

THE
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1969 - 1970

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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J. A. Daniell, Esq., A.M.A.
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*

Representative on Society's Committee

The Reverend R. T. H. Pearce, A.K.C.

Representative on Lectures and Excursions Sub-Committee

J. A. Willett, Esq.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
115th ANNUAL REPORT 1969 - 1970**

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

1969

- 2 May Professor Jack Simmons, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.R.S.L.: *Destruction and Survival: the fate of buildings in Leicester, 1945 - 1969*. In the Bennett Building, University of Leicester.
- 25 September Annual General Meeting in the Guildhall.
Wine and Cheese Party.
- 23 October Professor A. C. Thomas, M.A., F.S.A.: *Who was King Arthur?* In the Guildhall.
- 21 November Dr. Levi Fox, O.B.E., D.L.: *The Stratford Jubilee of 1769*.

1970

- 23 January Professor C. N. L. Brooke, M.A., F.S.A.: *Launching King Arthur*.
Directed by A. D. McWhirr, M.A.; *Archæological Finds and Exhibits*.
- 12 March Professor A. M. Everitt, M.A., Ph.D.: *Exploring Market Towns*.
- 17 April R. J. B. Keene, Esq., Dip.Arch.(Leic.), A.R.I.B.A.: *Restorations of St. Martin's Leicester*.

Meetings were held in the Museum unless otherwise stated.

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the Society this year was held in the Guildhall and was followed by a Wine and Cheese Party, which seems to have become part of the Society's Annual Programme. The attendance at the Annual General Meeting seems to be dropping; it was hoped that the enticement of wine and cheese to follow might have increased the attendance, but this hope was to be disappointed. It will be a pity if the affairs of the Society cease to be of general concern. Lectures have been well supported.

Committee and Officers

The Committee met six times last year. This is one less than usual because the meeting scheduled for 4 March had to be abandoned because of a blizzard. Its membership now stands at twenty-five. Mrs. E. M. Dickson is Chairman of the Committee, but in order to ease her burden Mr. R. J. B. Keene has been appointed as Deputy Chairman. Mr. C. L. Wykes has been ill since the end of 1969, and unable to take his usual part in the Committee's activities. The Society wishes him a speedy recovery. Mr. J. A. Willett was elected to the Committee on 7 May, having, with his wife, been an active supporter of most of the Society's activities for some time. Mr. D. H. Smith was elected to the Committee on 22 October. Mr. Smith has done and continues to do much work

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for the Historic Building Advisory Panel. Mr. J. F. L. Norwood resigned from the Committee on 7 May before leaving the county for a new position in Winchester. The Society congratulates him on his new post but regrets that it will no longer have his valuable assistance. He has for some years done the "Archæological Notes" for *Transactions*.

Transactions

Volume XLIV (1968 - 1969) appeared on 30 April 1970. It is hoped that Volume XLV will not have quite such an over-due birth. Volume XLIV contained two papers originally read to the Society. Volume XLV will also contain Mr. R. J. B. Keene's paper on "Restorations of St. Martin's".

Membership

The total membership on 30 April 1970 was :

Ordinary Members	...	508
Honorary Members	...	1
Associate Members	...	74
Associated Societies	...	7
Student Members	...	26
Libraries & Museums	...	45
		<hr/>
		661

During the year 64 new members were elected, 56 resigned and 11 died.

The Society regrets to report the death of eleven members : Mr. R. A. Barnes, Mr. C. D. B. Ellis, Mr. C. H. Gee, Mr. H. H. Gimson, Mr. W. T. Herrick, Mr. J. Hill, Mrs. K. L. Simmons, Mr. J. W. Waudby, Miss M. V. Wilshere, Miss H. N. Whittaker, Miss V. Wykes.

Messrs. Barnes, Gee and Gimson, and Misses V. Wykes and M. V. Wilshere were members of long standing, and so was the President's mother, Mrs. K. L. Simmons, who until she became inactive was a most enthusiastic member of the Society. The death of the Emeritus President, C. D. B. Ellis, was a matter of great regret. Professor Jack Simmons spoke at the Annual General Meeting of his long and distinguished record as a local historian and of the work he had done for the Archaeological Society. A memoir will be printed in *Transactions*.

It is depressing to record for the first time in some years that the total membership of the Society has declined. It is true that three is only a small number, and that there has been an unusually high mortality, but there is no doubt that we can no longer postpone the increase on the Society's subscription in the hope that by attaining a higher goal of ordinary members, we can keep pace with the rising costs of both postage and the printing of notices for lectures and excursions, and, of course, of *Transactions*. Volume XLIV cost almost one hundred and sixty pounds more than the £500 set aside for it.

It will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting that the Society Subscription be increased to £2.

The revised list of members of the Society which was duplicated last year is still available, price 2s. 6d. (plus 4d. postage) from the Guildhall.

Historic Buildings

Last year we acclaimed the decision to restore 18 Highcross Street. This year we must record our disappointment that nothing has yet been done, and the building continues to languish. It will indeed be a great tragedy if, as a result of neglect and vandalism, we are to lose the building completely. The experience of Burleigh Fields House in Loughborough, for the preservation of which the Society felt bound to fight, is a sad and cautionary tale. It has been standing

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

empty for a very long time, enabling vandals to destroy much and eventually to cause a fire, which makes restoration a very hard task. Buildings of merit should not really be left empty for long without a caretaker. Happily the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have accepted the report of one of their Inspectors recommending that the building be retained and restored. The Society was represented at the inquiry in Loughborough about the fate of this building.

This last year has seen an enormous increase in the work of the Historic Building Advisory Panel. It has been called upon to write more than 80 reports of one sort or another, both for grants, alterations to scheduled buildings, and also applications to put the buildings on the County Definitive List. The architect members of the Society have had placed upon them an enormous burden, which they have shouldered willingly. A great deal of professional advice is given, voluntarily, to both the County and the City. Only those who deal with the reports can see exactly how much heavy work falls upon that small body of enthusiasts who tackle this burden. The Society legitimately considers that this is a work well worth doing. Attention in the forthcoming years will certainly be directed to the Conservation Areas and also to working in co-operation with the County Authorities in the plan for a Greater Leicester. It is encouraging that the County are most anxious to enlist the Society's help on these matters.

Library

For reasons of economy, we are not printing the usual list of library accessions this year. A copy may be inspected in the library at the Guildhall.

The number of items borrowed has shown a welcome increase during the year but the proportion of members using the library is still very small. Although the library is open for only four hours per week, books may usually be borrowed for lengthy periods unless, of course, they are required by another member.

Excursions 1969 - 70

Eleven excursions were arranged this year and were enjoyed by a large number of members and friends.

1. 15 May. Evening excursion to Skeffington Hall and church, and Tugby church. Leader : D. A. Blakesley. Attendance : 46.
2. 31 May. Half-day excursion. Oxfordshire churches of Bloxham, Adderbury and King's Sutton. Led by T. B. Davis. Attendance : 24.
3. 21 June. Whole-day excursion to Boston and the Marshland: Gedney, Walpole St. Peter, Terrington St. Clement. Tour of Boston. High tea at Grantham. Excursion led by Jack Simmons. Attendance : 18.
4. 3 July. Evening excursion. Kelmarsh Hall and church. Led by Alan Everitt. Attendance : 37.
5. 19 July. Shrewsbury : St. Mary's, St. Chad's and Abbey churches; Weston Park and Gardens. High tea in Lichfield. Led by James Crompton. Attendance : 27.
6. 7 August. Evening excursion. Langley Priory and Breedon church. Led by John Daniell. Attendance : 57.
7. 23 August. Church Langton Rectory, Thorpe Langton church. Tea in Market Harborough. Pleasure boat trip to Foxton Locks. Led by D. A. Blakesley and Philip Stevens. Attendance : 35.
8. 11 September. Stoke Dry and Stockerston churches. Led by Geoffrey Martin. Attendance : 18.
9. 20 September. Rockingham Castle, Corby church and New Town. Dinner at Oundle. Led by A. E. Grimbley. Attendance : 30.
10. 11 October. Cold Overton Hall and church. Led by Stafford Crane. Attendance : 45.

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11. 10/12 April. Week-end visit to Bristol: John Wesley's New Room, church of St. Mary Redcliffe; Wells Cathedral, Blaise Hamlet, Stourhead Gardens. Led by Winifred Herrington. Attendance : 28.

Thanks are due to all leaders of excursions who gave generously of their time. Donations from the Excursion Fund were given where appropriate to churches and buildings visited.

Melton Mowbray and District Branch

The following meetings of the Branch were held during the year in the Grove School :

1969

- 11 October James Crompton, Esq., M.A., B.Litt., F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A.: *The Lollard Bible*.
14 November Laurence Bond, Esq., F.S.A., L.R.I.B.A.: *From a Church Architect's Notebook*.
12 December Social Evening.

1970

- 9 January Members' Evening :
1. J. Naylor, Esq., B.Sc.(Econ.): *Early Cricket in Melton Mowbray*.
2. M. G. Thomas, Esq.: *Military Badges*.
13 February P. A. Stevens, Esq., M.A., F.M.A.: *The Old Union Canal*.
13 March R. Jeavons, Esq.: *Pre-Reformation Monastic Architecture*.
10 April J. E. Brownlow, Esq.: *Latimer and Melton Mowbray*.
1 May Annual General Meeting.

Excursions 1969 - 70

Six well-supported excursions were organised from Melton Mowbray :

1. 14 May. Evening excursion to Wymondham (private cars). Leaders : G. M. P. King and the Rev. R. T. H. Pearse. Attendance : 45.
2. 1 June. Whole-day excursion to Ludlow, Ironbridge, Stokesay. Leaders : H. L. Copson and K. C. Wright. Attendance : 35.
3. 28 June. Whole-day excursion to Alcester, Ragley Hall, Charlecote. Leaders : W. Bailes and J. Willett. Attendance : 30.
4. 10 July. Half-day excursion to Hardwick, Bolsover. Leader : W. Bailes. Attendance : 35.
5. 24 July. Evening excursion to Donington le Heath (private cars). Leader : J. E. Brownlow. Attendance : 30.
6. 21 August. Evening excursion to Ketton and Easton-on-the-Hill. Leader : H. L. Copson. Dinner at Whissendine. Attendance : 35.

Thanks are due to all excursion leaders for their hard work which contributed to such a successful summer programme.

The Melton Branch continues to flourish. Attendance at lectures was most gratifying.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30 April 1970

GENERAL ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions:						
Lincoln Record Society	5	10	0			
Council for British Archaeology						
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	2	2	0			
C.B.A. Group VI	1	1	0			
Leicestershire Trust for Nature Conservation	1	0	0			
Leicestershire Local History Society	2	2	0			
Midlands Federation of Museums and Art Galleries	10	0	0			
Provision for the net cost of printing and issue <i>Transactions</i> , Vol. XLV	600	0	0	12	5	0
Add Underprovision for Vol. XLIV, per contra	116	8	6			
Library Expenses, Binding and Honorarium				716	8	6
Lecturers' Expenses				109	11	6
Administrative Expenses:				33	18	6
Rent	10	0	0			
Fire Insurance	3	15	0			
Printing, Stationery and Postage	159	16	9			
Bank Charges	3	18	6			
Melton Mowbray Branch	28	4	8			
Sundries	10	1	0			
				215	15	11
Income tax to be repaid on covenanted subscriptions						
Income from Investments:						
Interest on £101 5s. 4d. Leicester Corporation 3% Mortgage Loan (gross)	3	0	10			
Interest on £150 3½% Conversion Stock 1961 (gross)	5	5	0			
Grant from Leicestershire Education Committee				8	5	10
Profit on wine and cheese party				25	0	0
Interest: Leicester Trustee Savings Bank	29	9	7			
Bank Deposit Account	6	19	8			
				36	9	3

	£	s.	d.
<i>Transactions</i> Vol. XLIV			
Cost of printing and issue, including binding	659	0	0
Less: Charges for bound copies	15	11	6
Advertisements	27	0	0
	42	11	6
Less: Provision made	616	8	6
Underprovision to contra	500	0	0
	£116	8	6

Excess of expenditure over income for the year	183	0	1
	£1,087	19	5

£1,087 19 5

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE OF FUNDS—30 APRIL 1970

LIBRARY FUND		£	s.	d.
Purchases of books	...	66	9	6
Balance at 30 April 1970	...	109	17	7
		£176	7	1
		170	10	7
		5	16	6
		£176	7	1
THE S. H. SKILLINGTON MEMORIAL FUND				
Postages and general expenses	...	16	1	0
Balance of Fund at 30 April 1970	...	954	2	7
		£970	3	7
		806	9	5
		163	14	2
		£970	3	7
EXCURSIONS ACCOUNT				
Printing, Postages and Bank Charges	...	42	15	6
Balance of Account at 30 April 1970	...	2	12	11
		£45	8	5
		8	16	4
		688	12	0
		651	19	11
		£45	8	5
		36	12	1
		£176	7	1

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET—30 April 1970

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Accumulated Funds						
Excursion Secretary's Account ...			2 12 11			
The S. H. Skillington Memorial Fund ...			954 2 7			
Library Fund ...			109 17 7			
General Account:						
Balance at 1 May 1969 ...			134 8 11			
Less excess of expenditure over income for the year ...			183 0 1			
			(48 11 2)			
			<u>1,018 1 11</u>			
Provision for the net cost of printing and issue of <i>Transactions</i>						
Vol. XLV ...			600 0 0			
Vol. XLIV ...			659 0 0			
			<u>1,259 0 0</u>			
Current Liabilities						
Sundry Creditors ...			123 3 8			
Melton Mowbray Branch ...			19 9			
Subscriptions paid in advance ...			164 19 6			
			<u>289 2 11</u>			
			<u>£2,566 4 10</u>			
Investments						
£101 5s. 4d. Leicester Corporation 3% Mortgage Loan (Value £101) ...			101 5 4			
£150 3½% Conversion Stock 1961 (Value £58) ...			121 4 9			
			<u>222 10 1</u>			
Current Assets						
Sundry Debtors ...			385 15 4			
Leicester Trustee Savings Bank ...			1,074 10 8			
Cash at bank: Current account ...			358 16 2			
Deposit account ...			506 19 8			
Excursion account ...			2 12 11			
Cash in hand ...			15 0 0			
			<u>2,343 14 9</u>			
			<u>£2,566 4 10</u>			

TRUSTEES OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

J. E. Brownlow, Esq.
 Michael A. Chamberlain, Esq., A.C.A.
 James Crompton, Esq., M.A., B.LITT., F.R.HIST.S., F.S.A.
 J. N. Pickard, Esq., J.P.
 J. R. Webster, Esq.
 C. L. Wykes, Esq., F.C.A.

REPORT OF THE HONORARY AUDITOR

In my opinion the accounts set out on pages xiv to xvi give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The Leicestershire Archæological and Historical Society at 30 April 1970, and its results for the year ended on that date.

Leicester

G. L. ASPELL, *Chartered Accountant*

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCH FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30 April 1970**

	£	s.	d.
Fees for courses :			
Archæology in Leicestershire	45	0	0
Net income for the year	69	4	4
	£114	4	4
Income from investments—gross			
Interest on £1,750 3½% War Loan	61	5	0
Interest on £284 19s. 9d. 4% Consols	11	7	10
	72	12	10
Interest on Bank Deposit Account	41	11	6
	£114	4	4

BALANCE SHEET—30 April 1970

Capital Account				
Balance at 30 April 1970	1,314	19	4	
Income Account				
Balance at 1 May 1969	1,616	14	9	
Add net income for the year	69	4	4	
	1,685	19	1	
Due to the Leicestershire Archæological and Historical Society	39	6	1	
	1,725	5	2	
	£3,040	4	6	
Investments on Capital Account				
£1,029 4s. 8d. 3½% War Loan				
(Value £386)	1,064	19	4	
£284 19s. 9d. 4% Consolidated Stock				
(Value £125)	250	0	0	
	1,314	19	4	
Investment on Income Account				
£720 15s. 4d. 3½% War Loan				
(Value £270)	752	9	1	
Balance at Bank : Deposit account	888	1	10	
Current account	84	14	3	
	1,725	5	2	
	£3,040	4	6	

TRUSTEES OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCH FUND

The Reverend O. S. Bennett, B.A.
 Michael A. Chamberlain, Esq., A.C.A.
 James Crompton, Esq., M.A., B.Litt., F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A.
 Miss M. P. Rippin, B.A.
 Professor J. Simmons, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.R.S.I.
 C. L. Wykes, Esq., F.C.A.

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 1970, and its results for the year ended on that date.

G. L. ASPELL, Chartered Accountant
 Leicester