

# Desford and District Local History Society

## Newsletter Summer 2022

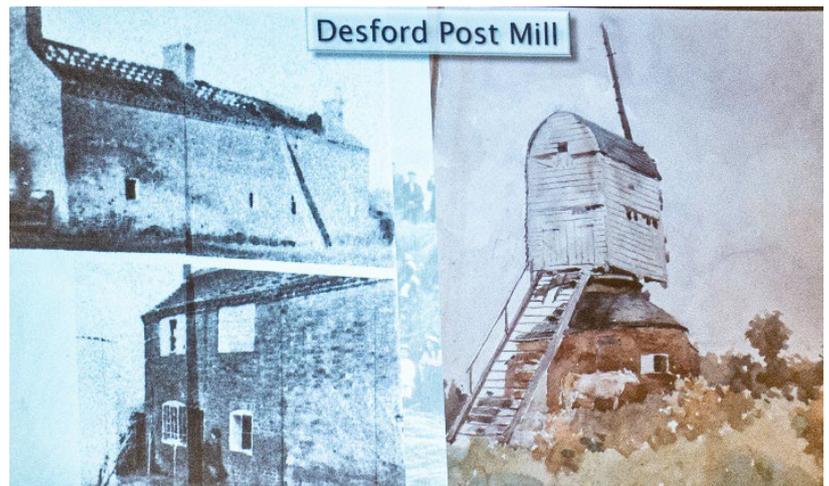


### FROM OUR CHAIRMAN.

Our amazing archival team augmented by some helpers have produced a splendid display for the Desford Museum pop-up for Heritage Weekend at the village hall: (Miners' Institute!). Tea and biscuits etc. from Botcheston W.I. So please come and visit us and see what your village is made of! (*Bernard Grimshaw*)

In May and June, we returned to our monthly meetings in the Chapel, which were well attended at both sessions. It was so good to get back to 'a sort of normality'.

Our first meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March was a talk given by Mark Temple titled "Vanishing Windmills of Leicestershire". It turned out to be an engrossing talk. We learnt that in 1835 there were 158 working windmills in Leicestershire, though now there are only 5 in working order. The windmills varied in construction.



Our Second talk "Plague, Pestilence and the Black Death in Leicestershire" was equally fascinating, given by Steve Baker on the 17<sup>th</sup> May with slides and maps of the directed field work, at a site about half a mile north of the city centre. During the dig evidence was collected about mass burials between the years 1040 - 1080. Of



the 263 burials there were 45 of 5-10 people per grave and 4 were over 10. There was no evidence of violence, so death was more an indication of a major catastrophe; cause unknown. One interesting fact arose from examination of the skeletons about ethnicity, which was that African, Asian, and European were all present. References in 'The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles' state that the 11<sup>th</sup> century suffered both famine and pestilence. (*Molly Marcus*)

(Thanks to Huw Thomas for his photographs)

## Talks for the remainder of 2022

July 19<sup>th</sup>: The Archaeology of Board Games by Peter Liddle

September 20<sup>th</sup>: Burning Passions: The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in Leicestershire by Jess Jenkins

November 15<sup>th</sup>: The Base Hospital (5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital) in Leicester 1914 - 18 by Robin Jenkins

## Desford History Society takes over the Village Hall to become Desford Museum for the festival weekend!

Want to know what this machine is and its significance in the story of Desford?



Come and see a real machine at the museum and learn more.



See the model of the Comet engine.

Why is it here?

Using material from our archives we are delighted to be able to share some of our history with an exhibition of Desford through time, from Romans (yes, we have been here that long) to the present day.

Did you know Desford had a coal mine and an airfield? Where were they?

Find out this and much, much more...

The society would like to find out about your stories and memories of the village to add to our archives. They could provide the basis for some future research.

Write them down and place them in the **red post box** you will see at the museum