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THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP



No: 198
Date December 2005

1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. It is the annual **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** which will include the Christmas Quiz (written, as usual, by John Lucas). You are invited to bring food to share, but there will be snacks and liquid refreshments (soft and alcoholic) and there will be a charge of £1 per head to cover costs.

2. **DIARY DATES (All at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**

January 19 th , 2005	Prof Marilyn Palmer: Industrial Archaeology
March 16 th , 2005	To be arranged
May 18 th , 2005	Prof Colin Haselgrove: Recent advances in The Iron Age
June 15 th , 2005	AGM and Miss Linford Award.

3. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

We are well on the way to being fully paid up. If you are one of those who haven't got around to filling in the form yet please consider this a gentle reminder as even we are not hard hearted enough to send final reminders out at Christmas.

4. **EXCAVATION NEWS**

Work is going strong even though we are now in December! **University of Leicester Archaeological Services** are still hard at work excavating in **Leicester**. At the **Vine Street** site machine stripping is once again showing several phases of substantial Roman buildings, some with op sig floors. A corner of another insula has been found. At **St Margaret's Baths site** the skeleton count continues to rise. St Peters Church has proved to have many phases and associated with it is a possible plague pit and a bell pit. At **Braunstone Gate** Roman and medieval deposits have been found relating to extra-mural activity along the line of the Fosse Way. At **Freeschool Lane/Shires West** the sequence of stratified deposits at the street frontage is 3.5m thick. Roman robber trenches and another Saxon sunken featured building have also been found, as well as Roman and medieval rubbish pits, an oven and a possible medieval privy. Away from the centre at **Wycombe Road** a possible Iron Age enclosure/ boundary system and a few gullies were found.

At **Ketton, Northants Archaeology** have excavated a prehistoric ring-ditch.

5. DONINGTON EVENTS

There is as ever a programme of events at Donington le Heath Manor House:

- Sunday, 22nd January: 11am – 4pm: Indoor Games and Crafts
An event exploring indoor crafts and games from the past
- Mon & Tues, 13th & 14th February: 11am – 4pm: February Fun
Half term craft activities for kids..
- Sunday, 19th March: 11am – 4pm: The Romans Are Coming!
A day highlighting the Roman period in Leicestershire. We would be keen to have people bringing their Roman finds.

Donington is open on a 7 day a week basis until December 18th to allow the Christmas decorations to be viewed. We are then closed until January 7th. Through January there will be weekend only opening. We re-open for 7 day a week opening on February 4th. Work on the Improvement Project is going on apace ahead of a Grand Opening in late March.

6. LEICESTERSHIRE LANDSCAPES

Sales of the book are still going well. The book is now generating a profit that we hope to recycle into future publications. If you are one of the few who haven't yet got a copy they are on sale in County Museums and bookshops at £19.95. They are on sale from Committee members and at the meetings at £18. For orders of 6 or over we will supply them at £15 each. Buy now while stocks last! An ideal Christmas present (for yourself if no-one else)!

7. VIKING TALK, EXHIBITION AND BOOKLET

The winter exhibition – the Vikings in Leicestershire – is a good one and well worth a look. A booklet using the artwork and photos of the objects is now available at £2.50 and on Wednesday December 7th at 7.30 our very own Richard Knox, who co-wrote the display and booklet will give an illustrated talk on the subject. This is part of the lecture series jointly sponsored by the museum and the Friends.

8. SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Committee of the Fieldwork Group and the staff at County Environment and Heritage Services and City Museums wish all the Fieldwork Group a great Christmas and New Year.