

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GUILDHALL · LEICESTER · LE1 5FQ



NEWSLETTER 109 Winter 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAHS Newsletter, with all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our members. We hope you are remaining well and that things may soon become a little easier for everyone. Contributions to future editions of the Newsletter are as always welcome at any time. While The Guildhall remains closed we will not be able to pick up items sent by post, so please email them to the editor, Cynthia Brown, at newsletter@lahs.org.uk.

LAHS NEWS

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Our lectures will be held online for the foreseeable future, with booking through Eventbrite. Members will receive notifications in advance by email. Lectures scheduled for January to May 2021 are below.

Thursday 14 January 2021

Leicester and the Spanish Civil War

Adrian Pole and Henry Brown, local historians

Thursday 11 February 2021

Members' evening

There will be short lectures by members online via Zoom. If you would like to present the results of your research to fellow members, please contact the Hon. Lecture Secretary at lectures@lahs.org.uk, or by phone on 0116 212 0271.

Thursday 4 March 2021

Alan and Joan North Memorial Lecture

Roman Leicester transformed: a quarter century of excavations by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Nick Cooper, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thursday 25 March 2021

The Hallaton Treasure: typical rituals?

Dr Frank Hargrave, Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Thursday 15 April 2021

Lost Houses of Stoneygate in Leicester

Neil Crutchley, Victorian Society

Thursday 29 April 2021

Leicestershire Waterside excavations

Stephen Baker, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thursday 13 May 2021

A Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Rothley, The Grange

Rob Atkins, Museum of London Archaeology

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Library has of course, of necessity, not been open since 15 March this year. It is hoped that it will reopen as usual on the first Sunday in February 2021, the 7th, 2 – 4 p.m., and continue thereafter on the first and third Sundays of each month. That will depend on the national health situation and such regulations as may then be in force. We must wait and see. There have been a limited number of additions to the Library since the last list.

BOOKS

CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS Yearbook and directory 2020. Donated by the publisher.

DODD, G. & MCHARDY, A. eds. Petitions from Lincolnshire c1200 – c1500. Lincoln Record Society Vol. 108, 2020. Includes Leicestershire and Rutland references.

MILLS, A. Place-names of Dorset pt.5 districts, rivers, introduction, analyses, index. English Place-Name Society Vol. XCIV, 2020.

SHEPPARD, T. with MERTTENS, P. Frederick Merttens: the last Lord of Rothley's English manor and soke. Rothley Heritage Trust, 2020. Donated by the author and publisher. Reviewed in Leicestershire Historian 56.

TRUBSHAW, B. ed. People and places of the Wolds. Wolds Historical Organisation, £9.95, 2020. Donated by the editor and publisher. With articles from Anglo-Saxon to 'within living memory' this interesting and attractive book covers Cotes, Wymeswold, Walton, Burton, and Prestwold.

PERIODICALS

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal 139 2019. Includes 'Origins of S. Derbyshire' which has numerous references to the neighbouring area of North West Leicestershire.

Hinckley Historian 85 Summer 2020. Includes 'Hinckley charities' by LAHS member Caroline Wessel, 'Dadlington from the earliest times'. Donated by Hinckley Museum.

Leicestershire VCH News 11 Sept. 2020 Reports on the new Ibstock book, research on Loughborough, Charnwood Roots database, Lutterworth book to be published in 2022. Donated by the Trust.

Other titles received: Ancient Monuments Society Transactions, British Archaeology, Essex Archaeology and History, SPAB Magazine.

The Society is grateful, as always, for the kind and thoughtful donations.

NEWSLETTERS: current issues only

Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter, Summer 2020, reports the good news that Taylor's of Loughborough bellfoundry is to receive grant aid from NHLF to secure premises, conserve archives and other work. See www.loughboroughbellfoundry.org.

Other titles: CBA Newsletter, Essex Society...Newsletter, Lincoln Record Society News Review, SPAB What's On, Spring 2020, has a brief report on a visit to Kibworth and Whissendine windmills, SPAB impact report, Worcestershire Recorder.

A reminder that Cottage Books of Coleorton is still in business for postal orders. Catalogues are received at the Library; email jenny@boyd-cropley.co.uk.

Clarendon Books of Leicester, e-mail: clarendonbooks@aol.com as well as selling LAHS books (see Leicestershire Historian 56 inside back cover for details) has an enormous range of local publications... well worth a visit when circumstances again permit.

We are grateful to Mrs. King of Leamington Spa for the generous donation of books from the estate of the late Mrs Halsey of Groby. These still have to be sorted and checked but will be listed in due course.

The Society was very pleased to welcome Nigel Atter as Hon. Secretary this year. Amongst other talents he is a military historian and his book 'With Valour and Distinction...' is reviewed in the current Leicestershire Historian. Copy in Oadby Library. There is also a review of 'Oadby Remembers 1914 – 1918...' with which he was involved. Copy in LAHS Library. Members interested in military history might like to track down his other publications which are not in the Library:

A difficult year – operations on the Western Front 1915 In Stand To!, journal of the Western Front Association no. 104 Sept. 2015 p.28 – 33.

In the shadow of Bois Hugo: the 8th Lincolns at the Battle of Loos. 2017.

Aubrey Stevenson.

OTHER LAHS NEWS

LAHS HON SECRETARY

We are pleased to report that Nigel Atter was confirmed as LAHS Hon Secretary at the AGM on 25 November 2020. He can be contacted at secretary@lahs.org.uk.

LAHS RECORD SERIES

Following an enquiry at the AGM, Chris Dyer has an update for members on the LAHS Record Series. He writes that the story begins in the late 19th century, when Leicestershire established a very successful archaeological society which published archaeological reports and articles about local history and archaeology, but did not follow the example of Staffordshire in founding a society to publish historical documents. Other adjoining counties founded their record societies in the 20th century. Nottinghamshire began a record series attached to its archaeological society in 1903, and other counties established free-standing societies: Lincolnshire in 1911, Warwickshire in 1920, and Northamptonshire in 1924. Derbyshire was a rather late starter in 1965.

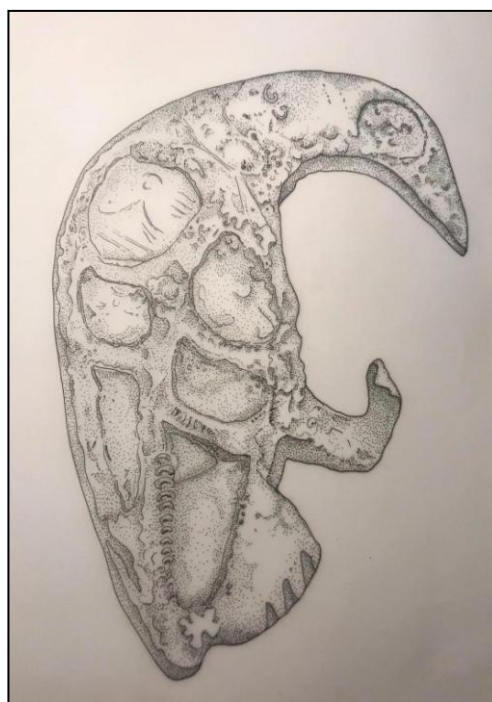
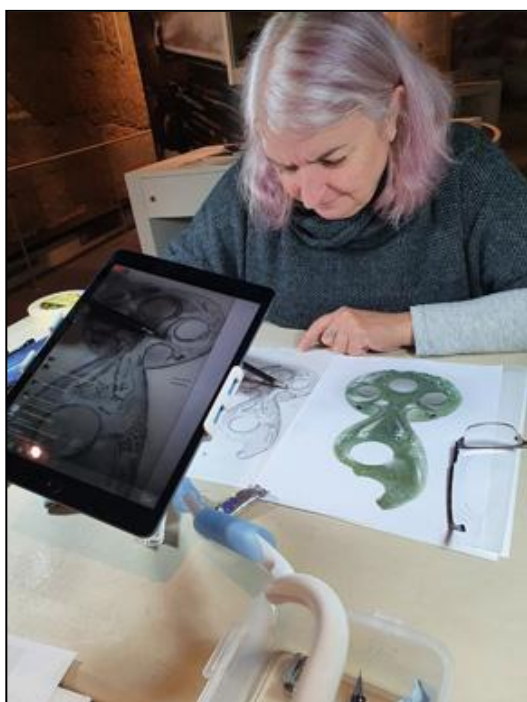
Amazingly, in spite of Leicestershire's deserved reputation for the study of its local history, and its distinguished succession of great names – Nichols, Farnham, Hoskins – no-one founded a record society in the county in the 20th century. A group of us decided to put this right in the 'noughties'. The LAHS was encouraging, and the first volume appeared in 2015. Since then the volumes have not flowed as we had hoped. The general editor (Mark Page) and I have seen proposals, and we have discussed possible volumes with potential editors, but the projects have not gone forwards. If anyone has a project for editing an important text for publication - why not the Hearth Tax, or a collection of probate inventories? - please get in touch and we can discuss it further.

Copies of the first publication in the series, *Parish Government in a Leicestershire Village: the Buckminster Town Book 1665-1767 and Constable's Book 1753-1813* (2015), edited by Alan Fox, are still available from LAHS, and can be ordered online at [Buckminster Flier 1 \(le.ac.uk\)](http://BuckminsterFlier1.le.ac.uk).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

VIRTUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATION AT LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS

Helen Sharp contributes this report of an unusual event: During October, with coronavirus restrictions still in place, Leicestershire County Council Museums were challenged to come up with events that could form part of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology. Debbie Miles of art and heritage company DMArtology, and formerly of the University of Leicester, came up with a brilliant idea – live archaeological illustration workshops. Three events were filmed at Melton Carnegie, Harborough and Charnwood Museums, and streamed live to viewers across the world via Facebook. The objects chosen were a Roman plate brooch in the shape of a bird, an Iron Age tankard handle from the Hallaton Treasure, and a Bronze Age palstave axe from the Rothley Hoard. Helen Sharp, Curator of Archaeology, and Tim Savage, Local Museum Officer, were on hand to film the events, field questions from viewers, and give a little background on each object, all in a suitably Covid-19-secure manner!

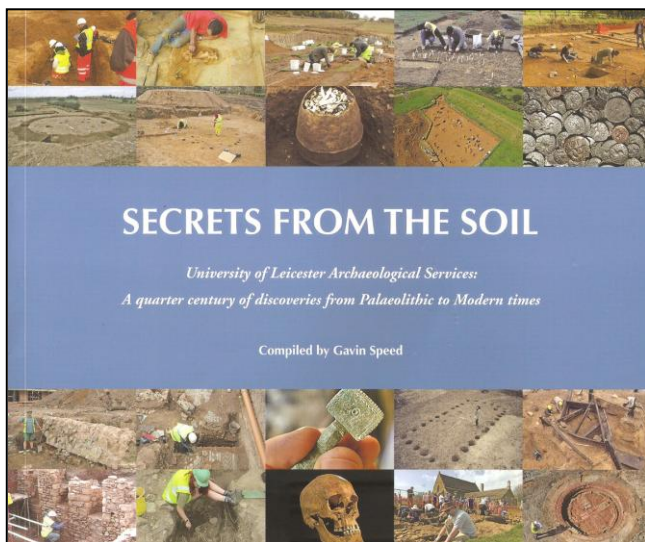


Despite some technical difficulties during the Melton event, all went well considering this was the first attempt at anything of this kind for all involved. People across the country took part as well as participants from the Isle of Man and Sweden, something which isn't usually the case with in-person events which obviously draw a more local audience. There was great interaction, and many people drew along with Debbie, sharing their masterpieces as they illustrated. Debbie was an engaging and knowledgeable presenter, sharing her wealth of experience in this field. The videos of the events can be viewed on each Museum's Facebook page alongside some of the illustrations completed by viewers. So if you're looking for a relaxing way to spend a couple of hours with an archaeological slant, settle down with a pencil and get drawing!

Images: Debbie Miles at Harborough Museum; and bird brooch illustration by Debbie (both Leicestershire County Council Museums copyright, and reproduced with their permission)

ULAS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND NEW PUBLICATION

A new book, *Secrets from the Soil: a quarter century of discoveries from Palaeolithic to modern times*, has been published to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 1995. As its latest newsletter notes, since then ULAS have completed thousands of archaeological projects, often in advance of housing, commercial infrastructures, new roads and pipelines, and quarries within the East Midlands and beyond. ULAS currently employ around 50 archaeologists, each with a wealth



of local knowledge and specialist expertise. Whilst ULAS work across the East Midlands, the majority of their projects are in Leicestershire and Rutland, hence the focus of the new book on the most exciting discoveries within these two counties.

The Director of ULAS, Vicki Score, writes that: 'One of the strengths of ULAS is being part of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, fostering close connections with its research and teaching. Our work is supported by academics, and we contribute towards

training students to professional standards. We have strong links to the wider community, participating in many "outreach" events and regularly giving talks to local societies, schools, and other groups'. *Secrets from the Soil* is priced £9.95 and is available to buy at Shop@le: <https://shop.le.ac.uk/product-catalogue/books-and-gifts/leicester-archaeology-monographs/secrets-from-the-soil>.

The newsletter also notes that archaeologists from ULAS have recently been excavating a large site on the corner of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way, next to the John Lewis car park. The project, which has been running since November, is uncovering exciting new evidence for Leicester's Roman past, including evidence for a Roman street, and a Roman house once floored with mosaic pavements. The excavation is funded by Ingleby, who will be developing the site into apartments. The team from ULAS are working closely with the architects to minimise the impact of the new building on the underlying archaeology. Modern rubble and Victorian garden soil are being removed from the footprint of the proposed building to expose the medieval and Roman archaeology. This allows archaeologists to identify where the footings for the new building will have an adverse effect on important archaeological remains, which can then either be designed around, or excavated before they are destroyed, leaving most of the archaeology preserved intact beneath the new building.



(Image above right: Archaeologists excavate a Roman street (the orange gravel) close to All Saints' Church. Credit: Mathew Morris/ University of Leicester).

OTHER NEWS

CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUMS DURING COVID TIER 3 RESTRICTIONS

All indoor attractions in Tier 3 areas, including museums and the Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester, are now closed. The closure means that the Open 31 exhibition which was scheduled to open at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery during December has been cancelled, as it is not possible for artists to deliver their work to the museum, or for the exhibition to be open for visitors. The planned Leicester Blitz exhibition at Newarke Houses in Leicester is scheduled to be on display until February, and it is hoped that it may be possible to open this at some point in the New Year, if Leicester is moved into a lower tier. The City Museums and Richard III Visitor Centre websites will be regularly updated – see <https://www.leicestermuseums.org/> and <https://kriii.com/>. For updates on Leicestershire County Council museums, visit [Museums in Leicestershire | Leicestershire County Council](#).

FAR EAST WAR MEMORIAL

As a result of campaigning and fundraising by the local group of the charity Children of Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW), a memorial stone has recently been placed in Victoria Park in Leicester to commemorate men, women and children from the city and county who were involved in World War II in the Far East. They include civilians as well as those who were Prisoners of War. The memorial is located in Peace Walk, next to the Arch of Remembrance, and it is hoped to hold a formal dedication service at the site in spring 2021. Further information can be found at www.storyofleicester.info/civic-affairs/vj75-day. The inscription on the memorial reads:

In Memory Of
The men and women of Leicester and
Leicestershire
Who gave their lives fighting in the Far East,
Or who died as Far East prisoners of war.
We also remember those who returned from their
Terrible captivity and who continued to suffer.
'At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.'

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER CENTENARY

Caroline Wessel, a member of the University of Leicester Centenary Project Board, sends this update on plans to commemorate the centenary in 2021: There are currently three workstreams preparing material on OUR 100: to identify and showcase the University's past present and future; THINK 100: to identify and showcase the University's breadth and depth in advancing knowledge and learning; and ACT 100: to participate and engage with our community, with 'giving back' at the heart. OUR 100 is of particular interest to historians, as the team is inviting a wide range of people, either working at the University or concerned with it, to nominate their choice of the inspirational people, events, memorable moments,

RURAL LIFE PAST AND PRESENT

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places, spaces, objects and research that have been part of the last 100 years to the present day, and to look to the future of the institution: 'Who or what is an important part of your University experience or represents what the University means to you'? We invite your nominations. For further information, and to make a nomination, visit [Our 100 | Centenary: Our beginning | University of Leicester](#).

ONLINE LECTURES

THE PUB UNWRAPPED AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF PUB-BUILDING

Architectural historian and LAHS member Geoff Brandwood may be known to you for his work on Leicestershire churches, but his interests also encompass historic pubs. He has recently given a Crowdcast talk for the Victorian Society entitled 'The Pub Unwrapped and the Golden Age of Pub-building'. This proved very popular and is still available to watch for a fee of £5 at [The Pub Unwrapped and the Golden Age of Pub-Building - Crowdcast](#).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, LEICESTER BRANCH

All lectures take place online via Zoom and commence at 6 pm. Booking is through Eventbrite as indicated. For further information visit [Leicester Branch Programme / Historical Association \(history.org.uk\)](#).

12 January 2021

Germans, Germs, War and Confinement: modern Britain and the struggle against the enemy within

Professor Panikos Panayi, De Montfort University, Leicester

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leicester-branch-historical-association-lecture-tickets-128597551739

9 February 2021

Eleanor de Montfort, Countess of Leicester: the rebel princess and the second Barons' War, 1264-7

Professor Louise Wilkinson, University of Lincoln

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leicester-branch-hist-assn-lecture-february-2021-tickets-128800504777

VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Thursday 10 December 2020, 7 pm

The David Parr House - an extraordinary Cambridge home

Tamsin Wimhurst

Decorated in the late Victorian era, this house lay undiscovered until a few years ago when its extraordinary story began to be uncovered. David Parr was a 'decorator artist' who worked for some of the best known Victorian designers such as William Morris and George Bodley. He decorated churches and palaces for those who could afford it, but in his spare time he decorated his own humble terrace house in the same style. It was lived in by his granddaughter until a few years ago, its interior remaining a hidden secret. Now it will be saved, restored and opened up to the public so that many more can enjoy its unique atmosphere. Tamsin Wimhurst is a Trustee and founder of the David Parr House Charity which was set up in 2014 to conserve it and open up the house to the public. The lecture costs £5, which includes a link to watch a replay at your leisure. Booking details are at [Watch our online lectures for just £5! | Victorian Society](#).

VOICES OF THE PAST – BBC EXTRA FREE PODCASTS

This series features interviews with experts on topics spanning ancient history through to the world wars and beyond. See www.historyextra.com/topic/ for a list of topics and information on how to download them.

CAN YOU HELP?

Can members help with either of these queries? Please reply direct to the enquirer if so.

HELENA ROBERTS

Dr Jaime Reynolds is seeking information about Helena Roberts, the mother of Babette Evans, who was a member of LAHS for many years: 'I understand that Dr Babette Evans, the historian and head of the history department at Leicester University, was a prominent figure in the Society for many years until her death in 2005. I am currently writing a book on the first women-mayors in Britain before the Second World War, one of whom was Helena Roberts, mayor of Stepney 1935-36 who was also a councillor and committee chair in Leicester in the 1960s. She was Babette's mother. I am trying to contact anyone who knew Helena Roberts or was related to her for research purposes. I know that Babette had three daughters including Katherine born about 1956. This is a very long shot, but could any of your members suggest any leads? For my academic background, please see my page on Academia.edu. I can be contacted at jcireynolds@gmail.com.

THOMAS IVOR PLANT, KIRBY MUXLOE

Ioan Richard has been researching the history of Lygos Farm, a smallholding in the area of Swansea. This was purchased around 1958 by Thomas Ivor Plant, who was born at Forest Farm in Kirby Muxloe on 23 November 1913. Ioan would appreciate any information about Thomas Plant or his family. It is not clear when he left Kirby Muxloe, but people from Lygos recall him as 'a person of some bearing who talked with a "clipped" English accent', and had been a World War II RAF Pilot. If you can help, please email Ioan at aptrfor@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01792 843861.

FOREIGN PRISONERS AND SKATING

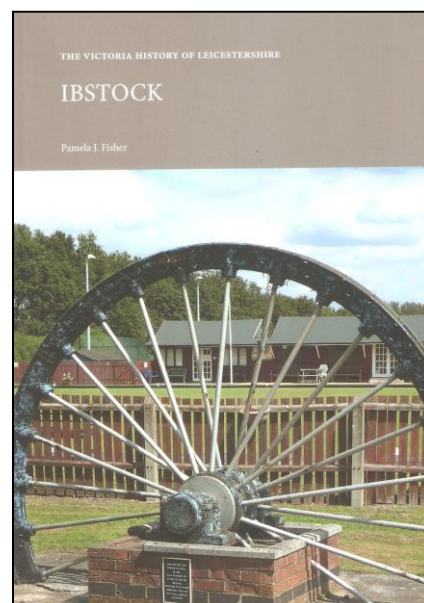
In her Preface to *Glimpses of Ancient Leicester* (1891), Agnes Fielding Johnson writes: 'In venturing on the bold step of offering to the Public this little volume... I wish it to be distinctly understood that it has no claim whatever to any originality arising from independent research among historical documents of the Town Records, nor even to more than a superficial acquaintance with the subject. I have simply gathered and arranged, in as concise and continuous a form as I have been able, the leading facts connected with the history, condition and development of our Town, as described in existing local works...'

On a seasonal note, among these 'leading facts' was the 'particularly severe' winter of 1783, which was 'long remembered in Leicester, both on account of its privations and of the gay masquerade of skaters which took place upon the river between the West Bridge and the Vauxhall Gardens; several thousands of people assembling on the banks to witness the novel and lively spectacle. Skating had been introduced into Leicester by the foreign prisoners of war lately mentioned; and the pastime was quickly taken up and spread among the residents'. The prisoners of war to whom she refers were French and Dutch prisoners sent on parole of Leicester during the American War of Independence: 'men of culture and refinement, whose polished manners and, in many cases, great musical ability, made them welcome guests of the best families'. Does anyone know more about them?

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

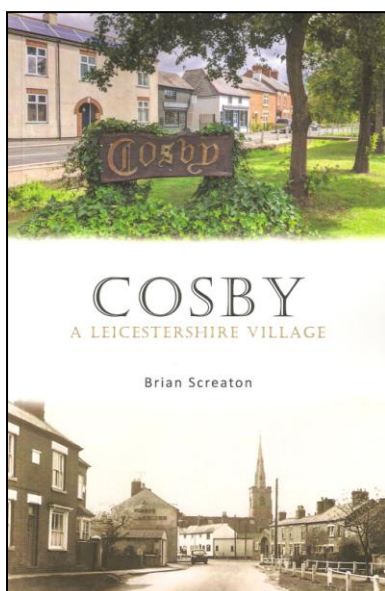
VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE: IBSTOCK

This is the third Leicestershire volume in the Victoria County History (VCH) paperback series, written by Dr Pamela J. Fisher with the help of local volunteers. It covers the period from the 11th century through to the present, and is arranged on a thematic basis, encompassing the parish of Ibstock, landownership, economic, social and religious history, and local government. As the cover of the book illustrates, coal mining has played a major part in the economic and social development of Ibstock, but there is much more to its history than this. Garendon Abbey once had a large sheep farm on its enclosed estate, and framework knitting was important by the early 19th century, when almost as many families in Ibstock were employed in trade and industry as in agriculture. The



sinking of two collieries in 1825 and 1873 was accompanied by the growth of Nonconformity and a wide range of sports teams, clubs and societies. The colliery brickworks continued after the closure of the mines, and Ibstock Brick remains one of the largest brickmakers in Britain. All these and other aspects of Ibstock's history are covered in depth in this volume: 145pp, illus, ISBN 7981912702466. It is available direct from the [Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust](#) for the special offer price (until 31 December 2020) of £11, including UK p&p, or it can be ordered from the [University of London Press](#).

COSBY: A LEICESTERSHIRE VILLAGE

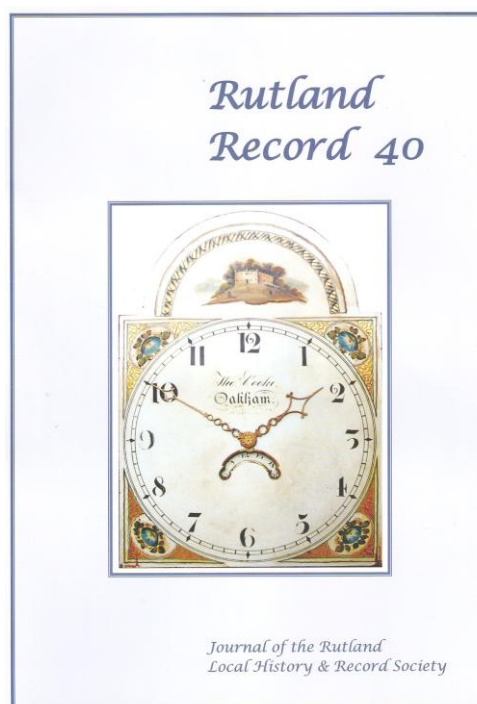


Rather than charting the history of Cosby from 'the dawn of time' this book by village resident Brian Screaton takes the dawn of photography as its basis. It is arranged around 500 images, some of which have never appeared in print before, accompanied by a commentary on the places, buildings and people that they represent. Different roads and Cosby Brook act as starting points for each section. The first chapter, for example, takes the reader from the centre of the village to Cosby Spinneys and The Settlement, the 48 houses each with a third of an acre built in the 1930s to accommodate unemployed families from Wales and the North East of England. Other starting points include Park Road, Cambridge Road, Chapel Lane, and Main Street – which includes the parish church and Bunning Hall, financed in the 1920s by the businessman Samuel Theodore Bunning, who was born in Cosby in 1846. There are also appendices on the Great Fire of

Cosby in 1916; the Tithe Barn; Cosby Wake; and several local families, along with the World War I pilot Robert Kirby Kirkman. It concludes with a useful list of sources. *Cosby: a Leicestershire Village* costs £19.95 and is available from the Select Convenience Store, Croft Road, Cosby; Cosby Library, Park Road; on Ebay; or by contacting the author on 07770 413228 or by email at brianscreaton@gmail.com.

RUTLAND RECORD 40: JOURNAL OF THE RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY AND RECORD SOCIETY

The 2020 edition of the *Rutland Record* begins with an article by Professor Alan Rogers in which he discusses and transcribes a survey of the manor of Preston with Uppingham. This was produced in 1595, towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth I, for William Cecil, Lord Burghley, who acquired the estate in 1588. As well as describing the land and buildings in the manor, it also gives over 100 names of his tenants, and how much they paid in rent. Other contributions include Sheila Sleath's history of Thomas Cooke, a watch and clockmaker with premises in Oakham High Street in the 19th century. This also covers some other local watch and clockmakers, often itinerant, and sometimes with German and Jewish ancestry. The third article in this issue, by Vivian Anthony, gives an account of the life of Chancellor William Wales, who became rector of Uppingham in 1859 after serving as vicar of All Saints' in Northampton. The journal concludes as usual with reports of work carried out locally in 2019, including finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and an account of a community archaeological dig at Oakham Castle. The journal can be ordered online at www.genfair.co.uk. It costs £6 + £2 UK p&p.



OH HAPPY DAY: THESE TIMES AND THOSE TIMES

A large section of this book by Dame Carmen Callil, founder of Virago Press and a member of Market Harborough Historical Society, relates to the lives of her ancestors who lived in Market Harborough and other parts of Leicestershire. It begins with her great-great-grandmother Sary Lacey, born in 1808, and follows the misfortunes and fortunes of George Conquest, the father of one of her children. A canal worker, he was sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia for stealing a piece of hemp - but he survived, prospered and eventually returned to England, meeting Sary again after nearly 30 years, and taking her back to Australia with him. In the words of one reviewer, the book offers 'a candid look at the tribulations of those living on the breadline in Georgian Harborough' as well as the family itself. *Oh Happy Day* is published by Jonathan Cape, £18.99; 368pp, ISBN 9780224090308. See [Carmen Callil \(penguin.co.uk\)](http://CarmenCallil.penguin.co.uk) for more details.

Reviews of the above publications will appear in the *Leicestershire Historian* in 2021.

A HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

As Christmas approaches, here is an account of some of the festivities in Leicester and Loughborough in 1895 from the *Leicester Chronicle* (28 December 1895). The 'useful articles' that were handed out in Loughborough were not identified!

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE SECULAR HALL. Thomas Paine wrote, "The world is my country, mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion." The Secularists of Leicester gave a very practical illustration of this wholesome "religion" in their hall on Christmas Day, the 12th annual dinner being given to 140 aged and poor people by the members and friends of the Leicester Secular Society. The bill of fare, as in previous years, consisted of roast beef and mutton, rabbit pies, and the requisite vegetables, served hot. After these came the indispensable plum puddings and mince pies, all cooked in a manner which reflected great credit upon the caterer. There were plenty of willing hands to carry the good things to those who were bent upon business for the next half-hour or more, and although many of the guests had sailed a somewhat lengthy voyage over the troubled sea of life, they had not forgotten how to "clear the deck."

After the dinner was over, the tables were cleared, and plates of tobacco and pipes were provided for those who choose to take the fragrant weed, and here we noticed that some of the old dames were a match for the "New Woman," for they too enjoyed a quiet smoke. The next two and a half hours glided merrily away all too soon for many. A band of friends vied with each other in their efforts to drive dull care away with sweet singing and stirring music. In an earlier part of the programme the president of the society (Mr. Sydney A. Gimson), expressed the pleasure it gave them to meet their old friends once more. He was sure they would long remember the bright afternoon they had had together, wished them each and all a bright new year, and hoped they should live to meet again another Christmas Day. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung at the close by the guests and friends together, and so glided away the Christmas of 1895.

BOXING DAY IN LEICESTER. Bleak and frosty weather prevailed in Leicester, and the neighbourhood, during Boxing-day, a continuance of north-east winds rendering outdoor amusements not very enjoyable. The day was, however, observed as a general holiday, nearly all the places of business in the town remaining closed, as on Christmas-day. In the afternoon crowds of several thousand people were attracted to the respective football matches on the Rugby and Association grounds, and during the evening the Opera House, Theatre Royal, Floral Hall, and the Tivoli claimed their customary share of patronage.

CHRISTMASTIDE AT LOUGHBOROUGH. The weather was dull and bitterly cold in this district, with a slight fall of snow in the forenoon. Services at the various places of worship in the town were well attended during the day. A Christmas free breakfast was given to 500 poor children at the Town Hall at 9 a.m., the tickets for which had been distributed mainly by the School Board attendance officer (Mr. Lockwood) and the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. (Mr. Collard). Loughborough Hospital wards were suitably decorated for the Christmas festival, the work having been done by the matron (Miss C. Baker) and staff... Dinner of roast turkey and plum pudding was served to the 13 in-patients, each of whom were presented with a seasonable parcel, containing two useful articles...

This newsletter is edited by Cynthia Brown and published by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. Further information about the Society, its publications and other activities can be found on its website at www.lahs.org.uk.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
THE GUILDHALL, GUILDHALL LANE, LEICESTER. LE1 5FQ.
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Alternatively pay by Paypal: Payments@lahs.org.uk



Data Protection Act

I/We agree to my/our names being stored on a computer database

Signature/s:..... Date:.....

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying previous and/or future subscription payments and/or donations I have made to LAHS (delete as applicable). I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that LAHS will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Surname: Title:..... Initials:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:

Signature/s:..... Date:.....