

New Siftings issue 3
April 2020



Welcome to issue 3

... and what a difference a few weeks has made for all of us! I do hope you and your families are all managing to stay well, and get the essentials you need.

In this issue you'll find

An update from Mike

News from Leicestershire and nearby – everything's postponed

Archaeology news from around the world – in case you missed it

Archaeology courses and other related things to do online

Contact details and links

But first, please welcome new members

Tony Thresher and Wala Elliot-Thresher!

Please send your favourite online resources, news to share and

ideas for future items, plus any issues with links or typos to [Hilary Calow](mailto:calow888@gmail.com) calow888@gmail.com

Picture taken from the Heathen Mead Hall and painted by fantasy illustrator Angus McBride

(<https://www.facebook.com/HeathenMeadHall/> and <https://www.facebook.com/mcbrideangus>)

SOCIAL DISTANCING

A GUIDE FOR HISTORY FANS



A SAFE DISTANCE IS

A SPEAR LENGTH AWAY FROM THE

SHIELD WALL

An update from Mike

I am afraid most of what I have got to say is rather negative – but then I guess you understand the reasons.

Apologies for the late cancellation of the Enderby Shield talk. We took the decision after due consideration and contact with Matt Beamish. We did manage to circulate through the Fieldworkers, Max Electric and signage at the venue, all of which helped. I also waited by the door from 9.15 to explain it to anyone turning up on the day.

Those that prepaid Max will carry over their payments until our next talk which would have been Mat Morris's talk during the Festival of Archaeology in July.

At present, the Festival is still going ahead and while the crisis may have abated somewhat by then, we may not have time to finalise or organise events. From our side we were looking at possible activities for the Festival, but with the Records Office closed, and the requirement to self-isolate, our organisation has effectively stopped. It remains to be seen how long the measures implemented are in place.

The cemetery tours in Birmingham have also stopped and the display in Rugby has been put on hold.

It very much looks as if this will be a case of 'wait and see' but as soon as we have anything planned we will let you know!

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

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

Life and Death in the East Midlands on 5th April has been cancelled until further notice as have all other upcoming talks.

News from elsewhere

[Rugby Archaeology Society](http://www.rugbyarchaeology.org.uk/) <http://www.rugbyarchaeology.org.uk/>

All upcoming talks are cancelled until further notice.

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

Compton Verney is closed and the VE Day event planned for May 8th is on hold.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2020 will be rolled over to 2021 so if you haven't yet paid and you want to avail of this amazing offer, now's your chance. Contact Carol.

Archaeology news from around the world – in case you missed it

A rare Saxon silver brooch has been found by a metal detectorist near Great Dunham in Norfolk. Uncovered in soil that had been brought in during landscaping, there is no context. It is decorated with an intricate design of unusual-looking animals, plant motifs and geometric patterns.



Michael Lewis, head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme for the British Museum suggested a link to the Pentney brooches displayed in the Sutton Hoo gallery at the BM, which are premier examples of Middle Saxon metalwork.



More than 1,300 'treasure' finds were recorded last year out of a total of 81,000 finds, most from metal detectorists.

For those interested, there are Facebook groups with daily updates of metal-detecting finds and finds from the Thames foreshore, often with identification suggested by others. Submitted by Carol Cambers – thank you!

Lost Royal Court of the Maya found in Mexico, read more here

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/03/archaeologists-discover-lost-capital-of-ancient-maya-kingdom/126361> (this has lots of archaeology articles)

World news from Archaeology Magazine <https://www.archaeology.org/issues/373-2003/world>

Some archaeology courses online

Futurelearn www.futurelearn.com My personal favourite. Their short courses are created by universities, FREE, available worldwide and use a mix of text, video and student interaction online. Their archaeology portfolio changes from time to time but included Hadrians Wall, A virtual tour of Rome, Forensic and bio archaeology , Health and wellbeing in the ancient world, Antiquities trafficking (*Not how to do it!*) and more. I've done nearly all of them and thoroughly enjoyed them. You can also learn Norwegian or Catalan, study China, the Irish culture, health related topics Go try it, it's fun and sign up for one!

Dig Ventures are a UK commercial community archaeology firm and they are planning to run virtual archaeology courses and activities for all ages. Their Virtual Fieldschool, a free online course starts 14th April. Find the course [here](#) and more at www.digventures.com

You could try **Coursera**.. a US site also offering a mix of free and chargeable online courses created by Universities. Rome, Egypt and the Mediterranean are current offerings <https://www.coursera.org/search?query=free%20courses%20archaeology&>

The Open University – Archaeology of the world. Might be out of date <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/world-archaeology?track=1>

If you are feeling like tackling something more meaty then **Oxford's Department of Continuing Education** offers a lot of (pretty expensive) short online courses. Here's the link to their archaeology section <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/archaeology-and-anthropology>

Learn a new skill

How to make a flint axe – James Dilley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryMJ3c1gHuw>

Learn to use [primitive technology](#) to make fires, houses, bows and arrows and more. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAL3JXZSzM8AlZyD3nQdBA>

In fact Youtube has a huge list of archaeology videos to watch, including Time Team and many more.

Links to explore

To find out more about the links below, please take a look!

[Archaeology Data Service](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archive/archives.xhtml) <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archive/archives.xhtml>
[Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland](https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/) <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/>
[Cotswold Archaeology Reports Online](https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/) <https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>
[MOLA](https://www.mola.org.uk/blog/online-storymap-explores-archaeology-borough-hill) <https://www.mola.org.uk/blog/online-storymap-explores-archaeology-borough-hill>
[Ness of Brodgar](https://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk/) <https://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk/>
[PastScape – Historic England](https://www.pastscape.org.uk/background.aspx) <https://www.pastscape.org.uk/background.aspx>
[Pompeii online](https://www.pompeionline.net/pompeii/houses.htm) <https://www.pompeionline.net/pompeii/houses.htm>
[Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://finds.org.uk/) <https://finds.org.uk/>
[Unesco World Heritage List](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/) <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

Has maps, videos and more, try searching Carthage

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