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The ‘Leicestershire Historian’, which is published annually is the magazine of the Leicestershire Local History Council, and is distributed free to members. The Council exists to bring local history to the doorstep of all interested people in Leicester and Leicestershire, to act as a co-ordinating body between the various existing Societies and to promote the advancement of local history studies. It arranges talks and discussions, encourages the pursuit of active research and project work, supports local history exhibitions and has a programme of events for its members. If you would like to become a member please contact the Secretary, whose name and address appears on page 47.
EDITORIAL

In this issue we celebrate the centenary of the University extension movement in Leicester, with a commemorative article by Dr Edwin Welch, now of Ottawa. We are also glad to be able to print the substance of the lecture 'Heraldry Around Us', given by Miss D Armitage to the Leicestershire Local History Council some years ago; and in this connection we are grateful to Wing-Commander J H Smith-Carington, AFC, D L of Ashby Folville for permission to reproduce his family arms as the cover illustration for this issue. We must also acknowledge our debt to Mr Robert Hearn for the illustration in the article relating to the Lufteworth subscription windmill. We are also pleased to draw attention to the other articles selected for the 1973 issue: the early history of the Loughborough School Board (the centenary of whose creation occurs shortly) by Mr Bernard Elliott, whose work on the educational history of the county will be well known to members; a continuation article by Mr Reg Eyre on the M69 venture following Mr Ben Whitwell's prefatory article on the project in the last issue; and a transcript, with introduction, by Miss Monica Ory of a fascinating letter (discovered last year amongst the archives of the Earl of Denbigh, whose permission to publish we gratefully acknowledge) written by a self-made Kibworth man.

The book reviews have as usual been contributed by Mrs Long. She has now retired from the County Library and, as she has done so much for the Local History Council generally and the Leicestershire Historian in particular, this seems an appropriate time and place to thank her for all her efforts on our behalf. As we wish her a lengthy and pleasurable retirement we rejoice that she is to continue to do the book reviews for this journal.

Finally, it should also be mentioned, for those as yet unaware of the resolution, that the Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire Local History Council, held last May, decided instead of raising subscriptions to reduce the publication of the Leicestershire Historian from two to one issue each year. The mood of the meeting was clearly against any increase in the subscription rates and thus on economic grounds the decision was undoubtedly the correct one. But one effect of that decision is to raise the questions: what do members expect of their magazine and do they feel that it fulfils its principal purpose of reflecting their various local history and allied interests? The Editors would appreciate constructive comments on both these points.
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION IN LEICESTER

Edwin Welch

At the end of September 1873 the Leicester Journal and the Leicester Chronicle included amongst their advertisements of lectures and classes, one which marked the beginning of a new era in adult education. It was headed ‘Extension of University Education’ and announced that Rev V H Stanton and Mr T O Harding, both of Trinity College, Cambridge, were each giving a course of lectures at Leicester that autumn under the auspices of the Local Lectures Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. This was the first occasion on which any English university had sought to provide education outside its own boundaries. It was also the beginning of the University Extension movement which spread to all parts of the English-speaking world and many other countries in the next quarter of a century.1

University Extension was the brainchild of a Scotsman, Professor James Stuart, who had moved from the University of St Andrews to Cambridge in 1862 with a scholarship, had become a fellow of Trinity and later became first professor of engineering at Cambridge. From 1867 to 1873 with the help of friends from Trinity he ran courses of lectures in the larger towns of the North of England to ladies, mechanics’ institutes and co-operative societies. His purpose was to persuade the University to undertake the work of providing education beyond its boundaries, and he campaigned within the University with the support of various towns and organisations. In the Spring of 1873 he was so certain that the University would take over the work that he began to look around for suitable towns in which to hold the first official courses. The three large industrial towns most accessible to Cambridge by rail were Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. In each there was considerable enthusiasm for higher education and Stuart was able to contact people in each town.

At Derby the Mechanics’ Institute was not particularly enthusiastic at this time, but the headmaster of the local grammar school, Rev Walter Clark, and the local M P, T W Evans, ran science and art classes in the town. At Nottingham, the Mechanics’ Institute was anxious to begin courses of lectures if suitable lecturers could be found, and it was supported in this by an Anglican clergyman, Canon Morse, and a Congregational Minister, Rev J B Paton, who had already founded a theological institute in the town. Leicester no longer had a Mechanics’ Institute, but it did have a Working Men’s College, founded by Rev D J Vaughan of St Martin’s a few years previously and a very active adult school movement based on the Friends’ Meeting House. Science and Art classes were held at the rejuvenated Town Museum in New Walk. Vaughan was a member of Trinity College and seems to have provided the link between James Stuart and the three Midland towns. Amongst Stuart’s papers is a letter to him from Miss Margaret Ellis of Belgrave Hall 2 about correspondence between Vaughan and Morse about university extension. The Ellis family were members of the Society of Friends, very active in local education, and had links...
with Derby because their father, John Ellis, had been chairman of the Midland Railway Company the headquarters of which were at Derby. Through his local supporters meetings were organised in all three towns in the Spring and Summer of 1873.

At Leicester in April 1873 James Stuart attended two meetings in the Mayor’s Parlour to talk about his proposals. On the second occasion (25th April) Canon Vaughan and James Thompson, the local historian, proposed the adoption of the scheme by Leicester and three working men supported them. By June 5th when Cambridge appointed the Local Lectures Syndicate to carry out the work, James Stuart, its secretary, had already mapped out the courses to be given in Michaelmas term. There were to be three courses in each town —

1. Political Economy ‘intended specially, though not exclusively, for the working classes.’
2. Force and Motion for ‘young men engaged in Business.’
3. English Literature ‘at a time... most convenient for ladies.’

In the Lent term of 1874 the equivalent courses were to be —

1. Astronomy
2. English Constitutional History
3. Physical Geography

Each course was to consist of twelve one-hour lectures, the first of which was free, and eleven one-hour classes for discussion and further explanation. Not everyone attending the lectures was expected at the classes and only a small percentage did so. Voluntary weekly papers or essays were set for those attending the classes, and only those who did so could take the examination at the end of term.

At Leicester the Syndicate abandoned the English Literature course in the first term because the Leicester Ladies’ Reading Society had already arranged for Professor Henry Morley of London to give a similar course of ten lectures in the autumn. Although his course included no classes, written work or examination it was advertised with the two Cambridge courses. While Morley’s fee was 10s.6d., Cambridge asked 5s. a term for either course. Rev V H Stanton gave his introductory lecture at 8 p.m on Wednesday, October 8th in the Town Museum, New Walk. The first Derby lecture had begun half an hour earlier and the first Nottingham lecture was not delivered until the following day - after the Goose Fair had closed. Harding’s Force and Motion lectures began at the Museum on the following Monday with classes there on Thursday evenings. Unfortunately Stanton’s classes were held at the Working Men’s College in Union Street, and the college committee refused to admit women to the building.
For the first two years no statistics were collected by the Syndicate and no figures are available for these early courses. Seven took the examination in Political Economy and three in Force and Motion. The local papers reported that 40 attended the lectures for the latter. In Lent term the examination figures were —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Figures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>5</td>
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No courses were held in the Spring term because Stuart had already found that few attended then. The balance sheet for the year 1873/4 read:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscribers</td>
<td>125 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUarantors</td>
<td>130 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tickets sold</td>
<td>47 13 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturers</td>
<td>220 11 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling</td>
<td>25 19 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>67 10 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>330 4 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>10 17 0</td>
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These are typical figures for an extension course. It was never possible to cover the fees charged by Cambridge from the students’ fees alone, and, because the Syndicate had an obligation to be self-supporting, a subsidy had to be raised locally. The financial position was not too difficult where (as at Nottingham) the town council gave help, but at Leicester the local committee was charged for the use of the Museum lecture hall. This particular debt was not fully paid two years later.

For financial reasons the local committee proposed to take only one course in the autumn of 1874, but it was persuaded by James Stuart to take the same three courses as Derby and Nottingham for a further year. In the following year the Committee proposed to cease all operations, but were persuaded by a committee of working men students to make one last effort. Two courses were held in Michaelmas term 1875, but by 1876 the Leicester local committee had dissolved itself because of financial difficulties. James Stuart had been succeeded as secretary of the Syndicate by a less sympathetic man and it is possible that his withdrawal of credit from local centres was the final reason for Leicester’s closure.

It was not until October 1882 that the Leicester University Extension centre was revived. The Literary and Philosophical Society took the initiative, supported by the Working Men’s Club and the Rev James Went, headmaster of the Wyggeston Boys’ School, who had already organised Cambridge extension courses in the West Riding. A ‘double course’ with the same lectures given in the afternoon and evening was organised on English History. A public meeting was held beforehand at the Club and artisans and pupil teachers were admitted for a very low fee, but the free opening lecture only attracted ‘a moderate audience’. 218 tickets were eventually
sold, but the Literary and Philosophical Society had to pay the deficit of £28. Despite this setback a University Extension Committee, later a University Extension Society, was formed to run more courses. From 1882 to 1931 Cambridge courses were held in Leicester every year.

In 1886 the Syndicate introduced a class of affiliated local centres. These were committed to taking courses in a logical sequence from four groups of subjects. Students successfully taking the examinations in six subjects received a Vice-Chancellor’s Certificate which conferred exemption from one year’s residence at Cambridge if they wished to take a degree. Although it is not certain how many extension students went to Cambridge by this means, the Vice-Chancellor’s Certificate was popular and much sought after. In 1900 the Leicester University Extension Society was interested in this scheme and proposed a University Extension College similar to that already established at Exeter. It was not successful in this, but in 1909 it did make Leicester an affiliated centre which it remained until 1928 when Cambridge University brought the scheme to an end.

Meanwhile in May 1908 the Leicester branch of the Workers’ Education Association had been formed. Oxford University was already running tutorial classes for local WEA branches, and when the Cambridge Syndicate agreed to do so too it chose Leicester for one of its first three classes. Unlike an affiliation series of courses, a tutorial class studied one subject for three years and was followed (after the first few years) by no examination. Unlike extension courses the number of students was usually limited to 32. The University Extension Society gave its support to this new venture and it is probable that (as in other towns) it offered support to the WEA branch. This tutorial class, in economic history, was successful and from it came another development in adult education. One of its students, a carpenter named Robert Law, became the first working man student to go to Cambridge University. He was given a scholarship for two years by Trinity College on the recommendation of his class tutor and a grant by Leicester Education Committee. His career was badly interrupted by World War I, but he eventually became a lecturer for the WEA. The War also delayed the Syndicate’s plans to finance a scheme to send selected extension and tutorial class students to Cambridge. This bursary scheme, as it was known, began again just after 1919 and continued until very recently.

In 1931 Cambridge University transferred its responsibilities for adult education in the City to Leicester University College. For nearly sixty years there had been a close association between Leicester and Cambridge. At Leicester the Syndicate had organised two of its first eight extension courses and one of the first three tutorial classes. Leicester was one of the handful of affiliated centres which prepared adult students for the Vice-Chancellor’s Certificate. From Leicester came the first mature student to go to Cambridge. The record of the association in adult education between the City and the University is a proud one which should be better known.
1 Where no references are given here the information can be found in *The Peripatetic University* by Edwin Welch (Cambridge, 1973).

2 Cambridge University Archives, BEMS 1/2

3 Leicester Chronicle, 3 May 1873, p 8.

4 Leicester Journal 25 Sept. 1874

5 City Museum, committee minute book, 1871-79

6 Leicester Journal, 25 September 1874

7 Cambridge University Archives, BEMS 23/2

8 Syndicate's Annual Report for 1900

9 Unfortunately neither the minutes nor the reports of the Leicester Society have survived.

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OBSERVATIONS ON A MILL: LUTTERWORTH SUBSCRIPTION WINDMILL
John Goodacre

An advertisement in the *Leicester Advertiser* of the 10th of December, 1881 read:

‘LUTTERWORTH SUBSCRIPTION MILL
TO LET, with possession on the 24th., a WIND CORN MILL, situate on the Leicester-road, near Lutterworth, where a good business has been done up to present time.----
Apply to Mr. Ed. Dalby, Secretary, Lutterworth.’

The windmill had been built in 1805. In the *Leicester Journal* of the 28th June that year an advertiser, to help sell some property in Lutterworth, added ‘It is proper to remark, that Lutterworth is a very flourishing place.’

The windmill is no longer in existence, but the Accompt Book covering all the meetings of the Subscribers and their Committee offers an opportunity of studying details not only of the structure but also of how it was run, just how good the business was and what role it played in that ‘very flourishing place.’
Even in the nineteenth century, the miller in the country wind or water-mill must have been one of the most ingenious men in an agricultural community. Being responsible for a large and complex machine which needed constant attention in varying weather conditions, he came nearest to being a mechanic or engineer: for instance it is even recorded that early in the nineteenth century the miller at Stemborough Mill in Leire made one of the first electrical experiments in the district. This continuous responsibility and perhaps the noise of the mill machinery, too, cut the miller off from the rest of the community. To such a man the people would hand over each year their grain to be ground. It was easy for farmers to be suspicious of one whose livelihood did not follow the same annual rhythms as theirs. It is not surprising that millers acquired a traditional reputation for sharp dealing. Another reason for this reputation was that the miller often had a local monopoly of the business, either by legal right or by reason of the cost of transporting grain for milling elsewhere.

The earliest mills in the country were built for the most part by a religious establishment or by the lord of a manor, who retained the right to compel the tenants of the manor to grind at his mills alone. This legal monopoly, belonging to what were often called ‘Soke Mills’ or ‘King’s Mills’ originally assured them sufficient business to justify their construction in the first place; later, with increased population and changes in distribution, the monopoly became an anachronism and often an intolerable imposition.

Lutterworth was almost completely in the soke of the lord of the manor’s mills, the Lodge Mills, some distance down the river Swift at Morebarnes. More convenient to the town were the mills of the Hospital of Saint John, the Spital Mills, just above the Swift bridge (in the seventeenth century both these water mills had already their associated windmills). Recurring disputes arising out of the encroachment by the miller of the Spital Mills on the rights of ‘suit and grist’ belonging to the Lodge Mills led to a compromise in 1631 by which grinding could be done at the Spital Mills if the grain was not ground within twenty four hours of delivery at the Lodge Mills.

This was not the end of the dispute; by the middle of the eighteenth century a monopoly position was again established as both mills were in the hands of the same owner. In 1758, however, ‘a patriot arose, ... who... roused his fellow citizens to resistance’ (Nichols’ Antiquities and History of Leicestershire quoting Mr Andrew Hill of Lutterworth) and the monopoly was finally broken at Leicester assizes.

So Lutterworth emerged from ‘those days of Egyptian bondage’ under the legal monopoly, but there still remained the possibility of a geographical monopoly. In the closing years of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth various parts of the country saw movements to set up mills outside the established system. For obvious reasons these were usually windmills. They were called
variously Union Mills, Subscription Mills and even Anti Mills. No doubt they were
set up for ends varying from financial speculation to breaking local monopolies and
also the provision of cheap grinding for the poor (some were set up by Parish
Overseers of the Poor); but the one thing they have in common is that they were
joint ventures by a comparatively large number of local people. It is possible that
one of the factors that spurred on these local movements was the national
pre-occupation with grain crops during the wars with France.

Certainly three such mills in Southern Leicestershire originated during this period.
The Ullesthorpe Subscription Windmill, in which the lord of the manor of
Claybrook was involved, was built in 1800. The Earl Shilton Union Windmill was
built in 1802. And finally, in 1805, eighty subscribers from Lutterworth and its
immediate neighbourhood met and decided to construct a new windmill. As might
be expected, the majority of the subscribers to the Lutterworth mill, fifty three in
number, were inhabitants of the town itself. Eight were from Gilmorton, six from
Bitteswell, four from Walton (where in January of the same year a windmill had
burnt down) and nine from elsewhere. A study of their occupations shows a
contrast between those from the town and those from the country, and suggests
that the subscribers were not the small farmers struggling to secure cheap grinding
for themselves, but were the more prosperous members of the community who
were in a position to invest some capital. It has not proved possible to ascertain the
occupations of more than three quarters of the total, but from outside the town
there were twice as many farmers as men of other occupations. From the town,
however, came only eight farmers. Gentry, clergy and professions totalled five;
there were seven tradesmen concerned with clothing, and seven other tradesmen.
The largest group was twelve dealers concerned with food — grocers, butchers,
inkeepers and bakers.

That this venture was philanthropic at least in name is shown by the heading to the
list of subscribers; ‘A List of Subscribers to this undertaking for the purpose of
affording to the Community an Opportunity of having their Corn Ground at a
moderate Price Per Bushel and free of Toll’. It is also indicated in the 1838 Charity
Commissioners’ Report, under Bishop Ryder’s Charity (the former Rector, Henry
Ryder, had been an original subscriber and had left his two shares to maintain a
library in the town), where it is stated that ‘the mill was built for grinding corn for
the poor’. An account of the mill’s structure and financial history should help
towards judging how far the subscribers achieved this aim.

Having estimated that the cost would be £1,100, the Committee set about
purchasing ‘such a Piece of Ground... as may be thought most eligible for the
Erection of the... Mill’. Greenwood’s map of Leicestershire, published in 1826,
shows that the site chosen was at the end of a short cart track to the East of the
Leicester Road, a site now occupied by a factory sports ground. A plan of 1891 for
the sale of adjoining property shows that there was no access to the mill from the
Gilmorton Road.
The mill was a tower windmill, a slightly tapered circular tower built of brick. Fortunately a photograph of the mill in working order survives. It was possibly taken in the Jubilee year of 1887 and a copy hangs in Lutterworth House, the present Rural District Council Offices. It shows that one pair of sails were ‘common sails’ — a wooden frame over which canvas was stretched, and that the other pair were ‘spring sails’ — a row of wooden slats pivotted against the tension of a spring so as to spill the surplus wind in a gust. A further refinement, ‘patent sails’, which could be adjusted without stopping the mill, appears not to have been fitted.

The photograph also shows the stage or balcony, from which the sails were adjusted and on which the miller appears posing for the photograph; also one of the doors for access onto the stage, the shape of the cap with its finial and the position of the fantail on its framework with safety railing.

The tower had apparently five storeys, and was thus very similar to the Ullesthorpe Subscription Mill, which is still standing. Also of similar appearance and construction are the two neighbouring towers remaining at Gilmorton and Arnesby (dated 1815): but they are of a smaller type and had no stages, the sails being adjusted from the ground or from a moveable platform on wheels.

Further details of the construction can be found in the Accompt Book. It was built to a plan by a North Kilworth millwright called Kilbourn. In 1835 and again in 1847 a new pair of French millstones was laid down; the mill probably had either two or three pairs of stones (Ulllesthorpe was built with two, but a third pair was fitted later). French stones were made from pieces of a hard quartz quarried near Paris. In 1835 the dressing machine, which would also have been driven from the sails, was moved to the bottom chamber of the mill. In 1848 a new pair of spring sails was fitted, and in 1864 another pair, this time with a new stock, that is, the beam to which the sails themselves are fastened. In 1871 a payment was made for gas tarring, a means of weather-proofing the brickwork, possibly with tar from the Lutterworth Gas Light Company’s works in Gas Lane. Mr Frank Wheeler of Church Street, Lutterworth remembers that the brickwork of the tower was black.

In 1817 the Lutterworth carpenter and builder William Wale was employed to convert the stable by the windmill into a dwelling house for the miller; this was enlarged by an additional bay in 1838. The photograph shows the brick-built house, and the two stages of construction, the taller bay on the left being presumably the later addition. The house was evidently lived in; the door and all the windows are open, and washing lies on the hedge to dry. There is also another bay of building adjoining the house, and a couple of wooden hovels around the mill.

Another memory of Mr Wheeler is the fire in 1891 which ‘destroyed all the interior of the mill, the floor, the Sails, the Fan, and the stage around the Mill, leaving only the bare brickwork’. It was never rebuilt, but was disposed of and a distribution of
the insurance money made among the subscribers. The house remained some time: in 1911 the assets of Bishop Ryder's Charity were listed as consisting of 'two shares in the cottage and garden representing the old mill'.

The original subscribers, as we have seen, hoped to construct the mill for an outlay of £1,100. Ten pound shares were taken up, one or two by each subscriber; but by the time the mill was complete in 1807, £126.6.11½d per cent had been called. So the outlay must have been more like £1,400. By 1859, however, 'the House, Mill outhouses, Tackle and Machinery thereto belonging' were insured for as little as £300.

Each year any balance on the miller's accounts, after deducting repairs and other expenses, was distributed among the subscribers as a dividend on their shares (a table was written inside the front cover of the Accompt Book from which the dividend on the 109 shares was calculated). Details of the miller's accounts were not copied into the Accompt Book, but a slip of paper covers the accounts for the years 1839 to 1841 for the purpose of finding the average return, which was £38.15.0d. per annum. The annual expenses noted on the back of this paper are:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millers wages</td>
<td>£52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire of Man &amp; Horse to fetch &amp; take grists</td>
<td>£12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Wright's &amp; Other Bills Tolegates &amp;c.</td>
<td>£17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(£81)

Analysis of the distribution throughout the years shows that for the first twenty years of business the dividends averaged thirteen shillings per annum per share. In 1829 the distribution was fourteen shillings per share. In 1830 it fell to five shillings, and in 1831 there was no distribution at all. Admittedly this was 'in consequence of the money being likely to be wanted for repairs', but even if there had been a distribution of the whole of the balance, which was not the practice at that period, it would not have amounted to more than six shillings. This setback in the mill's business corresponds with the years of disastrous harvest that led to unrest throughout the country, and it appears that the business never recovered. After 1860 the dividends averaged only one or two shillings per share per annum. The total return on each ten pound share received between 1807 and 1894 (including the distribution of twenty five shillings per share from the fire insurance money) amounted to only £23.15.9d. Remembering that £12.16.8½d had been called on each share, the return appears small.

Most transfers of shares were recorded in the Accompt Book, but the consideration given on transfer is only mentioned twice. A search in other papers has helped to trace the capital value of the shares, and the following decline is revealed. Remembering that £12.16.8½d had been paid on each share and that the return up to 1829 averaged thirteen shillings per annum per share, it is not surprising to find a record of the sale of a share in 1831 for ten pounds; by 1857, however, the price of
nine pounds paid by the same purchaser for one share appears high, as the average for the years 1830 to 1859 was only three shillings and tenpence per annum per share. The Accompt Book, however, records that in 1864 the same purchaser paid £2.10.0d for one share, and that the next year nine shares were together sold for twenty pounds only.

From the point of view of maintaining the capital value of the shares and providing a good return on them, therefore, the venture was not a success; but, as we have seen, this was not the only aim of the subscribers. We do not know how the mill was operated to afford the community 'an opportunity of having their corn ground at a moderate price', but the fact that the grinding was to be 'free of Toll' shows that the people of Lutterworth were at least relieved of the custom by which the miller paid himself by keeping a proportion of the flour, a practice difficult to check and often leading to dispute. It is also possible that there were special rates for the paupers of the town.

Although little is known of the service the mill provided to the town, it is certain that for the first thirty years at least the company of shareholders kept a strict control over the miller and his work. He was at first referred to as an employee and was paid a wage ('one pound a week and the House and garden Rent free in addition... in 1838), but from the late 1840s onwards he was clearly a tenant paying a rent (£33 per annum in 1853, and £24 in 1866); so that while in 1814 and in 1838 the miller was dismissed after complaints, in 1853 it was a matter of giving him notice as his rent was in arrear. The close control over the miller is shown in a resolution of 1841 'to allow the miller to buy corn and assist in selling and delivering the Flour for any Subscriber or any other person who grinds at the Subscription Mill but not on any account to hinder his time required for the Company Service...'. This would imply that the company service, which was to take precedence, was in some way non-commercial and thus presumably still providing cheap grinding for the benefit of the poorer section of the community.

As mentioned above, share transfers were recorded in the Accompt Book. An analysis of the occupations of the shareholders subsequent to the original subscribers would help to show who was interested in the business throughout the century; but many of the shares passed by inheritance only to widows or to relations in the district or even further afield. There were fifty five subsequent shareholders mentioned, for only thirty four of whom have occupations been traced. It may be significant, however, that these include only three farmers. Clergy, gentry and professions make up seven, and there are no fewer than seventeen grocers, butchers, innholders &c. So it appears to have remained an investment patronised by the better off inhabitants; two of them, indeed, a butcher and a draper, were later described in the trade directories as gentlemen, evidently after they had retired. Whether the shareholders invested in the mill as a philanthropic duty or as a speculation of course does not show; but another feature of the shareholdings does emerge. Several people began to accumulate quite large
blocks of shares. These include the butcher and draper mentioned above, an
ironmonger, a retired Colonel, R W Fox the attorney and the bankers Messrs
Goodacre and Buszard. Finally Edward Dalby, draper, who was secretary at the
time of the advertisement which heads this article, had, by the time of the fire,
acquired fifty nine shares, over half the total number. Presumably he, and Egbert
William Lavendar, who purchased this holding from Dalby’s executors in 1896, had
virtually complete control over the company.

By the turn of the nineteenth century small local mills were giving way to larger
more industrialised milling firms. Ullesthorpe Subscription windmill, for instance,
apparently after a period of auxiliary steam engine power, had ceased to grind. The
water mill at Broughton Astley, on the other hand, judging by its surviving
buildings, had already built up into a large plant. Evidently the rebuilding of the
Lutterworth Subscription Windmill was never proposed. This mill is, however, a
good example of an enterprise financed by what was, in effect, an early kind of
limited company. As with the canals and early railways, the necessary capital was
raised by subscription. In this case, however, it was a local enterprise with the
additional aim of providing a service to the community. The overall success of the
venture as an investment was small, but it seems that, at least for half its life, it
probably did achieve its aim of helping the poorer inhabitants of the town.

I am very grateful for the sketch prepared by Mr Robert Hearn based on the
photograph, which is in the Leicester Museum collection.

HERALDRY AROUND US
Drusilla Armitage

Heraldry is regarded by some people as an art, by some as a science and by others as
some out of date nonsense. I find it a very interesting study, partly because over the
years it has developed rules and a language of its own.

Heraldry started as a means of identification in battle, it being difficult to tell
friend from foe when everyone of any note was clad in armour from head to foot.
If a distinctive pattern was painted on your opponent’s shield you should know
whom you were fighting. These designs were eventually looked upon as belonging
to the family, and were handed down to the eldest son from generation to
generation. As well as a shield a knight would have a crest on his helmet, a banner
and a surcoat over his armour with the same design. It was from this surcoat that
the expression ‘coat of arms’ derived.
As well as the full coat of arms, the nobles had badges which would be worn by their followers. Probably the best known examples of these are the roses of Lancaster and York and the bear and ragged staff of the Earls of Warwick. At the Battle of Barnet, during the Wars of the Roses, the star badge of De Vere was mistaken for the white rose of York, and the Earl of Warwick’s forces consequently charged some of their own supporters.

The full achievement of a coat of arms is made up of the shield, surmounted by a helmet, on which is placed the crest. This is represented as on a ‘wreath’ of twisted material to cover the join between the crest and the helm, and from this crest wreath flows the mantling. Sometimes the crest is on a coronet instead of a wreath. The mantling is usually drawn very decoratively; it is supposed to represent the cloth which the knights wore on their heads during the crusades to protect them from the sun. The Arabs still wear something similar. Also part of the achievement are the motto and supporters. The latter are now only granted to peers among individuals, but companies and corporations still have them. The supporters are two animals or people, one on either side of the shield, holding it up; hence the name. They can either be identical, or different as in the Royal Arms, where they are the lion and the unicorn.

There are three varieties of tinctures in heraldry; metals, colours and furs. The metals are or (gold) and argent (silver). The colours mostly used are gules (red), azure (blue), sable (black) and vert (green). The furs are ermine and vair and their variants. The most essential rule in heraldry is not to put metal on metal, colour on colour or fur on fur. The reason is that the charges do not show up so well when this is done; for instance red on black is not so clear as red on gold or silver. The most notable exception to this rule is the arms of the city of Jerusalem, which is gold on silver; this was done deliberately to make it different from ordinary coats of arms.

A local example of a shield with fur is the Wyggeston arms, which has a background of ermine and ermines. Ermine is the usual form, white with black spots, and ermines is the other way round.

With a knowledge of the language of heraldry one can describe a full achievement in words and it can be drawn correctly from the description. When describing a shield one starts with the field, or background, whether plain or parti-coloured, and then adds the ‘charges’ in the order of their importance. One must always remember that the shield is described from the point of view of the person carrying it, and the dexter, or right hand side, is the left as one looks at it, and the sinister the other side. The dexter is the more important of the two.

The head of the family hands his shield down to his eldest son; the younger sons were supposed to ‘difference’ the shield by adding another charge or making some
alteration, like changing a tincture. If a man had no sons or brothers to inherit his coat, the shield could descend to his daughters, who were termed his heiresses, and these arms could then be passed on to their children as quarterings with the paternal coat. The husband's coat would be in the first and fourth quarters and the wife's in the second and third. If other heiresses came into the family in later generations more quarters could be added. Although called quarters there is technically no limit to the number of quarters which can be carried on the shield.

Here is an example taken from an inn-sign at Hoton, the Packe Arms. The description reads:— Quarterly, 1 and 4, Quarterly sable and or, in the first quarter a cinquefoil argent with an ermine spot on each leaf (Packe): 2, or a chevron gules between three horseshoes sable (Pochin): 3, or a cross vert (Hussey).

Now talking about heraldry around us, it is surprising how much it is used in ordinary life; but of course churches are the places where most people expect to find heraldry today. I will begin with the churches, but I will not give a catalogue of heraldry in Leicestershire churches; I will only give you an idea of what there is to look for.

At one time it was obligatory for the Royal Arms to be displayed in all English churches, and many of these arms boards still remain. The design on them will often give you the approximate date that they were set up, as the Royal Arms have varied with different monarchs. It was only when Queen Victoria ascended the throne that they assumed their present form. The fleur de lys of France were still occupying a quarter of the English Royal Arms until 1801: this was in support of the claim to the French throne which was started by the Plantagenets. The Royal Arms in churches usually carry the name or monogram of the monarch. Although the boards were supposed to be kept up to date, it was often only the initials that were altered and the shield design was left; so you may find a Hanoverian monogram with a Queen Anne shield. During Hanoverian times there were several alterations to the Royal Arms.

The other main source of heraldry in our churches is the memorials to the dead. These are found in many forms. The majority of this type of heraldry is found on large and ornate tombs, such as those at Bottesford, erected in memory of the Manners family, the Dukes of Rutland. The tombs are usually in marble and the coats of arms painted to add colour. Sometimes you find the whole achievement, at others just the shield or crest. Sometimes the husband's and wife's shields are shown separately on either side, with the joint achievement in the centre. In Bottesford church, above one of the tombs, are the helm gauntlets and spurs. Ashby Folville is another church with interesting heraldic monuments.
Another type of memorial is the banner. These are not easy to photograph or even decipher, as they are usually set high up, and also they tend to get dark and tattered with age. Exton church in Rutland has some of these. Stained glass is another source of heraldry, and one which is much easier to see. When looking for memorial brasses and incised slabs, remember that they are often very much worn by the feet of generations of worshippers, and are now sometimes kept covered.

Hatchments too are usually difficult to see and to identify. They are often set up high on the wall and the varnish has darkened with age. They are however a fascinating study in themselves. Hatchments were originally made to be placed outside the residence of the deceased person to inform people of the death, and were put in the church later. There is a definite code to enable visitors to know whose death is signified so that no social blunder was made. The shape of the shield or lozenge and the colouring of the background are the pointers. If the arms are displayed on a lozenge it means either a maiden lady or a widow. When the arms are impaled, indicating a married couple, the background behind the half of the shield belonging to the deceased is painted black, the husband on the dexter, the wife on the sinister. There is a good series of hatchments at Stanford on Avon and also at Courteenhall in Northamptonshire. Although very interesting, hatchments must be treated with some care, as our ancestors did not always keep accurately to the rules, and the heraldry may thus be misleading. The mottoes on hatchments are seldom those of the family, but a pious hope, such as ‘In Coelis Pace’ or ‘Resurgam’.

Before leaving the subject of churches I will mention three other ways in which heraldry is used in their decoration. The first is embroidery: for example in the Cathedral at Oxford there is a set of embroidered cushions bearing the coats of arms associated with the diocese. Secondly in Norwich Cathedral cloisters are painted full achievements of famous people. Finally in one or two churches the wood carving on bench ends includes local coats of arms. Stockerston is a church which has such carvings, together with some heraldic glass, hatchments and an incised slab.

Leaving churches I will mention another source of heraldry, very different but still a meeting place for people, the public house. The ‘arms’ signs on our pubs were often chosen to honour the Lord of the Manor, or some local hero, or perhaps because the landlord had been the butler at the ‘great house’. There are several examples of ‘arms pubs’ in Leicestershire. The most elaborate sign is at Ashby Folville, where the Carington Arms displays a shield with seventy quarterings. This would seem to defeat the original purpose of heraldry, which was identification. Strangely, the Craddock Arms at Knighton carries the arms of Alderman Newton. The colouring on inn signs is not always correct either, for example the City Arms on Saffron Lane, where the shield is blue instead of red. I have also seen examples where the design has been made up or is incorrect; for instance an inn called the Gardeners Arms with a sign showing the arms of the London Guild of Saddlers.
Modern uses of heraldry can be seen about us every day. It is not found on notepaper headings as much as it used to be, except in the case of schools, colleges and other institutions; but many commercial concerns have their own coat of arms which are used in advertisements and on company buildings. Unit Trusts and national bodies like the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority are cases in point, also local authorities like Electricity Boards. Other examples are Banks and Building Societies and Insurance Societies. Some of these have arms aptly designed with charges which allude to their sphere of activities. The East Midlands Electricity Board has symbols from the different local authorities in the area it covers.

Women's liberation has not reached heraldry yet. Because they did not go into battle or wear helmets, ladies are not entitled to shields or crests; but their arms may be shown within a lozenge. My own are, gules on a chevron between three cross crosslets argent, as many horseshoes sable, as illustrated.

Two final points about heraldry; firstly canting is the term used for heraldic puns, or allusive arms. For instance a man named Swan might have that bird as a charge, or a man named Butler might have wine cups. Lastly you will find that the style of heraldic design has changed through the ages; for example Victorian shields tended to be picturesque.

You will find 'heraldry around us' if you keep on the look-out for it. I collect it like some people collect stamps and I notice it in the most unlikely places, even on chocolate boxes. I think it adds interest to our daily life, and I would like to think that I have been able to interest a few more people in this reminder of past history. There is much heraldry to be studied in and around the buildings of Leicestershire and I hope that you will look and see what you can find.

THE M69 MOTORWAY PROJECT CONTINUED
Reg Eyre

A project such as the building of a motorway is bound to uncover sites of archaeological interest. The problem for the man-in-the-street with an interest in the subject is how he can participate in their investigation. The solution, in the case of the M69 Motorway, was found in the formation of several classes sponsored by the Adult Education Department of Leicester University. Two of these were joined by the author.
The first of these two classes, led by Mr Ben Whitwell and held at Vaughan College, was attended by some thirty people, many of them new to archaeological work. This class was to study various documentary sources of information and aerial photographs and slides in the possession of the Leicester Museums. The area to be covered would be a strip extending half a mile on each side of the published proposed line of the road. This width was taken in an attempt to cover any possible slight deviation from the original course and any land likely to be disturbed by machines during construction.

During the previous year another class at the College had assisted in collating a card index of records of archaeological finds in the County, and from it had produced a distribution map: these two formed the basis of our early investigations. It was remarkable how few finds had been recorded on the proposed route; but where the exact location of any find could be pinpointed, this came in for special attention when we came to the second phase of our studies which was to examine the aerial photographs.

The photographs in question consisted of two sets of colour slides taken at different times of the year from the Museum’s own aeroplane following as nearly as possible the proposed motorway route. These were augmented by prints of photographs of particular areas by Mr Jim Pickering. Together these produced a great variety of crop and soil-marks and ground formations, many of which could be of archaeological origin. Notes were made of these marks for investigation in the field.

Further information was gained from the report then just published by Mr Paul Peek. This followed a study made by his group at Vaughan College of the Hunting Survey series of aerial photographs. All information collected from all these studies was to be plotted on a special set of six-inch Ordnance Survey maps.

The class then passed on to a brief study of flint, pottery and other artifacts, some of them Roman, which had been found in the area and which were of a kind likely to turn up in the field. The course concluded with a few field-walking expeditions ‘to get the feel of it’, paying particular attention to the Aston Flamville neighbourhood, where some very promising marks had been noted on the photographs. I regret I cannot report the discovery of a new Roman villa site, but that pleasure may yet come.

Meanwhile the second class, limited by space to some ten people, was meeting at the County Record Office under the guidance of Mr Richard Potts. The aim was to study documents in the County archives for any evidence of archaeological sites.

Two early meetings were used to familiarise students with the type of documents involved and how to read them. The documents included enclosure awards, tithe...
maps and schedules, various manuscripts and deeds from the collections of land-owning families in the area, such as the Drummonds and the Winstanleys, and the field name survey carried out by the village branches of the Women’s Institute.

This proved a most absorbing and fascinating study, and although we followed many false trails a fair amount of valuable knowledge was acquired. Field names appearing in both tithe schedules and the survey could be traced to be centuries old and in many cases told the story of the former use of the land. ‘Townships’ proved to mark the site of a possible deserted medieval village, ‘Fish Ponds Spinney’ and ‘Barn Close’ tell their own story but ‘Holylands’ proved only to indicate the name of a former owner and not a pre-historic burial site. Still the research alone proved exciting.

Full Ordnance Survey grid references to any interesting sites were recorded and plotted on six-inch maps of the route.

It will be interesting now to see how soon and how well we are able to translate the knowledge we have gained into practical work in the field. The present stage is the formation of field-walking groups and the investigation of the whole route on the ground. Once this is done then truly we will be on the way to discovering what lies beneath our projected M69 motorway.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD
Bernard Elliott

The Elementary Education Act of 1870 provided for the compulsory formation of a school board in those districts which lacked adequate school accommodation, but which refused to make good their deficiencies by voluntary means. Loughborough was such a district: the Education Department reckoned that 207 children were without schooling there and so, in July 1874, ordered the parish to provide these extra places by voluntary means or be prepared to accept a school board. The clerk to the parish, Jabez Jarratt, asked the church schools to extend their accommodation, but their managers refused. So, in March 1875, the Education Department ordered him to hold a school board election for Loughborough.

The two chief parties in the election were the Nonconformists and the Anglicans, both of whom hoped to get seats on the school board to safeguard their own particular interests. The main issue centred on religion. The 1870 Act itself simply stated that religious instruction given in a board school was to be of no definite denomination. One might have thought therefore, that there was little about which to argue on this subject. But though both parties accepted that Religious
Instruction involved the reading of the Bible, there remained the problem of bias. If a teacher were allowed to explain difficult passages to his class, would he colour such an explanation with his own particular denominational view? The Nonconformists felt that he would and, therefore, they favoured undenominational teaching, that is, teaching without any explanation. The Anglicans however, preferred scriptural teaching, that is, the teacher offering explanation where necessary.

This was the main election issue: the only other topic mentioned in pre-election speeches was economy. So, on 31 March 1875, Loughborough's first school board election was held. There were ten candidates in the field: four Anglicans, four Nonconformists, the Roman Catholic priest of Loughborough, the Rev A Bowen, and J Gee, the working man's representative. The Department had decided that the Loughborough school board should consist of seven members, and, in accordance with the Act, every voter was to have seven votes, which he could use as he wished. The result of the election was a victory for the Nonconformists, whose four members were all returned. The other three to gain seats were the Rev A Bowen, who finished top of the poll and two of the Anglican candidates.

The victory of the undenominationalists meant that the children of Loughborough would not have to wait so long before the extra accommodation was provided: the Nonconformists were far more prepared to build board schools than the Anglicans. As with most towns, the Loughborough school board decided to rent temporary premises before putting up a permanent building and the main problem at first was to find out the number of children for whom places had to be found. The Department in its final notice estimated that two hundred and seven places were required; but there was a possibility that that number was likely to be increased. The population was growing fast and from the first the school board had decided to make attendance compulsory. The Act itself did not lay down that education in a district had to be compulsory: it was left to each school board to settle the matter and if a board decided on compulsory attendance, it had to frame bye-laws to that effect.

So, on 27 July 1875, the Loughborough school board, having consulted the bye-laws of neighbouring towns, sent in its own proposals for the Department’s approval. These laid down that children between the ages of five and thirteen had to attend school unless there was a reasonable excuse for absence. Reasonable excuses were that the child was being educated in some other manner, that he was ill, that he lived more than one mile from a public elementary school, that he was working in a factory and receiving half-time education and that he was over ten and had reached standard four.

The decision to enforce attendance meant an increase in the number of school places to be provided. Moreover, it would be some time before a permanent school
could be built. So, the board decided to set up a temporary school in the Methodist Sunday School in Rectory Place: the upper room for boys and the lower for girls, with a separate head teacher for each. The boys’ teacher was Mr A Kelsey, whose salary was £80 p a, plus ¾ of the government grant, while the girls’ teacher was Mrs Kelsey, whose salary was £50, plus ¾ of the government grant for her department.

On 9 August 1875, the first school board in Loughborough was opened, but only eight boys and five girls attended. This small attendance made the board determined to use its compulsory powers as soon as the bye-laws could be put into operation; early in November it received notice from the Department that they had been approved. So, the board could now take measures to enforce attendance and the appointment of a school attendance officer was the first step. For that post the practical hard-headed men of the Loughborough school board chose a retired soldier, Sergeant-Major Parsons.

The determination of the board and the presence of Sergeant-Major Parsons led to a great increase in attendance, so that by January 1876 the Rectory Place premises were overcrowded: 102 boys and 128 girls and infants. But instead of building a permanent school, the board sought more temporary accommodation. Once more the Nonconformists came to its assistance, for the Congregationalists offered to let Victoria Street chapel schoolrooms at a nominal rent of one shilling a quarter. This became the board school for the boys, while Rectory Place was left entirely to the girls and infants.

Just as the 1870 Act did not establish compulsory elementary education in England and Wales, so it did not establish free elementary education. The fee a parent had to pay was left to each board, so long as it did not exceed 9d. a week. The Loughborough school board agreed to charge 2d a week, the normal amount paid in the church schools of Loughborough. The children of very poor parents, however, could still attend school, for by section 25 the board was empowered to pay their fees. This section also applied to voluntary schools, if the local board agreed with the measure. Some boards, such as Manchester’s, did agree, but other boards, notably Birmingham’s, refused to apply the clause. The Loughborough school board adopted the same attitude as Birmingham for after a tremendous debate the Nonconformists carried the day, having a majority of four to three. So, the Loughborough school board refused to pay the fees of poor children attending voluntary schools.

The number of children occupying the temporary premises continued to grow fast, and by 1878 Mr Kelsey had 160 on roll, but with accommodation for only 115. So the board was now forced to think about building a permanent school; but the religious issue hindered development for some time. The Nonconformists wanted to build a large school capable of accommodating 750 children, but the Anglicans, who had gained control of the board in the election of 1878, favoured a smaller
school, where there would be less accommodation and less likelihood of children leaving the church schools for the new board school.

In the end the Anglicans had their way and a smaller school was built. It was in 1879 that the first Loughborough board school — Cobden Street — began to be built and finally in August 1880 it was opened, some five years after the inception of the board. But the town paid dearly for religious prejudice: the small size of Cobden Street was a great mistake. For the rest of its career the Loughborough school board was continually faced with the problem of finding accommodation for its fast growing child population. Hardly a year passed without the board having to seek temporary accommodation until another permanent school could be built.

FROM POVERTY TO SECURITY: A STORY OF NINETEENTH CENTURY ENDEAVOUR
Monica Ory

On Monday 28th October 1889, Lord Feilding addressed a meeting in the schoolroom at Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, in support of his candidature for the Rugby Division of the county. The local newspapers do not record what he said, but his speech evoked the response printed below from Jonathan Jesson, a working man from the township of Kibworth Beauchamp nine miles S E by S of Leicester, a place which almost doubled in size between 1821 and 1871 and where the chief industry was weaving worsted stockings for the manufacturers in Leicester.

The story which Jesson unfolded to Lord Feilding was one of a substantial rise in his fortunes brought about not by Providence (whose help he scorned) but by his own industry and perseverance unaided by any formal education. It is not clear how he made his money, but he had obviously realised by the time of his marriage in 1850 to his first wife, Ann, the daughter of Samuel Butcher of Kibworth Beauchamp that if he was going to improve his lot he would have to leave his native village of Fleckney, which was apparently very poor. The entry of his marriage in the Kibworth register describes him as being of Fleckney, but by the time his daughter was baptised 15 months later he had moved to neighbouring Kibworth and in the census of 1851 he is described as living with his wife and child in Pudding Bag Lane.

Perhaps some of Jesson's success can be attributed to his apparent willingness to work at an endless variety of jobs. Whilst still a small boy he drove a plough and cleaned turnips; later he went into service and afterwards worked on the railway at
Stamford. The entry of his marriage records that he was a labourer, but on moving to Kibworth he soon became a framework knitter and then went into the fish and rabbit trade. On at least one occasion he found himself without a job which could be catastrophic in those days when there was no dole queue to join. He is described in the 1871 census as a framework knitter in *White’s Directory* of 1877 as a fishmonger and in his will made in December 1877, as a general dealer.

In Kibworth Beauchamp in the 1860s he was well-known as a unique character, especially prominent on Plough Monday and election times. The Plough Monday jollifications included dancing in which Thomas Tolton would dance grotesque country dances with his partner Jonty Jesson, till fairly tired out. As we have seen it was Jesson’s interest in politics which had inspired him to write to Lord Feilding and F P Woodford recalls how when Mr John Loveday of Kibworth ‘who in addition to being a very large contractor was also a very ardent politician’ made one of his speeches in favour of ‘the Franchise, Free Education Act, Nine Hours Movement and kindred measures’ he was surrounded by his admirers and stalwart supporters, amongst them ‘Jonathan Jesson and other sturdy radicals’.

Jonathan Jesson’s fortunes had started to rise before his first wife’s death in June 1870 for prior to this he had managed to buy a house and garden in Kibworth, after which he borrowed the money to build two cottages. A few years later he took much delight in acquiring some of the land the Liberals had bought to secure themselves votes; on this he built four cottages. These still stand at the top of Gladstone Street bearing Jesson’s plaque in the centre of which is inscribed Beaconsfield Cottages 1877. The age of Jonathan Jesson knew not of retirement and state pensions, and whether or not Jesson’s financial position was ever sufficiently good to enable him to retire, it seems that in fact he did not do so. He was buried at Kibworth aged 71 on 16th September 1896 and is listed in the directories for 1894 and 1895–1896 as an agent to West, Biddles and Co, the coal merchants.

Jonathan Jesson asked Lord Feilding to return the manuscript to him when he had finished with it. The request was evidently complied with, but happily for posterity Lord Feilding’s wife made a copy of the original and placed it with the Denbigh family archives now kept at Pailton House, Rugby. It is this document which is reproduced below by the kind permission of the Earl of Denbigh, Lord Feilding’s great grandson.
Jonathan Jesson’s accompanying letter to Lord Feilding, the original of which is at Pailton House

Kibworth Dec 7/89

My Lord I feel sure your Lordship will pardon me for taking liberty of writing these few lines to you as I wish your Lordship every success I thought there might be something useful in these few lines I hope your Lordship will read them through as I should like your Lordship to see what industry can do with perseverance combined and if your Lordship was for Market Harborough division I would support you through thick and thin for I like your Lordship’s speech very much I am the man that put the letter in the paper called fair play printed Nov 26th although I am 65 years of age and my wife 70 I don’t suppose I need bother myself about it much but I cannot help but take an interest in it

Please my Lord excuse your humble servant

Jonathan Jesson
Kibworth Beauchamp

Please my Lord pardon me for asking your Lordship to return it when you have done with it no hurry

Jonathan Jesson’s letter to Lord Feilding

Kibworth Dec. 1889

Whoever sees these few lines that I write out please excuse the spelling as I never had any schooling in my life. Pardon me my lord for giving you a few of my ideas on your admirable speech at Fenny Compton when speaking of the labouring classes & the way it might be done. Now for a few lines on what industry can do which a little bit of my life will show. I was born in the year 1825 & brought up by very poor but very good & industrious parents but my father died before I was seven years of age, & left my mother a widow with eleven of us, I never had a days schooling in my life, perhaps it is as as [sic] well I did not, for I should have been a troublesome member in these exciting times. Twelve months after my father died one of my sisters an healthy girl, at twelve years of age caught with typhous fever & it left her a cripple for life, with one leg as thick as two & the thy was twice as bigh as it should be. & one leg was nothing but the straight bone, there was pieces of bone grown out of the thick leg & rotted & droped out time after time, she was a dreadful sufferer, during that time we was glad of three meals of wasted potatoes a day & nothing but a bit of salt to them, that was the sort of schooling I got & I learnt a deal from it. I went to drive a plough before I was nine & the wages I received was two pence per day & no food only what my poor mother gave to me, for poor she was & well she might be, what would the working classes think of that
now, that would give them schooling Then i had a rise to four pence per day till i
was about 13 years of age when one morning i said to my mother, mother i shall
not go for driving plough any more after this week i will rather starve. My mother
ask me what i was going to do, i said i did not know, but i said i will have no more
of this, & if i get nothing i will have nothing, i will buy my own bread i will not eat
yours any longer. My mother said she would not have two cubbards kept in her
house but i beat her that once for i went out in a morning to look for work, at
night when i went home i sat myself down in a chair behind the door as tho’ i had
never been in the house before,& my poor mother for poor she was, would stand by
the fire & cry because i would not share her scanty meal, but no i had made up mind
that i would rather starve. This was at 13 years of age till i got some turnips to clean
at so much per load & then i went to Mr Weston the baker\textsuperscript{16} that lived at Fleckney
at the time, he now lives at Kibworth & will prove the truth of all this story if
doubted, i ask him if he wd. make me a stone of flower up like home baked bread
& put a few caraway seed in it & he done so. Then i went to the grocers shop &
bought a pound of bacon & cut it into seven squares one for each day of the week
so you see i fared the same on Sundays as other days, i had 3 meals a day of wast
potatoes & nothing to them but a bit of salt hundreds of days & a bit bread
crumbed in a bason, & water out of kettle to it for breakfast. Now you see i am
getting on in the worl’d, i got to bread & bacon for some months. Soon after that i
went to service & then in the course of time i was able to help them that had been
so kind to me in my childhood, they was good for there was not a child of more
prayers than i was on Englands soil from my mother & cripple sister. She was in
that state for thirty one years before she died & she never once complained she said
it was Gods will & she would bear it. Would to God that more sons & daughters
would think of their poor old parents now a days, i think it is a pity we should be
forced to pass laws to make them do so, all this was schooling to me. When i got
into service i was soon able to help my poor mother & cripple sister & i did not
want making, i took them a load of coal every Christmas & a bit of tea & sugar now
& then & a bit of beef as often as i could, which i believe i did for about 10 years, if
i had ten shillings less wages i always bargained for a horse & cart to take them. After
that i went on a railway down at Stamford, called the Siston\textsuperscript{17} & Peterborough line
& christmas came round, i was at that time staff holder for a engineer, i went to my
lodgings at night had my supper, after which i sat thinking of my poor mother &
sister at home as they had depended on me for a treat at Christmas, & this was
christmas eve, when i was near them, what would they do now. Why i thought the
neighbours all round them would have some beef & my good mother & crippled
sister would have none unless i took them some, & at six oclock on the eve i said to
my landlady Mrs. i am going home to-night, & she said you must be mad, she says
you are not going to take it from here are you, & i said when i get there in the
morning all the best will be gone as it will be christmas day morning, so i went to
butchers shop & bought twelve pounds of beef & i started about seven o’clock that
night & walked about twenty six miles all alone with it, that was the sort of
schooling i had, when i got to Kibworth the church clock struck one, i met with the
singers in Kibworth against doctor Marriots,\textsuperscript{18} i went round the village with them,
with the beef at my back, because i would not alarm them at such an early hour in
the morning, i took it home later on & my mother fell round my neck & cryed like
a child & so did i, thats schooling, i cut it & part of it was cooked & part of it was
left for them when i was gone back, & i warrant there was not one in Fleckney that
enjoyed their dinner better than i did after having so much trouble with it. Some
time after that i left there & took to myself a wife & my mother wanted me to stay
at Fleckney where she was, but i said no mother this is a very poor place so i said
there is a living for every man & i mean to have my share & i shifted to Kibworth
where i am now & likely to be. I omitted saying that when i had done cleaning
turnips my mother gave me a shilling, as i knew she could not aford it i ask her
what that was for, & she said, because you never brought one (turnip) home my
boy; i knew i should have had to take it back if i had, perhaps that was the reason,
but it was wright, so you see it is very truly said if there was no receivers there
would be no theives my mother was a good woman. Now to myself again: the first
winter i was married my wife was in bed with the rhumitic fever for twenty three
weeks & could not turn herself in bed, during that time we was without a bit of
bread or a penny in the house: that was schooling again for us both, & no one gave
to us. Mrs. Branston\textsuperscript{19} at the shop if i wanted one & she is there now to prove these
lines if anyone doubts then, thats what i call a friend in need, there is been several
ask me for my custom but no friend like that shall have my ready money i have
told many a poor man to persevere in his labours & be punctual to his payments, if
that won't carry him thro' life nothing will.
Now there are 3 other things whi seem to me worth notice & i think they might
find a welcome in every christians ears the first the name mother, the second the
name of home the third the name of charity thats very good providing it is properly
disposed of but if not i think it does more harm than good because it only
encourages gossoping & mischievous people, for where there is gossoping their is
mischief & in my opinion if idle people was not encouraged so much there would
not be so many of them about. I know mothers that hang the clothes on their
childrens backs & spend their time in going from house to house, instead of keeping
their homes tidy, it is not them that go brailing about that suffer most it is them
that are afraid of their poverty being known that suffer more. To myself again, my
family consisted of myself & wife & two daughters, when the first one was born my
wife had a very long illness again & i just gone to the factory to learn a fresh trade
so i could not earn much, it was to make stockings shirts & drawers & when i went
to work in the morning i laid the child across the mother's breast & left them
helpless together I worked there for a length of time till my health failed me, in fact
I was about cowed & almost ready to give up, i did not like the idea of that for i
thought it was not english, although i thought my health was a reck totally. Then i
went into the fish & rabbit trade, i have pushed a truckload from Kibworth, where i
now live to Leicester hundreds of times but one Saturday pertickler i pushed a
truckload to Leicester & threaded the streets & sold them all, & pushed the truck
home again & then i went to Nasby Hall & fetched sixty more with the truck the
same night & when i got to the last hill other side Kibworth Hall i had to carry the
rabbits up the hill & then fetch the empty truck up, & when i got to the Atkinsons
cottage I ask him for something to drink. He was a teetotal but he said I looked very ill & he gave me about a pint of milk & water, it was that that got me home. I was quite beat out of it, that was the sort of schooling, all this I had to do to pay doctors bill for a sick wife, it very nearly killed me, but an independent spirit will suffer much before it gives up, & I say as I said before they are the parties that suffer; through all my troubles no man gave to me at that time, but Dr. Marriott would if I was in need now, & he knew it, some people will try to console a man by telling him to trust to providence, but I dare not my spirit won't allow me, it always says go & look for work; for I know there is plenty stands ready for all providence has to spare without me, they depend on it & they get it, the hard working man gets but little. Now the eldest daughter grew up I sent her to Miss Westons 20 to learn the dressmaking after that I sent her to Mrs. Gardeners Leicester there I paid seven shillings per week with her after that she went to be maid to Mrs. Boulty & was very much liked by the lady. Then there was another daughter six years & a half younger, She had good schooling, I was was [sic] working at the framework knitting, I could not tell how I done all this, but I did do it. I was thrown out of work with nine others that was in sixty fore & never had a bit during ten months, I lay about for three weeks & one monday morning I went up stairs & fetched six pounds down & I said to my wife I am either going to spend this or get some more to it, & they say a man for sound judgement & a woman for quick thought, there was a little of both in her reply, for she said it was an easy thing to spend that but getting more was another thing altogether, it was the only money I had ever saved in my life for while my mother & cripple sister lived I never saved a shilling for when I had one to spare they always had it. Well at the end of the ten months I had got 26 pounds instead of 6, there was an old house & garden to be sold for 29 pounds & I got three more pounds together as quick as I could & I bought it for 28 pounds 10 shillings. I went to Leicester & hired 120 pounds & began to build two fore-room cottages like a man on the remaining 10 shillings, & the first day they was occupied was the first of may, & the first of may six years I paid for every brick there was in them & brought the writings home. Well old saying is nothing hazard nothing won & I have beleived it ever since. Well then I had got my other daughter to look after, but when she was at the tender age of 13 another fresh trouble broke out, her mother died & a great loss it was, all the people round mourned as much for her hand was always ready to help anyone when help was required, she was always at home minding her own business. Then me & my daughter was left alone I had give her good schooling, but as I had started her sister well in the world I must do something for her so I sent her to Miss Weston to learn the dressmaking, during the time she was learning that, I went out of the shop that joined my house at that time & cooked for her & myself & made the beds, there was other things to be done & they was done. You say what was that, I washed my own stockings & towels & mended them scores of times & always cleaned my own house, these things I done chiefly when people was in bed & I suppose that was why no man gave to me because I helped myself, but it was hard work and sharp schooling, it made sad work with my health at that time & if a man gets comfortable in this world after all this struggling who envies him? his fellow working man the lazy man he who trusts
to what i dare not - providence. Then my other daughter went out as a maid to a lady over against Ilkley so you see in the midst of all my trouble my children was well cared for, they was always the pride of the school & they was my pride then & not till then did i take to a second wife & then to one older than myself She had been a very hard working woman all her days & kept single all her days to keep her poor old father from ending his days in the union workhouse, & i thought a good daughter wd make a good wife & i never had any cause to regret my choice, she brought a little with her & i had a little as i am sure we both worked hard for. Well the liberal party bought a field on purpose to let out as freehold land, but they would not let the other party have any of it at the time, as it was bought to make votes for themselves, but i had a vote at the time & i told Mr J. Loveday, that was a very big man at that time, that same sort of stuff as bought pigs would soon buy some of that, & it was so for i bought a piece at the corner of Gladstone Street & with money we had got & 300 pounds that i hired at 5 persent i built 4 cottages at the corner of Gladstone St with a stone in the centre - Beaconsfield Cottages - so you see as far as i am concerned they will not have it all their own way, but it was the worst days work i ever done in my life for property is gone down so much & trade all gone from the place that i am afraid we shall lose most of our own hard earned money for hard-earned it was for i never had a penny without. I am tired of writing still i think i must say a few more words about those that shd set examples as i said before no one came near us so long, & she died & went to the church to be buried without a prayer from anyone before she died, & was very near being the same with this one a few years ago, it is not because it makes any difference because we must all pray for ourselves but duty is duty & ought to be done. And there is another thing if people get it into their heads that nobody cares for them they naturally don't care for themselves, no man knows it better than i do because i speak from experience. Now in conclusion i say may God forgive & bless those parties that have neglected their duty as i forgive them.

Footnotes

1. See the census figures in Victoria History of the County of Leicester, vol III, p 190
2. The marriage took place 4th March 1850 and is recorded in the Kibworth Beauchamp registers which are kept at the Church.
3. Emma Jesson was baptised at Kibworth Beauchamp, 8th June 1851. Kibworth baptism registers.
4. Microfilm of the county census returns from 1841 to 1871 can be consulted at the Dept of Archives, Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.
5. He was still living in Pudding Bag Lane in 1871, but as his wife had died and his elder daughter had left home by this time, he shared the house simply with his younger daughter, Elizabeth, an apprentice dressmaker.
7. This is at Leicestershire Record Office.
8-10. See *History of Kibworth* by F P Woodford (London), pp 80, 74—75, 91—92.
11. Ann Jesson of Kibworth Beauchamp was buried at Kibworth, 9th June 1870, aged 44. Kibworth burial registers. She was presumably Jesson’s first wife.
14. John Jesson was buried at Fleckney, 18th November 1831, aged 48. See Fleckney parish registers, housed at Leicestershire Record Office.
15. Rebecca Jesson: she is listed as a pauper stocking-maker in the Fleckney census returns for 1851. Entered as a widow aged 67, her place of birth was said to be at West Haddon, Northants. She died of dropsy aged 75 and was buried at Fleckney, 7th April 1859.
17. Syston, Leics.
18. John Marriot and William Morpott Marriot are both entered in White’s Directory: they were living in Kibworth Beauchamp in 1846 but are listed as residents of Kibworth Harcourt in 1863.
19. Members of the Branston family appear in county directories for 1863 and 1877 as shopkeepers.
20. Ladies of this name appear in county directories of 1846, 1863 and 1877 as dressmakers and milliners.
21. Eliza Jesson aged 77 was buried at Kibworth Beauchamp, 30th December 1897.
22. John Loveday, builder and contractor, is entered in *White’s Directory* for 1877.
LEICESTER AS IT WAS: photographs selected with commentary by A. Broadfield, B.A. Hordern Publishing Company, 1972 88p

These photographs of the central area of Leicester, ranging in date from the early 1860's to the 1920's, show the changes which took place in the city more vividly than any written description of the changing scene.

Quite rightly, as it still remains a centre, we see the site of the Clock Tower in 1862, before the buildings were demolished which made room for this traditional landmark, surrounded until the coming of the electric tram by granite setts. In these pictures one can see the changing styles of dress of transport and of the period when the electric tram, and the horse tram functioned side by side, just as in the picture of the cab rank in Town Hall Square in 1916, the hansom cab and an early taxi wait for custom along the same site.

Interiors are not forgotten either — there are pictures of an art class, very neat and formal in Narborough Road School, in 1904, of the City Reference Library in Belvoir Street when it was moved upstairs after 1879, and before its transfer to the Carnegie Building, Bishop Street, in 1905. The main ground floor room of the Belvoir Street building was once a concert hall, then the Mechanics Institute until it became the City Library in 1871, after 1905, it was for a time an auction room, and in 1935, once more became the City's Central Lending Library.

There are pictures of local events, the Triumphal Arch at Belgrave Gate one of the eleven built for the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra to pass under when they formally opened Abbey Park in 1882 and of crowds lining Welford Road, to watch the arrival of the Royal Party for the opening of the Royal Agricultural Show on Freeman's Meadow in 1896.

Less happy pictures, are those of a common ash-pit in the St. Matthews area shared by sixteen homes, with a pail closet adjoining — in which in 1899 on the monthly visit to ‘fey’ the middens they found the body of a seven year old boy who had been unable to escape after falling into this five or six foot pit. Other illustrations of the seamier side of Leicester life show poor children re-clothed outside the police station in 1898, and the great crowd which gathered in the Market Place in 1905, from which a pilgrimage set out led by George White, Rev. F. Lewis Donaldson, and Amos Sherriff, who led the campaign maintaining that the plight of the unemployed should be a burden on national funds.

For those whose memories of Leicester are more recent, perhaps the most nostalgic of all are the two pictures of the Old Great Central Line, a train standing at the now demolished station, and the handsome indicator on the station — taken in 1902.
The compiler has followed up a minute examination of each photograph with documentary research, always, for example, seeking out the names on shop signs in trade directories; so that it is a pleasure to be conducted around Leicester through the years by such a knowledgeable guide. He has chosen a very happy way of presenting the fruits of his research. As for the choice of photographs and the amount of information he has set out so neatly in such a small space under each illustration, one can have nothing but admiration. With fifty nine photographs, and one enlargement on the cover, showing incredible detail, this book is not expensive.

OLD BRAUNSTONE:  by Jonathan Wilshere.
Leicester Research Services 1972. 60p

This brief account of Old Braunstone, the Braunstone before the area was compulsorily acquired by Leicester Corporation in 1925, forms the third publication in a series of pamphlets dealing with the old parish of Glenfield: ‘Scenes from Kirby Muxloe History’, and ‘Glenfield — a considerable Village’.

Beneath the bricks and mortar of Braunstone it is hard to visualize the Domesday settlement with its ‘2 Socmen’ — as evidence that the Danes had also been here, and to note that the settlement had increased in value since the time of Edward the Confessor.

The descent of the manor is very complicated — at one time both the Hastings and the Greys of Groby had held land there — and later when Henry Hastings had supported the King in the Civil war, his fine was so heavy that his share of the manor was sold to the Winstanley family — who belonged to Lancashire, and who became the largest landowners in Braunstone until 1925. It would appear that there have been three manor houses in the village — one of which was near the church, and long since demolished — a second house further south along Braunstone Lane was built before 1600 probably by Henry Hastings — a few red brick wall fragments and a farm outbuilding are all that remain, and it was not until 1775 that building began on the new Braunstone Hall, a neat and plain Georgian building set in 100 acres of park land which is today Braunstone Junior School, and the park one of the most attractive public parks in Leicester.

The pamphlet includes some very interesting illustrations of old houses remaining in Braunstone — one picture of Braunstone looking completely rural in the early 1920’s and appendices about the Winstanley family — the Poor Rate List and the 1851 Census returns showing heads of households.
One criticism which can be fairly made about the pamphlet is that for 60p one does feel that it should not be necessary to print the contents on the back of the title page — a list of illustrations would have been useful — and that attention to these editorial details would have improved the appearance of this very attractive pamphlet.

SHEARSBY: past and present, edited by Ronald Southerton, illustrations by Nan Middleton.

Published by the Community Organisation of Shearsby, in connection with the Shearsby Festival Week 17—23rd September 1972 30p

Neatly, attractively and very nicely produced, with pen and ink drawings in the text of most of the older houses still standing today which can be seen in a stroll round the quiet streets of the village, and with a foreword by the County Archivist, this booklet was produced for sale at a week of village festivities, which included a local history exhibition in the old school, built for £300 in 1860, and now used as the Village Hall.

The compilers of this brief account of Shearsby and its history have obviously made very careful use of the printed and manuscript sources available for their study, and the delightful illustrations in the text enable the reader to take a look round the interesting houses in a village safely tucked away to the west of the A.50, made a turnpike road in the late 18th century which was Leicester’s earliest route to Northampton and London.

One of the glories of Shearsby is ‘Yeoman’s Cottage’ a carefully restored farmer’s house of the 16th and 17th centuries containing many features of an earlier date, and visitors to the Festival owed much to the generosity of its owner Mr. Cross in allowing them to wander through this fascinating building.

This delightfully illustrated pamphlet provides a good introduction to the history of the village, well documented for the more serious student who wishes to find out more about a very attractive village.


Once more the members of the Kegworth Village Association have packed into their slim magazine a varied and interesting series of articles — The stockingers of Kegworth and the young Scot who anglicised his name to Buckley, trained the
village drum and fife band, to be later enlarged by his musical grandson — Fred Buckley, organist, choirmaster, and bandmaster. Another chapter of Kegworth’s history is included, this time notes on the story of the parish church together with a brief account of John Kirk’s work for poor children in ‘the Ragged School Union’ for which he was knighted in 1907.

Many readers may find the account of the Kegworth stockingers the most interesting article in this issue, for it describes the processes used, the families who owned the stockingers shops and the high quality of the stockings made on the narrow frames preferred by Kegworth workers, and others who walked from Shepshed, Long Whatton and Sutton Bonnington. The Kegworth stockingers were highly skilled and specialised in making silk stockings, many for Royalty.

The 1939 war saw the end of the industry, when yarn and pure silk became difficult to obtain. In 1951 the shop owned by A.W. Dakin was still using hand operated Griswold machines, when it was taken over by Fullers of Loughborough.

RUTLAND: the County and Museum

This very attractive eight page pamphlet gives a brief illustrated description of the Museum, an introductory note on its formation, and an excellent summary of the history of Rutland.

The building itself, known locally as ‘the old Riding School’, was once the indoor training ground of the Rutland troop of light cavalry which was later merged with the Leicester Regiment of Yeomanry in 1825. The last owner of the property, Mr. Charles Noel, leased the building to the County Council for conversion to a museum, and after his death in 1966 it was found that he had generously bequeathed the building to the Rutland County Council.

A very useful collection of items illustrating the local crafts, agriculture and domestic life of the 17th–19th centuries had been built through the enthusiasm of Mr. E.C. Bolton, Headmaster of Casterton Secondary School, and the pupils he imbued with his own interest, from 1939–1963. In 1958 Mr. Bolton’s collection was placed in the hands of a body of Trustees, and at the same time an association ‘Friends of the Rutland County Museum’ was established which has since contributed many interesting and valuable items to the collection.
An enthusiastic headmaster of Oakham School from 1902 to 1929, Mr. W.L. Sargent, established the Oakham School Museum, in which most archaeological finds in the County were deposited.


The collections illustrate the geology, pre-history and the archaeology of Roman and Anglo-Saxon England, but the great attraction of the Museum is its fine collection of agricultural, craft and domestic articles which illustrate the daily lives of Rutland people in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The brief historical account describes how, until it obtained recognition as the County of Rutland, in the thirteenth century, the area had always formed part of other larger units. It describes Rutland people who achieved national recognition, the Castle Hall in Oakham, and some of the County’s interesting villages and fine churches.

Admission to the Museum is free — the hours of opening are included in the guide and special arrangements can be made for school and other organised party visits on application to the curator.

Copies of the guide can be ordered direct from the Rutland Museum at a charge of 15p including packing and postage.

THE HERITAGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE: by W.G. Hoskins, with photographs by F.L. Attenborough and Russell McClelland. 3rd edition, revised by Russell McClelland, City of Leicester Publicity Department, 1972. 40p paper, 75p hardbacked

When this book was first published in 1946 it immediately became one of the best introductions to the ‘history on the ground’ of Leicestershire, describing examples of what visibly remains of its history from pre-Roman hill top earthworks, to the last of good elegant building in the 1840’s. It offered the reader a glimpse of its ancient roads, churches with Saxon work, the Georgian King’s Norton, great houses, and lesser domestic buildings of the last century in Lutterworth and Leicester. A second edition was printed in 1950, and this third, revised, edition includes some revisions in the text made necessary by the changes of the past twenty four years. It includes some new photographs: of the Fosse Way near Sharnford, the restoration of the sixteenth century Yeomans Cottage at Shearsby, and the skilled work undertaken at the thirteenth century house at Donington-le-Heath.
If Ragdale Old Hall is now a building to be deeply regretted, the restoration of Sir John Moore’s school at Appleby Magna, and the work on the medieval part of ‘Roger Wyggestons’ house in Highcross Street now the Costume section of Leicester Museums are gains not described in the first edition of this very readable and delightful book.

Whether one purchases the paper backed or the hard back edition, the City Publicity Department must win the grateful thanks of every professional or amateur observer of the Leicestershire scene, for the careful revision and attractive format of this delightful book.

**ANTIQUE MAPS OF LEICESTERSHIRE:** by R.K. Baum
The Book House, Loughborough and De Elange, Syston.
1972 £2.00

Maps old and new have a great fascination for many people, particularly if they are as these described with many reproduction maps of their own county. This is the first work to deal exclusively with Leicestershire since the very useful introductory guide, *Leicestershire Maps* by B.L. Gimson and P. Russell appeared in 1947.

The dates of the maps given in this volume range from Christopher Saxton’s ‘Warwic — Lecestriaeq comitat’ 1579, to W.C. Hobsons’ adaptation of John and Charles Walker’s maps of Leicestershire and Rutland with the areas of the counties hunted over boldly outlined in colour, the names of each hunt in bright blue, and place names where fox-hounds met marked by large black dots. This map was called ‘Hobson’s Fox hunting Atlas’ and was reprinted with the addition of Mr. Tailby’s hunt in 1866. The Walkers’ maps from ‘The British Atlas’ 1837, were reprinted many times, with minor revisions, and were also sold separately, dissected, mounted on linen with stiff board covers as ‘pocket editions’.

The names of the map makers are arranged in dictionary fashion, and each map and its source are very fully described. As curiosities, the playing card maps are interesting, W B in 1590 and the two other sets, by Robert Morden in 1676, and William Redmayne also printed in 1676, with another set in 1677, to which three sheep have been added to the Leicestershire card.

The most interesting and the most competent local map maker was John Prior, later the Rev. John Prior, the master of Ashby Grammar School who in response to an advertisement by the Royal Society of Arts in 1759 offering an award of £100 for an original survey of a city or a county on a one inch scale, compiled the first detailed survey of Leicestershire since Saxton two hundred years before. This very
detailed map begun in 1755 and completed in 1777 gives details of country houses, farm houses, churches, wind and water mills, lime-works, paper mills and shows ‘F Engines’ at Newbold, Lount and Measham. He also produced another smaller map based on his original survey, and another ingenious map with additions for the adjoining counties, ‘Mr. Priors’ Pocket Map of Leicestershire for Sportsmen’ 1787. This is a fox-hunting map showing all the fox-coverts in colour.

The Rev. John Curtis, another master of Ashby Grammar School, also produced a map, as the frontispiece of his *Topographical history of Leicestershire* in 1831, which shows three railways and all canals plainly marked. This map is almost identical, including the same mis-spellings of place names with the one used in Pigot’s Commercial directories, and their British atlas 1829-1830.

This book has been carefully produced, and a special limited edition, with the maps hand coloured and a more expensive binding is also available, price £18.

**IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE:** by J.C. Badcock, illustrated by the author. Vance Harvey Publishing, Leicester 1972. £1.50

This detailed account of his corner of South-East Leicestershire has been waiting for a publisher for many years, and the publication of this account of the fields, the canal side, the birds, the animals and the plants which still inhabit them provides a record which may in years to come tell us what the area was like before progress has made further alterations to this piece of countryside.

The author describes the names of some Fleckney fields; one known today as Cow Close, was formerly called Wranglands, one of the large open fields before the enclosure of 1769. Walking down the path, one comes to Bridge Close, where a little brick bridge passes over the former course of the brook, which was diverted when the canal was built to enter the canal by the second larger bridge where the bridle road crosses the canal. The ‘cut’ side, and the ‘cut’ itself have their own plant, bird and insect life, and there is still one field, part of ancient pasture land which has stayed almost unchanged through the ages, a treasury of plants destroyed elsewhere. The author then describes the old pattern of farming life, and how some of the furrows became field drains, after enclosure and the new ponds dug to water cattle have today been replaced by cleaner watering places, concrete platforms with the water controlled to enter the trough.
The author describes how the loss of the old hedges is affecting the natural history of the scene, how arable land brings some new bird species as others decline, but he hopes that some means may be found to create two kinds of nature reserves, one where people could roam at will, and others which were left as closed areas, where the wild life could be left secluded to continue to perpetuate its kind.

This is a delightful book on the face of the countryside he knows so intimately, illustrated throughout with his own sketches of the birds, insects and plants he knows so well.

ATKINS OF HINCKLEY: 1722-1972 by J.S. Atkins

This delightful booklet, beautifully illustrated, and with a genealogical tree of the Atkins family of Hinckley, describes the personalities of the Atkins closely associated with the firm, the growth of Atkins from a firm of ‘hosiers’ making stockings, to the many-sided knitted textile industry of today, with branch factories beyond Hinckley. It is a fascinating study of personalities, and of industrial growth and change.

The first Robert Atkins, the son of a yeoman farmer of Newbold-on-Avon, Rugby, was apprenticed to a Brother of the Framework Knitters of London, became a Freeman of the Company, and set up as a hosier in Hinckley in 1722 — the first Atkins, and the founder of the family firm. His grandson George Atkins married a very remarkable woman, Elizabeth Beale who lived from 1803-1892; left a widow in 1856, she brought up her five sons, had the pleasure of seeing the business fully established in Hinckley, and when her sons met her at a weekly session in her old plain house in Bond Street Hinckley they would find her busily cutting tops, as they held their business discussions, over a cup of tea. Her sons all prospered and when the dearly loved Arthur Atkins died in his early 40’s, his brothers gave the town its Free Library Building opened by the Duchess of Rutland in May 1888, as a memorial to his goodness, his deep regard for the old Great Meeting and his love of music and reading.

This generation of Atkins like their contemporaries in Leicester were Unitarians, and devoted to their chapel — and the welfare of Hinckley — helping to found the Cottage Hospital.

The author was the grandson of this Arthur Atkins and third son of Ernest Clive Atkins. His grandmother had a struggle to keep her eldest son Ernest Clive Atkins at Bedford Modern School, and in 1887, aged 17, E.C. Atkins joined the firm which
his flair for business was to do so much to enlarge — new buildings, and a new house at Stretton Baskerville in 1912, his love of farming, his career in World War I, and the skill with which he weathered the economic crisis of the 1920’s and 1930’s, his adaptability in allowing the firm to become a public company in 1950, all showed his capacity to move with the times.

The author followed him into the business in 1924, with early memories of learning to ride a bicycle on the top floor of the Bond Street building, the horse fair, and the livestock market, when he lived at the Vinery, now the Vinery Hotel — before moving to Stretton House in 1912.

Too young for the first World War, he saw service in the Second War commanding the Leicestershire Yeomanry in support of the Guards Armoured Division in Europe and came back to the problems of the post war world, the new material nylon, and the change of distribution: to begin to cater for the multiple market — and to make changes, the firm quickly adapted to fashion in the whole world of knitted fabric and outerwear.

If the Hinckley of today is a very different place to the township of some 2,000 in which the first Robert Atkins set up as a hosier — few local firms and local families can have given greater service to the town, or have done more to merit the visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret in May 1972.

The success of the business has depended not only on the family itself, but also on the activities of many other able members of the staff who have risen to the board, and to the many workers with services of 40 years or more with the firm, and the list of the Shipman family’s contribution from 1844 — 1972, some 377 years in all, is a tribute to a family of ‘good employers’ and willing service. In the illustrations too — there is a great contrast — the traditional framework knitters’ cottages timber framed, the plain house in Bond Street — the home of Mrs. E. Atkins, and the illustration of a typical stockingers room in the 1870’s compared with the rows of complicated machines in the modern factories of today.

The Police Journal, published and distributed by Barry Rose Publishers, 1972. 30p

The detection, punishment and causes of crime have fascinated the public and the social worker since the dawn of an effective police force in the mid-nineteenth century, and Leicester must be proud when it looks back on the distinguished
services of the first woman police sergeant to be appointed to the Leicester City Force, Miss Barbara de Vitre in 1936.

Miss de Vitre and her colleagues, the Misses Anne and Dora Constable, well educated at Edinburgh University, were all to set a standard of humane conduct and efficiency which was to be the hallmark of policewomen in their early days of acceptance in the Police Forces of the United Kingdom. Barbara de Vitre was to become one of the most distinguished of them all for her happy personality, organising ability, and length of service in the Police Force — she was a pioneer in organising the first Annual Conference of Policewomen, held in Leicester in 1937.

In April 1945 she became a Staff Officer with the Home Office Inspectorate, ‘to assist the Inspectors of Constabulary in matters relating to women Police’. Three years later she was appointed Britain’s First Assistant Inspector of Constabulary.

When she died so suddenly in 1960, the Police world at home and overseas mourned the death of a most distinguished colleague.

Few women can have left or won a stronger place for women working on some of the most difficult social problems on equal terms with their male colleagues than Barbara de Vitre, O.B.E. Leicester must feel proud that not only did she gain some of her grass roots experience in the Leicester Constabulary, but that this most interesting and well produced tribute to her memory should have been written by the forward looking historian Mr. C.R. Stanley of the Leicester and Rutland Constabulary.

VICTORIAN ASPIRATIONS: the life and labour of Charles and Mary Booth, by Belinda Norman Butler. 
Allen and Unwin 1972. £4.25

It is very easy for students of Leicestershire history to miss interesting sidelights on the social life of the county when these accounts occur in books whose subject and title give little indication of the interest they hold in their descriptions of the scenery and life of Leicestershire in their day.

Few people would immediately associate the life of Charles Booth the active Liverpool and London business man, whose life was spent not only in travelling between his two business offices, but who also was a social reformer with a passion for facts. An early advocate of old age pensions, the massive survey completed and published at his own expense in 1903 ‘The Life and Labour of the people of
London’ was a classic of its kind, long before the public opinion poll, or mass observation, or advertising research had been practised.

When he and his wife Mary, who helped edit and abridge his work, wanted a country home between London and Liverpool, they leased Grace Dieu Manor in 1865 when Ambrose March Phillips who had built the house in 1835, inherited Garendon Hall. Mary Booth, (born Macaulay, whose father was the youngest brother of the historian, and familiar with Rothley Temple, the seat of his Aunt Jean Babington’s husband) immediately fell in love with the stream and the wood at Grace Dieu on the edge of Charnwood Forest, so that it became her favourite home in her middle and old age. Charles Booth died there in 1917, and was buried in Thringstone Churchyard. Mary lived on at Grace Dieu, the friend of all her neighbours, rich and poor alike, and looked forward to picnics in the woods with her ‘women in the area’. It grieved both of the Booths that the owners of the property would not give the public free permanent access to the woods. Mary had a shrewd eye for all unnecessary circumstance, and remarks very dryly on the formality of taking tea at Beaumanor — round a long table, served by a butler, rather than the usual informal tea parties over which the hostess presided.

When the slump of the 1930’s hit the Booth shipping lines so heavily, Mary moved in 1932 to the cottage first built by her husband for her eldest daughter, and lived there until she died in her nineties in 1939.

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A ROMAN VILLAR AT TIXOVER GRANGE, RUTLAND by Alan McWhirr,
with an appendix by David J. Smith.

These excavations were conducted in 1958 and 1959 as training digs for students by the University of Leicester, Department of Archaeology, directed by Mr. S.E. Thomas.

The first reference to this site was made by the Rev. Edward Trollope, in the last century, when part of a hypocaust was found, and in 1912 tesserae were found in the Grange. Further excavations were undertaken in 1932, the material found dispersed, and the best record left was the diary of a teenager Graham Webster. In the 1958 and 1959 excavations trial trenches found walls to the north of the spinney. Unfortunately on this site the Roman floor level was so close to the modern ground level, that the buildings found had suffered extensive damage from later cultivation and tree roots, and within the spinney itself dense undergrowth
prevented excavation, and robbing of the walls made it hard to determine the precise chronology of the rooms found. A few coins and pottery fragments, mostly Castor ware, were unstratified, though everything from the site to the south of the Spinney was of fourth century pattern.

Mr. David Smith remarks that the remains of mosaic floors both from the 1932 and later excavations are similar in pattern to those at Medbourne and Haceby in Lincolnshire and therefore it is not unreasonable to surmise that these patterns were current in this part of Britain in the fourth century A.D.

Reports and material from the 1958 and 1959 excavations have been deposited at the Rutland County Museum, Oakham.

THE MEDIAEVAL PARKS OF LEICESTERSHIRE by L. M. Cantor.

The visitor who admires the walls surrounding the ‘parks’ of the great seventeenth and eighteenth century country mansions, may be forgiven if he forgets that some of these parks, if not the houses on their sites, may date from mediaeval times, from licenses granted to Lords of the Manor to ‘empark’ areas of their demesne. These parks had nothing to do with the complicated laws of the Royal Forests, but were in effect private game parks, often surrounded by a steep earthen mound, sometimes palisaded on top, with deer leaps at intervals, to encourage deer to come in to the park, without allowing them to escape.

Leicestershire had no ‘parks’ at the time of the Domesday Survey, but appears to have had some 34 parks during the mediaeval period up to 1540. Parks varied in size, many or even most were in the west of the county and Bradgate and Loughborough among the earliest recorded. At Belvoir Castle, Belvoir park was first emparked in 1306 by William Ros, Neville Holt in 1448, and Ashby Great Park, some ten miles in circumference, was granted to William Hastings in the 15th century — about the time that Kirby Muxloe Castle and Ashby Castle were built in early brickwork.

Cold Overton on the Rutland border is one of the most interesting parks, place names reflect its divisions and are very clearly seen on a tithe map of 1840 — with Park close, Park Mead, Corn Park, Bucks Meadow and Bucks Pasture.

This account lists the parks which at sometime existed during this period in Leicestershire. The transformation of Ros — or Roos into Ross in the text is a little confusing to those who seek information about the early Lords of Belvoir in the indexes of Nichols.
The author tries to estimate the quality of the 500 clergy and the unbeneficed clerks (curates) who served the parishes of Leicestershire in the early sixteenth century. He looks to see how many beneficed clergy (the most famous of these was Polydore Virgil of Church Langton) held benefices as absentee priests — often holding them in plurality, and by no means all of the benefices in the same county. Earlier there had been many complaints about the clerks, but it does seem that their educational standard was rising during the period, that there were a few complaints about immorality, but many more about the neglect of the fabric of the churches largely due to lack of money, and that the general standard of the lower clergy was improving through this period, and was much higher than in the previous century.

EPISCOPAL RECORDS with particular relation to the Diocese of Lincoln and the Archdeaconry of Leicester, by Joan Varley.

This is a most useful paper for anyone trying to trace the history of a parish church in Leicestershire before the county was transferred to the See of Peterborough in 1839. Though many searches may end in disappointment there are a number of helpful records and clues in some unlikely places.

Many enquirers want to know when a church was first built, consecrated, and later perhaps rebuilt or altered. The date of Woodhouse Church with its size are given with the enclosure award of Charnwood Forest.

Dedications are often hard to trace — and so are alterations to them. The visitations of churches in the Archdeaconry of Leicester give some clue to the condition of the fabric, ‘ruinous’ is stated so frequently — that it may really have meant a church was out of repair, rather than a roofless ruin — in the modern sense. Glebe Terriers compiled for episcopal visitations often give information about church and vicarage, and from the seventeenth century onwards faculties asking permission to insert a window, or even to restructure or rebuild a church are valuable records.

Sometimes alterations in parishes are noticed — sometimes not — and later there are applications for licences to hold services in school rooms, whilst churches were being repaired, or for new buildings not yet consecrated.

The article ends with some excellent advice on referring first to printed material, then to the archdeaconry records in Leicester itself, before reference is made to the Diocesan records.
A VICTORIAN SOCIAL WORKER: Joseph Dare and the Leicester domestic mission, by Jack Simmons.

Although Joseph Dare has been much neglected and almost forgotten, apart from the account of his work and personality in Isabel C. Ellis' *Records of nineteenth century Leicester* few towns can have received the kind of unselfish and sympathetic help he gave to the sick, hungry and poor of Leicester's congested side streets, from 1845 until he retired some thirty years later.

He was a Unitarian and his work became locally known from his school in Hinckley where he helped adults at night as well as children by day. Many of the prosperous business men of the reformed Borough of Leicester were Unitarians, and his own mission was to be based on the Unitarian Great Meeting. The work was on a much smaller scale than the similar Mission in Liverpool, and out of the £130 a year Leicester could spend in this way, 'Visiting is the distinctive feature of the Domestic Mission', Joseph Dare must have been known to many families in dire distress. In 1851 he acted as a census enumerator, to gain an entry in to many homes, and was appalled to find that many children had only two years of schooling and that the majority of school children were aged nine years old or less. Joseph Dare was one of the many who welcomed the Education Act of 1870 and the creation of the School Boards.

Though the horrors of the worst of Leicesters' old houses and courts may have gone during his working life, he was still horrified by the very high infant mortality rate in Leicester.
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