

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

## **Grand re-opening of Harborough Museum**

**The grand re-opening of Harborough Museum will be Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

### **Harborough Hoards and History Day**

Put Saturday 19 September 2009 on your calendar now - as this is when Market Harborough will be taken over by Roman Legionaries, WW1 Soldiers and Celtic Warriors!

Join us to celebrate the rich history of Market Harborough and surrounding villages as Harborough Museum re-opens its doors to the public.

### **Can't wait that long? Special events coming up:**

Hallaton Museum's new exhibition "Rituals, Hoards and Helmets", the story of the discovery of the Hallaton Treasure will open to the public from May 24<sup>th</sup>. Hallaton Museum is open all summer during week-ends, bank holidays and by prior arrangement.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June, for the first time, experts will be publically discussing the Treasure and its enormous impact on everything we thought we knew about the East Midlands in the Iron Age. This one day conference at the University of Leicester is open to all. Tickets £10, including a light buffet. Contact Frank Hargrave on 01885 821085 for more details.

Another opportunity to find out about the incredible discoveries before Harborough Museum reopens will be at the Festival of History at Kelmarsh on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. An expert will be on hand to talk you through the world of the ancient Britons.

A travelling exhibition will be hosted by the Jewry Wall Museum only on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Be amongst the first to see some of the treasures discovered and meet a Roman legionary.



**For further details about the Treasure Project and Harborough Museum, see the following background details.**

- **To contact Harborough Museum phone (01858) 821085 or email [harboroughmuseum@leics.gov.uk](mailto:harboroughmuseum@leics.gov.uk)**
- **To contact Hallaton Museum phone (01858) 555305**
- Whilst Harborough Museum is closed Leicestershire Museums will be able to help any enquirers and offer a range of services which continue to be available.
- The Symington Collection of corsets features in the Fashion Gallery at Snibston. For more information about Snibston please phone 01530 278 444, email [Snibston@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Snibston@leics.gov.uk), or check out the website at [www.snibston.com](http://www.snibston.com). The Fashion Gallery features a major new exhibition “Sporting A-Z, the Fashion Alphabet” until September 09.
- For information about the Leicestershire County Council's collections, and for research enquiries and identifications please contact the Curatorial Team at the Collections Resources Centre on 01509 815514.
- For information on local history, family history and photographs please contact the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland on 0116 257 1080 or email [recordoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@leics.gov.uk) .
- For information about Leicestershire’s Open Museum including ArtWorks, Resource Boxes and Moving Objects please contact the Environment and Heritage Resources Centre on 0116 267 1950.

**Harborough Museum** is operated in partnership by Leicestershire County Council, Harborough District Council and the Market Harborough Historical Society.

**The Southeast Leicestershire Treasure** is the archive of material produced by several stages of archaeological work undertaken by local community archaeologists and University of Leicester Archaeological Services. The site proved to be an internationally important ritual site dating mostly to the generations before and after the Roman Conquest of Britain in the 1st century AD.

**The purpose of the project** is purchase, conserve, interpret and promote the Southeast Leicestershire Treasure. The cost of the project is £933,872 which includes purchasing the finds, conserving the finds, displays at

Harborough Museum and at Hallaton Museum, two touring exhibitions, web based resources, workshops for schools and community groups, and events for the public.

**The project is supported by grants** from The Heritage Lottery Fund of £650,600, £100,000 from The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity, £35,000 from the Museums and Art Galleries Improvements Fund, £35,000 from the MLA/V&A Purchase Fund Grant, The Headley Trust, Renaissance East Midlands and local contributions from the Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums, the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group and the County Council, as well as private individuals. The support of Harborough District Council is also gratefully acknowledged.

**The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since its conception, HLF has supported 26,000 projects allocating over £4 billion across the UK.

**The Art Fund** is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections; campaigns on behalf of museums and their visitors; and promotes the enjoyment of art. It is entirely funded from public donations and has 80,000 members. Since 1903 the charity has helped museums and galleries all over the UK secure 860,000 works of art for their collections. Recent achievements include: helping secure Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* for the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Gallery, London in February 2009 with a grant of £1 million; helping secure Anthony d'Offay's collection, ARTIST ROOMS, for Tate and National Galleries of Scotland in February 2008 with a grant of £1million; and running the 'Buy a Brushstroke' public appeal which raised over £550,000 to keep Turner's *Blue Rigi* watercolour in the UK. For more information contact the Press Office on 020 7225 4888 or visit [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org) .

The Art Fund is a Registered Charity No. 209174

**The MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund** is a government fund, established at the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in 1881 as part of its nationwide work. The annual grants budget, currently £900,000, is provided by the Museums, Libraries, Archives Council (MLA). The Fund supports the acquisition of objects relating to the arts, literature, and history by regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Each year it considers some 250 applications and awards grants to around 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £4million to go ahead. Visit the website at [www.vam.ac.uk/purchasegrantfund](http://www.vam.ac.uk/purchasegrantfund)

**The Headley Museums Archaeological Acquisition Fund** has been established by the Headley Trust, one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. Its trustees realise the great difficulties many regional and local museums find in raising the money to buy archaeological artefacts. They are also aware of the proliferation of finds as a consequence of the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The Headley initiative is intended to help museums secure and display notable finds. The Headley Scheme runs alongside and in collaboration with the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.

- **Further details about the Treasure Project:**
- **For more information about Harborough Museum and the Southeast Leicestershire Treasure Project, please contact Frank Hargrave, Project Officer, at Harborough Museum, on 01858 821087 or email [fhargrave@leics.gov.uk](mailto:fhargrave@leics.gov.uk), or Zara Matthews, Keeper of Harborough Museum, also on 01858 821087 or email [zmatthews@leics.gov.uk](mailto:zmatthews@leics.gov.uk)**

Ends.