

LOUGHBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 513032



Founded in 1955

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

Christmas Tree Festival, All Saints Parish Church

Once again, the LAHS and the Old Rectory Museum were represented at the Community Christmas Tree Festival held at Loughborough All Saints Parish Church last November, with a tree decorated with scenes of local heritage and well-known figures from the area's past.

The Old Rectory Museum

The museum housed in the Loughborough Old Rectory is run by the Society. Standing in its own grounds, the building is a rare survival of a stone-built 13th century house. It opens for the summer season on Easter Saturday, 19 April 2014, with a new display about the Loughborough Big Meadow. Please come and visit us!



The museum is open on Saturdays only, from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm.

New volunteers to help run the museum during opening hours are always welcome. No special expertise is needed, just a willingness to be friendly to visitors. On a sunny day it is a lovely way to spend a few hours!

If you are interested please contact Vivien Law for more information or to sign up for dates.

viv.lawfam@ntlworld.com (Tel: 01509 263247)

LAHS Winter Programme

The last meeting of the 2013/14 LAHS winter programme is to be the **Annual General Meeting** on **Saturday April 5th**.

The meeting takes place at 7.30 pm in the **James France Building** at Loughborough University. The short 'business' section of the evening will be followed by a talk by Anne Tarver on 'The Draft Account Book of the Treasures of Grace Dieu Priory, Leicestershire 1414-18'.

As members will be aware, there is ample parking available outside the James France Building and the talk takes place in a ground floor room.

**AGM followed by The Draft Account Book of the Treasures of Grace Dieu Priory,
Leicestershire 1414-18 - Anne Tarver**

5th April 2014 - 7.30 pm
(James France Building)

For more information visit www.loughboroughpastandpresent.org

Historical Lectures at Unity House

A series of lectures by Dr Ray Sutton are held at Unity House, Fennel Street, Loughborough on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Ray has been delivering historical lectures for many years and the ones he gave in November and December had a World War 1 theme. The talks always move away from the well-known facts and into areas that are less explored, such as the Irish uprisings and the Russian Revolution; the piece about Rasputin was fascinating. He also spoke about Leicestershire in the First World War.

His lectures from January to March were on Cornwall and subjects such as the myth and reality of King Arthur, the making of the Cornish landscape and Cornwall in the Middle Ages and in Tudor times were covered.

Ray's lectures are very informal and at £3 are exceptional value for money.

Karen Ette

CORONATION MEADOW - Making Hay in the Big Meadow

by Anne Tarver

The Society's annual exhibition in the Old Rectory this year will celebrate the designation of Big Meadow in Loughborough as a Coronation Meadow. In 2013, 60 Lammas meadows across England were dedicated as Coronation Meadows by Prince Charles, in celebration of the years of his mother's reign.

Lammas marked the throwing open of the meadows of the parish for the grazing of livestock by all members of the community, harking back to a tradition of the medieval open fields, and can be indicative of ancient meadowland. The date for this event was 1st August until the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in September 1752.

Prince Charles was concerned at the disappearance of wildflower meadows. 97% of wildflower meadows have declined continuously since the 1930s. The importance of meadows to local wildlife is immense, providing a source of nectar-rich flower meadows for bees and insects.

The name Lammas comes from two sources, the first being the feast of St. Peter *ad Vincula* (in chains) that commemorates his liberation from imprisonment by Herod, when he was freed by an angel the night before his trial was due to be heard.

The second source may commemorate a form of Harvest Festival in the early English church, when the first bread made from the freshly harvested grain was baked and consecrated, and known as Loaf Mass.

The Coronation Meadow in Loughborough, previously known as The Big Meadow, has a long history. It may even occupy part, or all, of the 40 acres of land noted in the Domesday Book in 1086. The names of the different parts of the Loughborough Fields were listed in the Enclosure Award. These included Upper Meadow, Thackholme, the Windmill Field, Cotes Hyron, The Middle Field, The Upper Meadow next Windmill Field. There is a map of the areas included in the Big Meadow available on the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust web page. Unfortunately the Loughborough Enclosure Map and the Tithe Map are both missing, leading to problems of locating boundaries of these areas.

Following the Reformation, the Masters and Scholars of Emmanuel College, Cambridge became responsible for the advowson¹ of Loughborough Church. They held this position until the land was Enclosed in 1759, when the land passed to the Huntingdon family.

¹ a right of presentation to a church or benefice

There is an Anglo-Saxon illustration of haymaking surviving in the care of the British Library, but with no provenance of the location.

From the medieval period grass was used for a wide range of agricultural purposes, from upland grazing of sheep to the production of winter feed for horses and cattle in the form of hay from meadows in the lower valleys. This became the most important use of grass, simply dried grass used for fodder for cattle and horses. Other uses include that of herbage, as grazing for sheep on high pastures and for cattle in areas with little grazing – ‘feeding and couching’ within a parish. The practices of haymaking were noted in detail from the sixteenth century onwards by Thomas Tusser. His book, ‘Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry’ was one of the most popular books in the Elizabethan period. There was also an addition in the form of ‘huswifery’. Tusser wrote for all levels of society, particularly smallholders and lesser yeomen. The text was written in the form of verse and took the reader through the work to be done in each month of the year. The draft Account Book of the Treasures of Grace Dieu Priory provide information on their growing of hay between 1414-1418 and the later information on the processing of hay in Loughborough in the mid-eighteenth century can be found in the account book of William Bickham, Rector of Loughborough in the mid-eighteenth century. The Reports to the Board of Agriculture in the early nineteenth century also contain useful general information on meadow management in Leicestershire and Rutland.

One of the major sources of information on agriculture from the late medieval period to the seventeenth century were the tithe² disputes heard in the ecclesiastical courts, and in some cases taken to the London Courts. Two of the main areas of dispute included ‘herbage’ and ‘agistment’. Herbage was a tithe on the grass consumed by ‘barren and cattle, unprofitable to the church’ by virtue of the fact that they did not produce calves for tithing, and thus did not produce milk for the small tithe. This included barren sheep, again for fattening, that did not produce lambs that could be tithed (often at one in seven) and fleeces when they were not shorn in the parish where they grazed. Agistment, or the grazing of livestock from outside the parish practised by local farmers, failed to contribute to the maintenance of the clergy through tithe payments.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries volumes of decrees by the higher courts were printed. Those by the Court of Exchequer, were listed, ‘From the Usurpation to the present time’ (1792-1799) and published as a series of four weighty volumes by Hutton Wood, one of the six clerks of that court. These causes were indexed by parties, counties and subject, and probably were heavily used by rural lawyers.

² tithe: one tenth of annual produce or earnings, formerly taken as a tax for the support of the Church and clergy.

With the development of enclosure³ in the eighteenth century different types of hay were produced – including clover hay. Location of true meadows has always been in river valleys, alongside the stream, and well-watered to encourage growth, stimulated by early flooding, a practice encouraged by Robert Bakewell. By the eighteenth century, in areas where enclosure had taken place and the topography was amenable, they were sometimes deliberately flooded to encourage early growth of grass.

The grass in the meadows was allowed to grow without grazing livestock in the spring until it was harvested in June, when it was ‘mown’, not with machinery but with scythes, and left in long rows in the fields to dry in the sun. These were known as ‘windrows’, or ‘windlaths’. The grass was turned with special wooden hayrakes, to allow it to dry and when it was deemed ready for stacking into ricks it would have been collected up and thrown up with pitchforks onto a flat wagon known as a haywain and taken into the farmyard where it could be stored safely, each stage requiring specialists.

The livestock turned out onto the meadows at Lammas would clear the grass, fertilise the soil and encourage the growth of local specific flora, some of which would have had medicinal properties. In modern terms, it would also act as a reservoir of seeding plants to be propagated and passed on to other local meadows. If left to their own devices, these expanses of grass will produce a range of wild flowers, some with medicinal properties. In the seventeenth century the seeds of the meadow grasses, known as ‘hay dust’, was prescribed against the ‘byting of dragons’.

When the first mow had taken place, the grass would continue to grow and, when ready for cropping the grass would have been described as the ‘aftermath’, grass at a time when it was sought after.

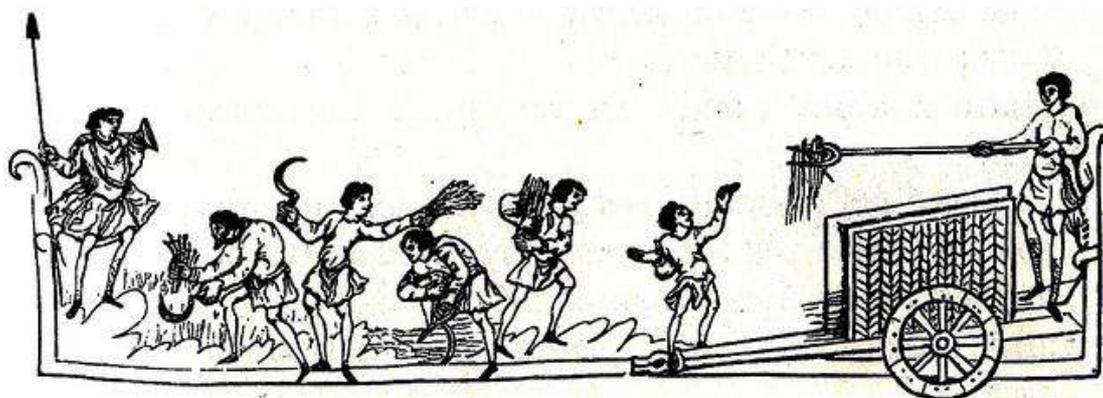
Tithe hay was often demanded in kind as the tenth cock set out in the field that would have been marked with a dock plant when the separation of the tenth was carried out. It was important that the separation was witnessed and the titheman, representing the cleric, was present. If the tenth was not removed from the field it was simply left until the tithe holder collected it. The clergy were also allowed to sell the right to tithe collection, a process known as ‘farming the tithe’, when relations with the community became strained.

³ The practice of fencing off common land and granting it in ownership to private individuals, thereby ending certain traditional rights previously enjoyed by commoners - for example, the right to graze cattle upon it.

Mechanisation of the hay-making process began as early as 1800 with the development of the tedder⁴ – to scatter the grass mechanically, and thus more quickly.

Domestic use of hay included the development of slow-cooking techniques, involving containers of hot water being placed in boxes lined with hay to provide insulation, particularly with the boiling of beef.

Information is awaited from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, but local documentation of the Meadow will be sparse until the papers of the late Mervyn Walters, a Loughborough solicitor, have been catalogued in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland at South Wigston. Part of Mr. Walters' legal duties was the responsibility for letting of the grass every summer.



August : Harvesting

'August: Harvesting' photo used under Creative Commons from [Paul Walker](http://www.flickr.com/photos/paulwalker/) on www.flickr.com

The Archaeology of Medieval Leicestershire

Diane Coppard has contacted the Newsletter to recommend the series of Wednesday afternoon talks given at Donington le Heath Manor House by Peter Liddle, former County Archaeologist for Leicestershire. Originally a series of six, the subject of the talks has been medieval Leicestershire. The final talks in the series are:

The Church: Religious Houses and Pilgrimage - Weds 2nd April 2014

The Battle of Bosworth – Weds 9th April 2014

The talks run from 2 pm till 4 pm and cost £6. Places can be booked by emailing Peter on peter.liddle51@gmail.com or telephoning him on 07842 120817.

⁴ A machine consisting of moving forks which aerate or "fluff up" the hay, allowing it to dry better and thereby speeding up the process of hay-making.

Hunstanton *by Viv Law*

The promise of an almost rain-free weekend in January encouraged us to the east coast for some walking and bird-watching, staying at the imposing Golden Lion Hotel overlooking the Green. Though we have visited Hunstanton many times, this was the first time we had stayed here. The website promised 'old world charm' in the oldest building in the town and I was a little disappointed to find that it was actually built mid 19thC and the charm was very average. The town of Hunstanton however does have an interesting history, being the vision of one man, Henry Styleman Le Strange.

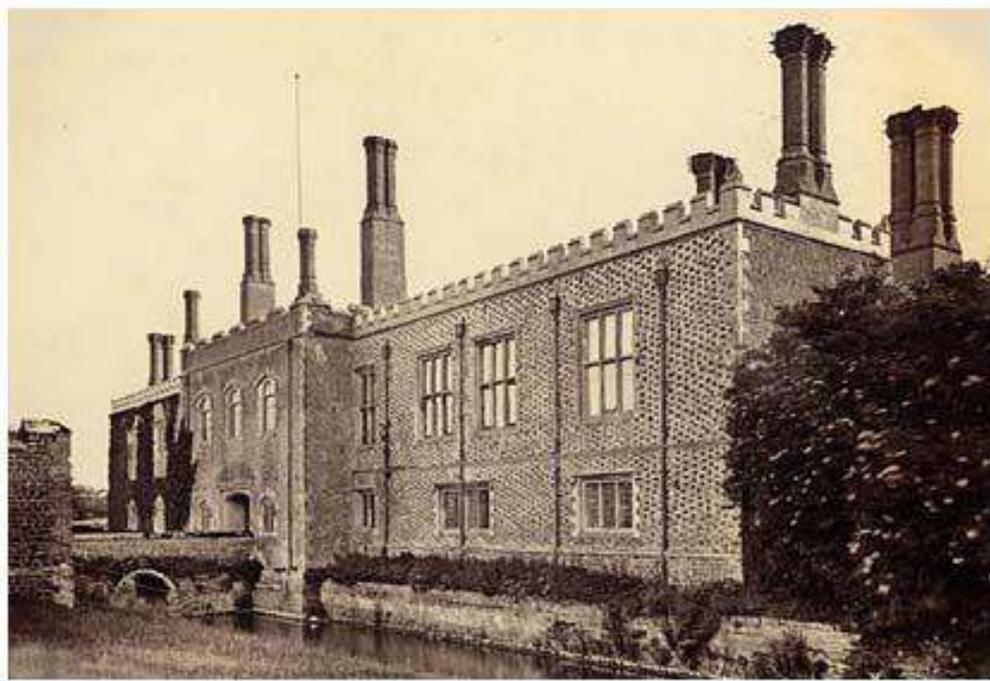


The Golden Lion c 1930

The Le Strange family came to Norfolk after the Norman Conquest, marrying into a leading Saxon family. Hunstanton Hall became the family's ancestral home and Henry's inheritance in 1836, together with around 10,000 acres of the surrounding area. Sea bathing and fresh air were beginning to attract many visitors to fishing villages such as Brighton and Henry decided to use some of his land to build his own resort. He planned the Green and the development of the town around it overlooking the sea, and constructed the 'New Inn' (now the Golden Lion). Then everything ground to a halt. For 16 years the New Inn stood in isolation, becoming dubbed, 'Le Strange's folly'.

It was the railway that made Hunstanton the resort it is today. Henry himself acquired the land and raised money with other local landowners and businessmen. Unfortunately he died just weeks before the first train steamed into the new station in 1862. The streets and Gothic revival style terraces originally planned by Henry were constructed using the characteristic local carrstone and the town grew to meet the needs of holidaymakers. The acquisition of Sandringham by Queen Victoria for the Prince of Wales added further interest to trippers as the line passed through the Royal station at Wolferton.

Our Sunday walk took us to Old Hunstanton village and its 12thC cottages with definite old world charm. The Hall has cores remaining from the 14thC original though was rebuilt in the 17thC. It was sold in 1948 and is now flats. The old tradition of allowing local people into the Park on Thursdays to collect firewood 'by hook or by crook' is still maintained, allowing walkers to pass through the grounds, though probably no longer to collect wood. Unfortunately it was not Thursday and we had to be content with looking down the drive. Another time!



Hunstanton Hall, ancestral home of the Le Strange family

Miners' Mornings Monthly Talk, Snibston Museum, Coalville

World War 1 by Jonathan Capewell

Thursday 17th April 2014 - 10.30 am - 12noon

Exploring the experiences of a number of soldiers of the Leicestershire Regiment, including some from Northwest Leicestershire, illustrated with images from the period.

£4 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits.

To pre-book phone 01530 278444. Tickets can also be obtained from Snibston ticket desk.

Further information can be found at

https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/whats_on/2014/04/17/miners_mornings_monthly_talk_snibston_coalville

Eddowes and the Kenya connection

by Lynne Dyer

Britain, and indeed Loughborough, is currently in the throes of commemorating the start of the First World War, and acknowledging the sacrifice that so many men made so that we could live the life we live today. But what happened to those men who fought and returned to Britain, injured? How did they fare once they were back home? Here's the story of one such man who has a local connection.

In a previous article for this newsletter I gave you the bare bones of family history related to the Eddowes family, who were a family of doctors living in Loughborough from about 1790 until the early twentieth century. Dr Henry Eddowes (1769-1827) had a number of children, amongst whom was John Henry Eddowes (1794-1856), who also took up a career in medicine. He in turn had about 10 children, amongst whom were John Henry Eddowes (1826-1906) and Arthur Benjamin Jackson Eddowes (1842-1908) who followed in their grandfather's footsteps.

It was never my intention to delve more deeply into the Eddowes family history than I had done, but someone read my original blogpost and contacted me via email with a most interesting story. He was related to our very own Drs Eddowes through his mother's line, making him the great-great-great-great grandson of Henry Eddowes, the great-great-great grandson of John Henry Eddowes, and the great-great-great nephew of John Henry and Arthur Benjamin Jackson.



The photograph of 'Dr Eddowes' which sparked Lynne's research
Image from <http://www.inloughborough.com/>

The story of his grandfather, John Gyde Heaven - the grandson of John Henry and Arthur Benjamin's sister Harriet Susanna - is a tragic one.

Having participated in WW1 as an officer in the Royal Engineers, Captain John Gyde Heaven must have sustained some kind of injury, for he was one of 55 ex-officers who became part of the British East Africa Disabled Officers' Colony in Kenya, engaged in the supervision of flax production.

During the war, demand for flax increased dramatically, being used to make uniforms and tents, and used in the aircraft industry. At the time, Britain was importing about 90% of its flax, and the price for this commodity rose steeply during the war when North Western Europe and Russia, areas which had traditionally supplied Britain with flax, were occupied by Germany.

The British government set up a number of committees to look into this problem and it was decided that getting flax from a country that was part of the British Empire would prove

cheap. Because Kenya had started flax production in 1912, it seemed that Kenya would be the ideal place to do this. Flax is a semi-manufactured crop, and so it was also decided that disabled ex-officers would be the ideal people to supervise both the machinery needed to produce the flax and the workforce attached to its production.

There were sceptics, of course there were, but in general this idea was thought to be fool proof and a certain success. Originally, funding was to be provided by the government, but this was amended such that each officer contributed a set sum of money, and BEADOC became a friendly society.

In September 1919, the Colonial Office approved the scheme and so in December 1919, the first 37 men arrived in Kenya. Flax production courses were set up for those men remaining in Britain, 22 of whom arrived in Kenya in March 1920, and the remaining 17 in January 1921. John Gyde Heaven left London on 14 February 1920 on The Gaika, a vessel belonging to the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company.

Unfortunately, clearing the chosen land in Kenya took much longer than expected, so flax production was slow to get going, such that by the end of 1920 only 800 of the proposed 5000 acres of flax were cultivated. This coincided with general over-production of flax, and the reduced need for flax in the aircraft industry, which led to prices dropping dramatically. Cultivation continued, but the market did not recover, leaving BEADOC with 800 acres of un-sellable flax which was finally devastated by a drought in 1921.

It appears that once BEADOC had finally realised that flax production and sale was not going to be the success they had assumed, they tried to diversify, by planting coffee, opening a sawmill, workshops and shops. Apart from the fact that coffee takes about four years to cultivate, the officers were inexperienced and such enterprises resulted in more debt for BEADOC. In early 1922, BEADOC became a limited company, retaining only 17 staff. Some members returned to Britain, while others stayed in Kenya and worked on railway construction, tried to continue with flax production, or turned to tea cultivation. Eventually, BEADOC went into liquidation, all creditors were paid off, including surviving BEADOC members who received £800 each.

On 23 August 1923, John Gyde Heaven, his wife, Olga, and his three children travelled from Kenya on Saxon, another vessel belonging to the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company. The destination listed for John and his family was 28 Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol. Having survived WW1, and the difficulties of life with BEADOC, John had contracted a tropical disease, and died in Berkeley Square on 2 October 1923.

Lynne Dyer is a green badge guide who leads historical tours of the area and writes weekly about the town on her blog, 'Lynne About Loughborough'.

Harry Adcock, 1877 – 1968: Macebearer to the Mayor, and Keeper of the Town Hall

by Christine Scutt B.A., MCLIP

Harry was born in Loughborough on 24th March 1877. He was part of a large family – there were 10 children in total - and they lived in what must have been very ‘snug’ accommodation at 32 Russell Street, Loughborough.

Harry left school and, by the age of 14 was already out at work, working in a local hosiery factory.

Harry’s Military Career

At the age of just 15 years, Harry decided to enlist in the army, joining the Leicestershire Tigers Regiment. In order to join up, he pretended to be 18 years old. This was the start of a long and eventful military career for Harry.

Harry was sent with the Leicestershire Regiment to fight in the Boer War in South Africa. Whilst there, Harry’s battalion, the 1st battalion of the Leicestershires, was sent to Ladysmith, where the locals were under siege. The town was relieved, and Harry volunteered to be a stretcher bearer.

Later in the Boer War, Harry was sent to fight at Spion Kop, where he was taken prisoner. Spion Kop was the scene of one of the most violent and deadly battles of the Boer War. It was a defeat for the British Army, and resulted in many British deaths.

Harry spent 3 or 4 months as a prisoner in Pretoria. Amongst other British prisoners with him at the time was a certain Mr Winston Churchill. Amidst all the confusion of war, Harry was reported killed in action and a memorial service was held for him at Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough. The reports of Harry’s death were, as they say, ‘grossly exaggerated’ and sometime later Harry turned up safe and well.

Harry was awarded the South African Campaign medal. He was discharged from the army in 1904, but re-enlisted in 1914 at the start of World War 1.

On 18th September 1914, Harry became a private in the Leicestershire Regiment once again. In January of 1915, he was promoted to Lance Corporal and sent to fight in France. Harry fought with the Leicestershire Regiment in France but later in 1915 he fell ill. His service record mentions his illness but does not go into detail. However,



according to the Leicestershire Regiment's records, Harry became ill after being gassed.

Never one to be kept down, Harry recovered sufficiently to join the 17th Field Ambulance in France. At the end of October 1916, he was sent to Calais to be returned to England. The following month, he was discharged from the Army. Harry was awarded the Star, British War and Victory medals for his WW1 service. In 1921, Harry re-joined the army, enlisting to do 90 days with the 5th Leicestershire Regiment. In actual fact, he served for a year.

Harry's Career after the Army

Once Harry left the 5th Leicestershire Regiment in 1922, he found work with the Loughborough Corporation – which later became Loughborough Town Council and is now Charnwood Borough Council.

Harry was appointed official mace-bearer for the Corporation and Keeper of the Town Hall. Both appointments involved many official, ceremonial duties, and he could often be seen at the head of mayoral parades in the Town. Harry served under many mayors of Loughborough.

In 1943, Harry decided to retire from his position. His last official duty was at the Wings for Victory ceremony, which took place at Loughborough College in the summer of 1943. Local newspapers carried articles about Harry's retirement. All remarked on his upright and smart appearance, and on the dignity with which Harry had carried out his duties.

Harry's Family Life

Harry married Florence Bassford on 12th November 1904. They made their home at 111 Storer Road, Loughborough. The couple went on to have 5 children: Lillian, Ivy, Dorothy Mary, Henry and Joyce. Henry, their only son, (also known as Harry) served in the First Army in World War 2.

Harry continued to live in Storer Road after his retirement in 1943. He died in Loughborough in 1968, at the age of 91 years.

© Christine Scutt 2013

Christine is the great-great niece of Harry Adcock. She runs a professional genealogy company, English Ancestry, which undertakes research for family histories. She can be contacted on 01509 842749 or via her website, www.englishancestry.co.uk.

The Great War Centenary Project

Bill Brookman attended the Society's afternoon meeting in January to talk to members about the Charnwood Great War Centenary Project. The project aims to stage a broad range of activities in the area over the next four years to mark the centenary of World War 1 and commemorate those townsmen and women who lost their lives as a result of it.

Proposed activities include music and drama activities in the community, history and creative activities in schools and a series of public events, debates and discussions at venues across Charnwood.

As well as organising their own events, the Great War Centenary Project consortium will support and publicise the WW1 projects which other local organisations have planned or already begun. These include the Baptist Church in Baxter Gate, who are cataloguing records they have found of a scheme run locally during WW1 to send letters and parcels to the troops. Another project is that of Loughborough All Saints Parish Church, which is aiming to restore and re-site their war memorial to make it more accessible to the public.

Bill flagged the need for input to the project from local historians and those with family connections to the Great War, and stated that volunteers willing to help with any aspect of the project would be most welcomed.

Bill can be contacted on bill@billbrookman.co.uk or via Charnwood Arts on 01509 822558.

The Loughborough History and Heritage Network

Also present at the Members Meeting was Dr Robert Knight, a member of the LAHS and a historian in the Department of History, Politics and International Relations at Loughborough University.

Robert talked to members about the Loughborough History and Heritage Network, a new, collaborative project between Loughborough University and the local heritage community.

The network project aims to strengthen local heritage work



Photograph used with the kind permission of Bill Brookman



Photograph used with the kind permission of Bill Brookman

by helping to foster collaboration between the many groups and individuals currently involved in it. It hopes to encourage the sharing of historical information and expertise about the history and heritage of Loughborough and Charnwood. The project wishes to complement existing initiatives, including work carried out by local museums and heritage groups, as well as by Leicester University's Charnwood Roots project.

A further aim of the project is to establish a website which will flag projects and events and signpost the public and historians alike to information and resources about the area.

The Loughborough History and Heritage Network is funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (Enterprise Project Grant). A number of organisations and interested parties have been involved in discussions with the team, with Charnwood Museum confirmed as project partner.

Ramblings from the editor

The last newsletter closed with photographs of a number of wells uncovered during the summer excavations for the new inner relief road and I find myself amazed at how quickly the area has altered from that time to this. The town has been completely agog over the construction of the road, with very few people considering it a relief and a great many people pronouncing it a pain – both in terms of inconvenience caused and the way the road takes people away from the heart of the town. At this point we've yet to know what impact the relief road will have on a commercial community which desperately needs customers *bringing into* rather than *routing around* the town. I have to admit to wondering, however, how Loughborough townfolk coped with the extensive road-widening works of 1927 to 1932, and whether the local press dedicated as many column inches to debate over it as they do now.

In the Autumn Newsletter itself, I talked about the adventures I'd been on over the preceding months in learning about Leicester – the principle settlement in the county in which I was born, but which I'd previously had very little to do with. Well, I'm back to tell you that the adventure has continued and the intervening months have seen me getting to know Leicester, its conference and parking facilities, its people and its history much, much better.

Beginning with Richard III – who wasn't actually from Leicester but, as it happens, wasn't from York, either. (Apparently he was born at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire, which makes his potential resting place in Leicester Cathedral some 86.3 miles nearer to his birthplace than York is. I wonder which city will win the battle to re-bury him?) I've heard a couple of different people tell the story of how Richard was discovered in that narrow, gloomy car park in the city. They each drip-fed tension into the story in pretty much the same way: the many reasons why finding the body couldn't possibly happen, the slow uncovering of facts which made everyone wonder 'could this really be Richard's body?', the

nail-biting tension of waiting for the DNA test results, which arrived so close to press-day that experts could've been left with egg on their faces if their hypothesis had been wrong.

At a Connected Communities Heritage Network Symposium at De Montfort University, Laura Hadland, the curator responsible for putting together the exhibition at the Guildhall, talked of secrecy agreements for joiners drilling holes for display boards and of artefacts obscured with blankets until the very minute the results were shared. At a talk at Charnwood Museum in February, archaeologist Mathew Morris reiterated just how lucky it had been that Richard's skeleton remained virtually unscathed for all those years and the team able to find it. With the area now densely packed with buildings, the project had a mere 17% of the probable friary site that was clear enough to search over and only funding enough to investigate 1% of that. Additionally, years ago a basement had been dug out only 90 mm away from Richard's knees: it only needed for it to have been constructed one stride to the side and old Richard would've been unearthed by some unsuspecting builder, unaware that the bones he was displacing were those of the famously defeated king.

The point that fascinated me most was the way the team could tell the 'minimal reverence' shown to Richard's coffin-less body. Dropped roughly into his grave, his remains lay crumpled and skew-whiff, those burying him unwilling to give 'even five more minutes' to lower him properly into it.

A final thing I learned about Richard, this time at an event at Leicester University's Literary Leicester Festival in November, was the way he might have spoken. Dr Philip A. Shaw of the University has constructed a possible dialect for Richard from the spellings and grammar patterns he used in two handwritten letters. Again, there's an element of luck that he's been able to do this: examples of royal handwriting of this type are incredibly rare. Dr Shaw gave a demonstration of his hypothesis, reading the letters in an accent that sounded vaguely Scottish to my ears. Why not see what you think – there's a link to a clip of a similar reading below.⁵ And if you want to know more about the story of the discovery of 'the King under the car park', Leicester University's excellent book of this title is available to buy from Charnwood Museum, with funds from its sale going towards continued excavations at the site.

As an aside, the Connected Communities Heritage Network Symposium also featured a number of presentations on the way digital technology is being used to enhance the study of history and heritage. These included a phone app to help people access historical information on the graves at Welford Road Cemetery, an app which allows you to hold up an iPad and see what the Jewry Wall baths would have looked like in Roman times, a digital reconstruction of Leicester's former tram system and an on-line 'fly-through' of Pudding Lane in London at the time of the Great Fire. Most of the presentations at the symposium were filmed and uploaded to the internet and I'd strongly recommend you take a look at them. There's a link to the symposium programme in the footer, below.⁶

⁵ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-21369077>

⁶ <http://www.heritagenetwork.dmu.ac.uk/symposium/>

To return to Loughborough, *People Making Places*⁷ was a project run by Charnwood Arts to commemorate the Millennium, and its excellent website is already a piece of history itself. The forerunner of social media such as Youtube, the project was ground-breaking in encouraging participants to record and upload short films of the people and places in the town around them. Though clunky by modern standards, these are still available to view. The website also has a timeline of Loughborough history which, amongst other things, features the information that the 1914 Grand National winner was a Loughborough-bred horse named 'Sunlock'. Now wouldn't it be refreshing, in these times of continual coverage of another, more major 1914 event, to see the BBC commemorating that?

Alison Mott



Beaumanor History Fair, Sunday 23rd March 2014

**Wanted for PHD Research:
Farm records of the interwar period
(1918 to 1939)**

Contact Dr Michael Heaton
6 Yew Tree Lane,
Spratton,
Northampton
NN6 8HL
01604 846032

Loughborough Archaeological and Historical Society is a registered charity.
New members are always welcome.

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Alison Mott, Editor

⁷ <http://www.peoplemakingplaces.org.uk/>