

Greater Wigston Historical Society

Newsletter No 4 1982

Open Day & A.G.M. Feb 19th 1982 Wigston Liberal Club

The open day was very well attended, several parties of school children being amongst the visitors. Throughout the day and evening the video film 'The Vanishing Village' was shown many times. Judging by the response of local people to the exhibition it was well worth the hard work put in by the members of the Society. Several new members joined the society as a result of the exhibition.

A.G.M.

Officers elected at the last AGM are as follows.

President	Duncan Lucas
Chairman	Jim Colver
Vice Chairman	Gwen Spencer
Treasurer	Mike Hulls
Secretary	Ann Hulls
Membership Secretary	Brian Bilson
News Editors	Ruth Harper
Ann Hulls	
Publisher	Pete Wilford
Field Survey Officer	Simon Carter

Leicester Search Society

Finds made by the L.S.S. with Metal Detectors have been passed to the Greater Wigston Historical Society and hopefully will be used in a future display.

All the finds came to the G.W.H.S. very neatly packed and labelled, and our thanks have been passed on to the Search Society.

Auction

An auction of agricultural bygoners held at Twycross Zoo was attended and several interesting items were purchased for the museum, amongst these was a very well preserved 1938 Standard Fordson Tractor in full working order.

Forthcoming Events

Field Walk

It has been decided to have a ramble over local fields and paths to help members who are not familiar with the locality or it's history. This has been arranged for Tuesday 15th June 7pm, meeting at White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna.

Dig This

It is hoped to start work on excavating the suspected Saxon site starting on Thursday evening 10th June 7pm and will continue throughout the weekend. If you are interested please bring your own spade. Perhaps conjecture and some possible evidence will soon be proved right. If so it will be a very choice piece of work by the society.

Coach Outing

An outing to Cirencester is being arranged for September, though the exact date has yet to be decided upon. At the present time there are no excavations in progress, but the town itself has one of the finest collections of Roman and other artefacts to be found in the country. For details ring 718083.

The Leicestershire Local History Council

This society of which the G.W.H.S. are members, regularly hold walks, talks, and visits of interest to local history societies. We have included this list so that anyone who is interested may see what is on offer.

June 14th Monday

Centenary walk around Abbey Park. Meet at the first entrance after Belgrave Road roundabout on Abbey Lane 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

August 14th Saturday

Outing to Coleorton Hall, House and Gardens, meet 10.45am for 11am

September 12th Sunday

Visit to Naseby battlefield and Farm Museum, Naseby. Meet at Purlieu Farm on B4136. Market Harborough . Daventry Road 3.15pm

October 11th Monday

Talk Leicester memories by Mr T Wadsworth

November 8th Monday

Talk, Industrial Archaeology of Leicestershire by Dr M Palmer

Dec 13th Monday

Members Evening

For further details ring Mrs A Hulls Leics. 718083

Scrap Book

Members who attended the last meeting thought that it would be a good idea to begin a scrap book of interesting cuttings etc. This was taken a step further and we now hope to begin a collection of local newspapers in their entirety. Volunteers have been found and the back numbers not yet collected will hopefully be tracked down.

Video Film

Copies of the video film 'The Vanishing Village' are now available from the society at a cost of £12.50. Proceeds from sales will go towards our own museum project.

Transactions

Our apologies to those people who were disappointed at the open day, more Transactions will be available as soon as they are printed.

Auditors footnote

For the first time and hopefully not the last, the newsletter has a contribution from one of our members. This will give the newsletter something interesting for members as it is difficult not to be boring when just reporting things done or events to be done. So come on, let's have more articles from members.

Thanks you very much for the first
ED's

Next committee meeting will be held at White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna Wednesday 21st July at 7.30pm.

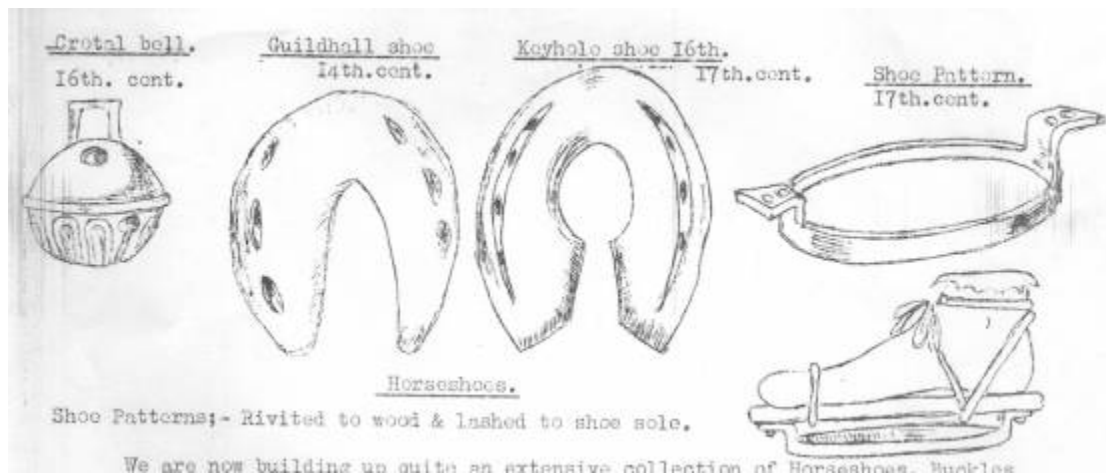
NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Over the past twelve months an extensive search has been carried out by members of 'The Leicester Search Society' and myself, on the small fields known as Hoards Closes opposite the cemetery on the A50. In the near future all these fields will be covered by a new housing estate to be known as Wigston Harcourt, so all that lies buried from the past will be lost forever

Our search started last summer with the aid of Metal Detectors, and although two fields had already been stripped of Top soil, where most artefacts are usually found we were able to turn up some very interesting items. The first find came shortly after switching on the detector, a rather nice Coronation Medallion of Edward VII. 1902, this was soon followed by a silver ¼ Dollar in fine condition (Those Yanks were everywhere). During the next few visits to the fields many coins were found, but most were in poor condition owing to the use of artificial fertilizers on the land over the past 30 years, these tend to eat away at any metal object that lies buried in the top soil. The coins ranged from the reign of George I. 1714 to the modern Micky Mouse money we all use today. It's interesting to note that 50% of the coins found were from the reign of George III 1760-1820 these included a very nice Cartwheel Penny 1797, and a counterfeit Shilling 1820 made of Brass with a Silver wash over the top.

July 6th. 1981 and the topsoil was now being taken from the 2½ acre field by the stream. Streams are always worth a close inspection, so first stop was the bottom of the field, and sure enough after about five minutes searching a very loud signal came from my head-phones, maybe a plough share thought I , but no, from 15" down in the clay came a complete Horseshoe (Guildhall Type 14.th. Century) this was soon followed by another smaller one, then came a couple of Medieval Cart Nails, used in the construction of Wagon wheels, these were approx. 6" long with a 2" square head, tapering down to a needle like point, and still very sharp. Before the evening was over I had recovered two more

Horseshoes(Keyhole type 16th.-17th.century), but by far my best find that evening was a beautiful bronze Crotal Bell 16th. cent, and still ringing. This would have been worn on a Horses bridle or even around the neck of a young child. The steep banks of the stream had been eroded away at this point to give a gentle slope into the water, so could this have been a fording point years gone by ?



We are now building up quite an extensive collection of Horseshoes, Buckles including Medieval, Tudor, Jacobean, and several spur buckles, Buttons, mainly Victorian Dandy buttons with two or three Civil War uniform buttons made of Pewter. Musket and Pistol balls along with spent cartridge cases mainly - 303cal. and .38 cal. blanks, the Home Guard trained over these fields during the last war.

During the Autumn we were joined by a new member , Ray Stevens who seems to attract coins like a Magnet would pins. Some of his better finds include another Bronze Crotal bell,a small Roman coin(copper), but by far the best coin yet found is a small hammered silver Penny of Edward I. 1272 - 1307. The Leicester Search Society have just brought in another Shoe Pattern,(we have a pair now). Those are made of Wrought Iron and would have been riveted to a piece of wood, then lashed to the base of the shoe to stop the wearer slipping in mud.(17th.cent.) Now the better weather is with us again we can give the remaining fields our full attention. An aerial photo of the fields shows what could be the possible site of a Roman, marching camp by the stream, so this could be worth a closer look before the Bulldozers move in.

DIGGER.