

**THE
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1971-72**

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LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Representatives on Other Bodies

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Committee

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The Hon. Treasurer
The Hon. Editor (*Minutes Secretary*)
The Hon. Librarian
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Miss W. A. G. Herrington
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THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

117th ANNUAL REPORT 1971-1972

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

1971

- 7 May M. V. J. Seaborne, Esq., M.A. *A Century of Compulsory Education.*
7 October Annual General Meeting in the Guildhall. Mrs. F. E. Skillington.
Sir John Beaumont of Grace Dieu 1583-1627.
29 October James Crompton, M.A., B.Litt., F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A. *Romanesque Architecture.*
26 November J. B. Whitwell, Esq., M.A. *The Coritani in Roman Britain.*
17 December D. T. Williams, Esq., B.A., Ph.D. *Richard III and Bosworth Field.*

1972

- 7 January R. H. Evans, Esq., M.A., J.P. *The Biggs Family of Leicester.*
4 February *The Preservation of Buildings: a National and a Local Problem.*
Introductory talk by Donald Insall, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., followed by
Civic Trust Film: *The Future of the Past.* In the Art Gallery.
7 April *Archaeological Finds. Members' Evening.* Organised by A. D. McWhirr, Esq., M.A., F.S.A. In the Guildhall.

Meetings were held in the Museum unless otherwise stated.

Meetings

The *Annual General Meeting* of the Society was held again in the Guildhall, and was followed by a delightful lecture by Mrs. F. E. Skillington on the poet, Sir John Beaumont of Grace Dieu. Forty members were present, slightly more than at the corresponding meeting in the previous year, but still disappointing as a token of interest in the affairs of the Society. The Annual Accounts were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. A. Chamberlain, who was less gloomy in his account of the financial prospects of the Society than in the previous year, but he still urged caution over the Society's finances, since the cost of *Transactions* would continue to rise. The raising of the subscription did not, fortunately, appear at that stage to have resulted in any serious diminution in the Society's membership. Discussion took place about what could be done to make the *Annual General Meeting* a better-attended occasion, but no very conclusive suggestions emerged.

One lecture meeting arranged for Friday, 3 March had had to be cancelled owing to the power-cuts. Dr. A. J. Taylor would give the lecture during the forthcoming session. Professor Alan Everitt was also unable, because of illness, to give his lecture on Friday, 29 October, but at short notice the Hon. Editor filled the breach. Professor Everitt has also promised to deliver his paper during the next session.

Committee and Officers

The Committee met seven times last year. Mrs. E. M. Dickson and Mr. R. J. B. Keene continue as Chairman and Deputy-Chairman. Miss Herrington, in addition to all the work she already does for the Society, has taken on the task of preparing the Index for *Transactions*. Mr. A. D. McWhirr has taken on the responsibility for

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

dealing with Offprints of articles in *Transactions*. Mr. A. E. Grimbley, after many years of service to the Committee, resigned in September, and his place has been filled by Mr. N. S. Angus, another Melton member. Mrs. R. E. W. Dalby gave advance notice that she would relinquish the post of Assistant Secretary on 30 June 1972, thoughtfully allowing the Committee lots of time to consider what should be done about appointing a successor. She has for many years rendered valuable service to the Society, and not least to the Library.

The Society would like to offer its congratulations to Mr. J. E. Brownlow on his elevation to aldermanic status on the County Council.

Transactions

Volume 45 (1969-1970) appeared in July 1971. It is hoped that Volume 46 (1970-1971) will be in Members' hands before this Report will have been circulated.

Membership

The total membership on 30 April 1972 was:

Ordinary Members	...	536
Honorary Members	...	1
Associate Members	...	83
Associate Societies	...	7
Student Members	...	30
Libraries & Museums	...	44
		<hr/>
		701

During the year 58 new members were elected, 35 resigned and 7 died. It is gratifying that despite the increase in subscription the Society's membership is, in fact, higher than it was a year ago.

The Society reports with regret the deaths of: Mrs. D. Atkins, Mr. W. Corah, Mrs. N. Daykin, Mr. L. S. Dewey, Mrs. D. Hirst, Mr. T. A. J. Webster, Mrs. E. M. Attenburrow (Associate).

Historic Buildings

Progress is at last being made over the restoration of 18, Highcross Street. It will stand for posterity as a noble historic building, and as a tribute to the determination of those who fought to preserve it, as well as to the generosity of the City Council in making substantial funds available to restore it. It is to be hoped that there will be an equally satisfactory result in the now bitter controversy over the Sun Alliance Building. Although the building was listed by the Department of the Environment, that does not mean the end of the threat to it. The question of the preservation of other Victorian buildings continues to exercise the Society. The rather fine *art nouveau* Wholesale Fruit Market in Halford Street is in danger of being lost. Much in the centre of Leicester, it would appear, is to be given over to the creation of multi-storey car parks. It is quite clear that the Society, and other like-minded bodies, as well as members of the public will have to keep a vigilant eye on developments in the city centre if much of historic interest is to survive in the next decade. It is gratifying amidst this woeful tale to report the planned restoration of the windows in the County Assembly Rooms to their former state.

A wide-ranging discussion on the question of historic buildings in the City and the County took place at the Judges' Lodgings on Saturday, 29 January when Lord Sandford, of the Department of the Environment, visited Leicester. The Honorary Editor took part in these discussions, from which emerged the obvious need for closer liaison between the various bodies in the City and County who were interested in historic buildings, as well as with the City and County Planning Officers.

117th ANNUAL REPORT. 1971-72

The Historic Buildings Advisory Panel continues to absorb much of the work of the Society, and more and more has fallen on fewer helpers during the last year. The Society provides freely both City and County with much professional information about buildings. The time has clearly come for a reorganisation of this side of the Society's activities, and it will be necessary to create another Honorary Secretary (Buildings) to take the burden from the shoulders of the other Secretaries.

Library

A copy of library accessions for the year may be inspected in the Library at the Guildhall. Members are reminded that the Library is open regularly each week: Hours: 1 October to 20 April, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; 1 May to 30 September, Friday 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Mr. D. H. Thompson has taken over with vigour the rôle of Mr. F. S. Cheney in keeping watch over the Library.

Excursions 1971-72

Ten excursions were arranged this year, and, as usual, were enjoyed by members and friends.

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| 6 May | Evening excursion to Neville Holt and Medbourne Manor. Led by D. A. Blakesley. Attendance: 60. |
| 29 May | Half-day excursion. Hinwick House and Higham Ferrers. Led by Alan Everitt. Attendance: 38. |
| 10 June | Evening excursion to the Lunt Fort, Baginton. Leader from Coventry failed to appear. Attendance: 25. |
| 19 June | Whole-day excursion to Bury St. Edmunds and Ickworth. Led by James Crompton. Attendance: 27. |
| 3 July | Half-day excursion to Southwick Hall and Church, guided by the owner (the Hon. Mrs. Capron). Attendance: 31. |
| 22 July | Whole-day excursion to Dorchester, Henley and Mapledurham House. Led by James Crompton. Attendance: 43. |
| 5 August | Afternoon excursion to Melton Mowbray Hunting Lodges. Led by J. E. Brownlow. Attendance: 25. |
| 18 September | Half-day excursion to Woolsthorpe Manor, Colsterworth, and Grantham. Led by A. E. Grimbley. Dinner at Grantham. Attendance: 43. |
| 22 October | Evening excursion. Melton Pageant. Attendance: 30. |

1972

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| 19/21 March | Week-end excursion to Norwich and Norfolk villages. Led by Winifred Herrington. Attendance: 33. |
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Thanks are due to all leaders of excursions who gave generously of their time. Donations from the Excursions 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.

1971

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| 13 May | <i>Annual General Meeting.</i> |
| 8 October | David Taylor, Esq.: <i>Local Heraldry.</i> |

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

12 November Miss D. Salmon: *Monumental Brasses.*

10 December Social Evening.

1972

14 January *Members' Evening.*

11 February G. A. Chinnery, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.: *Documents as Historical Sources.*

10 March i) H. L. Copson, Esq.: *The History and Development of Boots Chemists* ii) M. Thomas Esq.: *Welsh Castles.*

14 April T. Farmer, Esq.: *The Repair of Ancient Documents.*

Excursions 1971-72

1. 12 May Evening excursion to Stathern. Led by Messrs. F. Truman and G. King. Attendance: 30.

2. 20 May Whole-day excursion to London. Led by K. C. Wright, Esq. Attendance: 35.

3. 3 June Afternoon trip to Barnack, Wittering and Caistor. Led by H. L. Copson, Esq. Attendance: 35.

4. 10 July Whole-day excursion to Sudbury, Tutbury and Lichfield. Led by Messrs. W. H. Bailes and J. Willett. Attendance: 40.

5. 14 August Evening excursion to Earls Barton and Castle Ashby. Led by A. E. Grimbley, Esq. Attendance: 40.

6. 8 September Evening excursion to Normanton. Annual Dinner at Mill House, Oakham. Led by H. L. Copson, Esq.

Thanks are due to all those who led excursions for the work which contributes so much to the success of an excursion programme. It is gratifying that the Melton Branch flourishes as well as ever, with good attendances at both lectures and excursions.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30 April 1972

GENERAL ACCOUNT

	£	£	£
Subscriptions	12		915
Provision for the net cost of printing and issue of <i>Transactions</i> Vol. XLVII	700		8
Library expenses, binding and honorarium	112		
Lecturers' expenses	19		25
Administrative expenses:			
Rent	10		20
Fire insurance	4		
Printing, stationery and postage	162		39
Bank charges	8		18
Melton Mowbray Branch	36		
Sundries	4		17
	224		
			£1,067
Subscriptions and income tax repayable on covenanted subscriptions			
Income from investments			
Grants from: Leicestershire County Council		25	
Leicester Corporation		25	
Ministry of Public Buildings and Works		20	
Interest: Leicester Trustee Savings Bank		39	
Bank deposit account		18	
Excess of expenditure over income for the year			£1,067

Balance (deficit) at 1 May 1971	200		314
Excess of expenditure over income for the year ended 30 April 1972	17		
Underprovision for cost of <i>Transactions</i> Vol. XLV	97		
			£314
Balance (deficit) at 30 April 1972			314
<i>Transactions</i> Vol. XLV			
Cost of printing and issue, including binding		756	
Less: charges for bound copies		8	
advertisements		50	
		697	
Less provision made		600	
Underprovision included in 1971/72 accounts		£97	
		£314	£314

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE OF FUNDS—30 April 1972

LIBRARY FUND

Purchases of books	£				
Balance at 30 April 1972	16				58
	42				
	<u>£58</u>				<u>£58</u>

THE S. H. SKILLINGTON MEMORIAL FUND

Postages and general expenses	6				
Cost of off-prints	328				1,044
Balance of Fund at 30 April 1972	958				248
	<u>£1,292</u>				<u>£1,292</u>

EXCURSIONS ACCOUNT

Printing, postages and bank charges	43				
Balance of account at 30 April 1972	86				54
	853				853
	<u>778</u>				<u>75</u>
	<u>£129</u>				<u>£129</u>

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET—30 April 1972

	£	£	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Excursion Secretary's Account	86			
The S. H. Skillington Memorial Fund	958			
Library Fund	42			
Less General Account	314			
	772			
PROVISION FOR THE NET COST OF TRANSACTIONS				
Volumes XLVI and XLVII	1,300			
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry creditors	22			
Subscriptions paid in advance	237			
	259			
				£2,331
INVESTMENTS				
£101 Leicester Corporation 3% Mortgage Loan			101	
£150 3½% Conversion Stock			121	
			222	
CURRENT ASSETS				
Sundry Debtors			416	
Leicester Trustee Savings Bank			1,140	
Cash at bank			451	
Cash in hand			15	
Balance of Melton Mowbray account			1	
Balance of Excursion account			86	
			2,109	
				£2,331

TRUSTEES OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alderman J E Brownlow
Michael A Chamberlain, Esq, ACA
James Crompton, Esq, MA, B LITT, F R HIST S, FSA
J N Pickard, Esq, JP
J R Webster, Esq
C L Wykes, Esq, FCA

REPORT OF THE HONORARY AUDITOR

In my opinion the accounts set out on pages xiii to xv give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society at 30 April 1972, 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 1972**

	£	£
Fees for courses : Archæology Research	26	
Net income for the year	84	61
		12
		73
		37
	<u>£110</u>	<u>£110</u>

Income from investments—gross
Interest on £1,750 3½% War loan.. .. .
Interest on £285 4% Consols
Interest on bank deposit account

BALANCE SHEET—30 April 1972

Capital Account		
Balance at 30 April 1972	1,315	
Income Account		
Balance at 1 May 1971	1,792	1,065
Add net income for the year	84	250
	<u>1,876</u>	<u>1,315</u>
Due to The Leicestershire Archæological and Historical Society	86	1,962
	<u>£3,277</u>	<u>£3,277</u>

Investment on Capital Account
£1,029 3¼% War loan
£285 4% Consolidated stock
Investments on Income Account
£721 3¼% War loan
Balance at bank : Deposit account
Current account

**TRUSTEES OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
RESEARCH FUND**

The Reverend O S Bennett, BA
Michael A Chamberlain, Esq, ACA
James Crompton, Esq, MA, B LITT, F R HIST S, FSA
Miss M P Rippin, BA
Professor J Simmons, MA, F R HIST S, FRSL
C L Wykes, Esq, FCA

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 1972, and its results for the year ended on that date.

G L ASPELL, Chartered Accountant
Leicester