

New Siftings issue 6
May 2021



Welcome to issue 6 – and summer.....

Once again we open with our best wishes to you all, hoping you and your families have stayed safe and well and that you are looking forward to summer.

The big story in this issue is our first fieldwork since 2019 and that is the subject of Mike's update.

In this issue you'll find

An update from Mike

Upcoming outdoor activity

News from Leicestershire, Rugby and elsewhere

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 calow888@gmail.com](mailto:calow888@gmail.com)

An update from Mike

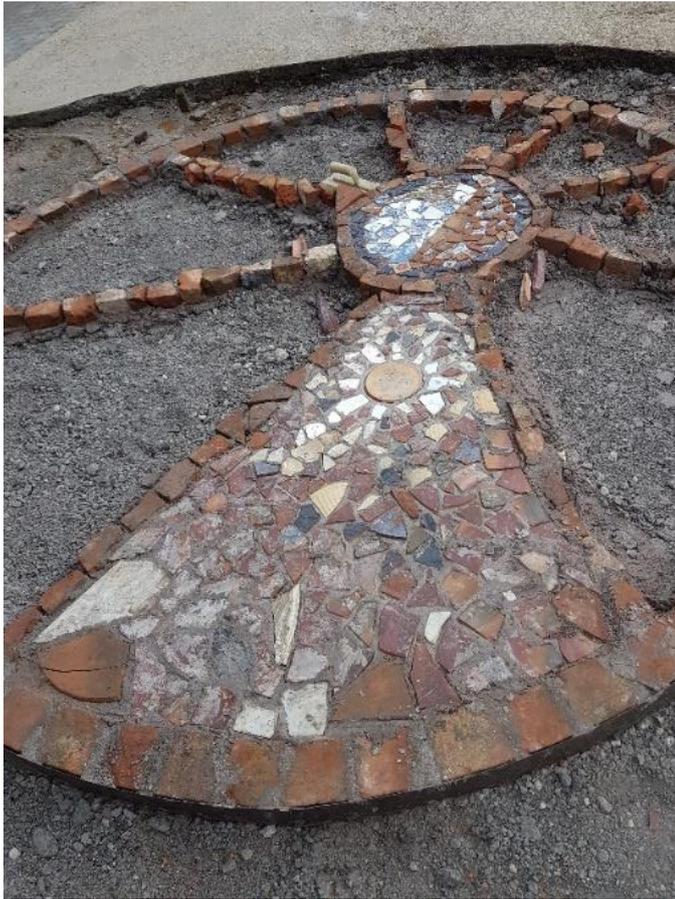
Fieldwalking - the first fieldwork since 2019!

The Group was asked to walk two large fields on the Cotesbach Educational Trust (CET) estate. This would be the last time that anyone would be able to walk them as they are being turned to grass and converted to woodland.



Having solicited for volunteers and restricted by the 'Rule of six' it has taken us nearly a month to complete. We had previously walked one of the fields and while there was no evidence of previous occupation there were quite a few sherds to collect which represented 'field scatter'. All finds will go into the CET archive and we will start the process of analysing them and give more information in the next newsletter.

Thanks go to the following volunteers: Sue Beckett, Neil Bevan, Olly Boyett and Georgina, Carol Cambers, Ralph Coleman, Judith Day, Steph Horak, James Holt, Nic Stubbs, Andy Stubbs.



Here's a mosaic the Cotesbach Educational Trust (CET) have started to make from some of the finds - isn't it great?

Metal Detecting

Steph Horak and Neil Bevan ran a sweep over what was deemed to be a footpath running diagonally through one of the fields. They followed this up with some detecting in the wood bordering the field. This revealed a cobbled driveway leading from the original estate farm and continuing along the 'footpath' to the main road.



A George III drawer handle and a buckle were found along with 3 Winchester .243 cartridge cases and copper bullets.



A couple of us have also walked two fields with the Oadby Wigston group along the A5. These fields were filled with straw from Elephant grass and very little was found, but the close proximity to Watling Street suggested there may have been some merit in walking them.

Upcoming activity outdoors

Much depends on the Covid situation. We will be doing more metal detecting at Cotesbach. Elsewhere, we have several test pits to complete but whether householders will be comfortable with us using their facilities etc., remains to be seen.

There may also be an opportunity for a small excavation later in the year. In the meantime.....

Blaby Icehouse Dig – now 29 June to 4 July!

Work has been completed on the Icehouse under COVID constraints. The intention now is to focus on locating the deserted medieval village of Blaby and to have three two-day sessions where volunteers can take part. Dates are 29/30 June, 1st/2nd July and 3rd/4th July.

If you are interested, please contact Gemma Tallis (gemma.tallis@blaby.gov.uk)

Lutterworth Museum – reopening May 18th

The museum will be open from 10am to 4pm with new displays. Free entry and free parking so do visit. If you've got an item of interest relevant to Lutterworth history, then the museum would like to hear from you.

Although building work has continued at a pace, we have no fixed date for when the new museum is likely to open.

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

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

The Fieldworkers are in the process of changing their site and updating their information.

News from Rugby

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

The monthly zoom talks will finish after the June AGM, restarting in the autumn. The last speaker for 2020/21, in June, is me, Hilary Calow, on the archaeology of Compton Verney where I work as a visitor experience assistant and I'm also the archaeology volunteer.

All Lutterworth members are welcome to participate. Please contact [Irene Glendinning](mailto:irene.glendinning@coventry.ac.uk) for details and the zoom link. Her email address is csx128@coventry.ac.uk

Rugby Museum – reopening May 19th

Do take advantage of the re-opening to go and see the small display of finds from Shawell on exhibition in Rugby. The display runs until November 2021.



Festival of Archaeology – Exploring Local Places

This year the national festival runs for the last 2 weeks of July.

**Festival of
ARCHAEOLOGY**

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

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Join in the UK's biggest
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leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology
festival.archaeologyuk.org

In Leicestershire the festival will run from 3rd July to 1st August as you can see on the flier with events throughout the month to support Leicester fortnight.

We will give a presentation on 8th July, at Walton village hall on “Walton in the C19th”. Hopefully this will be able to go ahead within then current COVID rules. The entrance fee will be £3 and all proceeds will go to the village hall charity.

In addition, Carol Cambers has produced a *‘One mile self guided, circular walk taking you around the historic buildings of Lutterworth’*. This will be downloadable FOC from the Festival website.

Get out and explore your local places!
Discover the archaeology and history all around you.
Uncover the stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make your local communities special.
Help us celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Take a guided walk of one of our fabulous local beauty spots.
Find out more about the hidden history of Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill, Abbey Park and many more places, and join a heritage walk around historic Leicester.
Tune in to a digital talk about the latest archaeological discoveries from the counties.
Or enjoy exploring at your own pace with a self-guided walk.

- Over 40 guided heritage walks.
- Live digital talks from some of the counties' leading heritage experts.
- Self-guided walks to enjoy at your own pace.
- Online archives of past talks.
- And many more family friendly activities, exhibitions and hands on events across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Find the full programme of events online at:
leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology

[@LeicsArchFest](https://www.facebook.com/LeicsArchFest)

Links to explore

Archaeology Data Service	https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archive/archives.xhtml
Archaeology on furlough	https://www.archaeology-on-furlough.com/
Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland	https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/
British History Online	https://www.british-history.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 on data protection, health and safety and our circulation list.
judith.day1@gmail.com

Treasurer: [Carol Cambers](#)



Contact Carol about subscriptions and our work with schools.
carolcam47@btinternet.com

Subscriptions for 2020 have been rolled over to 2021 so if you haven't yet paid for 2020 please do and avail of this great offer!

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