

# Leicestershire & Rutland War Memorials Project

## NEWSLETTER ISSUE 17

March 2014

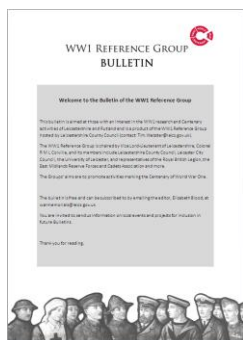


### Update

With the First World War Centenary commemorations drawing ever nearer, there is a growing focus on the role Leicestershire played in the conflict. The recent launch of the BBC's World War One at Home project is in partnership with local radio – in our case BBC Radio Leicester – reveals how the war affected life on the Home Front. Hathern, Hugglescote and Market Harborough are just a handful of places to reveal their fascinating stories, working to remember those who were a part of them. The War Memorials Project is effectively a lasting tribute to those who fell and is interested to know the effect local memorials have and have had on their local community. To listen to the latest sound clips from Leicestershire's World War One at Home project please visit

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01p34hv>.

### New WW1 Bulletin for Leicestershire – send us your events!



A World War One Reference Group has begun to meet at County Hall in Glenfield to help support local Centenary projects and events. Everyone receiving the War Memorials Project newsletters by email will get a copy of the WW1 Bulletin, but we need to hear about your WW1 talks, exhibitions, projects and events. Please email your updates or event listings

to [warmemorials@leics.gov.uk](mailto:warmemorials@leics.gov.uk) and we will promote your activities in the

Bulletin. The Group is chaired by Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Colonel R M L Colville, and its members include Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester, and representatives of the Royal British Legion, the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association and more.

## News



### Renovation of the grave of a Battle of Britain casualty

Thanks go to Graham Rawlings and Walter Baynes, who informed me of the renovation of the grave of Sergeant Herbert Black, which they organised alongside Sergeant Black's relatives. Herbert Ernest Black was born in Measham on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1914 and attended the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve but his plane was shot down on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1940; he later died in Ashford hospital in Kent. Sergeant Black is buried in Ibstock alongside his wife, and is thought to be the only Battle of Britain casualty buried in Leicestershire.



Sergeant Herbert Black's grave at Ibstock; before and after renovation.

\* \* \*

### Our latest recruit to the War Memorials Project!



We are pleased to announce Katie Bridger as our latest voluntary recruit. Katie graduated from the University of Leicester in January with an MA in History and her research highlights the impact of the late medieval Leicestershire gentry on the local landscape. She is currently the Secretary for the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust and volunteers at the Lutterworth Museum. Katie has worked to contribute to this newsletter and has already undertaken some field recording!

\* \* \*

### "Petition urges NHS to protect war memorial"

"A petition has been launched calling on the NHS to honour a pledge to safeguard a memorial to people who served in the First World War. NHS

Property Services last month dropped a commitment to pay for the transfer of the memorial should Market Harborough District Hospital close. The memorial

comprises four panels bearing the names of nearly 1,700 people, placed in a portico at the entrance to the hospital." Quote and photograph courtesy of the Leicester Mercury. For further details please view the following link: <http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Petition-urges-NHS-protect-memorial/story-20673523-detail/story.html>.



\* \* \*

### St Luke's Chapel at the Leicester Royal Infirmary threatened with demolition



"The chapel, which dates back to 1888, is due to be demolished as part of a £48 million scheme for a purpose-built A&E department at the hospital which were unveiled last week." – (Courtesy of Leicester Mercury, December 2013.) The Leicester Civic Society has launched a campaign against the destruction of the chapel and further details can be found below.

The chapel contains many war memorials to doctors, nurses and hospital staff from the World War One and World War Two. Photograph with thanks to the Leicester Mercury.

To view the campaign on the Leicester Civic Society website and get involved please go to:

<http://www.leicestercivicsociety.org.uk/campaign.asp?item=28>

Two articles can be found on the topic from the Leicester Mercury here:

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/City-think-loses-soul/story-20787139-detail/story.html>

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Campaign-save-infirmary-s-chapel/story-20251934-detail/story.html>



## Events

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 10am to 4pm

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society History Fair - This year, the county's history fair – 'Wartime Leicestershire' – will be held at Beaumanor Hall on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 10am to 4pm. There will be the opportunity to attend 'wartime' mini-talks (please visit <http://www.lahs.org.uk/howtobook.htm> to book tickets) in addition to many displays and local history stalls. The leaflet for the event is appended at the end of this newsletter.

\* \* \*

On until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

'Drawn to Danger: The Art of War' – Art Exhibition at Charnwood Museum



"A new exhibition at Charnwood Museum explores the work of World War I artist Frank Brangwyn alongside the work of contemporary war artists who have documented more recent conflicts. The exhibition captures events on the battlefield but also the human consequences of conflict on both civilians and the armed forces, and the impact on the surrounding landscape. The contrasting styles show how artists have used their skills to move the hearts and minds while others show us the horror of war in the hope of peace."

The exhibition opened on 11<sup>th</sup> January and will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014.

Charnwood Museum can be located on Granby Street, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3DU.

Telephone: 01509 233754

For further information email: [artworks@leics.gov.uk](mailto:artworks@leics.gov.uk).

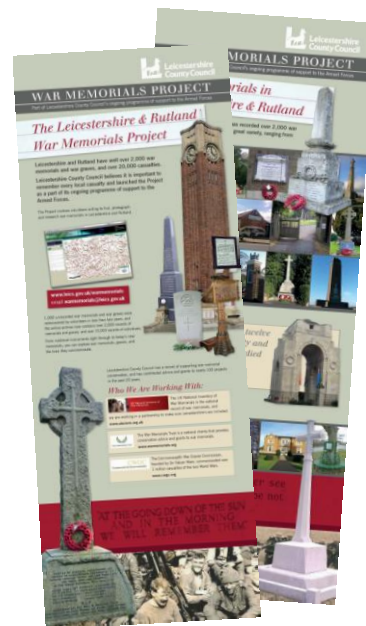
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Exhibition until Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May

'Commemorating the Fallen' - An exhibition exploring the work of the Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorials Project in its bid to record and support the conservation of the many and varied commemorative plaques, windows, buildings and monuments in the area. The memorials mostly cover the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars, and show the wide range of Services and Regiments in which the men of Leicestershire and Rutland have served. The exhibition will be held until Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Talk on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May – 7:30pm

Liz Blood, War Memorials Project Officer, will be giving a talk on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Donington le Heath Manor House, beginning at 7.30pm to tie-in with the 'Commemorating the Fallen' exhibition of the War Memorials Project banners. The illustrated talk will focus on the war memorials of Northwest Leicestershire, in particular WW1 memorials from a stylistic and commemorative point of view.



\* \* \*

### Leicester City, County & Rutland "At Risk" War Memorials Project

The "At Risk" project is working to ensure the protection of "orphaned" war memorials, which are declining in their role as a focal point for their community and in some cases have been ejected from their original locations/ This project demonstrates the support for the local service people and – particularly poignantly at this time – fulfils the community's promise to our dead.



Open Days (Chancel, (rear of) All Saint's Church, Highcross Street, Leicester LE1 4PH)

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March – 10am – 4pm

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May – ditto

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July – ditto

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September - ditto

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September – ditto

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September – ditto

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> November – ditto

For further information see <http://leicester-rutlandatriskwarmemorials.btck.co.uk/>

### Anzac Day Service on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April at Welford Road Cemetery

Thanks go to Chris Stephens for notification of the Anzac Day service at Welford Road Cemetery. The service will commence at 11am and there will be a brief commemoration followed by a laying of wreaths. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath is welcome to bring one. There will be free refreshments following and an opportunity to talk to Australian and New Zealand relatives who attend each year.

\* \* \*

### **Conservation Update**

Conservation advice and grants have recently been completed at Thrussington, Muston and Ravenstone.



Muston war memorial, before and after conservation. The head was damaged below the carving and had to be completely re-fixed. An overall gentle clean was required to improve the appearance and to make the inscriptions legible again.





Thrussington war memorial, before and after conservation. The stonework was gently cleaned overall, the joints were repointed with lime mortar, the posts were replicated and all replaced, and the inscription was re-gilded as it originally had been.

\* \* \*

### Restoration projects for WW1 Centenary

Many custodians are having their war memorials restored in time for the beginning of the WW1 Centenary period. We can be contacted about conservation concerns at any time and would welcome the opportunity to give you free specialist advice on restoration works, specialist contractors, and funding; email [warmemorials@leics.gov.uk](mailto:warmemorials@leics.gov.uk) or contact Liz Blood on 0116 3056187. We also recommend looking at the guidance provided by War Memorials Trust at [www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org).

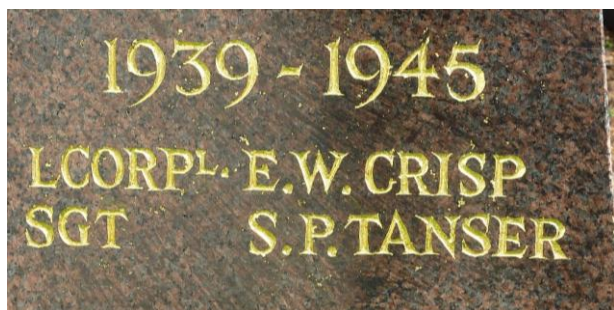
### Conservation questions: adding names

We are receiving a number of enquiries about adding extra names to war memorials. Please note that adding names is a sensitive issue and much research and consultation is required before going ahead.

The following need to be considered thoroughly:

- Each community devised its own 'criteria' for inclusion, which needs to be respected. Sometimes individual families objected to a name being included at the time.
- The name may be on other war memorials already – and not always the one you might expect. You can use our website to identify these or contact us for help.
- The addition needs to be appropriately and sensitively accommodated within the design of the existing memorial.
- Specialist contractors need to be identified to carry out the work to a high standard.
- Consultation with War Memorials Trust and local community should be carried out where possible.
- There are many alternative ways to commemorate additional individuals, without altering war memorials; for example in new commissions, local exhibitions, publications, or digitally.

**If you are trying to get names added to war memorials, please ask the custodian to get in touch with us for advice.** We can help with research to determine the necessity, and can provide advice on how to achieve additions in the most appropriate way. Examples of cases where we have been happy to support additions are shown below. Achieving new inscriptions in the same material and style helped these projects to be successful.



**WW2 names added at Swinford in the same style as the WW1 names.**



**Leaded lettering being added by specialist Contractor at Melton Mowbray.**



## Memorial Spotlight

### The Robert Smyth Academy, Market Harborough



Photograph copyright: D Kenyon

The Robert Smyth Academy is located in the Harborough District of Leicestershire. The original building of the first school – Market Harborough Grammar School – can still be found in the Harborough market place and was established in c.1570. Here we acknowledge the war memorial plaque in the modern-day school which bears the names of the old boys who gave their lives in World War One and World War

Two. One of the houses of the Academy is named after William Henry Bragg, Nobel Prize winner (jointly awarded with his father in 1915) and British physicist raised in Harborough. During the First World War, Bragg was involved with submarine detection in Aberdour on Forth and Harwich and returned to England in 1918 as a consultant of the admiralty. (Courtesy of S. Percival, *Dictionary of Australian Biography*, 1949). This memorial was recorded for us by Denis Kenyon.

## Can you help..?

### Firemen Killed in Action in World War One and Two

With thanks to Malc Tovey of the National Fire Service Museum; historian, retired firefighter and Deputy Chief Officer and Trustee of the Fire Fighters Memorials in London and Staffordshire.

“As we are all aware, this year 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the Great War (WW1) and many organizations will already been carrying out their own research. I'm a retired Firefighter and historian with the National Fire Service Museum and I am in partnership with Alan House, a retired Deputy Chief Officer and Trustee of the Fire Fighters Memorials in both London and at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. For the past 18 months we have been researching and trying to trace Firemen that joined the colours nationally but, regrettably, there are no records or registers kept for Firemen that fought for this country and were killed or wounded in action in WW1 & WW2.

Early in WW1 many firemen had already volunteered for military service but, in 1915, with terrible losses in the trenches beginning to have an impact, the Home Office sent out a memorandum to all Fire Brigades that any single men under the age of 25 were to be "called up" for military service to

"Fight for the Colours"; many firemen went into the Navy as well as the Army and laid down their lives for their country.

During the course of our research, we have been in touch with many large organisations including the Imperial War Museum and London Fire Brigade Museum, but neither have any records; also, in the London Blitz itself, two thirds of any surviving records were destroyed. We have placed articles in Fire Magazine, the Western Front magazine, and done research at the Records Office in Wigston Leicestershire. We have also used the Leicestershire War Memorials Project website as well as our local newspapers to reach as wide an audience as possible.



The Firefighters Memorial in London next to St Pauls Cathedral and the National Arboretum in Staffordshire only have the names of firefighters killed in the "Blitz" in WW2 or killed in peacetime from 1723, there is no central memorial for firemen who gave their lives for the country. In the course of our research we have managed to confirm 500 names of firemen killed in action or who died of wounds in the UK and we now setting up a website.

I have already completed my research with the Leicester Borough Fire Brigade. 14 had joined the colours but only 12 returned for duty, 2 were killed in action, so **this is where I need your help** with the county fire brigades. In 1941 they became the National Fire Service and then in 1948 became the Leicestershire & Rutland Fire Service, but before this all Leicestershire county fire stations were individual brigades; Loughborough Fire Brigade, Coalville Fire Brigade, Market Harborough Fire Brigade, and had their own Chief Officers. I'm hoping that with your help we might get more names, especially as many people are carrying out research on their own family tree.

If you can give us any information on casualties; such as full name, whether serving in the Navy, Army or Air Force, military rank, date and place of death, we can hopefully fill out the picture, including from CWGC records.

In WW1 & WW2 Firemen were trained to take a different role, from saving lives, to taking lives."

**If you have any information which may help the search please telephone 0116 266 7001 or email [malc.tovey@friends-of-fireworld.org](mailto:malc.tovey@friends-of-fireworld.org).**

\* \* \*

## Appeal for records of Rolls of Honour

As part of some PhD research being undertaken by Liz Blood, it has been identified that the Project holds only a limited number of recordings of certain types of memorials. To try to improve our recordings methodically, we will appeal for recordings of particular ‘types’ in each issue.

In this issue we are appealing for more records of Rolls of Honour.

The term, for the purposes of this particular appeal, refers to paper, board or vellum memorials, often titled as ‘Rolls’ on the memorial itself, and quite common in churches, chapels, village halls and other buildings. We only have approximately 90 records for the whole of Leicestershire and Rutland, but feel there must be more. We’re also on the lookout for high-quality photographs of these. So if you happen to spot any, please drop us a line at [warmemorials@leics.gov.uk](mailto:warmemorials@leics.gov.uk)



**This roll of honour, in South Luffenham church, was recorded for us by Sally Harnett. This example is printed and illuminated. Many examples, however, were handwritten; especially early examples.**

A basic record consists of a legible photograph and a location. Fuller records include information on whether they have been relocated, whether their authors or printers are known, and whether they have been reproduced over time. Check the website for your location at

<http://warmemorials.leics.gov.uk> or contact us at [warmemorials@leics.gov.uk](mailto:warmemorials@leics.gov.uk) to see if we already records for the Rolls that you are aware of.

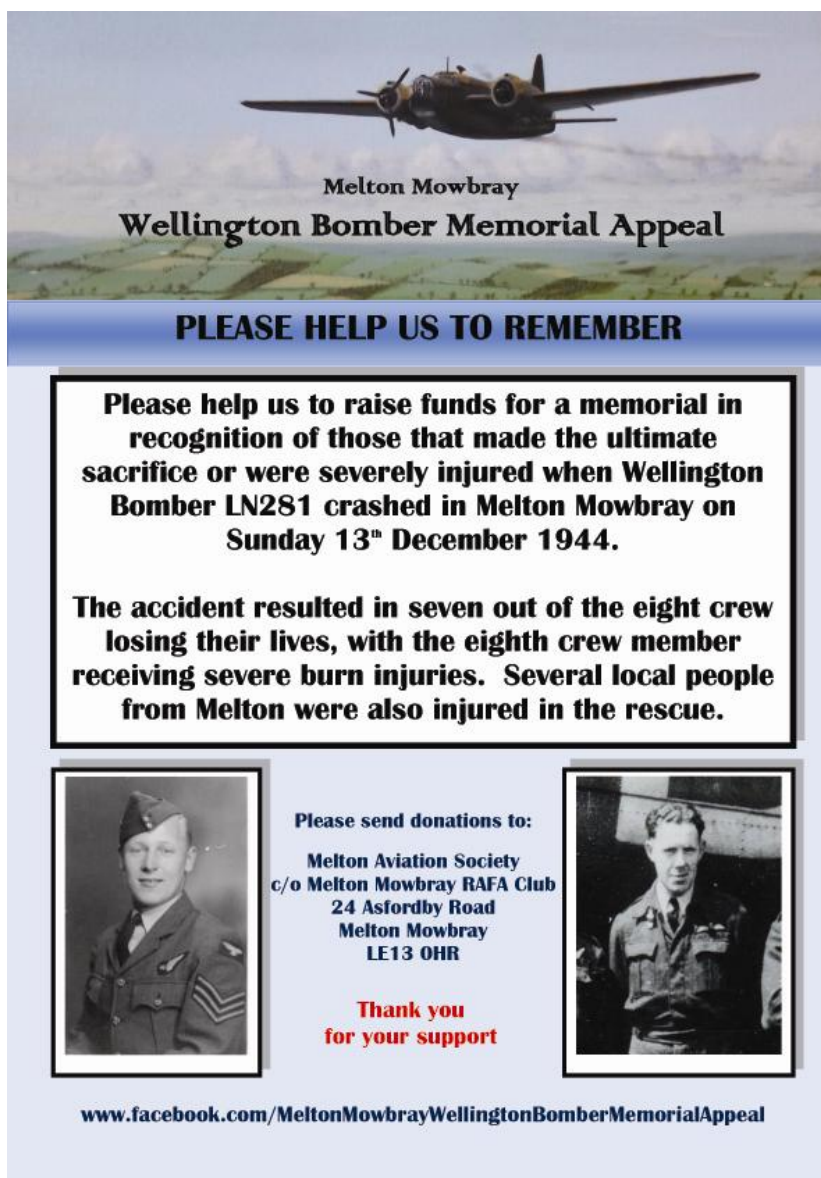
Recent records have come in for a WW2 roll of honour in the Loughborough Boat House (courtesy Dr Sally Horrocks, University of Leicester), and a WW1 roll of honour from Rotherham that is being housed in the collections of the newly-reopened Gas Museum in Leicester.



### Wellington Bomber Memorial Appeal

With thanks to Brian Fare for the supplying the poster and bringing this appeal to our attention. The unveiling day of the memorial is likely to be this August but please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/MeltonMowbrayWellingtonBomberMemorialAppeal> for updates.



The poster features a Wellington bomber in flight at the top. Below it, the text reads: 'Melton Mowbray Wellington Bomber Memorial Appeal'. A blue banner with white text says 'PLEASE HELP US TO REMEMBER'. A central white box with a black border contains the following text: 'Please help us to raise funds for a memorial in recognition of those that made the ultimate sacrifice or were severely injured when Wellington Bomber LN281 crashed in Melton Mowbray on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1944. The accident resulted in seven out of the eight crew losing their lives, with the eighth crew member receiving severe burn injuries. Several local people from Melton were also injured in the rescue.' Below this, there are two black and white photographs of men in military uniforms. Between the photos, the text reads: 'Please send donations to: Melton Aviation Society c/o Melton Mowbray RAFA Club 24 Asfordby Road Melton Mowbray LE13 0HR'. Below the photos, it says 'Thank you for your support' in red. At the bottom, the Facebook link is repeated: 'www.facebook.com/MeltonMowbrayWellingtonBomberMemorialAppeal'.

**Melton Mowbray  
Wellington Bomber Memorial Appeal**

**PLEASE HELP US TO REMEMBER**

**Please help us to raise funds for a memorial in recognition of those that made the ultimate sacrifice or were severely injured when Wellington Bomber LN281 crashed in Melton Mowbray on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1944.**

**The accident resulted in seven out of the eight crew losing their lives, with the eighth crew member receiving severe burn injuries. Several local people from Melton were also injured in the rescue.**

**Please send donations to:**  
**Melton Aviation Society  
c/o Melton Mowbray RAFA Club  
24 Asfordby Road  
Melton Mowbray  
LE13 0HR**

**Thank you  
for your support**

**[www.facebook.com/MeltonMowbrayWellingtonBomberMemorialAppeal](https://www.facebook.com/MeltonMowbrayWellingtonBomberMemorialAppeal)**

**Thank you for your continued interest in the War Memorials Project,**

**Elizabeth Blood**

Heritage Support & War Memorials Officer (3 days per week), Leicestershire County Council

0116 3056187

[liz.blood@leics.gov.uk](mailto:liz.blood@leics.gov.uk)

[www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials](http://www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials)

Room 400, Penn Lloyd Building, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8RA.



## Appended images

'Wartime Leicestershire' History Fair at Beaumanor Hall leaflets:

### THE DAY'S PROGRAMME

Book your mini-talks, tours, Air Raid Experience, in advance online at [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk)

10.00	Fair opens
10.30, 11.15, 12.00	Mini-talks, Rooms 8 & 10
12.45, 1.30, 2.00	Mini-Talks, Rooms 8 & 10
2.45, 3.30	Mini-Talks, Rooms 8 & 10
11.00, 12.00	WW2 Air Raid Experience in the cellars
2.00, 3.00	WW2 Air Raid Experience in the cellars
11.30, 1.00, 2.30	Outdoor Tours to WW2 Secret Listening Station huts (wear suitable clothing)
12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00 (20 mins duration)	Live music and words presentations, alternating World Wars 1 & 2, <i>Sounds Familiar</i> trio
2.00 - 4.00	Woodhouse Church open Newly discovered WW1 Roll of Honour
4.00	Fair closes

For further/change of details see [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk)  
*SORRY, there is no disabled access to upstairs stalls or mini-talks (listed building)*

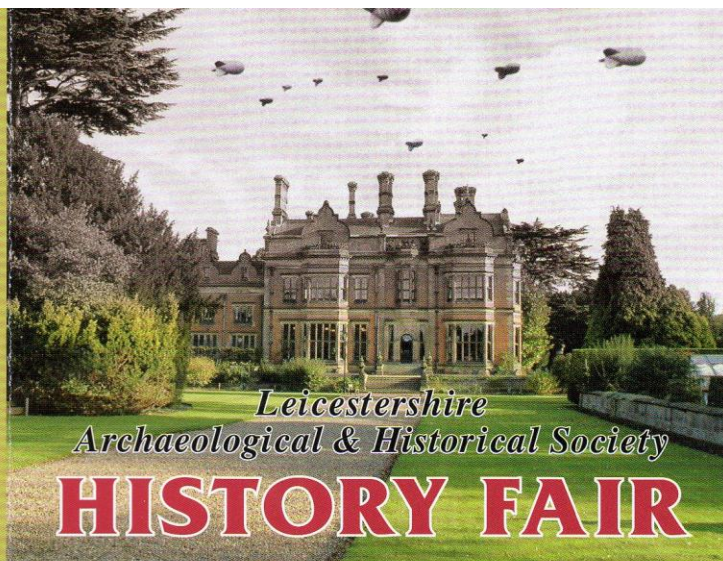
### Come to the Fair on the Great Central Railway and Save Money!

Leave your car at Leicester North or Loughborough stations free of charge. Then travel to the Fair by vintage bus from Quorn /Woodhouse Station, with its WW2 setting and NAAFI tearoom.

**Special train discounts with online booking at [www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)**

LAHS reserves the right to alter the day's programme if necessary.

Design by Dragonfly Presentation Graphics Ltd: [www.dragonflypg.co.uk](http://www.dragonflypg.co.uk)



## WARTIME LEICESTERSHIRE Sunday 23 March 2014

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

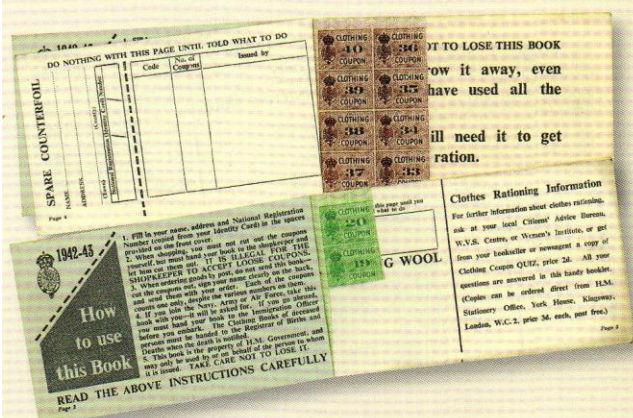
Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, LE12 8TX

- Many displays and local history stalls
- 16 'wartime' mini-talks (programme inside)
- Genuine Enigma machine on display
- Richard III display and mini-talks
- WW2 Air Raid Experience in the cellars
- Outside tours to WW2 secret listening station huts
- Dressing up in military uniforms
- WWs 1 and 2 live music and words presentations
- BBC Radio Leicester 'Talking History' interviews
- Woodhouse Church open, WW1 Roll of Honour
- Quorn/Woodhouse GCR Steam Railway Station
- Free vintage bus connection GCR/Beaumanor
- Coffee Shop and Dining Room open all day
- Ample free stewarded car parking

**Entrance £5, children free**

All mini-talks, tours and visits free of charge





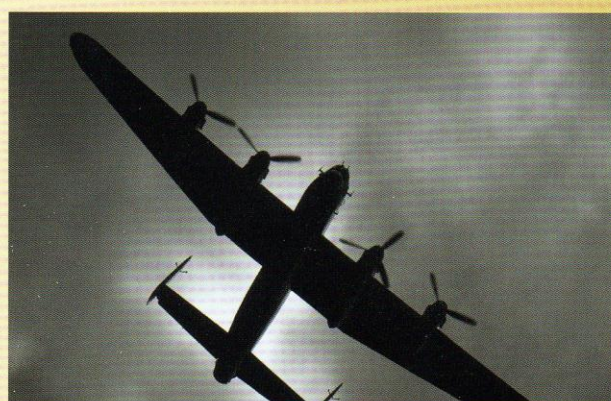
## MINI-TALKS ROOM 8 (upstairs)

Please book for talks and tours online at [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk). Some seats *may* be available on the day but cannot be guaranteed.

For further details and a brief description of each talk see [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk)

*Sorry, there is no disabled access to upstairs*

- 10.30 *Richard III: The King in the Car Park*  
Richard Buckley
- 11.15 *William Lord Hastings: Wars & Castles*  
Peter Liddle
- 12.00 *Battling the Beams: Charnwood's Top Secret War against WW2 Luftwaffe*  
Terry Sheppard
- 12.45 *Richard III: The King in the Car Park*  
Richard Buckley
- 1.30 *WW1 – The Leicestershire Regiment in the 1915 Hohenzollern Battle*  
Michael Woods, Western Front Assoc.
- 2.00 *An A-Z of Leicestershire at War*  
Robin Jenkins, L&R Record Office
- 2.45 *Richard III: The King in the Car Park*  
Richard Buckley
- 3.30 *Battling the Beams: Charnwood's Top Secret War against WW2 Luftwaffe*  
Terry Sheppard



## MINI-TALKS ROOM 10 (upstairs)

Please book for talks and tours online at [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk). Some seats *may* be available on the day but cannot be guaranteed.

For further details and a brief description of each talk see [www.lahs.org.uk](http://www.lahs.org.uk)

*Sorry, there is no disabled access to upstairs*

- 10.30 *WW2 Beaumanor's Secret Listeners*  
David Ramsey
- 11.15 *The Rise and Fall of the Enigma Machine*  
Dr Mark Baldwin
- 12.00 *Defence Archaeology Group, Operation Nightingale – a road to recovery*  
Dr Peter Buxton, Royal Navy Surgeon
- 12.45 *Lost and Little Known War Memorials in Leicestershire and Rutland*  
Liz Blood
- 1.30 *The Rise and Fall of the Enigma Machine*  
Dr Mark Baldwin
- 2.00 *WW2 Beaumanor's Secret Listeners*  
David Ramsey
- 2.45 *The Reluctant Regicide? The Civil Wars in Leicestershire and Rutland*  
Dr Andy Hopper, University of Leicester
- 3.30 *The Rise and Fall of the Enigma Machine*  
Dr Mark Baldwin