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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

135th Annual Report 1989-90

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 22 November 1990, twelve General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

1989

- 13 October *Archaeological Excavations on the Shires Development Site, Leicester*
Richard Buckley, B.A., and John Lucas, Leicestershire
Archaeological Unit
- 27 October *'A good prospect' : Leicester in the early eighteenth century*
D.L. Wykes, B.Sc., Ph.D., Hon. Joint Lecture Secretary
- 10 November *A landscape with Coalmines : Recent Work in Coleorton Parish,
Leicestershire*
R.F. Hartley, B.A., Assistant Survey Officer, Leicestershire
Museums
- 8 December *Some Favourite Museums of the World*
Patrick Boylan, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., F.M.A., M.B.I.M.,
Director of the Leicestershire Museums, Centenary President of
the Museums Association
- 1990
- 12 January *The Industrial Archaeology of Water Power in the East Midlands*
P.A. Neaverson
- 26 January *Brickmaking in Leicestershire*
A.D. McWhirr, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.,
Hon. Secretary
- 9 February *Public Sociability in Early Modern England*
Professor Peter Clark, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., Director of the
Leicester Urban History Centre.
- 23 February *Recent Excavations in London*
Harvey Sheldon, F.S.A., Director of the Museum of London
Archaeological Unit
- 9 March **W. ALAN NORTH MEMORIAL LECTURE**
Roman Carthage
Henry R. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A., Museum of Classical Archaeology,
Cambridge

- 23 March *Leicestershire Woodland through a Thousand Years*
A.E. Squires
- 6 April *Joseph Merrick, Leicester's 'Elephant Man'*
Kate M. Thompson, M.A., Ph.D., D.A.A., M.B.I.M.,
County Archivist
- 27 April *The Goddards of Leicester: an Architectural Dynasty*
G. Brandwood, M.A., Ph.D., and Martin Cherry, B.A., Ph.D.

President

The President of the Society, Sir Andrew Martin, took the chair at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman of Committee thanked Sir Andrew for his continued support, which was a great encouragement to members.

Committee

Seven meetings have been held this year with an average attendance of twelve. The Committee has accepted with regret the resignations of three of its members. Patrick Boylan, Director of the Leicestershire Museums, has resigned on taking up a new appointment in London: he has been a good friend and powerful ally of the Society and will be much missed. Dennys Edwards, who has served in recent years as Minutes Secretary, brought to the Committee the weight of his long experience in the affairs of Vaughan College. For some time ill-health has enforced his absence from our meetings, but we expected and hoped for his return. However he has now been forced to accept that he will not be fit enough to serve us in the foreseeable future. In accepting his resignation the Committee is confident that it speaks with the voice of the Society as a whole in expressing our thanks for his services and hopes for the recovery of his health. Kate Thompson, County Archivist and long-serving Committee member, who has been appointed County Archivist for Hertfordshire, is also a member with a special expertise to contribute, whose energy and commitment have been demonstrated in numerous ways, not least by her efforts on behalf of the East Midlands History Fair. She surely takes with her the Society's thanks for her services and good wishes in her new appointment.

Transactions

As reported to the last A.G.M., on the resignation of Dr Williams after his long and dedicated service as Editor, the preparation of Volume LXIV has been committed to an Editorial Board of five, with Mr. David Parsons as Convener. Conscious of the status of *Transactions* as the flagship of our enterprise, and aware that by its quality the standing of the Society with informed opinion is largely determined, the Board has put in a considerable effort to secure high quality at an affordable price. By their successful production of Volume LXIV the members of the panel and David Parsons in particular, on whom ultimate responsibility has lain, have deserved the Society's warmest thanks. It is our good fortune that in this publication we are again indebted to Leicestershire County Council for their continued support, a fact that will be found appropriately recorded in the volume itself.

Lectures

The last A.G.M. was informed that, by way of experiment, Friday had been adopted as the usual day for lectures in an attempt to discover whether this would be more convenient to members than Thursday. Now, before it has been possible to draw any conclusions from this change, it has to be reported that we have had to return to Thursday, as this is the only convenient day on which a meeting-room is available. In reviewing the past season's lectures we should note that no less than three of them were deemed to be of such wide appeal as to merit the use of the Art Gallery and that the W. Alan North Memorial Lecture has already established itself as an outstanding event in our calendar. If we look to the season 1990-91, we must be encouraged by the sponsorship that the first lecture has received from Leicester City Council. We are most grateful for that support; and we should like to think that the event might provide a precedent for similar cooperation in the future.

Research Fund

A grant has been made to Dr Martin Cherry for research into the Goddard family of architects. It is particularly pleasing to report the results of this research. The Society sponsored the lecture given by Dr Cherry and Dr Geoffrey Brandwood which saw the official launch of their book, *Men of Property*, and the opening of the Goddard exhibition sponsored by the Leicestershire Museums on 27 April 1990.

Events

The Society was represented by a stall at the following events: Snibston Heritage Centre Open Day, 3 June 1990 East Midlands History Fair, Crich, 30 June - 1 July 1990 Leicestershire Museums' Open Day, 'Bringing the Past to Life', 1 September 1990

Historic Buildings Panel

The Panel has met 24 times in the year, considered 449 planning applications and arranged 232 visits to sites. We are grateful to members of the Panel for the time and energy they devote to these duties. They also incur expenses and we are also grateful to the financial contribution which Leicestershire County Council makes towards meeting part of them.

Library and Newsletter

Members attending this A.G.M. were given an opportunity at the end of the business to sample what the Society's Library has to offer; and the Committee wishes to express its appreciation of Mr Aubrey Stevenson's efforts in mounting the display. Members are reminded that information about book acquisitions and other Library matters is regularly made available in the *Newsletter*, which in this as in so many other matters remains, under Mrs. Kay Gowland's editorship, a valuable means of communication with and between members.

Membership

Mr Geoffrey Clark Monks reported that numbers had remained stable, with the same total as for 1988-89, but that this stability might turn out to be illusory as some of those still on the list have not yet come to terms with the new subscription rates.