

# THE FIELDWORKER

## NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

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- 1. THE NEXT MEETING** will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. Professor **Steve Upex** will speak on the **Roman Archaeology of the Nene Valley**. Stephen Upex was born and has lived in the Nene valley near Peterborough for over 45 years. He has dug on sites and directed excavations on numerous Roman sites in the area, as well as on early and middle Saxon sites. Until recently he was Professor of Landscape Studies at the University of Brunei. He is author of the recent book 'The Romans in the East of England'.
- 2. DIARY DATES FOR 2010 (at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**  

June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Liddle on 40 years in Leicestershire Archaeology
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Leahy on Researching the Staffordshire Hoard (venue uncertain)
- 3. ALAN McWHIRR**  
We are very sad to report the death of Dr Alan McWhirr. Alan was involved with Leicestershire archaeology for over 50 years having come to Leicester as a student from his native St Albans. He was Secretary of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society but has been a vital member of nearly every committee or working party to do with Leicestershire archaeology or local churches, although he was best known nationally as Director of Excavations at Cirencester for many years. Members will remember that he led our trip to St Albans in 2008 – a typically generous sharing of his knowledge and time. He supported the Festival of Archaeology – leading wildly successful tours around Burrough and Breedon Hills as well as sitting on the organising committee. He will be very sadly missed.
- 4. THE FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**  
The programme for the **Festival 2010** from July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> is now with the printer. Details can be found on [www.leics.gov.uk/archaeologyfestival](http://www.leics.gov.uk/archaeologyfestival). CBA have confirmed that the Leicestershire programme is the biggest of any county or region in the country.
- 5. EXCAVATION NEWS**  
**University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)** have continued their excavation at **Rothley**. The latest finds are a series of Neolithic features with grooved ware and stone axe fragments. It is thought that a small round house may be of this date. A Roman enclosure is also being investigated. At **Earl Shilton** what had been thought of as a possible henge monument turned out to be a medieval mill mound, while an Iron age rectangular enclosure was also investigated. At **Ashton Green, Beaumont Leys** an Iron Age enclosure with middle Iron Age pottery was excavated. At **Husbands Bosworth** more work around the quarry produced a big pit, probably Iron Age. At **Ibstock**, trenching produced undated gullies, while at **Burbage** there were Roman features including post holes and gullies and at **Woodgate, Loughborough** medieval post holes and gullies were found. At **Egleton** test pits found a stone surface associated with medieval pottery.  
At **Nether Broughton Northamptonshire Archaeology** found an ironstone wall and Late Saxon to Late medieval pottery.

## 6. TIME TEAM AT GROBY

In April Time Team descended for the customary 3 days on **Groby Old Hall**. The stone tower in the motte was excavated and shown to be Norman in date, A section was put across the possible bailey ditch and a complex of buildings ranged around a courtyard was revealed. Geophysics was superb – many of the walls only being inches below the surface. A Fieldworker trip to the site is being arranged (see below). A second Time Team dig is planned for the summer in the Langtons.

## 7. GEOPHYSICS AT BURROUGH

In advance of a programme of excavations at Burrough Hill by the University of Leicester Dr Jeremy Taylor has been undertaking a geophysical survey. We understand that the results are very encouraging with enclosures, round houses and rubbish/ storage pits showing up. The site will be the site for the student training school for the next few years.

## 8. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION (HLC)

The report of the HLC project will be launched in late June. The report will be available on **CD?** disc for a modest cost.

## 9. FIELDWORK GROUP NEWS

The **Lutterworth Group** has been walking a field in **Ullesthorpe**, small quantities of flint scrapers, cores & flakes plus a few Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Medieval, Post Medieval pottery sherds were found. Just before the height of the crop stopped us a fine polished stone axe was found, it is very unusual as it is rectangular in section.

**Witan Archaeology** has been walking at **Odstone** finding a small flint scatter west of the village. At **Osbaston** walking in the west of the parish has uncovered a moderate scatter of Bronze Age flint.

Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology carried out a two day excavation at Little Bowden finding several sherds of Roman pottery including a small piece of Samian ware but no sign of any buildings, floor surfaces or other features to confirm the location of the settlement.

## 10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND THE FUTURE OF THE GROUP

A meeting is being arranged to find out the details of the County Council's future support for Community Archaeology. It seems likely that this will end or, at least, be severely curtailed in 2011. The Committee is recommending an increase in subscriptions to £4 (unwaged); £6 (waged and unwaged household) and £10 (waged Household) to the AGM for 2011-12 onwards. Other plans will be presented to the AGM as the situation clarifies.

## 11. MEDIEVAL CONFERENCE BOOK

Understandably, we are getting enquiries for the Medieval Conference Book. Many contributors have already delivered. However, papers are awaited from Richard Clark, Graham Jones (busy writing), Mike Hawkes/Matt Godfrey, and Richard Buckley (delayed due to contractor pressures but deadline agreed). Others still need to provide illustrations. Apologies to those who have subscribed - the book will appear as soon as possible.

## 12. TRIPS

This year we will be doing trips in a different way. The first trip will be on Sunday June 27th to Groby Old Hall to look around one of the County's most fascinating sites – made all the more interesting by Time Team's recent work. We won't have a coach but are asking people to offer lifts to those without their own cars. There will be a small charge which will be donated towards the restoration costs. In September we will be visiting Leicester Castle. Full details of both trips will be in The Fieldworker next time.

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