

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP



No: 215
Date: May 2008

1. **THE NEXT MEETING** will be on Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The speaker will be Dr Richard Jones of The Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester. He will be speaking on 'Defining spaces – manure, open fields and medieval rural society'. Richard was the archaeologist for the Whittlewood Project and has given the process of manuring a great deal of thought.

2. **2007/8 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There are around a hundred people who have not paid this year. Letters went out with the last Fieldworker. Names will be removed from the mailing list unless subscriptions are rapidly received.

3. **DIARY DATES FOR 2008 (Unless stated at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**

June 19 th	Miss Linford Award and AGM
September 18 th	Peter Liddle: The Time Team at Stonton Wyville
November 20 th	Jonathan Clark: The archaeology of Ulverscroft Priory
December 18 th	Christmas Meeting

4. **EXCAVATION NEWS**

Northamptonshire Archaeology have been dealing with the archaeology of the **Empingham-Hannington Pipeline**. The star find was an Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery with around 20 burials at **Glaston**. The pots were lifted for internal excavation in the lab. Finds so far include a bronze disc brooch and a glass bead. Also at **Glaston** was a Roman ditch, while at **Bisbrooke** a pit alignment was found made up of 17 circular pits. Pit alignments seem generally to be Iron Age. South of this was an Iron Age settlement marked by intercutting pits and gullies with assemblages of pottery and animal bone. At **Lyddington** Iron Age gullies and pits were found on the north side of a sub-rectangular enclosure seen in the geophysical survey. A stone foundation and cobbled surface with wheel ruts seem likely to be Roman.

Archaeological Project Services have produced Roman and medieval material at **Cottesmore** and a medieval(?) trackway.

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) are excavating around the Magazine Gateway in **the Newarke, Leicester**. The Roman Tripontium Road was seen again with an extramural side street at right angles to it along with a property boundary ditch and other features. The back yards of medieval properties fronting Oxford Street were seen with the normal pits and a large (and very green!) cess pit. A Civil War period ditch running north-south towards the Magazine Gateway was excavated.

At **Great Central Street** the excavation is now virtually completed. The Roman levels have produced an intra mural street and timber structures, some as early as the 1st century.

At **Lockington** the complex site found in geophysical survey has now been excavated and phased with Iron Age tracks for stock control with continuing Roman activity. Evaluation south of the present quarry has produced a palaeochannel, and Iron Age and Roman features.

5. **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK (July 12th – 20th)**

The programme for this year's **Leicestershire Archaeology Week** is now pretty much complete and is going to the designers this week. If you have additional events please let Peter know as soon as possible. Programme out with next newsletter.

6. **NEW BOOK – COSSINGTON EXCAVATIONS**

Monument, Memory and Myth – The use and re-use of 3 Bronze Age Barrows at Cossington, Leicestershire is the new ULAS publication. Written by John Thomas it is a substantial addition to the literature on Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon Leicestershire. Normally £17.00 + £2.50 p&p it will be available at £15 at the next Fieldworkers meeting. It will be launched at **Charnwood Museum, Loughborough** (where there is a display of some of the finds) on June 12th at 7.30pm. All welcome. For more details e-mail John on jst6@le.ac.uk.

7. **NEWS FROM JEWRY WALL & DONINGTON le HEATH MANOR HOUSE**

The next event at **Jewry Wall** is **Early Einsteins** on 30th May. This will focus on prehistoric technology with activities such as flint knapping. It is from 11-3pm and costs £1.50. At **Donington** is **Country Capers** – a day of dance, stalls, country crafts, story telling and animals – on Sunday May 18th followed by the **Manor Garden Party** on June 22nd – this time themed to the 2nd World War. Both are free entry. There are 3 outdoor theatre performances. **Midsummer Night's Dream** on June 27th, **The Tempest** on July 26th and **King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table** on August 21st. Prices held once again!

8. **MEDIEVAL LEICESTERSHIRE CONFERENCE**

The conference was pretty much full and was an unmitigated success with every speaker sticking to time (thanks to the very fierce chairperson) and many fascinating contributions. These will be published in due course.

9. **MISS LINFORD AWARD**

Entries for the Miss Linford Award need to be submitted by Monday 2nd June. Entries only need to be around 4 sides of text with any supporting photos, plans etc – so there is still time. 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!

10. **TRIPS**

The first trip is on Saturday June 28th to East Leicestershire and Rutland visiting Ridlington Park, Hallaton and Sauvey Castles and the enigmatic earthworks on Robin a Tiptoe Hill. Cost £7. Booking sheet attached.

The second trip on August 16th is to St Albans with a chance to look at the Roman remains and the Abbey to be led by Alan McWhirr. Cost and booking form in next newsletter.

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.