

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

No: 208
Date: May 2007



1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 17th May at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The speaker is the Lincoln City archaeologist, Mick Jones, who will be speaking about 'The Archaeology of Lincoln: New Perspectives'. Mick has been involved in Lincoln archaeology for many years and there is no-one better to cover this subject.

2. **DIARY DATES FOR 2007-8 (All at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**

June 21 st	AGM and Miss Linford Award
September 20 th	Jeremy Taylor: Thistleton Roman Town
November 15 th	Claire Lingard/Dick Moore: The archaeology of the Ashby Folville to Thurstaston pipeline
December 20 th	Christmas Meeting
January 17 th	Richard Pollard: Roman pottery production in Leicestershire and Rutland

3. **2007 TRIPS**

Two trips are planned this year. On **Saturday 9th June** there will be a trip to **Ulverscroft Priory, Langley Priory and Donington Deer Park**. None of these sites is normally open to the public and this is highly recommended. **Cost is £12**. See enclosed booking form for more details.

The second trip is planned for **August 11th**. This will be to Lincoln, visiting the acclaimed new museum, **The Collection** and a tour of historic Lincoln.

4. **EXCAVATION NEWS**

Northants Archaeology are excavating at **Rothley**, where part of the medieval churchyard (probably over 100 bodies) is being excavated. The site is producing large amounts of Roman tile and other building material but, as yet, no contemporary structures, except a possible timber building represented by large post holes. There is 4th century pottery and coins and a few Saxon sherds.

At **Launde Abbey** work by **ULAS** on the ha-ha ditch has revealed the original ditch profile and found substantial stone walls probably part of the west range of the medieval priory.

At **King Street, Melton Mowbray** evaluation by **ULAS** adjacent to a fine 14th century timber framed building has revealed stone walls, floor and yard surfaces, a possible lime kiln and medieval pits, mostly of Saxo-Norman date.

At **Wymondham** an evaluation by **Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit** has revealed the foundations of a substantial stone building around 40m by 25m in approximately the location shown on a map of 1652. Cut features of medieval date survive west of this building, including one timber building. Some parts of the site have been disturbed by post-medieval quarrying. .

5. DONINGTON EVENTS

On Sunday **May 20th** (11am – 4pm) we will be holding **Maytime Mayhem** – a day of folk dancing, story telling, craft and games celebrating the spring.

On Sunday **June 24th** (11am to 4pm) is **The Manor Garden Party** – a chance to step back more than a hundred years to a Victorian village garden party.

On Saturday **July 21st** we will be running a National Archaeology Group event – **Archaeology Alive** – we will need all the help we can get to demonstrate archaeology to the public.

6. DIGGING DONINGTON & NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Following the success of the Big Roman Dig at Medbourne it is clear that people are very keen on the opportunity to dig. This year we will have a nine day evaluation at Donington le Heath Manor House from July 14th – 22nd, during National Archaeology Week. A few years ago we found a stone, ridge tile, slate and pottery scatter in our fieldwalking of a field close to the House, which we believe may be the gate house as it lies on the line of a bank and ditch visible in old aerial photos of the site. We want to recover the plan of this (assuming it really is a building!) and section the bank and ditch. If this is successful we may continue to research the archaeology of Donington in future years. The project is a 3-way collaboration between LMAFG, Friends of Donington and the County Council. As well as excavators we will be looking for guides (it will be open to the public) and finds processors. If you are interested in taking part please let us know your availability.

For the week as a whole the programme is filling up nicely for our first co-ordinated attempt to join in with the annual CBA week of events. The programme will be circulated with the June newsletter.

7. SHAKESPEARE AND EARLY MUSIC AT DONINGTON

There will be 2 Shakespeare performances at The Manor House this year. On June 29th there is **Much Ado About Nothing**; On August 2nd **As You Like It** and a new departure early music from **The York Waits** on July 8th. We are able to offer a discount price of £10 per ticket for each performance for LMAFG members. Send applications to the address below. Cheques payable to Leics County Council. We will open early for picnics.

8. MISS LINFORD AWARD

Entries for the 2007 Miss Linford Award need to be with us by June 4th. Entries do not need to be long and we encourage groups and individuals to enter.

9. FIELDWORK NEWS

The Lutterworth Group has been walking fields in the **Cotes De Val** area. The conditions were not ideal as all the fields were maize stubble with some weed cover. On the first field, a finely worked leafshaped arrowhead was found plus 4 scrapers but not a lot of knapping debitage. The second field yielded 8 scrapers, a number from dark brown flint, this is unusual for this area. Again very little knapping material. An interesting find was an early bronze age V-perforated jet or cannel button, a first for Leicestershire, these are often linked to burials so we may have another look when the field is ploughed & the conditions are better. The third field (not yet completed) appears to be a Victorian tip, with loads of broken bottles & china, however 2 damaged end scrapers were found.

Witan Archaeology has begun a field walking survey of Tempe Farm in **Sweepstone** parish. Early results include a scatter of late Mesolithic flint south of the farm. A fragment of an internal wall was recorded at the roman villa at **lbstock**. The wall is either a support for the under floor heating or perhaps part of a corridor.

At **Thrussington** the local group have been in the field but results are not yet analysed.

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