

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

No: 210
Date: September 2007



1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 20th September at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The speaker will be **Dr Jeremy Taylor** of the School of Archaeology, University of Leicester. Jeremy will be speaking about the Roman 'small town' of **Thistleton, Rutland**. The site has been known for some 300 years and excavations were undertaken by Ernest Greenfield in the late 1950s, examining part of the town and an associated temple. Recently, Kate Don and the local group have undertaken a fieldwalking survey and Jeremy has directed an extensive geophysical survey. Jeremy will be reviewing this evidence as well as some recent evaluation in advance of a new quarry road across the site.

2. **2007/8 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions were due in June. A letter will be enclosed if we have not yet received your payment.

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

November 15 th	Claire Lingard/Dick Moore: The archaeology of the Ashby Folville to Thurcaston pipeline
December 20 th	Christmas Meeting
January 17 th	Richard Pollard: Roman pottery production in Leicestershire and Rutland

4. **TRAINING**

The Indoor Training will be on September 22nd 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 Brian Burningham, Richard Clark and Peter Liddle and the afternoon will cover organisation, techniques and interpretation. There are a few places left. .

The In-field Training will be in the week October 1st -5th at **Bosworth Battlefield** (subject to final permissions). **NB This is a change of week.** 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.

Those who have expressed an interest in either training will soon get a letter. Please ring or e-mail Peter Liddle to book a place or let us know if you can't make it. (contact details below)

5. EXCAVATION NEWS

Time Team visited Leicestershire this summer with an excavation at **Stonton Wyville** on an Anglo-Saxon site. Substantial timber building remains were revealed with good dating evidence. Underlying this was a substantial Iron Age site (also predicted by the fieldwalking) which showed up beautifully on the geophysics. The programme will air after Christmas.

Northants Archaeology has completed the work at **Rothley**. Just under 300 medieval burials were excavated and evidence of what may be an outer courtyard of a substantial Roman villa was revealed.

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit has finished the excavation at **Wymondham** of a manorial site. The core of the building was a post built structure with stone gables. Later, wings were added with cellars under. A kitchen area was also identified.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services have also been busy. At **Bath Lane, Leicester** a major Roman building is being excavated. It may well be a bath house having at least two apses similar to the Jewry Wall site. The West wall of the town has also been found again. Underlying these is a ditch that may be military. It has long been thought that Leicester should have a military phase and this may be the first really good evidence for a fort(ress). There is also Pre-Roman material with high status imported pottery and more fragments of flan trays for making precious metal pellets for, it is believed, Iron Age coin production. There is substantial medieval activity on the site including The southern precinct wall of the Blackfriars, a large cesspit (perhaps the public toilet mentioned in a 14th century reference) and industrial activity, perhaps tanning or fellmongering (again mentioned in documents). At **Oxford Street, Leicester** trial trenching has revealed some Roman deposits and a burial. At **St Martins, Leicester** an evaluation trench was excavated beneath the former single-storey extension to the bank and revealed well preserved Roman to late post-medieval occupation and activity at a relatively shallow depth. This included probable Roman clay floor surfaces and earlier cut features with at least 0.6m of stratigraphy present. Possible earlier medieval timber structures, medieval pits and metalled surfaces with at least one probable early post-medieval wall foundation and post-medieval pits were also identified. Excavation now in progress and a burial in a coffin has been revealed.

Work is proceeding in advance of the **Earl Shilton Bypass**. At **Elmesthorpe** a Roman ditch was found and fishponds recorded, while at **Thurlaston** the edges of an Iron Age settlement with an enclosure ditch, post holes and pits has been located. At **Lockington** work on a large Iron Age and Roman settlement is under way in advance of gravel quarrying. At **Old Dalby** early medieval ditches, post holes and a small oven have been found. At **Manton** a ?medieval wall and 2 wells have been recorded.

6. DONINGTON EVENTS

The next events at Donington le Heath Manor House are **Hands On Tudors** (14th October); **Gunpowder, Treason and Plot** (November 4th) and **Christmas at the Manor** (December 8th and 9th). All 11am to 4pm, admission free.

7. DIGGING DONINGTON & NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

The excavation at Donington le Heath went reasonably well despite poor weather. Results were a little disappointing with only a post pad, a cobbled area and a couple of gullies to show for a week's hard work. A good group of medieval pottery, tile and slate was recovered underlining the view that a substantial building, perhaps the Manor's gatehouse lies close by.

Elsewhere, National Archaeology events went well (at least on the less wet days!) and we hope to build on this success next year. Thanks to everyone who organised or took part in activities.

8 HISTORY AND HERITAGE FAIR

Our friends at the Leics Archaeological and Historical Society are organising a History and Heritage Fair at Vaughan College and Jewry wall Museum on Saturday October 27th from 10am to 4pm. The Fieldworkers are having a stall and we would welcome volunteers to staff it or interesting finds to display (although space is limited). Otherwise we recommend a visit!

9. CERTIFICATE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Have you considered converting your interest in archaeology into a recognised University qualification that can contribute towards a degree in Archaeology? The University's School of Archaeology offers a part-time certificate course over two years on the main campus, which many members of the Leicestershire Fieldworkers have undertaken during the last 30 years.

The course runs from 6pm-9.30pm on Thursday evenings during term time, amounting to thirty weeks each year, with occasional fieldtrips at weekends. The course covers the Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval Archaeology of Britain alongside modules on Archaeological Methods, Public Archaeology, and the Analysis of Archaeological Materials, Environmental Remains, and Pottery. Assessment of the course is by essays during term time with a single exam at the end of the first year.

The Certificate is one of the most comprehensive in the country and good value for money at £560 per year. If you are interested please contact the Course Director, Nick Cooper at the School of Archaeology, University of Leicester (0116)2522847/8 (email njc9@le.ac.uk) or Karen Britten at Vaughan College on 0116 2517368. There is a course induction morning on Saturday 22nd September and the course begins on Thursday 27th at 6pm.

10. OBITUARIES

We sadly have to report the death of two of our members. **Professor Harold Fox** of the Centre for Local History at the University of Leicester was a leading figure in medieval landscape studies and the study of his native Devon. He was a member of the Fieldworkers for many years and participated in our first summer trip so his sudden death, just after his retirement from the University was a shock. Equally shocking was the death of **Alice Cox** (nee Robinson). She joined the Lutterworth Group while still at school and went on to study archaeology at University. She married Simon Cox, a Miss Linford Award winner, and they had two small children.

11. CBA MEETING IN LEICESTER

CBA East Midlands are having a meeting on Recent Work in Historic Leicester on Saturday 24th November at Vaughan College starting at 10.30. Speakers are from ULAS (Richard Buckley, Nick Cooper, John Thomas, Tim Higgins, Jon Coward, Tony Gnanaratnam, Harriet Jacklin and Roger Kipling) on many aspects of recent work on Iron Age, Roman and medieval Leicester. Cost £6.50 (CBA members); £8.50 (non CBA members), £7 lunch. Booking via Catherine Wells, 37 Water Meadows, Worksop, S80 3DF. Cheques payable to CBA E. Midlands.

12. MISS LINFORD AWARD WINNERS

The winners of this year's Miss Linford Award were the Hinckley Fieldwalkers who entered their work on Hinckley Priory.

13. FIELDWORK GROUP COMMITTEE

The Committee elected at the A.G.M. was **Paul Bowman** (Chairperson) – **Liz Edgar** (Secretary) – **Tony Holmes** (Treasurer) - **Kathy Harman** (Newsletter Editor) - Kay Gowland – Tony Squires – John Lacey (committee members). Alan Clark and Malcolm Lockett both agreed to attend some committee meetings with a view to joining the committee.

**CONTACT LMAFG via PETER LIDDLE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES TEAM, LEICS COUNTY COUNCIL, ROOM 500, COUNTY HALL, GLENFIELD, LEICESTER, LE3 8TE
Tel: (0116) 305 8326, e-mail: pliddle@leics.gov.uk.**