

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1977-8

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Social Sub-Committee

Mrs. E. M. Dickson (*Secretary*)
Mrs. W. A. North

Melton Mowbray and District Branch;

Officers

Hon. Chairman: H. A. J. Dennison, Esq.
Hon. Secretary: C. Bowes, Esq.
Hon. Treasurer: K. C. Wright, Esq.

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

123rd Annual Report 1977-8

Twelve General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

1977

- 14 October THE NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK LECTURE
A City and a County: Leicester and Leicestershire from the tenth to the twentieth century.
Professor J. Simmons, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.R.S.L. President of the Society. In the Art Gallery, New Walk Museum.
- 19 October *Homo v. Arborea*: a case of gross interference. Man's influence on natural woodland from prehistoric to recent times.
Dr. N. V. Pears, Lecturer, Department of Geography, Leicester University.
At the Guildhall.
- 4 November *Annual General Meeting* followed by sectional reports. At the Guildhall.
- 18 November *Roman Leicester: the evidence from recent excavations*. Miss Jean E. Mellor, Senior Field Archæologist, Leicestershire Museums.
- 9 December *Leicestershire Field Names*. John Field, Esq., M.A.
- 19 December *Medieval Leicester: the evidence from recent excavations*. T. C. Pearce, Esq., Assistant Field Archæologist, Leicestershire Museums.

1978

- 13 January *Integration of New Buildings in Old Settings*. D. A. Blakesley, Esq., Dip. Arch., R.I.B.A., F.A.M.S., Department of Architecture, Leicester Polytechnic.
- 27 January *Recent Excavations at Catholme*. Report on a unique almost complete Saxon village. Stuart Lasco-Bradley, Esq., Field Officer of Trent Valley Archæological Research Committee.
- 24 February *Archæological Fieldwork—The Museum's Role*. R. A. Rutland, Esq., M.A., A.M.A., Keeper of Antiquities, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Record Services.
- 3 March *The Genre of Nichols*. D. H. Smith, Esq., Leicester Polytechnic.
- 17 March *The Leicester Mid-Victorian Newspaper Project*. R. L. Greenall, Esq., B.Sc., Warden, University Centre, Northampton.
- 21 April *The Burtons of Lindley: The Historian and his family*. D. T. Williams, Esq., B.A., PH.D., Lecturer, Department of History, Leicester University, Hon. Editor of the Transactions.
- Meetings were held in the Council Room, the New Walk Museum, unless otherwise stated.

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting, held at the Guildhall, was not particularly well-attended, mainly because of industrial action by power workers. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R. J. B. Keene, presented the *Annual Report*, and commented on the favourable state of the membership which, despite an increase in the subscription, has in fact risen over the year. He also drew attention to the introduction of a section for Historical Notes and Documents included in 'Transactions' for the first time. He then thanked Mr. McWhirr for all his hard work as publicity officer, mentioning in particular the excellent window display made by Mr. Jack Jeffs, a member of the Society, for the Leicester Building Society's offices in Charles Street. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. J. Denney, then presented the *Accounts*. He noted the healthy state of the subscription income and the handsome surplus on the excursions account left by Miss Herrington. He feared, however, that while inflation lasted it would continue to be a serious threat to the financial stability of the Society.

The season commenced with an innovation, the Society's first Civic Lecture. The National Westminster Bank Limited were the sponsors. The Society was honoured on this occasion by the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City and the Chairman of the County Council. The lecture, delivered by the President, was recorded by BBC Radio Leicester, and later broadcast. Following suggestions at last year's A.G.M., the number of lectures was increased from eight to twelve, and they were well-attended.

Committee and Officers

The Committee met seven times under the chairmanship of Mr. R. J. B. Keene. The Secretary discharged most of the routine work and correspondence of the Society. This year was marked by the retirement of Professor Jack Simmons as President of the Society. The Society is very grateful to Professor Simmons for the valuable service and great interest he has always shown in its affairs during the twelve years of his presidency. The year also saw the retirement of Mrs. F. E. Skillington from the Committee after many years, during which she chaired the Committee between 1957 and 1968. A dinner and presentation was held at the University in April in their honour. The Society has been extremely fortunate in that Colonel R. A. St. G. Martin, C.B.E., J.P., has agreed to become its new President. The Very Revd. J. C. Hughes, on his retirement as Provost of Leicester, relinquished responsibility for co-ordinating the work of the Historic Buildings Panel. The Revd. O. S. Bennett has kindly agreed to undertake these duties. The Secretary is also grateful for the valuable assistance he has received from Mr. K. G. Norris.

Transactions

Volume 51 of 'Transactions' appeared in Autumn 1977. Dr. Williams is to be congratulated in managing to maintain the high standards of the publication. Early in 1978, Messrs. Ratnett & Co. Limited, the Society's printers for many years, ceased trading. A small sub-committee was set up under the direction of the Editor to find a new printer, and the estimate of Messrs. Derry & Sons Limited, the well-known Nottingham firm, was accepted. It should be recorded that the Editor put a considerable amount of time and effort into ensuring that the Society found the most suitable printer, and the Committee is grateful for all the trouble he has taken.

Membership

Paid Members: Ordinary Membership 325

Paid Members: Libraries and Institutions 49

Paid Associates and Students 46

Members who paid less than the full subscription in 1977-78 85

Deaths

We record with regret the deaths of the following members during the past year: Sir Charles Keene; Mr. A. W. Davis (Assoc.); and Miss D. Woodnott (Assoc.)

Historic Buildings Panel

The work of the Panel continued under the direction of the Very Revd. J. C. Hughes, until his retirement as co-ordinator in December, when he was succeeded by the Revd. O. S. Bennett. The volume of work has continued to increase, and the Panel has provided advice on applications received from the County Council and District Councils as well as produced reports on individual buildings. In addition, Charnwood District Council sought the views of the Panel on their proposed planning strategy and the designation of conservation areas. There have been two serious losses to the County's stock of historic buildings with the demolition of Thurmaston Old Hall (subject to repeated applications for a number of years) and of 132 Highcross Street, although it is good to report that listed building consent to demolish was refused for Ferneley's House in Melton Mowbray.

The Archaeological Fieldwork Group

The Group, led by Mr. R. G. Mitchell, has undertaken a considerable amount of work during the past year, due mainly to the initial enthusiasm of the few individuals who established it being more widely shared. Moated sites still account for most of the Group's time and energy, and although a comprehensive study in any county is an enormous task, sites in Leicestershire (including Rutland) have perhaps received more attention than in many surrounding counties. The knowledge and experience acquired has enabled the Group to act in an advisory capacity to fieldworkers in other areas, particularly in creating an awareness of the urgent need to record moated sites and introducing the survey techniques involved. During the year the Group has given priority to work on the previously unrecorded site in Cold Newton parish, as well as continuing the County Survey. Destruction of many of these sites, just as their value and extent is beginning to be appreciated, is causing much concern. Many of the problems stem from the inadequate scheduling of these features by the Department of the Environment, a result of previous lack of knowledge about these sites, in particular the ancillary features extraneous to the principal earthworks, which have suffered considerably. Information from individuals which is felt to be relevant to the moated sites study or the Group's investigation of castle mottes and fish ponds is always welcome. The outstanding contributions of the following to the work of the Group should be acknowledged: Messrs. Geoff Brandwood, Norman Burgess, Tony Hilditch, Jack Jeffs and Dr. Vaughan Williams and Mrs. Williams. Thanks are also due to the many landowners for allowing access to their properties.

The Youth Group

The Group has again had a successful year under the direction of Mrs. Drinkall following its excellent start last year. After completing the introductory survey, begun last season, into some of the techniques and skills used by archaeologists and historians, the young members began to examine for themselves the more practical aspects of these subjects by undertaking site visits, documentary study and the investigation of collections and records. Towards the end of the season, the members started work on their own projects. The Committee regrets to report that, since the end of the season, Mrs. Drinkall has resigned as leader as the result of a move to a new appointment.

The Library

It has not been a particularly successful year for the Library, and unfortunately the trend noted in last year's report, of the disappointing response from members using the resources, has continued. Following the complications arising from the closure of the Guildhall during the firemen's strike, and the continued lack of use, the Library was closed during the summer after the end of the season, although books remained available by personal application to the Librarian. The Library was re-opened at the start of the new season. Considerable discussion by the Committee has led to a number of suggestions which are being actively considered to try to overcome the problem. The main acquisitions have been journals to which the Society either subscribes or received by exchange. The thanks of the Society are due to the following for assisting in opening the Library: Mrs. E. Dickson, Mrs. M. Dixon, Miss Higson, Miss Hopcroft, Miss Leaman, Miss Leggatt, Mrs. Levy, Mrs. Milne, Miss Sheldon, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Hazeldine and Mr. Matthews.

Excursions

1977

- 23 June Day excursion to Hatfield House and Waltham Abbey. Led by J. A. Willett, Esq. Attendance 23.
- 30 June Evening excursion to Lockington and Wymeswold. Attendance 24.
- 7 July Day excursion to Christ Church, Oxford. Led by W. P. Widdowson, Esq. Attendance 30.
- 10 August Evening excursion to Monks Kirby and Brinklow. Led by A. S. Crane, Esq. Attendance 34.
- 27 August Half-day excursion to Sulgrave Manor, Canons Ashby and Green's Norton. Attendance 36.
- 21 September Half-day excursion to Marston Hall and Harlaxton Manor. Followed by the-end-of-season dinner. Attendance 34.

1978

- 14-16 April Week-end excursion to Durham. Visits to Jarrow, Monkswearmouth Beamish Industrial Museum and Bowes Museum. Led by D. L. Wykes, Esq. Attendance 36.

Melton Mowbray and District Branch

The Branch has had a successful year and the 1977 Summer Excursion Programme was generally well supported. However, the transferring of the meetings to Wednesday evenings, combined with the use of the Melton College of Further Education for lectures, resulted in a severe drop in attendance at lectures. The Melton Committee have therefore decided that future lectures will be held on Friday evenings and that the venue be transferred back to the Ferneley High School as in earlier years. It is hoped that this reversion will bring attendance at lectures back to the 1976-77 level of 50-60 persons at each lecture.

The following meetings of the Branch were held during the Winter:

1977

- 5 October *Great English Bibles*. W. Campbell, Esq.
- 2 November *Aerial Photography*. J. Pickering, Esq.
- 7 December *Christmas Meeting*.
- 1978
- 11 January *Members' Evening. Some Thoughts on the Synod of Whitby*. The Rev. M. T. H. Banks.
- 1 February *Traditional Building Materials*. Mrs. E. A. Bryan.

- 1 March *Medieval Sites near Melton Mowbray.* Mrs. S. Rutland.
5 April *Crime and the Landed Classes in England during the later Middle Ages.*
Dr. D. T. Williams.
3 May *Annual General Meeting.*

Excursions

The following excursions were arranged:

1977

- 25 May Eastwell and Eaton. Leader: G. M. P. King, Esq. Attendance 25.
18 June Wormleighton, Burton Dassett and Upton House. Leader: J. E.
Brownlow, Esq. Attendance 37.
6 July Thrumpton Hall. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. C. Bowes. Attendance 37.
28 July Spalding and District. Leader: H. L. Copson, Esq. Attendance 52.
13 August Heckington and Boston. Leader: K. C. Wright, Esq. Attendance 38.
8 September Nottingham Area. Leader: Miss G. M. White. Attendance 33.
28 September Annual Dinner, at Whissendine. Attendance 45.

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 1978

<i>Previous</i>			
<i>Year</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>£</i>
1,355		Subscriptions	2,051
30		Advertisements	—
193		Profit on Excursions	74
210		Sales of Literature	443
6		Investment Income	—
175		Interest on Bank Deposit Account	83
13		Sundry Income	23
13		Profit on Teas and Social Events	5
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1,995			2,679
<i>Year</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£</i>
1,580		Cost of Transactions Volume 51	1,670
25		Archæological Fieldwork Group	33
12		Historic Buildings Panel	13
87		Lecture Expenses	83
38		Library Purchases	47
64		Subscriptions to Other Societies	77
59		Insurance	61
574		Printing and Postage	887
10		Rent	10
19		Bank Charges	16
—		Sundry Expenses	30
—		Loss on Dinner	18
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			2,945
<u>£473</u>		Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	<u>£266</u>

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 1978

<i>Previous</i>			
<i>Year</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	
215		Deficit at 1st May 1977	(258)
		Add Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended	
473		30 April 1978	(266)
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<u>£(258)</u>		Deficit at 30 April 1978	<u>£(524)</u>

S. H. SKILLINGTON FUND
YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 1978

£1,588 Balance in hand at 1 May 1977 and 30 April 1978 £1,588

NOTE:

It has been decided by the committee that, having regard to the present financial position of the Society, the S. H. Skillington Fund should be frozen and that profits from the sale of literature should be credited to the General Account.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 APRIL 1978

Previous

Year £	Assets	£
1,508	Cash at Bank	1,393
132	Sundry Debtors	195
	Investments - £150 3½% Conversion Stock, market value £46 (£40)	—
37		—
1,677		1,588
	<i>Liabilities</i>	
20	Sundry Creditors	239
327	Subscriptions received in advance	285
		524
£1,330	<i>Net funds in hand at 30 April 1978</i>	£1,064
	The net funds are represented by:	
1,588	S. H. Skillington Fund	1,588
(258)	General Account Deficit	(524)
£1,330		£1,064

Report of the Honorary Auditor

In my opinion the Accounts set out on pages xiv to xv give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Leicestershire Archæological and Historical Society at 30 April 1978 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

Leicester, 24 October 1978

J. P. Ord, *Chartered Accountant*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF RESEARCH FUND
YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 1978

Previous

Year £	Income	£
73	Investment Income	119
110	Bank Deposit Interest	64
—	Profit on sale of Investment on Income account	38
183		221
	<i>Expenditure</i>	£
8	Bank Charges	8
£175	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	£213

RESEARCH FUND BALANCE SHEET
AT 30 APRIL 1978

<i>Assets</i>			
<i>Investments on Capital Account:</i>			
237	£1,029 3½% War Loan		—
75	£285 4% Consolidated Stock		—
	£463 7¼% Treasury Stock 1985/88		369
	Market value £388 (£393)		
<i>Investments on Income Account:</i>			
166	£721 3½% War Loan		—
—	£1,687 7¼% Treasury Stock 1985/88		1,342
	Market value £1,413 (£212)		
1,708	Cash at Bank		745
<u>£2,186</u>	<i>Net Research Funds in hand</i>		<u>£2,456</u>
	at 30 April 1978		
 <i>Previous</i>			
<i>Year</i> £	The Research Net Funds are represented by:	£	£
312	Capital Account at 1 May 1977	312	
—	Profit on sale of Investments on Capital Account	57	369
1,699	Income Account at 1 May 1977	1,874	
175	Add Surplus for the year	213	2,087
<u>£2,186</u>	Net Research Funds at 30 April 1978		<u>£2,456</u>

Report of the Honorary Auditor

In my opinion the above accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Leicestershire Archæological Research Fund at 30 April 1978 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

Leicester, 24 October 1978

J. P. Ord, *Chartered Accountant*

NOTE:

The Research Fund was established by a Trust Deed dated 1 November 1923 with the object of applying the income for such work of archæological or antiquarian research as the Trustees in their discretion think fit. The Trustees welcome suggestions for research projects.