a variety of archaeological features across the whole settlement, indicating that deliberate deposition of unusual artefacts was a distinctive feature of the site during its lifetime. 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 of Lancaster Road from University Road.] and is also available after 6pm on the road. It is intended that this will be our regular lecture venue. A picture of the venue and car park are on our website. If you haven't been to a lecture recently you will be impressed by our new surroundings!

2. DIARY DATES FOR 2018

May 17th: Matt Beamish: Lidar in Charnwood
June 21st: Peter Liddle: Excavations at Thistleton – a Roman town, villa and temple.
September 20th: Andrew Fitzpatrick; Julius Caesar in Britain
November 15th: Gavin Speed: Excavations at the Stibbe site, Leicester

3. EXCAVATION NEWS

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) have, as usual, been excavating all over the two counties and beyond. In the **City**, the large excavation at **Bath Lane** has continued. The site is complex and multi-period. A cemetery of 44 skeletons has been excavated, possibly connected with the lost church of St Clements. A portion of town defences was investigated. Robber trenches of a Roman building were found overlain by a timber building, while medieval pits associated with possible linen production were recorded. A small excavation at the **Jewry Wall site**, in advance of the new entrance ramp, revealed two Roman walls and a patch of tessellated pavement. At **Highcross Street** (close to the Stibbe site) trenching has revealed well preserved Roman structures, while at Northgate Street, outside the town defences, Roman structures have been found. At **Abbey Park** tree removal to protect the precinct wall at the North-east corner revealed a grave with a stone capping.

At **Somerby** evaluation revealed earthworks and complex buried archaeology. Several large ditches appear to be Iron Age while the medieval sequence includes timber structural remains overlain by stone spreads and well-built walls. Pottery associated ranges from Stamford Ware to Midland Purple. At **Cold Overton** a medieval stone building associated with green-glazed ridge tiles has been encountered, while at **Hose** yet more medieval building remains have been found. At **Lockington Quarry** evaluation revealed undated pits and ditches, while at **Brooksby Quarry** finds of Palaeolithic artefacts continues with the prospect of associated surviving organic and bone deposits. Work in advance of an extension to the quarry produced a gully, possibly Anglo-Saxon in date. At **Uppingham** evaluation revealed undated post holes and gullies, with similar finds at **Ullesthorpe**..

Allen Archaeology have been working at **Knaptoft** and have found medieval features. **Oxford Archaeology (east)** have been working west of Great Bowden and have found Iron Age and early Roman features, including pits, post holes gullies and ditches, including the possible corner of an enclosure.

4. LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Hallaton Fieldwork Group are continuing with geophysical Surveys at **Othorpe** near Slawston, nothing major to report back yet, the geophysics showed an interesting anomaly only to be followed up by verbal confirmation that it was a grubbed out hedge taken out in the 1960's. Always pays to talk to a knowledgeable local!

Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers have been very busy recently, with more than 20 members involved in walking ten fields near Kings Norton and Little Stretton, with two left to do when the weather permits. Recent meetings have also included talks on rights of way and flint. Two trips are also being planned for the summer. Members of the group have also been very involved in county-wide discussions on rights of way and also devising a standardised system of recording fieldwalking that links better with the HER.

5. MELTON GROUP LECTURE

Melton Fieldworkers Group present **Danelaw Saga: The Vikings in Leicestershire**, a talk by **Dr Roderick Dale** of the University of Nottingham at Melton Carnegie Museum on **Thursday 22nd March** 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. COMPUTERISED 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. A meeting to discuss this will be held on Wednesday 14th March at 2pm at 421 London Road, Leicester LE2 3JU (courtesy of Mike and Sarah Bruce) This is between Holbrook Road and Knighton Church Road, which are probably the best places to park. Please let Peter Liddle know if you are planning to attend.

7. CBA CONFERENCE

On **Sunday 18th March** CBA East Midlands will be holding a day conference entitled **From Roman to Anglo-Saxon: the changing landscape of the East Midlands**. This will run from 10 to 4.30 at **The Venue, Grantham Rd, Navenby, Lincoln, LN5 0JJ**. Although this is out of county it is an interesting subject with some good speakers. Full details at www.archaeologyuk.org/cbaem/cba-em%20events.htm

8. TWO DIGGING OPPORTUNITIES

Oakham Castle Community Dig (18th - 29th April). Starting in the middle of April there will be a community dig in Oakham Castle. The project, part of the castle's recent Heritage Lottery Funded restoration, will be looking to expand our knowledge of what lies below the surface of the castle grounds and gain insight into the lives of the people who lived there. More information on getting involved coming soon. Look for further details at www.oakhamcastle.org/events

Bosworth Links Test-Pitting (21st - 22nd July) The second season of test-pitting in Market Bosworth will be over the weekend of 21-22 July. Last year's dig was extremely successful, uncover tantalising glimpses of Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity beneath the modern town. This year, the aim is to resolve the many new questions raised by last year's project. If anyone is interested in getting involved, by joining a digging team or being a finds washer, please register at <http://marketbosworthsociety.com/volunteer/>

9. HERITAGE WATCH

Leicestershire police have set up a 'Heritage Watch' local group. This is an initiative jointly run by the Police and Historic England (<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/prevent/>). They have spent the first few months focusing on church thefts in the county, but are now expanding their remit and the group to tackle all forms of Heritage crime. At a recent meeting it was suggested that local groups may want to join this group. If you are interested please contact Leics. police at Heritagewatchvolunteers@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

10. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Council for British Archaeology have, in the light of budget cuts, decided not to run a national Festival this year. Locally, however, we have decided to carry on with our normal celebration of local heritage . The main Festival will be between July 14th and 29th with the Bradgate Excavation Open Day on the 1st and the Festival Launch Event on the 8th. We are already preparing the first drafts of the Festival leaflet and invite all local historical and archaeological organisations (and individuals!) to join in and organise events. Contact Peter Liddle for more information.

11. LAHS HISTORY FAIR – 15th April

On April 15th the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society will be staging a day-long free History Fair at Beaumanor Hall in Woodhouse, Leicestershire, from 10am, where local groups can showcase their research. The theme of the day will be the First World War, focusing on the final year of the war and its aftermath. Non-theme stalls will also be represented including the Fieldworkers. We will have the bookstall there and currently have a lot of history and archaeology books available at our usual low prices. Also available quantities of archaeological journals and magazines that have been donated to us at silly prices or free. Please come and support us and the LAHS and browse the stalls. There are refreshments available on site.

12. Newsletter by Email

Some members will be aware that some of the emails we send out are going into their Spam folders, particularly email to BTinternet and a few to other providers. I handed the problem to someone more expert than me and Gareth has been working hard to rectify this by setting up protocols on the web servers that we use. It takes a lot of testing as we have to wait 24 hours each time for the changes to take effect and then test again. It is difficult to know if it's been resolved (though we hope so) so Peter will send an email out again to double check. Please reply to info@leicsfieldworkers.co.uk if you haven't received your newsletter from the info address but only from Peter. Kathy E.

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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