

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1983-84

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

129th Annual Report 1983-84

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 24 November 1983, eleven General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

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- 13 October *The Local Record.* Heather Broughton, B.A., Dip. arch. Adm.
- 27 October *Early Railway Architecture.* Robert Hartley, Esq., B.A.
- 10 November *Northampton - a Middle Saxon Royal Centre.* John Williams, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
- 8 December *Simon de Montfort and his Leicestershire Adherents.* Daniel Williams, Esq., B.A., Ph.D., Hon Editor of *Transactions*.

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- 12 January *The Leicestershire Hosiery Trade, 1590's — 1700's.* David Wykes, Esq., B.Sc.
- 26 January *The Quick and the Dead — Evidence from Roman Cemeteries.* Alan McWhirr, Esq., B.Sc., M.A., F.S.A. Hon Secretary of the Society.
- 9 February *Recent Research in Leicestershire Archaeology.* Officers of Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Field Unit.
- 23 February *Making a Museum.* Sam Mullins, Esq., B.A., A.M.A.
- 8 March *Twenty Years of Architectural Change in Leicestershire.* Elizabeth Williamson, B.A.
- 22 March *Reports from the Field.* Members of fieldwork groups in the county.
- 12 April *People Pots and Bungalows* Phil Williams, Esq., B.Sc.

Meetings

As the above list indicates, a full and varied programme of lectures took place during the year, many being given by members of the Society. All were well attended, a tribute to Miss Jean Mellor who was acting as Lecture Secretary for the first time. A feature of our meetings continues to be the refreshments which are provided after the lectures, a task for which we have been indebted for many years to Mrs J. North and Mrs E.M. Dickson.

Committee and Officers

The President, Col. R.A. St. G. Martin, took the chair at the Annual General Meeting and we are grateful to him for his continued interest in the work and activities of the Society.

Mr G.A. Chinnery resigned as Chairman, having held the office since 1979, and Mr R.H. Evans was elected in his place, with Mr R.A. Rutland as Vice-Chairman. There were no changes in the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, Editor or Librarian; and Secretaries concerned with membership, minutes, newsletter and lectures continued to serve. During the year Miss K.M. Thompson resigned as Publicity Officer and was succeeded by Mr A.A. Huscroft. Mr C.L. Wykes tendered his resignation as a member of the committee after serving on it for 35 years.

Historic Buildings Panel

The Panel has continued to meet fortnightly. During the year it has been consulted over 215 proposals relating to Listed Buildings. These have required some 130 visits to sites and inspections of plans. As in the past, the District Councils of Blaby, Harborough and North-West Leicester, and Leicester City Council have been the chief source of these consultations.

A Public Enquiry was held in December over proposals concerning the Chapelk at Castle Donington Hall. The Society was represented by Mrs E. Bryan. It was the only society to be represented at the hearing.

During the year Mr R. Patterson, lecturer at the School of Architecture, Leicester Polytechnic, accepted an invitation to join the Panel. Otherwise the membership of the Panel itself has not changed. There has been, however, a sad loss with the death of Mr Joseph Alsop, who served for many year as the panel's correspondent in west Leicestershire.

Mr F.W. Matthews has generously donated the sum of £100 to support the work of the Panel, and part of this has been spent in the purchase of a set of Ordnance Survey maps of the county. The Panel is also grateful for the financial assistance it has continued to receive from Leicestershire County Council.

Transactions

Volume LVII edited by Dr D.T. Williams was distributed at the Annual General Meeting in November 1983. The attractive new format has been retained and the volume offers the excellent value, financial and academic, to which we have been accustomed. It contains six papers. They range in period from the middle ages to the twentieth century and in subject-matter from ecclesiastical buildings, furnishings and courts to civil war and elementary education. It also devotes some sixteen pages to archaeological matters, including a number of short notes that should prove of considerable use to archaeologists, not only in this county but beyond it.

Newsletter

Three issues of the Newsletter, appeared during the year. They have continued to provide an invaluable link and source of communication for members of the Society.

Library

The Library has been open regularly on the first and third Sundays and the second Tuesday of each month. Mr Aubrey Stevenson has been much helped in this by the efforts of a number of members who have volunteered their assistance. A stock-check was begun. It revealed a number of missing items, when completed, it will result in a more accurate and useful catalogue. Books and pamphlets have been added to the collection by donation and purchase. A number of enquiry letters have been dealt with.

Membership

The figures for membership are as follows.

Paid Members:—

Ordinary Membership.....	262
Libraries & Institutions.....	88
Associates & Students.....	48
Members who paid less than the full subscription in 1983/84.....	29
Honorary Life Members.....	2
Total.....	429

We record with regret the deaths of the following members during the past year:-

Mr G.A. Green
Mr F.A. Greenhill

Excursions

As the Committee has not yet succeeded in finding a volunteer to fill the important office of Excursions Secretary the programme has been limited to half-day excursions on Sundays. We are grateful to the Hon Secretary for organising them.

During May and June 1983 the following visits took place:-

1 May, Wistow Churchconducted by Hugh Collinson
15 May, St. Nicholas Church, LeicesterDavid Parsons
29 May, The Castle complex, LeicesterDaniel Williams
12 June, Town Hall Square, Leicester and its environsRichard Gill

Field-Work Group

Research activities were resumed at Cold Newton under the direction of Dr Vaughan Williams.