

**LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Guildhall, Leicester LE1 5FQ

President T. G. M. Brooks, LL.D., D.Litt., J.P.

NEWSLETTER



Number 67

Spring 2003

Editor Kay Gowland

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Index of Transactions

Please help us test the index of
Transactions vols 21-present.
See page 9 for more details.

Excursion to the British Museum

We are joining up with the
Leicester Ancient Egyptian
Society for a trip to the British
Museum on 21st June. See
page 12 for further information.

Visit to the University of
Leicester Library to see their
Special Collections – see page
4 for details. Book early to
avoid disappointment.

Open Weekend

Come and visit the Society's Library and
in addition see what publications are for
sale to members at greatly reduced
prices, including runs of *Transactions*.

*Saturday 17th May 10.00-5.00pm
and Sunday 18th May 1.00-5.00pm*

A number of distinguished guests will
also be visiting the Library over the
weekend. Further details page 12.

Questionnaire/Members' Survey

As the Society approaches its 150th birthday the committee
wishes to review the activities of the Society in order to plan
for the future. The committee would like to hear the views
of members and hopes that as many as possible will
complete the questionnaire enclosed with this *Newsletter*
and return it to the Honorary Secretary.

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Chairman calls it a day

Mr Rupert Evans, who has been chairman of the Society's committee since December 1983, has decided to stand down. Mr Evans joined the Society in 1957 as an associate member, as his wife, Dr A. K. B. Evans, had been a member since December 1946. Mr Evans has been an invaluable member of the committee for a number of years and in recent times as well as being chairman he has also been the coordinator of the Historic Buildings Panel. This has involved preparing paperwork for its meetings, which are held fortnightly, as well as writing many letters on behalf of the Panel. Mr Evans has also decided to give up this post as well.

Mr Evans is well known to members as a regular attendee at lectures and for several papers in *Transactions* as well as articles in the *Newsletter*. Over the years Rupert has lectured to the Society on a number of occasions. The committee is grateful to Mr Evans for agreeing to continue to serve on the committee and to take on the role of vice-chairman.

Succeeding Rupert Evans is Dr Gerald Rimmington who since his retirement seems to have found a new lease of life and written several articles for *Transactions* and the *Leicestershire Historian*.

Arrangements are being made to cover Rupert's work for the Historic Buildings Panel and in the meantime, David Smith will act as coordinator.

We are all indebted to Rupert for his hard work on behalf of the Society and for his friendship, good humour and extensive knowledge of the Biggs family – not to mention the Pagets and several others!

Honorary Secretary



Members of the committee of the Society at its November meeting in the Jury Room at the Guildhall. Rupert Evans in the chair (middle left) and David Ramsey taking the photograph!

J. Johnson

JOHNN JOHNSON (1732-1814), best known locally as the architect of the City Rooms, has a claim to be counted amongst Leicester's most notable sons. He was born in Southgate Street, son of a carpenter, and was baptised in St. Martin's Church (now the Cathedral); in later years he erected a monument, the work of John Bacon, R.A., to his parents in St. Martin's, and after he had returned to Leicester to die his name was added to it.

His early years are obscure, but by 1760 he was established as an architect in London, and from 1782 to 1812 was County Surveyor for Essex. Many of his buildings – public buildings, private houses and country mansions, bridges – remain in that county, London and the south of England; he designed several buildings for Leicester but only the City Rooms survives today, though it is thought that the front of Knighton Hall is also his work.

Johnson was a man of strong family feeling and founded a charity for his poor relations, the Consanguinitarium in Southgate Street. This was an almshouse for six persons; Johnson designed the building and drafted rather precise rules for its occupants. In 1878 a new Consanguinitarium, designed by his great-great-nephew Robert Johnson Goodacre (1826-1904) was built in Earl Howe Street; this building was sold some years ago, but the charity is still extant.

Not all Johnson's relatives were poor. He had three sons, an architect, a clergyman and a physician. In 1868 John Johnson's great-grandson Charles succeeded his maternal uncle James Brooke as Rajah of Sarawak and took the surname of Brooke – thus in five generations the descendant of a Leicester carpenter became sovereign ruler of a Far Eastern state! One of Johnson's brothers, William, a nurseryman, was also buried in St. Martin's; one of William's sons was a jeweller with a shop in the Market Place. A great-niece, Frances Flora Palmer (nee Bond) (1812-1876) was a noted lithographer: some of her local views are in the Leicester Museum collection. She emigrated to America in 1845 and gained a considerable reputation – it is said that in the 19th century more pictures by "Fanny Palmer" were to be found in American households than those of any other artist. Some descendants of the architect's family still live locally and others have visited Leicester from the U.S.A. to see the City Rooms and the monument in the Cathedral.

It would be most appropriate if a portrait of John Johnson were to be found a place in the New Walk Museum. The painting was sold at Sotheby's earlier this year, and bought by a Leicester resident, is by John Russell, R.A., and a copy is in the Museum at Chelmsford, where he was employed as County Surveyor.

Terry Cocks

Websites

Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History

The Royal Historical Society is pleased to announce that its bibliography is now accessible free of charge over the internet at:

<http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibwel.html>

Coverage:

- a database of 300,000 records, by far the most complete on-line bibliographical resource on British and Irish history, including relations with the empire and Commonwealth;
- covers British and Irish history from the earliest periods for which written evidence survives to the present;
- includes books, articles in journals, articles in collective volumes, and review articles;
- near-comprehensive coverage of works published since 1900, and select earlier works;
- regularly up-dated with information on new publications.

Searching:

- searching by **AUTHOR, TITLE, JOURNAL, SERIES and DATE OF PUBLICATION** for all records;
- post-1945 publications have been given keywords providing additional **SUBJECT** information; subject terms have been grouped into a browsable classification scheme built around major historical themes, with a separate browsable list of geographical terms;
- for post- 1945 publications, it is also possible to search by **PERIOD COVERED**;
- different types of search can be freely combined to create lists of works on any subject, e.g. Roy Porter's works on medicine, or works on 'Economic activity and organization in Essex, 1000-1500', or works on 'Monuments, memorials and commemorations, 1918-1939';
- sort results by date of publication or by author;
- output complete records, bibliographical data only, or in XML;
- links via Open URL to the British Library Articles Direct service enable easy ordering of recent articles from periodicals included in the British Library's *inside web* service.

The on-line bibliography is an essential resource for the study of British and Irish history at any level from the preparation of school projects and undergraduate essays through to advanced research.

Institute of Historical Research

The Institute of Historical Research website provides information about the Institute of Historical Research and all its research and administrative functions, as well as offering access to a wide range of electronic resources, from electronic journals to directories of historical research in UK universities, from catalogues of web sites for history to high quality learning and teaching materials. It also acts as a bulletin board for the history profession in the UK, with information about conferences and events held throughout the country.

<http://www.history.ac.uk>

History On-Line is a unique collection of high quality information resources for the teaching and learning of history. The on-line database holds more than 50,000 records providing details of books and articles, UK university lecturers, UK current and past research, and evaluated links to websites and on-line resources. The information is freely available and can be searched or browsed.

Reviews in History provides in-depth reviews of significant historical works, with a right of reply offered to every author.

History in Focus guides teachers through significant historical themes, presenting a collection of resources for the study of topics ranging from the nature of history to the Victorian era.

Knitting Together

The Knitting Together website, to be launched in 2003, will combine a history of the knitting industry in the East Midlands since the 1500s together with a virtual museum of knitting. The site will present the story of the development of the industry, from the invention of the knitting frame by William Lee in 1589, through to the present day as the sector enters the digital age. The site will also allow users to browse catalogues of knitting-related objects from the collections of museums in the Knitting Together partnership, including many that are not normally open on public view. Further details about the project, its partners and the programme of Knitting Together events are available from the interim website at:

<http://www.knittingtogether.org.uk>

Former treasurer dies

Our former Honorary Treasurer from 1980/1 to 1999, Mr Steve Billson, died on New Year's eve. His funeral service took place on Friday 10th January 2003 at St Luke's Church Thurnby and his body was interred in the churchyard. Several members of the committee attended along with a number of members of the Society.

Steve was a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and spent most of his working life as Company Secretary of Goodwin Barsby Ltd before joining Midland Dynamo as their Management Accountant. He was an active Old Newtonian having won a scholarship to Alderman Newton's School in the 1920s.

He had a life-long interest in education, music and history and completed a University of Leicester Certificate in Archaeology in 1968. He and his wife Nora regularly participated in the Society's summer tours and attended the Society's lectures.

An obituary will appear in the next volume of *Transactions*.

University of Leicester Library Special Collections

Following the AGM last November we had a most interesting presentation by Dr Andrew Lacey on the Special Collections held in the University of Leicester Library. A visit to view the Special Collections has been arranged for Monday 28th April 2003 at 7.00pm

Numbers are restricted to 30 and places will be allocated on a 'first come' basis. If you would like to reserve a place please write or phone Sybil Rutland, 25 Westminster Road, Leicester, LE2. Tel: 0116 2700103.



University of
Leicester

Behind the scenes at Snibston

An event which will be of interest to members is the "Snibston Back Lot" weekend on the 22nd and 23rd March. From 1pm to 4pm on both days there will be guided tours of areas not normally open to the public, including :-

- Hemington Bridge Timbers (being preserved in sugar solution)
- No 1 Shaft headstocks and control rooms
- Locomotive Shed
- Boiler House Store (Historic horse-drawn vehicles)
- The Wheelwright's Workshop
- Century Theatre
- The Coaltracks Train
- Interactive Exhibits Builders' Workshops

AGM

Some forty members attended the AGM in the Guildhall last November and re-elected the current officers and committee for a further year. Mr Timothy Brooks was elected President and the existing Vice-Presidents were also re-elected.

After the formal part of the evening Dr Andrew Lacey spoke to members about one of the less well-known aspects of the University of Leicester's Library (see below, left-hand column).



Above: Members at the AGM.

Right: Dr Andrew Lacey (left) talking with our President, Mr Timothy Brooks.



Churchyards

In December Alan McWhirr gave a lecture to the Society on *Exploring Leicestershire's Churchyards*. He is still collecting material for a second lecture in next season's programme and would like to enlist the help of members. If you know of examples of:

- Buildings in, or associated, with churchyards
- Tombstones recording accidental deaths or murders
- Dated tombstones pre-1650
- Tombstones containing snippets of local history
- Tombstones illustrating changes in the calendar

please send the details to Alan by letter or email:
alan@dovedale2.demon.co.uk

News from further afield

Red House secured

Last autumn, it was reported prematurely that William Morris's Red House, at Bexleyheath, south-east London, had been purchased by the National Trust. In fact negotiations were then still taking place. Now it has been announced officially that the Trust has not only acquired the house itself, but also a substantial amount of built-in furniture, and a wealth of painted decoration, which will be conserved with advice from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Red House, designed by Philip Webb, is a pioneering example of the Queen-Anne style, in which naturalistic garden planting formed an important part of the whole effect. Tim Knox, the Trust's head curator, says that the four-acre garden will now be restored and filled with the plants that Morris used for his textile designs.

Working with the Friends of Red House, the Trust will provide public tours for visitors from early summer 2003. The Trust also hopes to appoint a Learning and Community Officer who will co-ordinate school visits linked to the national curriculum, and there will be a study centre with facilities for research. There will also be a holiday flat, available for letting from summer 2003.

For full details, see the National Trust press release at:
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/news/red_house.html

Tyntesfield to open on 24 March 2003

Tyntesfield, the Victorian Gothic country house and estate near Bristol acquired by the National Trust last summer, is to begin hosting regular guided tours from 24 March. The tours will be open to all on a first-come, first-served basis and will enable more than 50,000 people to see Tyntesfield during 2003, about 30,000 visiting the house, grounds and chapel and a further 20,000 touring the grounds and chapel only. They will take place up to five days a week throughout the year, with up to 18 two-hour tours per day. Booking will open at 9am on 1 March on a dedicated telephone line (0870 241 4500).

Roman building found at Shadwell, in London's East End

Archaeologists excavating a site in Shadwell, east London, have found the five-foot-high walls of a substantial stone building with at least ten rooms, some heated by hypocaust, and one with a semicircular plunge pool. Frances Grew, of the Museum of London, said that it was not possible to say yet whether this is an isolated building, or part of a larger settlement, but the building stands alongside a filled-in side channel close to the Thames and could have been part of a small port. The building lies about a mile outside the walls of Roman London, which suggests that settlement may have extended for a considerable distance eastwards – just as Southwark, to the south of the Thames, seems to have been a thriving commercial centre.

Controversy over cleaning at St Paul's

Several leading experts have begun to express concern over the choice of chemicals being used to clean the interior of St Paul's Cathedral. As part of a £40 million restoration programme,

several thousand square metres of stonework are being sprayed with a paste (called Arte Mundit) that softens the dirt layer on the surface, then fixes into latex so that it can be pulled off the stone, bringing the dirt with it.

National museums and galleries have banned the use of Arte Mundit for cleaning sculpture, and ArtWatch, the organization that campaigns against the over-zealous cleaning of art and architecture, says that the substance can do damage to the stone it is supposed to be cleaning. John Larson, Head of Sculpture and Inorganic Conservation at the Museums and Galleries in Liverpool, says that the active chemical in the paste – ethylenediamine-tetra-acetic acid – can remain in the surface of the stone and cause long-term damage.

Cathedral authorities have sought to reassure critics that the process will return the interior's Portland stone to its natural cream colour and reveal lost carving details. The restoration programme is due to be completed by 2005.

Launch of the APPAG report

The All-Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG) published the results of its year-long enquiry into the state of British Archaeology last week. The report is based on written and verbal evidence given to the APPAG select committee during hearings held at the House of Lords during the summer of 2002, as well as on the contents of some 262 letters and emails sent to the group by individuals and groups with an interest in archaeology.

A total of forty-eight recommendations are contained in the report, from which ten have been singled out as key recommendations, including: replacing competitive tendering in developer-funded archaeology with a regional franchise system; improving pay and conditions for field archaeologists so that they are commensurate with graduate entry level in allied professions, such as local authority planning officers, civil engineers and university lecturers; and the establishment of an inter-departmental committee on archaeology, at ministerial level, chaired by the DCMS and including the Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), whose remit should be to co-ordinate Government policy on archaeology.

Another recommendation calls for a review of the functions of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and other umbrella organisations, in order to clarify and re-define (or merge) their roles. Launching the APPAG report at the Guildhall, in the City of London, on 28 January, APPAG Secretary, Lord Redesdale, said the Group would now go on to institute this review, inviting the organizations concerned to give written and verbal evidence to the Group later in the year.

The full APPAG 2003 report can be downloaded from the APPAG pages of the Society's website at:

www.sal.org.uk/appag/report/report.htm

We are grateful to the Society of Antiquaries for permission to use the above items which are taken from their on-line Newsletter.

Mystery Solved!



The mystery photograph taken by the Honorary Secretary which appeared in the last edition of the *Newsletter* prompted several replies and resulted in some interesting information. We received letters and phone calls from Revd Alan Betteridge (Coventry), Alan Jones (Norfolk), Brian Bilson (Wigston) and Margaret Watson (Leicester). It is a picture of Emanuel Nonconformist Union Church in New Park Street. The foundation stone for this church was laid on July 9th 1872 by Samuel Morley Esq M.P. The following year the building was completed and it was opened on 25th June. The church cost £8,380, most of which was raised through the generosity and efforts of Richard Harris, a member of Charles Street Baptist Church and a Leicester hosiery manufacturer. It was called a Union Church because it was a place of worship for both Baptists and Congregationalists; preachers from both denominations spoke at the opening. The architects were Shenton and Baker. The style of the building, with its distinctive dome, was intended to provide an acoustically suitable place for preaching.

The church flourished and membership increased from 90 in 1877 to 248 in 1888. It had a wide range of societies and a choir. Margaret Watson, a member of our Society, notes that her maternal grandparents were married there in 1876. Followers of Leicester City will be interested to learn that members of Emanuel Bible Class, together with Old Wyggestonians, formed Leicester Fosse Football Club in 1884.

The Union Church closed in September 1939 and the main building became a store and workshop. From that time, the schoolroom (begun in 1889) was used as Emanuel Baptist Church until that too closed in 1973. After it ceased to function as a church, the main building saw a variety of uses: Brown's Blue buses were parked in the gardens and J E Goode, rag and scrap merchants, used the buildings. In the early 1970s demolition of the surrounding area took place and the church itself was destroyed by a fire on the night of October 12th 1978.



Top: The picture printed in the last edition of the *Newsletter* which was taken by the Honorary Secretary in the 1970s.

Middle: Part of the 1885 large scale edition of the *Ordnance Survey map*.

Below: Sketch drawn by Michael Clarke and published in *Leicester Mercury*.



Archaeology in Leicester

As we go to press a number of archaeological investigations are taking place in Leicester in advance of major development projects. The bulk of the work is being undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) although one site in Sanvey Gate is being looked at by a team from Milton Keynes. Two of the sites have already revealed some interesting archaeology and there is more to come.

Leicester, 9 St. Nicholas Place (Supervised by Roger Kipling)
This is the site of the former antiques complex, which was well known for the tiles displayed on the wall. The BBC has acquired this site for its new Radio Leicester station and last year ULAS carried out evaluation excavations and found that important archaeological levels would be destroyed by the new building project and so the developers were required to arrange for archaeological investigations before work on the building could start. Here is an extract from ULAS's recent *Newsletter*.

The excavation of the medieval levels at 9 St Nicholas Place has started. So far a multitude of medieval and later walls have been revealed. The northern wall of the undercroft has now also been exposed, revealing a small arched window light, presumably the external face of the recessed windows inside. The site is being stripped quite slowly, but so far there does not seem to be a substantial depth of archaeology surviving above the formation level for the building, and thus the archaeology below should be preserved.

The so-called undercroft was discovered in the 19th century and found 'again' in the 1980s(?). At one time it was thought to be Saxon, but now considered to be 11th or 12th century. These excavations might help to confirm its date.

Leicester, Basra Site (Supervised Mick Derrick)
This site lies at the junction of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way and here is what the ULAS Newsletter says about this area of Leicester.

Evaluative work on this site that sits over the footprint of both the Roman Forum to the south and the *Macellum* (market hall) to the north is drawing to a close. The development proposals on the site have changed numerous times, such that now the southern part of the site is only to be disturbed within the area of a former deep cellar on the Vaughan Way frontage. Pre-backfilling evaluation of this c.3m deep cellar revealed stratified archaeological deposits surviving beneath the cellar floor. The remainder of the area (northern part) was then evaluated, initially to find the locations of former cellars on the Highcross Street frontage, but eventually exposing all surviving archaeological remains outside of cellared areas. Remains of the *Macellum* are evident as both robber trenches and areas of surviving, substantial masonry. The developers are intending to use a vibro-compaction piling technique that will cause no(!) damage to archaeological remains



Top: General view across the St Nicholas Place site looking towards the Guildhall.

Middle: Outside view of a window in the undercroft.

Bottom: Mick Derrick recording the macellum wall on the Basra site.

All photographs by Alan McWhirr

below their formation depth, thus the site will be preserved beneath a protective layer of sand and crushed stone. Potentially an area close to the Highcross Street frontage may need further excavation.

Alan McWhirr

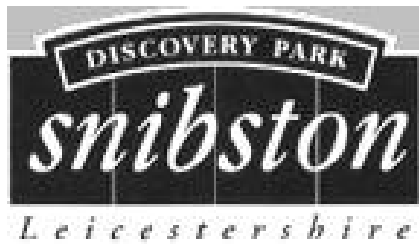
Snibston Discovery Park's Future Uncertain

Alan McWhirr writes:

Leicestershire County Council has been conducting a review of Snibston Discovery Park and recently the council's cabinet considered a report produced by the Director of Community Services. In this report, which seems to some to be rather ill-informed, it is recommended that the council should 'seek expressions of interest in the commercial management of Snibston'. The cabinet accepted the recommendations in early February and now we await to see what interest there is from the commercial sector on taking on the running of Snibston.

The *Leicester Mercury* reported that the board which runs Conkers, the National Forest's discovery centre in Moira, believe that they have the expertise to run the museum. They say that both sites have much in common when it comes to attracting visitors. The chairman of the Conkers board, Mr Martin Traynor, is reported as saying, "We have written to the county council on the basis of expressing an interest and to be sent a prospectus. We would then like to start talking to the council and would naturally want to have a look at the books. We are now waiting for the prospectus before we can take it further. It has also been reported that workers at Snibston were interested in setting up a co-operative to run the museum.

The committee of this Society will discuss this matter at its next committee meeting, but it seems clear that there may not be a consensus of views as to what is best for the future of the Discovery Park. Some members are of the opinion that there is little support from the county council for its museum service and that it would be better if a body with more responsibility and interest in the Discovery Park could be found to run it. Others feel that we should campaign for the retention of Snibston within the the county council and fight for better resourcing of the museums service. The report placed before the cabinet does not give a fair view of the success of Snibston or of its importance in the region.



There are many obstacles in passing over the running of such an enterprise to a commercial organisation. Many of the objects at Snibston have been given by Leicestershire people expecting them to remain in public ownership. Will there be any safeguards so that objects are not sold off for profit? What about museum registration? Will a commercial body be able to register and will it be able to apply for Heritage Lottery grants?

The county museums service (but not called that anymore!) has staff with different skills and expertise spread throughout the various sites which it runs around the county. Such skilled staff exist at Snibston and if they are

Visit Snibston

Snibston Steam Days

20th April, 18th May and 15th June 1pm - 5pm

The three engines at Snibston will be steamed on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Come and experience the majestic Gimson 1880 Beam Engine, the Bellis and Morcom 1928 Vertical Steam Engine and the Gimson 1895 Horizontal Steam Engine which powered a small tools machine shop.

Admission charges apply

transferred to another body it seems unlikely that the council will be able to call upon their services without payment. In effect, experienced staff will be lost to the service.

At the moment your committee is very much in the dark about the proposal as we have not been consulted. When we know more we will make the committee's views known to the county council. In the meantime if members have views they should express them to the leader of the county council Mr H Barber, and to its chief executive, Mr J Sinnott.

The museums service now comes under Heritage Services at county hall. Details of events and museums around the county can be found on the Heritage Services web page at:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/museums/index.htm>

Shire Archaeology Books

Medieval Castles

by *Oliver Creighton and Robert Higham*

This Shire Archaeology book offers an accessible and portable guide to the archaeology and architecture of castles in England and Wales, approaching the subject from a variety of perspectives. Architectural aspects of masonry castles are examined, as are the remains of earth and timber sites. Attention is given to the social, domestic and military significance of castles and the aspirations of their builders. The contribution of landscape history to the study of castles in their wider contexts is highlighted, as are innovative ways of analysing the fabric of masonry castles. Emphasis is given to the new light cast by archaeological excavation on the numerous and enigmatic timber castles.

Dr Creighton was based at the University of Leicester for a number of years. He published a paper in volume 73 of *Transactions* on early castles in Rutland.

Medieval Castles by Oliver Creighton and Robert Higham (Shire Archaeology 83, £5.99, ISBN 0 7478 0546 6; 72pp; 30 colour & 28 b/w ills; p/b)

Siege Mines and Underground Warfare

by *Kenneth Wiggins*

The siege became established as a perennial mode of human conflict ever since the first urbanised populations constructed walls to protect themselves and their property from attack. In the annals of siege warfare, few individuals commanded more fear and respect than the miner, who with his pick, shovel and crowbar was a serious threat to the security of the strongest foundations. Whether mining was initiated on the surface beneath portable timber shelters or was carried out in greater secrecy in subterranean tunnels, the besieged citizens had to find the means of directly challenging the menace of the miner, or else the breaching of their defences was inevitable. This book traces the development of undermining techniques from the earliest evidence of ancient and medieval siege warfare. The advent of gunpowder revolutionised the mine in the sixteenth century and sustained mining as an integral part of the sophisticated fortress warfare of the eighteenth century. Beneath the trenches in Flanders during the First World War mining and countermining reached new levels of intensity and destructive capability, before the remarkably long history of tunnelling as an offensive strategy came to an end.

Siege Mines and Underground Warfare by Kenneth Wiggins (Shire Archaeology 84, £5.99, ISBN 0 7478 0547 4; 72pp; 40 b/w ills; p/b)

Publisher's website: www.shirebooks.co.uk

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/archaeology/la/la.html>

If you have any comments please email the Honorary Secretary

(alan@dovedale2.demon.co.uk)

or Richard Buckley

(rjb16@le.ac.uk)

Some members may not have access to the web, but have the use of a computer. We have 5 CDs of the index which we can send out to the first 5 members requesting one.

Book reprinted

David Ramsey, a committee member of the Society, has recently updated the first of his five books on Bradgate Villages. The second edition of *Time Line ... Old John*, has more pages than its predecessor, making room for extra pictures, including Anstey Mill, and a plan of the old racecourse in Croxton Park connected with Earl Stamford the racehorse owner. We have extra notes, such as the purchases of foxcuts (1785) and the last 20 deer from Swithland Woods (1798), and alterations to the front and back covers.

The sepia colouring of both prints and photographs make a pleasant improvement to the look of a knowledgeable book pertaining to one of the most treasured areas of Leicestershire.

Kay Gowland

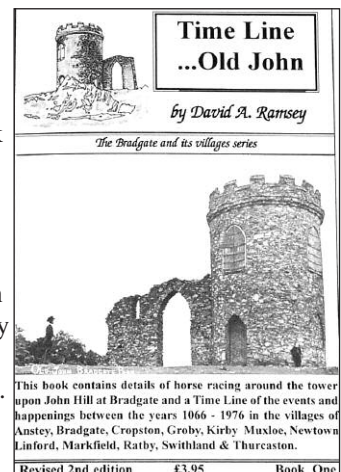
Time Line ... Old John - published by David A. Ramsey. 56 pages including maps and pictures all in dark sepia.

The revised version of the book is now available at Newtown Linford Post Office, Loughborough Town Hall and from David Ramsey directly on 0116 2875241.

Or by email to r73@beeb.net.

Price £3.95 + 80 p&p.

ISBN 1 898884 05 6



News from the Librarian

We are grateful to Dr Gerald Rimmington for the donation of a copy of his paper 'Baptist membership in Leicestershire between the two World Wars' published in *Baptist Quarterly* vol xxxix no. 8, Oct 2002.

Thanks are also due to Bob Trubshaw for the generous donation of another CD-ROM. *Sepulchral Effigies of Leicestershire and Rutland* contains details of 177 effigies in 85 different churches and chapels and is illustrated with 518 photographs. The text is by Max Wade Matthews and the photographs are by the author and the publisher. Published in 2002 at £14.95 (1872883540), copies are available from Heart of Albion Press, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, Loughborough, LE12 6UJ.

A substantial, specialised volume *Roman Mosaics of Britain* Vol 1 Northern Britain incorporating the Midlands and East Anglia by D.S. Neal and S.R. Cosh (2002) has been acquired thanks to the John Daniell bequest.

Other books added to stock are:

Bamford, A. *and others From an Open Wooded Hilltop.*

2002. A splendidly illustrated volume about Market Bosworth and surrounding villages.

English Heritage *State of the Historic Environment Report* 2002, and, East Midlands (2 vols)

Institute of Historic Building Conservation *A Stitch in Time: maintaining your property ...* 2002

Probate Records on the Court of the Archdeacon of Sudbury 1801-1858 (Undex Library Vol. 118). 2003

Squires, A. *The Greys: a long and noble line: a biography of the family of Lady Jane Grey.* 2002

Periodicals

Antiquaries Journal Vol. 82. 2002 includes 'Early Tudor canopywork at the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester', co-

authored by Angela Smith of Great Dalby; 'Does Corietavi mean Army of Many Rivers?' by Andrew Breeze.

CBA News We have now received issue 1 (Summer 2001), as mentioned in the *Autumn Newsletter*

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Vol. 122. 2002

Complete issue covers 'Excavations of the south-eastern defences and extramural settlement of Little Chester, Derby 1971-2'.

Medieval Archaeology Vol. XLVI. 2002. Includes 6 pages of reports on Leicestershire archaeology. Also Index of Vols XLI-XLV (1997-2001)

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Proceedings General Index Vols 106-125 (1974-1996)

Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain

Newsletter Autumn 2002. Includes background to the move of the RIBA drawings collection to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2004.

Anniversaries

An enquiry about forthcoming local anniversaries of significance prompted some research which revealed the following:

100 years ago: 18 May 1904: inauguration of electric trams in Leicester

150 years ago: 1854: Crimean War

450 years ago: 9 July 1553: Lady Jane Grey proclaimed Queen: 12 February 1554: Lady Jane Grey beheaded.

Does anybody know of others?

Aubrey Stevenson
Honorary Librarian

Wymeswold on the web

WWW.WYMESWOLD.ORG

Bob Trubshaw writes: 'I've finally done something I've been meaning to do for about 6 years – put various articles about Wymeswold local history on to the web (they have all been previously published in Wolds Historical Organisation annual newsletters or booklets). Someone else in the village had a good reason to create a village web site so this seemed a good 'provocation'!

Go to www.wymeswoldorg and follow the link to local history. There are about 50 articles, some short and some longer. I hope some of the approaches (e.g. the 'treatment' of the census returns as age distribution histograms and pie-charts of occupations) will interest other local historians. Early next year I may be able to add all the Wymeswold census data as Excel spreadsheets (someone is creating the spreadsheets but I've yet to ask for permission to put them on the Web).

Another member writes a book!

Tony Squires has just had published, *The Greys, a long and noble line – a biography of the family of Lady Jane Grey.*

Published in December 2002 by The Silk Press, this books runs to 192 pages and contains many illustrations.

Price £14.95

Collections Resources Centre for the County Heritage Services

The Resources Centre is a store for the County's Museum Collections, fulfilling a need created by the separation of the County and City museums at Local Government Reorganisation in 1997. The building has been modified to our requirements and was completed in December 2001. The collections began to be moved in during January 2002.

The Centre was officially opened on 17th October 2002 by the Countess of Dalkeith, chair of the East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. It houses reserve collections of archaeology, geology, biology, costume, home and family life and working life. In due course the County's Art Collection (Leicestershire views and works by local artists) will also be housed here.

The primary function of the Centre is to provide a secure, organised, and environmentally-acceptable store for these collections, allowing them to be used for exhibition at the various County museums, loan to other accredited venues, and study by researchers. Several members of the curatorial staff are based here full-time or part-time to care for the collections, enhance their documentation, and improve the extent to which they are known and used.

Within the store are several separate rooms which will be climatically controlled to conserve specific types of material. For example, one store room will be kept at a temperature and humidity suitable for sensitive organic materials, and another will be kept very dry to conserve archaeological metalwork.

The secondary function of the Centre is to provide facilities for members of the public to view and study these collections. Two offices have been adapted for this purpose, with work desks and computer terminals to access the collections database. Intending visitors will be able to discuss their requirements with one of the curators, and make appointments to view the collections with the assistance of that curator.

The Resources Centre at Barrow on Soar.



OPEN DAY

If you wish to visit the Resources Centre there will be an Open Day on Saturday 5th April 2003. To book a time for your visit please contact the Centre on the phone number given below.

Arrangements for Public Access

Groups of up to 15 may visit by prior arrangement with the relevant curators. Individuals can visit by prior arrangement on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 4pm. In addition there will be at least two Open Days each year, one of them at the time of the national "Heritage Open Days" scheme in September.

The ground floor of the Centre, and the toilets, are accessible for visitors with disabilities, including those who need to use a wheelchair. There are office facilities for one wheelchair user at a time. Access from the car park into the ground floor of the building is all on one practically level surface.

Location of the Centre

The Resources Centre is located on the Hayhill Industrial Estate, approximately half way between the villages of Barrow on Soar and Sileby. There is a bus service every half hour between Leicester and Loughborough passing the site (Kinchbus Service 2). Journey times are 35 minutes from Leicester, 25 minutes from Loughborough. The railway stations at Sileby and Barrow on Soar are both approximately one mile from the Centre, and trains between Leicester and Loughborough serve these stations hourly for most of the working day. There is a car park adjacent to the building.

Contacting Us:

Collections Resources Centre
Unit 50 Hayhill Industrial Estate
Sileby Road
Barrow on Soar 01509 815514
Leicestershire 01509 814583 (answerphone)
LE12 8LD

Curators:

Archaeology	0116 2645803
Biology	01509 815514/0116 2671950
Costume/Art	0116 2645817
Geology	0116 2645806
Home and Family Life	01530 278442
Working Life	01509 815514

Activities for members



Open Weekend



Saturday 17th May 10.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 18th May 1.00pm-5.00pm

Members will have the opportunity of inspecting the Society's Library and of acquiring publications such as *Transactions* and the *Leicestershire Historian*, both current editions and back numbers. A limited number of runs of *Transactions* will be on offer at **very reduced rates**. There will also be, on special offer, copies of:

Brandwood, G. K. *Bringing them to their knees: church-building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800-1914*

Greenhill, F.A. *The Incised Slabs of Leicestershire and Rutland*

Members of the committee will be on hand all weekend to talk to members about the Society and what members want for the future.

**The Lord Mayor of Leicester will be visiting the Society between
12.00 noon and 1.00pm on Saturday 17th May 2003**

A number of other special guests will also be visiting the Society over the weekend.

This is your Society. Come and support us, and bring as many friends as you can!



Excursion Saturday 21st June



In association with the Leicester Ancient Egyptian Society an excursion has been organised to the British Museum on Saturday 21st June. A coach will leave Humberstone Gate, Leicester, at 8.00am and return from the British Museum at 5.00pm. There will be comfort stops on each leg of the journey.

The cost is £12 and if you are interested in joining this excursion then please send a cheque for £12 (non-returnable) to Nadia Hussein, 99 Kensington Street, Leicester, LE4 5GQ, in order to reserve a place (tel: 0116 251 3536).

Places are limited and you are advised to book early to secure a seat on the coach

**Also see page 4 for a visit to the Special Collections
held in the University of Leicester Library**