

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

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1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 15th March at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. **Graham Keevil**, the published speaker, cannot now make the meeting due to family bereavement and illness. He is sending his Powerpoint presentation which will be presented by **Peter Liddle** of Leicestershire County Council, who has been involved in the Grace Dieu project since its inception.

2. **DIARY DATES FOR 2007 (All at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**

May 17 th	Mick Jones: The Archaeology of Lincoln
June 21 st	AGM and Miss Linford Award
September 20 th	Jeremy Taylor: Thistleton Roman Town
November 15 th	To be arranged
December 20 th	Christmas Meeting

3. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There are 101 people who have not yet paid their current subscriptions. Letters will be sent with this Fieldworker and we will then begin removing people from the membership list.

4. **EXCAVATION NEWS**

After the excitements of the large-scale City excavations everything has returned to normality. **University of Leicester Archaeological Services** have undertaken most of the work. At **Groby** a site close to the Old Hall has produced evidence of possible fishponds and the remains of a substantial stone building represented by walls and demolition spreads. One wall was distinctly curved. The only dating was a fragment of 13th-14th century ridge tile suggesting that this may be part of the substantial medieval manor complex of the Ferrers family. At **Market Overton** a multi-period site has been found. The earliest is Mesolithic flint some of which comes from a pit. Iron Age enclosure ditches have been found and Roman features producing wall plaster and flue tiles suggesting that a high status building is close by. At **The Raw Dykes, Leicester** a section through the possible Roman aqueduct has produced some Roman pottery from the bank. At **Lockington** geophysics and trenching is being undertaken close to the A453 in advance of possible widening.

At **Wymondham** Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Unit have been evaluating the manor site and have found walls.

At **Plungar** Lindsey Archaeological Services have excavated north of the church and found a bank and ditch associated with Stamford Ware sealed by walls in rubble stone.

At Asfordby Road, **Melton Mowbray** ditches have been found associated with Iron Age and Roman pottery.

5. **DONINGTON EVENTS**

Sunday, 18th 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.

Sunday April 15th: 11am – 4pm: Anglo-Saxons And Vikings

Come and meet re-enactors from Wulfingas and the Vikings of Middle England. Some recent finds will be displayed.

6. **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK**

Further to the information in the last Fieldworker, the programme for the week (14th – 22nd of July) is filling up. There will be an excavation at Donington supported by the Friends of Donington and the Fieldworkers. More information later in the year. There will be local events at Ashby, Ibstock, Swannington, Loughborough and Ratby. If your group can do something please get in touch. **There will be a meeting for anyone wanting to run an event or help with the week at Donington le Heath Manor House at 7.30pm on March 22nd.**

7. **MISS LINFORD AWARD**

We have had our first entry for the Miss Linford Award. Others need to be submitted in May. 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.

8. **FIELDWORK NEWS**

A new Roman site is reported by Andy Tansley from **Leighfield**. There is a good group of later Roman material, several coins (including republican denarii) and brooches and kiln bars. This is one of a number of sites appearing in the area suggesting a Roman pottery industry associated with Leighfield Forest in the same way as there is with Leicester Forest.

9. **FUTURE CBA MEETING**

On Saturday 24th November 2007 CBA East Midlands will be hosting a joint meeting with ULAS on 'Recent Archaeological Work in Leicester' to promote the results of the recent large scale excavations. The meeting will be at Vaughan College. Full details will be available this summer, but please put in your diaries and look out for the booking form. Notice will also be posted on the britarch web site in due course.

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