

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

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- 1. THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 15th September at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The speaker will be **Dave Lakin** of the Museum of London. He will be speaking about 'The discovery of a 7th century princely grave in South Essex'. This remarkable burial hit the headlines and is probably the most complete burial of its kind ever found.
- 2. ANNUAL TRAINING DAY** WILL BE HELD ON Saturday 1st October from 10am to 4pm at **Jewry Wall Museum**. The day is designed for new fieldworkers and parish wardens. The morning session will deal with object identification with Richard Knox, Richard Clark and Peter Liddle and the afternoon will cover organisation, techniques and interpretation. There are a few places left. Ring Peter Liddle on (0116) 264 5810 to book places or let us know if you cannot come.
- 3. IN FIELD TRAINING** will be in the week October 10th-14th at **Stonton Wyville** (subject to final permissions). This will give new members the chance to do some real fieldwork alongside experienced fieldworkers. As in previous years we will mostly have to limit people to half-day slots.
Please ring Peter Liddle or Richard Knox for information on (0116) 265 8326 or 8327. Those who have booked will soon get a letter offering a date.
- 4. FIELDWORK GROUP NEWS**
The Committee elected at the A.G.M. was as follows:-
Paul Bowman (Chairperson) – **Liz Johnson** (Secretary) – **Emma Wells** (Treasurer)
Kathy Harman (Newsletter Editor)
Kay Gowland – Tony Squires – Tony Holmes – John Lacey – Ernie Miller
Subscriptions continue to come in but those who have not paid should find a reminder with this "Fieldworker".
- 5. MISS LINFORD AWARD**
The Miss Linford Award was won by Framland Local Archaeological Group (FLAG) for their report on Excavations at Wycomb Villa. Congratulations to them.
- 6. UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER CERTIFICATE IN ARCHAEOLOGY**
The University of Leicester's Institute of Lifelong Learning will again be running the part-time two year certificate course at The University (rather than Vaughan College). This is on a Thursday evening from 6pm-9.30pm. Details from Nick Cooper on (0116) 252 2847/8 (e-mail njc@le.ac.uk) or Joan Lamb on (0116) 242 2602.

7. DONINGTON LE HEATH MANOR HOUSE EVENTS

Medieval Mayhem - Sunday September 18th 11 – 4pm.

A day celebrating all aspects of the medieval period. Viking, 13th Century and 15th Century re-enactors, drama, craft and talks.

Help would be appreciated. Ring (01530) 831259 for more details.

Vikings – Sunday October 9th 11 – 4pm.

An event associated with Donington's winter exhibition. Always a lot of fun.

Hands on Tudors – Sunday October 16th 11am – 4pm

It's what it says on the tin! An event about Tudors with lots of hands on elements. A Family Learning Week event.

Apple Day – Thursday October 20th 11am – 4pm

We will be looking at apples and their history. Apple games and activities.

Gunpowder, Treason and Plot! - Saturday 5th November - 11am – 4pm

On the 400th anniversary find out about the history of Guy Fawkes and his friends at a house owned by one of the plotters. Children's crafts, living history, talks and demonstrations.

8. IRON AGE LEICESTERSHIRE AND THE ROMAN CONQUEST

Peter Little of Leicestershire County Council Environment and Heritage Services will be speaking at Donington le Heath Manor House on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm on the Iron Age and transition to the Roman period in the light of recent finds including the South-East Leicestershire coin hoard. This will be illustrated by slides.

9. EXCAVATION NEWS

University of Leicester Archaeological Services have undertaken a great many projects over the Summer. In the **City** excavation continued at **Leicester Abbey**. As ever this raised more questions than it answered with evidence of a complete rebuilding of the kitchen. At **Grange Lane** outside the south wall both Roman and medieval features were found, including wells, a cesspit and post holes and gullies. Work in and around the **Free Grammar School** has found many original features surviving the 1960s renovation, while there are medieval features overlying Roman. At **St Margarets Baths** work on excavating the St Peters churchyard continues. The body count has now reached 780. An Anglo-Saxon grubenhaus and small long brooch have been found as well as a large medieval building. On **St Nicholas Circle** the excavations have finished. Highlights included 3 Roman column bases, Roman structures and the line of a street. Also medieval furnaces and a building.

ULAS have also been active around the 2 counties. At **Bocheston** work in advance of golf course landscaping has produced a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age site including a roundhouse. At **Cotesbach** a 'mud and frame' cottage has been recorded and dendrodated to c1733. At **Countesthorpe** some medieval features were found in an evaluation and watching brief. At **Greetham** geophysics followed up by trenching has found an Iron Age enclosed settlement. At **Saltby** evaluation revealed medieval walls and a cobbled surface.

Network Archaeology have been dealing with a Transco pipeline from **Gaddesby to Thurcaston**. A number of sites of different periods were found and recorded. The most dramatic was a Roman well that (unusually) was fully excavated. From the bottom were 3 complete pots and a metal jug. The well was associated with a settlement.

Archaeological Project Services have been working at **Oakham School** and have found a large medieval ditch perhaps associated with the Castle.

Northamptonshire Archaeology have been excavating at **Burton Lazars** and have found medieval features associated with Stamford Ware. At **Thistleton** they have been trial trenching to follow up geophysical survey of part of the Roman town affected by a quarry haul road. This, coupled with the work by Jeremy Taylor of the University of Leicester, is giving a huge amount of new information about this important settlement.

10. BIG ROMAN DIG AT MEDBOURNE

As part of Time Team's summer extravaganza Wildfire TV paid for geophysical work and for ULAS to supervise excavations. These were undertaken largely by Fielwork Group members. 2 large and 1 small trenches were excavated. These revealed Roman ditches and a cemetery (probably 5th century) of over 20 graves, Saxon features cutting the Roman and a separate group of burials associated with an Early Saxon knife. Around 50 volunteers were involved. Thanks to everyone.

11. NEW CURATOR AT JEWRY WALL

A big welcome to Laura Coats who is the new Senior Curator History for Leicester City Museums. She has come from the Museum Studies course at the University. She has been working on clearing the stores and getting to know the museum before trying to make radical changes. She is looking forward to meeting people.

12. THE VIKINGS IN LEICESTERSHIRE

An exhibition at Donington le Heath by LCC Museums and the Portable Antiquities Scheme bringing up to date our knowledge of this fascinating period. There will be a pre-view on Thursday 29th September at 7.30pm. All welcome but please bring a contribution to refreshments.

13. DIARY DATES (At Jewry Wall, 7.30pm)

November 17th Neil Finn: Some recent building archaeology in Leicestershire
December 15th Christmas meeting
January 19th Prof Marilyn Palmer: Industrial archaeology (title to be agreed)

14. EXCAVATIONS AT GRACE DIEU PRIORY

There are likely to be some small-scale excavations on the site this Autumn to clarify some of the interpretation. They will be led by Graham Keevil, the Priory Trust's archaeological consultant. A limited number of volunteers can be incorporated. If you have time during the week and might be interested please ring Peter Liddle on 0116 265 8326.