

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

147th Annual Report 2001–2002

In addition to the Annual General Meeting nine General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

2001

Thursday
11th October *The use of lasers in the conservation of historic buildings: Lincoln Cathedral and St Mary's, Nottingham.*
David C. Emmony, B.Sc., Ph.D.
Professor of Applied Optics, Department of Physics, Loughborough University

Thursday
25th October *Why spoil a good story? Clement E. Stretton and the early railways of Leicestershire*
Robert F. Hartley, B.A., A.M.A.
Keeper of Collections, Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service

Thursday
8th November *Bess of Hardwick*
Roger C. Richardson, B.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.
Professor and Head of Research, Graduate Centre, King Alfred's College, Winchester

Thursday
29th November *What's so special about Roman Leicestershire?*
Jeremy Taylor, B.A., Ph.D.
School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester

2002

Thursday
10th January *Nevill Holt: further insights from fieldwork*
David Smith, Esq.
Buildings Historian

Thursday
24th January *The Beckhampton Avenue (a trail with a beginning, a middle and an end?)*
Mark Gillings, B.A., Ph.D.
School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester
Josh Pollard, B.A., Ph.D.
University of Newcastle

Thursday
14th February *Results of recent fieldwork by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)*
Staff of ULAS

Thursday 7th March	Alan North Memorial Lecture <i>Power, prestige and purple porphyry: Roman stone quarries in the Eastern Desert of Egypt</i> Valerie A. Maxfield, B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. Professor of Roman Archaeology, University of Exeter
Thursday 21st March	<i>The Central Role of Leicester in the English Language</i> Elaine M. Treharne, B.A., Ph.D. Reader and Head of Department of English, University of Leicester

Annual General Meeting

The chair at the meeting held on Thursday 22nd November 2001 at the Guildhall was taken by Vice-President Squire Gerard de Lisle. Forty-six members attended and following the business part of the meeting a presentation was given by Mrs Cynthia Brown on the work of the East Midlands Oral History Archive. Refreshments afterwards, provided by members, were enjoyed by all.

Committee

The Committee met on five occasions; 18 April, 27 June, 12 September and 14 November 2001 and 16 January 2002. The committee agreed to the creation of a Trust to provide an annual lecture in memory of Professor Brian Allison and funds for this purpose have been received and steps taken to prepare the necessary trust deed so that the first annual lecture might take place in the lecture season 2002–3. The Committee agreed to publish Geoffrey Brandwood's study of the Victorian Church in Leicestershire entitled *Bringing them to their Knees: church-building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800–1914*. It appeared in March 2002 and is the first publication to be produced by the society for a number of years. The Committee has also agreed to support a day school on *Leicester Past and Present: Migration and the Making of the Modern City* to be held in association with Vaughan College. The Committee noted a proposal to revive the Victoria County History in Leicestershire, but no positive proposals on which action might be taken have yet been formulated. The Committee has expressed its views to the City Council about its *Cultural Strategy* document and to the Museums Service on its Consultation Document. It has also considered the County Council's Report on *Heritage Policy and Strategy 2001–2008*. Concern has also been expressed to the City Council about the threat that current developments around Vaughan Way and Highcross Street present to the archaeology of that area. The implications of the split of the museums service in 1997 are continuing to be felt in both city and county, and the committee is making strenuous efforts to keep abreast of proposals which might affect the service provided in both city and county. The Society is represented on a number of bodies including the University Court and the Conservation Advisory Panel of Leicester City Council. Discussions took place during the year on how the Society should celebrate its 150th anniversary which occurs in 2005.

Publications

Volume 75 of *Transactions* was published in November 2001, the *Leicestershire Historian* in July and two editions of the *Newsletter* appeared in the Spring and Autumn all of which were sent to members during the year. The Society is indebted to the editors of all these publications for their high quality.

Library

The library continues to be opened by the Honorary Librarian on the first and third

Sundays of every month and although usage is not great it is a wonderful resource for local researchers and deserves to be more widely known. The Society is most grateful to Mr Aubrey Stevenson for his work in maintaining the library.

Membership

Membership continues to be healthy and Mr Geoffrey Clark Monks does a sterling job in maintaining our membership records and distributing all our publications. Members could help the Society by paying their subscriptions promptly and by taking out a standing order.

Lectures

Numbers at lectures continue to be good and the council room at New Walk is usually comfortably full for most lectures. The subject matter of lectures contains a mixture of local and national/international themes and judging from the numbers attending seems to be what members want. If any members have suggestions for topics they are encouraged to contact the lecture secretaries.