

**LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Guildhall, Leicester LE1 5FQ

President Sir Timothy Brooks, K.C.V.O., LL.D., D.Litt., J.P.

NEWSLETTER

Number 70



Autumn 2004

Editor Kay Gowland

150th Anniversary

Formally, the Society was founded at a meeting held in the Leicester Guildhall on 10th January 1855, although discussions about such a possibility had been on-going since 16th May 1854. We are, therefore, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Society during 2004-5. On 13th October we are to be honoured by a Royal Visit when HRH the Duke of Gloucester will be visiting the Guildhall to meet our President, Vice Presidents and members of the committee to launch our celebrations. This is indeed a great honour and we are delighted to welcome a member of the Royal Family.

On the actual date on which the Society was formed, 10th January, we will be holding a reception for local dignitaries and members of the Society. This will be held, appropriately, in the Guildhall where the meeting to form the Society was held in 1855. The number of members who can be invited is limited and elsewhere in

this *Newsletter* members will find how tickets can be obtained for this memorable occasion. We expect the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Mayor of Leicester, Chairman of the County Council, Mayors and Leaders of District Councils and others to be present. The committee is hoping to organise some brief entertainment in addition to a finger buffet.

Later in the year the committee is hoping to organise an excursion and lecture to commemorate 150 years as well as produce an anniversary edition of *Transactions* devoted to Leicester Abbey. There will also be a special publication on the development of the Society which will follow on and expand on the history of the Society which was published to mark the 100th anniversary. In addition members will be offered a printed version of the index of *Transactions*.

Join the celebrations

Anniversary reception 10th January 2005
at the Guildhall

Book early to avoid disappointment.
See page 3 for details.

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Locally born archaeologist honoured by the University of Leicester

Professor Rosemary Cramp was recently honoured by the University of Leicester by being awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. The Society is delighted by this award as Professor Cramp cut her 'archaeological teeth' here in Leicestershire.

Professor Rosemary Cramp, who was educated at Market Harbrough Grammar School and later at St Anne's College, Oxford, dug her first archaeological trench, along with Frank Cottrill, here in Leicestershire. It was in a field behind her father's farm in Glooston and a note of this brief archaeological investigation appeared in volume 28 of our own *Transactions*. Here began a distinguished archaeological career.

Rosemary Cramp was a lecturer at Oxford from 1950 before moving to the University of Durham in 1955. In 1966, she became senior lecturer, then Professor of Archaeology and Emeritus Professor in 1990. Later she was appointed a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. Professor Cramp has held numerous titles and played a key role in a range of organisations. She was President, now Honorary Vice-President, of The Society of Antiquaries, and from 1978 to 1999, a Trustee of the British Museum.

From 1973 to 1999 Professor Cramp was a Commissioner for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland. Research and publications have included the Relationship between Anglo-Saxon Literature and Archaeology, Anglo-Saxon and Early Mediaeval Monasteries and Anglo-Saxon and Early Mediaeval Sculpture.



Professor Rosemary Cramp said "I was born in Leicestershire and my family is deeply rooted there. My first introduction to archaeological sites and museums was in Leicestershire and I am still involved in research in this area. It is therefore a great pleasure and privilege to me that this prestigious university has awarded me an honorary degree".

FRIENDS OF THE JEWRY WALL MUSEUM

There will be an inaugural meeting of the Friends of Jewry Wall Museum on Sunday 26th September at 2.30 when those wishing to show their support for the museum can sign up and become a 'Friend'.

Following the recent announcement of reduced opening hours to most branches of the city's museums, a group of people who believe that the Jewry Wall Museum *is* successful and a great amenity to the city has decided to show their support by setting up a Friends group with the aim of raising money, helping out at events and spreading the word about the excellence of the museum.

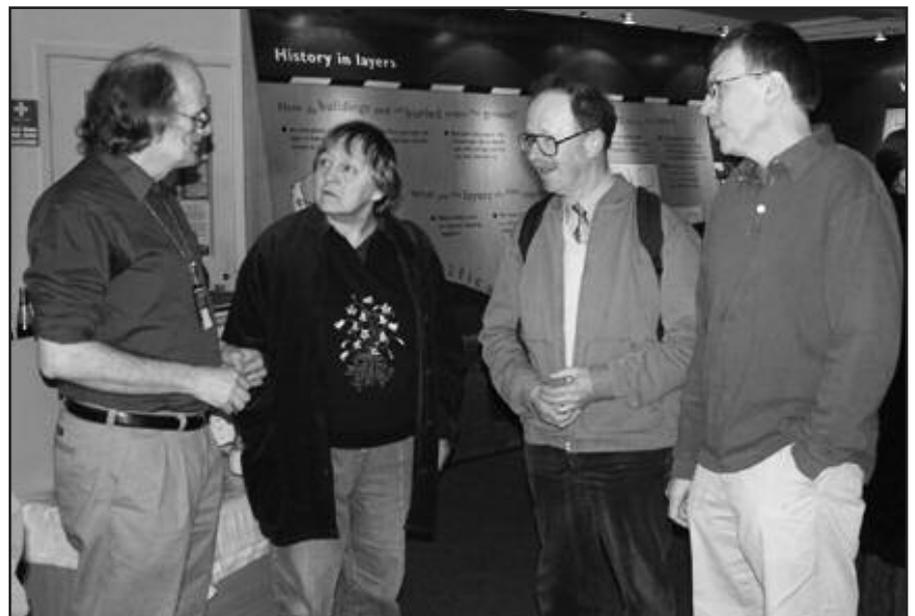
The formation of the Friends has been actively supported by the management of the city museums service.

In the picture from left to right are John Lucas, currently curator of the Jewry Wall Museum, Jean Mellor, formerly city and county archaeologist, Robert Rutland, formerly curator of the Jewry Wall Museum and Peter Liddle currently county archaeologist.

Details of the aims and objectives of the Friends will be presented at the inaugural meeting in September when a committee and officers will also be elected. At the meeting, Richard Buckley will give an account of some of the major excavations which have

been taking place in Leicester during 2004

It is vitally important that members of this society show their support for the Jewry Wall Museum and turn up on 26th September.



Come and celebrate

On Monday 10th January 2005 the Society will hold a reception at the Guildhall to mark the date on which, 150 years ago a meeting in Leicester agreed to form the Leicestershire Archaeological and Architectural Society – the original name of our Society. We are inviting dignitaries from all the district councils in the county as well as the city and county councils to help us mark the occasion for as a county society we have, over the past 150 years, been involved with activities all over the county. Numbers will have to be restricted because of fire regulations and so the number of members who can attend will have to be limited. We will provide a finger buffet and there will be some entertainment yet to be finalised. Speeches will be limited, but clearly on such an occasion something must be said. There will be no charge. Tickets will be restricted to members and family members. Should any member wish to bring a guest a limited number of tickets might become available once the membership has had the chance to acquire tickets. If you would like your name to be put on the reserve list please indicate this when ordering your own ticket.

Tickets Required

If you would like a ticket please write to the Honorary Secretary enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis.

Good Gargoyle Guide – Medieval carvings of Leicestershire and Rutland by Bob Trubshaw

This book is well up to the standard we have come to expect from Bob Trubshaw at the Heart of Albion Press – clear type, good photographs and a handy size to carry around on a day's exploration of the carvings in many of the churches in our two counties.

The Introduction contains useful information helpful maps and books etc., and a short explanation of architectural terms, then follows an introduction to carvings of gargoyles, corbels and the occasional cross, plus an explanation of why we are fortunate in having so much medieval carving left to us – a shortage of money in our villages to maintain and 'improve' the village churches!

The Gazetteer in alphabetical order gives a feast of photographs and commentary. Bob Trubshaw is to be congratulated on producing a useful informative book: the result of much travel and gazing upwards, inside and outside of many of the most ancient buildings in Leicestershire and Rutland.

K. E. Gowland

W G Hoskins

Celebrating the inspiration of W G Hoskins

To mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of W G Hoskins' seminal book on *The Making of the English Landscape*, a conference is to be held at Leicester on 7 to 10 July 2005. The conference will celebrate the achievements of the discipline of landscape history which Hoskins inspired



and take his contribution as a starting point, but will focus on recent developments and the future outlook as well as the major themes of rural settlement, towns and hinterlands, industry and communications, buildings, Britain before the English, designed landscapes, perceptions of landscape, ritual and spiritual landscapes, environments and the mapping of the landscape. Offers of papers (12-word maximum title, 50-word maximum summary) should be sent to Christopher Dyer, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR; e-mail: cd50@le.ac.uk; tel: 0116 252 2765.

W. G Hoskins was a keen and active member of this Society contributing many papers to *Transactions*.

Gift Aid

The committee is most grateful to all members who signed a Gift Aid form enabling the Society to claim 28% on each subscription/donation made. At the time of writing 270 members had completed forms which will mean that we can claim £1,210. This is equivalent to about 75 new members and delays the time when we will have to consider increasing the membership subscription.

Thank you!

**PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY BANKERS' ORDER AND ALSO
GIFT AID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

News from near and far

Roman bridge uncovered at Corbridge

Excavations commissioned and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Arbeia Society aimed to look for the remains of the Roman bridge at *Corstopitum* and examine evidence for the origins of the village of Corbridge. The excavation team, led by archaeologists from Tyne and Wear Museums, has now announced that it has found substantial remains of the bridge that would have carried the main Roman road from London to Scotland.

Work is being focused on the south bank of the river, where evidence of the spectacular scale and decoration of the bridge is already beginning to emerge, as the archaeologists discover architectural fragments with decorative mouldings. A trial excavation carried out in 1995 recovered an elaborate statue base and moulded blocks, suggesting that the bridge was lined with a balustrade interspersed with statues. A monumental arch, decorated with pilasters and relief carving, might also have marked the approach to the bridge.

This year's excavation has also uncovered evidence for an enormous causeway that would have carried Roman Dere Street from the flood plain of the Tyne on to the bridge, at a height of 8 metres above the river. Overlying part of the Roman causeway are the remains of a feature which came as a surprise discovery: a nineteenth-century stone lining that runs along the river bank, perhaps as an attempt to halt erosion. Other stretches of similar stones are known further upstream, where they have collapsed into the river. River erosion is probably also what caused the Roman bridge to collapse at some time during the Anglo-Saxon period: research suggests the bridge was the source of the stones used in the construction of the crypt of the church built by St Wilfrid in Hexham in AD 674.

Margaret Snape, keeper of archaeology at Tyne and Wear Museums, said: 'This is a very exciting project giving us the opportunity to uncover and display a spectacular example of Roman architecture and engineering. We have already made some fascinating discoveries.'

Will Smithfield be listed?

SAVE Britain's Heritage and Prince Charles are reported (in *The Independent* on 17 July 2004) to have been lobbying hard to persuade the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to grant listed status to the unlisted parts of Smithfield Market.

The ornate Victorian halls of the Central Market (1868), modelled on Paxton's Crystal Palace, are not under threat, but the buildings to the west are subject to a proposal from the development company Thornfield Properties to build a multi-million-pound complex, creating half a million square feet of office space and a new 'urban market hall'.

The three buildings, erected in 1875 and 1899, were not listed along with the Central Market because of fire damage in 1958, which gutted the original interiors. Rebuilt in 1963, they are nevertheless an attractive group of low rise buildings in an area that has developed since the mid-1980s

as a restaurant, food and bookshop quarter, with a life and character of its own. Not only do the buildings have merit in themselves as fine examples of Victorian brickwork and shop frontages, they have a viable economic future, and the scale of the new development would be out of character with the rest of Smithfield and Clerkenwell. Listing the buildings would bring them under the presumption of preservation rather than demolition.

According to *The Independent*, Prince Charles is known to have made 'private representations' to some of those involved in the decision. A spokeswoman for the Prince said: 'He not only believes the buildings are an important part of London's heritage but he also believes they can be restored for the benefit of the local community'. Those versed in the subtleties of court convention apparently noted that His Royal Highness accorded Tessa Jowell the honour of a kiss on both cheeks when greeting her at the opening of the memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales in Hyde Park recently — something reserved for family and very close friends.

Michael Capocci, managing director of Thornfield, has meanwhile dismissed the campaign to save the buildings as 'black propaganda'. Like so many property developers wanting to demolish cherished and economically viable buildings he uses the argument that 'we can build something better: we want to be judged on our plans'.

Bam's secrets revealed

The earthquake that killed 26,000 people in Iran on 26 December 2003 and destroyed the superstructure of the mud-brick citadel and city of Arg-e-Bam also had the effect of opening up hitherto unknown parts of the city, which archaeologists have been studying in order to understand the city better.

Eskander Mokhtari, head of the citadel restoration project, and Chahryar Adle, of the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, held a press conference last month to explain what they have found so far. Among the discoveries is the evidence that 'medieval, Bam actually dates from around 2,600 BC' centuries older than the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) to which it was formerly dated.

The second revelation is the extent and complexity of the underground irrigation channels that supplied the desert city with water: it is now clear that water was carried by aqueducts that descended at a very shallow gradient from mountain springs several kilometres away.

The third discovery was that the fault line that caused the earthquake was itself the reason for the city's existence: acting as a sump and partly shaded from the sun, this fault line was the first part of the desert to be cultivated — an agricultural landscape developed along the line and led to the growth of the city.

A number of the above items are taken from the Society of Antiquaries' electronic newsletter Salon, with permission.

More news

Cresswell Crags: the 'Sistine Chapel of the Ice Age'

The discovery of eighty engraved figures in the limestone ceiling of Church Hole, at Cresswell Crags in Derbyshire, has led the world's press to hail the cave as the 'Sistine Chapel of the Ice Age' – presumably on the basis that the entire surface seems covered in art, rather than on the basis of any similarity between these 13,000-year-old carvings and Michelangelo's frescos.

The new discoveries (made a year after the discovery of the first twelve figures, which were then the first known evidence of Palaeolithic cave art in the UK) were made possible by studying the cave surface under particular light conditions. The research team had previously used high-powered torches and lamps to examine the caves but Dr Paul Pettitt (Lecturer in Human Origins at the University of Sheffield) said that the team had to begin work very early one morning 'simply because we had a lot to do ... and we noticed that the low morning sun penetrated the cave and that the stark light really brought it to life. Not only did the early morning light reveal to us a lot more art than was visible under artificial light, it also gave us a shadowy glimpse of perhaps the time of day when the images were made'.

The latest discoveries bring the total number of identified images to ninety six – though newspaper reports suggest that there is some good-natured disagreement amongst the members of the team about the precise number: Dr Pettitt suggested that some 'are in the eye of the beholder'. He is also positive that one image described as a bird shows instead the buttocks and legs of a fat woman. His colleague, Dr Sergio Ripoll, from Spain's Open University, described the images as masterpieces made by modifying the natural shapes in the limestone, by people who had a very good knowledge of the animals they hunted: 'they had looked at them for many hours and knew their shapes very well. So they could represent them exactly on the walls of caves'.

Thornborough Henges

Thornborough Henges campaign steps up a gear. Campaigners opposing the proposed planning application by Tarmac Northern to quarry close to Thornborough Henges in North Yorkshire have called on those who want to prevent gravel extraction in the archaeologically rich landscape around the henges to 'gird their loins like David to fight the Goliath of Tarmac's parent company, Anglo American plc'. Their latest press release says that by 'destroying what it describes as "this low-grade landscape" and exporting its profits, this international mining conglomerate is treating North Yorkshire like a Third World country'.

George Chaplin, of Heritage Action, which is leading the campaign to prevent further quarrying, says that: 'Quite apart from the important archaeological arguments and the fact that Thornborough Henges is a site of national importance, people need to understand there is no further need for gravel in the area'. Responding to this statement,

Bob Nicholson, spokesman for Tarmac Northern, said: 'Our planning application is perfectly legitimate within the terms of the Minerals Local Plan, which acts as a guidance document on the types of mineral reserves available and their environments'. Full details can be found on the Friends of Thornborough

website <http://www.friendsofthornborough.org.uk>

Digital catalogue of illuminated manuscripts

The Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) has awarded a grant to the Institute of English Studies in partnership with the British Library (BL) to produce the first ever digitally illustrated and searchable catalogue of Western illuminated medieval and Renaissance manuscripts held in the BL's collections. A pilot project was previously conducted by the BL, with the support of the Getty Grant Programme, entailing the creation of a pilot website. This currently holds descriptions and selected images of some 250 manuscripts, drawn from different periods and regions. It can be consulted on the BL website:-

<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts>

The Russian War at the Record Office

From 11 October until 18 November, visitors to the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, in Long Street, Wigston Magna, will be able to immerse themselves in the story of the war fought between Britain and her allies and Imperial Russia 150 years ago. The story of the conflict is told in the words of the Leicestershire men and women who lived through it.

Visitors to the exhibition will learn about the activities of the Royal Navy in the Baltic; the Leicester naval officer whose captain's luncheon was blown overboard by his own guns and the Kimcote Royal Marine whose ship was a tourist attraction for the residents of St. Petersburg.

The progress of the war in the Crimea is also followed through local eyes. Visitors will flinch with George Thornley, the Leicester man in the 4th Foot, under a hail of musket balls at the Alma River and thrill with admiration at the courage of Corporal Philip Smith of the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment as he carries his wounded comrades to safety despite a devastating Russian fire. They will shiver with Henry Clayton also of the "Tigers", as he searches desperately for his boots, sucked from his feet in icy mud. They will shed a tear with sympathy too, for the poor Irishwomen left behind by their husbands, called upon to serve their country in the Army of the East, yet forced into the Leicester workhouse from cruel necessity.

There will also be a talk to the Friends of the Record Office to accompany the exhibition, on Wednesday 20 October. Entry to the exhibition is free. Details of the Record Office's location and opening hours may be had by telephoning (0116) 257 1080.

Recent and current excavations in Leicester

Leicester Abbey

In July and August 2004 the University of Leicester Archaeological Services supervised a fifth season of training excavations at Leicester Abbey for students of the University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies and Ancient History.

A large trench was opened up in the northern part of the abbey kitchens exposing more of the plan revealed in 2003 to the south. The trench revealed the full width of the kitchen (c.14m externally) with evidence of remains of walls relating both to the northeast and northwest corners and a buttress possibly supporting an entrance into the refectory. In the northeastern corner remains of an oven was also partially exposed, together with two possible associated buttresses, further suggesting a design similar to the kitchen at Glastonbury Abbey, with vaulted archways over fireplaces in each corner. A substantial stretch of wall, exposed to the southeast of the area, possibly relates to a buttress in the opposite corner.



A number of complex modifications and built-up floor levels were clearly evident, some of which could relate to post-dissolution activity. In the southwestern a water management system was revealed including a stone-lined feature, possibly a sump, some 3.5m wide x 5m long x 1.45m deep. A number of *in situ* and robbed out drains appeared to feed into it, possibly taking water into the kitchen. A lead pipe was also visible at the base of the sump, pre-dating it, which ties in with a course of lead piping illustrated on the Bedingfield 1930s plan. A cobbled yard surface was revealed in the northwest extent of the trench, some resurfacing of which clearly post dated the dissolution of the abbey. Two circular stone-lined features, probably wells, were also evident in this area.

Environmental samples were taken from deposits within the drains and the oven with the hope of finding evidence of seeds, fish and animal bones from domestic waste.

Sanvey Gate

Excavations were conducted along the frontage of Sanvey Gate with three major trenches dug to reveal and record the Roman and medieval town ditches. These are massive – the



sections are 15m long and 3.75m deep, nevertheless so far a full profile through the defensive sequence has not been seen i.e. the ditches continue to the north and south outside the current development. Dateable finds have been recovered which will hopefully provide a date for the when the ditches were dug, something which has eluded excavators in the past. Column samples of the waterlogged ditch fills contain organically rich material and occasional finds of worked timber have been recovered, however there is no evidence for revetting of the ditch sides. The medieval frontage adjacent to Sanvey Gate has been examined and shown to consist of 3 probable phases of stone and timber buildings, with later activity too including a stone well. The medieval structures appear to post-date the ditches but are largely just beyond them i.e. just outside the defences which is an interesting location for the buildings in itself.

Vine Street

The recording and removal of robbers and superficial deposits continues. Some of the robbing is of Roman date suggesting that the buildings had been remodelled during the Roman period. Well-preserved yard surfaces have been revealed and the hypocaust appears to be part of a private bath suite. Finds have included a very fine copper alloy Roman balance. The next stage of assessing the impact of the pile clusters is to follow.



Abbot Penny's wall

The south precinct of Leicester Abbey is bounded on its west and south sides by a brick wall, the construction of which is attributed to John Penny abbot from 1496 to 1507/8. The antiquary John Leyland wrote of his visit in the about 1540 'This Peny made the new bricke work in Leicester Abbay, and much of the bricke waulles'. Abbot Penny's wall, as it is known, is one of only a handful of surviving late medieval brick structures in Leicestershire, along with Kirby Muxloe castle (1480-1484), Bradgate House (c.1490), parts of Ashby de la Zouch castle (c.1470s) and Groby Manor House (?1450-1500). Diaper patterns picked out in over-fired bricks are common in brick buildings of this period, however Abbot Penny's wall is notable for the number and variety of designs built into it. In addition to the 'usual' chequer patterns, chevrons and lozenges there are a range of other motifs, some evidently of a religious nature. As such the wall represents a rare example of surviving pre-Reformation brickwork incorporating religious symbolism. In total there are around 40 separate designs, most on the external face of the west wall overlooking St Margaret's Way.



Above: Surveying the diaper patterns on the wall using a reflectorless total station electronic distance measurer.

Left: General view of the survey work in progress.



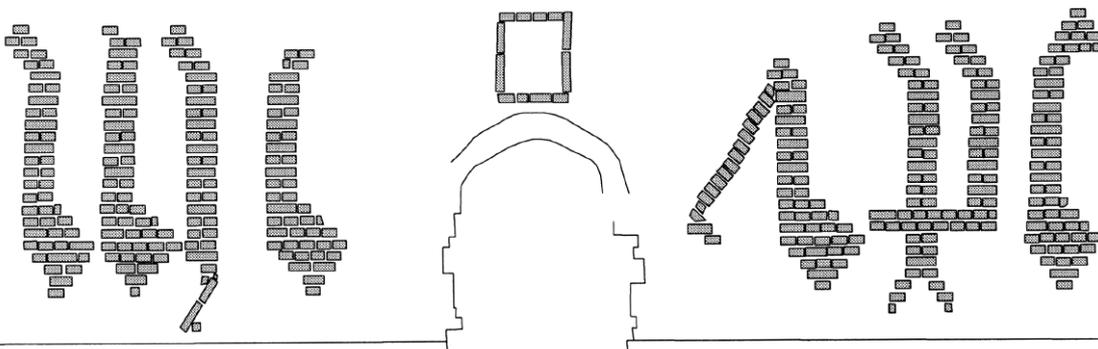
Attempts to interpret the various designs have been hampered by the fact that a full and accurate survey of the wall has never been made. A selection of 25 designs was drawn by Norris B. Robertson in 1913, redrawn by P.M. Watson in 1939; there are, however, some inaccuracies in this drawing and various designs are omitted. With financial support from the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, member Neil Finn is carrying out a detailed survey of all of the designs, which it is hoped will contribute towards a fuller understanding of the significance of the various motifs. Earlier attempts at recording the wall

This work is being supported by a grant from the Society

The meaning of some of the designs is clear, for example the holy trigram *ihc* and *mr*, for Mary, either side of a blocked doorway or recess. This lettering is upside down, however, and we might suppose that the illiterate bricklayers were given the design to copy, but reproduced this the wrong way round. Other motifs include the initials of John Penny, in this case the right way up; a chalice and paten; and perhaps an attempt at an equilateral triangle, representing the Holy Trinity. Further research, it is hoped, will elucidate the meaning of some of the other designs.

The survey will be completed later in the summer, as soon as the weather improves, and the results will be included in the forthcoming Leicester Abbey volume of *Transactions*.

Below: A computer-generated drawing of the abbey wall showing the inverted *mr* and *ihc* either side of a blocked opening, above which is a now illegible stone plaque.



News from the library

Access to the Library at the Guildhall is presently restricted owing to the unfortunate collapse of part of the ceiling in the Jury Room. Fortunately no damage was caused to the Society's furniture or books. The ceiling has been temporarily supported to prevent further collapse and several of the bookcases have been sealed off to keep dust out. Leicester City Council will be carrying out repair work, but no news has yet been received as to when this will take place. Please contact the Honorary Librarian, Aubrey Stevenson, at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (0116 257 1080) for news regarding the reopening of the library. We will also keep you posted on our web pages.

Members and friends of the Society continue to be busy with research and we are grateful to the following authors for the kind donation of their publications:

Seaton, D., *Leicester's Town Hall: a Victorian jewel*. Leicester City Council, £3, 2004 1901156230

[This contains a wonderful photograph, taken by the author, of the Town Hall Square fountain when it froze in 1991.]

Trubshaw, B., *Good gargoyle guide: medieval carvings of Leicestershire and Rutland*. 2nd ed. Heart of Albion Press, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, LE12 6UJ £6.95, 2004 1872883702 [for a review of this book see page 3]

Wykes, D., *Robert Bakewell (1725-95) of Dishley: farmer and livestock improver*. [an off-print of a journal article]

Books

A number of books have also been acquired:

Garner, J.T., *Prince Wigstan's legacy*. 2004

Gelling, M., *Place-names of Shropshire. Pt 4: Shrewsbury town and suburbs*. 2004 [English Place-Name Society vol LXXX]

Kilby, J., *Birstall Village: a brief history of Birstall 1700-1999*. 2004

Noble, J., *Appleby peelings: a history and personal recollections of Appleby Magna*. 2003

Postles, D., *Surnames of Leicestershire and Rutland*. 1998 Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Report 2003

Periodicals

The latest issues of the following titles have been received. None were recorded in our Spring 2004 Newsletter.

Ancient Monuments Society Transactions. 2004 Includes the article 'The Presentation of Guardianship Sites' by Anna Keay which features Kirby Muxloe Castle

Archaeologia Cantiana

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Past and Present. Issues 4 and 5. 2003 This is published by Ashby Museum from where copies can be purchased

Conservation Bulletin. Spring 2004. Includes a supplement 'Planning and development in the historic environment: a charter for English Heritage Advisory Services'

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal

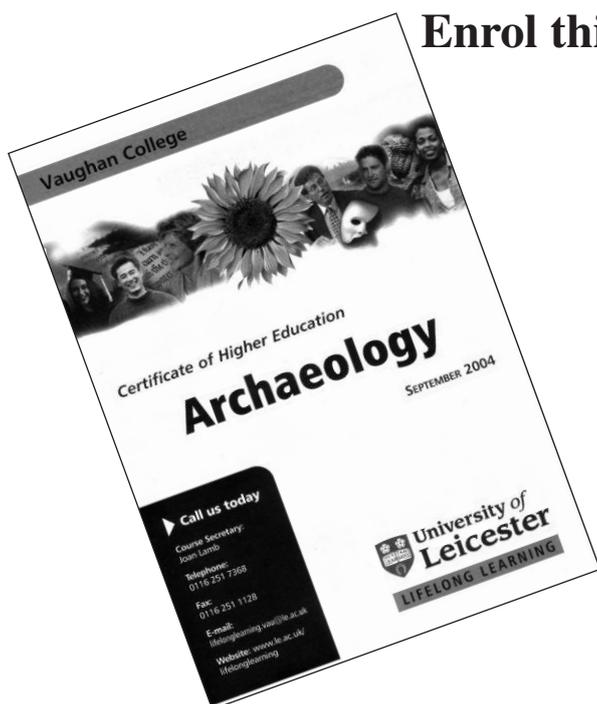
Ecclesiology Today

Leicestershire Historian

SPAB News has changed its title to Cornerstone: magazine of SPAB

University of Durham and University of Newcastle Archaeological Reports

Aubrey Stevenson



Enrol this autumn for a course in Archaeology

What are the aims of the course?

Archaeology is the study of the human past through the analysis of the material remains which people left behind. It is more concerned with the everyday lives of ordinary people than with historical events.

The course therefore aims to provide:

- a systematic introduction to the organization and practice of archaeology in this country, and
- an introduction to how the evidence of material remains are used to reconstruct how people lived in Britain in the past.

For further details contact Vaughan College on 0116 251 7368

The Brixworth lecture

The twenty-second annual Brixworth Lecture this year takes place on Saturday 30th October, at 5pm in the Anglo-Saxon Church at Brixworth. The speaker this year is Dr Mark Blackburn from the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Dr Blackburn is the leading scholar on Anglo-Saxon coins; he is also an excellent speaker to non-specialist audiences, and so this year's illustrated lecture promises to be a particularly interesting event.

Dr Blackburn's Department of Coins and Medals at the Fitzwilliam Museum runs a pioneering project recording single finds of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval coins recovered by metal detectorists across the country. A website with information about all of the finds is hosted by the Fitzwilliam Museum and can be accessed free of charge at:

<http://www-cm.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/coins/emc.html>

You can search for coin-finds by county – there are currently 28 finds reported from Leicestershire, including an arabic Abbasid dirhem found near Wymeswold, or by Kingdom, Ruler, or Mint – the only find of a portrait coin of King Burgred of Mercia (852-74) minted by the moneyer Haehwulf in London was found at Kirby Bellars.



Left: A dirhem found near Wymeswold.



Right: A portrait coin of King Burgred found at Kirby Bellars.

This project to record and map single coin finds is unparalleled in Europe, and it has revolutionised our understanding of the use of money in early medieval England. We used to think that coins were rare and prestigious items, but the quantity being reported to Dr Blackburn and his team suggests that coins were widely used in everyday Anglo-Saxon life. Coin-types that we once thought were unique are now turning up in significant numbers. For example, more than seventy coins from Charlemagne's Carolingian Empire have been reported, when thirty years ago none were known outside the big Viking hoards.

Anglo-Saxon coins are fascinating objects that, in the hands of an expert such as Dr Blackburn, have a rich and important story to tell about the earliest kingdoms of England. This will be a great lecture for anyone interested in the history or archaeology of early England. All members of the Society and friends are most welcome to come to the lecture. A small charge is made, to cover the costs of the (most excellent) tea and cakes served in the Heritage Centre at Brixworth from 4pm, and all proceeds go to the upkeep of the church. Further information about the lecture is available from John Dawkins of "The Friends of All Saints' Brixworth" (tel: 01604 880604 or email brixworth.friends@virgin.net) or Dr Jo Story, School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester (0116 252 2761; email: js73@le.ac.uk).

Kirby Muxloe Castle

The draining of the moat at Kirby Muxloe Castle during the month of June this year has provided a brief chance to view the foundations of the 15th century building below the water line. The original building accounts refer to many cartloads of slate (rough stone) taken from Groby Parks during the construction of the footings for the Castle in the early 1480s, but not a sign could be seen of this material as the waters subsided. The reason being that the brick lining reaches deep into the moat and is near complete and in surprisingly good condition.



Observations from the present team of builders now replacing the damaged bricks and mortar normally hidden below the water line, report that the bricks that they were taking out had obviously been fired to a harder quality than those above the water line. The lime mortar used to fix the moat wall bricks between the gatehouse to the west tower proved to be of such superior quality that the estimated time required to remove the damaged bricks and replace with new had to be substantially revised upwards! Once the west tower was reached the mortar mix proved far easier to deal with and replace. It was as though another team of 15th century builders had worked on this section and to less than exacting standards.



Agenda for Annual General Meeting 25th November 2004

The 149th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 25th November 2004
at 7.30pm in the Guildhall, Leicester

AGENDA

[Please bring this agenda with you to the AGM]

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 148th Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2003
3. Presentation of the 149th Annual Report for 2003-2004 – The Chairman, Dr G. T. Rimmington
4. Adoption of the Annual Report
5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2003-2004 – 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 2004)

Officers of the Society 2003-4

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
Honorary Minuting Secretary	Mr D.H. Smith
Honorary Editors Transactions	
- Archaeology	Mr R. Buckley
- History	Dr J. Story
Honorary Editor Leics Historian	Mrs H. Edwards

Vice-Presidents of the Society 2003-4

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

Members of the Committee 2003-4

Ms J. Bourne	Mr R. Clark
Mr R.F. Hartley	Mr C. Harrison
Professor M. Palmer	Mr D. Ramsey
Dr G.T. Rimmington	Mr R.T. Schadla-Hall
Plus the officers	

Minutes of the 148th Annual General Meeting of the Society held at The Guildhall, Leicester, on 20th November 2003

Sir Timothy Brooks, President, took the chair

Fifty-eight members of the Society were present.

1. **Apologies:**

Mrs H McWhirr, Professor M Palmer, Dr D L Wykes.

2. **Minutes of the 147th Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2002**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the President.

3. **The 148th Annual Report for 2002-3 by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr R H Evans**

This was held on Thursday, 21st November, 2002, at the Guildhall, by courtesy of the Leicester City Council. The chair was taken by our President, Mr. T. G. M. Brooks, LL.D., D.Litt., J.P., who is to be congratulated on his subsequent appointment, announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2003, as Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. The business of the meeting was followed by a presentation on the Special Collections in the University of Leicester Library by Dr. Andrew Lacey.

Committee

Mr. Rupert Evans, who served with distinction for twenty years as the Chairman, decided to relinquish the post, but agreed to continue on the Committee as Vice-Chairman. He was succeeded as Chairman by Dr. Gerald Rimmington, who had been a Committee member for eight years. Mrs Helen Edwards, who successfully turned the Leicestershire Historian into a popular publication alongside the more academic Transactions, has had to resign as Editor. The Secretary has agreed to edit for the time being, but it is hoped that an editorial appointment can be made soon.

During the year we noted with regret the death of a former Treasurer. Stephen Billson served in this capacity for many years, keeping the finances of the Society in perfect order, and was much valued as a committee member. His quiet good humour will be missed, especially when referring to his attempts to resign over a period of fourteen years.

The committee was planning for the 150th anniversary of the Society's foundation in 2005

One significant event during the year was the Open Weekend, held on the 17th and 18th May, when it was estimated that 250 visited the Society's Library in the Leicester Guildhall. Aubrey Stevenson, our Honorary Librarian, arranged a display of books, nineteenth century minute and scrapbooks, and the albums containing Henton's black and white photographic prints. Among those who visited were the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Maggie Bodell Stagg, and the Chairman of the Leicestershire County Council, Anna Pullen, as well as the former leader of the Leicester City Council, Ross Wilmot, and the new leader, Roger Blackmore. Nick Carter, the editor of the Leicester Mercury, also paid a visit. In addition, Mr Stevenson reported, £470.80 was raised from sales of the Society's publications and several new membership subscriptions.

A survey of members was conducted in early 2003, which

brought in 78 responses (about 21% of the membership); the Committee is grateful to those who took the time to complete the questionnaire. It has provided the committee with useful information.

Alongside the survey analysis the Committee also considered a discussion paper on 'The Future' by our Honorary Secretary. An invaluable aid to the making of informed decisions, it covered the areas of membership, publications and the library.

On October 12th, 2002, there was a very successful Day Conference organised by Dr. Joanna Story at Vaughan College on 'Leicester Past and Present: Migration and the Making of the Modern City'. The papers contributed were of a high standard and were much appreciated by the sixty people who attended.

The 148th Annual Report was approved unanimously and adopted.

4. **Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2003**

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 Mrs J North that the existing officers as listed on the agenda paper be re-elected. This was seconded by Mr R Rutland 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 members partook of refreshments.

Lectures 2004-5

**LECTURES TAKE PLACE IN THE COUNCIL
ROOM, NEW WALK MUSEUM
Entrance from Princess Road West**

Thursday 7 October 2004 at 7.30pm

Coal Mining in Leicestershire
Robert F Hartley, B.A., A.M.A.
Community Services,
Leicestershire County Council

Thursday 21 October 2004 at 7.30pm

***A Setting for Good Citizens: the early years and people
of Clarendon Park Congregational Church***
Clyde Binfield, O.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.
Professor Associate, Department of History,
University of Sheffield

Thursday 4 November 2004 at 7.30pm

***A 'lost' Roman villa relocated: excavations at
Wymondham in 2003***
Roger J. A. Wilson, M.A., D. Phil., F.S.A.
Professor of Archaeology,
University of Nottingham

Thursday 25 November 2004 at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting
At the Guildhall, Leicester

Thursday 9 December 2004 at 7.30pm

The Brian Allison Memorial Lecture

The Gothic Revival: a corrective view
James Stevens Curl, Ph.D., A.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.
Emeritus Professor, University of Belfast

Thursday 6 January 2005 at 7.30pm

Community Archaeology in Leicestershire
Peter Liddle, B.A., A.M.A.
Community Services,
Leicestershire County Council

Thursday 20 January 2005 at 7.30pm

Jane Austen and the Picturesque
Irene Collins, M.A., B.Litt., F.R.Hist.S.
Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of History,
University of Liverpool
Honorary Fellow, University College Winchester

Thursday 3 February 2005 at 7.30pm

***Christianity and Kingship: a discussion of some finds
from a 7th century royal burial in Essex***
Dave Lakin, B.A.
Project Manager, Museum of London

Thursday 17 February 2005 at 7.30pm

The Slate Industry in Leicestershire
David Ramsey, B.A.
Local Historian

Thursday 3 March 2005 at 7.30pm

***The Writing is on the Wall:
Housing in Leicester 1860-1914***
Richard Rodger, M.A., Ph.D.
Professor of Urban History and Director of the
Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester

Thursday 17 March 2005 at 7.30pm

The W. Alan North Memorial Lecture

***Egyptian, Greek or Roman: who were the subjects of
mummy portraits from Roman Egypt ?***
Susan Walker, B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.
Keeper of Antiquities,
The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Thursday 7 April 2005 at 7.30pm

***The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society,
1855-2005: a personal view***
Robert A Rutland, M.A., F.M.A.
Former Curator of the
Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester

**Join the celebrations on 10th January 2005 in
the Guildhall to mark the Society's
150th birthday**