

## NOTES AND NEWS

### *A bronze object from Little Chester*

**M**R. Brassington reports that the bronze object illustrated in his paper on material from Little Chester in the 1967 volume of the *Journal* (p. 62, fig. 11, no. 3) has been identified by Dr. Graham Webster as a Roman masked harness loop. Similar examples were illustrated by Dr. Webster in his article "The Roman military advance under Ostorius Scapula" in the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. CXV for 1958 (1960): no. 166 (p. 87) from London has the same turned-up knobs, and no. 175 (p. 93) from Margidunum, and no. 252 (p. 97) from Wroxeter are of this type.

The part broken away from the top would have been a ring, normally with a square loop underneath, but in the Little Chester example there is only a central projection, which was probably extended into a circular loop.

### *Excavations*

A rescue excavation, directed by Miss Rosemary Annable for the Ministry of Public Building and Works, was carried out at Little Chester to investigate the western defences of the fort before the building of a flood bank by the Trent River Authority. The gateway was the first to be excavated at Little Chester. On the eastern side a section cut by Maurice Brassington and John Potts in the nursery garden located the fort wall with the inner facing stones *in situ*. Reports on the recent work at Little Chester will appear in the next volume.

In the vicarage garden at Repton, Roger Salt has begun to expose a complex of wall foundations, with associated pottery and artifacts dating to the 13th century, which represent some of the buildings of the Augustinian priory. An interesting find was a Roman pillar base between two of the walls.

Excavation of the deserted medieval village at Barton Blount has been begun by Guy Beresford on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

### *The Bakewell gates of Etwall Hall*

Etwall Hall after occupation by the military during the 1939-45 war was left unoccupied until 1954 when it was bought by the Derbyshire County Council, who demolished it to build a school on the site. The fine wrought-iron gates made by Robert Bakewell were pulled down by the contractors and later removed to their yard. In 1959 the Etwall parish council bought the gates for a nominal sum with the hope of erecting them at the entrance to Etwall playing field. Money, however, could not

be found for their restoration, and they were stored for some years by a member of the council and later by the county education committee. In 1965, at the instigation of members of staff of the John Port comprehensive school, they were returned to their old site where they are now awaiting restoration by the metalwork department. The work would be assisted by photographs or prints of the gates in their original condition. This note has been contributed by Maurice Brassington.

### *Conservation areas*

A welcome beginning has been made in the designation of conservation areas in the county in accordance with the terms of the Civic Amenities Act of 1967. The following notes on the first four are based on a statement from the county planning department.

- Ashbourne The sloping triangular market place at the east end of the old town is included together with St. John Street, Dig Street, Church Street and Victoria Square. There are 78 listed buildings in the area.
- Buxton The market town of about 1860 based on High Street, the Georgian spa town centre based on the Crescent and the Victorian Pavilion Gardens with its surrounding houses, together with some peripheral buildings of good character. Listed buildings are being resurveyed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.
- Higham The market street village mainly 17th century in character with 28 listed properties.
- Trusley The small village with its brick buildings of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

### *Town and Country Planning Act, 1968*

Part V of this Act which came into force on 1 January 1969 makes important changes in the law designed to secure the better preservation of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. A convenient short guide is provided by Circular 61/68 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, dated 4 December 1968, and obtainable from H.M.S.O., price 2s.

One effect of the Act is to put all listed buildings in the same position as those which were formerly the subject of building preservation orders. Consent to alter or demolish a listed building has to be obtained from the local planning authority, which is encouraged by the Ministry to pursue a more positive policy for the preservation of historic buildings and to involve the public more fully in the planning process. One very welcome new provision is intended to deter owners of listed buildings from deliberately neglecting their property in order to facilitate profitable redevelopment.

*Derbyshire Record Series*

It is very much regretted that because of unexpected problems that arose in the preparation of Dr. Blanchard's volume, *The Duchy of Lancaster Estates in Derbyshire, 1485-1540*, its publication has been delayed. Other volumes should be ready for printing in 1969 so it is hoped that the present delay will have been made up in the following year.

*Local Societies in Derbyshire*

There has in recent years been a growth in the number of societies, archaeological and historical, catering for various localities in the county. Such societies with their more concentrated interests and membership may often be able to undertake investigations or to arouse public support for projects in a way that is not possible for a county society. It is, however, desirable that these activities should be more widely known and that there should be close co-operation between societies with similar interests. The Council is considering ways in which this might be most effectively achieved. In the meantime the editor would welcome reports from local societies particularly of any research or other projects on which they are engaged.