What a year it has been! Two significant publications and one more to come, plus a new web site. We asked members to order a copy of the Leicester Abbey book in advance so that we could gauge how many to print. Quite a number of members have not yet collected their copy and as it costs £4.74 to post, we can only post the book if members pay for postage. If any member did not place an order and would now like a copy we do have sufficient in stock to satisfy such requests. Copies can be obtained from the library when open, and at lecture evenings. Alternatively, copies can be collected from the Honorary Secretary’s home, phoning beforehand to ensure that he is in!!

Web site
The web site is one way in which members can keep abreast of news items and other events being organised by the Society. It is planned to run the newly-designed site for at least six months before any major changes are made (if necessary) so that we can all get used to it and find out any limitations. If you have any ideas for improving the web site do contact Alan McWhirr. We are grateful to Richard Buckley who has agreed to manage the web site once it is handed over by the designers.

Subscriptions
We are finding that the running costs of the Society are not being covered by the annual subscription and so your committee has agreed that it is necessary to seek the approval of the AGM to increase it. The last increase took place on 1st May 2000 and with many paying by standing orders we would not want to increase the subscription in the near future and so your committee is recommending an increase to £20. Currently members receive two publications a year and two Newsletters all of which cost around £15 to produce (not including postage) and so there is little left for other expenses out of your current £16 subscription. Over the past year members have also had a free copy of the Leicester Abbey volume and could buy the index at a subsidised price. This has been possible by using some of the accumulated income from the John Willett bequest as part of our commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Society.

Landmark publication launched

Another Sale see page 2

The first lecture is on Thursday 5th October
and the AGM is on 23rd November

Please can we have your email address.
Email it to the Honorary Secretary.
To mark the 150th anniversary of the Society a major academic publication has been produced, the brain-child of Dr Jo Story. It is edited by three committee members, Jo Story, Jill Bourne and Richard Buckley and there are also other contributions by members of the Society. The book appeared in May and on 14th June, to coincide with excavations taking place on Leicester Abbey, it was officially launched. All involved are to be congratulated in producing such a fine volume and for maintaining the standard set by A Hamilton Thompson who produced for the Society in 1949 The Abbey of St Mary of the Meadows, Leicester.

There will be another sale of Society publications including back numbers of Transactions and the Leicestershire Historian. It will be on Sunday 15th October in the Guildhall 2.00-4.00. Some Transactions as little as 50p.
Have we learnt?

The Holiday Inn viewed across the Jewry Wall site. This poorly-designed hotel was constructed in the 1970/1 when the historic core of Leicester was developed and much of its history lost.

Building erected in 2006 blocking off the view of St Mary de Castro, the spire of which can just be seen over the top of the building.

Both buildings seen together from the top of High Street, with the multi-storey car park in the foreground.

(All pictures taken by Alan McWhirr, July 2006)

We are pleased to announce a link with Browsers Bookshop of Allandale Road, Leicester. They will be offering a service to supply books and pamphlets listed in the review section of the Leicestershire Historian. In return for this sponsorship we hope members will explore the delights of this wonderful bookshop tucked away in Stoneygate. If you want to contact Browsers:

Tel: 0116 270 1864 and 0116 212 7790
Fax: 0116 212 7791
Email: browsers.bookshop@virgin.net
News from the library

Thank you to the offices of member Terence Cocks the library has received a number of publications from the estate of the Ven. Harold Lockley, a former member, for which we are most grateful.
Bailey, R. *Early Christian Church in Leicester and its region* 1980
Gundry, D. *Hallowing of the Leicester Bishopric and Cathedral* 1973
Kenyon, K. *Excavations at the Jewry Wall* [1937]
Tyldesley, D. *History of the parish church of All Saints, Sapcote* 1981
Wilshere, J. *Religious gilds of mediaeval Leicesterc* 1979

Other books acquired recently
Armson, J. *St Mary de Castro, Leicester: a brief record* 3rd ed 1968
Cooper, N. *ed. Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda* 2006
Cox, B. *Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland place-names* 2005
*Durham hearth tax Lady Day 1666* 2006 (British Record Society Index Library 119)
Harvey, P. *Editing historical records* 2001 Published by the British Library – it is hoped that this book will be useful to those members thinking of producing work for the Society’s proposed Record Series
Jenkins, J. *Leicester’s unemployed march to London 1905* [2006] Donated by the publisher, the Friends of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
Story, J. *et al, eds. Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies* 2006
Williams, J. *I was a Ruddite: life at Stoneygate Preparatory School, London Road, Leicester, in the 1930s* 2006 Typescript donated by the author

Periodicals
The following titles have been received to add to the permanent files in the library. Individual issues are available for loan.
*Ancient Monuments Society Transactions* Vol. 50 2006 – includes an extensive illustrated article on Dovecotes of Rutland
*Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. 126 2006. An interesting miscellany relating to Kent

Library Opening: A reminder that the Guildhall is now closed to the public during December and January, so the library must also be closed for those two months.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Past and Present 8 (2006) Copies of this interesting local journal can be purchased from Ashby Museum
*Cornerstone (SPAB)* 27.2 (2006)
*Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* Vol. 126 2006 Includes articles on Melbourne and Shardlow, just over the county boundary
*Hinckley Historian* 57 Includes articles on Barwell and Burbage
*Historical Research* Vol. 79 May 2006; August 2006
*Journal of the English Place-Name Society* Vol. 37 2005
*Thoroton Society Transactions* Vol. 109 2005. Includes Plough Bullocks and other Plough Monday customs in the Nottingham area 1800-1920. There are a number of Leicestershire references
*Village Voice* [Leicestershire] Spring 2006; Summer 2006

Current issues of the following newsletters are available on the library table. We do not keep files of these titles:
Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter
Branchline [Leicestershire]
Dustsheet [Leicestershire]
Leicestershire Matters
National Ice Age Network Newsletter
Network News [Leicestershire]
Society for Medieval Archaeology Newsletter
Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. Newsletter and Annual Report
South Derbyshire Heritage News
Worcestershire Recorder

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

Sale on Sunday 15th October in the Guildhall
2.00-4.00. Some Transactions as little as 50p. FANTASTIC BARGAINS!!
Your committee has been reviewing its finances over the past few months and has reluctantly come to the conclusion that it is necessary to raise the level of subscription.

It was in 2000 that the Society’s subscription was last increased and, if the AGM agrees an increase in May 2007, seven years will have elapsed since that increase. I am sure members will appreciate that the expenses of the Society have increased and, with the recent changes to postal rates, whereby size as well as weight are taken into account, we are going to be faced with a significant increase in the cost of postage over the year with two Newsletters, the Leicestershire Historian and Transactions, being mailed each year to members. We will be exploring ways of members distributing these publications by hand where possible in order to reduce expenditure. Alternatively, perhaps some could be collected from a central point in Leicester.

We would hope not to increase the rate for at least another 5-6 years because of the huge administrative burden it places on our officers, particularly the membership secretary. This means that it makes sense to raise the rate sufficiently to cover a 5-6 year period and so the committee is recommending an increase to £20 for ordinary members, £25 for family membership and the student rate remaining at £5. The institutional rate will also be increased to £30.

We were very fortunate to receive a substantial bequest some years ago and income from this legacy has been used to help produce the Index of Transactions and the volume on Leicester Abbey. The legacy also makes contributions to the publication of the annual volume of Transactions. It would not be good financial management to dip continually into this fund for the annual running costs of the Society and so the committee feels it is absolutely necessary to ask the membership to agree to an increase in the subscription rate at the AGM in November.

Alan Mc Whirr
The major extension to the Shires, now to be known as the Highcross Quarter, in Leicester, has meant a particularly busy time for archaeologists in the University of Leicester Archaeology Services (ULAS). Planning conditions require that archaeological deposits which are to be destroyed or damaged by this massive redevelopment, have to be examined before rebuilding can commence. At times ULAS has been employing over 80 people on sites in the city centre working under difficult conditions especially the heat of the past summer. The work in Leicester has been coordinated by ULAS Director, Richard Buckley. The results have been some of the best ever recorded in the urban archaeology of Leicester. It will take a great deal of time to process the results of these extensive excavations, but it is clear that the discoveries are already causing a rewrite of the early history of Leicester.

In our Spring Newsletter (No 73) we reproduced a plan of the Roman building being unearthed alongside the former Vine Street. Even then it was a large building and now even more has been revealed producing what Professor Martin Millett of the University of Cambridge has described ‘as the largest Roman building excavated in the last 20 years’.

**Leicester Vine Street (Shires) Supervised by ULAS staff Tim Higgins, Martin Shore, Steve Jones and Dan Stone**

Work is continuing on a large Roman building which was reported in our last Newsletter. An apsidal room has been found on the north side of the building and it has hypocausts on either side and shows similarities in form and the type of wall plaster to the Norfolk Street Roman villa to the west of the town. Traces of timber and early masonry phases are starting to be revealed beneath the courtyard. A coin hoard of c. 500 4th century coins mainly of the house of Constantine has been located in the next room to that where a lead ingot was excavated. It was deposited in AD 337-341. The coins show very little wear and appear to have been in a box. Another lead seal with the stamp of leg(io) II or III has also been found. However the most exciting discovery has been a lead curse with writing on it. This has been shown to Roger Tomlin at Oxford University who sent the following:

‘The handwriting is very good – fluent and practised. The Latin interestingly reflects the spoken Latin, with ‘lenition’ i.e. omission of intervocalic G – and ‘hypercorrection’ i.e. AE for E. ‘Someone has stolen Servandus’ SAVM, as he calls it, i.e. his ‘sagum’ (cloak), and there is a list of 18 suspects!’

**Latest News:** Another curse has been found and is currently being studied by Roger Tomlin at Oxford.

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**Top:** General view of the Vine Street excavations, July 2006.

**Middle:** A hypocaust discovered in the Vine Street dig.

**Bottom:** Part of a coin hoard found in the Roman building at Vine Street. (Pictures Alan McWhirr)
Leicester, Freeschool Lane (Norman Underwood site), Shires West. Supervised by ULAS staff Jon Coward, Lou Huscroft and Gavin Speed

A most exciting discovery has been on the frontage to Highcross Street where a huge raft of Roman masonry was revealed and has since been shown to be a collapsed wall of a Roman building which stood alongside the main north-south street of Roman Leicester, what John Wacher way back in 1958 described as a *macellum* or market hall. As excavation proceeded courses of tile, many reused *tegulae* or roofing tiles, could be seen, and into this raft of collapsed walling a Saxon sunken floor building was discovered. When a wall of a building collapses it often preserves architectural features of the superstructure, features which are rarely encountered when excavating Roman buildings in England. In this fallen wall there is the hint of a relieving arch constructed in tile. Few sites have produced evidence of collapsed Roman walls. The only other urban example so far noted comes from the excavations of our Honorary Secretary at Cirencester where in the 1970s a collapsed wall with timber uprights was excavated. Two villa sites have also produced evidence of collapsed walls, Redlands in Northamptonshire and Meonstoke in Hampshire, the latter contained a window which was lifted and is now on display in the British Museum.

**DETAILS OF THESE TWO MAJOR EXCAVATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SOCIETY ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2007**

**Top left:** General view of the collapsed Roman wall showing regular course of tile and stone.  
**Middle left:** The void of the sunken Saxon building cutting through the collapsed wall, middle right.  
**Bottom left:** Possible relieving arch built in tile showing at the bottom of the picture with the sunken Saxon building left of middle.  
**Below:** General view of site with various special guests being shown around. (Pictures Alan McWhirr)
Members contribute to new book

The Story of the Dispensary and Hospital in Loughborough, 1819-2003 has been published by the Loughborough Archaeological and Historical Society on behalf of the Charnwood and North West Primary Care Trust. This book runs to 248 pages and costs £9.70 from local Loughborough book shops such as Ottakers and Book World.

Three of the authors are members of our Society, Mr John Brownlow, Mrs Teresa Keil and Dr Ian Keil and they are joined by three colleagues Mrs Janet Slatter, Mr George Lowe and Mr Don Wix to produce a well-illustrated account of the services provided by the dispensary and hospital to the town and surrounding area between 1819 and 2003. Using newspapers and many local reminiscences, as well as surviving archive material, the authors have produced a valuable contribution to the local history of the region. Many photographs, some in colour, illustrate the book.

This book shows how attitudes towards the poor and sick in the early days were very different from treatment received by all patients by the start of the twenty-first century. One outstanding achievement was the continuous voluntary funding of the dispensary and hospital.

What the lecturers have in store for us

Thursday 5th October 2006 at 7.30pm

Ancient Rivers, Archaeology and Aggregates: the National Ice Age Network in the East Midlands

The purpose of the National Ice Age Network is to raise awareness and improve our understanding of England’s Ice Age heritage. Our work focuses on the many types of Ice Age evidence to be found in England’s aggregate quarries. During the Ice Age (or ‘Pleistocene’) in Britain there have been numerous changes in climate and environments and these shifts provide the backdrop for the migration and survival of our ancestors. This talk will show how the East Midlands region has been subject to several glaciations and changing courses of river systems that provided important migration routes for early humans.

Mark Stephens

Thursday 19th October 2006 at 7.30pm

Excavations on the site of the Medieval church of St Peter, Leicester

The recent excavations on the site of the former St Margaret’s Baths revealed much of the previously ‘lost’ church and cemetery of St Peter’s. Although the analysis of the site has scarcely started, something of the evolution of the church and cemetery is already becoming clear, as is the variety of burial practices. This will be an opportunity to look at some of the more interesting finds and findings from the site.

Tony Gnanaratnam

Thursday 2nd November 2006 at 7.30pm

John Throsby: a man of natural genius

An account of the life and career of John Throsby (1740-1803), antiquary and artist. Although Nichols, in his obituary for Throsby, chose to emphasise his numerous family and last days ‘shaded with penury and disappointment’, this is hardly a fair reflection of Throsby’s remarkable achievements. Through local records and Throsby’s own publications, it is possible to gain a far more complete view of this humble Leicester man who trained first as a woolcomber but was to earn his renown as a local historian, artist and early archaeologist.

Jess Jenkins

Thursday 23rd November 2006 at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

Following the AGM Professor Rosemary Cramp will give a brief outline of The Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture (CASSS). This is a project to identify, record and publish in a consistent format the earliest English sculpture dating from the 7th to the 11th centuries. Much of this material was unpublished before the work began, but it is of crucial importance as pointing to the earliest settlements and artistic achievements of the Anglo-Saxon/Pre-Norman English. It ranges from our earliest Christian field monuments (free-standing carved crosses), and innovative decorative elements and furnishings of churches, to humble grave-markers. The volume on Huntingdonshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland will be compiled by Professor Cramp and Dr Jo Story.

Thursday 7th December 2006 at 7.30pm

Members’ Evening

Presentations will include:
Mark Carne on St John’s Aldeby (Enderby)
Jeff Knight on Leicestershire’s three famous mathematicians of the late seventeenth century
Bob Trubshaw Medieval gargoyles and other carvings
What the lecturers have in store for us

Thursday 11th January 2007 at 7.30pm
Saints in the Landscape: the religious dedications of Leicestershire
Concerned that the study of dedications and their application to local and regional history has long been dogged by misuse and misapprehension, Dr Jones set out to study them on a new, systematic basis, helped by electronic means of mapping and interrogation. This has evolved into TASC, the project for a Transnational Database and Atlas of Saints’ Cults. In Saints in the Landscape: Heaven and Earth in Season and Locality, to be published next year by Tempus, Dr Jones asserts that patron saints were chosen to meet communal needs. He hopes to show how dedications can throw light on a county’s history.
Dr Graham Jones

Thursday 25th January 2007 at 7.30pm
Leicester’s Town Hall: a Victorian Jewel
One of the fundamental problems which the Leicester Corporation had to address during the massive expansion of the town and its population in the nineteenth century, was the pressing need to build a new Town Hall in order to administer effectively a wide range of services to cope with the growing and changing needs of the Borough. What eventually emerged was a much-loved civic building which, together with its tranquil square and fountain, proudly demonstrated the civic pride of Victorian Leicester. The lecture will trace the developments leading up to the building of the Town Hall, facets of its construction and the history of this unique edifice through to the present time.
Derek Seaton

Thursday 8th February 2007 at 7.30pm
Curses, Coins and Collapsed walls: excavations in advance of the New Shires Development
Elsewhere in this Newsletter a brief outline of recent excavations in Leicester in advance of the New Shires Development is described (pages 6-7). In this lecture the details of the structures discovered will be discussed along with illustrations of some remarkable finds uncovered during the course of these excavations.
Jon Coward and Tim Higgins

Thursday 22nd February 2007 at 7.30pm
Putting Traprain Law in its context: excavations and fieldwork in East Lothian 2000-4
Traprain Law is perhaps best known for the fabulous late Roman silver hoard found there in 1919, but has a much longer history, beginning in the Neolithic. The striking volcanic hill was first fortified in the Bronze Age, whilst in the Roman period, it was probably the capital of the Votadini. Although many cropmark enclosures are recorded in the surrounding area, remarkably little archaeological work had been undertaken away from the hill itself, until 2000, when a major fieldwork project was begun to shed light on the surrounding settlements. A programme of geophysical survey of 30 sites was followed by excavations on six of them. The lecture will present the results of the investigations, which uncovered evidence of settlement spanning the period from the late Neolithic to the post-Roman Iron Age.
Glyn Coppack

Thursday 15th March 2007 at 7.30pm
The return of Romulus: Archaeology and the origins of Rome
Is Romulus myth or history? The answer ought to be obvious. Even Plutarch, not exactly the most critical of historians, thought Romulus was a subject for poets and mythologists, beyond the range of reliable knowledge. If we want to know the ‘real’ origins of Rome, of course we must turn to archaeology. Since 1985, the area immediately north of the Palatine, between the arch of Titus and the temple of Vesta, has been systematically excavated by Andrea Carandini, professor of archaeology at the University of Rome (La Sapienza) and arguably the most distinguished Roman archaeologist of our time. Not surprisingly, it is at the earliest levels that Carandini’s results have been most exciting. Now at last we are getting hard evidence for the origins of Rome. And yet Andrea Carandini believes that Romulus is a historical character. He has found the wall that Remus jumped over before he was killed. What’s going on?
Peter Wiseman

Thursday 29th March 2007 at 7.30pm
Sileby and Scandal: the travails of a Leicestershire village in the early 17th century
In the late 1630s the Leicestershire village of Sileby was rocked by a bitter feud that broke out between two of its leading families and their allies. Scandalous allegations, initially raised by a disgruntled former maidservant, triggered litigation that eventually generated witness statements by over sixty of the villagers. The depositions covered every aspect of village life, throwing unusually vivid light on the inhabitants, from labourer to gentleman, and on the character and social dynamics of a small community on the eve of the civil war.
Bernard Capp

Thursday 12th April 2007 at 7.30pm
Monasteries in the East Midlands: recent research and where it is taking us
Glyn Coppack has spent most of the last thirty years working on the archaeology of monasteries, with major research projects at Fountains Abbey and Mount Grace Priory in Yorkshire and Thornholme Priory and Sempingham Priory in Lincolnshire, work which has actually changed the way monastic sites are studied. Looking at the monastic settlement of the East Midlands he will talk not about what we know about monasteries, but what we actually need to know if we are to understand properly their development, life, and economy, using largely unpublished recent work to demonstrate his thesis.
Glyn Coppack

Note the details of the members’ evening opposite which are not listed on your programme card
Agenda for Annual General Meeting
23rd November 2006

The 151st Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 23rd November 2006 at 7.30pm in the Guildhall, Leicester

AGENDA
[Please bring this agenda with you to the AGM]

Welcome to our President Professor Rosemary Cramp

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the 150th Annual General Meeting held on 24th November 2005

3. Presentation of the 151st Annual Report for 2005-2006 – The Chairman, Dr G. T. Rimmington

4. Adoption of the Annual Report

5. Presentation of the Accounts for the year 2005-2006 – Honorary Treasurer Mr M. Johnson

6. Adoption of the Accounts

7. Appointment of Auditors

8. Election of President

9. Election of Vice-Presidents – The committee wishes to propose the name of Robert A Rutland as an additional Vice-President.

10. Election of Officers

11. Election of Committee – Two new committee members were appointed during the year: Mrs C Wessell and Dr G Jones

12. Honorary Secretary

13. Subscription – The committee recommends an increase to £20 for individuals and £25 for families

14. Any other business (to be communicated to the Honorary Secretary by 1st November 2006).

Following the formal part of the AGM Professor Rosemary Cramp will speak about her research project (see page 8 for more details).

Officers of the Society 2005-6

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr M. Johnson</td>
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<td>Honorary Secretary</td>
<td>Dr A.D. McWhirr</td>
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<td>Honorary Librarian</td>
<td>Mr A.W. Stevenson</td>
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<td>Honorary Membership Sec</td>
<td>Mr G. Clark-Monks</td>
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<td>Honorary Newsletter Sec</td>
<td>Mrs K.E. Gowland</td>
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<td>Honorary Buildings Panel Sec</td>
<td>Mr D.H. Smith</td>
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<td>Honorary Lecture Sec</td>
<td>Mrs S. Rutland</td>
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<td>Honorary Minuting Secretary</td>
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<td>Honorary Editors Transactions</td>
<td>Ms J Bourne</td>
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<td>Honorary Editor Leics Historian</td>
<td>Dr J. Story</td>
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Vice-Presidents of the Society 2005-6

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>The High Sheriff of Leicestershire</td>
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<td>The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council</td>
<td>Mr R. Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lord Mayor of Leicester</td>
<td>Dr R. F. Hartley</td>
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<td>Professor P.J. Boylan</td>
<td>Dr L. Fox</td>
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<td>Mr R.J.B. Keene</td>
<td>Squire G. de Lisle</td>
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<td>Mr O.D. Lucas</td>
<td>Miss J.E. Mellor</td>
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<td>Mrs W.A. North</td>
<td>Dr K.M. Thompson</td>
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<td>Dr D.L. Wykes</td>
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Members of the Committee 2005-6

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<tr>
<td>Mr R.J. Buckley</td>
<td>Dr R. Clark</td>
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<td>Professor C.C. Dyer</td>
<td>Mr R. F. Hartley</td>
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<td>Mr R. Jenkins</td>
<td>Professor M. Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr D. Ramsey</td>
<td>Dr G.T. Rimmington</td>
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Plus the officers
Minutes of the 150th Annual General Meeting of the Society
held at The Guildhall, Leicester, on 24th November 2005

Sir Timothy Brooks, President, took the chair.

Forty members of the Society were present.

1. Apologies:
   K Gowland, C Harrison, H McWhirr, K Oldfield, M Palmer,
   D Smith, J Story.

2. Minutes of the 149th Annual General Meeting held on
   25th November 2004
   The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record
   of that meeting and signed by the President.

   The Chairman of the Committee, Dr G Rimmington, gave a
detailed report of the many activities which had taken place
over the past year including the visit by HRH the Duke of
Gloucester on 13th October 2004 and the anniversary party
held in the Guildhall on 10th January 2005. He referred to the
regular publications of the society and the lecture programme.
Dr Rimmington mentioned the deaths of Babette and Rupert
Evans, both of whom had been committee members at the
time of their death. At the conclusion Dr Rimmington made a
plea for younger members to become more actively involved
and take on positions as a number of officers were
considering retirement. A fuller version of this report will
appear in volume 80 of Transactions.
   On the proposal of the Honorable Lady Ann Brooks which
was seconded by M Carne, the 150th Annual Report was
approved unanimously and adopted.

4. Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2005
   Copies of the audited accounts were circulated at the meeting
for members. The Honorary Treasurer took members through
each page of the accounts before taking questions. He
explained that a sum had been transferred from the J Willett
bequest to subvent the cost of printing Transactions. With this
transfer, the accounts showed a small surplus of £141 for the
year. Mr Johnson felt that the time had come for members to
consider an increase in subscriptions and that over the next
twelve months the committee would review the situation and
come to the 2006 AGM with a recommendation.
   The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr D Seaton
and seconded by Mr T Y Cocks and unanimously approved.

5. Honorary Scrutineer
   The Honorary Treasurer explained that the society did not
need to have accounts formally audited but to be scrutinised
by a qualified person. Last year, and on this occasion, this task
had been undertaken by Mr R Scuplak. The Honorary
Treasurer proposed and Mr D Lucas seconded, that Mr R
Scuplak be invited to continue to serve as the Society’s
scrutineer. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

6. Retirement of Sir Timothy Brooks, President of the
   Society
   The Chairman paid tribute to the work of Sir Timothy as our
President, a post which he had held for the past 12 years. A
copy of the recently published index was presented to Sir
Timothy and a copy of the volume on Leicester Abbey
would also be presented when published.

Sir Timothy responded by thanking members and encouraged
them to recruit more members. He also commented on the
value members get for their subscription.

7. Election of President
   The Honorary Secretary reported on the deliberations of the
committee and said that they had recommended a new system
for the election of the President following the lead given by a
number of similar societies around the country. It was
proposed that the post be limited to three years so as to
courage suitable people to accept the post and that they
should be asked, either to give a lecture during their spell in
office, or write a paper for Transactions. Using these
guidelines the committee proposed the name of Professor
Rosemary Cramp as President of the Society for the period
2005-2008. Professor Cramp was born and educated in
Leicestershire and experienced her first archaeological
experience on her father’s land in Glooston. Currently
Professor Cramp, along with Dr Jo Story, is researching for a
volume on Saxon sculpture in the counties of Leicestershire
and Northamptonshire. The committee’s proposal was made
by Dr A McWhirr and seconded by Mr M Johnson. It was
approved unanimously by the meeting.

8. Election of Vice-Presidents
   It was proposed by the Honorary Secretary that the existing
Vice-Presidents as listed on the agenda paper be elected en
bloc. The proposal was seconded by Mr A Squires and
unanimously approved.

9. Election of Officers
   It was proposed by Mr M Carne that the existing officers as
listed on the agenda paper be elected en bloc. This was
seconded by Mr J Zientek and approved by the meeting.

10. Election of Committee
    Mr C Harrison had intimated that he did not wish to seek re-
election to the committee, but that Mr Robin Jenkins would
be willing to stand. The President proposed the election of
committee members as listed on the agenda paper with Mr
Harrison’s name being substituted by Mr R Jenkins. This was
seconded by Mr D Lyne.

11. Honorary Secretary
    Dr McWhirr outlined some of the issues the committee were
currently considering. These included establishing a records
section of the society, improving administration by employing
a part-time administrator, making the library more accessible,
finding storage for publications and ways of improving
communication with members. He asked members, by a show
of hands, to indicate how many present could be contacted by
email. Around 40-60% appear to be on line.

12. Other Business
    None

Following the formal part of the Annual Meeting members
partook of refreshments and collected their copy of
Transactions and the Index to Transactions.
Lecture Programme 2006-7

LECTURES TAKE PLACE IN
NEW WALK MUSEUM
Entrance from the rear or side

Thursday 5th October 2006 at 7.30pm
Ancient Rivers, Archaeology and Aggregates: the
National Ice Age Network in the East Midlands
Mark Stephens

Thursday 19th October 2006 at 7.30pm
Excavations on the site of the Medieval church
of St Peter, Leicester
Tony Gnanaratnam

Thursday 2nd November 2006 at 7.30pm
John Throsby: a man of natural genius
Jess Jenkins

Thursday 23rd November 2006 at 7.30pm
Annual General Meeting
At the Guildhall, Leicester
Followed by a presentation of the President’s research project on
Saxon Sculpture in the Midlands

Thursday 7th December 2006 at 7.30pm
Members’ Evening
One or two members will make contributions

Thursday 11th January 2007 at 7.30pm
Saints in the Landscape:
the religious dedications of Leicestershire
Graham Jones

Thursday 25th January 2007 at 7.30pm
Leicester’s Town Hall:
a Victorian Jewel
Derek Seaton

Thursday 8th February 2007 at 7.30pm
Coins, curses and collapsed walls: excavations in advance
of the new Shires development, Leicester
Jon Coward and Tim Higgins

Thursday 22nd February 2007 at 7.30pm
Putting Traprain Law in its context: excavations and
fieldwork in East Lothian 2000-4
Colin Haselgrove

Thursday 15th March 2007 at 7.30pm
W Alan North Memorial Lecture
The return of Romulus:
Archaeology and the origins of Rome
Peter Wiseman

Thursday 29th March 2007 at 7.30pm
Sileby and Scandal:
the travails of a Leicestershire village
in the early 17th century
Bernard Capp

Thursday 12th April 2007 at 7.30pm
Monasteries in the East Midlands:
recent research and where it is taking us
Glyn Coppack

The dates mentioned below are provisional and
anybody wishing to use the record office
should check the current situation
nearer the time

The record office was opened in 1993. While the public
areas of the building generally work well it is now
necessary to upgrade the entire entrance and reception area,
and the public enquiry counter in the searchroom. A major
refurbishment of these areas is planned.

In reception the work will include new carpeting
throughout, redecoration, and new furniture and fittings.
The reception counter and receptionist’s work area will be
rebuilt, to accommodate modern ICT requirements and
current expectations of visitors with disabilities.

The searchroom enquiry counter will also be rebuilt, to
the same ICT and disabilities access standards as the
reception counter.

A further improvement is planned to the record office’s
telephone system. The present stand-alone system has
reached full capacity, is inflexible in use, and its age means
is not possible to secure a maintenance contract. It is
planned to replace it entirely and link the record office to
the new county hall telephone system. This will offer many
flexible features not presently available, including direct
dialing and voicemail.

A programme has been prepared, phasing the various
works over a period of three weeks. It is proposed to begin
during the record office’s annual stocktaking week
commencing on 2 October, and to extend this year’s closure
for a further two weeks. Because the main work is
concentrated in and around the entrance and reception
areas, it is not possible to create alternative access routes
without compromising security.

The extended closure will allow stocktaking week
activities to be augmented with further targeted work on
collections, searchroom improvements, and staff training.

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