

New Siftings issue 2 March 2020



Welcome to issue 2

... and thank you for your feedback on issue 1.

- Several of you said you liked it, some read it too 😊
- 2 people paid their subscriptions for the year!
- Congratulations to Irene who spotted the typo in the first paragraph.
- I had a report from a member who couldn't open the links so, from now on, I'll include email addresses and URLs in full.

Please do keep your feedback coming and send ideas for future items.

[Hilary Calow](mailto:calow888@gmail.com) calow888@gmail.com

In this issue you'll find

News about upcoming talks in March and beyond

A short report on our February talk

News from Mike including a note on our possible dig diary showings

News from elsewhere

Links and contact details and more.....

Upcoming Talks

14th March The Enderby Shield Matt Beamish

The Methodist Church, Lutterworth 10.30am start as usual **FREE TO PAID UP MEMBERS**
otherwise £5 admission.

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.

A review of Mat Morris's talk on Medieval Leicester, 15th February



Mat gave a fascinating talk to a pretty packed audience on 15 February. In 90 minutes, he covered some 2000 years, the waves of migration from Europe of the Angles, Saxons, Vikings, Jutes etc right up to the 1960's redevelopments. Even today medieval buildings or parts of them can be found hidden inside or below modern buildings.

My key takeaways were

1. Britain's split from Rome was the first Brexit! After the legions left, we chucked out many remaining Roman officials, the monetised economy collapsed as did Roman central administration and we lost their skills. Did that stop us? No, towns like Leicester continued to function and thrive. Indeed, the rural economy may have flourished with the Roman tax burden removed.
2. Leicester did not cease to exist after the demise of the Roman city, in fact people lived among the ruins for centuries. Even in 700AD Leicester was still called by its Roman name and drawings from the 19th century show standing walls and more.
3. The dark layer that's found in excavations of most towns in England, including Leicester, isn't burning but is in fact a post Roman occupation layer.
4. Leicester started the Wars of the Roses because the Earls of Leicester became the Dukes of Lancaster. But Richard Duke of York was knighted in the castle, royal since Henry IV came to the throne.

Five stars! We've invited Mat to give another talk in July, look out for details.

News from Mike

Finds from Shawell to go on display..... Rugby Art Centre and Museum have asked us to display a small group of finds from our previous excavation at Shawell. We intend to show them for two months or so and ultimately to permanently display them at Shawell Church.

Book up for a Cemetery tour in Birmingham. If anyone is looking for something to do on a Sunday (the 2nd Sunday of the month, January to November) then why not book up for a Cemetery tour in Birmingham? Our own **Richard Beardall** is one of the volunteers and you could either contact him direct or email friends-kh-wl-cem@outlook.com.

Tour fees are £3 pp or £5 per couple - per cemetery. They are at Key Hill and Warstone Lane, and include notables such as Joseph Gillott, Alfred Bird and Major 'Harry' Gem. (No, we can't tell you what they are famous for - you must go and see them yourselves!).

Would you come to a cinema showing? Please would you let [Mike Southall](#) know if you're interested in watching 1 or more of the Video Dig Day Diaries of our activities from 2019 which Cliff Brigden created for us. If there's enough interest, we'll run a cinema event in town at some point soon.

A date for your diary – 25th July. Back by popular demand, and to support the Festival of Archaeology, Mat Morris will be talking on Richard III. At the Methodist church. More details nearer the time.

Welcome to our new members Marion Reid, Jane White, Andy Nevell, Nicola Stubbs, Richard Beardall, Sue Beckett, Honor Rawlins. Hope I've spelt your names correctly!

News from the [Leicestershire Fieldworkers](#)

Life and Death in the East Midlands Sunday 5th April 2020 10.00 - 17.00

The CBA East Midlands is running a 1-day conference (including their AGM) in conjunction with the Leicestershire Fieldworkers. The speakers and topics are:

- Burying the dead in Roman and medieval Leicester: Mat Morris, University of Leicester Archaeological Services
- Living in suburbia- a roadside settlement and cemetery at Bingham, Nottinghamshire: Carl Champness, Oxford Archaeology
- The human body in history: what archaeology tells us: Oliver Harris, University of Leicester
- 'Death is a marketplace where all men meet' – an introduction to Swithland slate headstones: Colin Hyde, University of Leicester
- Medieval charnel chapels & Rothwell: the forgotten funerary rite, commemorating and curating the dead: Jenny Crangle, Wessex Archaeology
- The lost medieval chapel of St Morrell: a possible pilgrims' chapel and cemetery near Hallaton: Vicki Score, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

George Davies Centre, 15 Lancaster Rd, Leicester LE1 7HA

£20 to members of Leicestershire Fieldworkers and the CBA East Midlands. Includes a cold buffet lunch.

The booking form can be found [here](http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbaem/cba-em%20events.htm) <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbaem/cba-em%20events.htm>

In the meantime, the next talk at the university is on **March 19th 7.30 pm: Ian Meadows on the Roman town at Irchester, Northants**. All are welcome. George Davis Lecture Theatre 2

News from elsewhere

ULAS training – upcoming courses

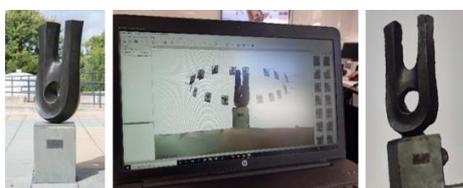
Learn how to write up and archive your archaeology project Saturday 14th March £20.

[Find out more and book via the ULAS shop.](#)

<https://shop.le.ac.uk/short-courses/courses-and-course-essentials/school-of-archaeology-and-ancient-history/training-workshops-201920/ulast10-how-to-write-up-and-archive-your-archaeological-project>

LFAG will help fund training courses – contact Judith Day if you're interested.

I went to the half day photogrammetry course on 29th February and highly recommend it. Here's a model of a statue ("Life" by Percy Brown) which I made with a colleague. We missed the top off, so we named our model "*Half life*".



[Rugby Archaeology Society](#)

The society holds a monthly Saturday meeting at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum 2nd Floor Education Room. Refreshments from 10am, 10:25 start. We encourage a voluntary donation of £1 per person to cover costs.

Saturday 7th March

Dr Steve Young: Recent Archaeological Fieldwork at Bannaventa & the Post Roman/Early Mercian burial ground at Whitehall Farm.

The talk will focus on the recent fieldwork undertaken by CLASP during 2019 on the site of the Roman small town and posting station of Bannaventa, Whilton Lodge, Northamptonshire and the continuing excavation of the Post Roman / Early English graveyard at Whitehall Farm, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire and will outline the range of discoveries made and interpret the significance of those findings.

Saturday 11th April

Archaeological illustrator Deborah Miles-Williams. Debbie will give a talk on contemporary artists involved in archaeological illustration; this will be followed by a practical drawing session for those interested. Materials will be provided.

Saturday 9th May

Hilary Calow: Compton Murdak and all that - an archaeological perspective on Compton Verney
Compton Verney in Warwickshire is well known a leading art gallery and Capability Brown landscape. While the house and the history of its owners is well documented, much else is hidden from view. This talk will look at the archaeology of Compton Verney and what we know about the landscape, settlement and people from prehistory to World War 2.

[Compton Verney](#)

Friday 8th May – VE day holiday. Come to Compton Verney. There's WWII history hidden in the grounds. One of the highlights of the day (😊) will be a walk with Hilary who is the archaeology lead at Compton Verney. Go to the Compton Verney website to find out more about visiting.

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 help with farmer liaison.
michael.southall@mypostoffice.co.uk

Secretary: [Judith Day](#)



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

judith.day1@gmail.com

Treasurer: [Carol Cambers](#)



Contact Carol about subs and our work with schools.

carolcam47@btinternet.com

New Siftings feedback and input: [Hilary Calow](#) calow888@gmail.com

Links and things

[Leicestershire Fieldworkers](https://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/)

<https://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/>

[Rugby Archaeology Society](https://www.rugbyarchaeology.org.uk/)

<https://www.rugbyarchaeology.org.uk/>

[Compton Verney](https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/)

<https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/>