



Branchline

Autumn 2011

Editor's Note

Welcome to another edition of Branchline. This issue bids farewell to Holly Hayes, as the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre moves to County Hall during November. We also invite you to take part in the Villages Voices Project, and to become a Treasure Champion. The deadline for articles for the next issue is 1st February 2012.

Contents

Archaeology	p2
Trees	p4
Museums	p6
Local History	p10
Special Projects	p12
Wardens News	p17
Postscript	p18
Dates for your diary	p20

A Fond Farewell to Holly Hayes!

The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) is scheduled to relocate from Holly Hayes in Birstall to County Hall in Glenfield by 21st November 2011.



When all staff, records and equipment are moved to their new home in Room 400 at County Hall, Holly Hayes will go back into the care of the Edith Murphy Trust from whom Leicestershire County Council rented it for many years.

Happily, most records will not need to be stored off-site, as LRERC has been allocated a basement suite at County Hall. Members of the public who want access to records during normal office hours will be booked in by LRERC staff.

LRERC's new basement storage area is near to the visitors' car park and has good views. It has meeting facilities and two workstations with printer/copier,

and will be where the bulk of the ecology and geology records and the historic building photos and negatives will be stored. It will also be where loan equipment is held.

County Hall has meeting rooms, a visitor's car park, canteen and shop. If you are visiting LRERC at County Hall, a visitor car parking space and visitors pass can be booked for you.

We will make new contact details available after the move has taken place, but all staff can be reached after mid-November in Room 400 at County Hall. Please note that during the move, staff availability may be limited.





Archaeology

Medieval Earthwork Audit – a new Warden Project!

Peter Liddle, Community Archaeologist



We are very lucky in Leicestershire and Rutland to have good records of most (but not all!) of our medieval 'humps and bumps' thanks to the work of Fred Hartley when he was a member of the Museum's Archaeological Survey Team. These have been published in a series of books which covered all of the two counties, except Harborough District, in five volumes between 1983 and 2008. Although Fred's work was comprehensive, there is no doubt that some earthworks will not have been surveyed, while others may now not be in the same state as when Fred visited.

In this project we would like Parish Wardens to use their local knowledge to suggest extra sites (and, if possible, survey them). We would also like Wardens to visit all the sites that Fred has surveyed to check on their condition – a photocopy of Fred's plan and some annotation will be supplied.

This will allow us to assess how much damage has been done to this important part of our medieval heritage over the last 25 years or so.

One training course on earthwork surveying has already been held and we will happily arrange more if there is demand.

Please contact Peter Liddle on **0116 305 8326** or at peter.liddle@leics.gov.uk to sign up for the project.

Book List:

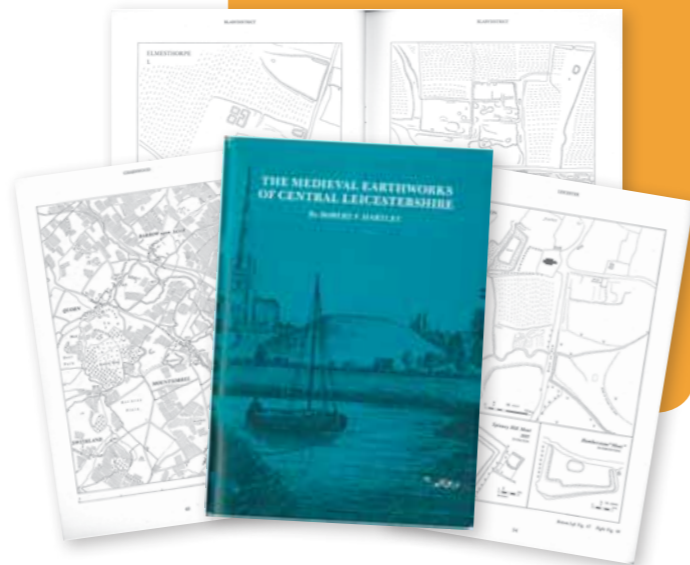
Hartley, R.F., 1983: 'The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland - A Survey' (Leics. Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service Archaeological Report No. 7)

Hartley, R.F., 1984: 'The Medieval Earthworks of North-West Leicestershire - A Survey' (Leics. Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service Archaeological Report No. 9)

Hartley, R.F., 1987: 'The Medieval Earthworks of North-East Leicestershire' (Leics. Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service)

Hartley, R.F., 1989: 'The Medieval Earthworks of Central Leicestershire (Charnwood, City of Leicester, Blaby District, Oadby and Wigston Borough)' (Leics. Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service)

Hartley, R.F., 2008: 'The Medieval Earthworks of South-West Leicestershire – Hinckley and Bosworth' (Leics. Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group)



Archaeology

Treasure Champions – Support Your Local Treasure!

Peter Liddle, Community Archaeologist

The Hallaton Treasure remains one of the few local finds of truly international significance. The discovery of the coins and the subsequent excavation that showed they were deposited at an Iron Age religious site, along with a host of other exciting finds including the Hallaton Roman helmet, has helped to put Leicestershire archaeology on the map. The project now needs your help!

The Southeast Leicestershire Treasure Project is planning to launch a support group to help sustain the work of the project into the future. This might involve writing the newsletter (the Harborough Helm), giving guided tours of the Hallaton Treasure Gallery and helping to promote the Treasure in the community. There will be a meeting for all those interested at Harborough Museum on Tuesday 11th October at 6.30pm, when there will be an update on progress with the Hallaton helmet.

For more information on becoming a Treasure Champion, contact Helen Sharp on **01858 821087** or at Helen.Sharp@leics.gov.uk or Peter Liddle on **0116 305 8326** or at Peter.Liddle@leics.gov.uk

Quiz – Romans in Leicestershire

The Roamin' Romans

1. What was the Roman name for Leicester?
2. Name three Roman roads that pass through Leicestershire?
3. How many Roman small towns are known in Leicestershire (some are partly in the County)? 4, 10 or 14?
4. In what year was Boudicca's army defeated somewhere along the Watling Street?
5. Outside which Leicestershire village was a hoard of Iron Age Coins and a Roman Cavalry helmet recently found?
6. Jewry Wall in Leicester was part of which Roman public building/s?
7. Who was the Emperor of Rome during the Roman invasion of Britain. (The main one - not the publicity stunt!)
8. Which of the following is not a type of Roman coin? Sestertius, Sceat, Siliqua, Stater, Solidus?
9. What are most Roman brooches made of? Gold, silver, bronze, copper, tin or iron?
10. What is the term for a Roman posh country house?



Answers

1. Ratae Corieltauvorum (or Corieltaurum if you're a bit out of date!)
2. Fosse way, Watling St, Via Devana, Farn Lane, Salt Way, Gartree Road (via Devana south), Sawgate Lane
3. 10, Venonae (High Cross), Tripontium, Mancetter, Ibsstock/Ravenstone, The Ridgeway, Yemmelnum, Barrow/Quorn, Goadby
4. AD60
5. Hallaton
6. Bath house and forum basilica.
7. Claudius
8. Sceat (Anglosaxon) and Stater (late Iron Age)
9. Bronze
10. Villa



Trees and Bees!

Simon Skerritt - Tree Warden, Countesthorpe

There can't be many people who have not heard about the crisis engulfing our native honeybees. The potentially dire consequences for humanity are summed up by a rather morbid quote attributed to Albert Einstein:

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left."

Although Einstein almost certainly never uttered those words himself (there is no record of the phrase being used before 1994) that does not make them any less thought provoking. The honeybee is by far the most effective large-scale insect pollinator that we have with many major crops (including fruits, nuts, soya, cotton and countless vegetables) reliant upon it. It is estimated that bee populations diminished by 30% in 2007 and by a further 30% again in 2008. With scientists still no closer to finding the cause of this collapse, some have begun to wonder how long it will be before the Einstein prophecy is put to the test.

Alarming though this thought is, many Tree Wardens may well be wondering what this problem has to do with them. The image held by many of the life of the honeybee is a hive at the bottom of an archetypal English country garden, with the bees drawing sweet nectar from a parade of sun-drenched flowers - without ever really contemplating the role of trees in such an idyll.



Important though flowerbeds are, they will usually have a surface area of just a few square metres. Compare this to the colossal magnitude of a mature broad-leaf canopy, and the contribution trees can make to feed bees slides into perspective. Indeed, a single lime is sufficiently nectar-rich to produce more than 40kg (88lbs) of honey in a good year! The figures become staggering when considered in relation to the quantity of trees in a street, park or hectare of woodland. In contrast, the snooker-table green fields of wind-pollinated cereals that cover much of our landscape, sterile, nectarless, and devoid of wild flowers, are a dreadful prospect for honeybees, representing nothing much short of famine.

However, it's not just the quantity of forage that is important. Unlike cash crops, such as oil seed rape, trees are rarely grown as a monoculture (except for Forestry Commission timber plantations) and a varied diet is as important to bees as it is to humans. Bees will gorge themselves on the nectar from endless yellow fields of oil seed rape as gladly as children would feed on nothing but chocolate, and they will live, but it could never be considered nourishing in the long term.



The evidence on the ground further reinforces the importance of trees. Woodland-dwelling colonies have fared considerably better in recent years than their cousins living in an arable environment. More surprisingly, urban bees too have held their own against general decline, enjoying a good mix of trees and flowers in city parks, streets and gardens.

This adds a new dimension to the role for Tree Wardens and the trees that we care for and plant within our communities. With the traditional autumnal tree-planting season approaching, it is worth giving a moment or two of thought to the possibility of incorporating a bee-friendly aspect to tree-planting schemes:

Include a range of trees such that there is always something in blossom through spring and summer. Blackthorns and willows flower in early spring, when few plants are in bloom. Summer-blossoming trees such as lime and sweet chestnut are good nectar sources once the main spring season is over.

Choose trees that produce plenty of good quality nectar and pollen. Excellent species include the native willow and lime and naturalised imports like the robinia, the embattled horse-chestnut and the king of them all, the sweet chestnut.

Sow some wild flower seeds. Flowers add colour and biodiversity to treescapes in addition to being good for bees. Early flowering plants such as cowslips and primroses are invaluable food sources. For later in the year, spoil our honey-producing friends with the flower they love beyond all others – the humble borage.

The fate of the honeybee is not yet sealed. The trees we plant today will feed the bees of tomorrow and, hopefully, we will never have to see whether the person who put prophetic words into Einstein's mouth proves to be right.

Anyone interested in bees or beekeeping, or who wants more information about planting bee-friendly trees and flowers can contact Simon by email at niffytreewarden@gmail.com. For more information on beekeeping in general, visit the Leicester & Rutland Bee Keepers Association at www.lrbka.org or the British Beekeepers Association at www.bbka.org.uk





Leicestershire Treasures Visit the Capital

Helen Sharp, Project Officer, Harborough Museum

From May to July this year Leicestershire Museums Service loaned various objects from the internationally important Hallaton Treasure collection to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London hosted a temporary exhibition entitled, The Corieltavi Silver Bowl: 2000 Years Old, which was a collaboration between the Company and Harborough Museum in Market Harborough.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London.

Founded to regulate the craft or trade of the goldsmith, the Goldsmiths' Company has been responsible since 1300AD for testing the quality of gold, silver, platinum and palladium articles.

The exhibition featured objects from the Hallaton Treasure, a collection of over 5,000 Iron Age and Roman coins, a Roman cavalry helmet and the remains of over 400 pigs. The highlight of the exhibition was the bowl which is a unique item, being the only silver bowl from this period found to date, and is a very early example of Iron Age silversmithing. The bowl has been on display, alongside other finds from the site, in the award-winning Hallaton Treasure Gallery at Harborough Museum since September 2009.



The Bowl and its Copy © Patricia Perkins.

As part of the exhibition, The Goldsmiths Company commissioned renowned silversmith, Alex Brogden to produce a replica of the Corieltavi bowl, using tools that would have been available 2,000 years ago and this bowl is also on display. Alex was impressed by the skilful way the ancient bowl had been produced and was able to identify the tools and techniques used in its manufacture.



Goldsmiths' Hall and the Exhibition © The Goldsmiths' Company.

The exhibition was located in the entrance hall of the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall, the setting for many films including The Queen, starring Helen Mirren. The silver bowl exhibition complemented the Company's other temporary exhibition, Mindful of Silver, which showcased some of the finest contemporary silversmithing in Britain today.

For further details about the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths visit www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk.

For more information about the Hallaton Treasure and Harborough Museum visit www.leics.gov.uk/harboroughmuseum.



Hallaton Treasure Conference

The third annual Hallaton Treasure conference, being held at the University of Leicester on Saturday 5th November, is a one day conference focusing on the amazing local Iron Age treasure, comprising of over 5,000 coins, mysterious silver objects and a unique Roman cavalry helmet.

The Heritage Lottery Funded conference highlights the latest information about the site and related themes. This year the focus will be on the late Iron Age/Roman transition with the stunning cavalry helmet and its conservation as a key theme in the run-up to its launch at Harborough Museum at the end on January 2012.

Marilyn Hockey and Fleur Shearman from the British Museum's conservation department have been conserving the helmet for over 3 years. Hear how their painstaking work is revealing how magnificent this rare Roman cavalry officer's helmet would have looked 2000 years ago.

Contributors to the conference include:

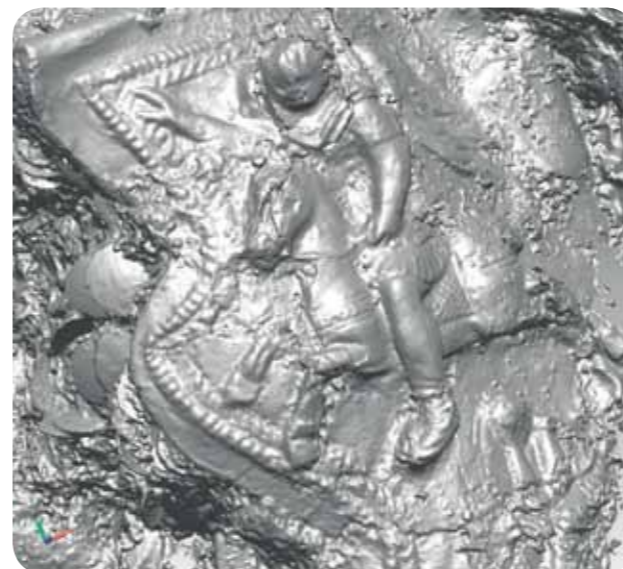
- Marilyn Hockey and Fleur Shearman (British Museum): Conserving the Hallaton Helmet
- Dr Simon James (University of Leicester): The Hallaton Helmet Fragements: What Do They Mean?
- Frank Hargrave (PhD student, University of Leicester):The Hallaton Shrine in Iron Age Europe
- Alex Brogden (Silversmith): Making the Hallaton Silver Bowl
- Prof Michael Fulford (University of Reading): Calleva: Silchester in the Iron Age
- Dr Tom Moore (Durham University): The Birth of Kings? Bagendon 'oppidum' and the Iron Age-Roman transition in western England
- Andy Taylor (Thames Valley Archaeology South) and Kelly Abbott (Wiltshire Conservation): Excavations at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex and an Iron Age Warrior Burial

Tickets £15 including finger buffet lunch and refreshments.

On sale from Monday 5th September (please use booking form on page 8).

Please contact Helen Sharp, Project Officer, for more information:

Tel. 01858 821 087, Email helen.sharp@leics.gov.uk



Hallaton Helmet Laser Scan © National Museums Liverpool



The helmet in a block, May 2009



Museums

Day Conference From Julius Caesar to Claudius: The Late Iron Age/ Roman Transition Saturday 5th November 2011 10.00am – 4.00pm

Ratray Lecture Theatre,
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester, LE1 7RH

Chaired by Peter
Liddle (Community
Archaeologist,
Leicestershire County
Council)



Please tear off the bottom of this page and send back to the organisers. Attendance confirmation will be sent back to you by email or post.

A finger buffet lunch and refreshments are inclusive in the price of the conference and vegetarian food will be included. If you have special dietary or other needs please indicate below and we will contact you beforehand to discuss.

Fee: £15

Travel Information

The University of Leicester is located south of the city centre. The conference will take place in the Ratray Lecture Theatre. Refreshments will be served in the Charles Wilson Building.

Bus

The University of Leicester is on several bus routes from the town centre.

See www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk

The No. 48 Arriva bus leaves St Margaret's Bus Station every 15 minutes and takes 10 minutes to reach the University. The return journey is the No. 47.

Train

The University is a 15 minute walk from Leicester Railway Station.

From the station entrance, turn left onto London Road, walk up the hill, then turn right onto University Road and walk another 700m. The principle entrance to the Campus is Entrance 2, Mayor's Walk.

Parking: Car parking is available on site. In line with County Council environmental policy we would urge travel sharing if you are able to do so. If you require a lift please email us.

The theatre has a lift and disabled access.



Museums

Inspiring Collections

**Sarah Nichol, Inspiring Collections Officer,
Collections Resources Centre**

Since March of this year my role has been focused on the promotion of the Collections Resources Centre and the Fashion Gallery at Snibston Discovery Museum.

During this year two key exhibitions have been on display at the Fashion Gallery. 'Getting Hitched' displayed some of the Museums wedding outfits from the 18th century to the present day and was timed to coincide with the Royal Wedding in April. 'Support and Seduction' is currently on display at Snibston and will be until May 2012. The exhibition looks at 300 years of both men's and women's underwear. In my role as Inspiring Collections Officer I provided input and support to the content and design of both exhibitions, along with supporting the team during the installation of both.



Inspiring Collections

The museum prides itself on having a working costume collection that is regularly used by students, designers and creative groups. My role is to co-ordinate and facilitate educational visits to the Fashion Gallery and the Collections Resource Centre and to add value to such visits by working with delegates to ensure that not only access is available to directly relevant items but to also provide additional inspiration and thought provocation by using my knowledge of the collections to suggest other elements of the collection that may be of interest.

Such sessions enable students and other visitors to study garments in a hands-on, interactive way, providing the opportunity to photograph and document both historic and contemporary costume. These visits can be

arranged in small groups or on a one to one basis and are tailored to suit the student. These study sessions provide an invaluable resource, not only for fashion students but can also provide access to objects, garments and material that would provide inspiration for many creative courses.

This year I have also been working hard to develop outreach links with educational facilities and other museum organisations. These include developing methods to directly market our facilities and resources to students on fashion and design courses using social networking sites such as Facebook and YouTube. I have also started to build upon the close ties that the service has with university lecturers, designing new ways for all of the Museums collections, not just costume, to be used for the student of the 21st century.

If you would like to view the collection and find out more contact me at:

Sarah Nicol, Inspiring
Collections Officer

01509 815514
Collections Resource Centre

0116 3053722
Direct Number, Collections
Resource Centre

sarah.nicol@leics.gov.uk

Please reserve.....place(s) at **'From Julius Caesar to Claudius: The Late Iron Age/Roman Transition'**

Total Amount enclosed £.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:..... Tel Number:.....

Email Address:.....

Special Dietary Requirements.....

Please make cheques payable to **Leicestershire County Council** and return this slip to: Helen Sharp, Harborough Museum, Council Offices, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7AG. Email enquiries: Helen Sharp (helen.sharp@leics.gov.uk)



Art and Architecture in Leicestershire

Jess Jenkins, Assistant Keeper of Archives,
Record Office for Leicestershire,
Leicester and Rutland

The latest edition of the Record Office Journal 'The Searcher' is now available and takes as its theme 'Art and Architecture'. This issue, illustrated throughout in colour, includes amongst other subjects, new evidence about John Flower 'The Leicester Artist', the life of the artist and engraver Fanny Palmer who was destined to become a household name in America and biographical details about two of the county's renowned equine artists, Ben Marshall and John Ferneley. Other articles include how the philanthropic Kyrle Society tried to bring beauty to the poor of Leicester and an account of early attempts to establish a local School of Art. There is also a spot light on the work of architects like Frank Seale, Albert Herbert, Arthur Hind and Shirley Harrison.

The Journal costs £2.99 (£3.70 by post), and is available from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, Long Street, Wigston Magna. For more information, contact the Record Office on **0116 2571080**.



Old Oak in Bradgate Park, Sep.1836



A barn door at Narborough 1841



Packhorse bridge at Aylestone



Rutland's Phoenix: The Archives of the Noel Family of Exton Park, Rutland

Rachael Marsay, Project Archivist, Record Office for
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

In 1810, the Old Hall at Exton caught fire and the extensive archives of the Noel Family, Earls of Gainsborough, were thought to be lost forever.

However, much of this archive was rediscovered in the late 1980s and deposited by the Earl of Gainsborough in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Though the Friends of the Record Office managed to obtain grant funding to catalogue the collection, more archival material was found, the funds dried up and work stopped on the collection.

That is, until now. In 2010, the Record Office was successful in obtaining a grant from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme to fund a sixty week project to complete the cataloguing of the collection and to make a fully-searchable catalogue available online.

The National Cataloguing Grants Programme, administered by The National Archives, distributed over £400,000 in 2010 to support the cataloguing of 15 'outstanding' collections including the papers of the Earls of Derby and the Sadler's Wells Theatre Collection. The programme is supported by the Pilgrim Trust, the Foyle Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, the Monument Trust, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Mercers Company Charitable Foundation, the Goldsmiths Company, the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust and The National Archives. Final decisions on the allocation of grants are made by an independent expert panel.

I am joining the team here at the Record Office as Project Archivist for Rutland's Phoenix. My roots lie in the North York Moors in North Yorkshire, but I have recently been studying for my Masters in Archives and Records Management at the University of Liverpool. This is my first post as a professional archivist and I am very privileged to be embarking on this project for my first archival adventure.

My first task is to explore the collection, which comprises nearly 700 archive boxes and over 100 plans. The collection contains a wide variety of documents, from official property deeds and manorial court records dating back to the 12th century, to 19th century family correspondence. They range in size from small bills to table-sized maps and plans.

The Noel Family Archives are not only of local importance to Rutland and Leicestershire, but also to Gloucestershire and Kent, where the family held lands and estates. In fact, the Noel Family Archives contain records relating to many places in England, Wales and Ireland, as well



as places further a field such as Guyana, St Kitts and India.

Future work will involve work describing unlisted items, arranging the collection, inputting data into the Record Office's online catalogue database and working with volunteers on the collection.

Keep an eye on the Project pages on the Record Office website (under 'What's New' and 'Our Resources') for regular updates, news, events and features on the collection.

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, Long Street, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, LE18 2AH

Rachael.Marsay@leics.gov.uk

War Memorials Project Update

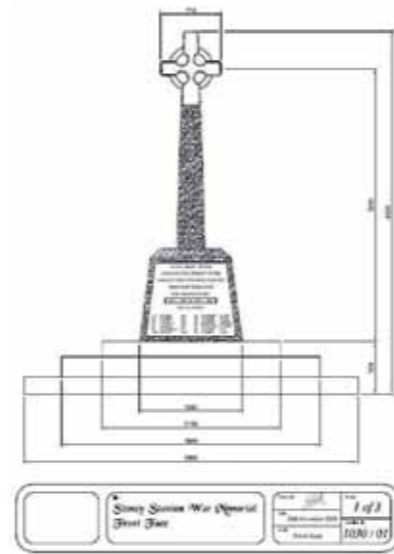
Catherine Dove, Project Officer

The Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project has seen several exciting developments since last featuring in Branchline.

On Wednesday 22 June an event was held at County Hall to celebrate the achievement of over 300 volunteers who have made a tremendous contribution to the project archive. A number of exhibitions were on display, including a series of artefacts kindly arranged by Richard Knox and Michael Hurt, together with information gathered by local groups on village memorials in Burbage and Sapcote. Michael Doyle, who has provided much of the information for our project archive and has published the series of books *Their Name Liveth for Evermore - The Great War Roll of Honour for Leicestershire & Rutland*, also held a display.

Hosted by the Chairman of the County Council, Jackie Dickinson, a series of talks in the Council Chamber was opened by the Leader of the County Council, David Parsons and included contributions from the Western Front Association, the War Memorials Trust, the National Memorial Arboretum, and volunteers from the War Memorials Project. The evening was very successful and we hope to organise another soon.

(At right) Selection of digital donations to the archive.



Get Listed!

We have uploaded information on how to get a war memorial listed at www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials_listing. This is part of the project aspiration to help achieve listed building status for more of the memorials in the County; notable examples of memorials that are currently not listed include the cross within St John the Baptist's churchyard at Whitwick, the carved soldier within the memorial garden at Burbage and the large memorial for South Wigston and Glen Parva



The memorial on Blaby Road, South Wigston, which also includes casualties from Glen Parva. This impressive but unlisted memorial was enlarged during WW2 to accommodate five further name plaques.

Condition Survey 2011-12

We have recently embarked on a condition survey of all the freestanding memorials within Leicestershire (county). We have currently surveyed around 40 out of approximately 170 known. We hope to use this information to inform memorial projects and conservation enquiries.



We noticed this WW1 plaque on the churchyard gates at St Cuthbert's Church in Great Glen when visiting the village during our condition survey.

For more information, newsletters or to send something to the archive, please contact Catherine Dove at Catherine.Dove@leics.gov.uk or Liz Blood on 0116 3056187 or at Liz.Blood@leics.gov.uk

New Website

Information gathered for the project is now available to view online through the launch of the project website, which can be accessed from www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials. We hope it will become a useful resource for local history, genealogy, schools, as well as planning authorities and conservation officers who manage the developments that could put memorials at risk. It is also a place where people with knowledge or memories of the fallen can ensure that what they know is shared, so that the meaning and significance of the memorials is not lost and those they commemorate are fittingly remembered.

When visiting the new website, you can perform searches for specific soldiers and memorials using simple or advanced search functions, or browse the map to view all memorials in a given area (memorials currently show on the map as a round Union Flag icon). A full user's guide is available under the 'Help' link at the top right of the page; a copy of the 'Quick Start Guide' is displayed opposite

to help get you started. Leicester City memorials are currently not shown on the database, though this information is hoped to be added in future. Instead, a searchable .pdf document has been uploaded onto the normal project webpages.

Eventually, more images, documents, and audio/video files could be attached to the records, bringing the archive to life. You can also send us information using on-screen tools, if you know of memorials or details that are not showing, or if you are concerned about a memorial that may be at risk. Due to the considerable amount of data our volunteers have provided to us, the database is constantly being updated, so if you have forwarded information to us that has not yet appeared on the website, please be assured that we hope to have this uploaded within the near future. Also, if you have any queries or comments about the website, please do not hesitate to contact us, as it is still under development and we would be grateful for any suggestions as to how its usability could be improved.

Quick Start Guide

Select 'Person' or 'Memorial' search here

Type the name tool of the person or memorial here (Simple search)

Select 'Simple' or 'Advanced' search here

Advanced search

'Zoom to rectangle' tool

'Map grab' tool

Help sheet linked from here

Memorial selection tool

Map 'Zoom' tool

Memorials

Map at full zoom

Special Projects

Farming and Water for the Future

Andy Jackson, Upper Soar Project Officer

A ground-breaking environmental approach has been launched to help reduce properties flooding and benefit wildlife at the same time.

'Farming and Water for the Future' will explore a variety of innovative approaches designed to help reduce flood risk.

Andy Jackson, Project Officer at Leicestershire County Council, is encouraging farmers and landowners to help manage flooding by introducing different land management techniques such as creating water storage areas, restoring rivers and drainage channels and shrub and tree planting on their land.

The work will be aimed at landowners and farmers living near the Broughton Astley and Whetstone Brooks and has the potential to reduce the risk of the flooding of properties in settlements downstream.

The scheme is being led by the OnTrent Initiative - a partnership including the National Farmers Union, local authorities and businesses - and is funded by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Leicestershire County Council.

Although this kind of work is still fairly pioneering, the role that less engineered (and less costly) solutions can play in reducing flood risk is now becoming recognised more widely and similar projects are cropping up around the country. These solutions can also bring other benefits such as increased biodiversity, recreational value and soil conservation that might not come from traditional engineered options.



The Project Officer has been appointed to work with farmers to review agricultural practices, identify opportunities, secure funding for schemes and support delivery on the ground.

For further information contact Andy Jackson on **0116 305 7221**.



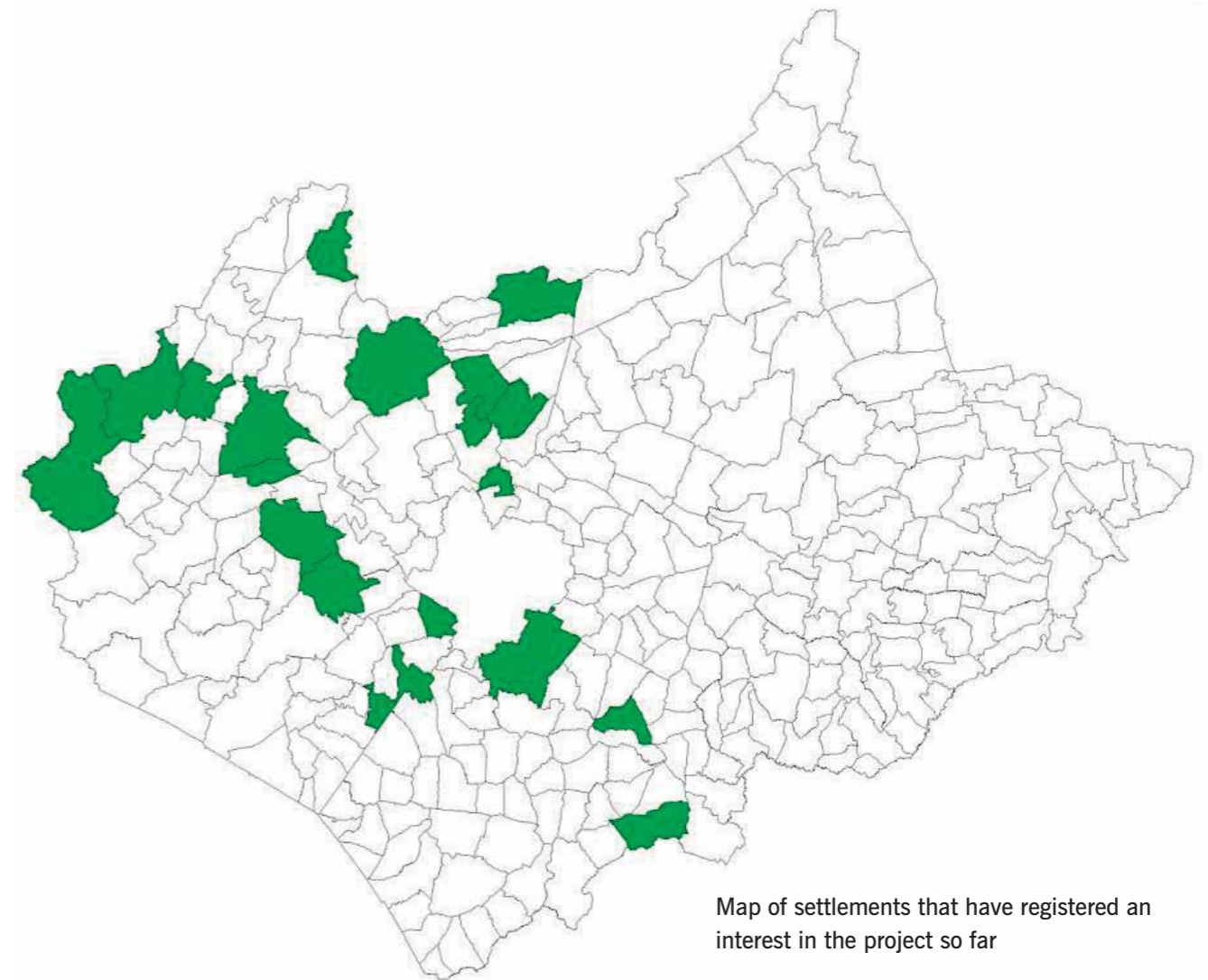
Special Projects

Village Voices Project Kicks Off!



The new project on local accent and dialect has begun after an initial training day at Holly Hayes in September. It is not too late to take part, and we would love you to join us.

We are trying to put local accent and dialect on the map, and as you can see from the image below, we need your help to fill some of the gaps.



Interested villages:

Bagworth	Coleorton	Kibworth Harcourt	Mountsorrel	Sileby
Barrow upon Soar	Croft	Littlethorpe	Narborough	Thringstone
Battleflat	Desford	Loughborough	Netherseal	Wanlip
Blackfordby	Ellistown	Lubenham	Oadby	Wymeswold
Braunstone Town	Kegworth	Moira	Overseal	

Special Projects

The project is designed to be short and simple. We would like each participating village to collect 6 samples from local people that include recorded speech (from a word list and Mr Tickle story, used by the British Library in a national project), and a questionnaire. Everything you need can be provided to you after registering for the project. The registration form was included in the previous issue of Branchline, and you can download it from the website at www.leics.gov.uk/heritagewardens_villagevoices

The data will be analysed by the University of Leicester and participants will receive feedback. The archive will be stored with the East Midlands Oral History Archive, and will be used for research purposes relating to East Midlands accent and dialect studies.



We have three voice recorders available for loan once you have registered as a fieldworker. If your local history or heritage group is interested in making a worthwhile investment in its own digital voice recorder, we are using affordable models for this project that you may be interested in; the Zoom H1 (available at around £90), and the Zoom H2 (available at around £160). Both models are simple to use and produce high quality sound recordings.



Zoom H1 digital recorder (c. £90)



Zoom H2 digital recorder (c. £160)

We are excited to be putting local accents and dialect on the map, and hope you or your group can help us by taking part.

We will be collecting samples into the new year, and will present the findings at next year's Heritage Conference in April.

To get involved, contact Liz Blood:

0116 3056187

liz.blood@leics.gov.uk

Wardens News

New Wood at Higham-on-the-Hill

Ann and David Jenkins, Tree Wardens for Higham on the Hill



On 19th March a new woodland was planted on the old sewage works at Higham-on-the-Hill.

This land is now owned by MIRA but they were happy to see it used as a potential planting site. With 1,500 trees donated by the Woodland Trust and Higham Parish Council and MIRA contributing to the cost of tree guards, the project went ahead.

David and Ann Jenkins Tree Wardens for Higham marked out the site and on a glorious Saturday morning we had tree wardens from Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth CPRE members, volunteers from the local community and MIRA employees to set to work planting the trees.

We are hoping that most of the trees will have survived but the dry spring and relatively dry summer have not helped. However, we will review the site in the autumn and if we need to replace trees we will look into doing so. The important aspect is that the site is now an area for trees rather than an empty field.

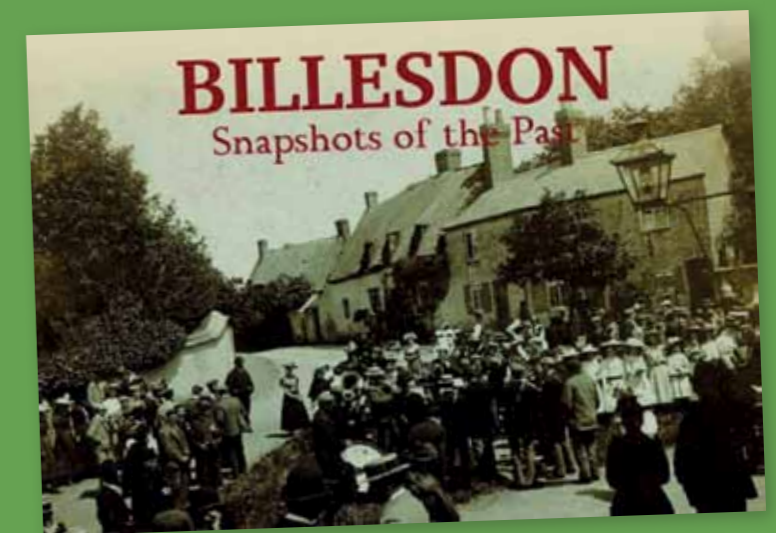
Billesdon: Snapshots of the Past

This book is the result of an extended project to safeguard the visual heritage of Billesdon, an east Leicestershire village. With around 150 photographs and informative captions, it is a fascinating and stylish record of Billesdon's history – the buildings, the people, the events. Although some photographs are from public sources, many are from private collections. We are grateful to the families who have made their cherished, and sometimes fragile, photographs accessible to a wider audience.

Published by Billesdon Local History Group, 7 Weare Close, Billesdon, LE7 9DY

Now available from Billesdon Shops or billesdon.lhg@gmail.com

£10.00 + P&P



Revitalising the Warden Networks – Your help is needed

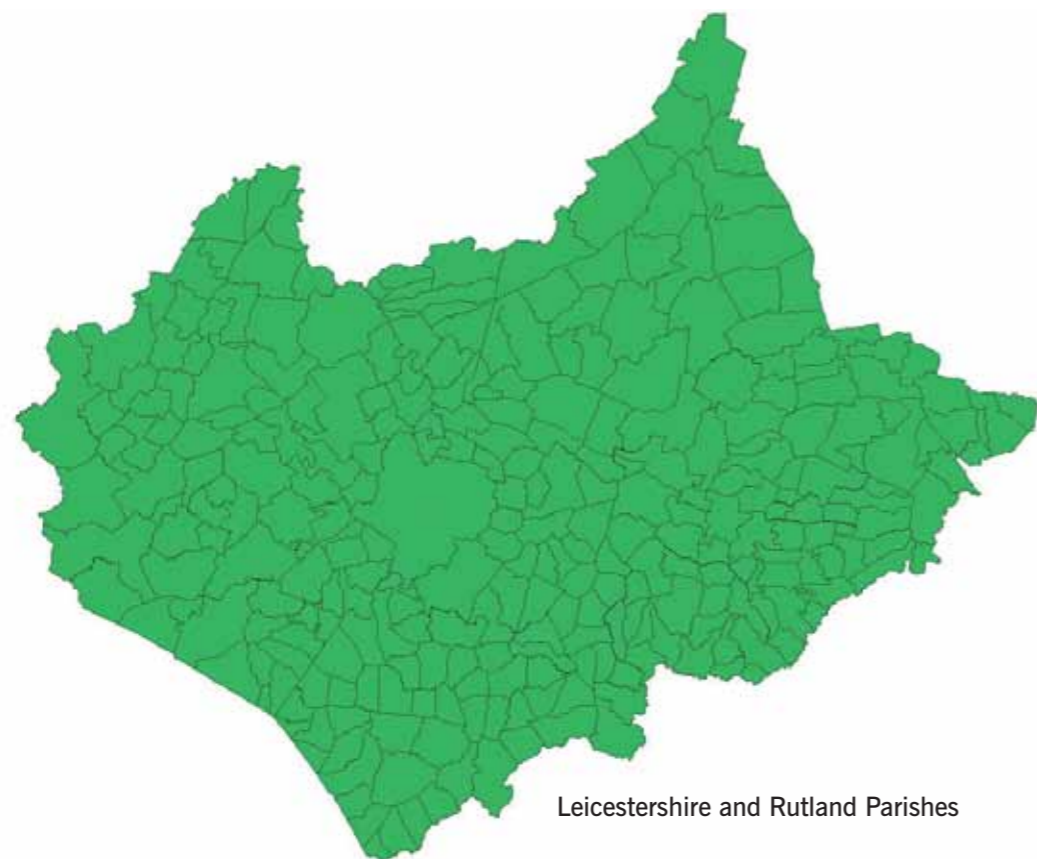
It is our aim to update our warden contacts, starter packs and website, and to recruit new wardens for 'empty' parishes over the coming year. In light of the reduced support to the networks, we need your help to do this. It is vital to maintain healthy networks to ensure they continue in the future. Currently, we don't have the people power required to bring everything up to date...

We are looking for volunteers who can spare some time (even just an hour or two a week) to help us at County Hall. We can make a computer and telephone available for you (and cups of tea!) and hope you can help us get started with some of the following activities:

1. Calling all Parishes

We want to update our Warden database with a view to producing an online register of wardens and local projects. We need to contact all wardens individually to confirm or update their details before we try to recruit wardens for empty parishes. To achieve this, we will need volunteers happy to call or write to wardens and check the details in our database are correct.

It would also be a chance to find out what's going on in each parish, which we would like to keep a record of. We're interested in finding out what publications, projects or events have been going on in each area, to raise awareness across the counties of work being done locally. A spreadsheet will be produced ready for this information to go into.



Leicestershire and Rutland Parishes



Current Heritage Wardens homepage

2. Wardens on the Web

The information gathered above will be useful for new guidance and information for the wardens' section of the website. We would like this to include a list of wardens, as this is helpful to other Parishes.

We would also like to upload a list of local publications or projects that have taken place in order to raise awareness of work that has been done locally.

This might include scans of the Community Heritage Initiative documents (now out of print) that may still be useful to new wardens and those looking for project ideas and advice.

3. Warden Vacancies

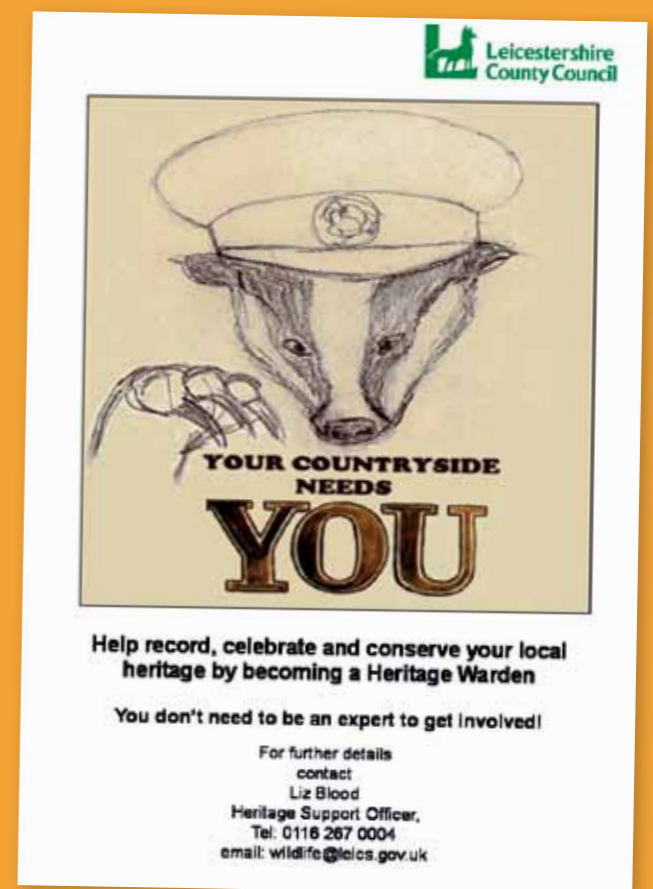
All of this will help to prepare us for recruiting new Heritage and Archaeological Wardens in 'empty' parishes. Using our database, you will be able to identify the gaps in each district, and this will be of great help when we come to contacting Parishes about filling their warden posts.

Perhaps you would like to help us design a new recruitment poster, or an advice sheet for Parish Councils on how to find a new Warden.

Existing wardens could be contacted to find out if the Heritage Warden would like to be the Archaeology contact as well, and vice versa. After this, we will be looking to contact Parish Councils to recruit to the spaces left over.

We expect this process to start later this year and continue for several months, depending on how long it takes us to get through everything.

If you can help, please get in touch with Liz Blood on 0116 305 6187 or Liz.Blood@leics.gov.uk



Recruiting poster used up to 2010



Dates for your diary

■ **Hallaton Treasure Conference Saturday 5th November,
University of Leicester, 10am-4pm.**

'From Julius Caesar to Claudius: The Late Iron Age.'
For further details contact Helen Sharp, Tel. **01858 821 087**,
email. helen.sharp@leics.gov.uk

■ **Nature Conservation Forum Monday 28th November,
Council Chambers, County Hall, Glenfield 10am – 12.30pm**

An opportunity to hear about the latest heritage and natural history
issues with people from across Leicestershire. Booking is essential.
For further details contact Graham Walley, Tel: **0116 305 7063**
email: Graham.Walley@leics.gov.uk

■ **Recorders' Conference – Saturday 25th February 2012
10am-4pm.**

Details tbc. An opportunity to meet taxon specialists, county
recorders and local natural history groups to discuss current issues.
For more information contact Gareth Price, Tel: **0116 267 0005**
email: Gareth.Price@leics.gov.uk

**If you would prefer to receive Branchline
electronically rather than by post,
send an email to wildlife@leics.gov.uk
with BRANCHLINE BY EMAIL as the subject line.**



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