

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP



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1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. **NB There is a change of speaker.** Due to a double booking Marilyn Palmer will be appearing at the next meeting. Her very able replacement is our old friend **Lynden Cooper** of ULAS who will be speaking on '**Later Neolithic Glimpses at Rothley**'. The site at Rothley Lodge has been one of the most remarkable excavations in Leicestershire. It was finds rich with huge amounts of flint and beaker pottery as well as stone axes and arguably the earliest piece of art ever found in Leicestershire.

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

March 16th, 2006

Prof Marilyn Palmer: Industrial Archaeology

May 18th, 2006

Prof Colin Haselgrove: Recent advances in The Iron Age

June 15th, 2006

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**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services are still hard at work in **Leicester** working mostly on the huge area of The Shires Extension. At **Vine Street** the site has been stripped and cleaned with buildings showing clearly. There may well be two distinct properties within the complex of walls. A north-south street has been traced further north and appears to narrow as it approaches the wall. Stonework in the area may indicate steps. Regrettably the site was raided by metal detectorists. At **Freeschool Lane/Shires West** several medieval (12th-13th century) properties have been revealed fronting Freeschool Lane, associated with pits and wells. These sit on garden soil and there may be underlying Roman deposits. Fronting Highcross Street the Headmaster's House of the Free Grammar school has been identified. This dated from the 16th century and existed until the 19th century. As the frontage here is uncellared –unlike most Leicester frontages- there are hopes that the elusive late Saxon buildings may be found. There are certainly medieval structures and behind in the backyards there are buildings, wells and other structures. Near St Peters Lane Roman structures have been found. At **The Towers Hospital** 12th – 13th features that may represent a farmstead have been revealed. Geophysical surveys have been undertaken at **Enderby, Ratby** and **Barkby** where garden features and a hollow way have been found.

Northants Archaeology have trial trenched an enclosure with a circular building within at **Lubenham** and recovered some Iron Age pottery. At **Great Bowden** pits and boundary features associated with 12th-13th century and (?) 17th century material have been found.

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.

Through January Donington will be only open at the weekend. We re-open for 7 days a week on February 4th. Work on the Improvement Project is going on apace ahead of a relaunch in late March.

6. RECENT FINDS IN LEICESTERSHIRE TALK

On Wednesday February 1st at 7.30 Wendy Scott, the Finds Liaison Officer, will be speaking on 'Recent Finds in Leicestershire'. This is part of the lecture series jointly sponsored by the Museum Service and the Friends of Donington.

7. CONSERVATION FOR FINDS SEMINAR

On Saturday 11th February from 11am to 3pm there will be a seminar at Jewry Wall Museum on **The conservation and storage of metal objects** organised by Wendy Scott. Jim Spriggs of York Archaeological Trust, Graham Morgan, former conservator at the University of Leicester and Peter Liddle will be the speakers. Places are limited so please phone Wendy on 0116 265 8325 or e-mail wscott@leics.gov.uk.

8. NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Richard Clark's team is recruiting a new officer with English Heritage funding to undertake a Historic Landscape Characterisation project, which will start in the spring. There will also be a temporary appointment of a Planning Archaeologist.

9. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EAST MIDLANDS

A publication summarising current knowledge of the archaeology of the East Midlands will soon be published, edited by Nick Cooper. To secure your copy fill in the form enclosed and return to ULAS at Leicester University.

10. MISS LINFORD AWARD

NOW is the time to start work on your Miss Linford Award entry. It only needs to be around 4 sides of text with any supporting photos, plans etc. We would be happy to advise. All archaeological / historical projects completed in the last 5 years are eligible. If the Award is going to develop we need you to consider entering.