

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1979-80

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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

125th Annual Report 1979-80

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

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19 October *Getting away from it all — The Victorian Traveller.* W.H. Brock, Esq., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Civic Lecture sponsored by Messrs. Thomas Cook

2 November Annual General Meeting

16 November *Housing of the Rich and Poor in Victorian Leicester.* M.J. Elliott, Esq., B.A., M.Phil.

30 November *The Moulin-Quignon Jaw — a nineteenth century 'Piltown' Fraud.* P.J. Boylan, Esq., B.Sc.,
F.G.S., F.M.A., A.M.B.I.M.

14 December The Recruitment of Office-holders in Leicester, 1860-1930. Peter Jones, Esq., M.A.

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11 January *Aerial Archaeology in the East Midlands.* James Pickering Esq.

25 January *The Excavation of a Bronze Age Round Barrow at Sproxton, Leicestershire.* Patrick Clay, Esq.

8 February *Victorian Funerary Architecture.* James Curl, Esq., F.S.A., Dip-Arch.

22 February Progress Report. The Society's Fieldwork Group.

7 March *Robert Bakewell, the agricultural improver, and his Leicestershire Contemporaries — a Reappraisal.*
D.L. Wykes, Esq., B.Sc.

21 March *Excavation of the Roman Villa at Norfolk Street, Leicester.* Miss Jean Mellor

18 April *Witchcraft Mania in Seventeenth Century Leicestershire.* D.T. Williams, Esq., B.A., Ph.D.

2 May *An Exhibition of Roman Mosaic Drawings* by David Neal F.S.A.

Meetings

We were glad to welcome Colonel Martin as the new Honorary President of the Society. Colonel Martin expressed his pleasure in presiding over the Society and spoke of his personal interest in the history and archaeology of the county. Thanks were expressed to the retiring Chairman, Mr. Roger Keene, and to the retiring Secretary, Mr. David Wykes, for their enthusiastic work on behalf of the Society. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. J. Denney, presented the accounts noting that inflation had made an increase in the annual subscription inevitable.

The Thomas Cook lecture and exhibition had been a most successful start to the lecture programme for the season. The lectures were well attended throughout the year and afforded general satisfaction.

Committee and Officers

The Committee met seven times under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. Keene and Mr. G.A. Chinnery. The work of the retiring Secretary had been divided between a number of officers of the Committee. The general correspondence was dealt with by Mr. M.J. Elliott as Honorary General Secretary whilst Mr. G. Brandwood had taken charge of the newsletter as well as taking the minutes of meetings. Mr. W.A. North took in hand the work of Membership Secretary and Mr. R. Rutland undertook to organise the lecture programme. Mrs. I. Glen and Mr. R.H. Evans were elected members of the Committee.

The Committee was saddened by the death of Mr. W.P. Widdowson, our Excursions Secretary. We are grateful to Mr. J. Willett for his willingness to take on this work. Mr. J. Webster became Vice Chairman of the Committee. Mr. A. McWhirr continued to act as the Society's Press Officer.

Dr. Williams continues to edit the Society's Transactions, Volume 53 of which appeared in 1979, he is to be congratulated once again on the very high standard of the publication.

Membership

Paid Members: Ordinary Membership 372

Paid Members: Libraries and Institutions 60

Paid Associates and Students 57

Members who paid less than the full subscription in 1979/1980 18

Deaths

We record with regret the deaths of the following members during the past year: Mrs. V.E.I. Butt, Mrs. A.M. Herbert, Col. P.H. Lloyd, Mr. E.Pond, Mr. P.C. Shelbourne, Dr. S.E. Thomas.

In addition, the death of the Society's Excursions Secretary, Mr. W.F. Widdowson, whose valuable work on behalf of the Society is sadly missed.

Historic Buildings Panel

The Rev. O.S. Bennett continued to direct the work of the Panel. Increasing numbers of visits are made to enable the Panel to report on buildings under threat of alteration or demolition.

The Archaeological Fieldwork Group

Owing to the resignation of Mr. R.G. Mitchell the activities of the group have been somewhat restricted during this session; though work at Cold Newton has continued.

The Youth Group

The work of the Youth Group unfortunately ceased during the year owing to pressure of work upon the Youth Work Secretary, Mr. M. Moore.

The Library

Mr. D.H. Thompson continued to supervise the Society's Library and efforts were made to extend the opening times to the first Sunday in the month as well as the second Friday in each month. The thanks of the Society are due to all those who helped maintain this valuable service.

The Melton Branch

The year was marked by the withdrawal from the main Society of our Melton Branch. Whilst the Society regretted this decision, it was anxious to maintain close links with the new Melton Historical Society and wished it well.

Excursions

1979

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| 7/8 April | Weekend visit to Glastonbury led by Miss Herrington. |
| 26 May | Warwick and Leamington led by Mr. D. Wykes. |
| 9 June | Dyrham Park and North Cerney Church led by Mr. J. Willett. |
| 28 July | Northampton, Warmington and Fotheringhay led by Mr. D. Thompson. |