Contents

Editorial 2
W. G. Hoskins at work Margaret Bonney 3
A murderer pardoned and a judge defied Terry Cocks 5
From Loughborough to Lambeth J D Bennett 6
An unusual marriage ceremony Terry Cocks 7
A wine merchant, botanist and poet Jess Jenkins 8
William Clavell Ingram, Vicar of St Matthews, Leicester Gerald Rimmington 9
George Dewes and his Leicestershire schooldays, 1834-1844 Martin Coombs 13
Exploring Leicestershire's churchyards - part 2 Alan McWhirr 16
Wardening in Leicestershire and Rutland Carolyn Holmes 22
The Ladybird from Angel Yard Pat Grundy 24
John Henry Stokes an Edwardian horse dealer Louis Edwards 26
Leicestershire and Rutland Notes and Queries and Antiquarian Gleaner – a treasury of information Joyce Lee 28
Recent Books Ed John Hincks 34

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Editorial

It was in 1996 that this Society took over the publishing of the *Leicestershire Historian* from the Leicestershire Local History Council, which had decided to cease functioning. In the early years I acted as editor until we found somebody willing to take on the post. Helen Edwards ‘volunteered’ and edited six editions between 1998 and 2003. Last year Helen found it necessary to give up her role as editor and I agreed to edit this edition until we could find a replacement. I am pleased to be able to tell you that Joyce Lee has agreed to become editor, for which the Society is most grateful, and she is now collecting material for the 2005 edition. Joyce is well known locally for a number of publications, in particular *Who's Buried Where in Leicestershire*, published in 1991. In addition Joyce has written a number of articles for the *Leicestershire Historian*. The Society is indebted to Helen Edwards for seeing through six editions to publication in addition to a very busy working and family life.

The LH is published for the benefit of members of the Society, and the committee hopes that members will contribute articles for inclusion in future volumes. We are looking for a mixture of articles, ranging from short half-page snippets to longer in-depth pieces. Each should be capable of being illustrated with good-quality pictures or line drawings which should accompany any contribution sent to the editor for consideration.

The Society would also like to see the LH distributed further afield, but the problems of marketing and distribution make it difficult for those of us working in a voluntary capacity for the Society to spend the time and energy on promotion. If members reading this editorial have any influence in persuading local museums, churches, societies or other groups to take a batch of 10 copies for sale, would they please contact the Honorary Secretary.

This edition contains a number of articles dealing with individuals. There is a fascinating insight into the way W.G. Hoskins collected material for his research especially relevant as we approach in 2005, the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of his *Making of the English Landscape*. The neglected work of Frederick Mott, wine merchant, botanist and poet, is reviewed and the impact of the Revd William Ingram on the inner city parish of St Matthews is explored. The schooldays of George Dewes at Ashby Grammar School are described by one of his descendents and there is an account of John Henry Stokes, an Edwardian horse dealer. In addition there are tales of a murderer, an unusual marriage ceremony, a continuation of exploring churchyards, the Ladybird books and an early antiquarian publication.

As usual John Hinks has managed to persuade his team of reviewers to come up with an impressive number of contributions on books and pamphlets about the county published in 2003. John has edited this section so meticulously that it is an editor’s dream! Many thanks to John and all the reviewers. We are always on the look out for more reviewers and for books to review so please contact either John Hinks or Joyce Lee if you think you can help.

The picture on the inside back cover of the 2003 *Leicestershire Historian* was taken at the Guildhall, Leicester.

*Alan McWhirr, Acting Editor*
In the ‘Acknowledgements’ to his book *The Midland Peasant*, W. G. Hoskins writes: ‘It is a pleasure to thank the Rev. Canon G. H. West, vicar of Wigston Magna, for his past kindness in giving me full access to all the parish records in his charge.’ The deposit in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland of a wonderfully disparate collection of documents from this parish (DE 6073) includes letters which allow us to see how great was the debt owed by Hoskins to West, who acted as his unpaid research assistant for a number of years. In return, Hoskins shared his findings and conclusions with the vicar, who obviously had considerable interest in the local history of his parish.

The earliest letter from Hoskins to West in the parish collection dates from 21 April 1937, a time when Hoskins was working on the medieval fields of Wigston (published as ‘The Fields of Wigston Magna’ in TLAS, 19 1936-7, 163-198). Hoskins asks if he can come over to the church one Saturday afternoon to look at the tithe apportionment book and map so that he can try to find the location of some of the names he had collected. He is a bit cast down to hear that West cannot find the map: ‘this is very awkward, and I hope perhaps we may be able to unearth the book and map in some forgotten corner at the church’ he writes on 24 April.

Next, he moves on to research on the population of Wigston itself (which saw the light of day as ‘The population of an English Village 1086-1801: a study of Wigston Magna’ in TLAS, 33, 1957, 15-35). On 2 Feb. 1944 he writes to West: ‘I wonder if you could assist me in what may appear to be a tedious task’. West is asked to calculate the number of christenings, marriages and burials at Wigston from 1567 (the start of the registers) to 1700, on an annual basis, ‘as a start’! Readers who have struggled with the writing of the earliest parish registers will know what a task this is! ‘If I supply the sheets of paper already ruled out in columns for each year, could you undertake the counting involved for me?’ Hoskins tells West why this is important. First, ‘I want to say something of the plague years’ in Wigston, and the fluctuations in the burials each year will show these up’. Second, ‘I want to estimate the growth of the population between 1567 and 1700 ... as I have a theory (already well evidenced) that Wigston’s population grew rapidly in that period – probably more than doubled’ – and this had profound effects on the farming of the parish and accounts for the early appearance of the framework knitting industry in the village.’

West wasted no time, and on 13 Feb. 1944 Hoskins wrote to thank him, and to congratulate him. ‘I feel deeply conscious that the task I set you in counting ... was an enormous one and I was both surprised and pleased that you covered it so quickly. I have already made much use of it, tabulating the figures in various ways.’ But more detailed questions followed. How did the annual figures run, from Michaelmas to Michaelmas? Would West look again at 1609 – the plague year – ‘to find out in what months of the year the majority of the burials took place’ so that Hoskins could see how long the plague lasted and in what season it occurred? Once again, West responded rapidly, and Hoskins was able to show from the statistics that the plague reached its height in the last 3 weeks of August, falling back in September and then flaring up once again in the first fortnight of October: ‘it killed as many people in 11 weeks at Wigston as normally died in 2 years’, he concluded.

Then on to another subject. ‘By the way’, Hoskins wonders on 21 February, ‘when do the extant churchwardens’ accounts begin?’ Behind this question lies Hoskins’ work on the name of the second church in the parish, known in 1944 and up to the mid1950s as St Wulstan or St Wulstan’s church, but during the medieval period as St Wistan’s church. Could West verify Nichols’ references to St Wistan’s church in the 1639 accounts and check how the church was being used after this date? ‘Don’t make a large task of this’, he says, but within 4 days of the original enquiry West had unearthed material which interested Hoskins. The references from the 1680s suggested that the church was still partly in use as a church, and ‘by the 1680s the dedication to St Wolstan had been firmly accepted – so the change in name took place in the forty or fifty years between 1639 and 1682/3’.
writes on 22 March 1944 ‘It is possible that I shall worry you again in due course for various details, but for the time being I am satiated with information! I’m very grateful to you for all the trouble you have taken in answering my queries.’

As a postscript, there were to be later ramifications into Hoskins’ research into the naming of St Wistan’s church. The PCC of Wigston decided to revert to the name St Wistan in a meeting during 1957. In 1968, the then vicar of Wigston, Rev. B. T. Davies, wrote to Mr L. Brookes, Clerk of Wigston UDC, asking that the Highways Committee reconsider the proposed naming of a new housing development to the east of the church as St Wolstan’s Close in the light of Hoskins’ findings in *The Midland Peasant* and because the church was called St Wistan’s by its parishioners. However, at the council meeting it was decided that the name of the close should stand because that was what the church was called on OS maps and that was the Ward name and ‘confusion would be caused if the road was named in any other manner’. Who has caused the greatest confusion for local historians of the future, Hoskins and the PCC of Wigston Parish, or the local authority?

This article first appeared in *The Dustsheet* produced by the Friends of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland and is reproduced with permission of the Record Office and the author. There have been one or two minor editorial amendments.

**The Making of the English Landscape 50 years on**

2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Making of the English Landscape* by W.G. Hoskins. This great Leicester historian wrote many notable books and essays, but this was probably his most influential work. To mark this event, and to take stock of the progress of the discipline of landscape history, a conference is being organised by a group from the Centre for English Local History and the School of Archaeology at Leicester University, with representatives of such bodies as the Royal Historical Society, the Historical Geography Research group, and the Society for Landscape Studies. Themes include subjects which figure in Hoskins’ book, such as rural settlement, buildings and industry, and others which he did not emphasize, such as the pre-medieval landscape, and religious and spiritual landscapes.

The conference will be held on 7-10 July 2005 at the University of Leicester, and anyone interested in attending should contact Chris Dyer at the Centre for English Local History.
An entry in the burial register for St. Martin’s Church, Leicester (now the Cathedral) reads:

1778 May 19 John Fenton 32 years.

A plain straightforward entry for the burial of a man whose death caused legal quibble and a great deal of argument! The epitaph on his gravestone, however, makes up for the brevity of the entry – and the epitaph itself was to cause still more legal quibbling and argument.

John Fenton was a Leicester innkeeper. One day in May 1778 he was present when a dispute over a game of billiards broke out between his brother and Francois Soulès, a Frenchman living in Leicester. Soulès produced a pistol which John Fenton took from him and carried home to his inn, the Green Dragon. Next day Soulès went there to retrieve it; a scuffle took place in which the pistol, which was loaded, was discharged, and Fenton was shot dead. Soulès was arrested, stood trial and was found guilty of murder. There was some doubt about his guilt, however, as he pleaded that he had not intended murder, having gone to Fenton’s inn only to regain his property. He was accordingly pardoned and released.

This aroused much indignation in Leicester, particularly as Fenton left a young family, and this was expressed in the epitaph on his gravestone, composed by Charles Rozzel, a schoolmaster (whose own gravestone, 1792, stands in St. Mary de Castro churchyard). Local historian John Throsby, writing in 1791, records that a later Assize Judge, when in Leicester, heard of the inscription and was displeased by its reflection on the judicial system. He complained to the archdeacon, who ordered the stone’s removal – but this was never put into effect.

The gravestone, with its offending inscription, still survives. It is a long time since it marked Fenton’s grave, having been moved on more than one occasion. Over the years it had been slightly damaged, and the inscription was in danger of being obscured by lichen and moss, making it difficult to read. For these reasons, and because of its interest as a piece of local history, negotiations began some years ago between the Cathedral authorities and the City Council for its removal to the precincts of the Guildhall, which seemed appropriate in view of what may be called its ‘judicial connection’. The stone was carefully removed from its latest position and is being kept inside the Cathedral until its re-erection in the Guildhall area can be arranged. Apart from Leicester residents, visitors from elsewhere to the Cathedral who have heard of it have asked for its whereabouts, and it will certainly be an object of considerable interest in its eventual new setting.
If you look at a railway map of South London, you will see a station called Loughborough Junction, on the line going south from Blackfriars. Loughborough Junction was originally called Loughborough Road, and between there and Brixton was another station called Loughborough Park (later renamed East Brixton and now closed). As well as those stations, and the thoroughfares of Loughborough Park and Loughborough Road, a row of early nineteenth-century houses in Brixton Road called Loughborough Place, a block of flats called Loughborough Mansions, a row of shops called Loughborough Parade, Loughborough Park Congregational Church and the Loughborough Park Tavern, in Coldharbour Lane, all provide evidence of a link between seventeenth-century Leicestershire and an area that was once part of Surrey but is now in the London Borough of Lambeth.

That link was provided by Henry Hastings, first Baron Loughborough (c.1609-1667), to whom the manor of Lambeth Wick, of which this land once formed part, was leased. The younger son of the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, he was born at the Manor House on Sparrow Hill, Loughborough. During the Civil War, as Colonel Hastings, he was an important Royalist commander and led troops at Edgehill in 1642, was involved in the relief of Newark in 1644, became governor of Leicester in 1645 and held Ashby Castle till 1646. In 1649 he escaped to Holland, but returned to England in 1660 and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire the following year.

In 1664 he was living at the manor house of Lambeth Wick, which became known as Loughborough House, and in that year obtained an Act of Parliament to make the river Effra navigable from Brixton Causeway to the Thames, but died before his project could be implemented.

By the beginning of the 18th century, the Hastings family were no longer lessees of the manor of Lambeth Wick. Loughborough House became 'a superior academy for young gentlemen'; a collection of elocution lessons published in 1787 was dedicated 'To the Young Noblemen and Gentlemen receiving their education at Loughborough House School'. A drawing in Lambeth Archives of c.1825 shows it as a three-storey house of ten bays, which had clearly been rebuilt, or at least refronted, since Henry Hastings’ time. It still had 30 resident pupils at the time of the 1841 census.
Piecemeal development of Lambeth Wick had started in 1820, and the laying out of roads like Loughborough Park from 1844 onwards, the demolition of Loughborough House in 1854, and the opening of the lines to Central London in the 1860s and early 1870s, coupled with the availability of cheap, early morning workmen’s fares, accelerated the transformation of the area into a railway suburb.

The manor of Loughborough remained in the possession of the Hastings family until 1810, though the building on Sparrow Hill which is still known as the Manor House was sold by them in 1654. After many owners and changes of use, it has been restored and is now a hotel and restaurant.

Sources
Dictionary of National Biography.

An unusual marriage ceremony
Terry Cocks

The BBC has recently been in touch with Leicester Cathedral in connection with an entry in the old parish registers of St. Martin’s Church – as the Cathedral then was – for 1576, for filming on the BBC2 programme for the deaf, ‘See Hear’.

The entry records a marriage which took place in that year, between Thomas Tilseye and Ursula Russel. It was an unusual ceremony; so much so, that permission for its being celebrated in a special manner had to be obtained from the Bishop of Lincoln, Thomas Cooper, in whose diocese Leicester then lay, and other officials. The problem was that the bridegroom was deaf and dumb, so could not make the responses and promises of the marriage service. Evidently it was felt that something more definite than a nod of the head was required, probably so that no doubt might be cast on Thomas Tilseye’s sincerity, and that no question could arise later as to the validity of the marriage.

Here is the entry from the marriage register, for 5 February 1576:

Thomas Tilseye and Ursula Russel were married; and because the sayde Thomas was and is naturally deafe, and also dumbe, so that the order of the forme of marriage used usually amongst others which can heare and speake, could not for his parte be observed. After the approbation had from Thomas the bishoppe of Lincolne, John Chippendale, doctor in lawe, and commissarye, as also of Mr. Richard Davye, then mayor of the towne of Leicester, with others of his brethren, with the reste of the parishe; the said Thomas, for the expressing of his minde instead of words, of his owne accorde used these signes: first he embraced her with his armes, and took her by the hande, putt a ringe upon her finger, and layed his hande upon his hearte, and then upon her hearte; and held up his hands toward heaven; and to shewe his continuance to dwell with her to his lyves and, he did it by closing of his eyes with his foote, and pullinge as though he would ring a bell, with diverse other signes approved.
An enquiry from a step-great-granddaughter in Cornwall led Jess Jenkins, from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, into the long neglected works of Frederick Thompson Mott (1825-1908) sometime Liberal councillor, scientist, President of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society, and poet.

Many of his pamphlets and unpublished works survive in the local author’s section of the Record Office library whilst by chance, a family photograph album has survived amongst the archives (DE 3736 album 14).

Thanks to a brief biography in *Flora of Leicestershire and Rutland* (p ccxviii) published in 1933, we know that Frederick was born in Loughborough on 24 March 1825 and was educated at the Proprietary School in Leicester – now the home of the City Museum. He joined the wine and spirits merchant business established by his father Julius on Cheapside in Leicester and remained there until retirement just before his death. Under the care of Frederick and his brothers, the business obviously flourished with branches established in Birkenhead and Liverpool. Frederick’s real interest and passion, however, had lain since boyhood with natural history. As a young man he enjoyed roaming Charnwood Forest in the company of like-minded intellectuals and his first book *Flora Odorata* published in 1843 reflected his botanical knowledge, cataloguing sweet-scented flowers and shrubs cultivated in British gardens. His love for the countryside is always apparent but it is never clearer than in his preface to the third edition of his *Guide to Charnwood Forest* which appeared in 1868.

“Here in our Charnwood Forest we have one of Nature’s centres of Force .....Believing that nothing better can be done for the human race in this age than to bring it into intelligent contact with beauty, I desire to make the good influence of our beautiful Charnwood spread a little further....”

The Record Office also holds the copy of his *The Fruits of All Countries* which he published himself in 1883 and proudly presented to Leicester Free Library. But, it is not for this rather for his compilation with others of the *Flora of Leicestershire* in 1886 for which he is chiefly remembered in the botanical field. In fact, he was interested in every branch of science and was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society as well as a prominent member of the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society. His later publications however, were to reflect a different aspect of his character.

In 1888, Frederick published the first of some rather more philosophical and religious works with *Corona – the Bright Side of the Universe – Studies in Optimism* in which he berated the “cold wave of materialism” through which he felt the civilized world had been passing. There followed in 1891 *King Edda’s Parables* which included a selection of poems as well as some engaging parables in which he sought to express God’s glory in nature and the beauty of the inner soul. *The Benscliffe Ballads & Other Poems – a book for Summer Holidays* was published in London 1899 in which he recalled the happy debates with his friends during summer days past in the hills and woods of Charnwood.

Just before his death, a final book of poems entitled *Broken Shells Gathered on the Shores of Thought* was published. Although the heavy Christian sentiment and moral emphasis is probably far more suited to Edwardian taste than our own, there is still a great charm in his works and there is certainly some thought-provoking material for anyone planning a sermon. He died at his home at Birstall Hill on 14 March 1908. Of his three sons, two became Unitarian ministers and the youngest, Basil (1859-1938) enjoyed a distinguished career as a civil engineer earning a baronetcy in 1930 for his work in, among other things, construction of underground railways. (He was, incidentally the man responsible for the introduction of escalators into this country – see DNB!).

Perhaps we get closest to this thoughtful nature-loving man in poems such as the one entitled *Children* in which he describes a man “buried among his books...peering deep down into life’s mystery while the pen waits for impulse” when his children burst upon the scene excitedly announcing the discovery of a bird’s egg:

“The soul-rapt eyes relent, the smile of welcome
Wakes on his lips, and though the thread is broken
The costly thoughts that cannot be recalled
Are scattered, love he knows is costlier still,
He doubts not, chides not, but with open arms,
Clasps the sweet forms & gives his best for love”

I for one [writes Jess] shall try and remember Mr Mott, when next my two-year old drives me up the wall.

[First published in *The Dustsheet: a supplement to the Friends of the Record Office Newsletter* no. 17]
When Dr. William Connor Magee became the bishop of Peterborough in 1868 he was confronted with many problems. Prominent among them were the difficulties that arose because of the rapid growth of Leicester, which was by far the largest urban centre in his diocese. From the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the population had been about 17,000, numbers grew to 95,220 in 1871 and 174,624 in 1891. Between 1871 and 1891 the number of houses constructed increased from 19,800 to 29,228. The five ancient parishes that had hitherto served the town were joined by others. Three new churches – St. George’s, Christ Church and Holy Trinity – were built between 1827 and 1840. To them were added St. John the Divine (1854), St. Andrew’s (1862) and St. Matthew’s (1865). Others were soon to follow.

Even more important, however, than the building of churches and the establishment of parishes was the question of staffing them. Leicester was not the most attractive of towns for an Anglican clergyman. It was a hotbed of Dissent. Horace Mann’s religious census in 1851 indicated that attendance at the nine parish churches was less than at twenty-six non-Anglican places of worship. Moreover there were few financial rewards.

The poverty of Leicester parishes was of long-standing. Most of the tithes had been converted into fixed money payments before or during the inflationary period of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. St. Martin’s no longer had any glebe. In 1706 the incumbent complained that the living was worth no more than twenty pounds; no tithes had been paid for more than half a century. Josiah Bond, the incumbent of St. Mary’s and St. Nicholas’ in the 1660s, whose income was about twelve pounds, had to supplement his income by teaching, while his wife earned a small salary from the washing of church linens.¹ Even by early Victorian times the situation had changed little. At St. Martin’s, for instance, there was reliance upon the income of about £45 from the donation of a forty acre estate in Whetstone. Edward Vaughan, who was vicar from 1844 to 1860, relied upon the £300 he received as Master of the Wyggeston Hospital for most of his income. At All Saints’, whose incumbent suffered from the abolition of the church rate, there had to be reliance upon the pew rents. In 1863 he received only £70. Even when combined with St. Leonard’s his income was still less than £200.²

Among the latter was the forty year old William Clavell Ingram, who became vicar of St. Matthew’s in 1874. Ingram was the elder son of the Reverend George Ingram, who graduated with a Cambridge Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1839, and was thereafter rector of Chedburgh in Suffolk until his death in 1850.³ After graduating from Cambridge in 1857 William was a master at Lancing College (1858-1860) and mathematical master at Bradfield College (1863-1864). Subsequently he was vicar of Kirk-Michael in the Isle-of-Man and chaplain to the bishop of Sodor and Man from 1864 to 1874. He arrived at St. Matthew’s in 1874.

William Clavell Ingram, Vicar of St Matthew’s Leicester, 1874-1893. (From A memoir of William Clavell Ingram, D.D., Dean of Peterborough (1903), with permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)
There was a long tradition of internal preferment within the diocese of Peterborough, so there can be little doubt that Bishop Magee considered that the parish itself and the man important. In making the appointment he confessed that ‘to bring a stranger into the diocese is I know very unpopular’. Yet, he said, ‘far better unpopularity than a wrong choice for such a cure of souls as at St. Matthew’s’.

What was so important about St. Matthew’s? The parish work had been developed by George Venables, Ingram’s immediate predecessor. With enormous energy and a flair for innovation, Venables was able to say that, by 1871, in a parish that had grown to 14,000 people, ‘the work has grown very slowly’ and that he had endeavoured ‘to promote Sunday Schools, to secure District Visitors when possible, and to regard all the whole staff of workers, being communicants, as forming one Church body’. Though he had struggled to promote attendance at the Sunday service of Matins, the ‘vigour of his preaching’ had drawn together a large evening congregation. He had been delighted that ‘we sometimes see the evening attendance as large as our magnificent free and unappropriated Church can accommodate’. Before he was attracted to a parish at Great Yarmouth there were already three day schools in the parish. He had also ‘established two mission rooms, in which licensed lay-missioners held Sunday Schools and Sunday evening services’. Moreover he had ensured that, despite the working-class status of his parishioners, there were no pew rents; the church expenses, apart from the vicar’s stipend, were ‘provided entirely from the offertory’.

Venables had been fortunate too in that one of the leading members of his congregation was George Alfred Robinson, who was baptised at the age of thirty-three years, and thereafter held various positions in the church. He had opened a Sunday school at the Chester Street School in 1870, assisted by a Miss Fentum, with four children. By 1873 he was sub-warden of the Guild of St. Matthew’s and a lay representative at the Ruridecanal Conference. Ingram was able initially to inherit the energy of this remarkable man.

Robinson and others in the congregation had been worried that, with the withdrawal of Venables’ formidable presence, ‘there was a danger of a slackening of the activity, unless the bishop was able to
find the right man for the post.’. Bishop and congregation were agreed that the need was for an experienced man, a good preacher with a flair for organisation, to lead ‘the largest and most important of the new churches built in Leicester ... to meet the wants of the rapidly increasing industrial growth’. Fortunately the church itself was not unattractive architecturally to a priest of mild Tractarian views. Designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, it was ‘an extremely good building, relatively inexpensive and distinctly High Victorian in style. Internally it is broad, spacious and uncluttered, with none of the meanness of a typical “mission church”’.8

In a sense Ingram’s appointment was a safe one. Although he had a decidedly Catholic disposition, he was nevertheless described as ‘a sound Churchman of no extreme views’ who was also ‘a man of kindly and sympathetic nature’. Several years into his appointment it was noted that ‘the work of his parish was so engrossing and continuous that neither he nor his senior curate had had a free Sunday for more than two years’.9

From Bishop Magee’s point of view the appointment of Ingram was also advantageous because he was a bachelor, and, therefore, able to live comfortably on the stipend of £363. At the new St. Peter’s, in Highfields, Magee had found a young and energetic vicar to begin the work of organising a parish. Most of the new appointments were, however, like that of Ingram. Hugh Fortescue (St. George’s 1876-1895), Henry Broughton (St. Mary’s 1875-1893), Leonard Cooper (St. John’s 1880-1897), Thomas Owen (St. Nicholas 1875-1892) and James Mason (St. Paul’s 1871-1911) were all bachelors, for whom it was no great hardship to live on a low stipend.10

The real advantages of Ingram’s ministry were his superb organisational ability, his diplomatic skills and his capacity for working long hours. He was early in seeking much needed help. Unable to afford to pay assistant curates out of his own pocket he became an enthusiastic supporter of the Additional Curates’ Society, whose aim was to provide curates in large High Church urban parishes wherever possible. In 1878 he told his parishioners that the ACS provided 637 additional curates throughout the country, and that there was a demand for 300 more which could not be met because of lack of funds. Since the ACS made two grants to St. Matthew’s amounting to £285 in total the congregation was urged to raise at least £155 to help the Society. So successful was the vicar’s fundraising effort that the offerings, which had amounted to £311 in 1868, were raised to £734 by 1878.

The pastoral activities of Ingram and his assistant curates raised the profile of the church in the community. Baptisms increased from 340 in 1868 to 412 in 1878, marriages from 11 to 77 over the same time period. Between 1871 and 1878 the number of communicants increased from 2,054 to 4,160. By 1878 there was also an athletic club with 73 members and 481 people using a savings bank. There was, in
addition, a ‘St. Matthew’s Young Men’s Society’, formed ‘for the purpose of mutual improvement, lectures, readings and debates on Tuesday evenings during winter’. The one hundred young men who formed the membership also had a recreational evening on Saturdays, and were served with coffee and cocoa at a small charge.’ 11

At the time of George Alfred Robinson’s death in 1886 Ingram was able to say that ‘the Day schools are in a most splendid condition of work’, that ‘the Sunday schools ... are working without a hitch’, that ‘the number of communicants is larger than it has ever been before’ and that ‘even in financial matters the Churchwardens’ accounts show a better condition than ever in the past’. 12

Ingram was not a man of great originality, but he had been sensible enough to build upon the foundations laid by his talented predecessor. There was meticulous attention paid to detail and a concern for individuals. He took a particular interest in the church schools, which went beyond the confines of his own parish. By the time of his appointment the church schools were already hard-pressed by competition from the board schools, which in Leicester were particularly efficient. Recognising that the efficiency of the latter was to a great extent bound up with strong central control, he campaigned for and achieved a stronger Archidiaconal Board of Education, which secured more cooperation between the parishes. Taking a great interest in the welfare of the pupil teachers, he took over their tutoring after Canon William Fry sickened and died in 1874.

Ingram’s predecessor had been in the habit of preparing a lesson book for the Sunday school teachers to use. What the new vicar did was to reorganise the lesson book so that it followed the annual cycle of the Church’s seasons. Each Friday evening, after evensong, he would gather the teachers together and carefully explain the purpose and content of the next Sunday’s lessons. He put so much time and energy into the annual re-editing of the lesson book that other incumbents too began to use it.

Ingram was also seemingly tireless. His instruction of pupil teachers and Sunday school teachers took his influence beyond his own parish. Nor was he content with that. In 1890 he was largely instrumental in founding the Leicester Spiritual Aid Fund, which provided seven additional clergy in newer suburbs and helped in the establishment of new churches. His parishioners would complain that ‘often when he really needed rest he would leave his pressing parochial cares only to preach a ten days’ mission [elsewhere], or a Lenten course, entailing much study and preparation’. 13 What was important however, was that Ingram was secure in the knowledge that the parish was so well organised that it could function either with or without him. It was said that ‘his curates always regarded him with a warm affection... He endeared himself to them alike by his many kindly and hospitable acts, and by his scrupulous and ever ready tact’. Moreover, he was able, according to his anonymous memorialist:

To draw together a large number of devoted Churchwardens and induce them to feel that the Church is part of their daily life, and they had a duty to perform in keeping up its various institutions. Most of these helpers were hard working men and women of the industrial class. To promote this lay help, the Guild of St. Matthew, which had been founded by his predecessor, was carried on and fostered by Mr. Ingram’. 14

Like many a person with the ability to organise and systematise, Ingram was able not only to build upon the original foundations of his predecessor, but to take George Venables’ ideas a stage further. By 1893, with his fame spreading beyond his parish, he was ready to take on another task. He had already been offered bishoprics in Canada, South Africa and the West Indies, but had shown no inclination to venture beyond his native country. In December, 1892, however, he received a letter from Prime Minister William Gladstone inviting him to become Dean of Peterborough. Ingram accepted with enthusiasm and was installed there on February 13, 1893. The experience of St. Matthew’s parish in Leicester had served him and the parish well.

References

5. George Venables, A Pastoral Letter to the Congregation of St. Matthew’s, Leicester (1971).
11. W. C. Ingram, Letter to the Parishioners and Congregation of St. Matthew’s, Leicester, 1878.
13. Memoir of W C Ingram, p.16.
My great-great-grandfather, Joseph Dewes, was born in 1788, and went into his father’s grocery and ironmongery business in Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The business was successful and expanded its premises to take in a drug and dispensing department. Joseph took over the running of this department, but then married a farmer’s daughter, Selina Bryan, the “prettiest girl in the parish of Smisby,” in 1814. He continued for a time in his father’s business in Ashby, but soon “farming seemed to charm him”. Joseph abandoned his business career in Ashby and took on the management of two hundred acres in Ashby parish. This allowed Joseph and Selina and Selina’s mother to continue to live at Pistern Hill farm.

Joseph and Selina had nine children. George, my great-grandfather, was their seventh child and he was born in 1826. By this time the family had moved to a farm (the Holliwell) between Smisby and Ashby. It did not prosper, and George’s father, Joseph, lost over £5,000 on it. It may have been because of financial restraints that George did not go to the local Dame School like his brothers and sisters; instead, he was taught to read by his eldest sister, Jane. However, in 1834 he qualified for Ashby Grammar School by reading aloud from the New Testament. He had two older brothers there and his father was one of the trustees.

After the freedom of life on the farm, George did not enjoy the restrictions of school life. He devised various strategies to avoid going. On one occasion he slipped away at lunch time, but was spotted by his Uncle Henry, who chased him down the street and carried him back. Another time he refused to jump into the customary large tub of cold water in the early morning with his brothers, which he usually enjoyed. He feigned illness and hid his jacket; but it was found by the eldest brother, who took him to school tied on a pony.

Blackfordby village was known then as a place where insults were settled by fighting; farmers, colliers and potters, as well as the younger generation, all settled their disputes and quarrels in this way. A big boy with red hair, known as the “fiery dragon”, used to shout after George. One day he took George’s pony, remarking that “this was the pony you were tied on”. George agreed to fight him, but he was beaten in a very short while, and he knocked George down time after time. George records that “they fought like bulldogs”. At the end he saw “the dragon” drop a stone from each hand, something his opponent denied. After some more fighting, George’s brother Harry took over as his champion, and he fought George’s battles for him.

After a time George came to like school more. There were half-holidays on Thursdays and Saturdays and he went fishing from the canal, and also at Barratspool, the Wolds fishpond, and at some of Mr Moore’s pits at Blackfordby. They had no idea they were poaching, and when Mr Moore caught them on his land one day, he so terrified George, that he screamed and threw his fish back into the pond. Harry spoke up for George and Mr Moore seems to have been genuinely amused, and took it no further.

In 1835, when George was nearly nine years old, the family moved to work a new farm at Norton, seven miles from Blackfordby. Harry and George rode on the top of a cart taking their furniture. On arrival they played a game of cricket to pass the time. Two girls, Esther Brown and Kate White, arrived. One of them called them “stocky toads” and the other ran off with their cricket ball. In his Memoirs, written many years later shortly before his death, George said their language “was neither choice nor elegant ... Bad and low as the collieries had been at Blackfordby, Norton surpassed them”.

George and his family were called “furreners, interlopers” and other names they did not understand. Many times on that memorable first night they were asked to fight. George’s sisters were particularly sad as they had never heard an unkind word from anyone. One day on the way to school from the Wolds, Harry and George had an
angry argument with the Pickering brothers. During it Mrs Pickering came and took George and Harry's baskets of lunch food into her house. This stopped them going to school; they did not dare go home and they were very hungry. Harry crept into the house and recovered the baskets. Questions were asked at school about their absence; “none of us was thrashed”, writes George, “though Harry missed a prize through absence”.

The three boys, Harry aged twelve, John aged ten, and George, eight years old, were entered at Appleby Grammar School under the English Master, the Revd W Homer, whom the boys nicknamed ‘Old Flower’. George developed a fierce hatred for school at Appleby. The boys were rough, “of low tastes and propensities, the teaching was carried on in a miserable style ... Harry knew more than they could teach him”. The boys had to be at school every morning by 7.30 am. The day began with the recitation of the whole of Morning Prayer, read by Mr Homer in a slow and dreary manner, and lasting a whole hour.

On one occasion Mr Homer stopped suddenly and bit his tongue, so that it rolled from side to side. John, George’s middle brother, became his target, and he laid into him with a ‘bludgeon’, which he used to thrash with. “I’ll teach you to laugh at me, you little brats,” he repeated over and over again. If Harry had not gone to his rescue, George believed he might have killed John; but “Harry stood defiantly between his brother and the old monster, who slunk back to his desk”.

At midsummer Harry and John left and went back to Ashby School, but in spite of his pleading, George was kept at Appleby Grammar School; it was probably too expensive for their parents to have three children boarding at Ashby. George was a great believer in prayer, after the example of his mother and sisters. On his way to school at the beginning of the next term, he knelt at a stile from where the school could be seen, and prayed that it would tumble down, looking up from time to time to see if it was still standing. Walking through Mackie’s meadow, he fully expected to see the school collapse. At the next stile, George dropped reverently to his knees and asked the Almighty to kill old Homer. When he reached the school and heard the noise of the boys playing in the yard, he asked one of them if old Homer was still alive. He called George “a bloody fool”, and laughed. He asked a girl if Homer were ill. She said there was no such luck, she wished he were.

George reckoned that the year on his own at Appleby School was the most miserable of his life. This was partly due to the severity of his twenty year old brother Bryan. Whenever it was a half holiday, or he returned from school, Bryan would set George to work and keep him at it until dark. George often thought of running away, and “many a time considered suicide”. His mother was always a calming influence.

Providentially John fell ill, and from then on had to remain at home; George went to board at Ashby Grammar School in his place. Two happier years were spent there with his brother Harry. He loved the work, but the masters were very severe, and there were constant thrashings and canings. Boys’ hands were often so blistered and cut that they were unable to hold their pens. After one beating, given for the most trifling mistakes, George himself had weals on his hands for several weeks.

Boys also had to stand on one leg for a long period, with another boy watching to see they did not change their leg, a terrible endurance test. One day in class, Harry accidentally shot off a spring quill gun. ‘The shot went the entire length of the school and hit Snelson, the second master. In spite of Harry’s profuse apologies, the Headmaster thrashed him until he was bruised all over his body and hands. The Headmaster kept on repeating, “I will thrash you until you cry”, but Harry did not make a sound or shed a single tear.

1838 was the year of Queen Victoria’s Coronation. George left Ashby Grammar School for the Latin School at Appleby in the summer. Latin schools were judged to be superior to English schools and the two were not allowed to mix. The Latin school boys were mostly boarders, and came from every part of the country, and included aristocrats whom George had been taught to look upon as his social superiors. He was considerably deflated when his mother refused to let him wear his best clothes to school. In fact, no mention was made by anyone of the patches on
his clothes, and after a few weeks studying Latin grammar, he was put in a higher class.

George went to school with a boy called Bill Taylor. He liked him but also found him to be a millstone round his neck. “He was most affectionate but could not learn”. When George had learned three hundred lines of Virgil by heart, Bill only knew ten. Then both were thrashed, with George included in Bill’s failure. On one occasion they were both in trouble for forgetting a key word given them by the master but not supplied in the dictionary or in the text. George was quite at sea without the missing word, and went to bed full of travail. In the middle of the night he woke up shouting ‘prostravit’, the missing word. In the morning he was able to tell Bill; but it did not stop the thrashings. Eventually Bill’s health gave way, and he died aged twenty two.

About 1844, when he was just eighteen, George told his parents he was learning nothing at school; the regime there he found wearisome, and it began to fill him with disgust. He thought of enlisting with the army, but his mother dissuaded him from doing so. His father and Bryan made it clear he was needed on the farm, though his mother considered that he was capable of more than that, and had hoped for something better for him. But George was adamant. He told his parents he was learning nothing at school, and that for some years his time there had been wasted. In the Memoirs he wrote so many years later at the turn of the century, George said, “I believe it was a relief to my Father and my eldest brother that I was willing to leave school and to work on their farms and become a source of profit instead of an encumbrance in being taught a trade. I was plainly given to understand that my future lot was to work”.

In this way, my great-grandfather George’s schooldays came to an end.

George Dewes left England for Australia in 1848. He later went to California and then returned to Australia. He made one visit to Leicestershire before he returned finally in 1861 to settle into farming, to marry and raise a family. His eldest child was his only son John who became a lawyer and founded the legal firm in Tamworth which still bears his name. The youngest of his five daughters, Martha Bryan Dewes, was my grandmother. She died in 1955.

George wrote his Memoirs towards the end of his life. They tell in impressive detail of his childhood and schooldays and his time in Australia and California. They describe his life on windjammers, and on sheep farms; the gold rush both in Australia and California; and whaling in the South Seas. They tell of cruelty and betrayal and disease, but also of friendship, devotion and loyalty. Even in his seventies he longed to return to Australia not least to find the fabulous deposit of rubies, described in his Memoirs, of which he said, only he knew the locality and position. I am hoping to edit his Memoirs for publication.
The previous article on Exploring Leicestershire’s Churchyards (LH 39 (2003) looked at Saxon and medieval crosses, mausolea built in churchyards, and prestigious monuments erected to the elite of the locality, and a number of other general topics. This article looks at the monuments in churchyards erected to the bulk of the population living in our parishes.

Before the Reformation, churchyards contained few gravestones – some temporary markers perhaps, and possibly a handful of chest tombs for eminent people in the parish unable to find space within the church. By the seventeenth century marker stones were beginning to appear. Gradually more and more parishioners were able to afford some form of churchyard marker and by the mid nineteenth century it would seem that most classes of society were commemorated with headstones. Even so, not everybody would have had a graveyard monument.

The earliest dated tombstones in Leicestershire have little inscribed on them. There is a tombstone in Thurcaston church which could be the earliest surviving dated headstone. It commemorates Elias Travers, rector of Thurscaston from 1628 to 1641, who died on 9th October 1641. Whether it ever stood in the churchyard we will never know. The earliest example recorded so far from a churchyard is one which simply carries the date of 1649 and the initials EH. Its precise location is uncertain as the author failed to label his slide and would be grateful if any reader can identify it! Slightly later examples can be found at Somerby where there are two dated stones, one of 1665 carrying the letters T L, and the other, 1671 to Sarah Lane buried the 13 Day of January 1671. Later in the century tombstones begin to carry more information such as one of 1690 in Loughborough churchyard which reads ‘Body of Hubbard Ironmonger Who died on 4th September 1690’. To illustrate the way in which the craft developed in the seventeenth century two headstones from Old Dalby dated 1693 and 1694 and illustrated below are well worth looking for as are many others at Old Dalby.

The majority of grave markers are of stone (which includes slate), but occasionally we find other materials being used. Wood grave markers are not numerous in the county, but they do exist. An elaborate wooden marker is to be found in St Mary’s churchyard, Bitteswell, to a Richard Twining. It reads:


The graveboard is supported by two wooden posts carved to simulate Celtic crosses. Richard was a
member of Twining tea family who retired to Bitteswell where his sister Mary was married to the Revd James Powell vicar of the parish. There are more recent wooden markers in Newton Harcourt and Glooston churchyards and there must be many more dotted about the churchyards of Leicestershire.

In Thurnby churchyard a free-standing wooden cross with inscription can be found by the south-east corner of the church and records a rifleman from the King’s Royal Rifle Corps:

In proud memory
Of Rifleman
Jeremy John English
12th Battn K.R.R.C.
Killed in action
Near Cleves
Feb 10th 1945
Aged 19

Jeremy was a close school friend of the journalist and writer Michael Green and in his two autobiographical books Green constantly refers to Jeremy English. He was buried in the Reichwald Forest War Cemetery and so the wooden cross was simply erected in his memory – there is no grave in Thurnby churchyard. Other shield-shaped and inscribed wooden memorials could once be found beside the Jeremy English memorial, but they have recently been removed.

Iron was also used to make grave markers, but like wood, was not commonly used in this county and does not survive well. An exceptional number of iron crosses with inscriptions survive in the churchyard of St Mary’s, Ashby Magna and they range in date from 1860s-1890s (although one corroded example may be read as 1902). There are still (i.e. in 2003) in situ some 26 2ft-high crosses and another 16 lying on the ground adjacent to the church giving a total of at least 42 from this churchyard which cannot be easily explained. They appear to be sand cast and unlikely to have been made by a local blacksmith. In which case we are probably looking for a nearby foundry which would have been able to produce such items. These crosses are deteriorating fast and the heap against the church was a sad sight (not there in May 2004). A similar if not identical iron cross is to be found in Belgrave and there are others at Quorn, and Knossington.

Another group of iron grave markers is to be found in Newton Harcourt churchyard. They are in the form of a cross, but smaller and plainer than those we have just looked at. They stand about 1ft high and carrying no inscription except for a number. Here there are 13 such crosses each one with a number which no doubt identified the grave from a list kept by the parish. Their date is uncertain and no list is known. More recently I came across a marker at Foxton which commemorates Dick Tailby who died in 1894.

Now let us turn our attention to the more familiar headstones made out of stone which contain information not usually included on the rather formulaic inscriptions with which we are familiar. This additional information is often associated with accidents – and drownings are frequent. In an earlier article in the Leicestershire Historian for 1998 (Vol 34) I wrote about tombstones in Tugby and Burton Overy churchyards which recorded death by drowning. There are others and, no doubt, many more yet to be found. A child drowned in the Union Canal in 1814 is commemorated on a slate headstone in Foxton churchyard:

In Memory of
Richard the Son of
Tho & Cath Rathbone
who was drowned in the
Union Canal
June 23th 1814
in the 7th year
of his Age

Fatal accidents at work are also to be found on tombstones. In Barrow on Soar churchyard is a slate headstone recording the death of two men Joseph

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Richard Twining's wooden grave board in Bitteswell churchyard.

Two iron grave markers in Ashby Magna churchyard.

One of several iron numbered crosses in Newtown Harcourt churchyard.

Leicestershire Historian 2004
In Memory of
Samuel
Fourth son of
John and Sarah Kendrick
who was killed by a wagon loaded with lime
passing over him
September 6th 1855
Aged 21 years
“watch therefore: for ye know not what
hour your Lord doth come”

Victor Kendrick recalls that Samuel was an agricultural
labourer working for Sarah Henfield who farmed land
in Normanton and Ravenstone. This might indicate
that he was killed at work perhaps treating a field with
lime in the autumn.

Murders are occasionally recorded on graveyard
memorials. Here is one from Rearsby churchyard on a
small grave stone to the east of the path leading to the
south porch and door:

Willm the son of Edward Hubberd
By Mary his wife was buried
Octob 10: 1712 Aged 22 years
A Fatall Knife His Mortall Body slew
The murdering hand God’s vengeance will persue
From shades terrene tho justice took he flight
Shall not ye Judge of all ye earth do Right(?)
With dolefull Sighs and sad heart rending groans
Each age and Sex his innocence Bemoans

Roy Palmer in his book on Leicestershire folklore notes
a tombstone from Frisby on the Wreake recording the
death of Samuel Sheldon who died in 1809 at the age of
13 ‘by a knife in the belly’. Attempts to trace this
tombstone have not yet been successful, but Palmer
records the last part of the inscription and it appears to
be identical to the one from Rearsby, and not dissimilar
from another in Hinckley where a local saddler, Richard
Smith, was killed in 1727 by a recruiting sergeant who
took exception to his jokes, but here the implement was
‘a fatal halbert’. So this particular verse seems to be well
known during the eighteenth century and employed on
tombstones to victims of murder.

Murderous robbers are recorded on a tombstone in
Lutterworth churchyard:

In Memory of
William Banbury
Killed by Robbers
Upon Over heath
Novr 25th 1676

Although the date of death is 1676, the lettering on the
tombstone looks wrong for the seventeenth century and
I suspect that it was carved and erected at a later date.

Returning from Leicester one night a young man from
Kirby Muxloe met his end:
Samuel Adcock  
Of Ashby Shrubs in this parish  
Eldest son of William Esther Adcock  
Of Lubbesthorpe  
Who fell by violence  
From the hand of an assassin  
As he was returning home  
From Leicester of the night of the  
17 June 1854  
in the 24th year of his life

Mr and Mrs Brian Rowlinson sent details of another violent death recorded on a tombstone. It is in the disused cemetery of the Holy Cross Church, Whitwick where an overturned gravestone covered in ivy records the death of Joseph Tugby, the inscription reads:

To Joseph Tugby  
whose death was caused  
by cruel and brutal violence  
at Coalville on the night  
of the 31st August 1877  
aged 57

The Rowlinsons write:

Whilst at the Leicester Record Office we looked at the Leicester Journal for the 7th and 14th September and also 7th November 1877 and we found the story that resulted in the gravestone and tragedy for other families. Apparently Joseph, who was a general trader, had been drinking at the Stamford Arms in Coalville with a James Satchwell (aged 33), a John Upton (aged 38), both being colliers from Church Greasley and working at Ellistown Colliery, and William Swift (aged 20) a collier living at Coalville. They thought that Joseph Tugby had an amount of money kept in a tobacco tin in his coat pocket. At about 11 o’clock the three colliers and Tugby left the Stamford Arms together, more or less under the influence of liquor although apparently they were not drunk. During the evening a policeman had heard people arguing in the vicinity of the footbridge across the railway line but no notice was taken. The next morning Joseph Tugby was found by the footbridge which crosses the Midland Line, a quarter of a mile from the Stamford Arms on the Hugglescote foot road. His head had been kicked to pieces. He was taken in a wheelbarrow to the Union Workhouse at Ashby and seen by the Doctor but died the next morning.

The trial was held at the Assizes where the three accused were sentenced to death although the Jury recommended mercy on account of intoxication.

Another incident involving the liquor trade is reflected in the tombstone erected to Edward Purdey in Old Dalby churchyard and referred to in Joyce Lee’s excellent book Who’s Buried Where in Leicestershire. The rhyme beneath the formal part of the headstone reads:

Through a woman I received the wound  
Which quickly brought my body to ye ground  
Its sure in time that she will have her due  
The murdering hand God’s vengeance will pursue  
The debt I ow’d that caused all the strife  
Was very small to cost me my sweet life  
She threatened to give me a mark and made her cause look very dark

Joyce Lee writes in her book:

‘The story is told how one evening in 1743, Edward Purdey had gone to drink at his local inn. When the time came to pay the bill, he was a halfpenny short. The landlady demanded payment in full. Threatening to put a mark on him (bewitch him) if he did not settle. Finding her threats were to no avail, she is said to have let her dog savage him to death’.

One of the most well-known murder cases in the county is commemorated in Stoughton churchyard, but the brief inscription on the pot to Annie Bella Wright says little about the circumstances of her death on 5th July 1919. Most will be familiar with this murder story. Bella Wright, aged 21, was the victim in the so-called green bicycle murder and plenty has been written about the murder and the subsequent trial which took place in the castle buildings in Leicester. Another twentieth century tragedy which shocked the world was the sinking of the Titanic on the 14th April 1912. A cross in St Mary’s churchyard, Knighton, records the fact that a local business was on board on that fateful day. He was Denzil Jarvis who was 47 when he lost his life and was travelling to America on business. Jarvis lived at one time in Stoneygate House and, part of what is now, the Regency Hotel in London Road, Leicester. He was involved in various firms and eventually became managing partner of the engineering company of Wadkins.

Occupations are frequently referred to on headstones and there is a remarkable collection in the churchyard of All Saints, Loughborough. A stone in Orton-on-the-Hill churchyard reveals a Ernest Brown, Professor of Music, and theGranite cross in St Mary’s churchyard, Knighton, to a victim of the Titanic disaster.
monumental mason must have wondered what on earth he had agreed to when he was prevailed upon to carve a few stanzas of a (?) hymn on Brown’s tombstone. One could cite many other occupations recorded on headstones as well as long-serving members of the church whether it be churchwarden or bell ringer.

Former distinguished members of this society can be found in a number of churchyards. In St Mary’s churchyard, Knighton a stone records the life of William Kelly, FSA. who died on 23rd August 1894 aged 78. He was borough accountant from 1849-1863, actuary to Leicester Savings Bank from 1862 until 1891 and a leading figure in masonic circles locally and nationally becoming deputy grand master on England. He wrote a number of papers on local historical matters and for a time was secretary of the Lit and Phil. He frequently exhibited objects at the bi-monthly meeting of this Society. He was elected and FSA and FRHS. He bequeathed nearly the whole of his fortune for the benefit of the aged poor of the town and was a benefactor of Trinity Hospital. An obituary can be found in volume VIII of our Transactions for 1899.

There are of course many mysteries which are not explained on the memorials themselves such as the slate attached to the outside east wall of the north aisle of Great Bowden parish church. Here five children of Poyntz Owsley Adams and his wife Mary, all died between the ages of 17-27 in the brief period of less than two years from August 1823 to April 1825.

In this tomb below are interred the remains of Five children of Poyntz Owsley Adams of This place Gent and Mary his wife George Adams who departed this life The 15th of August 1823: Aged 22 years Marian Adams who departed this life The 14th of February 1824: Aged 27 years Eloisa Adams who departed this life The 22nd of August 1824: Aged 17 years Georgina Adams who departed this life The 25th of January 1825: Aged 25 years Jane Adams who departed this life The 7th of April 1825: Aged 26 years

A search of the records may help to throw light on these deaths. Tuberculosis is a possibility.

And what a day Monday 13th January 1862 must have been in the parish of Stonton Wyville – and indeed in other parishes further afield. To the north of the parish church lies this now damaged tombstone bearing the following inscription:

Sacred to the memory of William Woolman aged 64 Thomas Lee aged 40 George Woolman aged 24 of Stonton Wyville who together with Samual Ashby of Smeeton Westerby were killed by the explosion of a thrashing machine boiler January 13th 1862

The burial register of the parish also records the event giving the same details as on the tombstone. In addition there is an entry written vertically down the left hand side of the page in the register which begins; ‘These three men together with Samual Ashby of Smeeton were killed by the ?explosion? of a boiler while working at a steam thrashing … .’ The handwriting then goes across some vertical printed black lines on the page and is not legible on the micro fiche. The tombstone and
entry in the parish register gives details of those who lost their lives, but when one comes to read the newspaper account we learn that others were injured.

The *Leicester News* for Saturday 19th January 1862 devotes some 7 column inches to the disaster here are some extracts:

**Fearful boiler explosion at Stonton Wyville – four killed and five wounded**

The greatest consternation has prevailed throughout this neighbourhood this week on account of a fearful explosion of a boiler of a steam thrashing engine at Stonton Wyville on Monday last. The news spread with the greatest rapidity, and the reports were numerous as well as various so that it was difficult to know what to believe. On visiting the spot a short time after the explosion took place, we found the small village of Stonton Wyville in a state of greatest excitement, sorrow being depicted in the face of all in the place. Mr Dunmore, farmer, had a thrashing machine at work for him at a field stock yard not quite half-a-mile from the village, thrashing barley. The engine belonged to Henry Butcher, a farmer, of Debdale Wharf, or at least he was master of the engine. On enquiring it was said that it was only an engine lent to him by Mr Bloxham of Gilmorton, while he finished a new one for Butcher.

The report goes on to mention several potentially significant facts which might have caused the accident. The engine was said to have been in a leaky state and of about 3 H.P and the glass indicator or gauge showing the amount of water in the boiler was broken. We are also told that Butcher and a man named Samuel Ashby were the driver and feeder and that there were 11 other men and boys engaged at work with the machine. Following the accident surgeons sent for and those killed were conveyed to the church.

An inquiry was opened on Wednesday at the Fox and Hound Inn before the coroner during which the jury proceeded to the church to see the 3 bodies and to see the body of George Woolman who was lying at his father’s.

The coroner adjourned the inquest until Butcher was able to give evidence. Details of the inquest are contained in the papers, but I hope I have provided sufficient to whet the appetites of the curious and if you so wish the local newspapers are the place to go. The tombstone only record the deaths of 4 people, but as we have heard from the newspaper another 4 workmen were injured including Butcher who provided the thrashing machine.

There is much to discover in the churchyards of the county and the two articles have attempted to introduce the reader to some of the delights which await them on their explorations.

My thanks to a number of people who introduced me to many interesting headstones some of which have been included in this article. In particular I should like to thank Terry Cocks, Doug Harwood, Victor Kendrick, Mr and Mrs Brian Rowlinson and David Smith.

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**Situations Vacant**

*Cutting found loose in the Society’s Scrapbook III housed in the library in the Guildhall. No date or attribution, but all dated items are from mid-1880s*

**REQUIRED**, for a family living 12 miles from London, a COACHMAN and COOK (man and wife, without encumbrance). Wages £50 per year, and all found. Coachman must be able to drive a pair and look after two or three horses. Cook must be able to make entrees, sweets and furnish a good table without aid of a professsed cook; must not grumble at the mistress being her own housekeeper, nor expect fat joints to be ordered to swell her perquisites with dripping, bones etc; and she must not be imbued with the idea most cooks have that because plenty may be around she is bound to swell the tradesmen’s bills by as much waste as possible. No couple need apply who expect the work to be put out, who are fond of change, or who dictate to their employers how much company may be kept; but to a good, honest English couple, such as old servants used to be, a thoroughly good home would be found. Good personal characters indispensable, and no agencies need apply. Address R.M.S. Messrs. Robinson and Pickering’s, Talbot-court, Eastcheap, E.C.
Local enthusiasts are well provided with opportunities to get involved in safeguarding the local heritage in Leicestershire and Rutland, with a wealth of local societies and the chance to play an active role in their communities through county-based Wardening Schemes.

Leicestershire County Council (LCC) supports a number of projects whereby local people, working through their parish councils or meetings, can become appointed volunteers to act as a signpost for heritage issues. Three schemes exist, and supporting county council staff work closely to provide a wealth of training and literature to volunteers who sign up. Wardening opportunities exist to become Archaeology Wardens, Heritage Wardens and Tree Wardens – and many people act as all three for their community. All are run through the LCC Environment and Heritage Service (LCCEHS) and all, except Tree Wardens, are supported by LCC in Rutland as well. Rutland County Council are currently exploring re-establishing a Tree Warden network in their authority area.

 Wardens for all schemes are unpaid and require approval by parish councils. In non-parished areas Tree and Heritage Wardens are supported by colleagues in District Council’s. In no instance does being a Warden offer a volunteer any rights or powers, however, they act as a vital signpost to heritage issues and help facilitate local projects, events and activities. In recent months in three parishes we know of, for example, Heritage Wardens who have facilitated local grant applications for heritage projects securing awards of between £14,000 and £18,000.

Archaeology Wardens
The Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeological Network was set up in 1996, and now 185 Parish Councils and Meetings in the two counties have appointed Archaeology Wardens. These wardens act as the “eyes and ears” of the Archaeology Section of Leicestershire County Council’s Environment and Heritage Services. They carry out fieldwork themselves, and act as local facilitators, providing a link between the County Council and the wider public. The backgrounds of recruits are varied. They include: members of county heritage groups, including archaeology and local history societies and metal detector clubs; parish councillors; and individuals without known affiliations.

The fieldwork that wardens have in the past tended to concentrate on is “fieldwalking”, the collection in an orderly fashion of artefacts from the surface of ploughed fields. Many wardens undertake metal detecting, often in conjunction with fieldwalking and excavation projects organised by both the voluntary sector and professional archaeological contractors. Building and earthwork surveys, including a project recording the destruction and survival of medieval field systems, also feature in the body of data created by the membership of the Network.

Finds from wardens’ fieldwork are passed on to LCCEHS for study and recording under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Services’ Object Identification Service. Some wardens have arranged with landowners for these finds to be donated to LCCEHS’s collections, in which they form a publicly accessible resource, supported by archives of the finders’ own records of their fieldwork.

For more information contact Richard Pollard on 0116 2645803 or email rpollard@leics.gov.uk

Heritage Wardens
This scheme was established in 2000, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, through the authority’s Heritage Watch programme. This scheme covers all aspects of local heritage – although it has a bias towards broad landscape heritage studies, covering archaeological features such earthworks, folklore and local history, an element of built heritage and geology and industry that has shaped the countryside we see today.

Network volunteers receive a comprehensive information pack that focuses on Leicestershire and Rutland, and which has received national praise for the wealth of information it provides. Updates are mailed to volunteers – along with regular free publications that are thought to be of benefit to local heritage studies. Volunteers have opportunities to attend over 20 training sessions a year which are all free, along with an annual gathering. The network has over 175 members covering over 120 parishes. In some areas, where a number of Wardens are registered specialist areas are shared out – and local groups are now forming for projects and activities.

Various projects are run as part of this network, with regular surveys for wildlife habitats such as ancient trees, ponds, grassland meadows, parish’s Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or species such as dog’s mercury (an indicator of old woodland sites) or reptiles through the Snakes Alive survey.

For more information contact the Community Heritage Initiative Team on 0116 267 1377 or email chi@leics.gov.uk
Tree Wardens
The Leicestershire Tree Warden Scheme was started in the early 1980s with the intention of creating a network of volunteers to monitor existing trees in the county and to help co-ordinate new tree planting schemes.

The Leicestershire Tree Warden Scheme comes under the umbrella of the National Grid Tree Warden Scheme, which is co-ordinated by the ‘Tree Council in partnership with their sponsor, the National Grid. The scheme locally works in partnership with many of the District Councils, Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency, English Nature and the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Each of the 152 volunteer wardens is registered with their parish council and we presently have wardens in 112 parishes in Leicestershire. Tree Wardens have three main priorities:

- **Gathering Information** – recording information on a tree’s location, species, age and condition, as well as historical information related to trees and hedgerows in the parish.
- **Local Liaison** – acting as a point of contact for information and advice for the local community. Tree Wardens can help to keep the local authority informed of any infringements to protected trees.
- **Practical Projects** – planning tree planting schemes and events, encouraging local people to be involved in tree planting projects. Volunteers often collect and grow trees from seed.

Leicestershire County Council provides training events and these include talks, field visits, nursery visits and an annual trip to an arboretum or other sites of landscape interest. In addition to this, the Tree Council has a number of annual initiatives including National Tree Week, Walk in the Woods and Seed Gathering Sunday.

For more information contact Leigh Clewlow on 0116 265 7060 email lclewlow@leics.gov.uk

**What wardens do**

**Marion Vincent, Heritage Warden for Rothley, details her work as a local Heritage Warden**

If you have as many trees in your parish as I have in mine then the first essential to being a Natural History Heritage Warden is to allocate yourself time, not just for the trees, but for all the other areas and items of interest. It really is so interesting to find how it all links together to record the Natural History of a parish in the 21st century.

I was appointed in August 2000, at the same time as Brian Verity was appointed the Archaeology Warden, and we have worked together over this period as we find that our joint interests have developed in creating a more interesting, and worthwhile, record. This is how we work.

Every quarter we discuss our plan and objectives to see how we are progressing, and diarise Wednesday and Saturday mornings when we will work out in the field. Our objectives fall mainly into the following categories:

**Ancient Tree Recording**

158 records passed to Holly Hayes, most are ancient trees, others are of interest on boundaries or are vulnerable, with a further 60 records currently being prepared. One oak was found to have been planted from an acorn taken from an oak at Ely, that had been planted by Henry VII and his son, later to be Henry VIII, all detailed in correspondence.

**Ancient Parkland Trees and History of the Landscape**

Rothley Park contains many ancient oaks, the largest having a girth of 7.51 metres. The area contains the site of fishponds, and old carriageways with avenues of oaks.

**Ponds and old Pond Sites**

16 ponds and 1 pond site have been recorded so far.

**Old Parish Boundaries**

These form a very important part of a natural history record. One of our projects for this quarter is to plot the ecclesiastical boundaries of the parish with a record of the hedgerows, ditches, trees and boulders.

**Botany Surveys**

Time was allocated, during June-August, to record the botany of a wet meadow to work towards obtaining SINC status. It is a very enjoyable part of being a Heritage Warden, sitting in a meadow of ragged robin and marsh marigold, watching swallows and house martins fetching mud for their nests.

I have also carried out a survey of dogs mercury to see how I could work out the extent of old woodland in the parish.

**Field walking**

A lovely early autumn project. When the fields are bare it is so much easier to see the form of the landscape, and pick out the features, as well as the chance of finding interesting flints.

**Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland – Wigston**

This is for when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor work and for seeking out information, particularly from old maps. Dates on maps can help to date trees, records of old field names give clues to the use of the area, and other records and diaries yield the state of flower and bird abundance.

All the sites that we visit are numbered and named and details of the visit written up. All trees, ponds and landscapes are photographed. No record is of any use unless it is written and the Natural History of the Parish of Rothley is progressing well.
Throughout the latter part of the twentieth century, Ladybird Books became a household name throughout the British Isles and beyond. They were published in Loughborough by a small local company, Wills and Hepworth, which later changed its name to Ladybird Books Ltd. Loughborough has a tradition of small printing businesses that changed hands frequently and it was out of one of these small printers that the famous Ladybird brand arose. In 1846 there were four printers and booksellers in the busy Market town of Loughborough, Dank and Scotney in the Market Place, Griffin in Swan Street and Lee in the High Street. Four years later in 1850, Henry Wills was born in Narborough, one of eleven children of a schoolmaster. His father ran the Auburn House School for boys. While Henry Wills was growing up in Narborough, John Henry Gray was learning the printing trade from William Sunstead in premises in Swan Street, eventually taking over after Sunstead retired. When he decided to expand his printing business, Angel Yard in Loughborough, just off the Market Place, was the site chosen by Gray. It was in his new premises in Angel Yard that Gray began to publish the Loughborough Monitor in 1857, selling the newspaper to his assistant, William Rollings Lee in 1862. Gray did not enjoy good health and the strain of weekly publication of a newspaper had proved too much. Eleven years later, in 1873, he sold the whole business at Angel Yard to the young Henry Wills.

When he bought the Angel Press and the stationers shop Henry Wills was twenty-three years old. Around this time he married Kate Webb from Bath in Somerset and in the early years of their marriage, Henry and Kate lived over the shop at 4-5 Market Street. Henry was a master printer who, in 1881, was employing 21 people. At this time, there were still only four printers in Loughborough, including Henry. He, like the others, diversified. As well as being a stationer and bookseller, he was a print-seller and a picture framer and he did a wide variety of commercial printing. He also ran a branch of Mudie’s Lending Library and, for a short time, his premises housed the newly opened telephone exchange.

He entered into partnership with William Hepworth around 1903, and shortly before he retired in 1905, sold out to Hepworth. William Simpson Hepworth was only 27 years old when he took over the business of Wills and Hepworth but he was experienced in the stationery business. Born in Hartlepool on 24 June 1877, he was the son of William and Mary Hepworth. The elder William Hepworth was also a stationer and by 1879 he had moved his family to Kidderminster where young William Simpson followed in his father’s footsteps.

It is not clear how Henry Wills and William Simpson Hepworth met or how their partnership came about but certainly they were partners by 1904. After Henry’s retirement, when William owned the business, it still retained the name of Wills and Hepworth, even after becoming a limited company in 1924. After 1934, Hepworth had little involvement in the day to day running of the company although he kept overall control until his death in 1961. At some time during the late 1930s, and before 1943, Hepworth retired to Maidenhead but it was under his ownership that the Ladybird books were created, initially as a measure to keep the printing presses running throughout the First World War.

The Ladybird story began as war threatened in 1914. It was decided to publish children’s books in order to keep the presses working. So it was that the first Ladybird books, including Tiny Tots Travels and Hans Andersen’s Fairy Tales, were published. The trade name Ladybird was registered in 1916 but after the war ended, the
emphasis returned once more to commercial printing at Wills and Hepworth and the publishing of children’s books was allowed to lapse. In 1924, Wills and Hepworth became a limited company but Hepworth retained personal ownership of the freehold of the property in Angel Yard and Market Place. The new company concentrated on commercial printing until history repeated itself in 1939.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, a decision was made to publish Ladybird children’s books again. The company already possessed some water-colour drawings and a few lines of suitable text so they decided to publish quickly. The other important decision that was made was to design the Ladybird books around the printing plant that was already available and especially to make the books as small as possible, each one being made out of a single sheet of paper. This format was to become very familiar over the next sixty years.

The other change that took place around this time, possibly during the late 1930s, was the movement of the stationer’s shop, after so many years at 4-5 Market Place, to new premises at 60 Market Street, around the corner. The printing business and offices remained in Angel Yard.

After the Second World War, as in 1919, there was controversy within the company over the publication of the children’s books. Some within the company wanted the emphasis to return to commercial printing, although during the 1950s, the company did publish a range of colourful educational books. Throughout the rest of his life, William Hepworth refused to take sides in the conflict between the publishing of Ladybird books and commercial printing. It was only after his death that the issue was resolved.

As well as fairy tales and the familiar children’s stories, Ladybirds developed to include non-fiction and reading schemes and in 1971 the name of Wills and Hepworth finally changed to Ladybird Books Ltd. Two years later in 1973, a century after Henry Wills had taken over the Angel Press, the company moved into new premises in Windmill Road in Loughborough with offices in Beeches Road. Concentrating on the publication of Ladybird books, the company went from strength to strength over the next 25 years. They were so successful that in 1988, a sign was erected on Loughborough station announcing that the town was the home of Ladybird Books.

Unfortunately this success was not to last. Ladybird Books Ltd had become part of the Pearson group and in 1995, Pearsons and Ladybird became part of the Penguin organisation. Only three years later, after the company had failed to reach its sales targets for 1998, the decision was taken to close the printing works. So it was that over ninety years after William Simpson Hepworth became the partner of Henry Wills, and eighty years after the publication of the first Ladybird books, the company closed down the printing works in Loughborough. It was a sad day for the workforce, for the town and the end of an era.

Angel Yard is still there, in the Market Place at the side of Barclay’s bank, although much of it has disappeared under modern development. There is no sign on the wall and no trace at all of the Angel Press.

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John Henry Stokes is largely forgotten in the county of Leicestershire, but at the turn of the nineteenth century he was a prominent figure in the Leicestershire horse world. He sold horses to the nobility of Europe as well as Britain. His ledgers read as a “Who’s Who” rather than the workings of a successful business. A scrapbook that was kept by him along with ledgers from his business are kept at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. (DE5475)

John Henry Stokes was born in North Luffenham on 8th June 1850. He was the third son of a butcher, William Stokes and Anne his wife. John Henry was baptised in the village church nearly a month later. In the 1851 census the family consisted of the siblings of John Henry, Charles and Elizabeth and their parents, William and Anne, a servant and an apprentice. Four years after this a younger sister, Eliza, was baptised and William gave his occupation as a farmer. Another son, Edwin was born in 1861. Just how big the farm was, is shown in the 1861 census where William is listed as a farmer with 200 acres and having three men and two boys working for him. William was obviously a successful businessman whose fortune seemed to be in the ascendance. Not much is known of John Henry’s early childhood. The family must have been fairly wealthy, as he was educated privately, presumably at home. He also hunted with the Fitzwilliam and the Cottesmore, honing the skills that would prove invaluable in his later life.

However childhood ended abruptly for John Henry when in 1863 William tragically died leaving his young family to fend for themselves. He was buried in North Luffenham churchyard on June 17th 1863. Life must have been hard for Ann bringing up her young family even with the farm. Of the children remaining at home John Henry was the eldest at thirteen and Edwin was not quite two. Certainly by the census of 1871 the family fortunes had taken a down turn as the farm had been reduced to 84 acres with three men and one boy working the land for the family. It was during the 1870s that the family made the move to Great Bowden. As John Henry always had an eye for a good hunter it also seems likely that he began to buy and sell horses as a sideline. Great Bowden was also perfectly placed to begin dealing in horses with both its rail links and being centrally placed in the countryside of some of the great hunts. As his reputation grew so did his horse dealing business.

John Henry’s business was expanding rapidly. The ledgers that survive show that he was selling horses to the nobility of Europe. The King of Italy was one of his clients. The hunting fraternity of Leicestershire such as the Burnabys also brought horses from him. Another of his clients was the Duke of Beaufort. He had a reputation of being able to match the client with the horse. This ability brought the clients coming back to purchase more quality horses. He used the show circuit as a shop window for his wares.

Headstone on the grave of John Henry Stokes in Great Bowden cemetery.
A scrapbook kept by him shows the phenomenal winnings that his horses won at these competitions. His horses won over £1000 pounds each year when the average top prize was £10. In between 1901 and 1903, three of his horses, Red Cloud, Tennis Ball and Royal Flush won the Gold Challenge Cup from the Hunter Improvement Society. This had been considered an impossible feat. The cup was so important to John Henry that when he died he left the cup to his wife on the condition that she kept it insured.

Tragedy struck the family in 1903, on November 6th while John Henry was shooting rabbits with some friends his secretary Mr Janes accidentally discharged his shotgun. At a range of only forty yards John Henry was shot in the face. The resulting injury cost John Henry his right eye and as a result he decided to go to the continent to recuperate. In preparation for the journey he decided to sell off most of his stock and on November 23rd there was a sale of his horses held in Leicester. The interest was immense and the sale raised 16,377 guineas. The value of the horses ranged from a bright bay gelding called Brown Bread, sold for 27 guineas, to Gold Beater, a four year old bright bay gelding who sold for 600 guineas. On his return home the following year there was a note in the scrapbook, dated 17th March saying that he was back in business. It did not take him long to re-establish himself. In 1905 he had his most successful showing season ever winning £2073. One of his horses Whiskey, which was considered the near perfect hunter, won practically every show that it was entered for, including the Buxton Challenge Cup. As well as traditional hunters John Henry also bred cobs, a smaller stockier type of horse. One advert that is to be found in the scrapbook, for a sale of six of his cobs at Tattersalls, declares that these animals “have an excellent school carrying Mr Stokes hunting and farming.”

John Henry took an active interest in his adopted village. Many of the buildings in Great Bowden were either built by Stokes or were altered by him. Although these buildings benefited the village there was often an ulterior motive. One such building that still benefits the village is the village Hall. It was originally built as a reading room where the grooms that he employed were encouraged to go to improve their knowledge and education. This benefited both Stokes and his grooms, who when escorting the horses to buyers and shows, were a good reflection of him as an employer. Also some of the houses that he built were used as lodges for wealthy clients who wanted to come to hunt during the winter.

John Henry was also an excellent breeder of cattle having large herds on his land. This is illustrated by events that began in 1912 when there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth. John Henry was away in Germany due to ill health and his son and bailiff were left in charge. They missed the early signs of the disease and failed to notify the authorities in good time. They were accused of moving cattle with the disease across a road thus allowing the disease to spread. The case went to court. John Henry said that when he had returned from his trip that he recognised the symptoms and notified the authorities. He said that when the cattle were moved the symptoms were not pronounced and they would have been easy to miss. The case was dismissed. However John Henry had to have a total of 177 beasts, four calves, 391 sheep and twelve pigs slaughtered. The compensation that he received was £5502 10d. This reflects that standard of the cattle that he was breeding. Indeed he was well known in cattle breeding circles for the quality of the beasts that he produced as he was in the horse breeding world.

John Henry suffered from diabetes and his health had begun to deteriorate. His son William Ernest began to take over more of the business, taking trips to Ireland to buy horses. One such trip even took him to Russia in the summer before the outbreak of World War One. During the war he sold horses to the army on a huge scale. However his health further deteriorated and on 24th August 1920 he died as a result of a diabetic coma. Listed on his death certificate as being a farmer and grazier John Henry Stokes was buried on August 27th, in Great Bowden, the village that he came to call home.

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Almost half a century ago, the *Leicester Mercury* featured John and Thomas Spencer in its “Local Faces” series. These two gentlemen were brothers who came to run one of Leicester’s most successful bookselling, printing, and commercial libraries of the nineteenth century. Among the many publications which they were responsible for is a unique and fascinating source of information and inspiration for local historians today.

Entitled *Leicestershire and Rutland Notes and Queries and Antiquarian Gleaner*, an illustrated quarterly magazine, it was published between 1889 and 1895. At the time, the magazine was part of a growing, although still minority interest in antiquarian matters, with similar publications appearing in other counties.

Although comparatively short-lived, the three collected volumes which now make up *LRN&Q* consist of almost 1,000 pages and contain between them over 400 articles. The first volume was prefaced by a short introduction, giving the reasons behind its inauguration as “to give an insight into the manners, customs and habits of our forefathers and their belongings” in a manner that would be both amusing and instructive; to place on permanent record the Antiquaries, Archaeology, Folk-lore, Quaint Manorial Customs, Popular Superstitions, Old Wives’ Fables, Provincial Dialects, Old Records of Leicestershire and Rutland and “see them regulated and localized before they pass down the stream of time into the ocean of oblivion.”

Over a hundred years later, apart from making interesting reading, it is clear that the publications contain a vast amount of information which would otherwise almost certainly have been lost or remained less accessible. John and Thomas jointly edited *LRN&Q* for much of its lifespan, providing a forum to encourage others to share and discuss information on the history and customs of the two counties. Correspondents included names well-known to later Leicestershire historians such as Henry Hartopp and William Kelly. Other writers are more obscure, some using initials only or pen names such as “Sempronius” and “Historicus”. The material itself is a mixture of primary and secondary sources, ranging from original essays and recorded oral history to reprints of information from other sources, and transcripts of historical documents.

The following is based on a small selection from the three volumes which it is hoped will give some idea of this treasure trove of local information to those who may not be familiar with its contents.

**Leicester Customs**

Customs featured regularly. “Riding for the Bridecake” submitted by W. Sydney of London, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, records a custom formerly associated with Claybrooke which took place when the bride was brought back to her new home. A tall pole, three to four yards high, was erected in front of the house and a cake placed on top of it. A party of young men set off on horseback at the same time as the bride left her old home. The one who reached the pole first and knocked the cake down had the honour of receiving it from the hands of a damsel and then bore the trophy off to meet the bride and her attendants. Sometimes the bridecake was competed for on foot, this variation being known as “throwing the quintail”. A further Claybrooke wedding custom recorded in the same article was that of sending a garland of willow, richly decked with flowers, and sometimes accompanied by a pair of white gloves, white handkerchief and smelling bottle to a disappointed lover.

Calendar customs recorded included the Whit Monday procession at Hinckley of millers from various parts of the country dressed in ribbons with the “King of the Millers” at the head of the procession. Meanwhile at Enderby, it was noted that the Whit Monday custom of selling the grass on a piece of land called “The Wether” still persisted. A sketch plan of the field accompanied the article. On St. George’s Day a harnessed horse used to stand at the end of St. George’s Chapel in St. Martin’s Church, Leicester. There were also notes on the better-known custom of the Riding of the George. Hay-strewing customs at several county churches including Ashby Folville, Glenfield and Braunstone also featured as did an early nineteenth century custom which took place in the Rutland parish of Exton where it was the custom for children to be allowed to play in

**Exton in Rutland**

Exton recorded the marking of St. George’s Day with a harnessed horse at the end of St. George’s Chapel in St. Martin’s Church, Leicester. The custom of sending a garland of willow, richly decked with flowers, accompanied by a pair of white gloves, white handkerchief and smelling bottle to a disappointed lover, was also noted. Hay-strewing customs at several county churches including Ashby Folville, Glenfield and Braunstone also featured as did an early nineteenth century custom which took place in the Rutland parish of Exton where it was the custom for children to be allowed to play in

**John Spencer**

John Spencer, born at Sapcote 29th December 1828, died Leicester 4th May 1892.
the church on “Innocents’ Day”. Although many of the customs had ceased by the time of writing the closer proximity of their oral tradition enhances the value of these records.

The last public penance in Leicestershire is quoted from “Leicestershire Words, Phrases and Proverbs, although interestingly the contributor in LRN&Q signs their name as “Senex Cynicus”. As part of the restoration work at Stoke Golding Church in the 1840s, free seats replaced the former high pews. The landlady of the principal inn apparently took exception to someone sitting in what she considered was her old seat and allegedly attacked them. As a result was summoned before the ecclesiastical court for brawling in church. Her penance was to stand wrapped in a sheet and holding a candle for three successive Sundays at the church door while the congregation came into church.

Proverbs, superstitions and local lore also provided interesting material with articles ranging from the origins of the expression “To thatch Groby Pool with pancakes” to a more esoteric comparison of weather lore between Leicestershire and Granada.

In addition to recording and raising queries about disappearing customs, the same was applied to items of antiquarian interest such as the silver Mace of Leicester, its auction in 1836 as it appeared in a contemporary verse, along with a subsequent note recording its further sale at Sotheby’s in 1893. Another such query asked if anyone knew of the whereabouts of the stained glass of “An old Chantry House” which had been removed c. 1796 and was last heard of in 1866. Two responses were printed, one confirming that the glass had in fact subsequently been purchased by the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society and was carefully preserved.

Disappearing, and recently discovered earthworks and archaeological sites, along with disintegrating structures also featured. Correspondence on Leicestershire’s castle sites produced several lists with more in-depth articles on some including Hallaton and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Roadside monuments such as crosses were featured, a particularly interesting article being that on the old stone crosses at Frisby-on-the-Wreake – the Town Cross in the village itself and Stump Cross which lies at the side of the main Leicester to Melton road. The latter cross according to the correspondent having been subject to ruthless vandalism during the construction of the Turnpike Road. On a grimmer note, an article about the gibbet in Leicestershire noted the roadside survival near Bilston of the oak gibbet post and top-piece with the ring from which the criminal’s body was suspended in chains. A few of the iron spikes that once thickly studded the post to prevent anyone climbing up it still survived.

The history of roads, by-ways and fields regularly entered the correspondence. J. Barnett was particularly keen to correct misconceptions about the mapping of the Leicestershire military stations named in the Itinerary of Antoninus, this article being accompanied by a sketch map by the Spencer brothers. Details of particular enclosures were the subject of articles for example at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, which goes into the detail of the enclosure of various fields and commons such as Lion’s Well Field and Brick-Kiln Common, along with the
effect of the enclosure on the “great post or turnpike roads”, and on the lesser bridleways and footpaths. In another note, the old names of the gates at Bradgate Park are listed including Cock Glade, Tyburn Gate and Rubbing Horse Wicket, the latter so-called from there being a shed there where the racehorses were rubbed down after galloping round the Old John race course.

Periodically, a contemporary scene was taken and compared with the same scene 50 to 100 years previously. These articles containing topographical descriptions are particularly valuable not only for their contemporary descriptions but also for comparisons with today. An article relating the changes to Ashby-de-la-Zouch’s Market Place between 1827 and the 1890s, features the disappearance of the old Market Cross, an octagonal stone structure which consisted of eight columns surmounted by a pyramidal roof. Regarded as an impediment to traffic by some, and an eyesore by others, it was pulled down by horses and chains in the middle of the night rousing many of the inhabitants. The article by A.W. Whatmore, a regular contributor, goes on to describe the shops, inns and other businesses along the main street, noting the changes for example the profusion of tradesmen’s name-boards, which were rare “sixty years ago”. Leicester’s changing Market Place was similarly featured along with the words to the radical poet Cockshaw’s “Diorama” describing the traders of the Market Place in ten amusing verses.

A number of articles concentrate on the history and development of major buildings such as Anne of Cleves House, Melton Mowbray, Trinity Hospital, Leicester and various parish churches. A series of articles were run on a number of the Rutland churches, including Stoke Dry, Seaton, Manton, Ridlington and Preston, these being particularly interesting for their descriptions of the nineteenth century restoration work. The county estates, halls, and other buildings were also featured, with information on their architecture, history and contents, one such “curiosity” noted being an old clock designed by noted eighteenth century mathematician and astronomer, William Ludlam, and that had stood in the kitchen at Quenby Hall and was by the time of writing “in possession of a family at Lubenham.”

Natural features such as wells, springs and rivers were also featured. A query from T. Hickinbotham as to the whereabouts of King Charles’ Well in Leicestershire, drew a response from Thomas Spencer who pointed to its existence midway between Tur Langton and Staunton Wyvile, interestingly mentioning that it once had a memorial erected over it.

Local personalities were also subject to debate. One of Leicester’s best-known anecdotists William Gardiner was himself the subject of an anecdote by John Spencer, who records how Gardiner breached parliamentary etiquette by shouting out from the gallery of the House of Commons. This would normally have meant a committal to Newgate but the Prince Regent interposed on Gardiner’s behalf. An accompanying anecdote recorded by J.S. in the same article recalls the only two speeches made in the House by Viscount Curzon, the member for South Leicestershire, one being “Shut that door” to the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the other “Open that Window”. Elsewhere, the remarkable and venerated Dr. Ford, Vicar of Melton features in several anecdotal notes including how he petitioned customers of “Granham Jack” who brought fish from Grantham to Melton and Leicester to contribute to a replacement horse for Jack when his best one died in order to ensure on-going supplies of fresh rather than “stinking” fish. Another anecdote notes how Dr. Ford regularly sang the whole of the Messiah while travelling on horse-back between Melton and Leicester, the pace of his horse being so steady that he was always able to conclude with the “Amen Corner” on arrival at the Cross in Belgrave Gate.

As would be expected, space was devoted to recording information about local families, these sometimes being accompanied by pedigree charts, and information about monuments and epitaphs. These were fuelled by queries about local family names, branches and descendants by correspondents from places as diverse as Kent, Rhyl and the U.S.A.

Concern over particularly interesting and unusual epitaphs which even in the 1890s were becoming illegible lead to several of these being preserved in print, one such being that to Robert Swann in Belton-in-Rutland churchyard who died in 1749: “One whom the Quakers did despise, His poverty earned him disgrace”. Apocryphal or authentic was the query raised by J.S. trying to glean information about an epitaph to King Richard III said to have been inscribed on a monument erected by King Henry VII at Grey Friars Monastery in Leicester, which had been printed elsewhere and was reprinted in LRN&Q.

Much use was made of archives, records and other documents. Regular writers included Henry Hartopp whose contributions include parish register transcripts, Church Wardens’ Accounts and copies of details from the original Exchequer Lay Subsidy Rolls for 1662 that give a detailed list of the principal householders along with numbers of fire-hearth in Leicester. Wills were
another popular category. Local records at this time were far less accessible than today and often precariously housed, points taken up in the magazine by London correspondent W. Phillimore as part of a campaign to establish local record offices under the custodianship of the recently constituted County Councils.

Personal collections of records, and serendipity also played their part in what was published. A series of articles was devoted to publishing part of the correspondence between John Nichols and William Ward of Hinckley whom Nichols addressed as "Hinckleiensis" during work on compiling material for Nichols' History of Leicestershire. The editors hoped that apart from being of interest in their own right, the letters would give some insight into the "labour and difficulties to be met and overcome which are the lot of anyone turning his mind to the study of the past and the publication of the results of his studies."

Non-conformity in Leicestershire formed the subject of three articles in Volume three. Written by C. Robjohns, he presents the reader with detailed lists of meeting houses and preachers licenced under the Declaration of Indulgence 1672, for example "Licence to Richard Farmer to be a Congl. Teacher at the house of Henry Fox (of Wigston or Wigton) in Leicestershire. Dec 23, 1672." The information had been sent to Robjohns to do as he wished with by a friend researching the records for other purposes. Meanwhile, R. Hazlewood unearthed the manuscript notes of seventeenth century Leicester schoolmaster William Davy in the Bodleian Library and took the opportunity to publish some of these in LRN&Q, the result being a curious mix of personal, local and national events.

Amongst the many interesting illustrations which accompany articles are copies of cards for entertainments and sporting events: a hand-bill for a Ball in 1807, an admission card for Leicester's cock-pit, and an invitation to "sup with some convivial friends" at the Bear Inn in Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1792.

Further items of local interest were sometimes extracted from national periodicals and brought to the attention of LRN&Q readers. F. Le Marchant gathered a number of items out of the "Railway Annual" for 1846, one of which read: "Oct 10 – On the mail train reaching Leicester, a partridge was discovered in the firebox, with its wings and feathers burnt off, and the poor bird itself roasted to a turn. An epicure happening to be on the platform offered to purchase the delicacy for a shilling which was accepted by the guard."

There was also an interesting debate on "Leicester: City or Borough?". A perhaps less than impartial argument was made by W. Jackson of Loseby Lane, that Leicester's claim was old enough to have been forgotten and had indeed been forgotten: "Leicester bears one of the oldest names in Europe; it has always been, in fact, if not in name, a City from time immemorial" including amongst his arguments that when the kingdom of Mercia was split by Archbishop Theodore in the seventh century, a Bishop over the Middle English was placed at Leicester. He went on to say that this did not make Leicester a city but that the Bishop was placed at Leicester because Leicester was already a city. The writer then continued to down play Leicester's rivals, saying that at that time Leeds was little more than a deserted British settlement, Nottingham had not yet

Plan of Ratby Meadow, Enderby.
been made the “ham” or home of the Snotingas, and Birmingham had not yet emerged out of the Forest of Arden.

Lastly, *LRN&Q* are a particularly rich source for historical and anecdotal information on the book trade and literature in Leicestershire. From John Spencer’s pen we discover that the basis for the heroine of “Pamela”, one of the eighteenth century’s greatest literary sensations, was a local woman – Hannah Sturges, wife of Sir Arthur Hesilrige of Nosely Hall. In the same article J.S., keen to take the opportunity to express his own feelings about the more “trashy literature” of the latter part of the nineteenth century comments that “Pamela, however, still holds her own, has a deserved and steady sale, and is appreciated by those who like a well-written and constructed tale better than the shilling shockers of the present day.”

Under the title “A Bookish Family”, the development of a local printing dynasty was explored. This concerned the Chapman Brown family associated with the “Bible and Crown” in Leicester. Interesting snippets tell for instance, how John Brown who commenced the business and printed part of Throsby’s “History of the Town of Leicester” declined to print the whole volume as he could not get paid for his work. Family connections of the Chapman Brownes with Sir Isaac Newton and Thomas Babington Macaulay were also alluded to. One of the last articles to be published in *LRN&Q* was on “The Press and the Book-shop in Leicester”. This concentrated on the arrival of the printing press in the provinces with particular reference to the political turbulence of the seventeenth century and the likely effect on printing and the book-trade in Leicester. It was noted that two Leicester booksellers, Francis Ward and Stephen Lincoln, were both caught up in giving evidence about the sale of seditious literature by a London bookseller.

Although John Spencer died in May 1892 and Thomas eighteen months later in November 1893, a small but regular band of contributors helped to keep *LRN&Q* going until July 1895. Its original editors were both much missed by the bookish and antiquarian communities, having made their mark not only through their output as printers, booksellers and library proprietors but also as two local characters, John as outgoing, with a brusque exterior tempered by good humour, a wonderful memory, quick wit and repartee which he regularly demonstrated in public. Thomas, a keen walker who was active for the Leicestershire Footpaths Association, noted as a map-maker and for his work for the Ordnance Survey. Both were confirmed bibliophiles and antiquarians, very befitting for editors of *LRN&Q*.

Locations of the Roman Stations in the Itinerary of Antoninus.

Location of the Roman Stations in the Itinerary of Antoninus.
**Recent publications**

*Edited by John Hinks*

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**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND: GENERAL**

**2000 YEARS OF THE WOLDS**
Joan Shaw and Bob Trubshaw (eds)
Wymeswold: Wolds Historical Organisation 2003
44pp ISBN 1951734334

This publication follows the theme of an exhibition, ‘2000 years of the Wolds’, held at the Charnwood Museum, Loughborough in 2003. The exhibition brought together projects and contributions from members of the society, with relevant artefacts. The seventeen contributions range from an article on St Mary’s Wymeswold, pioneering ecclesiology in Leicestershire to the Mills at Cotes and the Polish Camp at Burton on the Wolds. All of the articles, by a variety of authors, are interesting and informative with a wealth of illustration. This is the fourth booklet written and produced by the Wolds Historical organisation and a good example of what a local history society can accomplish with ongoing small scale research. Two websites - www.burton-on-the-wolds.org.uk and www.wymeswold.org - contain further articles and information.

Jennifer Sandys

**GOOD GARGOYLE GUIDE: MEDIEVAL CARVINGS IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND**
Bob Trubshaw
Wymeswold: Heart of Albion 2nd edition 2004 110pp
ISBN 1872883702

The churches of Leicestershire and Rutland apparently have more gargoyles than those in surrounding counties. This excellent guide to local gargoyles, now in its second edition, is a typical Heart of Albion publication: thoroughly researched, nicely presented and also affordable! An introductory chapter tells, in outline, the story of how gargoyles developed and discusses some of the more common themes, such as grotesques, green men and dragons. This is followed by a gazetteer of gargoyles and some other medieval carvings in the two counties: a first-rate guide for seasoned church visitors and for newcomers to the delights of this strangely fascinating aspect of our heritage.

John Hinks

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**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND AIRFIELDS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**
Martyn Chorlton

The war-time achievements of the Royal Air Force remain of compelling interest to people of all ages and backgrounds. The heroism of the air and ground crews and the elegance of the aircraft retain an aura of glamour and excitement. Less well documented is the impact of military aviation on the landscape and the daily life of local people. This well-produced and excellently researched soft-back book outlines the story of the eighteen sites in Leicestershire and Rutland – many functioning as Operational Training Units rather than involved in front-line warfare, while Ratcliffe provided the base for an important Air Transport Auxiliary Ferry Pilots Pool, many flown by women. There is plenty here to interest both the aviation enthusiast and the local historian. The author describes the history of each airfield and the major operations and raids carried out from them, and also outlines their subsequent (and very different) histories. A useful appendix provides ‘a breakdown of all RAF and USAF Units and their aircraft that were stationed’ there. The post-war period saw the systematic destruction of the airfields at Bitteswell, Braunstone and Desford, while flying continues at Castle Donington, Leicester East, Cottesmore and Saltby. At others, areas of the runways and perimeter tracks defiantly remain, along with the remains of their control towers, hangars and other buildings, while at Bottesford the site provides ‘a superb example of how wartime airfield buildings can live on and serve as a memorial to the many crews who perished’.

Madeleine Cooke

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**LEICESTERSHIRE: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION**
Robin Jenkins

A reprint of two volumes previously published in the ‘Britain in Old Photographs’ series; Leicestershire People (1996) and People at War (1998). The only change appears to be an improved typeface and better quality paper which gives this publication a crisp clean look. There are some 400 photographs, mostly in the possession of the Leicester Museums, Arts and Records Service, with light-hearted short but incisive
commentary. These have been selected to record the past and give us a glimpse of Leicestershire history. The first half of the book, Leicestershire people, includes photographs of stone effigies, wall paintings, stained glass and drawings before coming to Daguerreotype posed photographs and finally snapshots of family occasions and local events. The second half shows us a Leicestershire unfamiliar to many of us, with soldiers parading in Town Hall square, army camps and devastation caused by bombing. An attractive publication and good value at the price.

Jennifer Sandys

LEPER KNIGHTS: THE ORDER OF ST LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND c.1150-1544

David Marcombe

('Studies in the History of Medieval Religion' series, edited by Christopher Harper-Bill)


The origins of Burton Lazars, taking its name from a leper hospital, must have intrigued many people. In this book we have the explanation. The order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, somewhat akin to the Knights Templar and the Knights of St John was founded around 1170. The Order spread across Europe, the English branch being founded by 1300. Burton Lazars was not only the site of a hospice for the leper knights but also the chief preceptory in England responsible for sending funds to Jerusalem, where after Acre the loss of property in the Holy Land necessitated support from the European branches. The idea of leper knights may seem strange but, at a time when there was a considerable shortage of fighting men, colonies of leper knights were established to boost the Crusaders. A knight suffering from leprosy was still a knight and the fact that leprosy develops slowly (it may take seven years before becoming totally disabling) meant that they still had some fighting potential even when stricken by the disease. The medieval mind also saw leprosy as penance sent from God to be welcomed as a means of serving time in Purgatory while still on earth. Thus ‘the living dead were mobilized in a desperate attempt to ward off the infidel’. When no longer able to fight, the knights were cared for in such places as Burton Lazars. David Marcombe, who is Director of the Centre for Local History at Nottingham University, explains the background to the English branch of the order, basing his thesis on documentary and archaeological research into the place of Burton Lazars in relation to the Order. Much of the evidence has been gathered by a group of local people (the Burton Lazars Research Group) over a period of ten years under Marcombe’s guidance. This is a fascinating study of high scholarship but thoroughly readable for those less than expert in this field.

Jennifer Sandys

MEMORIES OF LEICESTERSHIRE

Steve England

Leicester: Leicester Mercury 2003 144pp ISBN 1904038204

As the introduction to the book notes, this collection of photographs was put together primarily with the Christmas 2003 market in mind, and their sepia reproduction emphasizes the straightforward ‘nostalgia’ nature of the book. The photos are taken from negatives found in a store belonging to the Leicester Mercury picture desk, and some have never been published before. They are not arranged in any particular geographical or chronological order, though there are clusters of prints on the same theme at intervals – among them cinemas from Leicester and the county, shops, trams and trains. The captions are short and to the point, but there are some fascinating photos among this collection. They include, for example, the Melton Road terminus under water in August 1912, the April Fair in Market Harborough in 1890, and the aircraft that crashed around 1917 or 1918 into the back yard of a painter and decorator on the corner of Queens Road and Cecilia Road, which is assumed to have been heading for a softer landing ground on Victoria Park.

Cynthia Brown

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Leonard Cantor


The description on the back cover tells us that this is a ‘comprehensive gazetteer which draws together detailed descriptions, maps and photographs of these legally protected sites. The 212 entries take in castles and crosses, bridges and burial mounds, hill-forts, lost villages and more’. An introductory section deals with defining Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their significance, as well as drawing attention to what can legally be done on these sites and what is illegal. There then follows a gazetteer divided into five sections: Prehistoric Monuments; Roman Remains; Anglo-Saxon Monuments; Medieval Monuments and (mostly) Post-Medieval Monuments. There is an index and there are 122 figures and diagrams. A section entitled ‘A Short History of Scheduled Ancient Monuments’ attempts to set the scene for each chronological period and, in so doing, is rather simplistic and at times misleading. There is confusion...
on whether this section is dealing only with scheduled monuments or dealing with monuments in general. For example, when referring to Roman villas Professor Cantor writes, ‘Evidence of at least six Roman villas has been found’. Does he mean that there are only six villas scheduled? The evidence now indicates substantially more than six villas in Leicestershire and anybody reading this paragraph might be under the impression that the county only has six known villa settlements.

A gazetteer of sites divides into five sections as referred to above and in each section there are divisions into monument types which begin with a general description. The site entries contain details of the local authority district in which the monument is situated, along with a six-figure national grid reference. It is very useful to have the dates when pictures were taken and, where known, these have been included in the acknowledgement to the photograph. Another well-produced book from Kairos Press and the author is to be congratulated for bringing together details of these sites in the hope that they will become better known to local people and better understood.

Alan McWhirr

A TIGER’S TALE
Richard J Blood
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 124pp

This story of the First World War was inspired by a collection of photographs that had belonged to the author’s grandfather. On the back of each photograph his grandfather had written ‘killed in action’, the place and the date. It is this personal photographic collection and the stories of these men that make this account a little different. The author provides a clear and interesting account of the first World War experienced by the men of the 6th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment which provides a good background to the individual stories of the ten men in the photographs. This book has been published by Reprint, a local company specializing in small quantities and local publications. There are 124 pages of well-written text, illustrated with photographs and drawings. This little book is interesting in itself but would be especially interesting to anyone who had had an ancestor in the 6th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment.

Pat Grundy

UNDERSTANDING LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND PLACE-NAMES
Jill Bourne

For more than twenty years Jill Bourne, a historian, archaeologist and museum professional, has pursued her interest in landscape history and place-name studies. Some years ago she published a small volume on local place-names but the present work represents a major study of the names of a large number of towns and villages, arranged alphabetically (in two sequences for Leicestershire and Rutland). The entry for each place gives an OS grid reference and the various historical forms of its name are listed, including those in the Domesday Book as well as the abundant local settlement-names of Old English and Scandinavian origin. The meaning of the place-names is explained succinctly, showing alternative interpretations where appropriate. The many deserted settlement sites are listed as well as the more familiar present-day towns and villages. Introductory chapters deal thoroughly and clearly with such topics as language, chronology and place-name elements and there are particularly useful chapters on the Vikings in the two counties, deserted medieval villages, the names of the Leicestershire Hundreds and of local rivers. There is a brief list of Leicester’s surviving medieval street-names (though we are not told that the present-day Applegate is not in the same place as its medieval namesake). There are several useful maps but the one (p. 22-23) showing all the place-names mentioned in the text is rather too tightly-packed – although this does serve to indicate what a thorough study this is. Despite its very reasonable cover price, this will surely be the standard reference work on its subject for many years to come.

John Hinks

Other recent publications

THE BEST OF LEICESTERSHIRE
Trevor Hickman

BOSWORTH 1485; psychology of a battle
Michael K Jones

COLD WAR: BUILDINGS FOR NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION 1944-1989
Wayne Cockroft and Roger Thomas

AN OBJECT OF AMBITION? THE OFFICE AND ROLE OF THE CORONER IN TWO MIDLAND COUNTIES 1751-1888
Pam Fisher
Leicester: Friends of the Centre for English Local History 2003 56pp ISBN 0953310582

WAR MEMORIALS ON THE WEB, PART 2: THE MIDLANDS, NORTHERN ENGLAND AND EAST ANGLIA
S A Raymond
Leicestershire Historian 2004

CITY OF LEICESTER

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF LEICESTER’S SUBURBS
Christine Jordan

This book provides a good balance of text and illustrations. So many books of this sort leave one wanting more information but here Christine Jordan, who is currently researching suburbs, gives us plenty to get our teeth into and a glimpse of what her definitive book on Leicester’s suburbs might contain when her research is complete!

Jordan describes the development of some twenty areas of Leicester. Some of these are former villages, e.g. Aylestone and Evington, and as such have a long history before being brought into the city during the nineteenth century. Clearly such a book cannot give detailed history of all of these, but there is sufficient to whet the appetite.

The book is backed by the Leicester Mercury and is similar to several picture books with which they have been associated. A number are more pictures than text, whereas this volume has a good mixture of informative text as well as over 200 pictures, a number of which come from the Mercury archives. One expects to see this book heavily promoted in the Mercury News shops and the newspaper is to be applauded for supporting such a venture. I can never understand why publishers and authors are reluctant to include maps in ‘popular’ books. Anybody from outside the region would have little idea where the twenty suburbs are in relation to each other or the city centre. Likewise maps of each suburb discussed would have been of great benefit to most readers in finding their way around. The notion of a garden suburb in Humberstone raises one’s curiosity and here a map of the area would have helped. There is a partial one in an essay by G. C. Martin in The Growth of Leicester, edited by A. E. Brown, which was published in 1970, but this is not even referred to in the section headed Further Reading. Despite the slight reservation about maps, this book has a great deal to offer. It is written in a succinct way and is well-laid out.

Alan McWhirr

KNIGHTON AND CLARENDON PARK: THE STORY OF A LEICESTER SUBURB
Helen Boynton
Oadby: the author 2003 77pp

This is Helen Boynton’s seventh book and it follows ‘naturally’, as she says, from those that explored the nearby areas of London Road and New Walk. Though no great distance from the city centre, both Knighton and Clarendon Park were once virtually self-contained communities, with churches, chapels, shops, schools, political clubs, a library, almshouses, and fire and police stations. Boynton traces the pattern of land ownership, including the development of the Cradock estate, as well as examining the topography of the area and recording the history of individual houses. Changes in the use of these and public buildings are also explored, and she also highlights the importance of the railway in the development of these areas and nearby Stoneygate. As always, there are some excellent photographs and other relevant and informative illustrations.

Cynthia Brown

TOWNS, VILLAGES AND HOUSES

UPPINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP has had a busy year with no fewer than five pieces of research being published. All five volumes have been published by the Group and have a similar A4 format. With the exception of The Making of Uppingham, none of these publications is for sale. However they are available for use in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, in Oakham Library, Rutland County Museum in Oakham, and at the Rutland Local History and Record Society in the Rutland County Museum at Oakham.

THE COURT ROLLS OF THE RECTORY MANOR OF UPPINGHAM
Vol IX: 11 November 1880 to 18 April 1936
Uppingham: Uppingham Local History Group 2003 195pp

In just under 200 pages, this volume contains abstracts of the Court Rolls of the Rectory Manor of Uppingham for the period 11 November 1880 to 18 April 1936. As the originals are held in the archive at Uppingham School, a private collection with strictly controlled access, the work of the Uppingham Local History Group has made this information available to a wider public. This volume, along with the previous eight, will
prove to be a useful source of information about Uppingham and its inhabitants.

THE COURT ROLLS OF THE RECTORY MANOR OF UPPINGHAM: THE MINUTE BOOK
Vol X: 14 October 1791 to 24 October 1820
Uppingham: Uppingham Local History Group 2003 79pp

The first fifteen pages of this volume provide an introduction to the Rectory Manor of Uppingham with a map defining the area of the manor, a summary of the Court Rolls, a list of copyhold properties and lists of conventions and abbreviations. The rest of the 79 pages are taken up with abstracts of the entries in the minute book over a period of 29 years which, we are told, falls within but does not coincide with the dates of Volume VI. I am sure that this will also prove to be a useful source.

JAMES SMITH’S MESSUAGE
VOL 1 THE ANCIENT MESSUAGE
Peter Lane
Uppingham Local History Group 2003 33pp

This is a revised edition of an earlier work which describes the early history of the messuage, encompassing what is now five individual properties. The five individual properties have their histories dealt with in Volumes II to IV but this slim volume with just 29 pages, provides a fascinating insight into the origins of the whole site.

THE WEST END OF THE TOWN OF UPPINGHAM: 4 STOCKERSTON ROAD
Uppingham Local History Group 2003 69pp

This volume begins with the present property which was built in 1901 but then sets out the history of the site from about 1600. Here are 66 pages of careful research, well illustrated with photographs, reproductions of plans and the 1871 census. The author does not confine himself to the buildings but describes the people as well. This is good because buildings can never really be separated from the people who built them and lived in them. It is a piece of careful research presented in an easily readable text.

THE MAKING OF UPPINGHAM AS ILLUSTRATED IN ITS TOPOGRAPHY AND BUILDINGS
Alan Rogers
Uppingham Local History Study Group 2003 26pp
ISBN 0954007638

The author covers a lot of ground with the 26 pages of this slim volume, putting Uppingham into place both geographically and chronologically. He divides the work into five periods; medieval, Tudor, seventeenth century, Georgian period and the nineteenth century. It is well written and well illustrated with photographs and maps.

The conclusion suggests another agenda, a case against large-scale residential development and in favour of a bypass. However, one cannot help but think that the people of Glaston, site of the author’s proposed re-routing of heavy traffic, might not agree with him. Unlike the other volumes published by Uppingham Local History Study Group, this one can be purchased direct from the Study Group at 6 Leamington Terrace, Uppingham LE15 9TH.

Pat Grundy

FROM AN OPEN WOODED HILLTOP
Allan Bamford, Glynis Oakley and Erica Tomlinson
Photography by John Oakley
Market Bosworth: Bosworth 2001 2002 £25.00
224pp ISBN 0952963914

This publication – winner of the prestigious prize for ‘the best self-published book of 2002’ – looks at the history of Market Bosworth and some of the surrounding villages. It is divided into five sections: architecture, community, local industry, nature and environment and leisure time. Each section, with its own introduction, explores various aspects of the area. It looks at the past as well as the present and, where relevant, gives snippets of local people’s memories of the area. Local people who have made contributions to Bosworth’s past and present are mentioned; some, like Lady Florence Dixie, have their own chapter. Others, such as local policeman past and present, share their views on the policing of the village. Although no section goes into great depth, they all give the reader a taste of Bosworth past and present. The book is beautifully illustrated and the photographs add atmosphere to this wonderful publication. It is a very readable book that is easy to delve into if time is short or simply to enjoy looking at the photographs. The book will appeal to all those with an interest in the history of the area. Its real strength however, is that as it looks at the area, it brings together the history and the people. It is a publication that has a great deal to recommend it.

Lois Edwards

LONG WHATTON MEMORIES OF TIMES PAST
Alan Harvey et al
Long Whatton: Long Whatton History Society 2003
207pp ISBN 095449220X

THRUSSINGTON: A VILLAGE STUDY
Jennifer Sandys (ed.)
Thrushington Local History Society 2003 112p £6.95
ISBN 1858583004

These two village histories are worthy additions to the list of local publications funded in recent years by the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Awards for All programme, which has done much to support local historical
research and enable small village societies to produce books of real quality. The Long Whatton history provides comprehensive coverage of the village from the thirteenth century to the present and is based on an impressive range of sources including the Brooks, Middleton, Martin and Dawson family papers, photographs, newspapers and monumental inscriptions. It looks in detail at Whatton House and the succession of families who lived there, through to the Barons Crawshaw in more recent years, and the use of a house from September 1939 as a maternity hospital for expectant mothers evacuated from London and other areas at high risk of bombing. A reunion is recalled of some 300 of these ‘war babies’ and their families in 1997, at the invitation of Lord Michael Crawshaw, some of whom had travelled from Australia and South Africa. The bomb that unexpectedly fell on the Rectory in Long Whatton in 1940 resulted in the death of the maid, Helen Burrell, the first civilian casualty of the war in Leicestershire.

Industry and commerce are well covered: not only farming and framework knitting but less obvious areas such transport and coachworks and the worldwide business of Harlow Brothers. This started in the back yard of a house on The Green in the 1920s, originally making ladders and wheelbarrows and later specializing in poultry housing and other sectional buildings. There is an interesting and unusual section entitled ‘Letters from America’, consisting of those sent to his sister and brother-in-law by Thomas Ironmonger Peat from 1843 onwards, which were later copied into a school notebook. These give details of his experiences in the States and his very mixed feelings about them, despite land at £1.20 an acre and ‘Oysters by the load for very little’.

The Thrussington book covers an even longer time span, beginning before the village itself with a discussion of the geology and topography of the site. The nature and effects of enclosure are discussed in some depth, and there are separate chapters on churches and chapels, education, transport and trades. Like the Long Whatton book, the latter demonstrates that the range of trades and occupations was much wider than might be commonly supposed. I found the section on buildings particularly interesting; it includes a map showing the location of the main buildings, and would serve as a very useful guide to visitors unfamiliar with the village. The book concludes with a survey of the twentieth century and an entertaining and informative collection of oral histories which more than justify the considerable time involved in transcribing them. Each chapter has been written by different members of the Local History Society, and while this no doubt posed some challenges for the editor, the varying styles of writing add to the interest.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

APPLEBY PEELEINGS: A HISTORY AND PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF APPLEBY MAGNA
Joan Noble
Ashby de la Zouch; Ashby Museum 2003 83pp ISBN 0950864994

BELTON HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST
J W Jeffcoat
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 38pp

FOLVILLE CROSS
Raymond Taylor
Leicester: the author 2003 11pp

HAND-ONE-DOWN HEARSAYS OF THE PARISH OF BREEDON, GRIFFYDAM, ISLEY WALTON, LANGLEY, LOUNT, NEWBOLD, SCOTLAND, STAUNTON HAROLD, TONGE, WILSON AND WORTHINGTON 1870-1970
John Dawson
Breedon: the author 2003 188pp

HISTORY OF BAGWORTH PARK
Bob Auston and Frank Gregory
Bagworth Local History Group 2003 38pp

LOUGHBOROUGH’S ART DECO HERITAGE
J Tunstall 2002

MOUNTSORREL: A PLACE OF STONE
Loughborough: Friends of Charnwood Museum 2003 31pp

OAKHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES
Bryan Waites

ROTHLEY THEN AND NOW: A CENTURY OF CHANGE SEEN THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS
Rothley H S 2003 64pp ISBN 0954542606

SILEBY 1800’S TO 1900’S: HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN RELATION TO MR W COOKE, UNDERTAKER, AND MRS COOKE, CONFECTIONER, OF COSSINGTON ROAD, SILEBY
Kevin Harrison
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 54pp

THE WAR MEMORIALS OF BELTON, HATHERN AND SHEPSHED
Richard Blood
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 44pp
RELIGION AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON’S CONNEXION: A SECT IN ACTION IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND
Alan Harding
(Oxford Theological Monographs series)

Selina, Countess of Huntingdon (1707-81) shocked her family by converting to Methodism. She was born Selina Shirley, second daughter of Earl Ferrers. One of her ancestors, Sir Robert Shirley, built Staunton Harold church: 'the best things in the worst times…'. Selina married Theophilus Hastings of Donington Park, the ninth Earl of Huntingdon. The marriage was a happy one and lasted for eighteen years until the Earl’s untimely death. His wife was to survive him for forty-five years devoting her time and her wealth to the cause of Methodism. By 1741 John Wesley had become a regular confidant of the Countess and it may well be that she suggested the tour of the Midlands which he undertook later that year. However there were points of theological and ecclesiological disagreement: while Wesley emphasised a salvation open to all, Selina supported Whitfield's more Calvinistic approach. She set up her own chapels and a theological training college at Trevecca. The author, now a parish priest, has developed his doctoral thesis in this book, which is more about the Connexion (the development of an itinerant ministry and the chapels they served) than about Selina herself. Much original research has been undertaken including the use of papers from the archives of Cheshurst college, a successor to Trevecca, which only became available in the 1960s. This is a scholarly work, perhaps more of interest to the theologian than the local historian but concerning the thought and work of a particularly notable local figure.

Jennifer Sandys

GYPSIES, PREACHERS AND TRAVELLERS’ TALES: CALLS TO RENEWAL FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE
David Lazell
East Leake: the author 2003 222pp

This is a book that has been privately published by the author in a limited run. There are 199 pages divided into seventeen chapters with a further 24 pages of notes. The author’s introduction sets out his intention to examine two specific issues: the ending of what he calls ‘the old Romani life’ and the increasing gap between the ordinary people of the working class and the mainstream churches during the last two centuries. Lazell is clearly very interested in his subject and has done a great deal of research. However there is no reasoned argument running through the book and linking the two issues under examination. Instead the result is a collection of short essays on various aspects of gypsy life and on a number of travelling preachers from John Wesley to Gipsy Smith. With clear, easy to read text and illustrated by photographs and engravings, this is an interesting, if slightly disorganised, read.

Pat Grundy

HISTORY OF WHITWICK METHODISTS (1882-1965)
Eric Jarvis
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 47pp

This small book is a pleasure to read. Eric Jarvis looks at the history of Methodism in Whitwick and in some of the neighbouring villages in North-West Leicestershire. It looks at the traditional history of Methodism in the village, when the buildings were constructed, who was the Minister when, all that you would expect from a history book. However one of the strengths of the book is that it is full of anecdotes of the people involved in the church, which give life to the publication. While the book does not address why Methodism grew in strength, it does give a comprehensive history of Methodism in the area. As a result of including people’s memories in the text it also provides snapshots of life in Whitwick at various times. This is a lovely book that is obviously written by a man who loves both the village and the subject. It would be of value to those with an interest in Methodism in the area and those with an interest in Whitwick, and also to family historians as the publication mentions various people who have lived in the village.

Lois Edwards

TIME’S THUMB MARK: A GUIDE TO ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH LOUGHBOROUGH
Stephen Cherry (ed)
Loughborough: All Saints PCC 2003 48pp

This guide, writes its editor, the Rector of Loughborough, ‘aims to enable people to make sense of most of what they can observe in this beautiful grade-1 listed building’. Before beginning a tour of the church there are several pages which place it in its historical context accompanied by a very useful map drawn by local historian and artist Brian Williams. It is also good to see an up-to-date plan of the church at the very beginning of the book, although an approximate scale would help some readers. Numbers on the plan helpfully relate to parts of the church which are then described in order in the book. The ‘Tour of the Church’ is divided into sections such as, The Nave, The Crossing, The Chancel and
Sanctuary, and more; each section begins with advice of where to stand to view what is being described. A cross-reference to the number on the plan at the beginning of each section could have been included to advantage. As one reads the text, words in italics are a signal that an explanation of that word appears in the glossary at the end. Little is said about the wonderful collection of important tombstones in the churchyard, but as they contain so much information they probably deserve a book on their own. Writing church guides is not an easy task but this book is well-written and gives sufficient historical facts to answer most questions and, above all, it encourages the reader/visitor to look for themselves. All who contributed, authors, illustrators and desk-top publisher are to be congratulated on a splendid production.

Alan McWhirr

Other recent publications

HANDLIST OF PARISH AND NON-CONFORMIST CHURCH REGISTERS IN THE RECORD OFFICE FOR LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND
Leicester: Record Office 2003 30pp

PARISH REGISTERS OF ST MARY, SILEBY VOL IV BAPTISMS AND BURIALS 1765-1812, BURIALS 1843-1846
Eric C Wheeler
Sileby: the author 2003 144pp

ST DENYS’ CHURCH GOADBY MARWOOD: A HISTORY AND GUIDE
Raymond Taylor
Leicester: the author 2003 (text 1999) 50pp

ST JAMES THE GREATER, LEICESTER, CHURCH TRAIL
Alan McWhirr
Leicester: the church 2003 8pp

ST MARGARET, LEICESTER: HISTORY AND FABRIC OF THE PREBENDAL CHURCH
Graham Jones
Leicester: the church 2003 36pp

ST MARY'S CHURCH, GARTHORPE
Geoffrey Brandwood
London: Churches Conservation Trust 2003 6pp

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, EDMONSTHORPE
Geoffrey Brandwood
London: Churches Conservation Trust 2003 12pp

ALL SAINTS’ OAKHAM: A GUIDE AND HISTORY
Nigel Aston
Oakham: Multum in Parvo 2003 28pp
ISBN 09524544 4 0

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCH OF ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD, EMPINGHAM, AUGUST 2003
Gwyn Griffiths
Empingham: Enviro Protecta 2003 8pp

CHOIRS, BANDS AND ORGANS: A HISTORY OF CHURCH MUSIC IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND
Hilary Davidson
Oxford: Positif 2003 272pp
ISBN 0906894328

HEALTH, WELFARE AND EDUCATION

GROCERY AND THE MILLENNIUM: THE CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE AND THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT
David Lazell
East Leake 2003 110pp ISBN 0950867187

This is a well-researched and detailed history of much more than local significance. From 1945 until 2001, the Co-operative College was housed at Stanford Hall near Loughborough, the former home of Sir Julian Cahn, head of a substantial furniture retailing business. The book provides a useful overview of the tradition of co-operative education, from the Owenite ‘Halls of Science’ in the earlier nineteenth century, through the foundation of the Christian Socialist Working Men’s College in 1854, to the summer schools and postal tuition which preceded the foundation of the Co-operative College itself in 1919 at Holyoake House in Manchester with a staff of three – one of whom, it was stipulated, ‘should be a woman’. The College moved to Stanford Hall in 1945, when it was purchased by the Co-operative Union for £48,000 following Sir Julian’s death. In one respect it was a response to the difficulties faced by working-class men and women in accessing a university education, in another, to the need to educate and train the managers and leaders of co-operative organizations themselves, and it ran courses in social sciences and international co-operative activity as well as secretarial and managerial tuition. Its furnishings were sponsored by local co-operative societies, but it remained ‘dry’ in terms of alcoholic refreshment, reflecting the temperance convictions of many of its supporters. There was, as the author notes, always a degree of tension between the College’s programme of liberal education and that focused more closely on educating future executives. A heavy workload took its toll on some College leaders, but it is remembered overall as generating ‘a sense of community, of bringing people together from diverse backgrounds for common tasks’. By the late twentieth century, however, it was facing a number of difficulties, not least the high costs of maintaining the house and grounds, and competition from hotel chains for its conference business. Changes in the nature of the training required, including
computer and internet delivery, coupled with a reduction in the education budgets of many co-operative societies, also contributed to the decision to sell Stanford Hall in 2001 and relocate the College to its original base at Holyoake House.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

HANBURY SCHOOL: THE SECONDARY MODERN YEARS
Frank Bingley:

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TRANSPORT

ELLIS OF LEICESTER: A QUAKER FAMILY'S VOCATION
Andrew Moore

A book telling the story of this important Leicestershire family is long overdue. Andrew Moore’s well-researched book tells the story of this family that had such an effect on many aspects of life in Leicestershire, economically as well as socially. A large Quaker family, they branched out from farming into industries such as quarrying, coal and chemicals. The family had a hand in bringing the railways to Leicestershire and also worked in the communities that surrounded where they lived helping to improve the lives of others. The book’s introduction tells how the family came to Leicestershire. It is then divided into four sections, each covering the life of each of the sons of Joseph Ellis and their descendants. The first two sections look at the achievements of John and Joseph Ellis and the two smaller sections focus on James and Robert. Many of the grandchildren of Joseph Ellis also have their own biographies which make it a very easy book to navigate if you are just looking for specific information on one of the children or grandchildren. It looks at how the family’s beliefs led them to work with local charities as well as the businesses that they developed. This is a thoroughly researched and well-written book that will be of interest to local historians as well as the businesses that they developed. A note on Midland Railway operating documents considers a previously under-researched subject: the actual working instructions relating to the everyday safe working of the system. The sheer complexity of the procedures is awe-inspiring. ‘The broad gauge and the narrow gauge’ explores the interconnections between railways and religion, with the former developing a quasi-religious aura of their own, calling down ‘Blessings on Science and her handmaid Steam [who] made Utopia only half a dream.’

Further chapters deal with the railways’ role in opening up passengers’ intellectual interest in what they saw from their carriage windows, the impact of the system on both the natural and built environments, including the development of tourism in Scotland and Wales, and the evolution of transport museums. Philip Larkin is feted as the great English railway poet of the twentieth century, while ‘George Samuel Measom and his railway guide’ explores another of Professor Simmons’s many enthusiasms.

Madeleine Cooke

‘A STITCH DROPPED IN TIME’: THE FRAMEWORK KNITTERS OF MARKFIELD VILLAGE
Di Lockley
Markfield: the author 2003 50pp

This is not a book for sale but a piece of research that is available on loan from Leicestershire Libraries. The author has carried out extensive research and produced something that is both readable and interesting. Markfield, like other industrial villages in Leicestershire, had more than one industry. Based on her own research into the occupations given in the baptism records, Lockley tells us that the largest number of villagers were involved in agriculture, with framework knitters coming third behind those involved in the extraction industry.
Having made it clear that not all the village workforce were framework knitters, the author sets the scene for the village as it would have been at the beginning of the nineteenth century. While she produces plenty of figures, her work has an emphasis on people. This research is contained in fifty pages of text and tables. There are a few footnotes and, at the back, a bibliography. The work would have been enhanced by some illustrations but, nevertheless, it is set out clearly enough not to be intimidating. It will, I feel, be interesting to people wanting to learn more about framework knitting and the lives of the knitters in general but especially so to people whose ancestors lived in Markfield.

Pat Grundy

**THE TURNPIKE ROADS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND**

Arthur Cossons

Although published in 2003 this book was written in the late 1950s and has been steered through publication by Arthur Cosson’s son and daughter, Neil Cossons and Hilda Stoddart. As they state in the Foreword, ‘The text shows some signs of maturation over the half century or so since it was written, but rather than edit or carry out some modest updating it has been published in substantially its original form ’. So what we have is a text with maps compiled fifty or so years ago, and it should be used with that in mind. It is a fine tribute to a local historian who was so immersed in the system of turnpike roads in England. The book begins with an historical summary of the Turnpike System and its impact on Leicestershire and Rutland from when it first reached this region in 1721-2. We are given details on construction and maintenance, vehicles, tolls, and there then follow eight maps which show the roads from 1750 to 1836 and illustrate the rise and fall of turnpike roads. The core of the book is a Gazetteer described as a ‘Chronological List of Turnpike Roads of Leicestershire and Rutland, with the Acts under which they were operated’. Local historians will find this a very useful source of information for their locality and the references given should prove to be a valuable starting point for research into the roads of their area. The standard of production, as one comes to expect from Kairos Press, is good and all who saw this book through to publication are to be congratulated.

Alan McWhirr

**Other recent publications**

3000 STRANGERS: NAVVY LIFE ON THE KETTERING TO MANTON LINE
Ann Paul
Kettering: Silver Link 2003 144pp ISBN 1857942124

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY AND VICTORIAN SEASON TICKETS
P Courtenay 2002

CLINGIN ON … THE MOIRA CUT, COAL AND THE LAST DAYS OF CARRYING
Gerald Box

MIDLAND RED
John Banks
Glossop: Venture 2003 64pp ISBN 1898432880

PORTER TO SIGNALMAN 1937-1965: BYGONE STATIONS OF LEICESTERSHIRE
Eric Jarvis
Loughborough: Reprint 2003 89pp

THE SURNAMES, OCCUPATIONS AND EARLY WORKING PRACTICES WITHIN THE BRADGATE AREA OF LEICESTERSHIRE 1296-1890
(Dragate and its Villages series 5)
David Ramsey
Groby: Bradgate Books 2003 149pp

SYMINGTON: HISTORY OF W. SYMINGTON AND CO LTD OF MARKET HARBOROUGH
Ian C Symington
Stone: the author 2003 84pp

T H WATHES AND CO LTD 1903-2003: A CENTURY OF SERVICE
Leicester: W R Refrigeration 2003 32pp

WOODFIELD MILL: PEPPER’S MILL, LEICESTER ROAD, UPPINGHAM
Uppingham Local History Group 2003 42pp

**ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT**

‘ROUND THE HOUSE AND MIND THE DRESSER’: the story of music and dance in Leicester’s Irish community since 1800.
Nessan Danaher 2002

This is the third in a series of publications from Nessan Danaher of the Irish Studies Workshop on the history of the Irish community in Leicester, and follows a similar format. A historical introduction is followed by a wide-ranging survey of music and dance presented in photographs, handbills, newspaper cuttings, cartoons, and explanatory text. The ‘scrapbook’ approach works
very well, and covers an immense amount of ground in an interesting and entertaining way. ‘Music and dance’ in this sense encompasses everything from military and marching bands to music halls and ‘free and easies’, pubs and clubs, to classical music and the influence of the Catholic Church. There are also sections on the Irish Cultural Renaissance and Tom Barclay, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in Leicester over the past 120 years, and the contribution of Irish Studies Workshop students themselves to Irish cultural development in the city. I’m sure we can expect another volume in this series in due course. Whatever the theme, it will no doubt be as informative and absorbing as this one.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

BITTESWELL CRICKET CLUB 1903-2003
CENTURY
Brian Burningham (comp)
Bitteswell: the author 2003 36pp

KEEPING THE FAITH
Neville Foulger
Leicester: Leicester City Football Club 2003 116pp
ISBN 095427041X

SPEEDWAY IN LEICESTER: THE PRE-WAR YEARS
Alan Jones
Shepshed: the author 2003 200pp

TWYCROSS ZOO 40th ANNIVERSARY 1963-2003
Twycross Zoo 2003 20pp
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