

# The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1985-86

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# The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 131st Annual Report 1985-86

*In addition to the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 21 November 1985, and a Special Meeting on 10 April 1986 eleven General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:*

1985

- 10 October *The Leicestershire Community and the Battle of Bosworth Field.* D.T. Williams, B.A., Ph.D., Department of History, Leicester University.
- 24 October *The Dissolution of the Monasteries.* Professor J.J. Scarisbrick, M.A., Ph.D., Warwick University.
- 7 November *Aerial Archaeology in Leicestershire.* James Pickering and Robert F. Hartley.
- 5 December *All in a day's work: techniques of fresco painting.* Theodore Sturge, Assistant Keeper, Conservation, Leicestershire Museums.

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- 9 January *Power and Authority in Leicester, 1820-1870.* Kate Thompson, M.A., County Archivist, Leicestershire Museums.
- 23 January *Leicestershire in Domesday Book.* G.H. Martin, M.A., D.Phil., Keeper of Public Records.
- 6 February *Lindow Man: an ancient body from a Cheshire bog.* I.M. Stead, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum.
- 20 February *New light on the early mesolithic-excavations at Seamer Carr, North Yorkshire.* R.T. Schadla-Hall, M.A., A.M.A., Deputy Director, Leicestershire Museums.
- 6 March *Flag Fen and other sites near Peterborough.* Francis Pryor, Fenland Archaeological Associates.
- 27 March *The Building of St. James the Greater, Leicester, 1880-1914.* A.D. McWhirr, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., Leicester Polytechnic.
- 10 April *Churches and Conservation.* John F. Smith, Curator, Stamford and Grantham Museums.

### COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

We should like to draw the attention of members to some of the matters that have occupied your committee and officers in the past year:-

(i) *The Rules of the Society*: these were last revised in 1951 and 1960, and it seemed that the time had come to bring them up-to-date. After much discussion a draft has been produced. This has now been submitted to the Charity Commissioners for their observations. When these have been received the final draft will be submitted to members. It is hoped that it will be possible to do this at the next A.G.M.

(ii) *The Research Fund*: this fund is not directly administered by your committee but is in the hands of a body of Trustees appointed by the Society. As, however, in the course of the year a number of vacancies occurred among the Trustees, it fell to your committee to organise the filling of these places. Accordingly a Special Meeting of the Society was held on 10 April immediately before a lecture and five new Trustees were elected. It is hoped that the management will benefit from this injection of new blood.

(iii) *Publicity*: in addition to its routine efforts to ensure that the activities of the Society receive proper public recognition, your committee adopted three further measures to that end. It took a stall at the East Midlands History Fair which took place at the Leicester Museum of Technology on 17 and 18 May and turned out to be a well-attended event. It also took a stall at the Vaughan College Open Day which was held in September. Further, it designed the opening lecture of the season to have something of the character of the Civic Lectures of the past. In the economic conditions of the time it was not possible to obtain sponsorship, but we were fortunate enough to enjoy the honour of the presence of our President and of the Lord Mayor of the City of Leicester.

(iv) *Excursions*: for some time it has been the committee's hope to revive a full programme of excursions. Encouraged by the success of the previous year's expedition to Windsor and fortunate in being able to draw on the energy and experience of Mr L.A.B. Lowe it decided to mount the first full programme to be offered for several years. However, it must be recognised that the excursions did not attract the support that their quality and conduct merited. Another full programme will probably be offered next season, but the committee may well be forced to conclude that the demand from members for such a service is no longer sufficient to justify the risk and effort.

(v) *Newsletter*: this has been one of the most important introductions of recent years and has become a valued means of communicating with members. Mrs K.E. Gowland has taken over the editorship from Dr Brandwood and we are grateful to her for bringing out the last two issues. Perhaps members might be reminded that communication need not be a one-way process: the Newsletter is also capable of providing a forum for the exchange of member's views.

Changes among the Officers and Committee Members are as follows:

Resigned: Dr G. Brandwood, committee member; Mr M. Elliot, minutes secretary and committee member; Mr A. Huscroft, publicity officer and committee member; Mrs S. Steele, lecture secretary and committee member.

Appointed: Mr G. Clark Monks, membership secretary; Mr D.C. Edwards, minutes secretary; Mrs K. Gowland, newsletter editor; Mr L.A.B. Lowe, excursions secretary and committee member; Mr T. Pearce, Mr D. Wykes, lecture secretaries.

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS PANEL

The business of the Panel has remained at a high level, with more than 250 planning applications considered and some 180 visits made to inspect sites and examine plans. We are grateful to Leicestershire County Council for its continued support.

### LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr D.T. Williams has been appointed the Society's representative on this body.

### LIBRARY

The collection has been enhanced by purchases and various donations; and the kindness of members resulted in gaps in the permanent file of the Society's Newsletter being filled. A national questionnaire on libraries of archaeological societies was completed and a request from a student for a paid position as a library assistant was turned down.

Another successful open evening was held following the A.G.M., but regular use has not been as great as might

be expected considering the continual acquisition of new material and the regular opening hours. Grateful thanks must again be extended to voluntary helpers.

#### *MEMBERSHIP*

The figures for membership are as follows:

Ordinary Members .....	275
Libraries and Institutions .....	95
Associates and Students .....	48
Members who paid less than the full amount .....	20
Honorary Life Members .....	<u>1</u>
Total .....	439

#### *TRANSACTIONS*

Volume LIX was distributed at the Annual General Meeting in November. It was the first volume to break with our customary system of dating and as a transitional measure it was dated 1984-5. Volume LX will be dated 1986, the year of actual publication.

#### *TRUSTEES OF THE RESEARCH FUND*

Mr C.L. Wykes has died, the following have resigned; Rev. O.S. Bennett, Professor J.V.S. Megaw, Professor J. Simmons, Mr D. Tomkins. The following were elected on 10 April 1986; Dr P.J. Boylan, Dr G.K. Brandwood, Dr A.D. McWhirr, Dr M. Palmer, Dr D.T. Williams.

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