

THE LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
162nd ANNUAL REPORT 2016–2017

2016

Thursday
8 October

*Late Neolithic Art and Symbolism at Rothley Lodge Farm,
Rothley*
Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thursday
27 October

*Iron Age, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon activity at Pineham,
Northamptonshire*
Gavin Speed and James Harvey
University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Thursday
24th November

Annual General Meeting
Followed by: *The Bradgate Park Fieldschool: revealing
15,000 years of Human Interaction in an Upland Landscape*
Richard Thomas
School of Archaeology and Ancient History
University of Leicester

Thursday
8th December

*Burning Passions, the Struggle for Women's Suffrage in
Leicestershire*
Jess Jenkins
The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

2017

Thursday
12 January

The 1916 Zeppelin Raid on Loughborough
Robert Stephens

Thursday
9 February

*Local Heritage Opposition to Post-War Town Planning
Schemes: Leicester And Coventry*
Mark Webb
University of Leicester

Thursday
23 February

Members' Evening (presentations of Members' current
research)

- Thursday
9 March **W. Alan North Memorial Lecture**
The Bastards of Cynosarges and the Invention of Virtue
Prof. Tim Whitmarsh
University of Cambridge
- Thursday
6 April *The Digital Reconstruction of the Church of the Annunciation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Newarke, Leicester.*
Douglas Cawthorne
De Montfort University
- Thursday
27 April Scientific Knowledge, Print Culture and Radical Politics in
late 18th-century Leicester
John Hinks
- Thursday
11 May **John Scarborough Memorial Lecture**
*Test Pit Excavation: Exploring a New Source of Evidence
for Historic Village Development'*
Carenza Lewis
University of Cambridge

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Thursday 24 November at the Guildhall. The Chair was taken by our Vice President, Robert A. Rutland.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The Committee, with a membership of fourteen, met five times during the year 2016–17. Two additional meetings were held to consider ways in which the Society might increase its support for the archaeology and history of Leicestershire and Rutland. Once again, we are very grateful to the Leicestershire Family History Society for their kindness in allowing us to meet in their offices during the winter months. We are sad to report the death of a long-standing committee member, Michael Johnson, who served the Society for many years as Treasurer. The loss of Michael reduced the required minimum number of Trustees, so four new ones have been appointed – Mathew Beamish, Yolanda Courtney, Chris Jordan and myself. Aubrey Stevenson and David Wykes continued to serve during the year. With the resignation of Stephen Butt as Newsletter Secretary, Cynthia Brown kindly agreed to take on this role. She is always looking for contributions which will be of interest to the membership, so please get in touch if you have anything you would like to be considered.

Ordinary membership of the Society at the end of the year 2016–17 stood at 436, together with 65 institutions in the UK and abroad. Although we lost 23 members, we gained 26 new ones. As has been the case for several years, there is insufficient income from subscriptions to cover the cost of the Society's publications and other activities, although I am pleased to report that the gap continues to narrow through the hard work of our membership secretary, Matthew Beamish in collecting gift aid and unpaid subs.

In recognition of the considerable support we have received from our outgoing President, Michael Wood, the Committee agreed to offer him the position of a Lifetime Honorary Vice President, a position he has been pleased to accept.

Four excursions were held during the year: two to excavations by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services at Bradgate Park, and the others to the former Stibbe factory site on Vaughan Way in Leicester, and a visit to the Century Theatre at Snibston. Such visits are always popular with our membership: the position of Excursions Secretary has been vacant for many years, if anyone is interested in undertaking this role, please talk to a member of the committee.

Our Research Committee has considered a few applications for funding, but only one grant has been paid: £250 to Dr Neil Fleming for research into ‘East Midlands Conservatism: Accommodation, Adaptation to Democracy and Social Change’. The Committee also agreed to make a substantial increase to the annual Research Fund budget and the research fund committee has been working on preparing new guidance for applicants and ensuring that the fund is advertised more widely. The only other award during the year was a £75 donation to the Century Theatre at Snibston.

The lecture season was once again a great success and widely attended, our lecture Secretary Yolanda Courtney organising 10 lectures covering a wide range of subjects and also taking on the burden of arranging the catering for the special lectures. In view of the considerable amount of work this entails, we have now decided to use outside caterers in future.

There has been much discussion during the year over the Scarborough legacy: this was reported on at the AGM by our Treasurer, David Howell. Several initiatives were considered, one of which was funding for a part-time Society Events and Publicity Officer. This position has been taken up by Joe Hall who, amongst many other things, is completing the digital Historian and Transactions project, organising the Beaumanor History Fair for April 2018 and regularly circulating the membership with news and information.

Another possibility under consideration was whether the Society should rent or lease a building for a permanent home. A number of meetings have taken place with the City Council regarding the future use of Vaughan College. Sarah Levitt, head of Leicester City Museums and Arts, gave a presentation to the committee on the Council’s plans for the building. The plan is to create a new and enlarged museum of Roman Leicester utilising both the existing museum and the former college. Whilst the possibility of the Society having a permanent base in the building was explored at several meetings, this idea now looks unlikely to come to fruition.

Finally, I should like to thank other Officers of the Society for their hard work during the year, not least Jill Bourne and Joyce Lee, respectively the editors of Transactions and the Leicestershire Historian which continue to be of an exceptionally high standard; our librarian, Aubrey Stevenson, our Secretary Chris Jordan and last but not least, our Treasurer David Howell for sorting out the complexities of the Society’s finances with the receipt of the Scarborough bequest.

Richard Buckley
Chairman

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

2016–2017

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The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council
The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of
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Conservation Advisory Panel, Leicester City Council

M. H. Johnson (to 31/12/16)

University of Leicester Court

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