

THE FIELDWORKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

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- 1. THE NEXT MEETING** will be at 7.30pm on September 16th at Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 4LB. The speaker will be Susan Oosthuizen on 'Understanding continuity and change in the making of the Anglo-Saxon agricultural landscape'. Dr Susan Oosthuizen is senior Lecturer for Historic Environment at the University Of Cambridge Institute Of Continuing Education where she is responsible for programmes relating to the historic environment .She has extensively researched Anglo-Saxon and medieval landscapes and is the author of 'Landscapes decoded: The history of Cambridgeshire's medieval fields'. Susan will be sharing some of her thoughts on the making of the Anglo-Saxon farming landscape'.
- 2. DIARY DATES FOR 2010 - 11 (normally at Jewry Wall Museum at 7.30pm)**
September 25th: Annual Training Day (Jewry Wall, 10 – 16.00)
November 18th: Kevin Leahy: The Staffordshire Anglo-Saxon Treasure (at the University of Leicester)
January 20th: Matt Edgeworth on the Wallingford Project
March 17th: Marilyn Palmer on Industrial Archaeology
May 19th: Wendy Scott on Portable Antiquities
June 16th: AGM

3. THE FESTIVAL OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Festival was a great success with over 7000 people participating in a tremendous range of events. Everything went off well and even the weather was (generally) co-operative. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a success.

4. EXCAVATION NEWS

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) have been digging in **Leicester** at **Bosworth House, De Montfort University**. A limited area of excavation has produced a ditch running north from the South Gate, apparently of 12th century date. This may be connected to the reorganisation of the town when the Castle was built. A large stone wall parallel to the south wall of the town has also been found as well as the rampart of the town defences. Pre-rampart features are just being revealed. At **Western Road** an evaluation has revealed an area of Roman cemetery. 15 burials have been lifted. Skeletons lie both East-West and North-South. One skeleton was buried with a seal box and another with a shale bracelet. At **Hamilton** more round houses and a boundary ditch have been excavated. These form part of the large aggregated settlement previously excavated here. At **Castle Donington** a large area of late Iron Age and Early Roman features, revealed by geophysics, have been evaluated. There are a series of rectilinear enclosures, ditches and round houses. There are also a few Later Roman features and some industrial features of unknown date and use.

AOC Archaeology Group have evaluated a site at **South Street, Oakham** which has produced Roman and Prehistoric features, including 2 parallel Prehistoric ditches and Roman pits and linears. At **Queniborough** geophysics south of the village has indicated the presence of probable Iron Age or Roman features suggesting a farmstead with associated field systems.

Allen Archaeology have been working at **Burton Street, Melton Mowbray**. There is 14th-15th century evidence on the street frontage. Taken together with previous work close by to the north it suggests a reorganisation of this part of town in the 14th century. Palaeoenvironmental sampling has been undertaken and a post medieval warehouse relating to the canal has been located.

Northants Archaeology have recorded a stone wall in **Castle Donington**. This was built of dressed stone and is probably of 19th century date. It marks a much earlier boundary marked on the Enclosure Map as bounding ancient closes. It will be retained within the new development.

5. GROUP NEWS

The Group now owns a sophisticated **sound system** principally for use at lecture meetings. It can be lent for use by local groups. Contact Peter and he will pass on a request to Alan Clark, the sound system guru, who is willing to bring it out.

In North East Leicestershire, **Alan Massey** has intensively searched about 120 fields over the past 10 years. This has resulted in the collection of twenty-odd thousand man-made flints and six axe heads, five of which came from one field. Petrology studies on one axe suggested the stone could be from the Charnwood hills making the axe a Type XX. The couple of hundred arrow heads include eight tanged or barb and tanged examples, four being in pristine condition. Most of the flints are from the Late Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Evidence was collected for at least seven (Bronze Age?) burial sites and three new Romano-British "buildings" (one since attacked by "night-hawks"). He is also studying the contents of a bellarmine witch bottle, the preliminary results of which were published in "British Archaeology", in June-July 2009.

Witan Archaeology carried out a small dig at Ibstock Grange Wood on the site of an early 19th century barn. Only a dispersed scatter of building rubble was seen in the trench.

6. ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

The annual training day at Jewry Wall, aimed particularly at new members, is planned for Saturday 25th September from 10am to 4pm. This will give an introduction to most classes of object likely to be found in the field as well as research and fieldwork techniques. Please book your place using the membership form. A week of infield training will be held at Loddington from October 4th -8th.

7. STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD LECTURE

Our meeting in November is jointly with the School of Archaeology. **Kevin Leahy** of the **Portable Antiquities Scheme** will be talking about the **Staffordshire Hoard**, one of the most exciting finds in Anglo-Saxon for a long time. Kevin is leading the analysis of the finds for publication. The lecture will be in the Fielding Johnson South Wing New Lecture Theatre at the University of Leicester. The entrance is behind the David Wilson library. Because we expect a big response, we would recommend booking early. Please contact Wendy Scott on wendy.scott@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 8325.

8. TIME TEAM AT LANGTON

In July Time Team returned to Leicestershire to excavate at West Langton. This produced interesting geophysics results around a Roman villa with some limited excavation. Close by an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was evaluated. There was poor bone preservation but several graves, mostly indicated by finds, were excavated. Brooch fragments recovered from the topsoil suggested that other graves had been disturbed by ploughing. An Iron Age enclosure underling the cemetery was found by geophysics and evaluated. The programme is expected to be aired early next year.

9. MICHAEL WOOD'S KIBWORTH SERIES

Michael Wood's series about Kibworth will, we understand, be beginning on BBC4 on Friday 24th September. Many members of the Group were involved in the year long filming of the series. Keep an eye out for TV listings for full details.

10. PLANNING ARCHAEOLOGY

It is some time since we brought members up to date on planning archaeology. This is part of the Historic and Natural Environment Team, now within the Chief Executive's Department. **Charnwood Borough** has now decided to undertake its own work on planning archaeology and is no longer using the County Service. Rutland County Council and all other Districts, with the exception of Oadby and Wigston, are using the County Service. **Lucy Griffin** has left the team to relocate to Istanbul. A temporary replacement will start at the end of September to cover until a permanent appointment can be made.

11. 2010/11 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due for 2010-11 in June. Subscriptions remain at the present level this year. Please pay as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

12. UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER HE CERTIFICATE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The University's School of Archaeology and Ancient History and Institute of Lifelong Learning 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 seen 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 £825 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 Heather Roach at Vaughan College on (0116) 2517368 (email hcr5@le.ac.uk). There is a course induction morning on Saturday 25th September 10am until 1pm and the course begins on Thursday 30th September at 6pm in the Archaeology and Ancient History Building.

13. TREASURE CONFERENCE

There are still spaces available at this year's Treasure Conference being held at the University of Leicester on Saturday 11th September from 10am to 4pm. It will bring you up to date with thinking about the Hallaton Treasure and its background. Cost £15. For details or booking contact Helen Sharp or Frank Hargrave at Harborough Museum on 01858 821087 or e-mail Helen.sharp@leics.gov.uk.

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