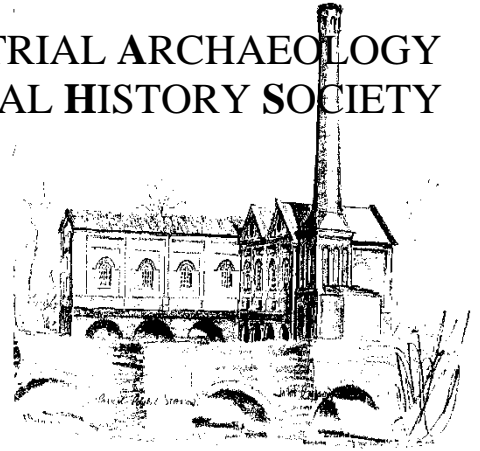


# WORCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## SUMMER PROGRAMME 2017

Welcome to the 2017, Summer Programme.

Again several trips, in discussion for months or weeks, have not come to fruition this year, but maybe they will be squeezed in as an extra or left to next year. Some still have not replied to entreaties! Roger Tapping is organising a coach to Lydney and the Southwicks are arranging a hike over Abberley Hill to the quarry, with guide Kate from last year's Abberley Village walkabout (pray for fine weather).



Our outings this year begin with the Abberley Hill walk, soon after the Spring Dinner, if you haven't walked the meal off by then.

The coach trip is to Leicester this year. The local IA group will take some of us for a walkabout, others, I know, wish to visit the Richard III exhibition. The afternoon is to two smaller museums south of the city.

As coach costs remain expensive we have limited these to three, all on non-school days so we can benefit from the ample street parking on Northwick Road. We do not have a joint outing this year (which picked up a few extra members) but are opening trips to SWAG (the South Worcestershire Archaeological Society), who are offering places on their coach trip to us (details in Newsletter).

The Angel Place trips are still popular, however, unless there a lot of you still on the waiting list, we hope to venture elsewhere in the city next year.

I also hope to encourage other town and church guides to give us similar visits in future years.

I look forward to seeing many of you on these trips over the coming summer.

**MikeH, Summer Programme Secretary**



## Abberley Hill (and quarry)

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

1

Guide: Katherine Andrews [3hr walk]

1pm @ Abberley Village Hall

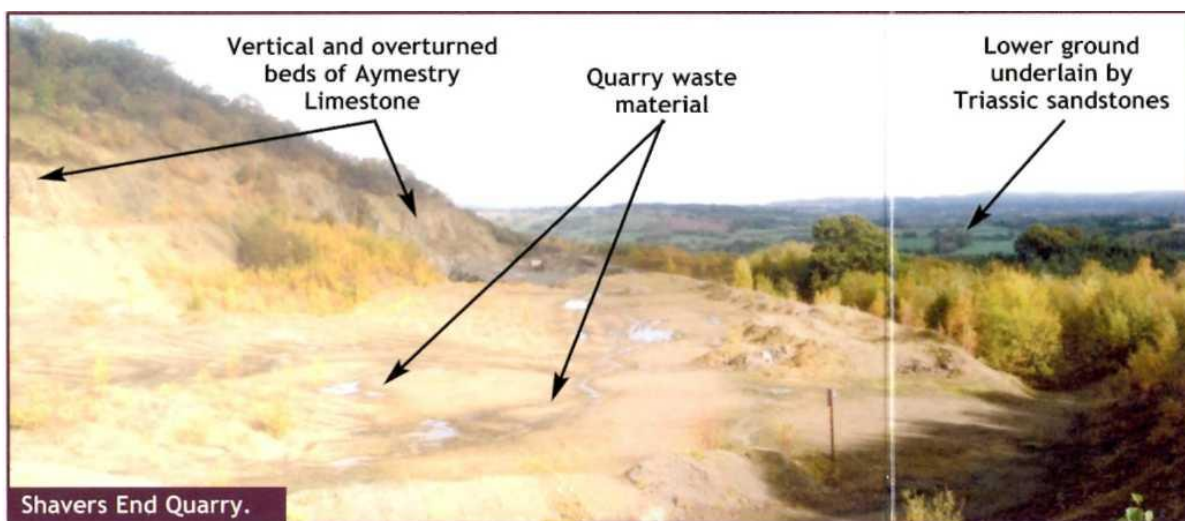
Hills & Geology Trail [20 max]

This is a longer and more strenuous walk than last year, and we meet in the Village Hall car park, this time to walk along the Abberley Hill, to the quarry and viewpoints.

The walk will take us through landscapes partly along the Worcestershire Way and our guide will explain the origins and geology of the hills. We pass many old quarry workings used for building stone or roadstone.



The main quarries producing aggregates in the Abberley Hills were Woodbury, Shavers End, Penny Hill, and Rodge Hill Quarries. All these sites were a major imposition on the lives of residents. These days there is no longer any quarrying being carried out within the Abberley Hills.



Shavers End Quarry is an old aggregates quarry. Formed in a shallow tropical sea when this part of the Earth's crust was located very close to the Equator.

As last year, our guide is Katherine from the Earth Heritage Trust. The walk will last between 2 and 3 hours, depending on weather and excursions (though you can always make your way back sooner).

Parking is available at the village hall, which is on the left just after you turn off Clows Top Rd towards the old village centre. If you wish to have lunch, before the walk, try Great Witley Tea Rooms (unless you book at the Manor Arms Inn), or take sandwiches. We shall walk from the Village Hall to the village past the Manor Arms Inn, then we will set out on a circular hill walking route.

This walk will also take in part of the village, and for those not on the trip last year will point out building stones used in the village, their origins, geologically and possibly where quarried. We will finish back past the Manor Arms Inn, where it is hoped we might get tea/coffee (or stronger) in the late afternoon.

Meet @ 1pm at the Village Hall, WR6 6AA

**Cost £4** (includes guide leaflet)



## Worcester Cathedral Tower

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Guide: Chris Guy

11am & 2pm @ North Porch.

2 a b

This is being led by the Cathedral Archaeologist into the upper reaches of the cathedral roof spaces, roof and tower. We also have the chance to step out onto the parapet and 'leads' (gutters and flat roofing) if fine weather, as well as ascending to the top of the tower.

There is no cathedral parking. **Numbers will be strictly limited to 10 for both visits.** Those unsuccessful will be put on a waiting list and if not places this year, we will run this again next year. **NOTE:** Access is *only* via narrow, steep, stone, spiral staircases – a lot of them - narrow passages, low doorways and uneven surfaces so you need to be reasonably fit (no walking sticks, high heels, or large rucksacks!). We don't want anyone lowered down on a rope from the tower!



This visit is expected to take well over an hour, including the walk up to the tower and tour. The cathedral café is open for refreshments afterwards (or before, but it is a long way back down if you need the 'facilities' while up on the roof!).

Founded in 680 under Bishop Bosel, nothing now remains of the original Saxon cathedral. The crypt of the present-day cathedral dates from the late C11<sup>th</sup> and the time of Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester.

A monastery from the 960's until 1540, when Henry VIII dissolved it. Some of the last monks became the first Dean and Chapter. The cathedral was badly damaged in the civil wars, and as a consequence a major programme of rebuilding was required after the Restoration of Charles II. From the late seventeenth until the nineteenth centuries there were several campaigns to restore parts of the cathedral, but the Victorians from 1854-75 carried out the largest of these.

The Tower is the Cathedral's third tower. The first fell down in 1175 and the second was taken down because it was unsafe. The present tower was completed in 1374. The stone work internally is 14th century in date but the exterior of the tower was re-faced in the 19th century as part of the Victorian restoration. The present tower was strengthened in the late 1980's/early 1990's, to ensure it is safe for the next 200 years.

Meet @ 11am (a) or 2pm (b) in north porch & money collected at the door by Chris

**Cost £6**



## Lydney, Forest Of Dean

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Organiser: Roger Tapping

8:30am @ Northwick Rd, Lodges Rec.

**3** This is another excursion into the world of the Forest-of-Dean, some years since the last. We intend to travel directly to the Dean Forest Railway café for our comfort stop.

Right is Norchard, their main station and the home of the museum, shop and new café, where we should be able to obtain refreshments.



We should have time in the morning to spend visiting the museum at Norchard, then a short journey down to Lydney Junction Station. Just before lunch we have an invitation to visit one of the more unusual sight in the Forest-of-Dean, a fleet of iconic London busses! These are on an industrial site close to Lydney Junction Station (the main BR station).



After lunch (a packed lunch may be advisable!) we meet back and the coach will take us the mile or so into Lydney Docks.

The former Pine End Works was built in 1940 to manufacture marine plywood, which during the war was for wartime aircraft requirements.

After the war William Mallison and Sons took over. The swing bridge, allowing vessels to pass, is grade 2 listed. At the end is the river lock and up river, the site of the old Severn Rail Bridge, destroyed in 1960.



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Coach from Northwick Rd, the Lodges rec @ 8:30am

**Cost £25**

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## Belbroughton village

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

10.30am @ Talbot Inn

4

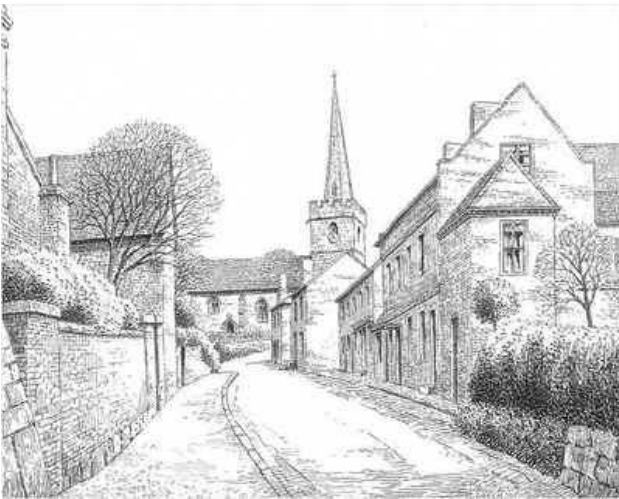
Guide: Julian Hunt [walk 30 max]

A pleasant walk around the village, with our guide, Julian Hunt, the local historian who gave us a recent lecture on Shenstone. We will meet by the car park at the Talbot Inn at 10.30am to give us chance to have a coffee in the pub.



Belbroughton was at the core of the North Worcestershire scythe-making district. Many of the mills of the area were formerly blade mills used for sharpening them, after a scythesmith had forged them from iron, with a thin strip of steel along the cutting edge. From the late C18<sup>th</sup> until about 1870, the Waldron family of Field House Clent were the

leading manufacturers. They were succeeded by Isaac Nash, whose business finally closed in about 1970.



At the crossroads in the near-by hamlet of Bell Heath, there is a boulder that has a plaque that reads "Boulder from Arenig Mountain in N. Wales, Brought here by the Welsh Ice-Sheet in the Glacial Period".

The Ram Alley Brook flows through the parish westward. At intervals, it has been widened into ponds, which furnish the motive power for several mills, as in the C17<sup>th</sup> and C18<sup>th</sup> all the small streams in this part of the county were utilized for forges. As early as the

C16<sup>th</sup> we have a reference to a Blade Mill in Brian's Bell in this parish. One industry of the neighbourhood is the manufacture of scythes, hay and chaff knives and edge tools of all kinds for agricultural purposes. This industry was carried on at Belbroughton at least as early as 1564, when 'John Smythe, sythesmythe,' was the defendant in a suit respecting a message called 'Hollies'. There used to be a good deal of nailmaking, but this has died out.

*Booking fee will go to the Belbroughton History Society.*

Meet @ 10.30am at Talbot Inn, DY9 9TG (in the centre of the village)

**Cost £3**



## Abberley Hall & Tower

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

5

Guide: Jo Roche

[own transport]

1:30pm @ school entrance.

This visit now follows Jo's lecture to us in November 2016. We shall have the chance to see most of the principal rooms as she shows us around the hall. Now a school, but as this is a holiday week there are fewer pupils around. We also have the chance of ascending the tower, to the parapet if fine weather.

There is parking at the school and we shall meet at the main school entrance (inside if it is raining). **Numbers will be limited to 20 this visit.** Those on last year's waiting list will be allowed early booking and a waiting list for next year will be opened as, I am sure, more will now wish to visit after her excellent and informative talk!

This visit to the Hall is expected to take over an hour, plus the walk up to the tower and tour there (note there are 166 steps to the top!), which could add another hour. We can make a provisional reservation with the Witley Court Tea rooms (on the way back to Worcester for 4:30pm), if you wish to purchase tea, so please indicate if you wish to reserve a group table.



Abberley Hall (originally called Abberley Lodge) is a splendid Victorian country house in the Italianate style. The estate was acquired by J. L. Moilliet (a Birmingham banker and merchant of Swiss extraction) for £45,945 in 1844 started renovation but rebuilt after a fire in 1845. The ground floor interior contains a complete scheme of Victorian classical decoration. The site may

have been a tower or lodge in a medieval park as Leland refers to a 'castle' at Abberley.

In 1880, John Joseph Jones, a man of substantial wealth, inherited the Abberley Hall estate and he commissioned a carillon and clock tower, in 1883, as a memorial. It is also widely considered that he built it to exalt the Abberley Hall estate over the rivalry from Lord Dudley at Witley Court nearby.

Abberley became a boys' preparatory school in 1916, and the main ground floor rooms have been preserved with their original decoration since then. *[Notes from Wikipedia, corrected by Jo Roche]*

Meet @ 1.30am at front doorway

**Cost £10**



## Berkley Almshouses

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

6

Organiser: MikeH [listed building]

This is our fourth and last return visit to look at one of those historic sites hidden in plain sight at the heart of the Worcester. Our guides around the chapel & grounds will again be Paul & Lorraine, followed with a cup of tea and sight of a few old documents. The limit is 20.

**Berkeley's Hospital, Foregate St.**

Berkeley Almshouses @ 3:00pm



By the site of the Foregate

(demolished 1702), on the corner of Shaw Street, a splendid early C18th almshouse group, slightly Dutch in appearance, endowed by Robert Berkeley (of Spetchley), 1692. The chapel is dated 1703 and the complex completed c. 1710. Fronting the Foregate are two five-bay two-storey blocks. For the chaplain and the warden, they have hipped roofs with pedimented dormers, slightly mottled brick with stone dressings and moulded window surrounds. Small doorways, with broken curly pediments decorated with foliage and the Berkeley arms, face the opening between the two blocks. The gates are fine with rusticated gate piers with animal finials and iron gates. These lead into the courtyard, lined with the single-storey almshouses, originally six either side; each has a doorway with broken curly pediment and again the Berkeley arms, flanked by two windows.

The chapel stands in the middle of the far end. It has five bays, round-arched windows, a wide central doorway with broken segmental pediment on carved brackets. Above a round-arched niche has the statue of the founder and composite curvy pediment. The interior has been stripped out. It has three rectangular windows to the rear.



Meet inside gates of Berkeley Almshouses @ 3:00pm

**Cost £3**



## Stroud Valley Mills

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Organiser: MikeH [coach]

Northwick Rd, Lodges Park @ 8:30am

7

This is a guided coach tour of the Stroud Valley and its former textile mills. This will be by coach and on foot, led by members of the Stroudwater Textile Trust. Due to the tight lanes and site a smaller coach has to be employed and **numbers will be limited to 33.**



**< St. Mary's Mill :** This c.1820 mill houses a large waterwheel and a powerful Tangye Steam engine, which although not in steam (as its boiler has long gone) is still operated electrically.



**Gigg Mill (right) :** Gigg Mill sits on the Horsley brook, which once powered its waterwheel. Its humble stature is typical of the smaller mills that dotted the valleys. At this mill you can visit our Weaving Shed containing historic

and modern looms, including a power loom. The machinery is demonstrated by our expert guides



**Dunkirk Mill (left):** The overshot wheel, twelve feet wide and thirteen feet in diameter, was installed in the mill in 1855 as part of the last major re-building carried out during its time as a woollen mill. It operates Victorian textile finishing machinery.

**Egypt Mill >:** (now an up-market pub & hotel, which had a good lunch menu last year) We

will stop for lunch here, which is beside is by Nailsworth town centre, where there are a few other other pubs and cafes.



The first and last mill of the day do not have any refreshments, thus we will call in Gloucester Services (S) on the way down and, again, Gloucester Services (N) on our return journey.

Coach from Northwick Rd, the Lodges rec @ 8:30am

**Cost £25**



## Bewdley St. Anne's Church

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

8

Guide: Heather Flack (bell captain - Rob Carlyle)

2.30pm @ St. Anne

Heather has taken us on a walk before, last time through Wribbenhall. This time it is a look at the town church of Bewdley, St. Anne's, which has just had a major restoration of the roof and ceiling. Heather will use the opportunity to outline significant history of the town and Tickenhill Manor, which sits up hill to the west of the church. The local bellringing team will also ring the peal and take guided tours up the tower for those who feel fit! The ringing chamber is 36 steps up, where there is a video link to the bell chamber. The top of the tower is 107 steps, with a few resting places on the way.

The Tudors favoured Bewdley, and Tickenhill Manor was gifted by Henry VII to his son Arthur who was married by proxy there in 1499 to Catherine of Aragon. Arthur died a young man in Ludlow and was brought back to lie in Bewdley before being buried at Worcester Cathedral.

Bewdley started its life in around the beginning of the fourteenth century and its name is derived from "beau lieu" meaning beautiful place. The settlement of Wribbenhall is much earlier, however, and mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.



The parish church of St. Anne, sits in the middle of Load Street and occupies the site of a former timber-framed guild chapel of C15<sup>th</sup>. The present stone building of 1745 was designed by Thomas Woodward in a classical style. The oldest bells date from 1660, but were recast and a complete peal of eight hung in 1780, by Rudhalls, of Gloucester. Following the talk and a look around the church interior, tower tour, Heather will take a short tour up Park Lane to Tickenhill, however the house interiors and grounds have been radically altered since medieval times and is now apartments.

**Parking:** waterfront (Severn Side S), at Gardiner's Meadow (D12 2EF £2.40/3hrs £4/day) with path off Lax Lane via the Museum & its gardens: north off Load St. at Dog Lane (D12 2DG £2.60/3hrs £5/day).

Refreshments will not be provided in the church, though there is a toilet. Refreshments can be obtained afterwards within Bewdley Museum (free entry), which has The Copper Pot café (also open for lunches).

**Lunchtime:** Bewdley Brewery on Lax Lane (opp. path to museum) opens at noon to view their brewing area, memorabilia collection and to purchase samples. It was established in 2008. The last Bewdley brewery was situated on Severnside South (now Riverside Veterinary Practice), but closed in 1912.

Meet @ 2.30pm

*DONATION ON THE DAY (by collection)*

**Suggest £3 to £5**

## Inside Worcester's Angels

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

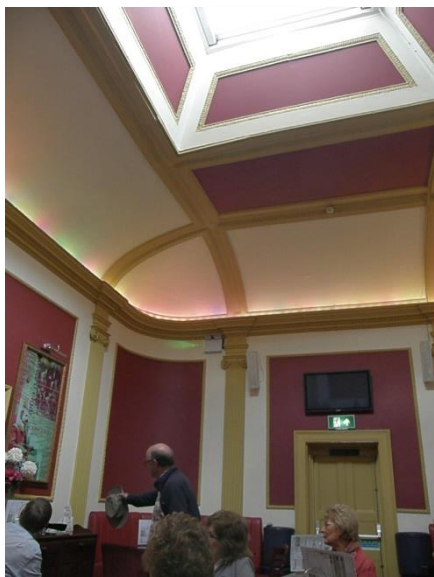
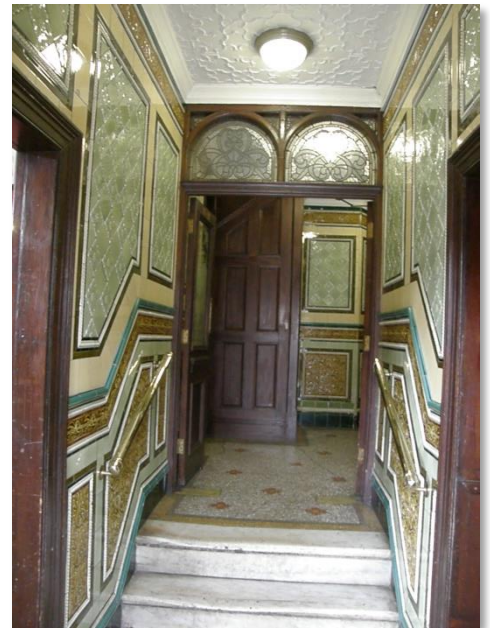
Organiser: Carl Jukes [walk]

2:15 @ Deco Cafe, Angel Place top floor.

9

*This is a follow-up of last year's guided walk to the hidden history around Angel Place and will be limited to just 10 people! It will be open **only to those on last year's walk**.*

*It was apparent last year that 22 of us could not visit some locations as there was neither space nor safe access for that many. And we will probably have to manage this in two groups of 5. Only three or four sites will be accessible and it is to be restricted to those who were on last year's Angel Place Walk, as we will not be covering the general history, but specific buildings. Again we will probably not know if, or which of these will be available until a day or two before, or even on the day and could be dependent upon the weather!*



[left:Glee Club Room]

[up:Paul Pry]

[down:Sunday School]

*Carl Jukes is a former Conservation Officer of Worcester City Council and probably knows most about what lies behind many of the city's buildings.*

*We hope to get into some of those buildings in the Cross, Angel St. Angel Place and Broad St. that we were not able to last year.*

*We shall probably close around 4.30 and timing will be entirely dependent upon the availability of access on the day and possibly the weather.*

**Please don't come in your Sunday finery and wear sensible shoes; maybe bring a torch with you.**

**PAY ON THE DAY IF YOU GET A PLACE!**

**NOTE:** This is only open to **12** of those who came on last year's walk. We may run this for another year.



**Meet top floor Art Deco Cafe, Angel Place @ 2:15pm**

**Cost £3** (excluding refreshments)



## Worcester' Past Angels

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August

Organiser: Carl Jukes 2:15 @ Deco Cafe, Angel Place, top floor.

# 10

This guided walk will point out the hidden history of the city centre around Angel Place and Angel Street, from *Medieval* to *Modern* sites, lost roads and buildings, features of

which are still visible if you know where and how to look! The 2015 report gives an insight into places to be visited. The last Angel walk for a while, as we develop the next area.

We will start from the top floor of the Art Deco Cafe at 2.15 -2.30pm (it behoves you to buy a tea/coffee) leaving by 3pm after an introductory discussion on what can be seen from there. This needs to be limited to 20, but last year's waiting list will be given priority for a couple of weeks.



[Map 1886] [lost Victorian Street]

Carl Jukes is a former Conservation Officer of Worcester City Council and probably knows most about what lies behind many of the city's buildings. Although now considered the city centre this area was once outside the medieval city; where the Blackfriars settled; the location of markets (still is); then brewing, pubs and coaching inns followed; then a Georgian expansion into leisure, theatres, pleasure and other non-conformity; and latterly, (after the first coaching age) the centre of another pre-WWII coaching (Midland Red) age before the car and multi-storey took over (the first one, not the latest one!).

Depending on the weather, it will probably cover parts of the Cross and the Butts before we retire to the Victorian splendour of the Paul Pry at the end of the walk around 4.30 – 5pm for a well earned 'jar'(timing will depend on weather and availability of various building access on the day).

Even if you were not on last year's waiting list please book your place on the new waiting list.

Meet top floor Art Deco Cafe, Angel Place @ 2:15pm

**Cost £5** (excluding refreshments)

# Leicester

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

# 11

Guide: Mike H & LHS guide [coach]

8:30am @ Northwick Rd

This final coach visit this year is to Leicester, with some choices in the morning in the city centre and two local museums in the afternoon.

Leicester's timber framed Guildhall [right] is one of the best preserved in the country, dating back six hundred years (free entry). This is close to the new Richard III Visitor Centre, which also has a café. Group or pensioner entry is £7 each. If we have a group (15 plus), I can book ahead.



From about 11am the local Leicestershire Industrial History Society are offering a morning's guided walk around the, perhaps, hidden delights and industrial/Victorian heritage of Leicester City centre. This is being organised through their Secretary, David Lyne, but details will depend upon the numbers wishing to join, and whether we make up one or two parties (and, of course, the weather on the day).

After time for lunch in the city centre, we leave at 1.45pm.

At 2pm we are to visit the unique Gas Museum, just south of the city centre, the former town gas depot. It is the world's largest and most significant gas history collection, with a huge and nostalgic selection of vintage cookers, heaters and gas fires. Built in 1870, this building, right, is the original gatehouse of the Leicester gas works. It is managed by the University and only open till 3pm; it has no refreshment facilities and as entry is by voluntary donation. (WIA&LHS will donate on your behalf.)



At 3pm we travel a short distance to the Wigston Framework Knitters' Museum, where tea and biscuits will be available. They will give us a guided tour of the Master Hosier's house as well as demonstrations of their frameshop workings.



**NOTE:** Please indicate on the booking whether you wish to visit Richard III exhibition or LHS's tours

Coach from Northwick Rd, the Lodges rec @ 8:30am

**Cost £25**