

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

No: 222
Date: May 2009



1. THE NEXT MEETING will be on Thursday 21st May at 7.30p at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. The speaker will be Professor Dominic Powlesland, who is the Director of The Landscape Research Centre and Visiting Professor at the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds. He will be speaking on '**Beneath the Sands of Time: unravelling the hidden past of the Vale of Pickering**'.

More than 30 years of research, including large area excavations, air photography and the largest geophysical survey in the world, all conducted over several square miles, has revealed an entirely unanticipated density of archaeological evidence in the Vale of Pickering in Eastern Yorkshire, much of it sealed beneath blown sands. This research has revealed Prehistoric to Medieval landscapes indicating that we have fundamentally failed to appreciate the complexity, continuity, density and nature of past settlement and associated activity. Given the similarity of this area to other valleys in lowland Britain, it seems likely that the position in the Vale of Pickering is far from unique. The astounding results raise questions regarding our comprehension and appreciation of the scale of past activity at a national level, and thus the very basis upon which the archaeological story of our past is reconstructed.

2. TREASURE CONFERENCE – June 27th 2009

On Saturday 27th June the Museum Service is arranging a conference at Leicester University on Iron Age Leicestershire and the Hallaton Treasure. Speakers confirmed so far include John Thomas, Vicky Score, Ian Leins, Peter Liddle, Jeremy Taylor and Colin Haselgrove. The cost will be £10 (including lunch). The day seeks to present the latest thinking on the Treasure site and put it into the context of Iron Age Leicestershire and beyond. Booking details enclosed.

3. DIARY DATES FOR 2009 (at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)

June 18th AGM and Reports Meeting
September 17th Gavin Speed on Anglo-Saxon Leicester
September 26th Annual Training Day (Jewry Wall, 10 – 16.00)
November 19th Mick Aston: Landscape Projects in Somerset (?County Hall)

4. THE FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

The new fortnight long Festival from July 18th to August 2nd has been wonderfully supported by groups across the County. Thanks to everyone who has organised a talk, guided walk or event. The leaflet will be going to press next week and we hope it will be back in time for the June newsletter. The full programme will be on the internet at www.leics.gov.uk/archaeologyfestival

5. DONINGTON EVENTS

The next event at The Manor House is 'Country Capers' on Sunday May 17th from 11 to 4pm. This will be an excellent day featuring, amongst other things, dancing, crafts and a plant sale. www.leics.gov.uk/donington

6. REPORTS MEETING

There will be a Reports Meeting after the AGM on June 18th. This will give groups and individuals the chance to tell everyone about their work. Please contact Peter Liddle to book a place.

7. NEWS FROM THE LOCAL GROUPS

Barkby have continued their fieldwork and have found an interesting stone tool. **FLAG** have been excavating at **Harston** and have some finely built stone walls with a good collection of early medieval pottery.

Great Bowden undertook some trial trenching in the village on a potentially interesting site revealed by geophysical survey. The possible ditched enclosure turned out to be spreads of slag and charcoal, possibly a track surface, but subsequent test pits revealed medieval pottery and possible features.

8. NEW GROUP FOR MELTON

It is hoped to start a new group in **Melton** with a couple of interesting projects already suggested. Anyone interested in joining please contact Peter Liddle.

9. YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB

The club for 8 to 16 year olds is expanding and, at the same time, losing a couple of leaders. Volunteers to work with the group would be much appreciated. Meetings are monthly. This is highly rewarding. Please contact Peter Liddle if you are interested. www.leics.gov.uk/yac

10. OUTDOOR THEATRE AND FOLK MUSIC AT DONINGTON

There will be 3 outdoor theatre performances at Donington this year: 26th June – Sense and Sensibility (7.30 start); 12th July – A Midsummer Night's Dream (7.30 start); and 31st July - Merlin the Magician (6.30 start). Tickets a concessionary £10 per person (£28 for all 3). Tickets from Richard Knox at the address below. The Manor Moot Folk Festival will be on June 13th from 12.00 till 10.30pm. £25 per ticket from Classics Tea Room at Donington (01530 817214). www.leics.gov.uk/donington <http://www.classics1485.co.uk>

11. SUMMER TRIP

There will be one trip this year – but it should be a good one! The theme is medieval military orders and we will be visiting the key local sites on Sunday 12th July. This is a Sunday because Rothley Temple chapel is used for weddings on Saturdays throughout the summer. Details and booking form on enclosed sheet. Because this is a Sunday we may have more problems arranging a pub lunch. We would welcome numbers of people requiring one. So, please fill in that bit of the form.

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