

New Siftings issue 4
June 2020



Welcome to issue 4

... and as we exit lockdown and approach midsummer, I do hope you and your families have all managed to stay safe and well. Since April you might also have availed yourself of some of the many online archaeology resources that abound.

In this issue you'll find

An update from Mike – an upcoming training dig

CBA Festival of Archaeology

News from Leicestershire - Mat Morris is giving an online talk

Archaeology news from around the world

Archaeology related things to do online

Contact details and links

If you'd like to share any news, activities or thoughts with the group then please send them, and ideas for future items, plus any issues with links or typos to [Hilary Calow](mailto:calow888@gmail.com) calow888@gmail.com

Whatever the government's decision on social distancing, the picture is still probably relevant. It's 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

The practical side of archaeological pretty much stopped over the past few weeks with all groups and organisations, apart from the odd few people being able to fieldwalk.

We still have quite a lot of activities in the pipeline (as most of them are still buried).

We have a number of outstanding test pits in Walton and Lutterworth, but these will still be on hold until a) social distancing reduces and b) the householder is happy for us to be on the property. We also have a couple of fields that we may be able to get to, after they have been cropped, in Cotesbach. Unfortunately, they became available during the lockdown.

A training dig!

More positively, we have an opportunity to spend time on a training dig on one of the local sites currently being built on. At this stage we do not know the extent of involvement, but I would appreciate that, if you are interested in this, **please register your details with Judith Day as soon as possible.**

CBA Festival of Archaeology 2020 – dates for your diary

This year the CBA Festival of Archaeology will be taking place in two parts:

11-19 July Digital events - the Festival of Archaeology is going online for the first time!

24 Oct - 1 Nov On the ground events

Registration is now open for digital activity taking place during the first part of the Festival from 11-19 July. It will include live talks and digital tours, Twitter conferences and Q&A's, blog-based activity, interactive discussions and resources to download and complete offline.

The first events are now live on the Festival website and more events are being added regularly so check back each week to see what's new. The CBA will be sharing highlights of what's to come in the e-news over the coming weeks. Find out more [here https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/)

Festival competitions



#RubbishArt gives you the chance to get crafty with your rubbish. In keeping with this year's Festival theme of Climate and Environment you're asked to upcycle the things you would normally recycle or throw away and recreate an archaeological site or artefact. Find out more [here https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/RubbishArt](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/RubbishArt)



Archaeology Showreel is for all the budding tv presenters out there. For the competition with Past Preservers you need to make a video showing off your skills as an archaeology presenter. The shortlisted entries will be shown to TV networks and the winners will be chosen by Alex Langlands from Digging Up Britain's Past. All the details of how to enter can be found [here. http://festival.archaeologyuk.org/ArchaeologyShowreel](http://festival.archaeologyuk.org/ArchaeologyShowreel)

Both competitions are open to entrants of all ages. Please make sure you read the terms and conditions before entering, these can be found by following the competition links above.

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

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

Mat Morris is holding a digital talk on The Archaeology of Oakham Castle on Thursday 18th June 2020 at 7.30pm

Oakham Castle's great hall is one of the finest surviving examples of domestic Norman architecture in Europe. However, despite several important excavations since the 1950s, very little is known about the rest of the castle. Mat will discuss the castle's history and archaeology, particularly focusing on exciting new discoveries made during the recent Heritage Lottery funded restoration of the castle, which are finally starting to unlock the secrets of the castle's construction, layout and role. (You may even be lucky enough to spot our own Judith Day digging there!)

It's free on Facebook Live – and you don't need to be on, or join, Facebook to listen. Just click the link below at the time and turn up your audio.

<https://www.facebook.com/LeicestershireFieldworkers/live/>

Hidden Histories of Leicester

Jim Butler, who has worked for Leicester City Museums and the University of Leicester, has produced three 20-minute films, each exploring a different aspect of Leicester's history and archaeology. Episodes include a walk around the line of the historic town walls and explorations of the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon town. They can be watched on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6nLLaUuZ1UDh5Hdc5qy2uA>

News from elsewhere

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

The RAS AGM will be held via Skype on Saturday 20th June. All members are welcome to participate – please contact [Irene Glendinning](mailto:irene.glendinning@coventry.ac.uk) for details. Her email address is

csx128@coventry.ac.uk

Subscriptions

A reminder that 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 please contact Carol Cambers.

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

Lets start with Romans in Wales. The aerial photography during the dry spell in 2018 threw up lots of crop marks which have now been analysed as this splendid BBC Story from Wales shows <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52911797>

For those of you who want to know more, the paper can be found in the journal Britannia [here](#)

Archaeology in Bristol. The Colston statue was recovered from the harbour and conservationists set to work and uncovered new information. Inside the statue, along with the mud, was a record on a page of newsprint of the people who'd installed the statue in 1895. Read more [here](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/clue-leading-people-who-installed-4219104)
<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/clue-leading-people-who-installed-4219104>

If, like me, you are missing travelling the globe then why not keep up to date with world news from **Archaeology Magazine** <https://www.archaeology.org/>

Some archaeology resources online

British History Online – all the materials are free to access until 30 September 2020

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Facebook. The Prehistoric Society is wonderful. Posts have been themed since lockdown with contributors from all around the world. I've learned lots, especially about torcs, which are the specialist subject of Dr Tess Machling, the moderator. There are lots of other archaeology groups too, including a new one on Doggerland.

Dig Venture's second run of their Virtual Fieldschool, a free online course, started 1st June. Find the course [here](#) and more at www.digventures.com

Youtube has a huge list of archaeology videos to watch, including the Hidden Histories of Leicester, 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
Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland	https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/
Cotswold Archaeology Reports Online	https://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/
MOLA	https://www.mola.org.uk/blog/online-storymap-explores-archaeology-borough-hill
Ness of Brodgar	https://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk/
PastScape – Historic England	https://www.pastscape.org.uk/background.aspx
Pompeii online	https://www.pompeionline.net/pompeii/houses.htm
Portable Antiquities Scheme	https://finds.org.uk/
Unesco World Heritage List	http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/

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 to **register your interest for the upcoming training dig**, 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