

# THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP



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1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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. **2007/8 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions were due in June. There are still over 100 subscriptions not yet brought up to date. A letter went out with the last Fieldworker. We would appreciate a quick return.

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

January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Pollard: Roman pottery production in Leicestershire and Rutland
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Taylor: Two Roman Small Towns - Thistleton and Medbourne compared.
April 5-6 <sup>th</sup>	Fieldworker/LCC Conference: The Archaeology of Medieval Leicestershire. At County Hall
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Jones: Defining spaces – manure, open fields and medieval rural society
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Linford Award and AGM

## 4. **EXCAVATION NEWS**

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services(ULAS)** have now completed their latest excavations at **Bath Lane, Leicester**. The last few weeks proved exciting with the 'Roman street' turning into an Iron Age bank and ditch. The ditch's fill was charcoal rich with numerous coin pellet tray fragments (the largest figured below),



Photo courtesy ULAS

crucible fragments etc, indicating an Iron Age mint. Another surprise is that the large north-south ditch seems more likely to be late Iron Age than Roman military, perhaps part of the oppidum defences. Some Bronze Age flint and a small assemblage of Late Upper Palaeolithic debitage were also recovered. Work has resumed at **Great central Street/Highcross Street, Leicester**. News in the next Fieldworker. At **Elmesthorpe**, the fishpond on the line of the Earl Shilton Bypass has been recorded and is being excavated. Topsoil-stripping work at **Lockington** has been completed for this phase of gravel extraction. Iron Age and Roman enclosures, buildings, a pit alignment, drove way and possible graves are being excavated.

#### 5. **MEDIEVAL LEICESTERSHIRE CONFERENCE**

Planning for the Archaeology of Medieval Leicestershire conference to be held at County Hall on April 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 is now well underway. A dazzling array of speakers has been confirmed covering many aspects of medieval archaeology. Booking details early next year. It is planned to publish the papers.

#### 6. **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK**

Next year's National Archaeology Week is from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Last year's week was easily the best ever locally. We plan to make next year's even better. The museum services in City, County and Rutland will be participating and we would like to add to the impressive number of local events organised last year. This could be a talk, a display in the village hall or library, a guided walk to a local site or, perhaps, something we haven't thought of! We hope to co-ordinate a Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology Week leaflet to go out through libraries and Tourist Information Centres etc. Please contact Peter if you want to join in.

#### 7. **MISS LINFORD AWARD**

The Miss Linford Award is the group's annual award for the best archaeological and/or historical project in Leicestershire and Rutland. It is awarded each June. Now might be a good time to think about entering. We hope to build up the profile of the award in 2008.

#### 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.

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