Years of loyal service to the Society

Several members of committee have clocked up many years of devoted service to the Society and at the AGM the chairman made reference to them. Aubrey Stevenson has been librarian since 1982/3 and so will be clocking up 25 years in that post this year.

Geoff Clark Monks has been membership secretary since 1985/6 holding this vital post for over 20 years.

Mrs Kay Gowland has been an active member of the committee for many years and since 1985/6 has been the editor of the newsletter. Kay did not seek re-election at the AGM and so her time on the committee has come to an end and we are very grateful for all she has done.

Another officer who stood down at the AGM was Mrs Sybil Rutland who has been lecture secretary since 1992/3. In recent years the lectures have been well attended and we are grateful to Sybil for all she has done to make the programme so attractive.

Alan McWhirr has been secretary since 1980/1 and admits that he could not have continued in that post for so long without the invaluable support of other long-serving members of the committee referred to above.

Now it is your turn ... ...

With resignations and a number officers wishing to stand down, there is a need to recruit new faces. Why not volunteer to shadow an existing officer to see if you could take over in the future?
**News**

**Member remembers the society**

On 28th March 2007 member Brian Bilson died at home in Wigston. The news did not reach the Society until we received a letter from his solicitors informing us that he wished the Society to have his collection of local books. He requested that we selected those we would like to have in the library with the rest being sold and the proceeds going to the Society.

Brian was born in Wigston in July 1931, the younger of two sons of Reginald and Patricia Bilson. He lived locally all his life and worked for Leicestershire County Council for many years in Education Supplies.

Brian regularly attended the society’s lectures. He had many interests as his collection of books indicate. In addition to his interests in local history he was keen on industrial archaeology, science and engineering. He had an extensive collection of old cameras. For a time he was treasurer of the local branch of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and frequently spent his holiday attending the BAAS Science Festival. As one of our members recalls, ‘Brian was a quiet unassuming man never saying much about himself but was always friendly and willing to chat – I liked him.’

He was closely involved with the work of the Framework Knitters museum in Wigston and was Treasurer of the Friends from 1988 until his death.

**Vice-President keeps writing!!**

Vice-President Duncan Lucas has produced another small book which has lead to appearances on television, East Midlands Today, and quite a number of interviews on radio.

Duncan was persuaded to write down all the local phrases, sayings and words which he had been familiar with all his life. The end result is a 30-page booklet entitled *Duncan’s Leicestershire Ditties* which can be bought at the Framework Knitters Museum, Bushloe End, Wigston or at the Record Office in Wigston Magna.

In an interview with the *Leicester Mercury* Duncan said, “It would be sad if we lost a lot of these words as they are part of who we are and where we come from, so to lose them is to lose a part of ourselves. My daughter-in-law kept badgering me every time I quoted a saying or rhyme to write it down so, for the past few years, I have been carrying a notepad with me to record sayings.”

**Former Society Librarian dies**

Professor Geoffrey Martin died on the 20th December 2007. He came to the history department of the University of Leicester in 1952 and then took an active role in this society. Between 1953-1963/4 he was Honorary Librarian and did much to bring the library up-to-date.

A full obituary will appear in *Transactions*.

**Two museums extend opening hours**

Two of Leicester’s most popular museums are extending their opening times to visitors. Abbey Pumping Station Museum and Jewry Wall Museum opened after the winter break on Friday, February 1. From 2008 they will be open from 11am to 4.30pm, seven days a week, from February until October.

The extended opening times follow an announcement made last year by Leicester City Council leader, Councillor Ross Willmott. The changes mean it will be easier than ever for visitors to enjoy finding out about Leicester’s Roman and Victorian heritage.

Leicester City Council’s cabinet member for culture and leisure, Councillor Andy Connelly, said: “This shows our commitment to increased access to leisure facilities across the city. I am pleased to see these exciting venues opening for longer. It will enable more visitors to learn about city’s fascinating heritage and I hope people take advantage of it.”

For full details of all Leicester museums, visit www.leicester.gov.uk/museums

**Please support museums in the city and county**
Some new publications

Two from the LIHS

The Leicestershire Industrial History Society has recently published two works. The first is number 18 in their Bulletin which has been given over exclusively to an article on The Early Slate Quarries of North West Leicestershire by David Ramsey, an author well known for his researches on that part of the county. It is an A4 production with liberal use of colour in its 80 pages. This is an invaluable resource for historians, archaeologists and geologists and other researchers. It can be obtained from the society at £15 plus £2 p & p.

The second item is a DVD on Timken-Tubes of Desford, filmed before the hot and cold tube mill closed. An interesting venture and a valuable record which should be repeated with other industrial processes going out of use. Congratulations to the LIHS.

Women of Courage, Vision and Talent: Lives in Leicester from 1780 to 1925

This is the title of a book just published and written by Shirley Aucott who will be talking to the Society on 27th March.

Little is known about the lives of provincial women during this period and most of the women in this book have not had their stories told before. This biographical gazetteer of 102 women reveals a wealth of surprises which show many of them to have been at the forefront of major campaigns of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Some of the women featured will be familiar, such as Mary Kirby and Mary Linwood; others, like Ann Wigfield and Phoebe Mason, will be unfamiliar. The women came from various social, political and religious backgrounds and were involved in a wide variety of activities. They were trade unionists, authors, poets, artists, philanthropists, chartists, women’s rights activists, journalists, doctors, teachers, abolitionists, city councillors, health visitors, handymen, musicians, photographers, mothers, a religious minister, benefactors and others.

The book is in A4 format, 273 pages with 58 illustrations, many of which have not been published before. There is a timeline, full references, a bibliography and an index.

ISBN 978-0-9548189-2-0 £14.95

On a more modest scale is a book which ‘charts the history of the village, the church, the village hall and the shops and pubs’ of South Croxton – the village on the hill. It is priced at £10 and has been compiled by Philip Snelders.

The above book was published towards the end of 2007 and is a real bargain at £25 as it runs to 680 pages and is profusely illustrated. There are 30 different topics covered and the overall editors Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath are to be congratulated on producing such a fine volume.

With grants from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and support from Anglian Water, the Rutland Local History and Record Society have been able to produce this volume at a very reasonable price.
As part of a structured programme of archaeological investigation and recording undertaken in advance of and during construction of the Earl Shilton Bypass, archaeologists from the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), led by Wayne Jarvis, have undertaken a series of targeted excavations to recorded remains affected by the road scheme.

Two sites are of particular note: a pair of previously unrecorded ring ditches located at the top of the ridge to the south of Thurlaston Lane, east of Earl Shilton, thought to represent the flattened remains of two early Bronze Age burial mounds; and the earthworks of a complex of ponds, originally thought to be fishponds, located to the west of Wilkinson Lane, Elmesthorpe.

**Site 1: Round barrows, pit alignment and field system**

The ring-ditches, originally constructed some 4000 years ago, survived only as below ground remains, however, they appear to have remained as visible features on the ridge top for more than a thousand years, during which time they acted as a focal point for the subsequent land organisation. A pit alignment and boundary ditch system, probably dating from the end of the Bronze Age or early Iron Age (1000-500BC), ran up the ridge from north and south to meet at the barrows. Excavated features were mainly dated to the later Iron Age, with some suggestion of a presence into the Roman period. A couple of features produced burnt bone, which may be more directly related to the earlier burial mounds.

The location of the barrows is not unusual; they often occupy highly visible locations and perhaps reflect a close relationship between the everyday lives of the living and their long-dead ancestors. It is, however, very interesting to see the barrows continue to be of importance for such an extended period, although whether this reflects simply their position in a landscape or a link to the afterlife is a matter of conjecture.

**Site 2: The Elmesthorpe Ponds.**

Originally thought to be a complex of late medieval or early post-medieval (15th-17th century AD) ponds for the breeding and rearing of fish and perhaps wildfowl, two sets of earthworks were to be affected by the construction of the bypass. The first of these lying adjacent to Wilkinson Lane appears to have been formed by damming a small stream, to flood an area to the west. The valley floor had been landscaped and would have held a substantial if shallow body of water. Excavations were confined to sampling the feature but revealed evidence of its construction, as well as an indication of earlier Roman occupation. The shallow depth of the pond and the absence of clear evidence of any sophisticated water management might suggest the pond was more ornamental than functional in character.
A second set of ponds forming a square lay to the south-west. Again excavation indicated they were more likely to be ornamental than designed to breed fish. Although forming a tight group the investigation could find no evidence of any linkage, the constant seepage of water into the ponds appears to suggest they were filled from the natural water table rather than by stream or spring. The ponds had been formed by cutting back (south) into the natural slope and then mounding up a bank or dam to the north, two internal banks then subdivided the pond into either three or four separate smaller ponds.

The ponds appear to be linked to the former Elmesthorpe Hall, originally built in the 17th century on land to the south of the bypass, an antiquarian, John Nichols, writing in 1811 commented:

‘The ancient hall stood on an eminence, and was a very large and extensive building... From the traces which now remain of the extensive pleasure grounds, etc., it appears to have been a large and commodious residence.’

On the basis of the available information, the hall, which was demolished about 1700, appears to have lain in the vicinity of Church Farm. Nichols further notes that in the vicinity:

‘There have been several fish-pools, from small ones to six or seven acres apiece.’

Compiled by Richard Clark, Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council and Wayne Jarvis ULAS

Pictures copyright University of Leicester Archaeological Services.
ON LEAVING LEICESTERSHIRE FOR THE SECOND TIME …

I find myself in the curious position of being about to leave the Record Office (and Leicestershire) for a second time – having had two tours of duty here, first as one of two Keepers of Archives between 1974 and 1977, and now as County/Chief Archivist from 1991 to date. Both were periods of major change. I arrived at 57 New Walk in 1974, immediately after the last Local Government Reorganisation but one. As a result the Record Office had combined both the old County record office and City manuscripts department, and was part of the new countywide Museums Arts & Records Service. With Kate Thompson, the other Keeper, I reported to Leslie Parker (always ‘Dr Parker’) who reported to Allen Chinnery (always ‘Chin’) who rejoiced in the grand title of Assistant Director (Human History). Anyone who was around at the time will know that the set-up carried a lot of historical baggage.

In fact we rubbed along pretty well and as I recall most of our time was spent welding together a disparate collection of facilities and practices into a more or less smoothly functioning archives service. That included concentrating all the public services into the extended searchroom at 57 New Walk and (Heaven forgive me) planning removal of the grim outstore opposite the station on London Road to the promised land of Humberstone Drive.

Having started planning the removal, I made what I thought was a very clever move by leaving before the heavy lifting started in earnest. A lengthy stint as Archivist to a London Borough revealed the errors in my thinking. It also taught me a great deal about small, under-resourced archives services, the impact of local politics, and how to work with librarians (since the archives were part of the Library Service). Eventually, seeking to escape The Great Wen, I cast around for vacancies in the county record offices and, lo and behold, in 1990 Kate Thompson left for Hertfordshire and Leicestershire became available. Even more astonishingly, given that they did not have the excuse of not knowing me, they had me back.

This time around, the first job was another reorganisation – combining the Record Office and Local Studies Library – and another removal – the really big task of moving everything to Wigston Magna. With able colleagues to do all the detailed planning and Pickfords the lifting, the move went well. We then set about the tasks (both now accomplished) of fusing the two services into one and filling up the (not overgenerous) collections expansion space. However if I thought (as I did) that all was now set fair, fate intervened to expose my hubris yet again. Yes – another Local Government Reorganisation, in 1997 when the City of Leicester and Rutland achieved unitary status.

This time the Record Office was badly caught up in the aftermath of the noisy divorce of the Museums Arts & Records Service between County and City. The one fortunate aspect was that by now our facilities were too large and specialist to split easily, so we were saved from the prospect of turning a large and reasonably well-resourced archives service into two (or three) smaller, less-well-resourced ones. The downside was that we spent the next four or five years under something of a cloud so far as (what were now) the joint arrangement partners were concerned.

Happily the mood lightened with the new Millennium and the last five years or so have been ones of ever closer bonding with colleagues in the museums and libraries of all three authorities. To the point where I’m happy to assert with confidence that by working closely together and playing to our several strengths, the partnerships are now delivering far more than the sum of their parts. In the process we have also taken great strides to make the Record Office and its services more varied, more innovative and more genuinely accessible to many more of the diverse communities we serve.

And so, the end is near – retirement beckons, and what do I find? Yet again the strongrooms and the searchrooms are full, and we need to expand once more. Is this where I came in (the second time) or went out (the first time?) This time, however, we are looking not only to the local authorities to fund our growing needs, but also instinctively looking outward, to forge new partnerships, with the Media Archive for Central England (MACE) and the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA), and with our neighbouring borough councils and the museums and arts groups within them. I leave behind an exciting vision of the Record Office sharing a site with a rich mix of film, sound, museum, arts, cultural and educational activities and resources – each complementing and adding value to the other.

Is this what Roy Clare, Chief Exec of MLA, meant when he urged archivists recently to be ‘entrepreneurial’? Anyway, I’m holding my diary open for the invitation to the official opening…

Carl served on LAHS Committee from 1991-2 to 2004-5. He was also on the Editorial Board from 1992-3 until it was wound up 2000-1.
Contributions for the 2008 edition of the Leicestershire Historian are sought from individuals, Leicestershire History and Heritage groups, from local Museums and from other organisations.

The *Leicestershire Historian* aims to promote the study of the county’s history by providing a platform for established and new authors, and through encouraging the pursuit of research and project work. It aims to publicise the work of local groups and organisations, and also seeks to raise the awareness of research sources.

Recent articles which have appeared in the *Leicestershire Historian* include:

- Tilton and District History group: the first five years
- Aldeby – the village that never was – research by members of the Enderby Heritage Group
- Henry Herbert & Sons – a notable family of Leicester Builders
- Uncovering the facts about St Mary’s Agricultural Colony, Whitwick
- The Rabbit in Leicestershire
- The Pageant of Leicester on its seventy-fifth anniversary

Articles can be short half-page items or longer in-depth pieces. Please send contributions for the 2008 edition to the editor by May, either by email or by post. If you would like to discuss an idea in advance, please contact the Editor:

Editor: Joyce Lee
Email: joycelee@jjleic.demon.co.uk
Address: 72 Shanklin Drive, Stoneygate, Leicester. LE2 3QA
Tel No. 0116 2707288

**Visit to Roman villa excavations**

Following the W Alan North memorial lecture when Roy Friendship-Taylor spoke about the excavations of the Roman villa at Piddington, members expressed an interest in visiting the site during the summer when excavations were taking place. It has been arranged for us to be shown around the site on Sunday 17th August. Meet at Piddington at 2.00pm. A charge of £3.50 will be made to cover the tour around the excavations and entrance to the museum in the village which houses artefacts from earlier excavations and gives details of the history of the site.

Details of the work of the Upper Nene Archaeology Society and its involvement with the villa at Piddington can be found at:

http://members.aol.com/unarchsoc/unashome.htm

Piddington can be found off the B526 about six miles south east of Northampton. The grid reference for the village is SP 8054. You will find directions to the excavations in the village.

Please support this excursion on 17th August
The Society organised a History and Heritage Fair in October 2007 and the event turned out to be a very successful occasion. Committee member Caroline Wessel, with initial support from Graham Jones, coordinated the Fair and is to be congratulated on her planning and meticulous organisation.

Over 700 people and 50 stall holders attended the Fair which was held at Vaughan College and Jewry Wall Museum. Staff at the college and museum were most supportive and the weather helped as well! The opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Lieutenant, The Lady Gretton, who spent time visiting all the stalls talking to participating societies and those staffing their stalls. The Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Mike Jones and his wife, stayed longer than expected and was very enthusiastic about the whole event as was the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Garry Hunt. We were also pleased to welcome the High Sheriff, Barry Jackson and Mrs Jackson. A number of city and county councillors also found time to visit the Fair including Ross Willmott and Ernie White.

The committee of the LAHS is most grateful to members who give up their time to help during the day.

**Top right:** The Lady Gretton performing the opening ceremony.

**Right:** Chairman of LAHS, Gerald Rimmington, escorting the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Garry Hunt, and his escort, around the Fair.

**Below:** General view of the main hall at Vaughan College.
Above: Members of the National Society for Fine and Decorative Arts (NADFAS) on their stall.
Top right: Chairman of the County Council Mike Jones (left) and Mrs Jones (right) with stall holders.
Middle: The Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Local History Group.
Middle: Chairman Gerald Rimmington and Marilyn Palmer on the LAHS stall.
Bottom right: Mrs Jackson, Gerald Rimmington, Caroline Wessel, Anthony Wessel and the High Sheriff, Barry Jackson
Below: Children being dressed as Romans by Sam Glasswell (top) and Kim Glasswell (bottom).
The Leicestershire Industrial History Society regularly receives enquiries about the origins of Leicestershire whetstones, sometimes called oilstones, Charley stones or Hornstones. Usually they are referring to stones prepared for sale within northwest Leicestershire during the 18th century. This late period of manufacturing the whetstones for sale, or exchange for other goods, appears to be 1851-1871 if census returns for the Coleorton/Thringstone area are to be used as a guide to which families are manufacturing the stones and the area in which they are prepared.

During January 2008 the collection of Leicestershire whetstones — just four pieces — housed at the Leicestershire County Museums Collections Resource Centre at Barrow-upon-Soar were checked. That so few stones make up the Museum’s collection is perhaps surprising when measured against the size of the quarry holes on the west side of Whittle Hill. Other quarries with locations now lost are reputed to have been in, or close to: Greenhill above Coalville, Whitwick and Thringstone Green. A great number of these whetstones were taken out of the county to the large steel manufacturing areas of Sheffield and Birmingham so perhaps far fewer sales were made in an area where the operatives’ end products were hosiery garments and shoes. Of the examples which have survived ‘D’ is the most complete, although with corner damage, it has all faces and edges prepared with smoothed edges. ‘B’ and ‘C’ — the latter collected recently from the spoil heap at Whittle Hill by the writer — offer almost triangular faces which lend a good grip and a surface suitable for honing large bladed tools like scythes, swords, tailor's scissors, butchers cleavers and the like.

The difference between Leicestershire whetstones and Leicestershire slate is quite obvious when both are brought together. A huge degree of compression can be observed within the whetstone surface. There are no porous areas, no cleavage lines and the surface is noticeably silky smooth. The compactness and absence of any natural layering within the stone would explain why the early cutting and shaping of the whetstones was by means of a guillotine device fixed to a stout bench.

The small amount of rejected whetstone material found at Whittle Hill suggests it breaks into sticks similar to ‘B’ & ‘C’ above. However, by reputation, a green stone with iron brown flecks can be found near Green Hill (OS SK 142467) North West of Copt Oak and this is thought by its owners to be the most superior local whetstone. Greenhill lies close to the B587 road between Copt Oak and Whitwick, part of the triangle of roads used by the Romans to move both themselves and building materials around Charnwood Forest (LIHS Bulletin 18, Page 3).

Can any readers supply more information on Leicestershire whetstones? Ideally an original boxed example of these local stones lies in a workshop waiting to be discovered. A trade directory advertisement is unlikely, but circa 1900 a George Hodson leased Whittle Hill and installed steam-driven machinery which would cut the stone in a superior way. Does anyone know more about this enterprising gentleman?

Whittle Hill Farm and its surrounding lands are private. I wish to record my thanks to Joanna Herbert-Stepney and the present tenant Mr. B. Morrit for allowing me access to view the old working areas.

David Ramsey
r73@beeb.net

Please contact David if you can help.
School of Archaeology and Ancient History Celebrates

The first course in archaeology was taught at the University of Leicester in the academic session 1957-8 and so this current academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the teaching of archaeology at Leicester. In the same year the university received its charter and was then able to award its own degrees rather than external degrees of the University of London. The lecturer appointed to the History Department to run the archaeology course was Stanley Thomas.

From the very beginning the syllabus in archaeology, which was only a one-year course to begin with, required students to take part in a field course. The first was held on a Roman villa in the parish of Tixover in Rutland and the results briefly reported upon in the Society’s Transactions for 1970-1 (vol 46). There then followed several seasons at the Iron Age hill forts of Burrough and Breedon-on-the-Hill in which James Dyer assisted Stanley Thomas. Although these excavations were never reported upon in detail, the work at Burrough was referred to by James Dyer in his Shire Archaeology Book on Iron Age Hill Forts.

Over the years the course was extended to 2 and then 3 years and additional staff appointed. Professor Charles Thomas was the first professor of archaeology and head of department, to be followed by Vincent Megaw, John Wacher, Graeme Barker, Marilyn Palmer and currently Colin Haselgrove.

The fully story can be found in a recently published history of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History which can be bought from the department at £5 (£7 if posted).
Leicestershire Archaeology Week

ALL WEEK
12th -20th July: 10 am to 4pm:
ANCIENT ASHBY
Ashby Museum
Witan Archaeology in connection with Ashby Museum will show the evidence for archaeology around Ashby in a display.

12th -20th July: 2pm-8pm
OPEN DAY AT COLLiERY DlG AND GUIDED WALK
Gorse Field, Swannington
Swannington Heritage Trust and Leicestershire Industrial History Society will guide you round the latest excavations at the former Alabama Pit, the reconstructed horse gin, the Peter Neaverson interpretation centre and Hough Mill.

12th -19th July:
OPEN EXCAVATION AT WYKIN, HINCKLEY
Corner Farm Cottage, Wykin
An invitation from the Hinckley Fieldworkers to join in an excavation and metal detecting survey of a cottage site believed to date to c.1650-1750AD. ESSENTIAL TO BOOK IN ADVANCE. Phone Shirley on 01455 636833 or Malcolm on 01455 446378.

Saturday 12th July : 11.30am to 4pm
ROMANS
Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester
See Roman and Iron Age finds, information from recent excavations in Leicester by ULAS, activities, and tours of the Roman Baths site. Organised by the Portable Antiquities Scheme and University of Leicester Archaeological Services, and supported by Friends of Jewry Wall Museum.
Admission Free

Saturday 12th July : 11.00am - 12.30, 1.30 - 4pm
HANDS ON ARCHAEOLOGY FLINT KNAPPING DEMONSTRATION by Karl Lee, Pot making, mosaic making: Rutland County Museum, Oakham
FREE, no booking required.

Saturday 12th July: 10am-4pm
IDENTIFICATION DAY
Old Rectory, Loughborough
Bring along your finds and Loughborough Archaeological Society will identify them. Displays and activities with Loughborough Coin and Search Society.
Also: Try the new Town Trail

Sunday 13th July: 2pm
A TRANSECT OF RATBY HISTORY
Meet at the War Memorial, Main Street, Ratby for a guided walk from the village to Old Hays mouted site and Ratby Bury Iron Age hillfort. No dogs allowed.

Monday 14th July: 2.30pm
GUIDED WALK AT BURROUGH HILL
Meet in the car park at Burrough Hill Country Park. Alan McWhirr will guide you around the Iron Age hill fort. For details ring (0116) 2703031 (parking charge)

Wednesday 16th July: 2pm - 4pm
THE ROMANS ARE COMING
Donington le Heath Manor House, Coalville.
Event aimed at children with hands-on activities, games and craft (activity every Wednesday through the holidays)

Wednesday 16th July: 7.3 pm
THE ROMANS IN LEICESTERSHIRE
Donington le Heath Manor House, Coalville.
Talk by Peter Liddle

Thursday 17th July: 7.30pm
THE ANGLO-SAXONS IN LEICESTERSHIRE
Melton Carnegie Museum.
Talk by Peter Liddle

Friday 18th July: 2-6pm
BELTON VILLAGE WALK
Find out how to present the heritage of your own village.
Cost £5 (towards Church Funds). Booking essential (Max 15). Contact Ann Tarver 01530 222458

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July: 10.30am – 5pm
VILLAGE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY EXHIBITION
Great Easton Village Hall
Exhibits will include local archaeology (including Time Team’s 2003 Big Dig excavations), Old buildings, Old photographs, Moore and Hadders Corset Factory; old farm tools, the census and metal detector finds. Associated guided walks of the village.

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July: 9.30am - 4.30pm
GEOPHYS IN ACTION
Stenning Hall, Hallaton
Hallaton Fieldwork Group will display the results of two years work with displays, demos, hands-on geophys activities and other archaeological activities.
News from the library

Thanks are due to our sister society in Rutland for the general donation to the library of its latest publication. Edited by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, *The Making of Rutland Water* consisting of 680 pages along with black and white and colour illustrations is truly a ‘magnum opus’. Recording virtually all there is to know about the Water and its surroundings the book can be purchased from the Rutland Local History and Record Society at the Rutland County Museum in Oakham for a modest £25. The book is not yet on our library shelves, but will be available in due course after return from review. [see page 3]

Other books and pamphlets added to stock

Clough, T. *Rutland (Pocket Images)* 2007
Crawley, B. *Wills at Herford 1415-188* (British Record Society Index Library). 2007
English Heritage *Heritage County* 2007 East Midlands
Jenkins, R. *Passing muster: the Militia in Leicestershire and Rutland* ... 2007
Lucas, D. *Duncan’s Leicester Ditties* 2007 [see page 2]
McCullen, A. *Parish church of All Saints, Sheepy* 1963 (1987 rep)
Ryder, I. *Common right and private interest: Rutland’s common fields and their enclosure*. 2006
Snelders, P. *South Croxton – the village on the hill* 2007 [see page 3]
Uppingham Local History Study Group *Uppingham in living memory pt II Uppingham in peacetime* 2007
Watts, V. *Place-names of Co Durham pt 1 Stockton ward* (English Place-Name Society) 2007
Whitaker, J. *Building stones of Leicester ... a guided walk* rev. ed. 2006

Periodicals

Issues of the following specific Leicestershire publications have been received for permanent file:
*Hinckley Historian* 60 Winter 2007. Includes Burbage in the nineteenth century; a ‘Byron sampler’.

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society
*Transactions* 81 2007
Leicestershire Historian
Tilton and District History Group Journal
*Village Voice*

Other items of note are:

*Antiquaries Journal* 87 2007 includes ‘Industrial archaeology; the challenge of the evidence’, by Neil Cossons (ex Leicester Museums)
*Architectural History* 50 2007 includes a study in masons’ marks at Apethorpe Hall, Northants
*Medieval Archaeology* 51 2007 includes Cossington: Saxon cemetery...; From Roman to Medieval Leicester ...

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 136 2006 includes obituary of Leslie Alcock (1925-2006), author of *By South Cadbury is that Camelot* and an unusual article on the aerodynamics of carved stone balls

The latest volume (95 2007) from the Lincoln Record Society is *Grateful to providence* the diary and accounts of Matthew Flinders, surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife 1775-1802

Current issues of Leicestershire titles on the library table are: *Branchline, Dustsheet, Leicestershire Matters and Newsletter* of the Friends of Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

The British Record Society announces that a full list of its publications can now be viewed on its web site at www.britishrecordsociety.org.uk

English Heritage announces a new journal *English Heritage Historical Review* publishing the latest historical research and interpretation from its properties. One per annum – vol 2 2007 £25 www/english-heritage.org.uk/ehhr

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

Saturday 19th July: 10.30am – 4pm

**HISTORY DETECTIVES**
Old Rectory, Loughborough
Hands on archaeological activities and games for children of all ages.

Sunday 20th July: 2pm

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR OF GREAT BOWDEN**
Start at Village Hall

Sunday 20th July: 10am-4pm

**STEP BACK IN TIME**
Beacon Hill, Woodhouse Eaves.

Beacon steps back 3000 years and more with flint knapping, bronze smithing, archaeological artefacts, greenwood working, children’s activities and more. Adults £3.00, Concessions £2.00 Family (2 adults, 3 concessions) £8 Family (1 adult, 3 concessions) £5 Car Parking £1.50

Sunday July: 10am to 4pm

**ANCIENT IBSTOCK:**
Ibstock Community Enterprise Shop
Witan Archaeology will be showing their finds from the Ibstock Roman villa and other local sites.

Another event is listed on page 10
Conference

New Approaches to the Battle of Naseby
A day conference organised by the Centre for English Local History
University of Leicester at Kelmarsh Hall,
Sunday 29 June 2008

9.30 – 09.50 Registration and Coffee
9.50 – 10.00 Dr Andrew Hopper (Leicester) Welcome
10.00 – 11.00 Prof. Martyn Bennett (Nottingham Trent), ‘“...None are to share with Him”: Cromwell, Naseby and God’
11.00 – 12.00 Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), ‘Opening the King’s Cabinet: Propaganda and Public Opinion after Naseby’
12.15 – 13.15 Glenn Foard (Project Officer, Battlefields Trust), ‘Recent Advances in Battlefield Archaeology: the Implications for Naseby’
14.30 – 16.30 Martin Marix Evans (Chairman, Naseby Battlefield Project) ‘Battlefield Tour: Interpreting the Landscape of the Battle of Naseby’
17.00 – 18.00 Closing Lecture: Prof. Ian Gentles (Tyndale University College, Toronto), ‘The Legacy of Naseby’

Registration
To register for the day please send your name, address, email and contact details in an envelope marked ‘Naseby day Conference’ to the Centre for English Local History, no later than 1 June 2008. Please enclose a cheque payable to ‘The University of Leicester’ for £29.50 per person. This will cover admission to Kelmarsh, buffet lunch, refreshments and the battlefield tour. Please bring waterproofs and sturdy footwear in case of poor weather.

Ms Lucy Byrne
Centre for English Local History
5 Salisbury Road
Leicester, LE1 7QR
http://www.le.ac.uk/elh/

Please send queries to the conference organiser,
Dr Andrew Hopper: ajh69@le.ac.uk

Another event in archaeology week

Sunday 20th July: 10.30am – 4.30pm:
PAPILLON HALL REVEALED
Papillon Hall, on A4097 between Lubenham and Theddingworth

Upper Welland Archaeological Group will show visitors the remains of this fascinating 17th century building, remodelled and extended in the early 20th century by Sir Edwin Lutyens and gardens by Gertrude Jekyll and demolished in the 1950s. Donations welcome.

Witches of Belvoir

To be published in May is an account of the Witches of Belvoir – 1619. Wicked Practise and Sorcery has been written by Dr Michael Honeybone who has already authored the Books of Grantham, of Bottesford and the Vale of Belvoir. This book revolves around the death in 1613 of the infant heir to an earldom. Later two sisters were hanged for his murder by witchcraft. The book is case bound and contains around 200 pages and 60 illustrations. It can be obtained from Dr M Honeybone, 99 Lincoln Street, Norwich, NR2 3JZ at £10 plus £2.50 for postage.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due on 1st May
As well as regular reports on archaeology and historical topics in Leicester Mercury, BBC Radio Leicester now has a weekly programme entitled Talking History, produced and presented by Stephen Butt. Please send him any items at Radio Leicester. The programme is broadcast on Sunday at 3.00pm.

News in the Leicester Mercury

Grand plans for castle promised

L. MARTIN ROBINSON

More than £800,000 has been pledged to help bring Leicester Castle back into permanent use.

County archaeologist, Margaret Barlow, from Leicester City Council, said: "If we can get the money to carry out the work, it will be a great day for Leicester Castle.

"The council has pledged half the site to be restored, since it is a site of special historic and archaeological interest. Before we can begin any work, we need to secure the necessary funding.""
Dr David Postles, a member of the Society and contributor to the volume on Leicester Abbey and to Transactions, writes: Loughborough is now recognisably an urban centre with its charter of incorporation. Before its incorporation and charter, it was second only to Leicester in the county and exhibited all the characteristics of an urban place. As importantly it has rich documentation, especially for the early-modern period: the Hastings Manuscripts in the Huntington Library, California; the accounts and leases of the Bridgemasters; the accounts of the churchwardens; the parish registers which commence in 1538; and good survival of probate material. It was one of those small towns which were a feature of early-modern English urbanism and which can be researched in great detail. As part of the long-term process of writing a monograph about early-modern Loughborough, these datasets are being compiled and made available now to a wider public.

For latest news visit the Society’s web site at www.le.ac.uk/lahs

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due on 1st May

Do you have your copy of these two publications? Members are entitled to a free copy of Leicester Abbey and they can also purchase a copy of the history of the Society for only £12. See our web site for an order form or contact the Honorary Secretary.