

New Siftings issue 1 February 2020



Welcome to our new look newsletter.

We hope you find it interesting. In this issue you'll find items on

Upcoming talks in February and March

A short report on the AGM

Would you like to spearhead our liaison with local farmers?

Have you paid your sub for 2020?

Your feedback is invited. Please send it, good and bad, and items for future issues, to [Hilary Calow](mailto:hilary@lutterworthfieldworking.co.uk) (items in blue and underlined are links. Click on one and it will take you to an email address, or an external website.)

First up – a big shout out to CLIFF BRIGDEN



Cliff has created a wonderful set of videos of our test pitting in 2019. We'll make them available for everyone to see, perhaps with a cinema night, just as soon as we can.

Thank you Cliff (and Mary who provided backing music).

Upcoming talks

15 February

Medieval Leicester: Life in the Medieval World

Mat Morris, ULAS



Anglo Saxon Bishopric, Viking Burg, medieval borough... Leicester did not cease to exist after the demise of the Roman City. In this talk Mat will discuss the latest archaeological evidence for Post Roman settlement at Leicester. From castles to abbeys, lost parish churches and coaching inns, the city's archaeology reveals what life was like in the medieval world.

Mat is a Project Officer at ULAS. His specialisms include urban archaeology, community archaeology and Roman and medieval archaeology. Mat graduated from the University of Leicester in 2003 with a BA in Archaeology and an MA in Landscape Studies. With ULAS Mat has participated in a series of major urban excavations in Leicester and across the East Midlands, including the Highcross Leicester Project. In 2012 he led excavations looking at the medieval St John's Hospital in Leicester, a late Roman cemetery just outside Leicester and the Greyfriars Project (the fascinating subject of his January talk in Lutterworth).

Mat has co-authored two books: 'Visions of Ancient Leicester' (2011) and 'Richard III: The King

under the Car Park' (2013). He is actively involved in promoting archaeology to the general public, regularly providing talks to local societies (like ours!), and is a Committee member of the Leicestershire Fieldworkers, and a Branch Leader for the Leicestershire Young Archaeologists' Club.

14th March The Enderby Shield Matt Beamish, ULAS

The Enderby Shield excavated by ULAS is of international importance – it's the only Iron Age bark shield ever found in Europe - and it will be in the British Museum when conservation is complete.

'This is an absolutely phenomenal object, one of the most marvellous, internationally important finds that I've encountered in my career'.

Dr Julia Farley, Curator of British and European Iron Age Collections at the British Museum.

You can read more about it [Current Archaeology 353](#)



Matthew is a Project Manager at ULAS. His archaeological expertise covers all prehistoric sites, includes wetland preservation and wood technology. Matthew has been instrumental in the successful utilisation of aerial LiDAR data within East Midland landscapes to identify and define features, both manmade and in the natural environment. Matthew obtained his BA in Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge University in 1987.

The Methodist Church, Lutterworth 10.30am start as usual £5 admission.

LFAG AGM 25 January 2020

Mike Southall, our Chairman, gave a report on the group's many activities in 2019. They included presentations, some fieldwalking and geophysics, community test pitting in Walton and Cotesbach Educational trust associated with the Festival of Archaeology, as well as Iron Age activities with 2 schools.

In 2020 we're looking forward to some **fieldwalking** in Cotesbach in March and to help colleagues in the Oadby and Wigston Group in Wibtoft (April). Kilworth is in our sights too but no date yet. Sherrier school have asked us to repeat the activities of last year.

We plan to do more **test pitting** in Walton, Cotesbach, Lutterworth and Shawell. More news on dates when we have them. There may be some opportunities for extended excavation too.

Finally, we hope to survey Kimcote Churchyard recording the headstones. Apart from writing a detailed report, this will contribute to our knowledge of Walton and possibly allow us to conduct a cemetery tour in the future. A similar project may be on the cards at Shawell Church too, more on that in a future issue.

Farmer Liaison – could you help?

We'd like someone to head up our farmer liaison to pave the way for fieldwalking and other activities. If you have farming knowledge, interest in the role or know someone that might be able to help please contact Mike Southall (details below).

Working with Schools

Members of the Group, led by Carol Cambers, were active in two schools in 2019.

Judith and Carol were invited to Sherrier and Swinford Schools to lead activity-based afternoons on Iron Age life and Predators. The children were able to handle flint finds, drill slate with a flint bow drill and grind wheat on a quern. The Predators session used Mike's collection of skulls to explore the differences in teeth for different species. They were particularly impressed by the horse and horned cow skulls. We also ran after-school clubs at both schools on metal-detecting, mini test-pitting, Roman writing methods and flint artefacts.

Sherrier School wants us to repeat the activities for the new intake in year 3 (age 7) and we now have a contact at John Wycliffe.

Thanks to Carol for your leadership and to Judith Day, Bob Wells and Jackie Pyle for joining in.

If anyone would like to help, you would be very welcome – please contact [Carol](#).

Other news from Lutterworth

The Lutterworth Wycliffe Rotary Quiz was won by none other than the Lutterworth Fieldworking and Archaeology Group team!! A total of 26 teams took part, in the Wycliffe Rooms. The club was presented with a trophy and each member with a bottle of wine.

Our team was represented by 3 team members (Carol Cambers, Judith Day and Mike Southall) and their partners. Well done to them all!



News from the [Leicestershire Fieldworkers](#)

We need to think ahead to the Festival of Archaeology in July 2020, it will run for the whole month in Leicestershire. If you have any ideas for talks or activities, please let Mike know.

News from elsewhere

[Rugby Archaeology Society](#)

The society holds a monthly meeting at Rugby library. The next talk is on March 7th 10.00 for 10.30.

The speaker will be Steve Young, archaeology director for CLASP. He'll be talking about CLASPs work which includes Borough Hill in Daventry (an amazing hill fort partly on a 9-hole golf course), Bannaventa and surrounding area by Watling Street, an Anglo Saxon cemetery and medieval

settlement.

Coffee available, £1 donation please

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2020 are due so please contact our Treasurer, Carol if you haven't yet paid. It's £10 per individual or £12 for a couple or family living at the same address. Bank details are 47655372, 60-13-30.

We use this money to provide insurance cover for activities, to replace equipment and to buy in specialist services.

Contact names and details

Chairman: [Mike Southall](#)



Contact Mike with ideas for future activities, what you'd like the group to do (or not do) and if you want to be our farmer liaison

Secretary: [Judith Day](#)



Contact Judith about data protection, health and safety and our circulation list

Treasurer: [Carol Cambers](#)



Contact Carol about subs and our work with schools

New Siftings feedback and input: [Hilary Calow](#)