MUSEUMS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY

Museums up and down the country are undergoing a period of change – it is not just here in Leicester and Leicestershire that changes are being proposed. In the last Newsletter attention was drawn to the plight of Snibston and we have a follow up to that piece in this Newsletter. Museums in the city are included in a major review of what takes place under the umbrella of Cultural Services called The Project. A ‘daunting’ questionnaire has been produced for people to complete to give their views on The Project and this has appeared in Leicester Mercury and the city council’s newsletter Link. If you have any views on what is happening in the city do complete the questionnaire or make your views known to the leader of the council and to your own local councillor.

President Honoured

Following 14 years as Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Tim Brooks stood down from the post earlier this year. In recognition of his service the Queen made him a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in the June honours list.

The Society is delighted by this award and offers its congratulations to Sir Timothy and Lady Ann Brooks for the honour so richly deserved.

Editor retires

Richard Buckley who has acted as the archaeology editor of Transactions since 1990 has decided to call it a day. Richard has been responsible for liaising with the printers and over the years developed a very good working relationship with whoever has produced the volumes. Richard will still be around to offer advice and has agreed to remain on the Society’s committee. In addition, Richard has done a great deal of work in bringing the index of Transactions to near completion. The committee has asked Jill Bourne to work with Jo Story as joint editor of Transactions.

The Society owes a great debt to Richard and we thank him for giving his time and advice so freely.
Members’ Survey

Around 80 (21% of the membership) members returned the questionnaire which was sent out with the Spring Newsletter and the committee is most grateful to those who took the time to complete the form and to send it back. The committee is still digesting the results and the comments which members made. However, it has discussed publications, membership and lectures at committee and, with the results of the questionnaire at hand, we have been able to see if we can respond to the many suggestions made and improve what we offer the membership. The committee noted that all who responded thought that the publications which the society sent out were good and did not, therefore, need significant changes made to them. The editors of all three are themselves continually thinking of ways to try and improve the quality of each publication and will continue to do so.

The lecture programme was thought to be good and we were pleased to receive suggestions for topics and venues. We have already reacted to the suggestions made by several members that the lecture programme was too short and we have asked our lecture secretaries to increase the number of lectures by two in the 2004-5 season. We could not do this before as the meeting room has to be booked in advance and the bookings have already been made for 2003-4. It is not always possible to respond to the some of the ideas for lecture topics suggested by members. Somebody has to be working in that particular field and have something new to say, and in addition, we do like to ensure that speakers are competent lecturers!

Fifty-per-cent of the membership have been members for over ten years and ten per cent for less than three. The age profile reflects what I think we all know. The bulk of our membership is over 50 years of age with only a few percent below the age of 40. The committee is considering ways of attracting a younger membership and ideas contained in the responses to the questionnaire are being discussed, but as with all new ideas, we need people to organise them. Some members wanted trips to be organised with a preference for local trips by car. We are planning to organise a number of such trips in the summer of 2004 to see what response we get. Previous coach trips have not been particularly successful in terms of numbers, but we might try again.

A number of members indicate that they have skills which the society might be able to use. I have written to all those who responded positively and will be continuing to discuss with them whether they wish to use those skills in helping run the society. If you have not heard from me and are anxious to help in some way do please contact me as soon as possible.

It is still early days with the analysis of the questionnaire and the committee will be continually reviewing the Society’s activities in the light of what members have said in the survey.

Alan McWhirr
Honorary Secretary

Brian Allison Memorial Lecture

The lecture programme opens on 9th October with the Brian Allison Memorial Lecture to be given by Professor J. Mordaunt Crook, one of Britain’s leading architectural historians. He is a former Slade professor and Waynflete lecturer at Oxford, and is now Emeritus Professor of Architectural History at the University of London. He is Supernumerary Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and a fellow of the British Academy. He was awarded the CBE in the recent Birthday Honours List, for services to architectural history.

Over the last thirty years he has written widely on royal palaces and public buildings, on eighteenth-century houses and nineteenth-century churches; on museums and universities; on the Gothic Revival and the Greek Revival; on Regency London; on Victorian patronage and decorative art; and, more generally, on the eternal problem of style in architecture: all of these to wide acclaim.

The Society is fortunate to have the opportunity to hear him on the planning by John Nash (d-1835) of the lay-out of the Regent’s Park area of London. Regency London is one of Professor Crook’s specialities, and concerning this topic he has commented ‘... though I say it myself, it is pretty good’.

Dr A K B Evans
Joint Honorary Lecture Secretary

Remember the AGM on 20th November 2003
The site of a Roman villa has been known at Wymondham since Nichols included an engraving of a mosaic floor in volume 2 of his county history. The site was visited by this Society in 1865 and in volume 3 (1874) of our Transactions there is a description of this visit:

The party next visited the Roman Remains in a field known as Ganns Close, adjoining Wymondham House, the residence of Mrs Day. These consisted of a few yards of Roman pavement, at about a foot below the surface, from which, together with the existence of a brook in the same field, and the general arrangement of the ground it was inferred there had been a Roman villa on the site. A few relics of the Roman occupation were next inspected on the lawn in front of the Rectory. These were portions of Roman pavement and painted frescoes; the remains of the effigy of a crusader, supposed to be the second formerly in existence in the Church, were also exhibited: these had been found in the Rectory grounds. Shortly, all were reseated, and the party started en-route for the next village.

A project to locate remains of this building commenced in July 2002 by the Parish Investigation Project class, of Belvoir Community Centre. Over a series of weekends, this class, along with students from University of Nottingham, all under the direction of Professor Roger Wilson from Nottingham University, dug a number of trenches to see if they could locate the building, discover something about its plan, and learn more about its state of preservation.

A detailed report of these excavations will appear in a future volume of Transactions, but as the pictures show a series of walls and tessellated pavements were located and the outline plan of a corridor villa recovered.

Thanks to Bob Sparham, Professor R Wilson and Dr S Speight for information.

A series of pictures of the excavations taken by Alan McWhirr, and the engraving of the mosaic as illustrated by Nichols.
A message from County Councillor, Ernie White, Cabinet Lead Member for Community Services, which includes Heritage Services and therefore Museums.

A recent headline in our favourite local newspaper read ‘Boom Time for Snibston’, and though certainly better reading than last years ‘Slump in Visitor Numbers at Snibston’, was equally misleading.

There probably never has been either a boom or a slump but Snibston is doing well, and though visitor numbers are about 1% down on a year ago, income is over budget and costs are being controlled. That is not to say that everything is rosy and there are no concerns because Snibston still represents a major financial risk to a county council very much under-funded by central government, and which has a vast array of targets and performance indicators to meet in its statutory services. This leaves our discretionary museum service having to constantly justify the money spent on it. It is mainly this that led to the decision to seek expressions of interest from outside operators earlier this year. The hope was that some organisation might come along and relieve the county council of the financial burden, but in the event, and unsurprisingly in my view, none came forward, I think because they could see how well Snibston was being managed and knew it would be difficult to improve on it sufficiently to make a profit. So all the talk about ‘externalisation’ is now behind us and Snibston will remain as a county council managed facility, though the damage done to our standing with external funding and grant making bodies needs repairing. We very much hope for good news from the Heritage Lottery Fund that will enable us to bring the Textile Gallery to Snibston and plans are in place to site the National Gas Museum there too, so discussions continue with both HLF and the Trustees of the National Gas Museum. Financial support is also being sought to upgrade the conference, seminar and catering facilities, and improve the simulated mining experience.

Of course Snibston is not the County Museums Service, though without doubt it is the jewel in the crown. Melton is a delight as is Charnwood, which I call ‘the tardis’ because it is difficult to see how much interest can be got out of such a small space. Market Harborough, having just celebrated its 25th anniversary, needs investment on which work has started.”

What the Leicester Mercury said earlier this year.

Outcomes backed: Site set to remain in the control of council

No takers on discovery park privatisation plan

It cannot be denied that the financial burden of ‘doing Museums’ on the county council is considerable but what we have in Leicestershire is a rich museums and heritage culture that we should be proud to cherish and nurture.
The Vindolanda Tablets

The W. Alan North Memorial lecture on Thursday 11th March 2004 will be given by Professor Bowman who has studied hundreds of writing tablets which have been found at the fort of Vindolanda on Hadrians Wall and which have provided so much personal detail of the people living in Roman Britain. Some members might wish to visit the web site (address in the box below) which has been set up and here are some details, taken from the web site, which have been provided by the University of Oxford:

An online edition of the Vindolanda tablets can be found at:
http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/

Thursday 11th March 2004
In the Art Gallery, New Walk Museum
The W Alan North Memorial Lecture
The Vindolanda Writing Tablets
Alan Bowman M.A., PhD., F.B.A.,
Director of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, University of Oxford

BBC Local History Project

Legacies is a new history website from the BBC, but a history website with a difference. The aim is to scrutinise the same UK history that you can find in any book or website, but to show how this history unfolds across every locality of the UK.

Visit the site at, http://www.bbc.co.uk/legacies

We will be investigating some of the UKs most interesting buildings, with over 60 features from 57 different localities around the UK. Click on the map of the UK, or in the Location Selector, and start your nationwide tour of the UK’s architectural heritage.

We have 42 features from England corresponding to 42 regions, from Bedfordshire to Wiltshire, with an array of different buildings from castles to council estates to caves. Once you’ve browsed through our extensive library of features, visit our Interact page, where you can enter into debate with other history enthusiasts, send us your own written articles, or ask our resident experts a question.

Here is a list of what to expect from Legacies:

October 1st - Immigration & Emigration
The story of how Britain’s population came to be where it is. From Celts, Angles and Saxons, to Indians, Africans and the peoples of the Caribbean. In collaboration with Black History month, which also runs through the month of October.

December 1st - Myths & Legends
The myths and legends that give every region of the UK a place in our imagination.

February 2nd - Work
The trades and industries that defined our social and natural environments.

If you would like to contact the production team directly you can do so by e-mailing us on legacies@bbc.co.uk or by post to UK Legacies, Rm 133, BBC Broadcasting House, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, G12 8DG.

Activities at Donington le Heath Manor House

Food through the Ages – October 12th, 11am - 4pm
A look at food from the Roman period onwards.

Art in Archaeology – October 18th, 11am - 4pm
This is part of the national ‘Big Draw’ event. A number of artists will show how art is used in archaeology, including recording finds and reconstructing sites.

Apple Day – October 23rd, 11am - 3pm
This annual celebration of the apple is a half-term activity and generally gets a good turn out. Come and demonstrate your dunking skills, taste traditional apple varieties and play apple games.

Evening Talk – Treasure in Leicestershire - September 24th, 7.30pm
A talk on the recent stunning find of 3000 silver and gold coins, and the silver gilt Roman helmet from South-East Leicestershire. The speaker will be Vicki Priest of University of Leicester Archaeological Services who directed the excavations at the site, which appears to be a major Late Iron Age religious site.

Members of the Society are encouraged to support the above activities at Donington le Heath and also consider becoming of Friend.
The Open Weekend held on 17th/18th May 2003 was a great occasion and we estimate 250 people visited the Society’s Library in the Guildhall, Leicester. Our Honorary Librarian, Aubrey Stevenson, arranged a display of books from the library, nineteenth-century society minute and scrap books, and the albums containing Henton’s black and white photographic prints.

The weekend took place not long after the city council elections and before the official hand over of power and so we were visited by the former leader of the city council, Ross Willmott and the newly elected leader, Roger Blackmore, along with other newly elected and established councillors. Civic dignitaries who visited included the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Maggie Bodell Stagg and the Chairman of the County Council, Anna Pullen. We were also pleased to see the editor of the Leicester Mercury, Nick Carter and Vice President of the Society, Squire de Lisle.

We recruited several new members and sold a good number of publications. The whole event was considered a success and our thanks to all who helped out on the day and to all the members who came along to make it so successful. In addition we must thank the staff at the Guildhall for making everybody feel so welcome.

Sarah Levitt, Head of the City’s Museum Service with newly elected leader of the council Roger Blackmore.

The library is for members to use and borrow books. It is open on the first and third Sunday of every month from 2.00 to 4.00 – except Bank Holiday weekends.

PLEASE USE YOUR LIBRARY
Recent archaeological work in Leicester

The last two years have witnessed a significant increase in the amount of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in Leicester. This directly corresponds to the burgeoning regeneration of the city, perhaps most obviously marked by the number of tower cranes rising over its centre. In this context evaluation and excavations at the former site of St Margaret’s baths, St Nicholas Place, and on land between Highcross Street and Vaughan Way, have thrown new light on the Roman and medieval town.

An evaluation undertaken in advance of proposed development on the site of the former swimming baths has revealed intriguing information regarding the character of the Roman town. The construction of St Margaret’s baths had resulted in substantial disturbance of the underlying archaeological layers, and the loss of much of the centre of the site. However, the investigation recorded sections through two Roman streets, one running approximately north-south, the other east-west; their intersection, which would have occurred within the study area, had been destroyed by previous development. The latter road had previously been recorded on the nearby Causeway Lane site (Connor & Buckley 1999, 27-8); the current observation will allow confirmation of its alignment and character, and will contribute to our understanding of the development of the Roman street grid, an important element in the establishment of the civitas capital. The absence of Roman artefactual material and structures suggests that the area witnessed little in the way of occupational activity, and avoided the dumping of domestic refuse so common elsewhere within the town walls.

The medieval period was better represented with clear evidence of a cemetery site, confirming the limited observations undertaken at the time of the bath’s construction in 1964, and work undertaken by Frank Cottrill in the 1940s. Both suggested the presence of human burials in some numbers, and it now appears that the development site occupies part of the former cemetery associated with St Peter’s church, one of Leicester’s several ‘lost’ churches; it is even possible that some of the identified medieval structures may form part of the church itself.

Excavation in advance of the construction of the new BBC studios off St Nicholas Place revealed further medieval archaeological remains, the most significant of which are the well preserved remains of a stone undercroft or cellar, probably dating to the later 11th or early 12th century AD. This building seems likely to form the eastern range of a courtyard complex originally facing onto both St Nicholas Place (the former medieval High Street), and Guildhall Lane. The structure has a series of four arched windows and a doorway along its western elevation, niches in the northern and eastern walls, and appears to have at least one original opening to the south, apparently giving access onto Guildhall Lane. A possible interpretation suggests the undercroft may have provided a secure storeroom associated with a wealthy merchant’s house, situated at the heart of the developing medieval town. An unusual feature of the site is that whilst the western elevation was originally above ground, both the northern and eastern elevations were largely buried, suggesting the undercroft was terraced into a pre-existing bank, or the creation of a sunken yard area to the west of the undercroft.

Traces of a sequence of substantial stone-founded Roman buildings, together with a considerable depth of Roman street metalling, likely to represent a section of the Fosse Way, underlie the undercroft and the later 19th century cellars to the west and north of the development area. It is proposed that as part of the future BBC buildings, the undercroft will remain visible to users of the site and the public.

Also within the city centre, archaeological investigation has been underway on the site of a proposed hotel and casino located between Highcross Street and Vaughan Way. The site lies adjacent to the former Blue Boar Lane excavations undertaken by Professor John Wacher in 1958 which revealed the remains of a major Roman building dating to the later 2nd century AD and interpreted as a macellum or market hall. The current investigation has been limited in its objectives to simply recording those remains that will be affected by the new building and to preserved undisturbed as much of the archaeology as possible. However, even within these limited objectives, it has been possible to develop our understanding of the macellum, revealing substantial sections of the macellum walls, floor and sub-floor make-up layers, and revealing some initial glimpses of the internal form of the basilican hall and the courtyard to its north.

The above work represents a small sample of work currently on-going within the city. Investigation is also underway along the river edge (Bath Lane), in the southern suburbs, and on a number of sites in the historic villages that surround the city, notably in Aylestone, where work on the Hall has revealed evidence of a mid 14th century AD aisled hall at the heart of the standing building. It is hoped that it will be possible to report more fully on these projects, and other archaeological developments, in future issues of the newsletter and/or Transactions.

Richard Clark
City Archaeologist
First of all – an apology. The library will not be open on the first Sunday in October, 5th. Please contact me at the Record Office (0116 257 1080) before then if that will cause any member a problem.

Thank you to Terry Cocks, Ken Hillier, Jeff Knight, Gerald Rimmington and Bob Trubshaw, all of who have been kind enough to present copies of publications to the library. Details are listed below.

Addition to stock
Books and pamphlets
Ashby Woulds and District Local History Group. Story of Bath Yard. 1998
Cossons, A. The Turnpike roads of Leicestershire and Rutland. 2003
English Heritage English Heritage in the East Midlands. 2003-5 A brief publication on regional plans for the next two years; comments to eastmidlands@english-heritage.org.uk
Hillier, K. Ashby de la Zouch the spa town, 2nd Rev.ed. Published by Ashby de la Zouch Museum, north Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1HU; £4.50, 2003
Knight, J.A.G. Coalville Rugby Football Club: a century history. 2002
Leicestershire County Council. Annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health. 1966 [includes: A survival from Georgian Leicester: 17 Friar Lane, by T.Y. Cocks]
Ovens, R. and Sleath, S. Time in Rutland: a history and gazetteer of the bells, scratch dials, sundials and clocks of Rutland. 2002 [includes a useful appendix on Thomas North a former officer of this society]
Patterson, A.T. Radical Leicester: a history of Leicester 1780-1850 2nd imp. corrected. 1975
Sandred, K.I. Place-names of Norfolk pt. 3 Hundreds of North and South Erpingham and Holt (English Place-Name Society Vol. 79). 2002
Taylor, R. Folville cross. 2003

Trubshaw, B. Rutland village by village Published by the Heart of Albion Press, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, Leics. LE12 6UJ, £6.95. 2003 1872883699
Walton, M. A scrapbook of memories: the Pickle family 1857-1994
Whigham, H.B. St. Michaels and All Angels, Hallaton. 1985

Periodicals
A few highlights from the over two dozen titles and issues added to stock this year:
Hinckley Historian Summer 2003. Includes articles on Appleby Magna, and Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry up to 1914.
SPAB News This is regularly circulated to members of the Historic Buildings Panel.

Finally, news of a recently published book which it is not proposed to buy for the library, but which may be of interest to some members. It is jointly edited by Geoff Brandwood, well-known as an architectural historian in Leicestershire, Ruskin and Architecture edited by Rebecca Daniels and Geoff Brandwood. Published by Spire Books in association with the Victorian Society. £32.95. 2003 09543615 1 2.

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

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Index of Transactions on the web

An index of Transactions from volume 21 to 73 has been compiled by a professional indexer. Before producing a printed version and a CD, we wish members to test the index and to comment on it. In order to do this we have placed a draft version on the web and this can be accessed from the Society’s web page:

http://www.le.ac.uk/ar/lahs/lahs.html

If you have any comments please email the Honorary Secretary (alan@dovedale2.demon.co.uk) or Richard Buckley (rjb16@le.ac.uk)
On 30th April, 18 members spent a most enjoyable and enlightening evening viewing some of the special collections at the University of Leicester Library. The Specials Collections Librarian, Dr Andrew Lacey, told us something of the history and range of material held there and then he and his staff showed us a selection of their extensive and valuable items and were able to answer many queries. I think that all present were very surprised at the quality and range of the collections. Particular interest was shown in the early Bibles, illustrated Books of Hours, political pamphlets and botanical works, as well as the more familiar Nichols and Victorian County History.

Throughout the evening we were refreshed with generous supplies of coffee and biscuits.

Sybil Rutland
Joint Honorary Lecture Secretary

Members visiting the University of Leicester Library with above one of the examples from the Special Collections.
Annual General Meeting 2003

The 148th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 20th November 2003 at 7.30pm in the Guildhall, Leicester

AGENDA

[Please bring this agenda with you to the AGM]

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 147th Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2002
3. Presentation of the 148th Annual Report for 2002-2003 – The Chairman, Dr G T Rimmington
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2002-2003 - Honorary Treasurer Mr M Johnson
6. Adoption of the Accounts
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Election of President
9. Election of Vice-Presidents
10. Election of Officers
11. Election of Committee
12. Honorary Secretary
13. Any other business (to be communicated to the Honorary Secretary by 1st November 2003)

Officers of the Society 2002-3

- Honorary Treasurer Mr M. Johnson
- Honorary Secretary Dr A.D. McWhirr
- Honorary Librarian Mr A.W. Stevenson
- Honorary Membership Sec Mr G. Clark-Monks
- Honorary Newsletter Sec Mrs K.E. Gowland
- Honorary Buildings Panel Sec Mr R.H. Evans
- Honorary Lecture Secs Dr A.K.B.Evans
- Mrs S. Rutland
- Mr D.H. Smith

Vice-Presidents of the Society 2002-3

- The High Sheriff of Leicestershire
- The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council
- The Lord Mayor of Leicester
- Professor P.J. Boylan
- Mr R.J.B. Keene
- Mr O.D. Lucas
- Mrs W.A. North
- Dr A. B. Evans
- Dr D.L. Wykes
- Mr L. Fox
- Squire G. de Lisle
- Miss J.E. Mellor
- Dr K.M. Thompson

Members of the Committee 2001-2

- Ms J. Bourne
- Mr R.F. Hartley
- Professor M. Palmer
- Dr G.T. Rimmington
- Plus the officers
- Mr R. Clark
- Mr C. Harrison
- Mr D. Ramsey
- Mr R.T. Schadla-Hall
Minutes of the 147th Annual General Meeting of the Society held at The Guildhall, Leicester, on 21st November 2002

Mr Timothy Brooks, President, took the chair

Fifty-two members of the Society were present.

1. Apologies:
   Mrs K Gowland, Mrs H McWhirr, Professor M Palmer, Mr D H Smith, Dr D L Wykes.

2. Minutes of the 146th Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2001
   The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the President.

3. The 147th Annual Report by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr R H Evans
   The Committee met on five occasions. They agreed to the creation of a Trust to provide an annual lecture in memory of Professor Brian Allison and also to publish Geoffrey Brandwood’s study of the Victorian Church in Leicestershire entitled *Bringing them to their Knees: church-building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800-1914*. It appeared in March 2002 and is the first publication to be produced by the society for a number of years. The Society also organised a day school on Leicester Past and Present: Migration and the Making of the Modern City in conjunction with Vaughan College where it was held. The Committee has expressed its views to the City Council about its Cultural Strategy document and to the Museums Service on its Consultation Document. It has also considered the County Council’s Report on Heritage Policy and Strategy 2001-2008. Concern was also expressed to the City Council about the threat that current developments around Vaughan Way and Highcross Street present to the archaeology of that area. The implications of the split of the museums service in 1997 are continuing to be felt in both city and county, and the committee is making strenuous efforts to keep abreast of proposals which might affect the service provided in both city and county. Volume 75 of *Transactions* was published in November 2001, the *Leicestershire Historian* in July and two editions of the *Newsletter* appeared in the Spring and Autumn. The library continues to be opened on the first and third Sundays of every month. Membership continues to be healthy and Mr Geoffrey Clark Monks does a sterling job in maintaining our membership records and distributing all our publications. Numbers at lectures continue to be good and the council room at New Walk is usually comfortably full for most lectures. The subject matter of lectures contains a mixture of local and national/international themes.

   The motion to accept the 147th Annual Report was proposed by Dr G.T. Rimmington and seconded by Mr R. Rutland and approved unanimously.

4. Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2002
   Copies of the audited accounts were available for members on arrival at the meeting and the Honorary Treasurer explained them to members before taking questions.
   The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mrs J North and seconded by Mr D H Smith and unanimously approved.

5. Honorary Auditor
   The Honorary Treasurer proposed, and Dr A D McWhirr seconded, that Messrs K P M G Peat, Marwick and McLintock in the person of Mr Michael Lane, be invited to continue to serve as the Society’s auditors. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

6. Election of President of the Society
   It was proposed by the chairman that Mr T G M Brooks be invited to continue to serve as President of the Society.
   This was unanimously approved.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents
   It was proposed by the Honorary Secretary that the existing vice-presidents as listed on the agenda paper, be re-elected. The proposal was seconded by Dr G T Rimmington and unanimously approved.

8. Election of Officers
   It was proposed by Mr R Rutland that the existing officers as listed on the agenda paper be re-elected. This was seconded by Mrs J North and approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Committee
   The chairman proposed the re-election of all members of the committee as listed on the agenda paper. This was agreed.

10. Other Business
    None

Following the formal part of the Annual Meeting, Dr Andrew Lacey, University of Leicester Library, gave a presentation on the Special Collection held at the university of Leicester Library.
### Lecture programme 2003-4

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<th>Lecture</th>
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<td></td>
<td><em>London’s Arcadia: John Nash and the Planning of Regent’s</em></td>
<td>Emeritus Professor of Architectural History, University of London; Supernumerary Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford</td>
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<td>Park</td>
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<td>Thursday 23rd October</td>
<td>Prehistoric activity in the environs of the Husbands Bosworth causewayed enclosure</td>
<td>Matthew Beamish, B.A.</td>
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<td>Project Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services</td>
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<td>Thursday 6th November</td>
<td><em>The earliest English: living and dying in early Anglo-Saxon</em></td>
<td>Samantha Glasswell, B.A., A.M.A.</td>
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<td><em>England</em></td>
<td>Leicester City Council Museums and Heritage Services</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th November</td>
<td>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the Guildhall</td>
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<td>Thursday 11th December</td>
<td><em>Burton Lazars Hospital: a reassessment</em></td>
<td>David Marcombe, B.A., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Director, Centre for Local History, University of Nottingham</td>
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<td>Thursday 8th January</td>
<td>Hidden treasure: a south-east Leicestershire hoard</td>
<td>Vicki Priest, B.A.</td>
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<td>Field Officer, University of Leicester Archaeological Services</td>
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<td>Thursday 22nd January</td>
<td>Possessions, Politics and Power: the Greys of Groby through Five Hundred Years</td>
<td>Anthony Squires</td>
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<td>Landscape Historian</td>
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<td>Thursday 5th February</td>
<td>William Camden and the rediscovery of England</td>
<td>Roger C. Richardson, B.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.</td>
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<td>Professor and Director of International Relations, King Alfred’s College, Winchester</td>
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<td>Thursday 11th March</td>
<td><em>In the Victorian Gallery, New Walk Museum</em></td>
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<td>The Alan North Memorial Lecture</td>
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<td><em>The Vindolanda Writing Tablets</em></td>
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<td>Alan Bowman M.A., PhD., F.B.A.</td>
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<td>Director of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, University of Oxford</td>
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<td>Thursday 25th March</td>
<td>Exploring Leicestershire’s Churchyards – part 2</td>
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<td>Alan McWhirr, B.Sc., M.A., PhD., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.</td>
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<td>University Fellow, University of Leicester, Honorary Secretary of the Society</td>
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### FLOREAT MUSICA!

Some of our Rutland members will be pleased to know about an evening with a difference, which will be at Peterborough Cathedral on Thursday 25 September at 7 p.m. A book entitled *Bands, Choirs and Organs in Northamptonshire and Rutland* by Canon C.H. Davidson who was born in Lyddington, will be launched: all proceeds from its sale will be given to the cathedral organ fund. The cathedral choir will be singing some music by church composers of the two counties from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, discovered during the research for the book; and the principal guest will be Dr. Roy Massey, MBE, President of the Royal College of Organists. Free tickets, to facilitate catering arrangements, are available from Mrs. Ruth Coxon at the Chapter Office, Minster Precincts, Peterborough PE1 1XS. Please enclose sae with your request.

### Digital Library of Historical Directories

For the first time, digital versions of rare historical sources are being made available online by the University of Leicester Library. To find out what is available go to:

http://www.historicaldirectories.org

The site can also be accessed from the People’s Network/UK Online centre at your local public library. The website has a powerful search engine and one can search for names, occupations, addresses and other key words and phrases. The work of digitising directories is an on-going project, so keep checking to see when additional directories become available.

Please bring the minutes and agenda printed in this Newsletter with you to the AGM