the
Leicestershire Historian
1991
The Leicestershire Historian, which is published annually, is the magazine of the Leicestershire Local History Council and is distributed free to members.

The Council exists to bring local history to the doorstep of all interested people in Leicester and Leicestershire, to provide opportunities for them to meet from time to time, to act as a coordinating body between the various county history societies, to encourage and support local history exhibitions and generally to promote the advancement of local history studies.

In particular the Council aims to provide a service to all the local history societies and groups throughout the county, by keeping in touch with them and offering advice. An Information Pack is sent to all groups who become affiliated to the Council and items are added to it from time to time.

One-day Conferences are held in the spring and autumn, to which members (both individuals and groups) are invited, to meet and compare notes about their activities. An up-dated list of groups, many of them affiliated as members of the Council, is published in the magazine. There are summer outings and the AGM is held in May, kindly hosted by one of the affiliated groups.

The different categories of membership and the subscriptions are set out below. If you or your group wish to become a member, please contact the Membership Secretary, who will be pleased to supply further information about membership and future activities.

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THE LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIAN

Vol 3 No 9 1991

Jubilee Issue

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EDITORIAL

A procession through Ashby-de-la-Zouch approaches the bottom end of the Market Place, laid out as a dining hall for twelve hundred men. The dates 1837 and 1887 on the arches proclaim our cover photograph to be of the mid-summer celebration of the Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. The article it illustrates has been written specially for us by Keith Ovenden, a member of the staff of the County Record Office. Another jubilee is being commemorated this year; we include an article on the centenary of the Loughborough Echo, written for us by the present Mr Deakin, grandson of the founder.

The jubilee theme introduces the celebration by our Leicestershire Local History Council of its twenty five years of activity. Our leading article about this is, appropriately, written by Mrs Betty Dickson and Mrs Mary Mason; so it may not be clear that throughout all this time these ‘twin pillars for the durability of the Council’ have each contributed in many ways far more than anyone else to the success of the organization. Both founder members, they have worked together for all the fund-raising events and have served a variety of offices. As Membership Secretary and Groups Coordinator Betty has been assiduous in maintaining contact with everyone. Our index to the articles in The Leicestershire Historian shews that she wrote the very first one, on the aims and activities of the Council, and also one celebrating its first ten years.

To add to a group of reminiscences about the early years of the Council we have the story of the saving of the Newton collection of negatives for Leicester Museum by John Daniell, whom many will recall as one of the most friendly and helpful members of the Museum staff. The collection has recently been moved to the County Record Office, where prints of all the photographs are readily accessible and copies may be ordered.

This is the fifth issue to be printed in Leicester by our Vice Chairman’s firm, Duplitype (Offset) Limited. Frank Pocklington’s interests in local history are deeply rooted in his family and Leicester. He is descended from Alderman John Pocklington, who was Mayor in the late eighteenth century and after whom Pocklington’s Walk was named. Frank himself is a Freeman of the City and an active member of the Gild of Freemen, being its present Master. He is also an enthusiastic beekeeper and was President of the Leicestershire and Rutland Beekeepers in their centenary year. We are very grateful for the kind and generous attention our magazine receives from Mr and Mrs Pocklington and their staff.

The sketch of St Martin’s Rectory, Desford, adopted as the Council’s logo, was drawn by Charles Dickson, Betty Dickson’s husband. The literate Reynard fox was the cover motif on each of the issues of the first volume of The Leicestershire Historian.
The Leicestershire Local History Council was inaugurated in 1966 under the umbrella of the Rural Community Council. The late Anthony Stuart was the prime mover and Secretary. Professor W G Hoskins spoke at the first meeting and became President and Colonel Sir Andrew Martin was Chairman. Regular monthly meetings were held at Community House with a speaker.

Quite soon after the Council's inception it was suggested that a publication should be produced and two members of the Record Office, Geoffrey Veysey and Richard Potts, published the first *Leicestershire Historian* in 1967. Succeeding editors were the Misses V Lacey and A J Wait, Mr D Hopkinson, Richard Potts and Dr John Goodacre. In 1975 John Goodacre was appointed sole Editor and has remained in that post ever since. Initially it was a bi-annual publication but now it comes out annually towards the end of summer and is distributed free to members. It has a wide circulation of standing orders, copies going to libraries in Australia, Canada and the USA. Every couple of years it includes a list of the local history societies in the county with their contact addresses, whether they are affiliated to the Council or not.

An important facet of the work within the Council in the early days was the encouragement, guidance and support given to communities throughout the county to put on local history exhibitions and so to give expression to their own unique and valuable interests in visual terms. The first one, at Walton-cum-Kimcote, set the pattern for a long list of village exhibitions, usually ending with an evening event on a local history 'Going for a Song' theme. These continued to be the surest way to attract interest and produced 'treasures' of every kind from local people, helped by the Record Office and Library and Museum Services.

When an exhibition was over, those involved often felt they wanted to continue their researches and so a village history society began. There are now forty two groups affiliated to the Council and support and help is given to them wherever possible. Because of cut-backs in local government funding there is not the support available from the services that there was. At the other end of the scale, some exhibitions have gone on to become private museums operated by the village society and again, through its contact with the Museum Services, the Council has been able to help with advice in setting up such schemes.
Not all of the societies have emerged following an exhibition. Some came about as a result of evening classes, where the spark had been fanned and groups of people had met together to continue their researches. In some cases the result of this work is brought out in the form of a publication. Some publications are more adventurous than others but all are important in the role they play in village local history. Over the years they have appeared among the Book Reviews in *The Leicestershire Historian* and on display on the Council’s stand at the annual East Midland History Fair. It is regretted that this fair will not take place this year; in the past it has always been a friendly occasion and it is encouraging to meet up with people there with similar projects from the neighbouring counties of Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln and Northampton. It has proved an outlet for publicity material and the sale of copies of previous issues of *The Leicestershire Historian*, along with two other booklets.

The booklets sold on behalf of the Council are *Anecdotes of Bygone Leicestershire* and *The History of the Mysterious Papillon Hall*, both written by one of the Council’s late Vice-Presidents, Colonel Pen Lloyd. He spoke at one of the Council’s meetings, telling some very interesting and colourful stories, and was then persuaded to tape-record them and allow them to be put into print.

Every year the Council arranges a one-day seminar on some aspect of its work. Sometimes this is specifically targeted to the needs of the Council’s affiliated groups; the purpose of a recent one was to help groups to care for the material they collect so that it is preserved for future generations. The latest one was a joint meeting with the Leicestershire Education Authority to bring together teachers and local historians and to discuss ways in which they can cooperate in the light of the new National Curriculum History Syllabus.

Taking another less ‘local’ view, the Council became a member of the Standing Conference for Local History, sending representatives to their meetings each year and going on to be a member, in due course, of the British Association for Local History.

In 1983 the Council moved its headquarters from the Rural Community Council Offices at Community House, 133 Loughborough Road, to the Record Office in New Walk and has had a member of the staff there as Honorary Secretary since 1985. During this period it was found that attendance at monthly meetings was falling off; so these were replaced by
three outside visits during the summer months and two seminars a year. The AGM is held in May and this is usually hosted by one of the groups. Executive Meetings are held four times a year. There are eight officers and a representative each from the Record Office, the Museum Services, the Library Service, Leicester University, the Women’s Institutes and the Leicestershire Rural Community Council. The President is still Professor Hoskins, who is now in a nursing home in Devon, and we are proud and pleased to maintain this connexion. Our Vice-Presidents include the holders of the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Chairman of the County Council, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, the Bishop of Leicester and the Chairman of the Rural Community Council, along with other notables who have played a role in our inception and have supported the Council through the years.

It would be impossible to mention all the people who have played a part and given so much of their time and energy to help with the running of the Leicestershire Local History Council and to support the fund-raising that has been involved. Tony Stuart, through his contacts in the Rural Community Council and with Radio Leicester, enthusiastically motivated our early growth and the Council has always received a lot of encouragement from Colonel Martin. Mr Jack Brownlow of Melton Mowbray succeeded him as Chairman and was followed by Dr Ian Keil of Loughborough, both of whom brought their well-known expertise to that office. Tony Stuart was appointed Chairman after Dr Keil and Professor Boylan took over after Tony’s sad demise. All played major roles in supporting our events. Over the years these included a reminiscences essay competition, for which nearly eighty entries were received, a transparency competition, won by Mr Malcolm Elliott, a competition entitled ‘The Street where I live’ and a project to collect Leicestershire legends, some of which were read out on Radio Leicester. Mr John Duncalfe, one of our Vice-Presidents, provided a venue for several of the Council’s cheese-and-wine parties and Mr George Farnham, while he was Chairman of the County Council, was host to two events at County Hall. Mr Heathcote Ball ran an evening treasure auction at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall. Members of the Department of English Local History at Leicester University have given lectures and the AGM last May was the occasion of a very encouraging and ideas-provoking lecture by Professor Phythian-Adams. Some years ago Professor Alan Everitt kindly donated the sale proceeds of his rather elderly car.

There are many members of the Executive Committee both past and present who have brought their own particular help and support to the Council, so that it has maintained its continuance up to its Silver Jubilee.
MEMORIES OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL
Ian Keil, Mrs N J Goodacre, Jonathan Wilshere, Richard Potts

Ian Keil
Although I was unable to attend the inaugural meeting of the Leicestershire Local History Council, I found myself, through a process I have never fathomed, on the Committee. The role of Chairman required tact and a capacity to distinguish the possible from the utopian and the Council had the good fortune to have the services of Colonel Sir Andrew Martin. He understood the way of giving everyone their chance to contribute and of making the outcome of the discussions positive. Other members of the Committee included the twin pillars for the durability of the Council, Mrs Elizabeth Dickson and Mrs Mary Mason. Mrs Goodacre brought to the discussions a wariness of treading on toes and had wise suggestions on how to proceed. The late Jack Brownlow brought to the early meetings long experience of producing local history in Melton Mowbray: his wry wit and humour cut some high-flown schemes down to a practicable size. Mrs Grace Long from the County Library Service supported the Council unwaveringly and contributed generously her encyclopaedic knowledge of the literature available. Dr Parker the County Archivist, and his colleague Richard Potts, brought enthusiasm and commitment to the work of the Council.

Our meetings took place in one of the committee rooms of the Leicestershire Community Council and we had the continuous support of Mrs Joy Smith and Mr Tony Stuart. They provided the secretarial services that articulated many of the contacts that made the Council more than a gathering of enthusiasts.

In our ambitions to become the local history council for our county we received advice from the National Council for Social Service in devising a constitution and in emulating some of the successes of councils in other counties of England. In the early days we had aspirations of being neither a rival to the Leicestershire Archaeological Society as a provider of local history at country level nor a society for Leicester people who wished to have a share in the history of their county as well as of their city. Our hopes
were for a body that would encourage new groups in towns and villages to become active students of the history of their parish or area of the county. Where societies existed they were encouraged to join the Council with the prospect of being in contact with other groups and of making common cause on such matters as the support for local history from both public and private bodies. This was to include safeguarding archives and making records of buildings and ways of life that were endangered.

In the event there were some enjoyable and solid achievements — local history events which had some of the quality of a history fair, including the sport of baiting those who had the effrontery to sit on a panel as local history experts. Fund-raising for the Council included auctions of memorabilia and artefacts. These events were held in villages where there were people wanting to establish local history or where a group wanted to boost their membership by a well-publicised event. In addition the Council had a programme of lectures, usually held in Leicester on winter evenings. Mrs Mason organized the Christmas celebrations; some of the most atmospheric were held in the Guildhall in Leicester.

The Local History Council had less success in becoming the sounding board for most local historians in the county. Perhaps some local groups could envisage no obvious advantage in a permanent lobby for local history and may even have had fears of take-overs or of money being spent by ‘faceless ones in Leicester’ with no immediate return to their membership. Whether these views were held or not, the fact of relatively little support from many local groups was for some of us a disappointment. Even the later Environmental Forum did not succeed in reaching people who might have made their voices heard on the role of local history.

It seemed to me that the Local History Council could have adapted the motto of the BBC — to inform, to instruct, and to entertain. Local history has a fundamental seriousness that even the National Curriculum for History has acknowledged. It would be pleasing to think that the Local History Council in Leicestershire has had a part in shaping the atmosphere that regards the study of the past in localities as more than a trivial pastime.

Mrs N J Goodacre
Many of the original members of the Working Party formed to inaugurate the Leicestershire Local History Council had qualifications and relevant degrees but I greatly enjoyed my time on it as an enthusiastic amateur. We were ably chaired by a Lord Lieutenant who expertly encouraged a practical policy to emerge from our own varying views. Later, as a member of the
newly constituted Committee, I was glad to be detailed to read all the entries to the Reminiscences Competition, with instructions to short-list a few from which the judges could select prize-winners. This I found an enthralling task and I was glad that Mr Thorpe (of Large Print Books) decided to give a book away to every competitor. I had found every entry of great value in helping to give a collective glimpse of the way a section of a whole generation looked on their past life. These were people who were glad to be asked to reminisce and who often seemed quite unaware of the unique value of their personal memories. There were some who were ready to air grievances they had been harbouring for sixty-odd years; a few school teachers and employers long dead must have stirred uneasily in their graves. But I was impressed that many more treats, red letter days and glad occasions were recalled in detail, often from quite early childhood. I read of picnics, choir outings, trips to the seaside, Christmas parties and visits to the circus, seasonal occasions such as killing the pig, work in the harvest field, rides in the carrier’s cart. Smells were evocatively recalled, the boiling wash-copper, wet boot leather and carbolic-smelling school corridors. Some old craftsmen gave details of work no longer done by hand but on the whole the regret was more often for great times past than dwelling on everyday irksome routine. These reminiscences were nearly all hand-written, which greatly added to their value. One or two were in faultless copperplate, without a blot or spelling mistake, a tribute to the teachers early this century; these were more often from women. Fortunately all the original entries have been preserved in the County Record Office and there are copies in the County Library. Another twenty years have elapsed; it is time we had another Reminiscences Competition.

Jonathan Wilshere
As a member of the initial Steering Committee and the Leicestershire Local History Council’s first Treasurer, I can claim to have been in at the start, although I did not expect to become involved with The Leicestershire Historian in its infancy. This magazine was the brain-child of the two assistant Archivists, Geoff Veysey and Richard Potts, who taught me most of what I know about archives. Two issues a year were envisaged, with circulation confined to the membership, as part of the then ridiculously low subscription. Immediately there were problems as barely had the draft for the first issue been prepared than Geoff was appointed County Archivist in Flintshire. Thus Richard found himself sole editor and the second issue was very nearly the last. He was very disappointed at the standard of typing for the first draft and a re-typed copy, still barely adequate, delayed the issue. Richard asked me to check this with him at the Record Office one Saturday in March 1968, although at that time the Record Office did not open on Saturdays.
After this near-disaster and in an effort to improve the quality an Editorial Board was set up, the members being in addition to Richard and myself, Mrs Grace Long (Deputy County Librarian), Mrs Elizabeth Ruddock (who had overseen the Women’s Institutes County Field Name Survey so successfully) and David Smith (then a Lecturer at Scraptoft Teachers’ Training College). With the appointment of new assistant Archivists at the Record Office, Valerie Lacey and Jean Wait became Joint Editors from the fourth issue, with Richard overseeing them in the early stages.

The Radio Leicester programme ‘County Contact’ presented by Tony Stuart, which ran for several years into the 1970s, gave regular prominence to material in *The Leicestershire Historian* and I was involved in this on half-a-dozen occasions. I recall Tony Stuart wanting to record a piece about early cricket matches; but when I met him as arranged, he found he had left the tape recorder at home.

On another occasion, after an evening members’ meeting at Agriculture House, Mrs Long, who could be impatient over trivial matters, gave me a lift back to Leicester. She had parked her mini adjacent to the car park entrance at Agriculture House; but instead of reversing and driving out through the gateway, she drove forwards straight over the remnants of a low wall, which couldn’t have done the sub-frame of her car much good.

One imagines that production of *The Leicestershire Historian* these days is a more staid and less hair-raising activity; but the early days were certainly not without problems and excitement.

**Richard Potts**

I recall an initial meeting one hot summer Saturday afternoon, in either Leicester Museum or the Guildhall, when Mr Philip Whitting spoke about the fascination of old coins. I think it was then that the idea of a local history organization was mooted, to exist under the umbrella of the Rural Community Council, to promote and to provide especially for the amateur local historian. It was at that exploratory meeting that the Leicestershire Local History Council effectively came into being. Professor W G Hoskins, then holding the unique Chair of English Local History at Leicester University and famed for his pioneering work, accepted the invitation to become President of the new body and that autumn delivered its inaugural lecture.

So far as I can remember, the idea for what came to be the *The Leicestershire Historian* derived from a discussion at the County Record Office, presumably during a lunch hour, about the future potential and consolidation of the infant
Council. The parties to this conversation were my fellow archivist, friend and then colleague Geoffrey Veysey and myself. I suspect that the actual suggestion came from Geoff. At any rate a proposal was then made to the Council, where the notion was welcomed and, in line with the usual practice when people are unwise enough to open their mouths and mention something entailing work, Geoff and I were asked to edit a first issue, which appeared in 1967.

In the introductory number I see that we used a keynote quotation from W G Hoskin’s *Local History in England* as the headpiece to an editorial note:

> There must be thousands of local historians passionately interested in one place — a parish, a village or a small town — but nearly every one of them is working in isolation, rarely meeting a kindred spirit.

We continued:

> It is partly to overcome this that it was decided to start this magazine as a logical extension of the Council’s activities: It is hoped that *The Leicestershire Historian* will keep members in touch with each other, keep them informed of events and lectures of interest and in its articles and notes reflect the considerable amount of work in local history now being undertaken by many people in this county . . .

Comparing the early numbers of *The Leicestershire Historian*, notably the first two, with more recent issues, I am struck all these years later by two aspects in particular, the experimental and evolutionary nature of the publication and the unattractive quality of production. How different now! While I cannot recall who did the ‘printing’ of those first two issues, I do remember that it was the then Deputy County Librarian, Mrs Grace Long, who came up with the logo of the Leicestershire fox, which adorned the covers of the first seven issues.

After Geoff Veysey left to work in Flintshire Record Office, an Editorial Board was appointed to assist me, and perhaps to keep me in line. Coming at a time when I was still cutting my editorial teeth, I was grateful for this sort of help. Many worthy and worthwhile ideas surfaced at our meetings but since that time I have always striven to avoid any repetition; an editor cannot function creatively and properly when design, tone, style and all contributions are assessed, approved or axed by a group of people. Editors should seek advice and consult as necessary. I am afraid I came to find the idea of an editorial board not merely claustrophobic but living proof of the first of the Ten Rules of Business, ‘Nothing is impossible until it is sent to a committee’. To be fair it was this experience that crystallized my basic beliefs in the craft of editing. And make no mistake, editing when it is done adequately is a
craft, not easily acquired, but demanding, skilful and satisfying. I say this not merely in gratitude to the Council, with whom I served part of my editorial apprenticeship, but also in admiration and tribute to John Goodacre who has now been your editor for just on twenty years. For a few issues in the early seventies I had the joy of working with him. You are fortunate in your choice of editor.

Congratulations to the Leicestershire Local History Council on your Silver Jubilee!

SAVING THE NEWTON NEGATIVES COLLECTION
John Daniell

I have been an interested follower of ‘Mr Leicester’s Diary’ in the Leicester Mercury for many years and hope to continue to be. The Diary of June 11th 1991 was headed ‘Newton negatives discovered gathering dust in city cellar’. I started to write a letter to point out to him the simple fact that this was not true. I should know the true facts because at that time, in the middle to late 1950s, I was Assistant Keeper of Antiquities at the City Museum and was responsible for their discovery and preservation. My letter soon grew beyond a note correcting him where he was apparently misled by information issued from the Record Office. In the end, since there seems to be some
vagueness about the way the collection arrived at the Museum, I decided to set the record straight by offering it as my contribution to the Jubilee issue of *The Leicestershire Historian*.

I had known Mr Sydney Newton for several years. His initials, incidentally were S W A and he was therefore always known as 'Swan'. A small man, always bustling around in his black morning coat and pinstripe trousers and with a very red face. He usually carried his plate camera slung over his shoulder. He used to have his studio in King Street, Leicester, but he had given that up in about 1950 and moved with his wife to a small house at Branting Hill in Groby, quite near to what is now the Branting Hill Hotel.

I had often asked him to recall his photographic adventures when he was recording the construction of the Great Central Railway from Annesley in Nottinghamshire to Marylebone in London in the late 1890s. He was a bit evasive about this and explained that his memory was fading — not surprising after half a century.

For my part, I was always determined to find out what had become of his negatives, as I was quite sure he had not destroyed them. He was still a railway enthusiast and would never destroy anything of historic interest. For example he once showed me his remarkable collection of railway tickets and explained that he was bequeathing them to his son, also named Sydney, a schoolmaster who had recently moved to a new job at Beverley in Yorkshire. I wondered whether he had also bequeathed the Great Central negatives to his son. I doubted it; storage would always be a problem. If they all survived there would be a great many of them.

I called at Newton's old studio in King Street and asked if I could have a look at the cellar. The lady there refused to allow me to do this but explained that they had cleared the cellar and sent the rubbish to the tip. She could not remember seeing any negatives.

Then, one day, Sydney Newton called at my office at Newarke Houses Museum. He invited me to come to Branting Hill and have tea with his wife and himself. He had something which might possibly be of interest to me. I thanked him and promised to come. I felt very excited.

Well, after tea he led me out to the wooden shed at the bottom of his garden. He unlocked the door and we went in. I shall never forget the sight that confronted me — hundreds of cardboard boxes stacked from floor to roof, each one neatly labelled to classify the glass negatives inside. After studying
Navvies with spades in front of contractor’s locomotive ‘Annie’
Leicestershire Record Office, Newton Y 2/2

Heavy digging was now steam-powered, but the loads of soil were still drawn by horses
Leicestershire Record Office, Newton W 4/3
the labels carefully I realized I had found what I had been looking for — the Newton negatives of the Great Central Railway. There must have been hundreds of boxes containing thousands of negatives. Names of country stations now, sadly, long forgotten — Ashby Magna, Lutterworth, Braunston and Willoughby, Charwelton, Finmere and Quainton Road to name but a few.

‘Here they are’, said Newton. ‘Take them to the Museum, if you want them. Otherwise I shall send them to the tip.’ He reached up and fetched a box from the top of the pile. It was labelled ‘Contractors Locomotives’. ‘These are very interesting’, he said. ‘You must remember that in those days there was no motor transport, no wagons, only horses and carts and, of course, these contractors locomotives to take the soil away and tip it to make the embankments. Funny, they all had girls’ names. Another thing, those poor horses — the loads they had to pull!’

He opened another box. ‘Have a look at these’, he said. He picked out a negative which shewed the navvies having breakfast in their dug-out, which was in fact the cellars of a house in Nottingham which had been demolished to make way for the Great Central line. Then there was a photograph of the ‘Mission Church’, a portable wooden building which could be dismantled and re-erected along the line as it progressed towards London and Marylebone. ‘This is where they came to say their prayers’, Newton explained. ‘Poor devils, they needed to; it was dangerous work, with virtually no safety precautions ever taken. Many were killed and buried in the nearest parish churchyard. Some were not so lucky; if they were buried under a huge fall of earth on the embankment, it was considered a waste of time to hold up the work and dig them out. All the work was done to a strict time schedule and had to be completed at a certain date. The padre would say a few words of commemoration in the Mission Church on the Sunday. That was their funeral service.’

And so it went on; old Newton could talk for hours about the ‘social side’ of this great undertaking. Thank God he had been there to record its progress photographically, day by day.

Very slowly, the penny began to drop for me. This had been the last main railway line to be constructed in the United Kingdom and this must surely have been the only time that such an undertaking had been recorded with a plate camera, or indeed by any camera.

Before I left him that evening, I told Sydney Newton that this great collection would definitely be very gratefully accepted by Leicester Museum. I felt so
Navvies in Nottingham in their improvised shelter, the cellar of a demolished house
Leicestershire Record Office, Newton J 3/7

Interior of the temporary Navvy Mission Room at Loughborough
Leicestershire Record Office, Newton C 3/2
sure that I was right to do so, even though, as a junior member of the Museum Staff, I realized that I was supposed to get permission from the Director, and indeed the Museum Committee, before a final decision could be made about the acquisition of such a large collection. Storage was always a problem for us. I had no idea as to where we could put them; but rescue them we must.

On my return to the Museum I immediately contacted my old colleague, the late Bob Abbott, who was the Assistant Keeper of Archaeology and who was also, as it happened, an expert on railway history. He was enthusiastic and promised that he would support me all the way. ‘We must go and see Trevor Walden’, he said. The late Trevor Walden was our Director at that time. We could always rely on him to be very sympathetic and even encouraging to our collecting adventures on behalf of the Museum; but the worry about storage was always at the back of his mind. Moreover, Trevor was not a railway enthusiast; however, he listened to our story with interest. ‘Yes’, he said. ‘I take your point, John; but the fact remains this is hardly of historical interest. The Great Central was opened to passengers in 1899, just over fifty years ago, and it is still running. I went up to London on the Master Cutler last week — a wonderful train, but hardly worthy of Museum interest.’ We reminded him that it was the last main line to be constructed in this country and of the great human interest and importance of the Newton negatives.

As we were about to leave, he played his final card, which left us with some hope. ‘By the way, there will be a Museum Committee Meeting next week. Come along, both of you, and tell them all about it. Good luck!’

The Museum Committee of those days were an interesting lot and we knew we could rely on at least some of them to back us up. There was Professor Jack Simmons of the University, a great historian and railway enthusiast. Then there was Bert Baker, who was to become Lord Mayor of Leicester and who had once been, I believe, a train driver on either the LMS or the GCR. Another one who I was sure would be on our side was Mr Kimberlin, another future Lord Mayor, who I feel sure was the father (or uncle) of last year’s Lord Mayor.

Well, we told our story and they all looked interested and several made impressive comments. The final vote was almost unanimous. We had won the day and ensured the preservation of this unique piece of railway history. The rest of the story belongs to Leicester Museums and the County Record Office.
Leicestershire folk have always enjoyed a good excuse for a celebration and jubilees have been no exception. Many will still remember Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee in 1977, which was celebrated throughout the county. On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Leicestershire Local History Council I am taking the opportunity to look at one jubilee outside living memory, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887. Using documents in the archives of the Leicestershire Record Office and newspaper reports from the Leicestershire Local Studies Library I aim to build up a picture of the celebrations that took place in the county.

The preparations for the jubilee celebrations naturally resulted in a variety of documents being produced for the occasion, such as programmes for the processions, notices advertising the events, minutes of committees, letters, bills for goods purchased and subscription lists. In addition to these are the documents that record the events that took place, such as photographs, newspaper reports and diaries. Of course any picture that can be built up depends on the survival of documents and as a result this article concentrates on three places for which a number have survived, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Melton Mowbray and Ilston-on-the-Hill.

The town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch was well decorated for the jubilee and this can be seen in a photograph of the Market Street. Triumphal arches spanned the street and the town was decorated with bunting and evergreen provided by the jubilee committee and local traders. The celebrations must have been a remarkable spectacle and began early on the morning of Tuesday the 21st of June, as a newspaper report testifies:

The morning was fresh and clear, and as early as six o'clock the bells of the parish church, which have been recently re-hung, and are now rung with much better precision and effect than formerly, chimed a merry peal, and again at intervals throughout the day. The first and most appropriate part of the ceremony was the service in the old parish church.

The church service was attended by a congregation from every denomination, highlighting the harmony that was created on Jubilee Day. The service was followed by the procession through the town, after which food became the central feature of the celebrations. A plan of the tables for the men's dinner at Ashby indicates what a large occasion this was. There were 29 tables in all, each table capable of accommodating up to 42 men. The plan
is for the table number 24, to which George Farmer, F Thornley and H J Peake were allotted as carvers and R Davenport, W Heafield, Fred Everatt and George Sims as waiters. Gentlemen were requested to take their places at the table at 12.45 pm and the carvers had to provide their own carving knives and forks. A report of the dinner follows:

... the men’s dinner, which was announced for one o’clock, provision being made for 850, and the tables extending from the Market Hall down to Mr. Dyer’s shop. The dinner consisted of prime roast beef, mutton, and new potatoes, with plum pudding, and three half pints of beer each, besides tobacco and pipes. The goodwill and general satisfaction of everyone was unmistakable... The “last glass” was reserved for toasting the Queen’s health, and when the bugle sounded the company rose and with the greatest enthusiasm Her Majesty’s health was drunk amid cheers and the singing and playing of the National Anthem.

Women and children, on the other hand, had to content themselves with tea and tables were assigned to helpers, as a letter from the Tea Committee shews. Mrs G Farmer, along with Mrs Perry, Miss Bangham and Miss M Ison, were assigned to one of the tables, with each table seating from 60 to 80 women or children. The tea was a very large occasion indeed:

At four o’clock 2500 women and children sat down to tea in the Market-place, sandwiches and cake, with bread and butter, forming the fare. The children were each presented with a pot mug, as a souvenir of the Jubilee, bearing the Queen’s portrait, with V.R. and the inscription, “The Queen’s Jubilee, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.” The mugs were presented to the committee by Mr. E. Ison and Mr. John German. Perhaps the tea scene may be said to have been the prettiest sight of all, the ladies presiding at the tables in fancy summer costumes, and the beaming and happy faces of the children in the bright sunshine, with the surrounding scene, having a striking effect.

The jubilee celebrations were also an opportunity for a grand social occasion for the upper echelons of Ashby society. A public dinner was to take place in the Market Hall Assembly Room at 6.30 pm on the 22nd of June. Tickets were priced at 3s 6d and W E Smith, chairman of the Jubilee Committee, was to preside at the dinner. The following evening a Jubilee dance was to be held in the Bath Assembly Rooms, with the Nicholson’s Quadrille Band. Tickets for the dance were 2s 6d for ladies and 3s 6d for gentlemen.

Celebrations at Ashby did not end there, as most of the week was set aside for the jubilee. Schools were closed for the whole week and only reassembled on the Friday morning for a Thanksgiving Service in the church. One of
Queen's Jubilee,

Market Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

June 15th, 1887.

Madam,

The Tea Committee are grateful for your kind offer of assistance at the Tables, on the Afternoon of Jubilee Day, June 21st, and respectfully inform you that Table No. is assigned to you, in company with Mrs. Perry, Miss Bamford and Miss M. Coon.

Each Table will seat from sixty to eighty women or children, and the Committee will be glad if you can secure the services of a friend to assist you.

Two Badges, with numbers corresponding with the number of your Table, will be sent you in a day or two, for yourself and friend to wear.

The ladies appointed to the several tables are kindly requested to be within the barriers at 3 o'clock on Tuesday, wearing their Badges.

I am, Madam,
Yours respectfully,

J. F. BRAZIER,
Hon. Sec. Tea Committee.

Mrs. F. Jarram,
the final events was the Grand Masked Torchlight Procession, organized by the Decoration and Illumination Committee. Directions were issued to the bearers and each person in the procession was to ‘receive a Mask, . . . a Torchlight, with Shield, Extinguisher and supply of Oil’. Everyone was permitted to ‘wear the most fantastic Dress care being taken not to expose light clothing to the Torch’.  

What about the less fortunate workhouse inmates at Ashby? Was the jubilee an occasion for celebration for them? A letter from the Local Government Board copied into the Guardians’ Minute Book empowered them ‘to make such modifications in the Regulations in force with regard to discipline and the diet of the poor persons in these Establishments as may seem . . . suitable for the occasion’.  

The workhouse children were given permission to take part in the procession and an increase in the quantity and quality of the diet for the 21st of June was given consideration:—

Mr. Wright proposed that the Inmates of the Workhouse be provided with Special Fare on that day, the same as on Christmas-day, including a dinner of roast-beef and plum-pudding, and also an allowance of beer, tobacco and snuff. Seconded by Mr. White junr. and carried unanimously.  

The inmates of the workhouse would appear to have been appreciative:—

Isaac Stroud an inmate came before the board and expressed the thanks of himself and other inmates for the bountiful treat given to them on the occasion of the Queens Jubilee, and stated that the Master and Matron were most unremitting in their endeavours to make the treat as enjoyable as possible to the inmates.  

Obviously there was nothing like a full stomach to placate the inmates of the workhouse.

At Melton Mowbray the celebrations were also an extravagant affair and some idea of this can be gained from the receipted bills for goods bought by the Jubilee Committee.  

The bills are for all manner of food and drink, beef, plum pudding, bread, butter, cakes, ale, tea and, of course, pork pies. Orders were placed fairly equally amongst the Melton traders — for example 50 pork pies bought from Tebbutt and Company at a cost of £1 5s — and as a result provide a good selection of headed bills for Melton traders in 1887.  

The bills include many other items besides food and drink; crockery, tables, flags, medals and fireworks were all required by the Jubilee Committee. A marquee was hired for the occasion from R Billson and Sons, rope and twine manufacturers of Leicester, for £12 12s.  

The cost of the jubilee was largely defrayed by subscriptions to the jubilee fund. A subscription book shews that much was received in kind; for example
Programme of Day's Proceedings at MELTON MOWBRAY.

VOLUNTEERS will assemble in the MARKET PLACE, at 9.45 a.m., and Fire a FEU DE JOIE, the

GENERAL PROCESSION

Will then be formed in the CATTLE MARKET, in the following order:

Constables. Inhabitants.

To assemble in the Cattle Market at 10 a.m.—Head of Procession in the Broad Avenue, on Nottingham Road side, facing South. The Procession will parade the Town via Nottingham Street, King Street, Timber Hill, Goodricke Street, Melbourne Street, Thorpe End, Sherard Street, Burton Street, Market Place, and Church Street, arriving at the Parish Church in time for Service at 11.30 a.m. After Service the Procession will be re-formed and march to the Market Place, and the various sections wheel off to their respective destinations, viz:—Melton Town Band, Court G. and D., Court Union, and Amicable Lodge to Mr. LORD'S Brewery, where Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. The Keyworth Band and Manchester Unity to Corn Exchange, via Lester Street and High Street, to Dine at 1 o'clock. Notts. Temperance Band and Inhabitants of the Town to Play Close, via Cheapside and Park Lane, to dine at 12.30. The

CHILDREN'S PROCESSION

Will be formed in the Cattle Market at 2.30 p.m., and, headed by the Notts. Temperance Band, will parade the Town by the above indicated route to Burton Street, where the "Old Hundredth" Psalm and the National Anthem will be sung, after which the Procession will march to Play Close, via the Burton End Entrance, where a Meat Tea will be provided. The Committee has decided to admit Babies in arms.
one fat bullock from Mr Goddard and a barrel of ale from Mr Shilling. Others chose to give money; £5 5s was pledged by Captain Adcock.16

The procession on Jubilee Day was obviously one of the highlights at Melton and a programme of proceedings shews the order of the processions and other events, such as hymn-singing, sports, music and fireworks.17 One of the bands in the procession was the Nottingham United Temperance band, whose bandmaster J Thompson had replied to the Jubilee Committee’s advertisement for a band:—

Dear Sir,

We have 17 performers including Drums. And the time is short for answer and will forward recommendations. The total expenses including Railway Fare £7 0s 0d Pounds. And you never mentioned as to Refreshments. These would be Dinner and Tea. Would you provide or allow 25 shillings for same? Please let me know not later than Saturday Morning Post as I have other Applications already.18

Obviously bands were in great demand on this day and a report of the Nottingham band’s involvement follows:—

On Tuesday morning Melton was en fete at an unusually early hour . . . and the excitement commenced with the arrival of the Nottingham Temperance Band by the nine o’clock train, and a feu de joie was fired in the Market-place about a quarter to ten. At ten the clubs of the town and general populace began to assemble in the Cattle Market, and when formed for starting, under the arrangements of Major Powell, who had charge of the procession, the large cavalcade marched round the streets of the town . . . the Nottingham band led the general public to the large tent erected in the Play Close, where more than a thousand people were fed with roast beef, &c., and plum pudding. At half-past two o’clock all the school children of the town, headed by the Nottingham band, marched from the Cattle Market round the town, the Keyworth Band playing in the centre of the procession. When they arrived in Burton-end they were all filed into position by Major Powell, and led by the band and conducted by Mr. J. Warner they sang God Save the Queen and the 100th Psalm, the effect being very impressive. They were then marched to the play field, where they were supplied, to the number of about 1400, with pork and mince pies, bread and butter, and cake and tea, and during the rest of the day enjoyed themselves with games of their own, and witnessing the old English games which were indulged in for prizes in the field.19

The jubilee was also regarded as an opportunity to erect a memorial to the Queen. At Melton a meeting of the Parochial Church Council, the trustees of Hudson’s Charity and the Local Charity Trustees proposed to erect twelve
Bill for supplying fifty pork pies at Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire Record Office
by permission of Melton Mowbray Town Estate Trustees

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almshouses at the rear of the Bede House. The scheme, however, fell foul
of the Charity Commissioners, as the endowment was insufficient to
support the inmates. A memorial was erected in the form of a drinking
fountain and lamp in the Market Place, the fountain and lamp being supplied
by George Smith and Company of Glasgow and installed by C Barnes, builder
and timber merchant of Melton Mowbray.

Apart from newspapers, contemporary reports of celebrations in Leicestershire are quite rare. We are most fortunate in having one such report in the
diary of Joseph Nourish, an agricultural labourer at Ilston-on-the-Hill. This
gives a first-hand account of how an ordinary family celebrated the jubilee
in a small village. A transcript follows:—

June 18, Saturday. Up at five. Went to the mangold hoeing but was sent
away to help put the wood together for a beacon fire at the Carlton Clump,
to be burnt in celebration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria on the 21. Put
together 8 waggon load of wood. Seven of us worked at it all day. Home
at six. Worked in the garden until nine. Bed at ten . . .

June 20, Monday. Up at half past four. Worked in the garden a bit. Went
mangold hoeing all day. Home at six. Had supper after going to meet Eliza,
she being gone to Ilston to fetch the things that we have gave to us on
account of Jubilee of Queen Victoria, she having reigned 50 years today.
The things we have gave to us instead of a dinner consisting of a pound
and half of beef per head, making 7½ pound in all, 1 pound of tea to a
house, 1 pound of bread, 1 pound of sugar, 1 quart of ale per man and
1 pint per woman, making us 3 pints in all, 2 oz of tobacco per man and
a pipe all though the village. Had mother and father to supper with us.
Had some of the meat and tea for supper. Off to bed at ten.

June 21, Tuesday. Up at five. Worked in the garden until 12 o’clock &
then shifted myself and went with Eliza and the children to the sports
that was held in Mr Baillie’s field in honour of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.
Stopt there until seven. Home at eight. Had supper. Put the children to
bed & then went up to Ilston to fetch a scythe. We sat up until eleven
to see the beacon fires that were lighted through the Country in honour
of the Jubilee. I counted from Three Gates 18 fires, including one at
Carlton Clump, one at Holt-Naseby and the Forest Hills. They were a grand
sight.

It had been half a century since the beacon fires had last been seen in
Leicestershire and they proved to be a grand spectacle on a fine evening,
as a gentlemen on John Ball-hill, near Shearsby, witnessed:—

. . . beacons blazed out in every direction. He counted nearly 20 in all,
and some of them appeared very distant. The fire on the historic field of
Bill for hire of marquee at Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire Record Office
by permission of Melton Mowbray Town Estate Trustees
Naseby was among the most prominent... The night was still with a slight breeze from the north-east. The sunset was a brilliant one, and by ten o’clock although the stars were shining in a clear sky, the night was sufficiently dark to make the distant fires perfectly distinct.  

From the variety of sources consulted it is possible to gain quite a vivid picture of the events and atmosphere that the jubilee generated. Throughout the county it was celebrated as a show of loyalty and love for Queen Victoria. It was an occasion when social barriers were largely broken down and even in the workhouse the harsh regime, with its rules and regulations, was relaxed for a day.

References:

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23. Leicester Advertiser, 25 June 1887
The Loughborough Echo was founded in 1891 by Joseph Deakin, a North-Staffordshire man who was trained as a printer and later became a journalist. The Echo began as a free advertising sheet of four pages and the first premises were a lean-to with a glass roof, which stood on a Market Place site later occupied by the Boot Hotel and now by Macaulay House. For eleven months Mr Deakin did the whole thing single-handed. He wrote the news, canvassed for advertisements and set the type. When this was ready he trundled it in a hand-cart to the premises of Alfred Clarke in Baxter Gate, where the paper was printed. Later he carried the sheets back to the lean-to office, folded them and supervised their delivery throughout the town by boys. His earnings the first week amounted to thirty shillings.

Two moves were made in those early days, the first to one-room premises in the Angel Yard, off the Market place, when the Echo was printed at the nearby works of Mr H Wills, and the second to premises in Baxter Gate, next to the Hospital. Here Mr Deakin took his first apprentice and was joined by a compositor.

Again the Echo outgrew its home and was moved into a corner block on Dead Lane, where additional machinery was installed, including a machine for poster-printing. A foreman was employed and the general printing side of the firm was developed. In 1905 an ironmonger's shop in Swan Street was purchased, with its large yard and warehouse at the rear. Since that time the premises were enlarged several times and occupied a ground floor space of about half an acre. An attractive front was added when Swan Street was widened in 1932, including four retail shops.

After the first twelve years the Echo did not grow and in 1909 Mr Deakin decided to discontinue the free sheet and to sell the paper at a halfpenny. There followed an anxious three months. For a while the circulation remained static at about two thousand copies. A type-setting machine, the first of its kind, was installed and the first reporter engaged, while news from the surrounding neighbourhoods was covered by village correspondents. The 1914-18 War brought many difficulties, particularly shortage of staff. On his release from the Army in 1919 Charles Harriss joined the firm as a reporter and, later in the year, Mr Deakin's son Arthur joined the general printing side. The following year the firm was made into a limited company.
The circulation rose slowly and a new printing machine, which printed and folded the paper in one operation, was purchased. This was the last innovation of note achieved by Joseph Deakin, whose integrity and independence of outlook had won him the respect of all who knew him and had established the *Echo* as a part of the town's life. He died after a short illness in March 1929.

Mr Harriss then became editor and Arthur Deakin managing director. By 1951 the circulation had risen to 18,351. The *Echo* had become a household word from the outskirts of Leicester in the south to Nottingham in the north and with its counterpart, the *Shepshed Echo*, entered Coalville and the mining district to the west. Mr Harriss played a great part in the *Echo*’s success and continued until his retirement in 1977, when John Rippin took over as editor.

In September of that year news replaced advertisements on the front page and in the following months many changes were introduced into production methods. Printing on the firm’s own premises was discontinued and since then the paper has been printed on web-offset machines at the premises of the Tamworth Herald Co Ltd, twenty five miles away. Every stage of the production up to this point, however, is still carried out at Loughborough, including the design and pasting-up of the pages. These are then made into negatives, which are taken to Tamworth and from them the actual printing plates are made. Another major change came in June 1984 when, in response to many requests from readers, a switch was made to the easier-to-handle tabloid format and this has proved a great success. In September 1984 the *Echo*’s own free newspaper *Echo Extra* was launched.

In March 1983 the Echo Press Ltd and the Tamworth Herald Co Ltd formed a new company, Echo Press (1983) Ltd, which produces and publishes the *Loughborough Echo* and has a large commercial printing department. Jerry Deakin, grandson of the founder, is chairman, Peter Bull managing director and John Rippin editor and director. There is an editorial staff of twelve, backed by a host of part-time correspondents, enabling the *Echo* to offer an unrivalled coverage of the local scene. Circulation is 21,138 and the *Echo* continues to endeavour to uphold the highest traditions of honest journalism.

In June 1990, because of the pressure of space, the company moved out of the town centre into a new factory on the outskirts of the town. An advertisement reception office for the newspaper is still retained in Swan Street.
A recent photograph of the *Echo* premises in Swan Street Loughborough
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38
ARTICLES ON LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORY PUBLISHED IN NON-LOCAL PERIODICALS
J D Bennett

Though most articles on Leicestershire history are published in local periodicals, there are inevitably a few which appear elsewhere. Because of the range of journals involved, these may not always be seen by everyone to whom they would be of interest. The 66 articles listed here have appeared in no fewer than 23 different periodicals over the past 40 years. They are selected from ones included in the British Humanities Index, formerly the Library Association Subject Index to Periodicals, and in almost every case I have seen the article in question.

Abbreviations:

AC Antique Collector
AJ Archaeological Journal
BA Business Archives
BJES British Journal of Educational Studies
BQ Baptist Quarterly
C Connoisseur
CL Country Life
EHR Economic History Review
HT History Today
ILN Illustrated London News
JTH Journal of Transport History
L Listener
LH Local Historian
MA Medieval Archaeology
MH Midland History
NST Newcomen Society Transactions
RCHSJ Railway and Canal Historical Society Journal
RH Recusant History
RM Railway Magazine
TAMS Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society
TeH Textile History
TrH Transport History
WHSP Wesley Historical Society Proceedings

An asterisk indicates that the article is illustrated
1950
Christopher Hussey, ‘Staunton Harold, Leicestershire — the threat of open-cast mining to an historic home’, CL 24 Feb 1950, 516-19*

1951
W G Hoskins, ‘Leicester’, HT Sept 1951, 48-56*

1952
Gordon Nares, ‘Baggrave Hall, Leicestershire’, CL 20 June 1952, 1908-11*

1953

1954
R T Munns, ‘Bygone days on a Leicestershire joint line’ (GN & LNWR Joint Line), RM Mar 1954, 200-4*
Brian Simon, ‘Leicestershire schools 1625-1640’, BJES vol 3 no 1 1954, 42-58

1956
Christopher Hussey, ‘Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire’, CL 6 Dec 1956, 1284-90; 13 Dec 1956, 1402-5; 20 Dec 1956, 1456-9; 27 Dec 1956, 1500-3*
Louis Osman, ‘Staunton Harold, Leicestershire and Foremark, Derbyshire — two Laudian gothic churches now under restoration’, TAMS new ser vol 4 1956, 66-78*

1957

1958
W G Hoskins, ‘Leicester’s 2,000 years’, CL 2 Oct 1958, 719*

1959
C V Hancock, ‘Peer’s spa that failed’ (Ashby-de-la-Zouch), CL 5 Mar 1959, 451*
Christopher Hussey, ‘Prestwold Hall, Leicestershire’, CL 16 Apr 1959, 828-31; 23 Apr 1959, 890-93; 30 Apr 1959, 948-51*

1960
Lionel Dawson, ‘250 years of the Quorn’, CL 11 Feb 1960, 260-1*
Arthur Oswald, ‘Church Langton, Leicestershire — the church, the rectory and an eighteenth-century rector’s dream’ (William Hanbury), CL 23 June 1960, 1442-5*
1961
William Condry, ‘Exploring a Midland forest’ (Charnwood Forest), CL 23 Feb 1961, 380-2*

1962
P H J Baker and Rex Wailes, ‘The windmills of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. Part II: tower mills’, NST vol 34 1961-2, 89-104*
T L Marsden, ‘Manor House Farm, Donington-le-Heath, Leicestershire c.1280’, TAMS new ser vol 10 1962, 33-42*

1964

1965
Roy Christian, ‘A town that tried to be a spa — Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire’, CL 27 May 1965, 1280-2*

1967
Roy Christian, ‘The town that never grew up’ (Castle Donington), CL 6 Apr 1967, 762-4*

1971
Ivor Gotheridge, ‘Rails to Belvoir Castle’ (Belvoir tramway), RM Sept 1971, 478-9

1972
Helen Harris, ‘A Leicestershire post mill restored’ (Kibworth windmill), CL 28 Sept 1972, 750-1*
‘Stapleford Park, Leicestershire’. AC Oct 1972, 228-39*

1973

1974
E M Howe, ‘Coal, art and the Beaumonts’ (Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton), HT Apr 1974, 243-9*
David Page, ‘Sources for urban history. 8: Commercial directories and market towns’ (Ashby-de-la-Zouch), LH May 1974, 85-8

1975
A L Rowse, ‘Leicester’s millennium’, HT Jan 1975, 61-5*
1976
Susan Lasdun, ‘A taste for crewels and yarns — Mary Linwood’s needlework pictures’, CL 15 Apr 1976, 958-9*

1977
Helen Harris, ‘Where Plantagenet fought Tudor — the Battle of Bosworth, 1485’, CL 22 Dec 1977, 1926-8*

1978
W G Hoskins, ‘The fox and the covert’ (Quorn Hunt), L 11 May 1978, 596-7*

1979
J G Shields, ‘A refuge of two centuries’ (Donington Hall), CL 22 Mar 1979, 828-30*
Courtney Dainton, ‘George Smith of Coalville’, HT Sept 1979, 569-77*
D L Wykes, ‘Sources for a study of Leicester trade and industry, 1660-1835’, BA Nov 1979, 7-17

1980
S A Royle, ‘Aspects of nineteenth-century small town society; a comparative study from Leicestershire’ (Coalville, Hinckley and Melton Mowbray), MH vol 5 1979/80, 50-62
C P Griffin, ‘Road transport and the market for Leicestershire coal in the eighteenth century’, TH Winter 1980, 195-207*

1982
D R Mills, ‘Rural Industries and social structure: framework knitters in Leicestershire 1670-1851’, TeH Autumn 1982, 183-203*
1983
Robin Paisey, ‘John Ferneley — animal portrait painter’, *AC* May 1983, 70-5*
J S Curl, ‘City of giant orders — neo-classical Leicester’, *CL* 1 Sept 1983, 564-7*
E E Kirby ‘Campaigns of conscience — George Smith of Coalville (1831-95)’, *CL* 13 Oct 1983, 1035*

1984
Jack Simmons, ‘Leicestershire’, *ILN* Sept 1984, 33-6*
J N P Watson, ‘Crack hunstman of the Quorn — Tom Firr (1841-1902)’, *CL* 29 Nov 1984, 1620—1*

1985
Roy Christian, ‘Worthy of the slow approach — the Leicestershire Wolds’, *CL* 30 May 1985, 1480-2*

1987
G K Brandwood, ‘Anglican churches before the restorers: a study from Leicestershire and Rutland’, *(condition and arrangement)*, *AJ* vol 144 1987, 383-408

1988
Giles Worsley, ‘Stapleford Park, Leicestershire’, *CL* 23 June 1988, 161-3*

1989

1990
J M Robinson, ‘Noseley Hall, Leicestershire’, *CL* 29 Mar 1990, 86-91*
REPORTS:
Steph Mastoris, K Y Heselton

"LOCAL HISTORY IN THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM"
ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

This conference was organized jointly by the Leicestershire Local History Council and the Curriculum Advisory Section of Leicestershire County Council’s Education Department. It aimed to provide members of local history groups and teachers with an opportunity to learn about the new national curriculum history syllabus and discuss ways in which they can cooperate to mutual benefit. The event took place on Saturday the 26th of January 1991, was hosted at the Beaumanor Hall Conference Centre at Loughborough and was attended by over fifty people.

Judy Dunning, the Curriculum Advisor for Humanities, Leicestershire Education Authority, set the day off to a splendid start with a very clear and concise account of the national curriculum and the role which local history has to play. Local examples are not just of use in detailed project work but are encouraged throughout the curriculum as a means of giving relevance to all aspects of history. Given the fact that many teachers have little experience of local history research in general and often a brief knowledge of the history of their locality, it makes great sense for them to enter into a dialogue with local history groups before embarking on detailed historical research themselves.

Pam Drinkall, of the Leicestershire Museums Education Service, then outlined the range of facilities available through the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Record Service to both teachers and, incidentally, local history groups. The key-note of her talk too was cooperation between people with knowledge or resources and those with the need to use such information in the classroom.

Mary Mason, the Chair of the Leicestershire Local History Council, gave a most useful account of the Council, its publications, its facilities and services. To some extent there is a very positive role for the Council to play in helping to bring teachers and individual local history groups together, as well as disseminating information about both. The Council, because of its county-wide responsibilities, was ideally placed for this task and welcomed it with enthusiasm.
After an excellent lunch Tony Squires, a teacher from Marefield Primary School, gave a thought-provoking account of the problems and pleasures facing teachers about to embark on local studies in the classroom.

The day ended with a series of workshop sessions. Those participating broke into groups to discuss and plan a number of national curriculum-type projects. These were village history, sport and leisure from the eighteenth century, buildings and builders, domestic life from the sixteenth century and trade and industry over the same period. Each group had to discuss topics within each theme, the sources available, places to visit, artefacts to use, methods of teaching to be adopted and the end product of such a study. This pooling of experience was of great benefit to all and, although rushed, the report-back sessions contained a wealth of information. What was very clear was that the same sources can be used for many different topics and that ‘knowing your patch’ is essential before undertaking any local study. Equally important is a firm and finished end product; many libraries, museums and village halls are only too pleased to provide the opportunity for teachers and local history groups to get together to mount a display on children’s work or launch a publication from the result of their researches. Last, but not least, cooperation has to be the key-note; cooperation between teachers, parents, local history groups, individual researchers, museums, libraries and record offices. No one person or institution has all the answers. The benefits of cooperation and sharing information are immense.

A fuller summary of the points made during this conference will be available for members of the Local History Council and it is intended to make the day a regular event. In future practical examples of projects will be the subject of discussion rather than general points. Many thanks are due to Judy Dunning for much of the administrative work which made this first day run so smoothly and successfully.

S M

‘HISTORY IN PROGRESS, 1990’
CONFERENCE ON LOCAL HISTORY IN SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE AND NORTH-WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

This annual autumn gathering for those concerned with local history in the area around Market Harborough took place on Saturday the 13th of October 1990. It was as usual held in the Council Chamber of Harborough District Council and was organized jointly by the Harborough Museum and the Department of Adult Education of Leicester University. Approximately fifty people attended.
This year’s guest lecturer was Glenn Foard, the Field Officer with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit, who spoke on the topography of mediaeval towns and marketing centres in Northamptonshire. In a wide-ranging and fascinating presentation he highlighted the dangers of assuming too great a continuity of settlement and use in urban centres from Roman times onwards. Particularly interesting was his analysis of the rise and fall of marketing centres, especially those created in the commercial boom of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. His lecture drew on several useful historical sources not readily considered by local history groups. Perhaps the most interesting were estate papers of Peterborough Abbey for a number of villages in the Welland Valley area. As was to be expected, his talk stimulated much discussion and thought which permeated the rest of the day.

The rest of the day was given over to short reports on current historical research and new projects being undertaken in the Harborough area. These began with Victoria Gabbits’s account of the new museum at Daventry, which is based in the handsome Moot Hall in the centre of the town. After an excellent start, this museum is fast becoming an important institution for the interpretation of the history of the Daventry district and the preservation of artefacts relating to this. Sue Wells and Stephen Barker, members of the Market Harborough Field Work Group, then explained the group’s current research into agricultural buildings in the Harborough area. To date they have concentrated on the parishes to the north and east of the town and have surveyed over thirty barns, animal shelters and storage buildings. Many of these appear to date from the eighteenth century and are not only important remnants of past agricultural practice but also fascinating landscape features in their own right. If this survey ever needed any justification it was provided during the talk, when one barn was discussed which had been surveyed but since demolished.

The afternoon sessions continued with Simon Mahoney, who gave a spirited account of HMS Fernie, together with a useful outline of how to research the history of a naval vessel with important local connexions. HMS Fernie was a hunt class destroyer ‘adopted’ by the Harborough area in 1942 during the National Warship Week. Ironically, the project revealed how patchy the documentation of such a vessel is, there being considerable information on the Warship Week exercise and a basic account of the ship’s service but very little on life aboard the Fernie.

The day ended with a fascinating account of church choir bands in the Harborough area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by Stephen
Weston. Concisely summarizing his doctoral research into this form of church music before the advent of organs and harmoniums, he provided an interesting side-light on parish church life. It was especially satisfying that two instruments used by a church band have found their way into the collection of the Harborough Museum and were on display during his talk.

Once again, this conference was an extremely useful opportunity for the very disparate groups of researchers to get together and share their knowledge and experiences. A number of local societies mounted displays on their own work or current publications and a great many contacts were made throughout the day. The next conference will be held on Saturday the 19th of October 1991, when the guest speaker will be Dr Marilyn Palmer. Further details are available from the Harborough Museum, Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.

S M

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE AT GREAT EASTON

The second local history conference organized and hosted by the Great Easton and District Local History Society was held on Saturday the 27th of April 1991, in Great Easton Village Hall. The conference, designed to cater for local history organizations in south-east Leicestershire and north Northamptonshire, was, despite other similar events being held on the same day, attended by thirteen different such organizations. It is disappointing to note, however, that even including the host society and a Harborough Museum representative, there was only a total of five Leicestershire bodies represented.

The morning session consisted of short talks by representatives of some of the societies present, when their current activities were outlined. In the afternoon small discussion groups considered the important question of communication between a society and its members, between societies and also between societies and a central coordinating point or points. The first was deemed to be reasonably satisfactory, the second to be non-existent, but desirable, and the last to be essential. Harborough Museum agreed to be one of the central repositories for information on speakers, areas of research and the name and address of the current secretary of all local history organizations. It is hoped to have the participation of other museums, local libraries, the Northamptonshire Local History News and, in Leicestershire, the Local History Council.

K Y H
LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

a. Periodicals
b. Occasional publications
c. Member of Leicestershire Local History Council

c  ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH Local History Society
   Mrs J M Bolderson, 12 Tower Gardens, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

bc ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH Museum
    13/15 Lower Church Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

bc BARKBY Local History Committee
    Mr K Adams, 29a Brookside, Barkby, Leicester

ac Herricks and BEAUMANOR Society
    Mr D Andreas, 8 Hastings Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough

c BILLESDON Local History Group
    Mrs Vlaeminke, Sherwood Rise, Leicester Road, Billesdon

bc BIRSTALL and District Local History Society
    Mrs P A Kirk, 92 Stonehill Avenue, Birstall, Leicester

BLABY Heritage Group
    Mrs H Chapman, 25 Cork Lane, Glen Parva, Leicester

bc BRANSTON and District Local History Group
    Miss Hall, Main Street, Branston by Belvoir, (Grantham)

ac BRINGHURST, GREAT EASTON and DRAYTON Local History Society
    Mr K Heselton, 24 Barnsdale Close, Great Easton, Market Harborough

Newsletter

bc CASTLE DONINGTON Local History Society
    Mr B M Townsend, 7 Borough Street, Castle Donington, (Derby)

c COALVILLE and DISTRICT Local History Society
    Miss L Oglesby, Coalville Library, High Street, Coalville

c DESFORD and District Local History Society
    Mrs Ginns, The Old White Cottage, Newbold Road, Desford, Leicester

b DISEWORTH Local History Group
    Mrs Lawson, 40 Hallgate, Diseworth, (Derby)

bc DUNTON BASSETT Local History Group
    Mr P Hawkes, 2 Church Close, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth

c EARL SHILTON and District Local History Society
    Mr P Lindley, 42 Priesthills Road, Hinckley

c ENDERBY History Group
    Mr J R Crofts, 1 Sheridan Close, Enderby, Leicester
EVINGTON Local History Society
Miss A Sharpe, Evington Library, Evington Lane, Leicester

FLECKNEY and SADDINGTON Historical Society
Mrs E M Morley, 38 Victoria Street, Fleckney, Leicester

FOXTON Inclined Plane Trust
Mr D Goodwin, Bottom Lock, Foxton, Market Harborough

FRISBY-ON-THE-WREAKE Historical Society
Mr R Pinfold, Field View, Main Street, Rotherby, Melton Mowbray

Friends of HALLATON Museum
Mr D Kenyon, 36 East Gate, Hallaton, Market Harborough

HATHERN Local History Society
Mr A M Swift, 18 Shepshed Road, Hathern, Loughborough

HINCKLEY Local History Group
Mr D F Allinson, 97 Leicester Road, Hinckley

HUSBANDS BOSWORTH Historical Society
Mrs L D Wilmot, 21 Berridges Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Lutterworth

IBSTOCK Historical Society
Ms E Hodgetts, 8 Albert Street, Ibstock, Coalville

KEGWORTH Village Association
Mr R J Fordham, 141 Forest Road, Loughborough

KIMCOTE and WALTON Village History Society
Mr D V Allaway, Fairhaven, Poultney Lane, Kimcote, Lutterworth

KNOSSTINGTON Local History Group
Mrs V Wood, Church View, Knossington, Oakham, Rutland

LEICESTER Literary and Philosophical Society
Dr D T Ford, Department of Geology, University of Leicester

VAUGHAN Archaeological and Historical Society
Miss D C Valentine, 29 Walton Street, LEICESTER

The Victorian Society, LEICESTER Group
Mrs E Chambers, 28 Rectory Lane, Thurcaston, Leicester

LEICESTERSHIRE Archaeological and Historical Society
The Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester
abc  LEICESTERSHIRE Family History Society
    Miss S F Brown, 25 Homecroft Drive, Packington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

ab  LEICESTERSHIRE Industrial History Society
    Dr M Palmer, 54 Chapel Street, Measham, (Burton upon Trent)

bc  LEICESTERSHIRE Libraries
    Thames Tower, Navigation Street, Leicester

ac  LEICESTERSHIRE Local History Council
    The Record Office, 57 New Walk, Leicester
    *The Leicestershire Historian*

abc  LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND Federation of Women's Institutes
    135 Loughborough Road, Leicester

a  LOUGHBOROUGH and DISTRICT Archaeological Society
    Mr J P Brownlow, 31 Cowdray Close, Loughborough
    Bulletin

bc  HARBOROUGH Museum
    Mr S Mastoris, Adam and Eve Street, MARKET HARBOROUGH
    Friends of HARBOROUGH Museum
    Mr S Mastoris, Adam and Eve Street, MARKET HARBOROUGH

a  MARKET HARBOROUGH Historical Society
    Mr T Heggs, Harborough Museum, Market Harborough
    *The Harborough Historian*

Friends of MELTON Carnegie Museum
    Mr M O Powderly, 26 Lincoln Drive, MELTON MOWBRAY

b  MELTON MOWBRAY and DISTRICT Historical Society
    Mr C Bowes, 7 Palmerston Road, Melton Mowbray
    Friends of MOIRA Furnace,
    Mr B Waring, 11 Ashby Road, Moira, Coalville

b  Local Archaeology and History Group (NEWBOLD VERDON)
    Mr M W Harding, 57 Arnolds Crescent, Newbold Verdon, Leicester

bc  OADBY Local History Group
    Mr B Elliott, 17 Half Moon Crescent, Oadby, Leicester

b  OLD DALBY Local History Group
    Mr S S D Lytton-Anderson, Home Farm, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray

ab  OLD UNION CANALS Society
    Mrs E Thresh, 22 Mountfields Drive, Loughborough
    Union

bc  REARSBY Local History Society
    Mrs J Palmer, Manor Farm, Rearsby, Leicester

Friends of the RUTLAND County Museum
    Mr T H McK Clough, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland
RUTLAND Field Research Group
  Squadron Leader A W Adams, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland

b RUTLAND Local History Society
  Mr J Crossley, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland

abc RUTLAND Record Society
  Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland
  Rutland Record

c SHAWELL Historical Society
  Mrs E Raven, Shawell Hall, Shawell, Lutterworth

bc SHEPSHED Local History Society
  Mr S Kettle, 133 Leicester Road, Shepshed, Loughborough

c SOMERBY Local History Group
  Mr R G Mellows, The Carriers, Chapel Lane, Somerby, Melton Mowbray

c SYSTON Local History Group
  Mrs E Toon, 69 East Avenue, Syston, Leicester

bc THRUSSINGTON Local History Society
  Mr R E Banks, 12 Back Lane, Thrussington, Leicester

ac WESLEY Historical Society, EAST MIDLANDS Branch
  Dr J Waller, 90 Forest Road, Loughborough
  Heritage

bc WHITWICK Historical Group
  Mr G R Hibbert, 81 Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick, Leicester

Friends of WIGSTON Framework Knitting Museum
  Mr I Varey, 2 Paget Court, Paget Street, Kibworth, Leicester

ac Greater WIGSTON Historical Society
  Mrs D Chandler, 3 Eastway Road, WIGSTON MAGNA, Leicester
  Bulletin

c WOLDS Historical Organisation
  Mr R Trubshaw, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, Loughborough

bc WOLVEY Local History Group
  Mr C S Woodward, Beverley House, Wolvey, Hinckley
BOOK REVIEWS
Mrs H E Broughton, J Goodacre

THE FIELD OF REDEMORE: The Battle of Bosworth, 1485
Peter J Foss Rosalba Press, 55 St Michael’s Lane, Headingly, Leeds LS6 3BR 1990 £5.00

To penetrate the past before the sixteenth century seems a daunting task to many historians, especially local and family historians who are used to the plentiful personal records, such as wills and parish registers, that only survive from that century onwards. The Battle of Bosworth therefore remains in a sense out of reach, in an era of traditional history rather than hard facts. Yet it is an event that from the start has remained of crucial importance, marking the death of a reigning monarch and a change of dynasty. It has been a continuous subject for re-interpretation and re-discovery and ‘the Richard III industry is at full throttle’, if only to keep open questions that should never be taken as settled. The author’s long-term researches were prompted in 1985, the quincentenary of the battle, partly by what he saw as ‘the failure of some public bodies to meet the challenge of new thinking on the subject’ of the actual site of the battle.

The present re-creation has so far been centred on Ambion Hill in the parish of Sutton Cheney as the battle site, an identification which the author blames on the eighteenth-century historical enthusiast William Hutton. By examining afresh all the literary evidence and recorded traditions and also by looking at the present topography and its early documentation he has come to definite conclusions. The battle, according to William Burton, was fought not on a hill but ‘in a large, flat, plain, and spacious ground’ and was only named after Bosworth as being ‘the most worthy town of note near adjacent’. It was at first more usually known as ‘(the field of) Rede(s)more’, which the author shews to have been former flat marshland in the parish of Dadlington.

This has enabled him to come up with a new conjectural reconstruction of the positions and movements of the forces at the battle. All this is minutely substantiated with references to the literature and original documents, some of which are illustrated or transcribed. It is difficult to see how the County Council’s interpretation centre, designed to attract week-end visitors to the Ambion Hill area, could be adapted to accommodate this new historical interpretation without being moved to a completely different site.

J G
WHO'S BURIED WHERE IN LEICESTERSHIRE
Joyce Lee  Leicestershire Libraries &
Information Service  1991  £5.99

This book represents a novel way of selecting a couple of hundred notable names associated with the county so that their brief biographical notes together form an interesting overview of its history. The criterion is whether the person was buried, or at least commemorated, within the county. Many of the entries are illustrated and there are some excellent photographs of monuments.

Obviously any selection will be to some extent arbitrary and it would be invidious to comment on the inclusion or exclusion of individuals, who range here from kings to murderers and their victims, and from politicians to the designer of many European sewerage systems. It is worth pointing out, however, that the author has followed up her careful research and fieldwork with a consistent and readable presentation and at the end she makes it clear what are her sources. Apart from the biographical usefulness of the book, it also draws attention to many of the more unusual or eccentric monuments in the county.

J G

THE RUTLAND HEARTH TAX 1665
Jill Bourne and Amanda Goode eds  Rutland Record Society  1991  £4.50

Once again the Rutland Record Society has produced a model publication of a primary source document. The body of this A4 book is a complete transcription of the return for Michaelmas 1665, decorated with illustrations of important houses in the county taken from James Wright's county history of 1684. The personal names and places are indexed at the end. A most helpful contribution is the up-to-date introduction, in which the editors face up to the problems of taking such records too literally as complete lists of all the existing households. This means that using them for estimating levels of population, poverty and prosperity has to be undertaken with caution.

J G

ANCIENT CROSSES OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND  1990
HOLY WELLS AND SPRINGS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND  1990
The Heart of Albion Press is a recent publishing venture which aims to draw attention to some more unusual aspects of midland history and archaeology. The publication on ancient crosses describes fifty crosses and is illustrated with over thirty drawings. The introduction discusses their origin and symbolism and suggests that they may have less to do with conventional Christian associations than is commonly supposed. The second describes over seventy wells and springs. The history and legends associated with them are recounted, especially the impressive medicinal properties often attributed to the waters. Although frequently lost to modern development, many have been rediscovered by the author and details of how to find them are included.

The third booklet was produced to follow up the success of the first two. Neglected old stories of the county and the folklore associated with many of them are discussed. An introduction gives details of the veneration such landmarks were afforded in pre-Christian times and the gazetteer includes many illustrations. These three booklets are an interesting diversion from the usual type of local history publication.

This booklet is a summary of the 1851 Census together with comparative tables for these six villages, which were incorporated within the Borough of Leicester between 1892 and 1955. This was the subject of an adult education class held in 1990. The introduction gives a brief account of the development of each of the villages before its integration within the Borough. The text then lists the Census entry for each parish, giving details such as heads of households, occupations and birthplaces.

This is a speedy and effective guide for the genealogist and the local historian, particularly those working on occupations and trades. This type of publication
is also a helpful start for those beginning local history and genealogy work for the first time.

H E B

THE KIRKLAND PAPERS, 1753—1869: The Ferrers Murder and the Lives and Times of a Medical Family in Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Arthur Crane
Crane Press, 30 South Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch 1990 £14.99

This is an exciting book written with the breathless enthusiasm of a lifelong devotee to his subject, which is professional life in eighteenth and nineteenth century Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The central thread is the family tree of the Kirklands, who were lawyers, medics and musicians in the town.

The fascinating starting point is a book of notes made by the family from 1789 to 1931, recording deaths, marriages and local events of interest. The author has taken the bold step of publishing this complete, with annotations, and has traced as many of the entries as possible in contemporary sources, so as to be able to write them up into a narrative based round three successive generations of the family’s medical practice in the town.

The thriller element is the close involvement of the first Kirkland, Dr Thomas, in the great cause célèbre of 1760, the murder by the fourth Earl Ferrers of his steward. The Earl was tried by the House of Lords and executed. The author has traced in the Public Record Office and has transcribed Dr Kirkland’s narrative description of the events. This enables him to set off for his first chapter at a cracking pace; it is far more factual than other more romanticized or semi-fictitious accounts.

The other chapters cover a wide range of topics. Of particular local interest are freemasonry, French prisoners of war, musical events and the brief career of the town as a fashionable spa town.

In his enthusiasm for the records which he calls ‘The Kirkland Papers’, the author has not made it entirely clear what he has done in defining and presenting them and what his sources are. There is a thorough index but the ample footnote references are not always helpful or clarified by the arrangement of the ‘Select Bibliography’. It would also have helped if the illustrations could have been numbered and referred to in the text.

Having discovered the documents and immersed himself for years in their details, it is greatly to the author’s credit that he has succeeded in drawing
his diverse researches together into such a readable, handsome and well produced volume. The printing is a delight and there are over three dozen photographic illustrations. It is a bold venture to publish such a book on one’s own and for the fascination of its content and the quality of its presentation it represents very good value.

J G

MARKET HARBOROUGH AS I REMEMBER IT
Jane Barrows ed Leicestershire Libraries & Information Service 1990 £2.00

AROUND MARKET HARBOROUGH IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
Steph Mastoris Alan Sutton 1989 £6.95

It is instructive to take these two publications about the town and villages in the Market Harborough area together, as there are many ways in which they overlap in content. Market Harborough has been well served over the years by its local historians and photographers so that there is no lack of books dealing with the town and reproducing pictures of it. Its Market Harborough Historical Society has a long history of its own and was formerly patronized by the town’s famous innkeeper, John Fothergill. Harborough always had a touch more ‘class’ than similar places as a hunting centre and earlier writing tended to concentrate on the social life of the town and on the commercial life of its market and shops. Recently more attention has been paid to the lives of the poorer inhabitants, some of whom thronged the closes and yards behind the street frontages. While noting progress in rail and road transport, it is well to be reminded that workers at Symingtons might come in to work by bicycle from over twenty miles away. Even for town children there were the serious country tasks that helped the survival of the family, ‘gleaning’ in the fields and ‘sticking’ along the hedges.

Apart from work in various factories in the town and shopping along its streets other subjects covered in both books are notable floods, the arrival of Second World War evacuees and the military hospital train in a siding at Great Bowden, the cinemas and the ‘human marionette’ act of Ernest Elliott the entertainer.

The booklet of reminiscences is the seventh in the series published by Leicestershire Libraries and is up to the usual standard, containing fifty pages of text interspersed with twenty pictures. The book of photographs is very good value, as it contains around two hundred and fifty pictures. It is part of an ambitious series aimed at covering the whole country in detail. The author, who is Keeper of the Harborough Museum, starts with a clear
explanation of his policy in selecting material for the book and has eschewed
the usual two-page history of his subject. The captions themselves, however,
contain a good deal of historical detail to help the reader appreciate the great
variety of pictures.

J G

CINEMA IN COALVILLE
Jeanne Carswell and Tracey Roberts eds
Coalville Publishing Co Ltd 1991 £2.95

The golden age of the cinema and big screen entertainment brought daily
queues of people to Coalville, particularly in the area around Marlborough
Square, to the Grand, the Regal and the Rex cinemas. The Coalville Electric
Theatre had open circa 1910. It later became the Grand Cinema and the
Grand Ballroom. The Olympia Roller-Skating Rink opened circa 1908, became
the Olympia Picture House a couple of years later and was demolished and
rebuilt as the Regal Cinema, which opened in 1933. The Rex opened in 1938
as a cinema and closed in 1984.

This is a series of recollections, taken from tape-recorded interviews with
Coalville residents who remember in their own words more than seventy
years of cinema-going; for example:

At the children’s matinees they used to have these pea-shooters and if
you weren’t careful you got one in the eye. If you said anything to ‘em
they’d just get the pea-shooter and shoot you! I used to go round with
the ice-cream tray and by the time I’d finished my tray was full of dried
peas.

These delightful reminiscences are all the more topical today with the general
decline of cinema-going. They are interspersed with photographs of cinema
staff, cinema buildings and related events. In particular the work of the Deem­
ing family is noted for their long association with cinema in Coalville, which
extended through much of the twentieth century and ended in 1984.

This is a super little publication and warmly recommended for all of us who
enjoy nostalgia.

H E B

57
This booklet is a pocket guide round Hinckley hosiery landmarks, beginning in the 1640s, when William Iliffe bought a knitting frame. At that time Hinckley was a small market town and the wool needed as raw material for stockings was readily available from the local flocks of sheep.

The purpose of this booklet is to entice the reader around Hinckley to appreciate the cottages, framework knitters' houses and factories which have played such a significant role in its industrial history. The booklet is an interesting contribution to the 'village walk' theme of publications and certainly points out aspects of Hinckley which might otherwise go unnoticed.

The illustrations are mainly copies of old photographs and maps of parts of the town which serve to give the reader bearings as to the location of significant buildings.

Norman Vine’s autobiographical account of his life in Arnesby and Fleckney from 1926 to the present is a most lively, friendly and informal record. The title was chosen not only as a play on his surname but also because it seemed appropriate in the context of portraits of people in this story who have since passed on.

Each of the fifteen chapters in the first part is a lively account of the author’s reminiscences of Arnesby, covering his home life, parish notes, school times, games, pastimes and entertainments, superstitions and customs. This section ends with memories of the Second World War, which leads him into the second part with stories of wartime Fleckney and ‘aerial activity’. This includes details of bombs being dropped in Mowsley and Smeeton Westerby and how the local Home Guard put up road blocks round the area while the bomb-disposal team was called in. Apparently a German aircraft machine-gunned the Rose and Crown public house at Kibworth in broad daylight, with bullets passing through the roof. Two airmen driving by at the time were also reputedly shot at, making a colander out of their vehicle’s radiator. A
Kibworth woman who witnessed this happening clearly remembers being left standing alone on the roadway whilst all the men nearby ran for cover in the Gents. Other interesting snippets include the old boy at the Dun Cow pub who, before filling the hot bowl of his clay pipe, always used to dip it into his best bitter and a couple who lived on Main Street in Fleckney and ran a local bus service, he the driver and she the clippie.

The book is richly illustrated with old photographs throughout and with humorous cartoons in the text. It has an attractive cover and all in all is a relaxing and informative book which will appeal to inhabitants of South Leicestershire and all those who have an interest in oral history.

THE BOOK OF BOTTFESFORD
Michael Honeybone Barracuda Books 1989 £16.96

Bottesford is a country community, one of Leicestershire’s largest parishes, first settled during the Iron Age. Streams, like the Devon, tied Bottesford to Muston, Easthorpe and Normanton and made it a cross-roads and a market place. The first great change for Bottesford did not come until the steam age, when railways offered it a new role. It became a holiday centre and began to grow. War brought more change, mainly of landowners; tenants became their own men and farming became mechanized. The Second World War brought a great deal more; soldiers, airmen, camps and airfields and bombs too.

This book tells the history from these earlier days up to the twentieth century. It is divided into chapters which are arranged not chronologically but by subject heading, such as ‘The Landowners’, ‘Road Versus Rail’ and ‘The Impact of War’. The author has researched the local history of Bottesford and its parish extensively for this publication. The illustrations, which are in the main photographs old and modern, have been selected with great thought. Even the chip shop and the village policeman in 1989 feature. This is a hard-back book, a fairly lavish presentation for the 1990s. Despite its higher price, compared to some paper-back counterparts, the extensive text and readable format make it not only an ideal coffee-table book but also a thoroughly enjoyable one to read.
My Castle Donington is a selection of entries submitted for a writing competition held in 1990. The three prize-winning entries, Ronald Fowkes’s depicting one day in his childhood, Lottie Grantham’s describing a year of her childhood and Margaret Lindner’s about her experiences as a child during the Second World War, form the basis of the booklet, alongside those entries that were highly commended. Village Lives, which is based on taped interviews with local people from the three villages, is a similar publication. Both books are about memories and in some cases the people who contributed have since died; their contributions are therefore all the more significant.

The pamphlet on Earl Shilton, a reminiscent tour of the village written by a woman who was born in 1904, formed the topic of one of the monthly meetings of the Earl Shilton and District Local History Group. With the aim of making it available to a wider audience, the group has issued it modestly as a dozen pages of typescript in a paper cover. Now that many people have home-based word-processors it should be a simple matter to do the same for many more such texts of local interest.

A Pictorial History of Countesthorpe
Ann True the author,
2 Ladbroke Grove, Countesthorpe (1991) £2.50

Situated six miles due south of Leicester, Countesthorpe was the daughter settlement of Blaby. The name Countesthorpe was first mentioned in the early thirteenth century and the village that developed on the site was principally occupied with agriculture. Later hosiery took over as the principal occupation. Occupations are now more diverse and Countesthorpe is today a large commuter villager.

Despite its commuter bias, this booklet concentrates on the ‘village’ of Countesthorpe; the booklet is divided into sections — village people, village
pubs, village churches, village buildings and village weddings. Each page
shews an old photograph, with a simple, clear caption below. Of particular
interest are the photographs and text relating to the history of the cottage
homes, which were opened in 1884 as an extension to the Leicester
Workhouse. This publication is a good example of how a village community
can produce an interesting photographic record from private collections. This
is a worthwhile publication for local historians, and particularly of interest
to those of us who are enthusiastic about the versatility of photographs.

H E B

A CELEBRATION: GROBY CHURCH AND VILLAGE: St Philip & St James’
Church, Groby
Audrey Gadsden ed The 1990 Committee,
Groby Vicarage, 58 Pymm Ley Lane, Groby 1990 £2.20

This history of Groby church and village was compiled to celebrate one
hundred and fifty years of the church. The booklet has an attractive colour
photograph of the church on the front cover and the text is interspersed with
photographs and sketches of the village. It relates the history not only of
the church and its groups but extends far beyond this, to include details of
Groby School, leisure and social activities, the social scene and an oral history
section, recounting conversations from senior citizens of Groby. It is encourag­
ing that booklets such as this are brought to fruition on the occasion of
notable local events. It takes a great deal of commitment from the local
community to see a publication like this through to completion and the 1990
Committee of Groby deserves commendation for such an interesting and
varied publication.

H E B

FURTHER PICTURES OF OLD HATHERN
Hathern Local History Society The Society 1989 £3.00

The Hathern Local History Society has a reputation for producing fine quality
and professional booklets. Their 1986 publication Old Hathern in Pictures
was of this sort and its successor is no less so. Again a series of old
photographs, culled from the local community, chart the history of the village
from the 1880s to the 1950s. Beneath each photograph is a small summary
of the scene, the names of the people in it and other fine points. The detail
in some of the photographs is quite exceptional, such as the information
about Margaret Smith, photographed in 1911 wearing a hat which ‘cost one
shilling, elevenpence, three farthings’. Once again the Hathern Local History
Society has produced a publication of which the local community and former inhabitants must be proud.

**A PORTRAIT OF WYMESWOLD PAST AND PRESENT**
Wymeswold Village Appraisal Committee
Wolds Historical Organisation 1991 £2.75

This publication owes its origins to the encouragement of the Leicestershire Rural Community Council for village committees to distribute a questionnaire and prepare a report out of the responses. The resulting booklet is a look at the past and the present village and also an attempt to look to the future by making recommendations based on the opinions of residents. The contents are therefore wide-ranging in time and content. After placing the village in its geographical setting, it takes the reader through a brief history, touching on a variety of topics, from Non-Conformists to witches and from dairies to stocks and airfields. A substantial part of the publication looks at Wymeswold today and it concludes with a summary of recommendations for the village.

This booklet is interesting not only for its past history but also the present information, which will be a useful record for future historians of the village. It is pleasantly illustrated with a mixture of old photographs and sketches and, in sympathy with the theme of conservation, the cover is decorated with drawings of a water plant for which the local brook is noted.

**DIG IT, BURN IT, SELL IT! The Story of Ibstock Johnsen, 1825—1990**
Michael Cassell  
Pencorp Books,  
80 Hill Top, London NW11 6EE (1990) £15.95

This is a volume of corporate history by a specialist writer on management and business topics. The greater part of the seamless account is concerned with the recent fortunes of the company, the evasion of take-overs by predators such as Hanson Trust, the adoption of a policy of direct selling and the expansion to an international conglomerate so that ‘Only a part of its name and its continuing presence on the same site provide a clue to its origins and a starting point for any investigation of its history.’ Fortunately for the local historian the author’s commission included tracing the company’s earlier history and its original involvement in Leicestershire coalmining. After having undergone the difficulties of mining under government control during the First World War the company finally transferred its
operations from coal to bricks in order to survive the depression period into the 1930s.

The earliest operation is traced back to William Thirlby’s farm at Ibstock Lodge in 1825, at the time when the Leicestershire coalfield was first being exploited on a large scale. Drawing, presumably, on the company’s archive, various relevant documents and catalogue illustrations are reproduced, some of them in colour, as is the picture of Lutterworth House, still the company’s headquarters in Leicestershire.

J G

CHARNWOOD FOREST GOLF CLUB: a history mainly of the early years
P J Cox Charnwood Forest Golf Club 1989 £6.00

Charnwood Forest Golf Club is a course of great natural beauty. Situated so close to Beacon Hill and the Outwoods, its views of the Soar Valley and of the villages of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves are quite spectacular. There are other features besides to the club which the visitor might not so readily appreciate. It was the first course to be established in the county, in 1890, with the help of Mr H Humphreys, land agent of the Beaumont estate, and Mrs Perry-Herrick. Each year the club’s minutes recorded the sending of a letter to Mrs Perry-Herrick to thank her for the use of the course. The club remained very small until the turn of the century, there being forty members. With the opening of the station at Quorn on the Great Central Railway, membership rapidly expanded and by 1905 it was decided to limit the membership to a hundred and twenty. When the Beaumanor estate was sold in 1946, the club members bought shares of the course from the estate. Some thirty members undertook to subscribe for between five and one hundred one pound shares in the company called Charnwood Golf Club Ltd.

This history, prepared to coincide with the club’s centenary celebrations in 1990, charts the development of the club from these early days. It also touches on the early personalities of the club, such as ‘Sandy’ Herd, the first professional, and Charles Lawrence, professional at the club for thirty two years. One of the more interesting features of the story is a section on changes to the course. This is accompanied by a series of historic photographs shewing fairways and woodland around the site over a period of several years. The appendices at the end include lists of club presidents and captains and trophies. This is a professional publication with clear photographs and an attractive cover.

H E B
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