

# LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND UNUSUAL & QUIRKY

Andrew Beardmore

Leicestershire and Rutland, home to English football's 2016 Premier League Champions – and also home to some of England's best kept secrets: beautiful countryside, pretty, quintessentially English villages, and a rich and diverse history. Not so secret, though, is the fact that the already historic city of Leicester has been firmly put on the international map recently, with the discovery of the remains of Richard III and his high-profile reinterment in Leicester Cathedral. And of course, Richard III, the Wars of the Roses and Leicester's pivotal connection with the English Civil War are amongst many topics covered in *Leicestershire and Rutland: Unusual & Quirky* in depth, from the Stone Age to present day.

However, lurking not far beneath the surface of both counties is a host of oddities and peculiarities that turn the apparently staid and conventional into something much more intriguing. Therefore even the *Conventional Leicestershire & Rutland* section sees its *County History* interspersed with the book's idiosyncratic "Quirk Alerts"; like anecdotes covering Roman latrine management, how Robin-a-Tiptoe Hill became so-named, and the meaning of bizarre Leicestershire terms such as Gongoozlers and Yawny Box!

Naturally, though, it is the *Quirky Leicestershire & Rutland* section where things turn very strange, and where a seemingly random almanac of 55 Leicestershire and Rutland places have their quirkiest facts laid bare: like which village has a cow-milking organist, which had a beer-swilling fox, another a wig-detecting phantom, and yet another a parson who tied 58 bulldogs to 58 apple trees to prevent scrumping! Or what about which Leicestershire village was hit by a meteorite, which one saw doves dictate the build of a church, and which one still fights annually over a hare pie! Alternatively, find out which Rutland village had a fourteenth-century rector involved in serious organised crime, which one is twinned with Paris, and which one is home to a truly mind-blowing historical revelation. If you think you know Leicestershire and Rutland, read this fascinating and profusely illustrated book and think again...



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

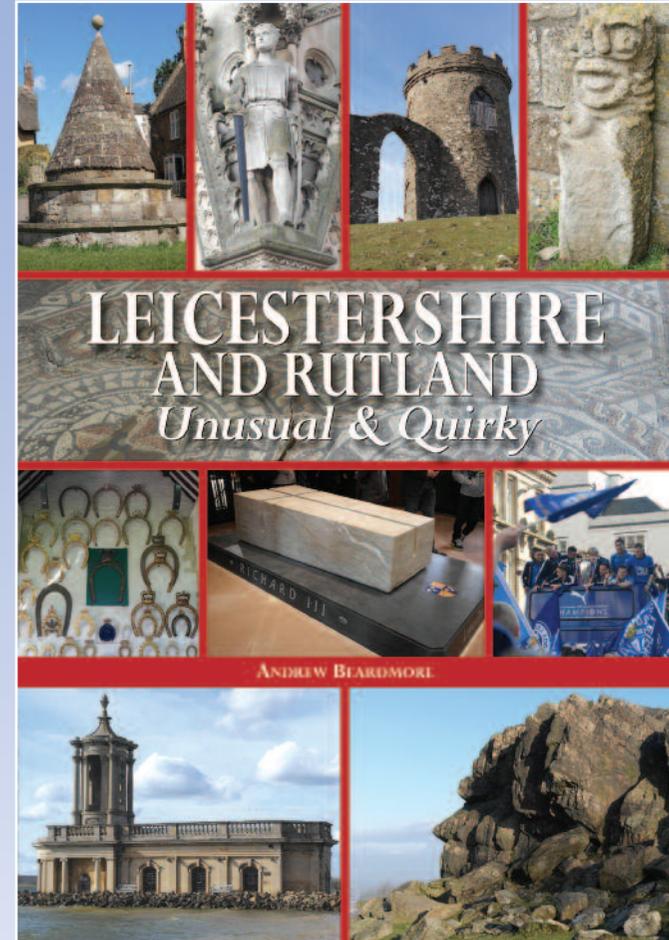
Derby-born Andrew Beardmore spent his formative years nurturing his love of sport, history and geography in his home county of Derbyshire. Nevertheless, it was Computer Science in which he graduated, with a First Class honours degree, before embarking on a 28-year career in I.T.

Now married with two children, Andrew still works as a full-time I.T. Capacity Manager, and writes in his spare time. *Leicestershire and Rutland: Unusual & Quirky* is his third book that reunites those three childhood loves of sport, history and geography, following on from previous *Unusual & Quirky* releases focusing on Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

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## UNUSUAL & QUIRKY

Some of the 82 arches of the amazing Harringworth (Seaton) Viaduct.



Above: Rutland Water from the south shore, near Normanton's partly submerged church of St Matthew.



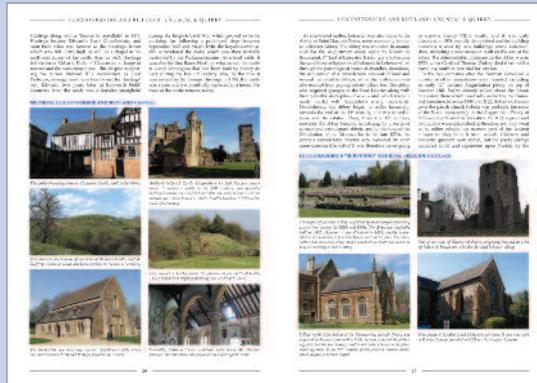
Left: Memorial Square and the 68ft high Clock Tower which was built in 1925 in memory of those Coalville residents who gave their lives in World War I.

Left: Moira Furnace, a restored 19th century blast furnace that was originally built by the Earl of Moira in 1804.

Below: The Butter Cross at Hallaton, which was once used for keeping butter and cheese cool, and today, remains an integral part of the annual traditional bottle-kicking contest.



Market Harborough Grammar School dates from 1614, and must be the quirkiest in the country!



Example of a double-page spread.