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The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society

138th Annual Report 1992-93

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 26 November 1993 at the Jewry Wall Museum, nine General Meetings of the Society were held at which the following papers were read:

1992

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|---------------------------|---|
| Thursday 15th
October | <i>The Empingham excavations revisited</i>
N.J.Cooper, B.Sc.,
Research Assistant, School of Archaeological Studies,
University of Leicester |
| Thursday 29th
October | <i>New Light on the Quakers in Leicestershire</i>
R. H. Evans, M.A., F.S.A., J.P.,
Chairman of the Committee |
| Thursday 12th
November | <i>Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire</i>
Peter Liddle, Esq., B.Sc.
Archaeological Survey Officer, Leicestershire Museums,
Arts and Records Services |
| Thursday 10th
December | <i>Leicestershire and W. G. Hoskins</i>
Roy Millward, M.A. |
| 1993 | |
| Saturday 6th
February | <i>Leicestershire Archaeology in 1992</i>
The Archaeological Staff of the Leicestershire Museums and
others |
| Thursday 11th
February | <i>The Neolithic Site at Lismore Fields, Buxton</i>
Darryl Garton, B.A.,
Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust |
| Thursday 25th
February | <i>The Anglo-Saxon Royal Soke of Rothley</i>
Jill Bourne, M.A.,
Assistant Keeper, Museum Education (History & Archaeology),
Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Services |
| Thursday 11th
March | THE W. ALAN NORTH MEMORIAL LECTURE
<i>The Romanization of Celtic Religion in Gaul and Britain</i>
A. C. King, B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.,
Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, King Alfred's College, Winchester |
| Thursday 25th
March | <i>John Birnie Philip: a forgotten Victorian sculptor in Leicester.</i>
<i>Public patronage and private practice</i>
Susan Tebby, B.A., Ph.D.,
Department of Fine Art, De Montfort University |

Annual General Meeting

The President of the Society, Sir Andrew Martin, took the chair at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the County Record Office by courtesy of the County Archivist, Mr C. W. Harrison. After the meeting members were given a guided tour of the building: we are grateful to the Record Office staff who gave their time on this occasion.

President of the Society

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the deaths of Sir Andrew Martin (which occurred only a few days after he had presided over our Annual General Meeting) and Mr. Allen Chinnery, a long-serving member and chairman of the Committee and latterly a Vice-president of the Society. Appreciations and obituaries will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Officers and Committee

Seven meetings of the Committee have been held, with an average attendance of twelve. There have been no changes in the Committee's membership, but Mrs Sybil Rutland has taken the place of Mr R. F. Hartley as one of the Hon. Lecture Secretaries.

Transactions

Volume 67 (1993) did not achieve the exceptional length of the previous issue. We are happy to acknowledge the contribution that has been made by Leicestershire County Council towards the cost of publishing this volume. It has long been clear that Transactions cannot attain its fullest use to scholars while it lacks an adequate index. Your Committee has therefore not only decided in principle that a modern, professional index must be undertaken but set the operation in motion. As members may be aware, an appeal has been launched and this has already raised sufficient funds to enable a professional indexer to be engaged and a start to be made. It should be added, however, that the appeal is still open and more funds are still required if the operation is to be completed.

Activities

Neither of the excursions proposed this year attracted sufficient support to make them viable, but in February a successful day school of archaeology was held at the New Walk Museum and the Society was well represented at the Bringing the Past to Life event which was held at the Jewry Wall Museum in August.

The Historic Buildings Panel has continued to meet fortnightly and in the course of the year has considered some 400 planning applications. We are grateful to Mr. Roger Keene and his office for their continued secretarial support.

The Guildhall, Leicester

The second phase in the restoration of the Guildhall was completed in June 1993. In consequence the Jury room was again available for meetings of your Committee and

the Society's Library was re-opened for the use of members. This return to normality is obviously to be welcomed; but it opens the way to new concerns. Leicester City Council has far-reaching plans to develop the building as a Visitor/Interpretative Centre. These will involve not only new styles of exposition but building works to create a reception area and refreshment facilities. The proposals may raise issues of conservation and historical propriety as well as problems related to the security of the Society's possessions. However, your Committee takes comfort from the understanding shown by the Council's Arts Adviser, Mr. Peter Bryan, and from the Council's recognition of the special interest the Society has had in the Guildhall ever since it was instrumental in securing its preservation after the first World War.

Local Government Review

Members will be aware through the Newsletter of your Committee's concern at the possible impact that changes in local government might have on institutions of special interest to us, particularly the County Record Office and the Museums Service (which includes all the provision for archaeology). A submission has already been made to the Commission and another will follow when its proposals have been made available for study.