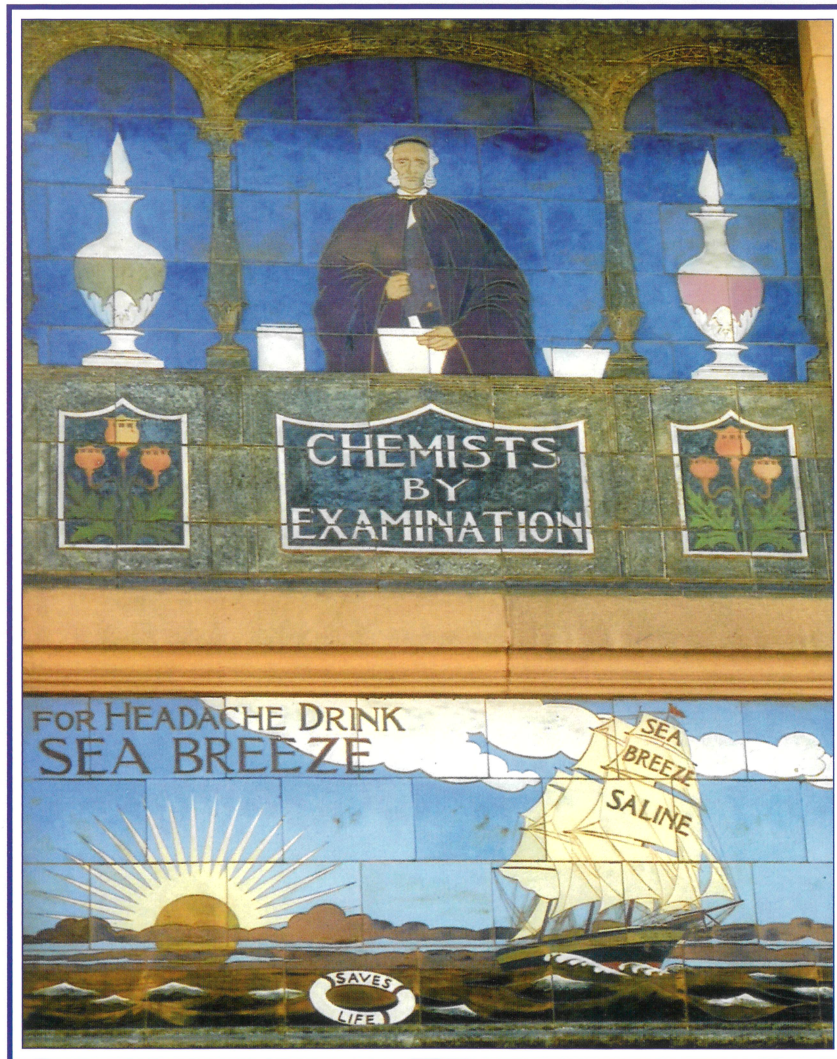




No 48 (2012)

Leicestershire Historian



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Cover picture: Decorative panels above 58 High Street, Leicester, depicting Leicester Apothecary Thomas Edward Butler, and advertising the nineteenth century proprietary medicine 'Sea Breeze Saline' which was made in Leicester. See page 54.

Editor: Joyce Lee



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Editorial

In 2012, a year of major public events which has seen Leicester have the honour of being the starting point of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee tour of the UK, and the Olympic torch relay widely celebrated in the city and county, it is interesting to compare the preparation and outcomes of these occasions with those of large-scale events of the past. One such event was the prestigious Royal Agricultural Show which Leicester successfully outbid its East Midlands rivals to stage on three separate occasions. Andrew Moore brings to life the tremendous amount of work which went into the construction of the show sites, the transport arrangements, the temporary structures and decorations, business opportunities, public and press reaction, and the longer-term benefits to the local community.

The year of the first Leicester show, 1868, was also the year in which it became unlawful for unqualified persons to dispense poisons, or to call themselves a chemist or pharmacist. This had a significant impact on the dispensing of medicine as Edna Blake shows through her new and illuminating research on apothecary Thomas Edward Butler who is remembered on attractive tiled panels on Leicester's High Street.

By the end of the nineteenth century, there was a growing group of predominantly middle-class people in Leicester who Susan Barton has identified as having sufficient resources to go abroad to participate in winter sports activities, and potentially make use of the health facilities at the new resorts such as Davos in Switzerland. Amongst these visitors were Leicester's own little-known winter sports champion, the artist Lawrence Linnell who is the focus of this article, and the mountaineer John Stafford Anderson.

Adventures and heroic actions in war abroad are also recorded on the notable Cheney monument, now in Gaddesby Church. Keith Randon has been researching the history and commissioning of this sculpture, and puts forward new theories on the links between the patron and the sculptor of this unusual and enigmatic work of art.

Leicester has a long radical tradition, and warfare of a different kind broke out in the 1930s between the banana and celery street-sellers of Leicester and the authorities who controlled the Market Place area. Cynthia Brown vividly writes on this fascinating episode of passive resistance in the city's history.

Interesting and sometimes puzzling church features are the subject of two further articles: Steve Mitchell writes on his work to date on the subterranean church structures in Leicestershire, whilst Bob Trubshaw takes an upward look at the wealth of intriguing carvings which decorate many of the county's churches, giving an update on Project Gargoyle, a major project to photograph and catalogue all such medieval carvings in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Fieldwork has also played an important part in Christopher Rigg's detailed study to trace two of the major historic routes through the north- and south-western parts of Leicestershire - the prehistoric Redway and John Ogilvy's later 1675 route, as he tracks their courses in relation to present day roads, paths, tracks, field boundaries and hedges. Also in the north-west part of the county, Gerald Rimmington explores the remarkable survival of the Wesleyan Reform Union in the former mining communities of this area, seeking to answer the question 'Why have these chapels continued to exist against all the odds?' Further south Bob Gibson examines the development of Hinckley's choral history, its pedigree of choirs and musical directors.

Key points in Leicester and Leicestershire's historic past, including events, people and buildings of significance have been marked by commemorative plaques since the middle of the nineteenth century, and as J. D. Bennett shows, are an important way of helping to make us all more aware of the history around us.

Cynthia Brown and her team of reviewers have again provided excellent and informative reviews of a number of recently published books, journals and other items with Leicester and Leicestershire interest, and continue to form an invaluable part of the *Leicestershire Historian*.

The *Leicestershire Historian* aims to promote the study of the county's history by providing a platform for established and new authors, and through encouraging the pursuit of research and project work. It also aims to publicise the work of local groups and organisations, and seeks to raise the awareness of research sources.

Contributions for future editions are welcome from individuals, local groups, museums and other organisations and should be sent to the Editor for consideration. Articles can be short items or longer in-depth pieces, and can be submitted at any time. If you would like to discuss an idea in advance, please contact the Editor.

Joyce Lee, Editor

Lawrence Linnell (1870-1957): Leicester's Winter Sport Champion

Susan Barton

For most people, even sports enthusiasts, Leicester is as remote in the imagination as well as geographically from the Alps and winter sports, as anywhere could possibly be. It may therefore come as a surprise to learn that at the turn of the twentieth century, a Leicester man was an international champion in a brand new sport of the time, bobsleighting. That man was Lawrence Gale Linnell of Upper King Street in the town, and he was not the only Leicester person making the resort of Davos, Switzerland, his winter home from home. So what were these people doing there?

The alpine resort of Davos in eastern Switzerland began to accommodate guests from the winter of 1865 when two German tuberculosis sufferers appeared there early in that year. They had been enticed to the high valley which was snow-covered for half the year, after reading articles in a medical journal, which suggested the high altitude and pure air of Davos could help heal the frequently fatal illness, which was one of the biggest killers of the nineteenth century. Dr Alexander Spengler, the physician to the community, had noticed that the disease was absent from the valley he served. (1) Furthermore, he also observed that local people who travelled abroad and caught TB while working in the major cities of Europe soon recovered when they returned to their mountain home. Spengler concluded that it was the climate, high altitude and pure air that brought about the cure. It was reports of Spengler's theory that lured the two sick German patients, Felix Unger and Hugo Richter, to Davos. This was the beginning of winter tourism in Davos, and was just a few weeks after St Moritz in the same region of Switzerland also received its first winter guests.

The first British guests began to arrive in Davos from around 1875. One of the first British families to stay in the resort was the MacMorlands who went for the sake of the mother's health. Mrs MacMorland soon felt much better, and decided to write a description of the area to share her good fortune with others back in England who might likewise benefit from the Davos climate. This was published anonymously with the title *Davos: a new Alpine resort for sick and sound by one who knows it well*. (2) Other British guests began to arrive in search of cures for respiratory illnesses. Accompanying them were friends and family members in good health. The healthy needed amusement, as did the sick who were prescribed moderate exercise during the long

months or even years of recovery. Ice skating, curling and tobogganing, which provided ideal moderate exercise in winter, were soon adopted by the communities of winter visitors in the mountains. By the end of the nineteenth century the largest group of winter visitors, apart from Germans, came from Britain. For example on 13th January 1898, there were 801 Germans, 743 English, 390 Swiss and 189 French lodging in the resort. (3) In 1903 by 13th February there had been 1,149 Germans, 970 English and 696 Swiss. That winter season the total number of British (described as English in the statistics) had reached 1,008 and German visitors around 1,150. (4)



Advertisement for the Hotel d'Angleterre, Davos-Platz, Davos Courier, 1896. (Reproduced by permission of the Dokumentations Bibliotek Davos.)

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In Davos Platz, between the village and Davos Dorf, new buildings and hotels became populated by British guests, forming the English colony which became known as the English Quarter. This included the English Library, St Luke's Church, and the office and home of the British Consul which was licensed for the registration of marriages. Also in this area were situated the main hotels - the Belvedere, Buol and d'Angleterre.

The Hotel d'Angleterre, as its name suggests, was created to attract English guests and it was here that Lawrence Linnell stayed on his first trip to Davos in the 1898-99 season and again in 1906. (5) The hotel's advertisements emphasised features and facilities that would appeal to fashionable English taste. It had an open fireplace, a dark room for the use of photographers, hydraulic lift, electric light, an English library, newspapers, a billiard room, telephone and a stage for theatricals. Outside were lawn tennis courts, a croquet lawn and gardens. In fact it was, as its publicity stated, 'a first class English hotel'. As well as this, depicted visually in the advertisement are toboggan runs, skiing and ice skating. For those seeking rest and renewed health, the hotel, like most other Davos establishments, had balconies on the south facing side to rest on while undergoing the Cure. The nearby Hotel Belvedere was also particularly recommended to English travellers and invalids who would have been 'attracted by its free and open situation'. (6)

As well as the hotels, there were many smaller establishments such as the Pension Villa Freitag where Lawrence Linnell stayed each winter between 1899 and 1905. There were also privately rented villas.



Advertisement for the Pension Villa Freitag, Davos-Platz, Davos Courier, 1903. (Reproduced by permission of the Dokumentations Bibliothek Davos.)

The English guests organised games, entertainment and worship within the hotels. As the number of English guests grew, the organisation became more formalised, with the creation of entertainment committees in the largest hotels, which arranged balls, theatrical performances and other activities. Some hotels had both indoor and outdoor entertainment committees. For example, at the Belvedere, we are told in a guide issued by the hotel that:

relaxations offered indoors depends on the guests themselves. The Hotel Belvedere has always been fortunate in the possession of inmates endowed with social talents and accomplishments, this coupled with the support given by the management gives it its leading position at the social centre of Davos. (7)

The origins of the Davos skating club and toboggan clubs lay in these committees. The increase in the number of guests and hotels led to a multiplication of such committees and fostered inter-hotel sporting competitions. These gelled into resort-wide clubs which organised individual sports, the earliest of these being the skating, curling and toboggan clubs. The Davos Tobogganing Club was founded in 1883, and the skating club in 1889. (8) Frequent reports of the meetings of these committees appeared in the guests' local newspapers such as the *Davos Courier*. The guests themselves played a prominent role in the conversion of the remote mountain village into a winter sports resort.

During the 1880s, tobogganing and ice skating, led by British sportsmen and women, developed as formal sports with clubs and rules. Meanwhile, innovations in the design of toboggans led to the creation of the bobsleigh in the 1890s. The earliest bobsleighs were two toboggans joined together by a plank, the front sledge being steerable by pulling on two ropes with handles, used rather like reins. These new-style sledges were originally ridden by one person lying face-down, but soon these elongated machines were used to seat four or even five riders sitting one behind the other. Bobsleighs were given names by their owners, such as "Blitzen" (lightening), "Boule de Neige" (snowball) and "Adler" (eagle), reflecting the speed and excitement of the new sport. The first race for bobsleighs organised by the newly founded St Moritz Bobsleigh Club was held in the Engadin resort in 1897, although races had been held at the end of the season on the Cresta Run (usually reserved for skeleton sledges), since about 1892. The first international championship race, exclusively for bobsleighs was being held in Davos in 1900. The prize trophy was the Manchester Bowl named after its donor, the Duke of Manchester. At the time of this race, there were no dedicated bobsleigh runs - competitors in the event were timed racing down the main road from the outskirts of Davos Dorf down to lower-lying Klosters.



Bobsleigh competition at Davos, riders unknown, c1900. (Reproduced by permission of the Dokumentations Bibliotek Davos.)

This first international championship for bobsleigh was won by a machine steered by Leicester's Lawrence Gale Linnell. The local English language newspaper in Davos, *The Davos Courier*, in a later nostalgia article in the 1920s described Linnell as an artist. (9) Contemporary reports say his early model of bobsleigh was made mostly of wood and given the name "Trilby". Being an artist, Linnell may have been attracted to the name "Trilby" because it held some form of symbolism for him. The book *Trilby* by George du Maurier was one of the most popular contemporary novels of its time. Set in the 1850s in bohemian Paris, *Trilby* features the stories of an English and a Scottish artist. The female character, Trilby, is controlled in the novel by the hypnotic influence of the manipulative Svengali, perhaps Linnell saw "Trilby" the bobsleigh under his control in a similar way.

The favourite in the race for the Manchester Bowl had been a team riding a bobsleigh called "White Rabbit", known as the 'Bunnies' and described by the *Davos Courier* as 'cannibalistically attired in the scalps and ears of their forefathers.' According to the *Davos Courier*, "Trilby" had improved vastly and just succeeded in wrestling victory from "Kruger" (another bobsleigh) by five seconds'. (10) Discussing a forthcoming race in nearby Arosa, where "Kruger" had a chance of victory, the *Davos Courier's* reporter, in reference to the novel quipped 'it is possible that at Arosa "Trilby" may be prevented from posing for the "Altogether". This pun refers to the group photo of the day's winners altogether taken after the racing, but also alludes to

the first use of the words "in the altogether" in the novel as a euphemism for nudity.

Lawrence was not only a champion on the bobsleigh, he was also an expert skater. During the 1899-1900 winter season, just his second winter in Davos, and at the age of twenty-nine, he became one of only three members of the English Skating Club to gain the first class badge for his skill on ice (11). Rather an impressive achievement for a young man from Leicester where he would have had no opportunity to ice skate at home.

Lawrence did not just confine himself to serious sporting activities, but was also an enthusiastic competitor in the fun events of the gymkhana held on the Ice Run toboggan course. In February 1903 he came first in the Obstacle Race, which offered spectators 'a great deal of amusement'. In this race the competitors had:

first to ride between two barrels, which blocked straight riding; then climb over a sleigh dragging their toboggan over as well; ride through a narrow snow tunnel only about a foot wider than the toboggan, necessitating lying well back in order to avoid the roof; then ride over a narrow inclined plane of ice with a drop on the other side; about 100 yards lower pirouette or turn right round once on the toboggan without getting up. Finally for the last 30 yards the toboggan had to be ridden backwards. (12)

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Lawrence finished the course in just 1 minute 37 seconds and gained 27 points, the fastest time and the most points, which secured him the victory. In the second of the two events comprising the gymkhana, the cumberingly named 'Threading the Needle and Picking of Rings', he did not fare so well, finishing in 2 minutes 2 seconds and three rings picked, compared with the winner, Mrs Gonne, who completed the course in 1 min. 44 sec. with four rings. (13)

In a resort normally associated with wealth and luxury, as well as sickness and sport, the story of the relatively impecunious Lawrence Linnell is one of the most unusual of an alpine winter regular. Lawrence frequented Davos between 1898 and the mid-1900s. After staying at the expensive and luxurious Hotel d'Angleterre in the winter of 1898-99, in the five subsequent winters his name appears on the guest list of the smaller and cheaper, English-style boarding house, Pension Villa Freitag. In 1901 Lawrence did not get out to Davos until after Christmas, although the reason, whether he was working, short of money or whatever else, is unknown. (14) A snippet of information which appeared in the St Moritz English newspaper *The Alpine Post and Engadin Express*, illustrates that Lawrence was popular and regarded in Davos and beyond, as part of the regular winter sporting scene and community by other visitors. It also shows that he was probably a member of the teams of tobogganers, skaters and bobsleighers from Davos who regularly went over to St Moritz to compete. In 1906 he again stayed at the Hotel d'Angleterre, perhaps reflecting changes in his circumstances. Most winters, for around a decade, he arrived in Davos in November and remained until the following April.

At home in England, Lawrence was at this time living in a terraced villa at 22 Upper King Street, Leicester, a relatively modest home by the standards of most visitors to Davos. The 1891 census records him living there with his parents - his father William listed as a retired farmer, and his mother Ann, both of whom had been born in Northamptonshire. Also living in the house were two of his sisters, Susan and Mary. The census indicates that at the age of 32 Susan was still single, her occupation being stated as a 'Morning Governess', although the enumerator added the note 'school' in brackets beside the entry. Perhaps the use of the title 'governess', rather than teacher, is evidence of the Linnell family's wish to maintain pretensions of their social status. Mary, aged 29, was also single but had no occupation recorded, although we know from the register of Leicester School of Art that she was a teacher and part time student. Two of Lawrence's brothers are also shown as living in the house - John who was 26 and a manager in a stay factory, and 17 year old Bernard who was a shoe clicker, a semi-skilled, manual occupation in a footwear factory. Lawrence himself was twenty at the time and was listed as a lithographic artist, a maker of illustration plates for printing.

The family had just one general live-in domestic servant at this point, so it is likely that the women of the family would have had to do some of the domestic tasks themselves.

The Linnell family were clearly artistic and creative. Three of Lawrence's siblings had studied at Leicester School of Art. Shortly after arriving in Leicester, Margaret, Mary and John had all enrolled there in the October of 1881, with Margaret, then aged 21 and Mary aged 19 both described as teachers, while 16 year old John was working as a warehouseman at that time, before rising during the next decade to a managerial position. (15) Margaret did particularly well in the School of Art and gained a Government Art Prize of the Third Grade in 1888 for Design in Outline. She also gained awards for studies in Perspective, monochrome painting, designs for tile borders, and painting flowers and designs to fill given spaces. (16) After some seven years of study, Margaret became an art teacher herself. By 1911 she was independent and working as a teacher of drawing and painting in Hampstead, where she lived in a house shared with two other, financially independent, single women. Sisters Mary and Susan remained single too, and lived with their widowed mother at 60 St Stephens Road in Leicester.

Although Lawrence went on to earn his living as a professional artist, his name does not appear on the registers of Leicester School of Art. Perhaps he learnt his trade of lithographic artist as an apprentice with a local printer, whilst being helped to develop as a landscape painter under the guidance of his sister Margaret.



Alpine landscape painting by Lawrence G. Linnell. (Acknowledgement to Wilkinson's Auctioneers, Doncaster, South Yorkshire).

This family background is not what would be expected of a typical Davos visitor. The Linnell family seem to have straddled the lower-middle and working classes, not the sort of people who would normally have been able to afford to send an adult son, who does not appear to have been ill, to

stay in Switzerland for five months every year and contribute nothing to the family budget while daughters had to go out to work. As Dinah Freer, notes in her paper on prominent Leicester families in the Victorian era, 'No patriarch of any standing within elite circles allowed his women folk to earn their own living'. (17) As an artist Lawrence possibly maintained himself in Davos by painting and selling landscapes of local alpine scenes to other visitors. Mountain landscapes by Linnell appear occasionally in art auction catalogues. This may explain how he financed his trips. Lawrence's work was frequently exhibited locally, including the Leicester Society of Artists Annual exhibition in 1900, and in London. In 1904 Linnell had an exhibition with Elizabeth Chettle at the Modern Gallery, Bond Street, London. This was visited by the Princess of Wales who purchased one work from each artist. In 1921 he had a solo exhibition called *Winter in Switzerland* at Thomas McClean's Galleries in London, and in 1930, his work was included in the Foyle Gallery's exhibition 'Works by Contemporary British Artists. The variety of locations indicates that Lawrence travelled widely within Switzerland.

Information contained in the census surveys of the nineteenth century help to build up a picture of Lawrence's earlier background, and shows the changes in circumstances of the Linnell family. Taking 1861 as a starting point, this shows an affluent household doing well in Northamptonshire in the mid-Victorian age of high farming. At this time, Lawrence's father William was actively farming 330 acres at Arthingworth Farm Lodge, where he employed six men and five boys. As well as the farm workers there were four household servants. William's fortunes prospered over the next decade and the size of his farm doubled. In the 1871 census he is recorded as farming 700 acres, employing fourteen men and seven boys. There were eight children at home - Frances, Susan, Mary, Annie, Margaret, John, Joseph and baby Lawrence, with a resident governess, a cook, a housemaid, a nursemaid and a groom. The eldest son, William, born in 1856, was away from home at school.

However, during the Great Depression in agriculture of the 1870s, this well-off family's fortunes declined more rapidly than they had risen, and by the time of the 1881 census, William Linnell senior, although still living at the farm, was now described as unemployed. Contemporary newspapers in the late 1870s carry reports of William Linnell, the once prosperous farmer, being fined for keeping a dog without a licence, of having a bankruptcy petition filed against him, and of being convicted for killing game without a licence. By 1881, William Linnell was sharing his house with farm waggoner George Wilford aged twenty-nine, George's wife Emma, who was a servant, and their three young children. There was a visitor too, Ann Wilford, possibly George's

younger sister. It appears that the Linnell family were losing not just land and wealth, but status and family life too, although they were still able to afford private education for their offspring, with ten year old Lawrence being away at a small boarding school for nine boys in Handsworth, Staffordshire. It was soon after this that the family took the drastic step of moving to Upper King Street in Leicester, where William could style himself as a retired farmer rather than unemployed. Perhaps he had sold up what was left of his farm (assuming it was not heavily mortgaged), to provide himself with something to live on in his retirement. His now-adult children helped maintain the household by entering trades in the town. The education they had received at boarding schools during the time of plenty in the 1860s and early 1870s stood them in good stead, and the younger William, Lawrence's older brother, became manager at Faire Brothers, one of Leicester's largest and most prestigious factories, that made elastic and shoe laces.

The Linnell's became involved in the social life of the town they had made their home. William and Bernard were stalwarts of Leicester Rowing Club. The family supported the Gallowtree Gate Chapel at social and fund raising events. Lawrence and older brother William were also musical, Lawrence especially was in demand as a soloist, singing bass, in concerts around Leicester for both the Rowing Club and the Chapel. He was a soloist in *The Messiah* at the Gallowtree Gate Chapel in 1892. A couple of months later, he sang at a 'gentlemen's evening' to which ladies were invited at the Chapel's Young People's Association.

The rise and decline in the fortunes of the Linnell family could indicate that Lawrence may not have felt comfortable living on the edge of working-class life in industrial Leicester. He was well-educated and had spent his early years in the country in a household with servants, a nursemaid and governess. In Davos, if he had a middle or upper class accent and education, he may have fitted in more easily than he would in Leicester. Few people in Davos would have been aware that he lived in a modest terraced villa with sisters that went out to work outside the home, and brothers who were employed in factories. By styling himself an artist he could cross class barriers by appearing as bohemian rather than poor.

Back in England, by the time of the 1911 Census, Linnell was recorded as an artist, and was boarding at the Plough Hotel in Edgbaston rather than living in Leicester. Shortly afterwards, he can be seen to have consolidated his social position by marrying Marjorie Scruton, the daughter of a Staffordshire tailor and textile merchant in 1912. Their son Charles attended public school and became a clergyman in Norfolk, whilst also achieving some fame himself as the author of the *Shell Guide to Norfolk*.

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Lawrence passed away in Leicester Royal Infirmary, aged 87, on 2nd August 1957. His requiem was held five days later at Letheringsett Church in Norfolk where his son Charles was rector, and where a stained glass window was erected in his memory.

Investigating Lawrence Linnell's story revealed another interesting feature of the Davos community members who were from Leicester. Those identified all lived in a small area of the town, within about a quarter of a mile radius, and so probably knew each other. This leads to the conclusion that perhaps many of those who went to Switzerland learnt of its charms through word of mouth and personal recommendations. In the winter of 1902 to 1903 we find a Mr and Mrs J D Johnson of Leicester were staying at the Hotel d'Angleterre at the same time as Lawrence. Johnson was an estate agent of H Johnson & Son of Leicester, his family business, and in *Wright's Directory of Leicester* for 1906, he is listed as living on St Peter's Road, which is just around the corner from St Stephen's Road where Linnell's by now widowed mother had just moved to. (18) Another near neighbour of the Linnells at their earlier address on Upper King Street was John Adam Morton who was staying in Davos at the luxurious Belvedere Hotel in 1906 while Linnell was nearby at the Hotel d'Angleterre. He was a leather merchant whose business was around the corner on Welford Place although Morton's home was a mile away on Clarendon Park Road. Another Davos guest living in the same area of Leicester was Dr Charles Coles, a physician, who lived on Saint James Road. (19) He and his wife were staying at the Hotel d'Angleterre at the same time as Linnell in 1898 when Charles was aged about thirty. These addresses show that these 'Davosers' lived in terraced villas, houses implying a lower-middle class lifestyle rather than wealth and privilege.

Other neighbours from Leicester stayed in Davos too. In 1903 these included Louise and Gussie Britten who were staying at the Belvedere Hotel with their eight year old niece, Miss Beatrice Broadbent. A likely explanation for Beatrice's trip to Davos was that she was ill, but whatever the reason, it did not adversely affect her longevity – she married, had at least one daughter of her own, and lived to be ninety. (20) Louise and Gussie appear to have been the daughters of Mrs Jane Britten, a deaf widow, living on her own means on New Walk in Leicester in 1891. Beatrice's father, Stanley, was the proprietor of the well-known Leicester slate, tiling and chimney merchants which had been established by his father in 1840. With the urban expansion in Leicester, this business prospered, enabling Broadbent to move firstly from his parents' villa on Hinckley Road to the smart New Walk, and then to a large house in the country at Whetstone. The 1901 census provides a connection between the Brittens and Broadbents - living with the young Beatrice Broadbent and her parents

and younger sister, was Charles Britten, then aged thirty-one – Charles being the brother-in-law of the head of the household.

These were not the only people living on or around New Walk who went to Davos at this time. The Viccars family lived around there too. (21) A prosperous Leicester business family in the woollen trade, their relatives, John E. Viccars and Miss Viccars, stayed at the Fluela Post and the Sport Hotel in 1906. The Sport Hotel was so-called to distance itself from the sanatoria and hotels where health seekers, many of whom may have been suffering from tuberculosis, stayed. This was to reassure guests afraid of contagion, that there was no danger of catching the disease, the hotel being open only to those who were there for pleasure and sport. Twenty year old John Ellis Viccars moved with his father to Anstey Pastures but with growing wealth and his financial independence soon moved to Ingarsby Hall in the east Leicestershire countryside. His grandfather, Samuel Viccars, lived on Cross Walk (now West Walk), leading on to New Walk.

Mr and Miss Anderson who were Linnell's companions at the Villa Freitag in 1903 were from Leicester too. Although no positive identification can be made, it seems highly likely that Mr Anderson was John Stafford Anderson whose family home was on West Walk at the time, close neighbours of the Viccars and not far from the Linnells' house. John's father was Scottish-born Alderman George Anderson, a former mayor and a hosiery manufacturer, a business in which John too was employed. At the time he was in Switzerland with Linnell, Anderson was married and living on Knighton Drive. He moved to Morland Avenue in Stoneygate in 1910. Surprisingly though for a Leicester man, Anderson was a prominent mountaineer who together with climbing partner George Percival Baker, also in the textile industry, and Swiss guides Ulrich Almer and Alois Pollinger had made some remarkable climbs twenty years earlier. On 11th August 1882, the team had made the first ascent via a route on the west ridge of the Dent Blanche in Valais. (22) They arrived at the summit after a gruelling twelve hour climb on a dangerous ridge overlooking the north face. The ridge they climbed up by became known as the 'Arête des Quatre Ânes' or 'Viereselsgrat' or 'Ridge of the Four Asses' due to the joking remark, reflecting the fool-hardiness of their adventure, made by Almer the guide when they finally reached the summit, "We are four asses". A year later on 7th August 1883, the same team of John Stafford Anderson, P. G. Baker and guides Almer and Pollinger, made the first ascent by the north-west ridge of the Schreckhorn in the Bernese Oberland, near Grindelwald. (23) This time the ridge they climbed was named the Andersongrat, in honour of John Stafford Anderson. Anderson was a member of the Alpine Club from 1881 until his death in 1931. (24) In 1890 Anderson married Baker's sister, Amelia, born in

Constantinople like her brother, and the couple set up home back in Leicester. (25)

It is important to emphasise that the group of individuals under discussion were apparently the only Leicester people staying in Davos. With a prominent alpinist like John Stafford Anderson in the community, this might have encouraged friends and acquaintances to go to Switzerland too, especially once they heard about Lawrence Linnell's success in winter sports and perhaps saw some of his paintings. Anderson also exhibited some views of the Alps at the Museum Lecture Hall on New Walk for the Literary and Philosophical Society. This would also have helped disseminate knowledge of Switzerland in Leicester, particularly among those who lived nearby and were likely to have been frequent visitors to the museum. Such factors may help explain why there was a cluster of Davos visitors whose home addresses were fairly close to each other. Their presence in Switzerland was probably no coincidence.

What this discussion of Leicester visitors to Davos in the first years of the twentieth century has also hoped to highlight, is that they were probably known to each other before they went to Switzerland, and personal recommendation could have been a factor in their decision to go to Davos. All of them were in trade or minor professions, rather than gentlemen with no given occupation for themselves or their families, unlike many of the other members of more elite public school educated groups who went to Switzerland at the turn of the century.

What the Leicester group have in common, apart perhaps from Linnell, is they were children of prominent businessmen in the growing economy of the expanding town of Leicester in the late nineteenth century. The self-reliance and determination of the Linnell family though is evident from the records. In the previous generation their fathers had worked hard to establish their businesses and their sustained effort generated increasing wealth. This prosperity supported a financially secure younger generation who were able to spend more time in leisure activities and pursuing their own interests than their fathers had done. They wanted to enjoy a similar lifestyle to the sons of gentlemen and this could include participation in amateur sport and travel. Their own children might be sent to public school bringing about a merging of the wealthy middle class with the social elites of the old gentry and aristocracy. The proximity of the homes of this group of Davos visitors can be seen as less of a surprise when it is taken into account that the Southfields area of housing was part of the first stage of migration by the middle class from the centre of the old town of Leicester into the suburbs. It demonstrates their aspiration in status reflected in housing. Living on or around New Walk was in itself a reflection of social aspiration. Until the middle of the nineteenth century about three-quarters of all heads of

households on New Walk were of independent means, or were professional men or owners of businesses. Later in the century there was a steady increase in the number of professionals and tradesmen at the expense of the more exclusive social groups. (26) The Davos visitors mostly grew up around this area, and were representative of this growth in the numbers of men of trade there, but in the following decades they moved to the new suburbs to the south of the town and perhaps later into the countryside, reflected in the successive changes of address. Consecutive census from 1871 and *Wrights Directories*, show that as a young child John Stafford Anderson had lived on Rutland Street and Humberstone Road, handy for the family business. As a youth he moved with his parents to Cross Walk, shortly before it was renamed West Walk. He was living there at the time of his alpine adventures. After following his father into the hosiery business he set up home on Knighton Drive in 1896, and then out to the affluent suburb of Stoneygate. For him the social transformation was complete when at the end of his life in 1931, John Stafford Anderson styled himself 'gentleman' in his will with no mention of his business in the hosiery trade.

The backgrounds of the Leicester visitors indicate their rapid mobility up or, in the case of Linnell, temporarily down the social scale. This was a community which could have been influenced to visit the Alps by social networks within their neighbourhood, especially after Davos became more easily accessible by rail after 1890. Travelling to Switzerland, with its associations with wealth and privilege, could also be evidence of their social aspirations. Further research on visitors to Davos and St Moritz from the same home town in Britain may reveal similar groups living in the same parish, neighbourhood or with other social or business connections.

Apart from Linnell, there is no evidence of what these other Leicester visitors to Davos did during their time there. Some of them may have been health seekers, and maybe Dr Coles was their physician. Even if they did not take part in competition, they are likely to either have had a go at ice skating, tobogganing or curling for fun, or spent time watching others do so. They might even have had a go at the new sport of skiing which was just becoming popularised in Davos, this being partly due to the Richardson brothers, Edward and Charles, who had been introduced to cross-country skiing in Norway, and had written an article for *The Davos Courier* in 1902 with the now clichéd title of *Davos – a Skiers' Paradise*. (27) In it, they extolled skiing as a sport for the independent, its participants not being confined to a rink or run, but instead being free to choose their own path across unbroken tracts of snow. The following year, the Richardson brothers went on to found the Davos English Ski Club, this preceding the local Swiss Ski Club Davos by a few months. They also founded the Ski Club of Great Britain in 1904. As well as being keen to try the new sport of

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bobsleighting, perhaps Linnell, and maybe some of the more adventurous visitors from Leicester, were pioneer skiers too!

As John Stafford Anderson had been for mountaineering twenty years or so before, Lawrence Linnell too was a pioneer of not just a new sport, bobsleighting, but he was an example of a new kind of sportsman or woman. One for whom skill, speed and exhilaration were more important than physical prowess. He was also an enthusiastic and talented exponent of the more established winter sports of ice skating and tobogganing. His artwork also left a legacy for others who had his landscape paintings to remind them of the majestic mountain winter scenery. People from Leicester were among a new kind of winter tourist as winter sports began to become available not just to an elite but to an upwardly mobile middle class.

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Skiers in front of the Hotel d'Angleterre, Davos, c1905. (Reproduced by permission of the Dokumentations Bibliotek Davos.)

Subterranean Church Structures in Leicestershire

Steve Mitchell

The purpose of this article is to put together a preliminary gazetteer of Leicestershire churches with subterranean structures under the footprint of the building. This is work in progress, and is not an exhaustive survey. Omissions and new discoveries will come to light, and information to correct and extend this survey is welcome. Care needs to be taken when visiting churches in search of such structures, and in the cases of private vaults, permission from the owners. The results below are based on site visits and some detailed structural surveys over the last 15 years, and I am grateful to local parishioners and others who have helped provide additional information.

Most of these subterranean structures appear to have been primarily built and used for burials, sometimes over a long period of time, and the term 'vault' is used here in the sense of a burial vault or chamber. 'Crypts' are structurally similar to vaults, the main difference being that crypts were used for the storage of sacred objects for veneration, although these might be the body, or body parts, and always lie close to the sacred part of the building. This definition is for pre-Conquest structures and differs from that used by English Heritage (1). The use of crypts mainly pre-dates the Conquest, after which time the concept seems to have fallen out of favour. (2) Listed amongst the few surviving pre-Conquest crypts in England, are those at Brixworth (Northamptonshire); Hexham (Northumberland); Repton (Derbyshire); Ripon (Yorkshire); and Wing (Buckinghamshire). (3) New examples come to light occasionally, for instance those at Bamburgh Castle and Jarrow which have been detected by ground-penetrating radar (GPR) techniques. (4)

There are no examples of any subterranean structures being used as chapels for worship i.e. with an altar, in Leicestershire, although they exist elsewhere, typically under some cathedrals of Norman foundation. Nor has research to date revealed an unambiguous example in Leicestershire of a medieval undercroft, a space probably not primarily used for religious purposes, such as the one at St John Baptist Kingsthorpe (Northamptonshire). The 'undercroft' at Whitwick is the nearest example, although this does not appear to have ever been used for burials, its original purpose is not known but was probably to provide access to the underground stream. It is presently used as offices and meeting rooms.

Excluded from this survey are burial chambers that are not intended for perambulatory access i.e. burial pits, also boiler rooms, heating pipe corridors and other forms of access for maintenance unless they have been formed out of an earlier subterranean void.

Of the Leicestershire sites which have been inspected, similarities have been noted between the eighteenth century vaults at Birstall and Prestwold, both in date and construction, although the Birstall vault occupies the space of a much earlier crypt, and as such is a rare and important find. (5) The site locations of these subterranean structures vary, some being found under the chancel, others under the nave or aisles.

Gazetteer

Readers planning to visit sites are strongly recommended to ascertain access and key holder information in advance. Contact details can be found both on the internet, and in publications such as *Crockford's Clerical Directory* (usually available at larger libraries).

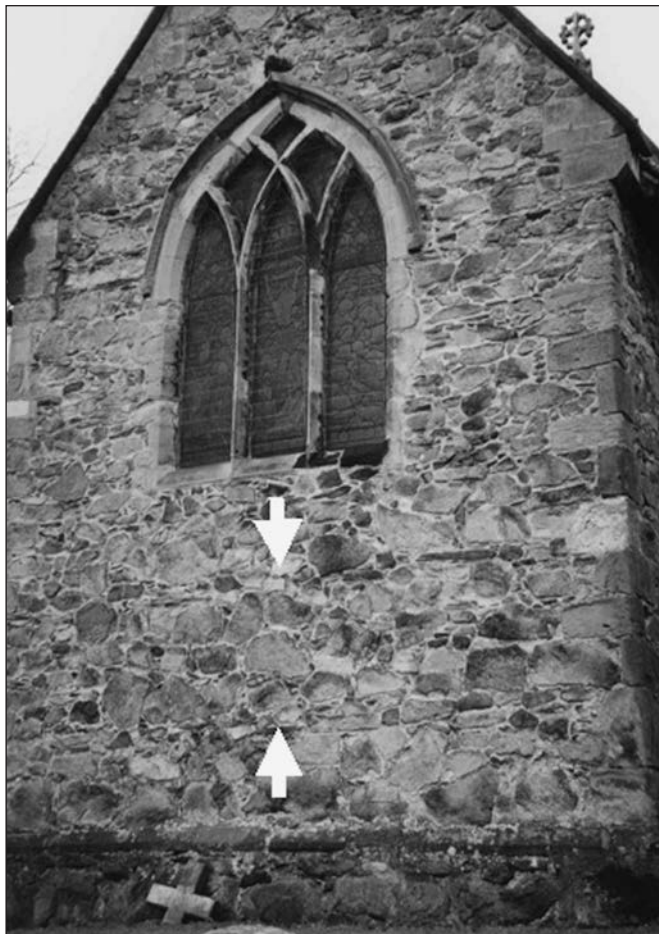
Under the chancel

Barkby, St Mary: Essentially late thirteenth century. Active private burial vault of the Pochin family. Route of access not known. The footprint of this chamber is similar to that of Birstall, although the chancel is much wider, and further investigation might reveal that it occupies an earlier void. (6) These vaults are only ever entered when the present owner dies. The general arrangement is probably the same as that recently excavated at St Denys, Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire. (7)

Birstall, St James the Greater: Inactive private burial vault. Access is from a stone trapdoor near the foot of the former sanctuary. There are several wooden coffins dating from the first half of nineteenth century. The void was originally roofed by a full barrel-shaped ceiling but was lowered to form this typically Georgian-style vault. The arrows on the illustration of the external east wall mark the top and bottom of a hole through which the builders could enter the original pre-Conquest crypt. They lowered the ceiling, (and the floor of the sanctuary), by about a metre. The wall dates from the Norman period when the crypt fell

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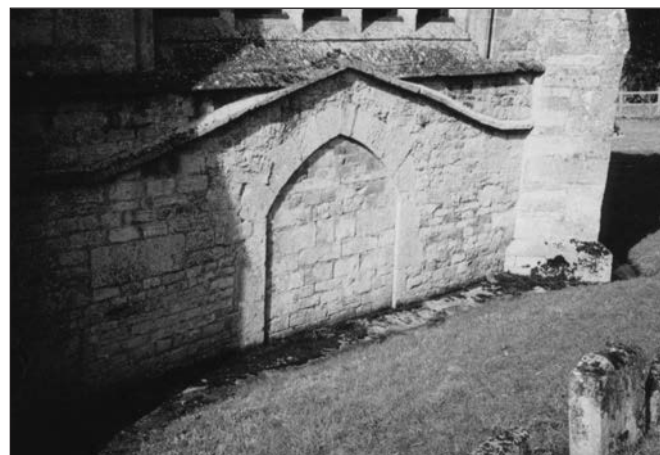
into disuse. The apsidal-ended chancel was squared-off, but in this rare surviving example of a 'lost crypt' type the chancel floor was neither completely lowered nor back-filled. See also below.



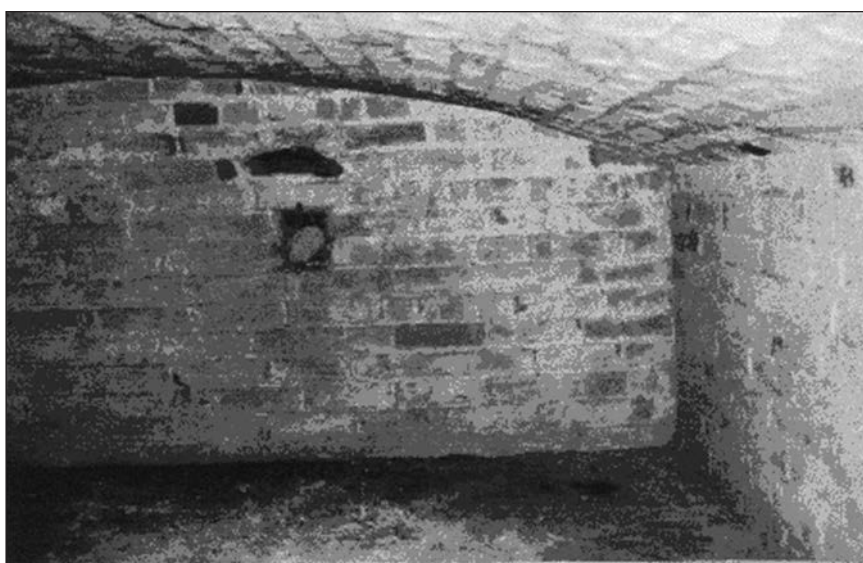
Birstall. The east wall of the chancel, looking west.

Bottesford, St Mary: Inactive private burial vault under the sanctuary, with various tomb types and effigies of the Lords of Belvoir. Pevsner makes no reference to this space, nor to its memorials. He notes that the lower portion of the chancel walls display evidence of decoration that is thirteenth century 'at its latest' which leaves open the question whether there was a pre-Conquest crypt before it was re-used as a burial chamber. (8)

Buckminster, St John Baptist: The site of what is probably a private burial chamber which lay outside the east wall of the chancel but which was accessed from inside. The blocked doorway behind the altar is still visible. A post-Medieval mausoleum of the Dysart family is on the same axis but further up the slope. The date of the construction is not known but it was demolished before c1792 as the exposed doorway can be seen in Nichol's illustration, (9) This arrangement is similar to St Nicholas, Stamford (Northamptonshire) where the Cave family vault is still intact as a mound with access into the chamber via a door in the east wall of the sanctuary.



Buckminster. Believed to be the site of a former private burial chamber.



Birstall. The upper part of the brick-lined burial chamber, looking east.

Claybrooke, St Peter: Herbert hypothesised that a founder tomb lies under the chancel together with the access route by an external blocked staircase, although recent inspections of the fabric have failed to confirm this analysis. (10) However, what appears to be a blocked air vent can be seen at the base of the north chancel wall towards the west end as illustrated. The chancel dates to c1340. (11) Three moulded plinth stones of this date have been cut away and a hole created. This has been blocked with brick sometime in the post-Medieval period. Was this hole a fresh-air vent to a subterranean void, possibly a burial vault, under the west end of the present chancel?

Edmondthorpe, St Michael: The undercroft (?) here was seen by Nichols (12), when it was possibly used as a chancel store. The three quatrefoil lights must have been open in the late eighteenth century, but are now blocked by dressed stone. The access must have been from inside the church but has now disappeared. The void may have been emptied but it is not known whether it was back-filled. Pevsner suggests that the floor has been lowered since Nichols' visit. (13)

Great Bowden, St Peter & St Paul: Inactive private burial chamber under the present sanctuary ventilated by four external vents in the exterior of the east wall of the chancel. Route of access not known. The photograph shows the east wall of the chancel looking west. Four fresh-air vents mark the position of a burial chamber under the sanctuary floor. This is probably the private vault of the Shuttleworth family, and may date from the late eighteenth century.



Great Bowden. East wall of the chancel looking west.

Hallaton, St Michael: A low door set in the east wall gives access to the present sanctuary by a short flight of steps. Its purpose is unclear but it might be connected to the cult of St Morrell. (14) On balance there is no evidence that the internal arrangement of steps was designed to do anything but lead out on to the sanctuary floor, which was lower than at present. There is a 'chancel store' immediately under the sanctuary platform, however, there is more than enough room for a full-height crypt without having to dig away much of the natural slope.

Noseley, St Mary (private chapel): Described by Nichols as 'a chancel store below nave', (15) this is a 14 metre (approx) long by 3 metre (approx) wide pit below the chancel. The vault lies on the east-west axis and is vented by slots in the south and east walls. Access is by brick stairs set centrally in the central aisle and covered by wooden traps. Most of the burials are in wooden coffins. There a few lead coffins – the oldest are at the west end and are of the rare anthropoid type. Only a few have survived elsewhere, mostly from the seventeenth century, but these are thought

to be much earlier, perhaps from the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. (16) The chapel is private with no public access.

Prestwold, St Andrew (ordinary peculiar): Active private burial vault of the Packe family. A full-height brick-lined chamber runs under the vestry and across the line of the chancel about 4-5 metres from the east end. Believed to date from no earlier than the eighteenth century, and is probably contemporary to the reconstruction of the east end of the chancel. (17) Access is by brick stairs in the vestry and coffin slide in the centre of the chancel. All the burials are in lead-lined coffins in individual *loculi* resting on slate shelves. (18)

Whitwick, St John Baptist: Single-arch vaulted chamber or undercroft (?) of indeterminate use possibly only to provide structural support to flying chancel extension. More probably it is to provide essential access to an inspection chamber for maintenance of a culverted stream that runs under the church. The trap door to the inspection chamber is in the south-west corner of the 'undercroft'. (19)

Under the nave

Birstall, St James the Greater: Large void(s) detected immediately to the west of the chancel – thought to be a burial vault or vaults, but might be a central stairway to an early crypt.

Claybrooke, St Peter: A burial vault containing 6 coffins belonging to the Dicey family was seen in 1964 when a new heating duct broke through the vault ceiling. The chamber lies across the central portion of the nave just west of the chancel and is thought to have been entered by a brick stairs from the south aisle. (20)

Prestwold, St Andrew: Full-height burial vault seen recently by the owner. Slightly to the south of the main axis at the east end of nave.

Under the aisles

Bottesford, St Mary: Inactive private burial vault of the Earls of Rutland under the east end of the north aisle.

Great Dalby, St Swithun: There is documentary evidence for stairs access to a burial (?) vault under the south aisle. (21) The site of the trap door is thought to have been located about 3 metres west of the east end of the aisle, inside and right against the south wall. Possibly the vault lies under the immediate exterior below the existing concrete path. (22)

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Great Easton, St Andrew: A brick-lined vault under the east end of the south aisle, built by Thomas Waldram in c1536, has been documented. (23) There is a private burial vault associated with the former chantry chapel, immediately over it. Access is via the present boiler room, but the original access was by stairs from the south aisle still *in situ* but now blocked. No coffins survive.

Hallaton, St Michael: Private burial vault under the east end of the north aisle. Access is by external steps to a door at the west end of the aisle.

The Birstall 'lost-crypt'

A subterranean void below the chancel was hypothesised by Pevsner (24). A recent metrical survey by the author determined the sequence of building alteration required to build the vault. Enquiries lead to the discovery of the existence of a photographic record taken at the time of an exploration of the vault some time in the late 1970s or early 1980s. The footprint of the brick-lined chamber dating to the Georgian period revealed in these photographs confirmed the conclusions of the metrical survey, as well as reinforcing the probability that it was occupying the void created by a much earlier chamber. Given the date and geometry of the immediate superstructure, then it is highly probable that this was the original pre-Conquest crypt that has been 'lost'. (25)

A survey of Leicestershire churches, currently in progress, has found other examples of the 'lost-crypt' type, although the crypt chambers have long since been demolished and back-filled. Examples found so far are at Foxton, St Andrew; Great Easton, St Andrew; Hathern, SS Peter & Paul; Lockington, All Saints, and Queniborough, St Mary. (26)

The author would welcome information that will correct and extend the survey. He can be contacted at steve@berkeleycottage.co.uk

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Royal Agricultural Society Shows in Leicester

Andrew Moore

Leicester has been privileged to hold the Royal Agricultural Show on three occasions – in 1868, 1896 and 1924 – purely by coincidence, these being at 28 year intervals. They were held during the time when the shows moved to a different part of the country each year, until a permanent site was established at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire in 1963. The shows were always prestigious events, usually graced by a royal visitor, and attracted huge crowds. They were intended to improve the prosperity of the country's agriculture industry by displaying to the world all the best products and latest developments for farming – machinery, land management, breeding and so on, whilst local companies, not necessarily connected with agriculture, were able to exhibit their own products.

The first Royal Show had been held in Oxford in 1839, and thereafter, with a brief exception (1), they were rotated around set districts of England to give as many people as possible a chance to visit the show. One of the set districts was the East Midlands which usually comprised six counties, including Leicestershire.

It was always an honour for a town to be chosen by the Society, and there were considerable financial benefits to be had from the large influx of visitors. A town council would therefore go to great lengths to outbid any rival towns in order to attract the show to their area, such as lobbying the Society's Show Committee, and trying to outbid any rival towns. The bidding usually included making a large grant to the Society, and providing a suitably accessible site free of charge. Councils also had to demonstrate compliance with the stringent conditions laid down by the Society, especially for the site's facilities, and the ability to deal with the sudden influx of a large amount of goods and visitors to the town.

1868 Royal Agricultural Show

Success first came to Leicester in 1868, when the town secured twenty-two of the Society's votes, compared with six for Derby and two for

Nottingham. Especially in Leicester's favour that year, was the site chosen by the town, this being the racecourse (known as 'Victoria Park' from 1866). It was easily accessible from London Road, and was very convenient for the town's main railway station which at that time was at Campbell Street. Furthermore, agreement had already been reached with the Midland Railway for a special branch railway to be built to transport the vast amount of equipment, exhibits, and livestock to the site. It was quite probable that Edward Shipley Ellis, who was a member of the town council which negotiated with the Society, had some bearing on this arrangement as he was also a director of the Midland Railway. The Midland would even provide the temporary branch free of charge, and allowed the London & North Western Railway (LNWR) to share the line.

Two other factors also helped secure the bid. One was the free provision by the council of a hundred-acre trial ground about a mile south of the show site. This was on farmland adjacent to the railway in Aylestone and Knighton, close to Saffron Lane, and was mainly for the demonstration of a large variety of the revolutionary steam-driven ploughs, to be held a week before the main show. The council also put the new racecourse pavilion and grandstand at the disposal of the Society for use as their show headquarters.



Entrance buildings to the Royal Agricultural Show site at Leicester, 1868. These were situated on the London Road side of Victoria Park. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

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All of the shows were held over five working days in June or July. Usually the first three days were for the gentry and more discerning visitors when entrance fees were more expensive and most of the judging took place, followed by two cheap days for excursionists and locals.

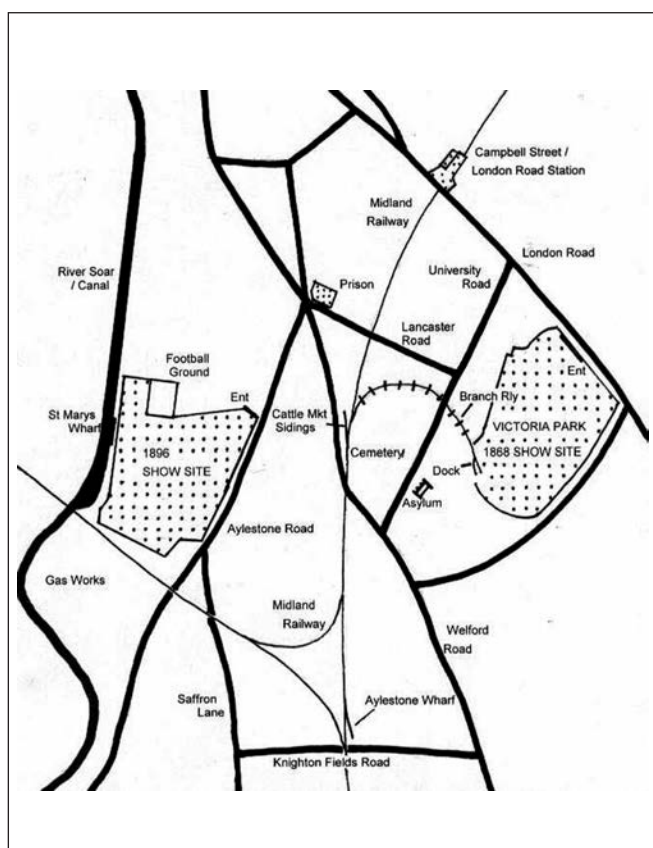
The 1868 Leicester show was held from 16th - 21st July. Most of Victoria Park – some 50 acres – had already been taken over from late March for the necessary extensive preparations, including levelling and drainage by the council, the erection of a perimeter boarded fence, and four miles of covered stands of various kinds. Dismantling after the show put the park out of normal use until early September, with virtually all of the racing, cricket and military exercises which were normally held in the park, cancelled that summer.

One disappointment for the council was that the show was not attended by royalty. The council had invited Edward, Prince of Wales but he had more pressing engagements. Despite this, the town was heavily decorated to welcome its many other visitors. There were magnificent triumphal arches, eight in all, mostly at the main entrances to the town, with three on London Road. Erected by local firms, they bore large slogans such as ‘God speed the plough’ and ‘Agriculture, may England prosper’. The town’s municipal buildings were also decorated, including the new clock tower, although as yet unfinished, being without its now-familiar statues and clock.

Many shops and offices were especially spruced up and heavily bedecked with flags and bunting. However, the best display of all was at the Corn Exchange, where a specialist London company had been engaged to decorate the whole building with colourful stars, shields and flags incorporating coloured glass, all brilliantly illuminated by gas flames. Even the bridge was lit by variegated coloured lamps. Crowds packed the market place each night to view the spectacle, especially the first night, when, according to one report, there were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the crowd ‘amongst whom were people of both sexes, and of all ranks, conditions and ages’!

The temporary branch railway was an interesting aspect of the show. It was half-a-mile long and started at a junction with the main line next to the cemetery, midway between the bridges at Welford Road and Lancaster Road. From here, it branched north-easterly in a sweeping curve across what was then old clay pits, and is now the extended part of the cemetery. Still curving, it crossed Victoria Road, now University Road (formerly Occupation Road), on the level approximately where a footbridge now traverses the road. It then ran through a field, the present site of the university, and entered the park at a point near the top of the current Mayor’s Walk.

With the showground site being uphill, the branch line was not an easy construction. At its starting point, a wooden viaduct was needed, followed by a length of raised embankment, and after crossing Victoria Road, quite a deep cutting was excavated. The two small engines which ran on the line were described as ‘snorting’ up the steep 1 in 40 incline, (1 in 30 in some reports), as they delivered more than 5,000 tons of exhibits in 1,614 wagons to the site in only a few days. Unloading was carried out on the park at four docks using a steam crane and three travelling cranes. An army of 100 men (excluding clerks and inspectors), using 50 horses, were employed to move goods around the site, all brought in from the main Midland Railway stations. The frenzied activity, sometimes up until midnight, continued for several days, the spectacle watched no doubt by staff and inmates at the nearby county asylum (now Leicester University’s Fielding Johnson building).



Location plan of the 1868 and 1896 Royal Agricultural Show sites in Leicester.

There was another street crossed by a railway in connection with the show. This was Fox Street (off Northampton Street). The goods sidings on the east side of Fox Street were found to be inadequate, so spare land was used on the opposite side of the road. The council gave permission for temporary rails to be laid across the road in April. However, by November, long after the show had ended, the temporary crossing was still causing an obstruction, much to the annoyance of the council, who insisted the Midland Railway remove the rails immediately.

The machinery displays at the show were reported to be the best ever, with hundreds of working examples, from dairy machinery to traction engines. Steam was prevalent. Of the larger exhibitors, Fowlers, for example, had 300 tons of machinery on show, whilst Hunt & Pickering of Leicester had 400 different types of farm equipment. As well as hundreds of ancillary items and services, the exhibits included brick and tile making machinery, as well as sample lumps of rocks and coal representing Leicestershire's mineral wealth. Lists of all the exhibitors and their exhibits were fully detailed in the many special editions and supplements of the local newspapers.

Leicester also witnessed a welcome return of animals to the show after an absence from the previous two due to the cattle plague which had been prevalent in England between 1865 and 1867. There were numerous varieties and breeds of stock animals and horses on show at Leicester, and whilst the overall totals were not high, the organisers were quite content with entry numbers. Also on the show site and covering five acres, was an exhibition by the Royal Horticultural Society, holding only their second show outside London, and which must also have proved a popular draw.

Adding to the spectacle were military bands, water fountains, and in the town church bells rang and special concerts were held. The weather was hot and dry, no doubt welcomed by many, but this caused problems at the trial grounds, where ploughs struggled to show their worth, and often broke on the parched earth. The temperance movement gave away cooling drinks of water to visitors walking to the show, a very practical way to advertise their cause. Another source of water was found by accident on the show site when an exhibitor demonstrating his tube wells, bored into the arid ground and struck fresh water which he freely distributed around the site!

The Midland Railway was well prepared for the large influx of visitors. At Campbell Street station a third platform had been built on the up side, accessed by arched openings which had been knocked through the rear boundary wall of platform 2. The platform was roofed and complete with waiting and refreshment rooms, and after the show it was used by trains destined for the new line to London St Pancras. Also provided, was a temporary footbridge to connect the new platform to London Road (opposite the Hind Hotel) so that visitors had a shorter walk to the show and did not have to cross tracks to the normal main exit.

For the first three days of the show the Midland and LNWR supplemented their normal service trains although on occasions they were still insufficient. At Market Harborough for instance, 200 passengers were left on the platform because an extra train was full. The biggest influx of visitors was for the last two cheaper 'shilling' days, with excursions being run to Leicester from all parts of England. On the first of the two

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cheap days, there were fifteen specials run by the Midland (one of which was the first on the company's new line to London), and seven by the LNWR, helping to bring in a total of over 52,000 visitors. Although most visitors arrived by train, there were also many from the county by road, and an unusual sight must have been the numerous farmers' wagons packed with merry-makers, travelling along country lanes heading to and from the show. On the last day, numbers were swelled by children from schools and institutions, who were allowed entry free of charge.

Compared with all the previous shows, this was one of the most successful, with high receipts from a total of over 96,000 visitors. The show was a credit to Leicester.

For some it had caused disruption to the normal running of the town, but there were many who benefited, not least the town's hoteliers and landlords who accommodated the hundreds of site workers for several weeks after the show's closure until the park was eventually back to normal, and the local auctioneers who were commissioned to sell off a variety of items left over from the show. Under the hammer went 200 horse-boxes, 400,000 feet of boarding, 1,500 yards of floor cloth, 4,000 drinking glasses, 500 yards of tablecloths and 1,800 meat and pudding plates! Another 28 years were to elapse before the town saw its like again.

1896 Royal Agricultural Show

The honour of holding the show again fell to the borough in 1896. This time had seen sole competition from Northampton, who damaged their case by a weak claim in the name of Earl Spencer of Althorp, that Leicester should not be allowed to hold the show because it was suffering from such a poor water supply. Leicester won through however, successfully pointing out to the Society that this would not be a problem as a new reservoir was being built at Swithland. (2)

By 1896, the shows were much larger which meant that Victoria Park was deemed unsuitable, and a new site was selected instead, west of Aylestone Road, near to the Raw Dykes. It was bounded by the railway to the south, the river to the west and Hazel Street to the north and covered 82 acres. One report stated that, although there was a minor detraction because of the gas works chimneys and football stands, it was a perfect site in most other respects. (3)

There was no Raw Dykes Road at this time, only a driveway which gave access to the St Mary's canal wharf and to the many Freemen's allotments. In preparation for the site, the council had to relocate the allotments to the

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opposite side of Aylestone Road, and compensate the tenants. They also had to remove several hedges, level the ground and lay new turf. The grand entrance to the show – one that moved with the shows around the country – was located opposite the cattle market.

Transport arrangements for animals to this site were far more straightforward than to the previous show site at Victoria Park. Most of the livestock arrived at the Midland Railway's cattle dock which was conveniently situated on Welford Road (near to the cemetery), and allowed the animals to be walked on to the site. Transport of the hundreds of implements, machinery and other exhibits was however, more difficult. The most obvious place for a special siding was next to the railway, south of the site, but this was on a high embankment and presumably deemed unsuitable, as a temporary dock was built by the Midland Railway a mile away on Knighton Fields Road East (the road entrance facing the Manchester Hotel), this being designated the Aylestone Road Show Yard station. (4) From here, tons of equipment had to be transported to the site via Saffron Lane on wagons hauled by traction engines, having first carefully negotiated the narrow bridge on Knighton Fields Road West. The Midland also handled nearly all of the LNWR's traffic from this yard. (5)

Adding to the bustle on Aylestone Road were the loads for the show which arrived from the Great Northern Railway's depot across the town in Belgrave Road, and also the long-distance loads pulled by teams of horses. For over two weeks the activity proved quite an attraction, with crowds lining the streets to watch. Even the growth of the hundreds of wooden and canvas buildings on the site proved of interest. The best views were from the top deck of the horse-drawn trams, these often being full as they passed the site on their way to the terminus at Grace Road.

The largest building they would have seen was the Society's lavish pavilion, built as the show's administrative headquarters, and also to be used for entertaining the royal visitors. On this occasion it was two future kings who were to attend - Edward, Prince of Wales and George, Duke of York. The pavilion was suitably furnished and decorated, a task undertaken by the local firm, Inglesants. They made the furniture especially for the occasion, and decorated the interior of the reception room in Louis XIV style, and the dining room was in Elizabethan style. Valuable oil paintings were hung in both. The silver plate to be used at the royal party's lunch was exhibited before the show in a jeweller's window in Leicester's Market Street.

On the day of their visit, the route the royal guests took to the site was from London Road station via Granby Street, Horsefair Street and Welford Road. Their way was heavily decorated with hundreds of 'Venetian masts', with flags and

bunting strung between them in 'lavish profusion'. There were also triumphal arches, complete with mottoes as in 1868. The most unusual one was in Welford Road which had been constructed by the fire brigade using fire escape ladders.

MIDLAND RAILWAY

Royal Agricultural SOCIETY'S SHOW
At LEICESTER, June 20th to 26th.

ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 23rd & 24th, 1896,
First and Third Class Return Tickets at
A SINGLE FARE-AND-A-QUARTER
for the **DOUBLE JOURNEY** will be issued to
LEICESTER

FROM

LONDON (St. Paneras)	Luton	Finedon
Moorgate Street	Leagrave	Isham
Aldersgate Street	Harlington	Cambridge
Farringdon Street	Filtwick	Godmanchester
King's Cross	Amphill	Huntingdon
Camden Road	Hitchin	Buckden
Kentish Town	Henlow	Graham
Haverstock Hill	Shefford	Kimbolton
Finchley Road	Southill	Raunds
West End	Cardington	Thrapstone
Child's Hill	Bedford	Twywell
Welsh Harp	Northampton	Cranford
Hendon	Piddington & Horton	Kettering
Mill Hill	Olney	Geddington
Elstree	Turvey	Weldon & Corby
Radlett	Oakley	Gretton
St. Albans	Sharnbrook	Harringworth
Harpden	Irchester	Rushton
Hemel Hempsted	Higham Ferrers	Desboro'
Redbourn	Rushden	and
Chiltern Green	Wellingboro'	Rugby

The tickets will be available for returning by any train on the day of issue only.
Derby, June, 1896. **GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.**
Bemrose & Sons, Limited, Printers, Derby; and London.

Midland Railway handbill offering cheap tickets from their stations in the south to the 1896 Leicester show.

The extra traffic and crowds during the week of the show was of such volume that 150 extra constables were drafted in from neighbouring forces, including Birmingham and Nottingham, to keep control. One of their roles was directing the many cabs, horse buses and brakes from London Road station to the site on a gyratory system. (6) This entailed traffic running via Waterloo Street and Lancaster Street to Aylestone Road and returning along Welford Road and Belvoir Street – possibly the first one-way streets for Leicester. Similarly, there was a one-way arrangement for traffic from the Great Northern station.

The event ran from 22nd - 26th June, with a day before for viewing implements only. The biggest attraction was the machinery in motion – the largest there had been at any show – mostly steam driven (including a machine for milking cows), although also evident were the new oil and gas engines. Not so directly agricultural were exhibits of the earliest motor cars, fire engines, bicycles and even pianos by

Marshalls of Leicester – who later claimed to have sold one to the Prince of Wales! Local firms included Vipan & Headly who had the largest stand at the show with their dairy machinery, Taylor-Hubbard, Broadbents, and Harrison Seeds. Also from Leicester were many carriage builders indicating it was a centre for the trade. Firms such as Youngs, Clulow & Orton, Lilleys and Hamshaws showed a large range of vehicles, some with the very latest Dunlop pneumatic tyres and ball-bearing axles! The top of the range carriages were by Hamshaws who had supplied their high-class products to notabilities including the Emperor of Germany and British royalty.

Exhibits of livestock were very numerous despite recent outbreaks of anthrax and swine fever in the county. Among the prize winners were the Queen, Prince of Wales and Duke of York, their winning beasts especially shown in the parade ring on the day of the royal visit. Some of their animals were sold at the show to Argentinian agents at very high prices, whilst other foreign stock breeders purchased many of the other prize-winning animals.

This was the 57th Royal Show and attracted the fifth highest attendance at over 146,000. The railways, of course, brought in most of these visitors, some via the Great Northern station, but mostly by the Midland and LNWR companies who this time arrived at the new London Road station. The London Road station coped admirably with this huge influx of people, something its forerunner at Campbell Street could not have done. On the show's busiest day it was reported that excursion trains and duplicate services were arriving almost every minute for over two hours, each train of 15 or 16 carriages carrying 500-600 passengers. On this day the Midland ran 50 specials and the other two companies nearly the same number. Excursions arrived from as far afield as Ireland and Scotland.

To speed up the movement of passengers at London Road, tickets were examined at small country stations prior to the stop at Leicester. At Wigston Glen Parva for instance, five extra staff were employed for ticket examination, and the platform was extended to accommodate the longer trains. The logistics of coping with the extra excursion trains were precarious, especially with the timing and positioning of the evening return trains which had been stored all day crammed into sidings a few miles north and south of Leicester. All arrangements, however, ran quite smoothly.

The show was deemed a great success, helped by reasonable weather. Among those who benefited were the many temporary workers employed at the ground, the horse-tram company and organisers of a grand fête held at Abbey Park which attracted show visitors who stayed overnight, and boosted the three-day attendance to over 40,000. A smaller gala held by the rugby club on Aylestone Road was less

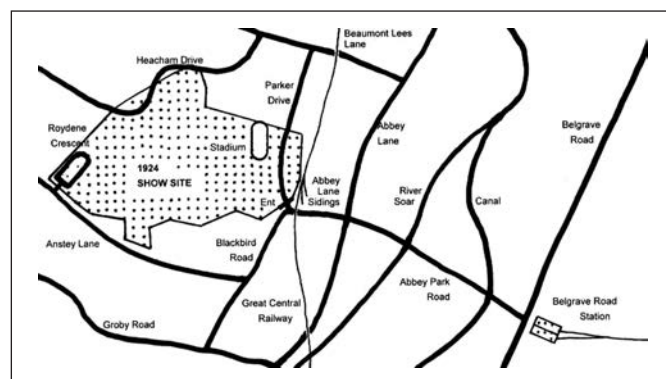
successful, as were many booths that lined the same road for selling refreshments, because far too many had been allowed. Also trying to cash in were people renting their houses; although out of 752 advertised for renting, only about 100 were taken, reportedly due to gross over-pricing. Again there was an auction of materials left after the show, the main item for sale this time being a million (!) feet of timber. In connection with the show, a trial ground was used on the same farms near to Aylestone Park as in 1868. This time however, it was just for demonstrating potato planting equipment and held in April, with further trials in October demonstrating new types of machinery designed for lifting the crop.



Commemorative medal of the 1896 Leicester show. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

After the show, most of the vast area eventually became the site of an electricity generating station, including some large cooling towers. Leicestershire's cricket ground was also built on the site as well as factories and terraced housing. Coincidentally, 12 acres of the site near to the Raw Dykes was used as a permanent show ground for the Leicestershire Agricultural Society from 1926 until the start of the Second World War. Retail outlets and the new football stadium have subsequently replaced much of the power station.

1924 Royal Agricultural Show



Plan of the 1924 Royal Agricultural Show site in Leicester.

Another large site – 120 acres – was acquired for Leicester's third show in 1924. This area too has changed quite radically and is now predominantly residential, approximately bounded by Parker Drive, Heacham Drive to the north and as far west as Roydene Crescent off Anstey Lane. In 1924

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the area was private farmland, the eastern boundary being the LNER (former Great Central) railway line. The grand entrance to the site, which comprised an array of buildings, was positioned near to the current junction of Blackbird Road (formerly Blackbird Lane) and Parker Drive. Being only one mile from the city centre, it was considered an ideal site and reasonably convenient for the three main railway stations all of which hoped to bring in a good deal of excursion traffic.

The Leicester trams provided an excellent shuttle service from the stations, using a new double track along the centre of the widened Blackbird Road which had come into use just nine days before the show. Coupled with this, was another new double track, along Abbey Park Road, which was extended to pass under the Blackbird Road railway bridge. As part of the tramway extension scheme this bridge had only just been doubled in width by the railway company at the corporation's expense. As it turned out it was the decision to hold the show that pushed forward the plans for this scheme, which had lingered since early 1921, as well as the widening of North Bridge at the same time.



Direction sign to the 1924 Royal Agricultural Show. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

Next to the Blackbird Road railway bridge were the Abbey Lane sidings, the road entrance being opposite Frear's bakery, and ideally situated for the transfer of much of this show's exhibits including livestock. It was even considered for use as a temporary station for show visitors. The LNER bore the brunt of the rail transport and at Abbey Lane they increased the facilities by adding landing stages and four long sidings. They also provided an additional six sidings at their Western Boulevard depot, sufficient for 174 wagons, and utilised the former Great Northern facilities at Belgrave Road.

The event entailed a large outlay for the council, laying new water and gas mains especially, and there were anxious times for several months before the show due to a prevalence of foot and mouth disease throughout the country, with cancellation a strong possibility. It wasn't until four weeks before the show that they were given the go-ahead, and even then there were restrictions on cattle movement in many places including parts of Leicestershire. This had the effect of reducing the livestock attendance by about one third which otherwise would have been the second highest entry at any provincial show. Even so, 3,795 of 'Britain's finest cattle' were exhibited. It also meant that whilst the site was filling up, anything entering was subject to disinfection.

Doubts about the show going ahead, also meant that contributions from a local subscription set up by the council to defray their costs, were not so forthcoming. The council even decided to decline paying for street decorations and rely on individual concerns to decorate their own buildings, especially on the route of the royal visitor from London Road station, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, being this year's visitor.

The five day event opened on 1st July, and from early on it was evident that crowds would not be high. As well as the cattle plague affecting attendance, the huge British Empire exhibition at Wembley was open at the same time and proved a large counter-attraction. It was unfortunate as there was a lot to be seen in the six-and-a-half miles of 'shedding' that covered the site, with some of the buildings reported to be 'as large as a good size cinema'.

As usual many of the stands had no connection with agriculture. One, amazingly, was advertising a business for salvaging battleships! An interesting exhibit was a tall windmill especially designed for generating electricity which sounds like an early wind turbine. There was also a championship dog show for the first time. Another first, and possibly last, was a class for pit ponies in the horse section, this request having come from councillor Paget with local mining interest in mind. Among local companies exhibiting were Vipan & Headly, W. Richards, Wadkins, Goodwin Barsby, F. Parker, JP Lawnmowers, Harrison Seeds, Messengers, En Tout Cas and Dryad. There were many more including Simpkin & James, who sold off the exhibits from the Chivers' preserves stand in their own shop after the show.

Inglesants once again elaborately furnished and decorated the royal pavilion free of charge, this time in the style of a timbered cottage, and after the royal visit it was opened to the public in return for donations to charity. On the day of the Prince's arrival, huge crowds lined the streets – far more than anticipated – which caused chaos in the town centre.

Road vehicles along the route were requested to draw into the side of the road just before the procession arrived, which meant that the crowds could not see without surging onto the road. The police, many drafted in from the Metropolitan force, just managed to cope.

The show and royal attendance were well-covered by the local press, except by one publication. This was the *Pioneer*, a socialist paper, which hardly mentioned the show. What it did report was rather disparaging, and clearly it did not support the royal event. It said 'we understand the Prince looked, like other young men, bored and tired'. The paper also thought the flags and garlands were childish despite them being described as magnificent in other papers – although it approved of the floral decorations. One problem affecting attendance was the weather. On the third day there were heavy storms and then very strong gales during the night. Worst affected were the horticultural exhibits – some valuable ones completely ruined – and the mayor's tent was flattened. During the last two days, when huge crowds were expected, there was more heavy rain and attendance was low. Overall, less than 86,000 attended the event, fifty per cent less than anticipated. It was very unfortunate after all the meticulous preparations by so many, including the corporation who lost out financially. There was also a feeling that the city as a whole did not gain very much from the show, and this must have influenced the council not to entertain the event again.

Following the 1924 show, a small part of the site was used to build a stadium for greyhound racing. This was opened in 1926, and its use expanded to speedway two years later. The stadium has since been replaced by housing, adding to the many other streets of residential properties now in this area. There are also now industrial units (Parker Drive), the Alderman Hallam School and Blackbird Road playing fields on the former show site. Only one item is still in place that was there originally, and that is the remains of the ancient St John's sacrificial stone.

One thing the show highlighted was how the centre of Leicester soon snarled up with only a slight increase in traffic. This was mainly due to a combination of the town being on major trunk routes, all of which converged in the one place at the Clock Tower, and to its tramway system. Some remedial action was taken after the 1924 show, including the widening of Charles Street, whilst other major by-passes and the replacement of the trams took very much longer.

Notes:

1. Exceptions were 1903-1905 when a permanent site near Willesden was unsuccessfully tried. This was even after



Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, with the Mayor, J. Mantle-Hubbard, departing for the 1924 show from London Road station. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

three railway companies had provided new passenger and goods stations for the site.

2. As it turned out, the Swithland reservoir was not completed until two months after the show ended.
3. The stands were at the Fosse football ground, then owned by the council, and this was used as part of the show site for veterinary inspections.
4. This was made a permanent facility the following year and called Aylestone Wharf.
5. Whether any shipments arrived by canal at the convenient St Mary's wharf is unknown.
6. Many transport proprietors from other towns also attempted to cash in on the event.

Sources:

Weekly and daily editions of all local newspapers and *The Times* concurrent with the relevant shows.

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A Catalogue of the various Agricultural Implements, Machines and other Articles, (Royal Agricultural Society of England, 1868).

A Catalogue of the various Agricultural Implements, Seeds, Roots, Manures and other articles, (Royal Agricultural Society of England, 1896).

Complete Catalogue of the Eighty-Third Annual Exhibition at Leicester, (Royal Agricultural Society of England, 1924).

A short British Pathe film of the Prince and events at the 1924 Leicester show can be seen on the internet at www.britishpathe.com/video/prince-henry-at-83rd-royal-show

Gaddesby Church and the Cheney Monument

Keith Randon

Approaching, and then entering St Luke's Church at Gaddesby for the first time is an experience for the senses, with so much to see. As far as the chancel is concerned, a relatively late addition of 1898 dominates the scene - mounted on a pedestal is the sculpture of a soldier on a dying horse. This is Joseph Gott's 'Cheney Monument'. The story of the monument is however imperfectly known, as records are sparse and incomplete. The most comprehensive source to date is Terry Cavanagh in the authoritative work *Public sculpture of Leicestershire and Rutland*. (1) This article attempts to develop what is known so far, and includes a new and likely explanation of the way in which the sculptor and the patron of the monument were brought together.

*The Battle of Waterloo
18th June 1815*

Nothing, except a battle lost, can be half so melancholy as a battle won. (The Duke of Wellington, despatch from the field of battle.)

We know the Cheney monument commemorates heroic actions which took place during the Battle of Waterloo. The battle was fought thirteen kilometres south of Brussels, and is when British and Allied armies finally defeated Napoleon.

On the night of 17th June 1815, the Royal Scots Greys, a

cavalry regiment to which Captain, by now brevit Major, Edward Cheney was attached, spent the night in a hollow by the road among green barley. Little lifted their spirits as a steady rain fell upon them. Next morning, as the rain still streamed down, they ate a makeshift breakfast of oats and water, becoming aware as they did so, that the conflict had commenced. Frustratingly for the Greys, they had been held back, and as the French advanced, Lord Uxbridge ordered a cavalry attack, but again, the Greys were kept in reserve.

However, the Greys commander, Colonel Hamilton, noticed that a section of the Allies' infantry line was starting to weaken and fall back in disorder. He took the initiative and ordered a walking (rather than riding) advance, partly because of the rough ground, but also to minimise casualties amongst the British and Allied foot soldiers. Having walked through the 92nd Highlanders, the Greys were then able to attack the French infantry. As the battle continued, Colonel Hamilton rode on, but was soon killed on the battlefield. Without their commander, the Greys fragmented into small isolated groups, with many being picked off by the French cavalry.

Casualties were terrible. When they went into battle, the number of the Greys was 391. At the end of the day, they had 104 dead and 97 wounded. Of the 416 horses they had at the beginning of the day, 228 were dead.



The Cheney monument in the chancel at Gaddesby Church.

The Hero and the Sculpture

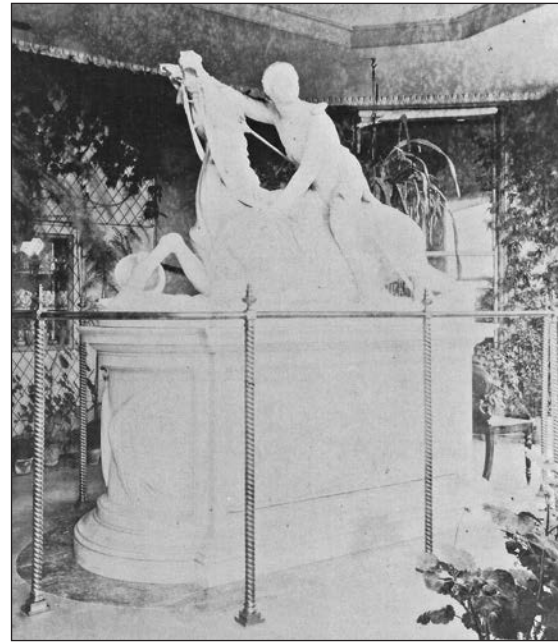
Cheney, who had been at the heart of the fighting throughout the day, emerged unscathed. His exposure to the intensity of the fighting is borne out in that during the battle, four of his horses had been killed and a fifth wounded. Following the attrition of the day, he found himself acting commanding officer of the regiment. In recognition of his services, only four days later, on 22nd June 1815, the Prince Regent, on the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington, made the newly promoted Lieutenant-Colonel Cheney, a Companion of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath.

The top equestrian section of the Cheney monument shows Cheney astride Tannar, the fourth of the five horses which he rode at Waterloo. A detailed description of the monument is provided by Cavanagh - Tannar is depicted as having sunk to the ground, a bullet wound explicitly carved in bold relief on its chest. Cheney leans forward, his left hand still gripping the horse's reins, his right hand thrust out ahead of him, the index finger pointing forward, while he nonetheless manages to keep a grip on his sword, which is now reversed and pointing backwards past his right side. He is bareheaded, his shako, with broken strap having fallen to the ground by the horse's hoof. The base around the collapsed horse is a mass of flattened barley. The front of the base of the top part of the sculpture is inscribed: EDWARD H. CHENEY, COLONEL IN THE ARMY, LATE SCOTS GREYS, and the rear of the base (now against the chancel wall) records "TANNAR", ONE OF FOUR HORSES KILLED UNDER HIM, JUNE 18TH 1815. The front of the base of the sculpture is signed J.GOTT FT. (2)

This unusual church monument does not appear to have been originally made for Gaddesby church. It was initially delivered to Gaddesby Hall where the Cheney family lived, where it was placed in the orangery in a position so it could be walked around. An enclosure with brass railings was constructed around it, the gates of the current chancel screen in St Luke's are from this enclosure. (3)

At some point the monument was moved from Gaddesby Hall across to St Luke's church. This was almost certainly in 1898, when the Cheney family left the hall and it was cleared for letting. (4) To move the memorial across to the church, it had to be dismantled into its components. These were then hauled on oak rollers from the Hall, by horse, and taken into the church through the north door and across the nave. The monument was placed in the chancel, rather than in the nave or aisles, the explanation for this being that the Cheneys owned the manorial rights and were rectors of the chancel and sanctuary. (5) According to oral tradition, the removal of the monument to the church was carried out by local labour, and it is a tribute to them to have executed this unique challenge of unfamiliarity, bulk, weight, distance and

level changes, so apparently well, with no catastrophic damage during the move. (6)



A rare image of the Cheney monument at Gaddesby Hall.

An examination of the sculpture today reveals some relatively minor damage which may date from the move, the most noticeable of which, is a hairline crack across the horse's rump. Also, on the left side, part of the lower sling adjacent to the colonel's scabbard is missing. The left ear of the nearest horse at the right of the relief is partly lost, while the left foot of the horse's rider has been broken off and is glued back on, the glue now being discoloured. Looking at the standing French infantryman, second from the left, the right ear and part of the rifle mechanism are slightly chipped; the nose and upper lip of the half-lying French infantryman are also slightly chipped. Further inadvertent damage has occurred over the years, the horse's teeth having become discoloured by an apple being regularly pressed into its mouth during harvest festivals. (7)

The pedestal and a second heroic incident

Looking at the panel on the front of the sculpture's pedestal something unexpected is found. Although the Cheney monument is dedicated to one man, it unexpectedly portrays another heroic incident of that day, and is in fact shared by two soldiers, one who is named on it and one who is not. This further battle scene shown in relief on the pedestal depicts the wresting of the Standard [French Eagle] from the enemy by a soldier who we know from other sources to be Sergeant Charles Ewart (1769-1846), also of the Scots Greys. Carved in relief at the semi-circular ends of the pedestal, are crossed standards, at the left end are the Royal Scots Greys' regimental standards, and at the right, two depictions of the French eagle standard as captured by Ewart. (8) Although of the same regiment, Ewart's and

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Cheney's actions were carried out independently from each other, with Ewart belonging to Captain Vernor's 'F' Troop. (9) In large letters on the rear panel of the pedestal (now against the wall), is the word WATERLOO.

By capturing a French Standard with an overwhelming feat of arms, Sergeant Ewart became a hero overnight. He was given the Freedom of the city of Irvine, Ayrshire, and feted wherever he went. In 1821, he retired from the army with a £100 a year pension, married a Stockport girl and they moved to Salford. He passed his retirement by teaching swordsmanship. On his death, he was buried in a churchyard in Salford, his grave eventually becoming neglected and overgrown. In 1938, he was exhumed and reburied at Edinburgh Castle.

Unfortunately there are no known surviving Cheney estate documents, nor any other documents relating to the monument which may help explain how these two heroes came to be commemorated together at Gaddesby. Instead, the most likely answer at present appears to be provided by family history research, although it remains baffling and odd as to why there is no mention of Sergeant Ewart's name on the pedestal panels.

Who was Colonel Edward Hawkins Cheney?

Edward Hawkins Cheney (1778-1848) was the son of Robert Cheney (1737-1809) and his second wife, Bridget Leacroft. The future Colonel grew up at Langley Hall, Meynell Langley in Derbyshire. In 1812 he married Eliza Ayre whose family had owned the Gaddesby Hall estate since the early eighteenth century. Eliza was the younger of two sisters – her elder sister, Mary never marrying. Colonel Cheney died at Gaddesby Hall in 1848. The Cheneys were also Lords of the Manor of Monyash in Derbyshire, and many of the family were buried there, but Colonel Edward Hawkins Cheney chose to lie with his wife and her family at Ashby Folville. Later, on Mary's death in 1856, the Gaddesby estate passed to the Colonel and Eliza Cheney's only son, Edward Henshaw Cheney. (10)

Joseph Gott (1786-1860) and the Gott Family

The sculptor of the Cheney monument, Joseph Gott, was born in 1786, the son of John Gott of 31 Ogle Street, Marylebone, London. John's grandfather, Isaac Gott (died 1765) was a native of Calverley, and Isaac's elder brother was John Gott of Woodhall (1720-93), a civil engineer. John's son, Benjamin Gott (1762-1840), became a leading Yorkshire woollen manufacturer and Joseph's principal patron. From 1798-1802, Joseph was in London, apprenticed to the leading English sculptor, John Flaxman (1755-1826). Over the years, Gott produced work that often gained attention and awards. He married in 1819 and by 1821 he

had two children. They decided to emigrate to the small community of British artists in Rome, where Gott was to remain for the rest of his life. His moving to Rome was supported with a pension from Sir Thomas Lawrence FRS (1769-1830), who had become wealthy producing portraits of the great people of his time. Lawrence also provided Gott with a letter of introduction to Antonio Canova (1757-1822). Although living in Rome, Joseph regularly visited England to discuss new work. In time, his commissions improved, and his standard of living along with them. Commissions were given to him by many clients, and from 1825 for the next 13 years he earned a good living from his work. By this time, due to the advent of steam power, and cheaper sea transport both for travel and transport, imported goods could be readily moved from abroad to Britain by ship, and then by canal, and later by railway within the country. This allowed a sculptor to live in Rome, where living was not only more congenial, but cheaper, and good marble was readily available. However, in 1838 a serious cholera outbreak scared away visitors to Rome. Not only that, but Gott's sculptures were beginning to receive the occasional hostile review, and from that time he lived a more constrained life, getting work where he could. It is believed that the Cheney monument is dated to 1848 (the time of the Colonel's death), and was one of Gott's last large-scale works.



Finely carved detail on the Cheney monument - horse's head with reins (top), and barley field below the horse (bottom).

*Leicestershire Historian 2012**The commissioning of the Cheney monument*

There is no known documentation, nor any additional references related to the commissioning, purchase or creation of the Cheney Monument, other than Gott's name carved on the base of the statue. The accepted view is that Gott was chosen as sculptor for the Cheney monument, largely as a result of a suggestion from the watercolourist Thomas Hartley Cromek (1809-1873) whose patrons included the hero's two half-brothers, both of whom were distinguished art collectors. Cromek had been trained in Wakefield, and worked in Leeds between 1825 and 1830. He was in Rome from 1830 to 1849 where it is said, he frequently visited the studio of sculptor Joseph Gott, this providing the connection to the Cheney monument commission. (11)

There are however difficulties with this view, and an alternative explanation proposed here is that the choice of Gott came about through family links, although not necessarily the most obvious ones, as the commissioning of works by Gott and sculptor John Gibson (1790-1866), by different family members shows. (12)

Sometime after the Colonel's half-brother, Robert Cheney died in 1819, his widow, Harriet (nee Carr) and family, including Robert Henry (died 1866), and Edward Cheney (died 1884), moved to Badger Hall in Shropshire. When the Cheney family at Badger Hall cast around for someone to execute the memorials to Harriet Cheney (died 1848) and Harriet Pigot (died 1853), their choice was British sculptor John Gibson. (13) Therefore it seems plausible to suggest that, even if the Cheney monument may have been commissioned first, it would be odd if the Shropshire Cheneys, (or Cromek, if he was involved), would suggest any other sculptor than Gibson to the Cheney family at Gaddesby for the statue to Colonel Cheney. The fact it was Gott, perhaps indicates that links between the branches of the Cheneys were not close enough for them to have passed on a sculptor's name, and that the commissioning of Gott was made through other wider family connections as follows.

Family history research has revealed how the three major family groups involved in the commissioning of the Cheney monument – the Cheneys, Gotts and Ewarts - came together by marriage. The heads of these families were very different in origins. One was Colonel Cheney who could hold his head high in any company, who lived at Gaddesby Hall and was as we have seen, a hero of Waterloo. Two were self-made men - Benjamin Gott, the aforementioned son of a civil engineer, was a mill owner and manufacturer and extremely successful, to the degree that he owned what was then the biggest textile factory in the world. The third, William Ewart had come to Liverpool as a teenager, from a

poor but genteel family in the Scottish Lowlands, to be apprenticed to a trader and importer. William had become hugely successful and rich as an importer, ship owner and trader - a giant among the merchants of Liverpool, being particularly enmeshed in the Anglo-Scottish community, and who was also honoured by being asked to be godfather to the future Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone. During 1827, both Benjamin Gott and the family of the late William Ewart decided to commission funerary monuments. Casting around, they chose Benjamin Gott's distant relative, Joseph as the sculptor. Further commissions came from these families for Joseph. (14)

The answer to 'who commissioned the Cheney monument?', appears to lie in the generation of Edward Henshaw Cheney (1814-1889), the hero's son, as it is here where the closest inter-family contacts can be seen. Edward Henshaw's sister, Eliza Cheney (1812-1847), married John Ewart (1797-1839) in 1832, and she and doubtless her unmarried brother (Edward Henshaw), would have been welcomed at Ewart family gatherings, either in Liverpool or London. At these gatherings, as they were all of similar age, Eliza may have introduced Edward Henshaw to her sister-in-law, Margaret Gott, nee Ewart (1795-1846), and her husband, William Gott (1797-1863). William Gott's grandfather and sculptor Joseph Gott's grandfather were brothers. William Gott and his father Benjamin had been patrons of artists and composers for some time. (15) It is also possible that the commission for the Cheney work may have been linked to the passing, or imminent passing, of a generation and with it, memories of an heroic time. It is most probable that the Cheney monument was initiated by Colonel Cheney's surviving son Edward Henshaw soon after his father's death in March 1848, and this would also bring the Gaddesby dating evidence into alignment with the dating view held by the art experts. William Gott seems the most likely person to have suggested his kinsman Joseph Gott as sculptor to Edward Henshaw. (16)

Family connections also help explain the links with Sergeant Charles Ewart, the hero of the Cheney monument pedestal, and it seems reasonable to propose that William Gott, who having married a Ewart, suggested the panel scene in tribute to his wife's family, and as a way of linking the two families together in a memorial. It is also likely that William, a wealthy art collector and patron of the arts, may also have contributed towards the cost of the pedestal.

Why Sergeant Ewart's name is not actually mentioned on the monument which records not only Colonel Cheney's name but also that of his horse, remains a mystery, and whilst there is a commemorative wall tablet for Eliza Ewart, nee Cheney (1812-47) in Gaddesby's Chancel, which also mentions her husband John Ewart (1797-1839); nowhere is there a statement linking either to Sergeant Ewart's family.

The only place where this is a written assertion is in A. K. Baker's book on the Cheney's. (17) Consequently, unless one already knows the heroic act depicted on the main panel of the pedestal, little sense can be made of what is seen, and the hero remains anonymous to the onlooker.



Sergeant Ewart (mounted) is depicted capturing the French Eagle.

Interestingly, looking further at the monument, a clear horizontal division can be seen between the equine sculpture and the pedestal below. The top part of the monument is pure Cheney, whilst the bottom part could be considered pure Ewart. Even the marble used above and below the dividing line is different, raising further questions that remain to be answered, including: was the Cheney Monument commissioned as two separate monuments, possibly one before the other, and which came together as 'one' later, and was the pedestal also by Gott, or could it have been by another sculptor such as Gibson? At present we can only speculate.

For some reason, the Cheney Monument was never fully finished. Looking around the horse and rider, there are features to protect delicate items whilst in transit, for example the reins on the left of the horse are stayed back to the horse's neck. Also a small bridge piece remains on one of the fingers on the right hand. There are other 'temporary' supports to be seen as you look around man and horse. Other unanswered questions include: what did the right hand of the Waterloo hero originally point to? Was it a wall plaque, as there is now in St Luke's chancel? One legend associated with the horse revolves around its tongue, or more accurately, its apparent absence. It is said that when the absence of the tongue was pointed out to Gott, he killed himself. There is however, unlikely to be any truth in this. When a horse is wounded, it can swallow its tongue (18), and in fact the sculptor lived another 12 years after 1848.

A final thought – although it almost certainly cannot be established, one further consideration is that the sculpture may not have been intended to have the pedestal we now

see. It could originally have been for Colonel Cheney's burial place at Ashby Folville, perhaps sitting on a suitable masonry plinth. If so, either a change of heart, or a refusal from the intended church, may have led to its installation initially at Gaddesby Hall and then in Gaddesby church. This would also fit in with the above suggestion that the Cheney monument was in fact made in two parts.

References and Notes:

1. Terry Cavanagh, Alison Yarrington, *Public Sculpture of Leicestershire and Rutland*, (Liverpool University Press, 2000).
 2. Ibid.
 3. Interview 12th January 2012 with Jean Hill who has been involved with St Luke's Church, Gaddesby for over 50 years.
 4. Cavanagh comments that some historians date the move later, to 1917. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit., p.53.
 5. Interview with Jean Hill, 12th January 2012, op.cit.
 6. Ibid. Also interview with Eileen Whait, 10th May 2012. The cost of the works is believed to have been 6s.8d.
 7. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit.
 8. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit., p.52.
 9. Charles Dalton (F.R.G.S.), *The Waterloo Roll Call*, (1904).
 10. A. K. Baker, *A Gaddesby Connection*, (The Author, 1995).
 11. Joseph Gott, 1786-1860, Sculptor, 1972 Exhibition Catalogue.
 12. Unless one accepts an alternative theory proposed by R. Gunnis that Colonel Cheney himself commissioned the work while still alive. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit., p.52-3.
 13. As well as Gott, there was another British sculptor in Rome, John Gibson (1790-1866), whose reputation and patronage was very strong at this time. Gibson had joined Canova in his Rome workshop in 1817, whilst Gott arrived five years later. Gott appears to have worked in Gibson's shadow, and even now, on the internet, alongside the illustration of Gott's noteworthy statue of William Ewart, the Liverpool Gallery patronisingly describes the sculptor as 'Yorkshire's Gibson'.
 14. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit.
 15. Leeds University, Brotherton Library, Gott Papers, MS193-4.
 16. Cavanagh considered the possibility of Edward Henshaw Cheney commissioning the monument when he inherited the Gaddesby Hall estate in 1856, but suggesting this as problematic since Gott would have been over 70 years of age by this time, and unlikely that he would have taken on 'such a grandiose scheme' as the Cheney monument. Cavanagh, Yarrington, (2000), op.cit., p.53. However, this becomes less problematic if Edward Henshaw commissioned the statue on his father's death some 8 years earlier.
 17. A. K. Baker, (1995), op.cit.
 18. Interview with Jean Hill, 12th January 2012, op.cit.
- Additional sources include:
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The Wesleyan Reform Union in Leicestershire during the Twentieth Century

Gerald T. Rimmington

Among the movements which splintered from the Wesleyan Methodists in the nineteenth century was the Wesleyan Reform Union. Ever since John Wesley's death in 1791 there had been concerns about church government, especially about its extreme centralisation in the annual Wesleyan Conference. For some people this concern came to a head in 1849, when James Everett, Samuel Dunn and William Griffith were expelled for agitating in favour of what they believed to be a more democratic system wherein more decisions were taken in the local chapels. Some of the dissidents broke away in 1852, declaring that 'all local courts should be independent and their decisions affecting internal economy final'. It was also declared that 'any restriction upon discussion and free interchange of opinion on matters affecting the interest of the Church is an unwarranted interference with its liberties and with the right of private judgement'. (1) Most of them joined with other earlier secessions from the Wesleyan Connexion in 1857 to form the United Methodist Free Church. A minority insisted upon forming the Wesleyan Reform Union in 1859.

The Wesleyan Reformers had views on church government that were usually associated with Baptists and Congregationalists, for whom the independence of the local church was important. The main difference lay in choosing the circuit rather than the individual chapel as the basic unit wherein decisions were made.

The Wesleyan Reformers were not equally distributed throughout the country. They were most numerous in the growing industrial centres. It is significant that when their national headquarters was established it was located in Sheffield. In 1925 it was noted that there were 14 churches in the Rotherham and Mexbrough Circuit and 23 in the Sheffield Circuit, but only 5 in the Northampton Circuit, 5 in Foleshill (Coventry) and 6 in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit. Never very numerous, there were 378 chapels, 21 ministers and 12,516 members (and 1,218 on trial) in 1860. 16 of the places of worship were isolated by choice, while the others were organised into 34 circuits. Thereafter there was a decline until in 1881 there were 7,202 members with 553 on trial. Subsequently there was a gradual increase – 7,678 (together with 314 on trial) in 1895 – until there were 8,399



The Wesleyan Reform Church, Griffydam, known as 'The Chapel in the Valley', erected in 1858, and enlarged in 1890.

members in England during 1925. (2) After this there was a slow decline in numbers.

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit, with which we are concerned here, was the only circuit ever to be formed in Leicestershire. Inglis has noted that 'in mining villages the Methodism was often striking' and that the Wesleyan Reform Union 'had one of its strongholds in the [Leicestershire and South Derbyshire] coalfield'. (3) It has also been noted that neighbouring Baptist churches had considerable membership increases. At Ibstock, for instance, a membership of 68 in 1881 had grown to 119 by 1911. At Hugglescote membership grew from 174 to 274 over the same period. (4)

Wherever Wesleyan Reform chapels were formed they appeared to be very much part of the weft and warp of the community. C. P. Griffin noted that 'of the 61 trustees found on the various deeds of the Moira, Griffydam and Swannington chapels....30 were miners – retail traders and craftsmen comprising over half the remainder'. He also conjectured that the denomination's 'democratic form of church government....in which lay members played a large part, made [this form of] Methodism....most acceptable to the miners, who were, by tradition, one of the most articulate sections of the working class'. (5)

Although the Wesleyan Reformers had no appeal outside the mining communities they were certainly dominant within them, wherever they became established. Moira chapel served the mining community of Moira, Griffydam the Swannington-Coleorton area, New Swannington the Whitwick and Snibstone communities, Ellistown the Ellistown community, and Battram Road the South Leicester and Bagworth mining communities. Only at Ibstock, a larger community with 4,946 people in 1911, was there serious competition from the Baptists. (6)

By 1924, however, Nonconformity in general was in decline throughout England, and Leicestershire was no exception. The losses in membership were evenly spread within the Ashby Circuit, as Table 1 shows. Interestingly though, the rate of loss was lower within the Circuit than in the country as a whole. Nationally, between 1924 and 1968, there was a loss of 4,549 (-48%) members, whereas in Ashby membership fell by 73 (-24%). Unfortunately the published figures in the *Yearbooks* do not allow us to compare individual chapels, except from 1924 to 1935. It is noteworthy that the community of Ibstock, whose population increased from 2,325 in 1881 to 4,946 in 1911, remained stable in its membership, despite competition from the Baptists.

Table 1. Wesleyan Reform membership in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit.

	1924	1935	1957	1968
Moira	60	76		
Ibstock	92	85		
Griffydam	15	13		
New Swannington	63	40		
Battram Road	7	16		
Ellistown	70	37		
Total	307	270	252	234

Sources: Wesleyan Reform Union Yearbooks

Battram Road increased its membership from 7 in 1924 to 16 in 1935, while Moira increased its membership from 60 to 76. All of the others lost membership, New Swannington considerably, from 63 to 40 (-37%).

It is one of the quirks of religious history, that whereas most of the major Methodist Connexions gradually drew together, resulting in the reunion of 1932, the Wesleyan Reformers have continued to maintain their independence. This was because of their belief that the original reasons for schism had not been addressed. (7) They were indeed reluctant to join any other form of Methodism which did not stress the independence of the Societies which formed each chapel, notwithstanding that many of them were organised into circuits. In this they were much more akin to the

Independent Methodists and the chapels of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, with both of whom mergers have been considered.



Some of the many names to be seen in the brickwork on the front of the Wesleyan Reform Church, New Swannington.

The preferred option was to unite with the Independent Methodists. In 1925 J. H. Freeborough presented to the Annual Conference a report of a special committee on unity, in which it was noted that differences between the two entities were 'purely temperamental' rather than fundamental. However the Independents were opposed to any form of paid ministers, whereas the Wesleyan Reformers accepted the principle of 'set apart' ministers, even though most of their preachers were laymen. The two Connexions agreed to remain in touch, but by the end of the century the Independent Methodists were in process of merging with the Baptist Union churches.

The Wesleyan Reformers have been left with an informal relationship with the Huntingdon Connexion, but it is likely that this possible merger has been hindered by the latter's insistence upon Calvinistic theology and its historical affinity with Anglican Evangelicalism. (8)

From the decline in numbers it may be assumed, unless other factors intervene, that eventually the chapels of the Wesleyan Reformers will disappear. In 2009 there were 1,568 members in England. Of these, 67 were in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Circuit, where the chapels in Ellistown, Ibstock, Moira and New Swannington were still open. Griffydam chapel remains open, but its members recently decided to become independent of the circuit. The question that arises is: Why have these chapels continued to exist against all the odds?

An important factor is that, though coal mining had disappeared from Leicestershire by 1990, the communities that grew around the miners have not become depopulated. In former times miners used to move from areas where mining was in decline to areas where new mines were being

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opened. However, mining has been on the decline throughout the country. Miners have, therefore, tended to move to new occupations, often commuting over long distances so they can continue to live in the same communities. One notes that in the Ashby urban sanitary district a population of 4,472 in 1871 increased by 64 in 1881. It is not possible, because of boundary changes, to compare population trends between 1921 and 1931 with those noted in the preceding century, but it can be observed that population in the Ashby urban district increased from 5,538 in 1921, to 5,826 in 1931. In the same decade, Coalville's population increased from 23,050 to 24,474. The ward of Ellistown increased from 2,985 to 3,228. (9) These modest increases suggest that, while there was some outward movement of people, at least some of the natural increase was being maintained. This would probably be of some assistance to those who were trying to continue with established traditions.



The 1881 Wesleyan Reform Church, Ellistown stands amongst the terraced houses on Whitehill Road.

Another factor in the continued existence of the Wesleyan Reformers' chapels is the tendency for internal changes to take place which attract different groups within the communities. Characteristic of some branches of Nonconformity has been a gradual move towards conservatism in theology, especially after World War II. Among the Baptists there were fundamentalist churches which faced an increasingly secular world by stressing the inerrancy of scripture. (10) They saw themselves as a 'pathetically small minority pitted against the secular world'. There can be no doubt that literalism was appealing for people who looked for the comfort of apparent certainties. In 1970 the Annual Conference adopted a Confession of Faith which stated belief 'that the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given, are of divine inspiration and infallible, supreme in all matters of faith and conduct'. Churches which gained in membership were often of this type; others, of a more liberal disposition, have often been less successful in the quest for numbers. Members in the chapels of the Wesleyan Reformers have continued to affirm their belief in the infallibility of the Bible.

This tendency has been exacerbated by the situation in the Ashby Circuit, where ordained ministers have been few, and there has been a greater reliance therefore, on local preachers with little training. In 1925 there were 16 local preachers, but no ordained minister resident in the area. By 1959 there were 23 preachers, but no ordained minister. Not until 1971 was there a full-time minister listed: A. E. Hodgkinson of Ibstock. At that time there were only 22 ordained ministers in the whole Connexion. (11)

The continued survival of the Wesleyan Reform Union and its chapels in Leicestershire is quite remarkable. The chapels represent a distinct point of view among Nonconformists, so that the Connexion forms a halfway house between Methodists and Baptists. Once at the centre of community life on the coalfield they are much more peripheral now that the mines have closed. Lists of young people on trial have now disappeared; shorn of their junior membership they cater mainly for the religious needs of older people in their communities. With their sister circuits in other areas, they form an interesting part of the complexity of Methodist witness, showing, however, no sign of wanting to link up with the mainstream of Methodism.

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North–South Routes through Western Leicestershire

Christopher Rigg

Documentary evidence and local legends support the dominance of north–south traffic over east–west traffic through western Leicestershire since Norman times. Little has been published on the Derby–Coventry routes, apart from a nineteenth century source which used John Nichols' work to attempt a reconstruction. (1) This article attempts to reconstruct John Ogilvy's 1675 route between Derby and Atherstone, and the Redway between Derby and Caldecote. The main differences from the Redway reconstructed here are that Nichols' and Glover's route ran through Shackerstone and Congerstone, east of the north–south line described here, and that their route crossed the Trent by the Swarkestone Bridge.

The Redway, (or Radway) is a prehistoric route that runs almost due north–south, from Derby through Leicestershire to Coventry, and on to Edge Hill in south Warwickshire. There are hints that the route may be contemporary with Stonehenge in origin, certainly Iron Age. In common with four other undated, but probably Iron Age routes, it crosses the River Sence watershed in west Leicestershire. (2) The Anglo-Saxons called it the Redway or Radway. The earliest cartographic evidence is the strip maps in John Ogilvy's *Britannia*, the first comprehensive Road Book in the UK (3). These show a route which followed parts of the Redway from Derby to the Leicestershire county boundary, although by Ogilvy's time, it had been diverted west of the older route south, largely as a result of blocking by major landowners.

The main evidence and sources used to trace the Redway and Ogilvy's route here include:

1) Topographical evidence from Google Earth, along with



Ogilvy's 1675 map of the area around Pinwall and Atherstone on the Leicestershire – Warwickshire border

the detailed computerised maps of Bing–Multimap, cycling and walking.

2) Documented history, in particular the Domesday census, and John Nichols *Leicestershire*, 1818. (4)

3) Old county maps, on which roads first appear in the eighteenth century, and the Ordnance Survey maps of 1835 and 1887.

4) Topographical names around the north–south line of the route.

5) Route Map 82 'Oxford to Derby' in Ogilvy's *Britannia*. (5)

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The northern starting point of the Redway seems to have been much further north at Ripon in Yorkshire, with part of it being superseded by the Roman Ryknild Way, whilst its southern finish is at Edge Hill where it connects to a ridgeway running to Salisbury Plain. The line of the Redway through Leicestershire appears to have been consistently due south over a distance of 19 kilometres. Over its wider compass from north of Derby at Little Chester through south Derbyshire and Leicestershire to Coventry, the deviation is 2–3 kilometres from north–south, in a distance of 36 kilometres.

Traditions

A brief look at some of the legends and traditions associated with western Leicestershire provides support for the dominance of north-south routes in the area and gives some clues about the route of the Redway and other tracks.

There is a legend associated with Packington that speaks of the village being on a route from Derby to Coventry. The legend is supported by the Domesday data, in which the village is held by St Mary's Abbey in Coventry, and by the coincidence of the name Bablake (Babelake), which is both a district of Coventry and the name of a cul de sac southwards from Packington. Whilst the present road pattern did not support that of the old routes, the village does however have two lanes leading south to various farms, which merited investigation as part of a direct road from Packington to Coventry.

Further south at Newton Burgoland, a bridleway – Francis Lane – runs south towards Derby Lane, which according to tradition was formerly used by the hat makers from Atherstone to reach Ashby de la Zouch (6), where they would sell their wares from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. The hatters would have come from Atherstone through Pinwall to Main Road, Sheepy Magna, thence via a lost road to Lovett Bridge and along Watery Lane and Gallows Lane into the Redway at Temple south of Bilstone.

Long-distance north-south travel clearly went through Sibson, where according to tradition the highwayman Dick Turpin (1705–1739) was a regular user of the Cock Inn, where he hid to avoid capture. Further undated stories of Sibson indicate long-distance travellers along the south–north route and the poor quality of the Redway in this area. Arthur Mee records: 'Not far off is the Eightlands Field [south of the old muddy ford over the Saint] which pays for the ringing of curfew from October to March. It was given long ago by a benighted traveller who, having lost his way, found it again by the sound of the curfew ringing from Sibson's church.' (7) A suspiciously similar story explains Sheepy church's Bell Rope Cottage on Frog Moor east of Crow Lane, which was also the route taken by Ogilvy in 1675. A traveller lost in a fog on Frog Moor is said to have

heard the curfew bell from the church about 1 kilometre to the east and found his way there. Both stories indicate the uncertain tracks that travellers encountered before the land was enclosed, whilst the addition of hedgerows would have helped guide traffic.

References to the Redway can also be found in connection with the Battle of Bosworth, and it is probable from documented history that the route in this area ran around Upton or Fenny Drayton. Whilst the battle's site is disputed, early accounts tell that the battle was fought on Redmoor, ('road moor'), which must have adjoined either Fenn Lane or the Redway. Nichols stated that Henry Tudor reached the battlefield along the Radway. Austin recently suggested, incorrectly in the view of the writer of this article, that this 'Radway' ran from Tamworth through Polesworth, and crossed the River Sence at Lovett Bridge. (8)

Place names and features with the name Derby in them, as alongside the former road north from Drayton church towards the centre of Atterton, and west of the present A444, may have been named after a Derby–Coventry route, rather than after Lord Derby. (9)

Routes over the Trent to Ashby – The Redway and Ogilvy's Route

This reconstruction of the Redway and Ogilvy's routes starts at Derby in the north and ends at Atherstone and Caldecote further south. Early constraints to both routes in the Derby area would have included the River Trent, nearby fens and marshy ground. The Redway crossed the Trent from Barrow upon Trent to Ingleby (10), whilst Ogilvy's route which followed the prehistoric route through Normanton in Derby, west of Sinfen Marsh to Barrow, diverged east along a dike dating from before Norman times, and then south to the fourteenth century bridge over the Trent from Swarkestone to Stanton by Bridge. There is no evidence of earlier bridges before Swarkestone Bridge in the stretch of the Trent between Burton and Hemington. Several ferries are well-documented and there must have been one from Barrow to Ingleby. Before the Trent was dredged in the eighteenth century, some parts were fordable in good weather.

From Ingleby, parts of a present day footpath represent the Redway and lead due south towards Ticknall church. South of the church, at the crossing of Main Street, Ogilvy's route coincided with the Redway for 2.4 kilometres. His route ran east of the turnpike (now the B5006), skirting Calke Park, along the middle section of a dog's leg in Staunton Lane and along a line, now a footpath, and past Heath Farm at the foot of Pistern Hill. There Ogilvy turned sharply south-west, going up Pistern Hill along the eastern section of Heath Lane as far as the later turnpike, and then continuing south-west to Smisby church. Before the Norman Conquest, the Redway must have continued through the lost village of Trangesby

on the eastern edge of Pistern Hill to St Helen's Church, Ashby de la Zouch. The last 2 kilometers of the Redway, from the Leicestershire county boundary to Upper Church Street in Ashby, is almost obliterated. After skirting the eastern scarp of Pistern Hill, it ran past Old Parks House, then east of Cliftonthorpe and east of Monkshill Farm, where a hedge line indicates its course.

From Smisby church, Ogilvy's route turned into Smisby Main Street, then south into the Smisby-Ashby Road, which then existed as part of a route to Repton before the Derby turnpike. In Ashby, the line of Smisby Road must have crossed the Gilwiskaw Brook through what is now Hood Park and Mill Lane Mews, to Market Street. Ogilvy however took the Cales, now Callis, and Brook Street to Kilwardby, turning west onto 'Stone bridge 3 arches' over the Gilwiskaw into Market Street, and almost immediately south at the Lamb Inn through what is now an archway into Prior Park. (11)

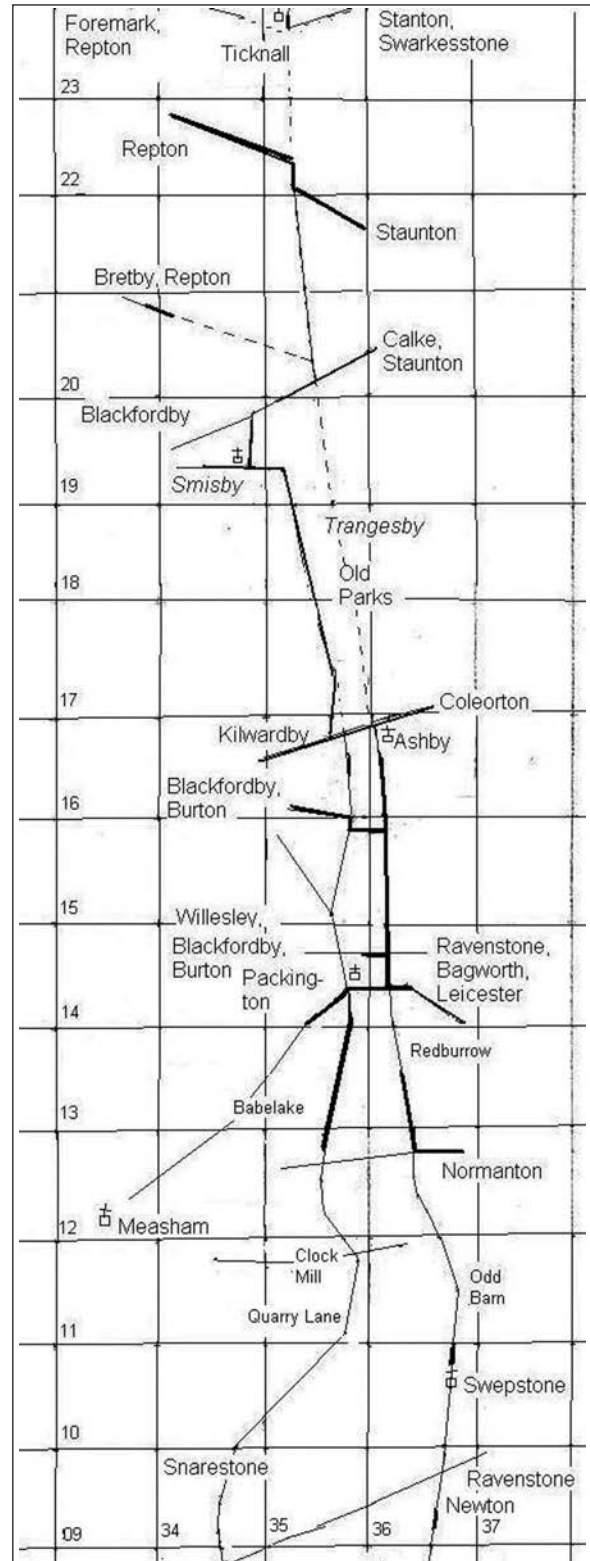
Alternative routes and diversions around Ticknall and Smisby

The section of the Redway from Ticknall to Ashby has two alternative routes and diversions. The older would have been to Repton, which lies north west of Ticknall, and was a royal city of Mercia c600-673. It would have seen most of the north-going traffic diverted westwards in its direction. Three road lines, now mostly green lanes and footpaths, run north-west from the Redway at the county boundary near Old Parks, at Calke Park and at Ticknall. Although a valley route to Ashby through Hartshorne in Derbyshire might have been easier, the old road-lines indicate that the Redway across Old Parks remained popular until the Norman Conquest. Ogilvy used a section of the Redway, but then headed south-west away from Old Parks on a more recent diversion.

The second diversion was at Trangesby, mentioned above, which seems to have been between Ticknall and Ashby, probably in the area of Old Parks House. Laid 'waste' after the Midland rebellion against William the Conqueror, travellers could still have passed through here until c1474 when it became depopulated and travellers were excluded from a new game park. This was established by William Lord Hastings who had been awarded a licence from Edward IV to 'empark' 3000 acres of land 'surrounding' his castle, an area equal to that of the land between Smisby Road, Lount north of Ashby, and as far as the county boundary (12).

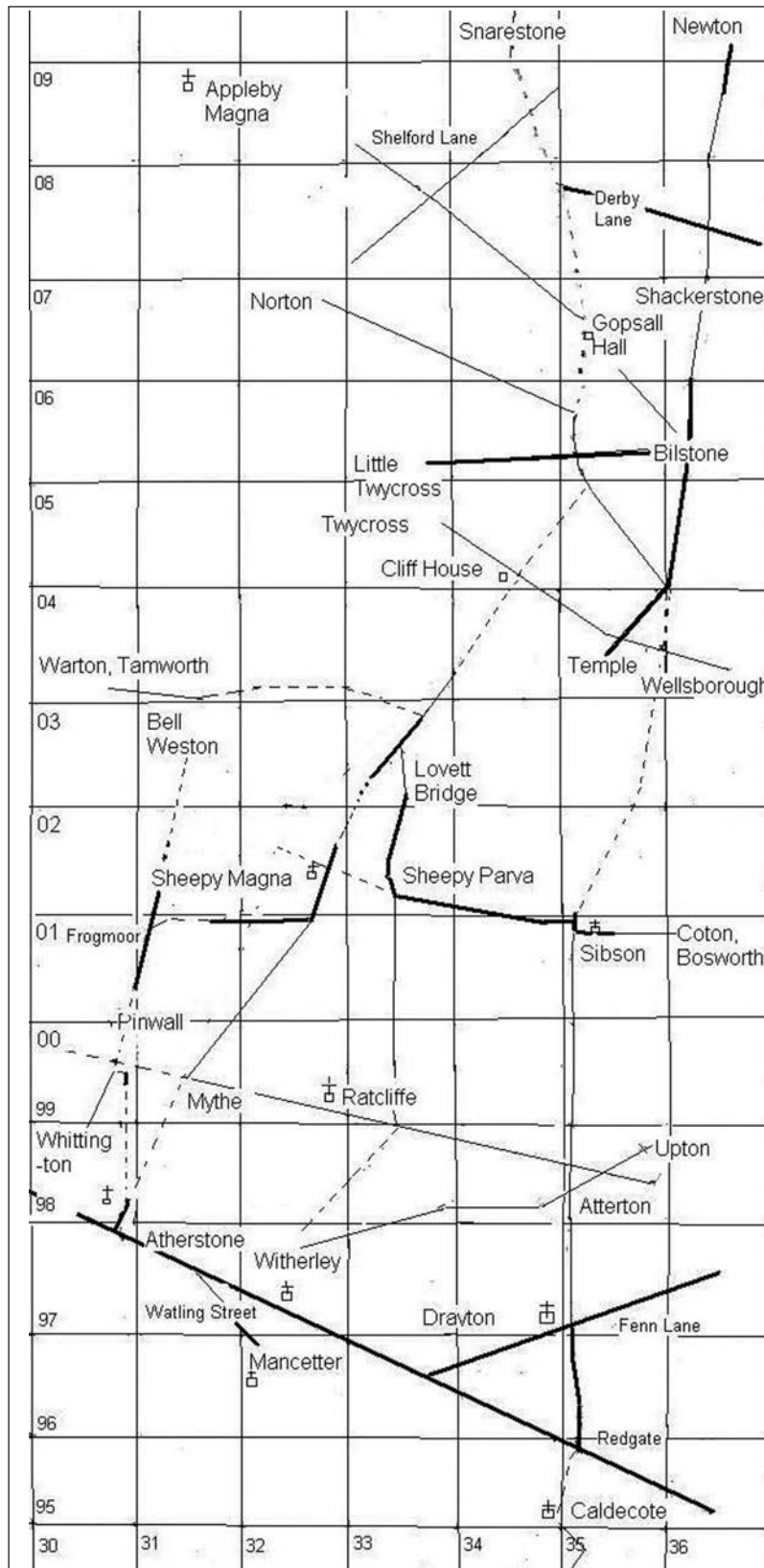
South from Ashby - The Redway: Ashby to Caldecote

From Ticknall to Ashby, and then south of Ashby, the Redway is aligned on the churches of Ticknall, Ashby (St Helen's), Swebstone, Sibson, Drayton and Caldecote (Warwickshire). From St Helen's in Ashby, the Redway ran



North-South Routes through Western Leicestershire – Map of the Northern Section.

This sketch map and the following map are a reconstruction of part of the Redway and of the route taken by Ogilvy. Thick lines are sections of existing metalled roads, thin lines are farm tracks, footpaths or clear hedge lines. Reconstructions are marked with a broken line. Larger print is used for settlements; smaller print for some significant land marks. The grid represents kilometre squares with Ordnance Survey grid references. Only presumed ancient roads from before the turnpike era are marked.



North-South Routes through Western Leicestershire – Map of the Southern Section.

along what is now Castle Walk, Upper Packington Road, the Ashby Road, and High Street Packington to a skewed T-junction. In High Street, it crosses an ancient road line marked by Ogilvy and running east to Ravenstone, Bagworth and Leicester, and west to Blackfordby and Burton.

To the right of the T-junction in Packington is Bridge Street, and until the nineteenth century, a ford over the Gilwiskaw Brook, into Measham Road (which Ogilvy crossed 240 metres west). New housing on Bridge Street obscures a footpath that runs south past the Iron Age site of Redburrow. This is one of the two paths noted earlier leading out of Packington, and is the line of the Redway south from the village. After 1 kilometre, the footpath merges into the more easterly Redburrow Lane, heading in the southerly direction of Swebstone. South-east of Packington, Normanton Road, which runs east of the Redway, was probably once a branch of the Salt Road from Measham. The final 1.5 kilometres of the Redway into the Ashby Lane at Swebstone is now reduced to a footpath, but was used by a milk lorry taking churns from Swebstone farms to Ashby in the early twentieth century. (13) From Swebstone church, the Redway ran parallel to Church Street, and then along the Newton Road to Nethercote, just west of Newton Burgoland. From Nethercote, there is first a well-preserved section of cobbled lane and then a footpath leading to Hill's Bridge over the Ashby Canal. By contrast, the section across the eastern edge of Gopsall Estate to Castle Farm is a poorly kept footpath, with deep mud where it crosses Gopsall Hall's eastern avenue of beeches and chestnuts.



Ashby Lane, Swebstone, part of the Redway, looking north.

From Castle Farm to Bilstone, the Redway then follows the Main Road at Bilstone, into the first part of Gibbet Lane, to a bend near the gibbet post marks where the ancient road headed SSW to a ford over the River Sence past Temple Hall, now Temple Farm. Since mediaeval times, travellers have crossed the Sence further south to Temple Mill. After 400 metres, a hedge line south indicates the resumed line of the Redway to the junction of the B585 Wellsborough Road with the A444 Burton Road. It must originally have run just

west of the A444 to Sibson at a dog's leg in Sheepy Road 300 metres west of the Cock Inn. The diversion to the line past the Cock Inn at the junction of the A444 with Sheepy Road seems early mediaeval. From here, the route ran east of the present footpath, past earthworks and over a muddy ford, past Eightlands Farm, parallel to the A444. For the last few miles of this section, the Redway passed through the centre of Atterton, then past Fenny Drayton church, and across Fenn Lane by a dog's leg to Redgate, 'road way', where it crosses the Watling Street, and then, by another dog's leg, onto Caldecote (Warwickshire). The last two dog's legs must date from Roman times.

South from Ashby - Ogilvy's route: Ashby to Atherstone

Note: Numbers in parenthesis [] are the distances in miles from Oxford given by Ogilvy's route maps.

From the Lamb Inn in Market Street in Ashby [74], Ogilvy's route went southwards through Prior Park onto a footpath under the Leicester–Burton railway line onto a dog's leg in Lower Packington Road. His line continues as a lane to Ashby Mill, and then with a footpath from there to Nook Lane, south of Nook Farm. The last part of Nook Lane past Packington church has recently been renamed Vicarage Lane [72], which on Ogilvy's map crosses Measham Road into the Babelake, this being Ogilvy's route south out of Packington. The modern traveller has to follow a dog's leg left-right into the Bablake, which is the second ancient route south from the village. After 2 kilometres, the Babelake now declines to a footpath, though it was still used by miners cycling past Measham Hall to Measham Pit in the 1950s. Ogilvy's route took a branch crossing the Gilwiskaw at

Clock Mill, south-east of Measham Hall, to a crossroads with the present Sweptstone Road [70], where he also marks a road leading to Measham church, its track still visible in the landscape. His route then follows Quarry Lane to a T-junction with the Main Street in Snarestone [69], after which it diverges south-westwards.

Ogilvy's route from Snarestone to Sheepy Magna is harder to trace, the section across Gopsall Park being the most difficult to reconstruct. The original Derby Lane must have begun at the T-junction in Snarestone but has since been moved 800 metres east to begin now at Hill House on the Sweptstone Road. The changed route is visible in John Carey's 1792 county map. Ogilvy's route appears then to have run west of Shackerstone Fields Farm, skirting west of a Gopshill Hall (the predecessor of Charles Jennens Gopsall Hall) [68]. Ogilvy's route then curved west of Sharp's Covert [67], from where its direction can be reconstructed from field lines. It followed a short section of the Salt Way south-east. It then curved east round Cliff House, where a former road to Harris Bridge is marked, to enter Watery Lane seemingly past Overfield Farm. From where Watery Lane now curves sharply right [63], Ogilvy's route hugged the River Sence, merging onto the line of what became the turnpike (now the B4116 Twycross Road) just before Mill Lane, marked as a crossroads and labelled Shepey. The line of the former road is hardly visible in Google Earth. Where the lane is closest to the Sence west of Lovett Bridge, a causeway of Swithland slate, probably dating from prehistoric times, allowed packhorse traffic and foot travellers to use Watery Lane during floods, but was regrettably demolished during 'road improvements' around 1950.



Remains of Ogilvy's route from Prior Park, Ashby, under the Leicester–Burton railway.



Remains of Ogilvy's route from the railway to Lower Packington Road, Ashby.

Main Street, Sheepy Magna [63], originally hugged the River Sence, curving with the river to Ratcliffe Lane and Mythe Hall, now Mythe Farm, where a ford and footbridge (until the nineteenth century) crossed the River Anker leading to Friars Gate and Market Street in Atherstone. This must have been the regular route before the Friary fell into private hands at the Reformation.

Ogilvy's route, however, ran from Sheepy Magna's Main Street to Pinwall Grange and a 'stone bridge 8 arches over Ancker flu' by a lost route which even in Ogilvy's time may have been irregular and uncertain until it was superseded by the Atherstone – Burton turnpike. The bridge of the monks of Merevale Abbey was situated 300 metres downstream of the present Fielden Bridge, which was built for the turnpike was. (14) Edward III had granted Merevale Abbey the right to collect tolls on goods passing over 'Feldon' Bridge between Atherstone and Pinwall for the repair of the bridge. In one direction the bridge led past Pinwall Grange to Crow Lane, probably a nickname for the monks, but gave no easy access to Sheepy, as indicated by the legend of the traveller lost in Frog Moor, 'frog' being another nickname based on 'frock', the monks' habit. Crow Lane is ligned southwards on Mereval Hall visible on the horizon, the successor of the abbey.

Other interesting features marked on Ogilvy's map as the route leaves Sheepy Main Road include a road to the left to the Mythe, south of and parallel to the present Ratcliffe Lane and to the right a green lane, known as Emery's Lane or New Hall Lane. The next road right [64] is a long-lost junction with Crow Lane. A crossroads is marked near

Pinwall Grange which leads towards the right to Highfield. This represents part of the Danelaw frontier road through Orton and Little Orton. To the left, marked Ratcliff, the road led along the south side of Anker Hill to Mythe Hall, where it crossed the Sence 100 metres upstream of its confluence with the Anker. The road then ran along the south side of Ratcliffe church and the former Ratcliffe Castle, crossing the Redway 400 metres north of Atterton towards Upton Park. The evidence of Jones and Austin suggests that Richard III used this route. (15)

Ogilvy's route continued from the old Feldon bridge into Old Holly Lane, Whittington, now part of Atherstone. Here, it turned south-west towards Alder Mill, then south along the track from Alder Mill through the former

Priory grounds, and into Friars Gate–Market Street, Atherstone.

Topographical names

Whilst carrying out this research, it became noticeable the number of place names and with either 'red' or 'rad' in their names, further supporting evidence for the route of the Redway or Radway.

Examples in the Midlands suggest that *red*, *rad* and *rat* in place-names usually mean 'road' and not 'red'. It derives from Germanic *rad*, meaning 'wheel' and indicates an ancient road suitable for wheeled traffic, not just pack-horse traffic. It occurs in a number of Leicestershire place-names, including Ratby, Redburrow Iron Age Fort at Packington, Ratcliffe, where the border road of Danelaw, the Mythe–Hinckley road, is 'cleaved' by a river, Redgate, where the Redway leaves Leicestershire between Fenny Drayton and Caldecote, Redhill Farm on the old Appleby Magna–Norton juxta Twycross road, part of an early road to Burton on Trent, and Redmile on a Roman road to Nottingham. Along the Warwickshire section of the Redway, it occurs in Radford Semele, where the road crossed the River Leam, Radway at the foot of Edge Hill (which clinches the identity of the Radway in Henry Tudor's route in 1485), and Ratley near the summit of Edge Hill, a focus of ancient roads, including Ditchhedge Lane running south-west towards Salisbury Plain and the Jurassic Way running north-east. Contrary to suggestions elsewhere, none of these examples can be explained from a red feature or a personal name. (16)

Choice of Routes and Causes of Diversions

On the two routes discussed here, there has been little influence on their direct lines from the three large lakes of the Glacial Era, which turned into mediaeval marshes running north-east from the River Anker. Perhaps by chance rather than design, the oldest route, the Redway, skirted east of all three, as well as the 'South Fen' (Sinfin Marsh) between the Trent and the Derwent. In time, the building of the mediaeval bridge at Swarkestone diverted travellers from the prehistoric route south to this crossing, along the southern dike of Sinfin Marsh, as mapped in Ogilvy's road book. Surprisingly the early route shows that travellers did not avoid the steep slopes between the River Trent and Ashby de la Zouch, nor the Nuneaton Ridge south of Caldecote, nor up the steep slopes of Edge Hill.

Later, the original line of the Redway was altered into several minor dog's legs at river crossings, an indication that the original road preceded the building of water mills on the Sence and the Anker. The dog's legs at Fenn Lane, the Watling Street and Foss Way suggest that the Redway also preceded the Romans.

The source of major diversions for both routes was large landowners. The Huntingdons, or perhaps the Normans, barred traffic through Old Parks for the benefit of their hunting, whilst Charles Jennens, who rebuilt Gopsall Hall c1750, was responsible for the first diversions from Ogilvy's route onto the realigned Derby Lane, and from the Redway to Bilstone. The Howes would have been responsible for the large curve west of the turnpike between Snarestone and Twycross. A further major diversion of Ogilvy's route was where it left Leicestershire, this being the result of an initiative of the Bracebridges of Atherstone Hall for their 'peace and quiet'.

Subsequent changes to the road patterns mean that today large sections of the two principal roads described here can be followed in peace and quiet by the twenty-first century rambler or cyclist.

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Trying to Get an Honest Living - an episode of passive resistance

Cynthia Brown

Leicester has a long tradition of radical activity, from the agitation for the reform of Parliament in the 1790s to the Chartism in the 1830s and '40s, the anarchist and republican movements in the later nineteenth century, and the march to London of unemployed footwear workers in 1905. 'Passive resistance' – a non-violent refusal to comply with national or local legislation on political, moral or religious grounds, and a willingness to take the consequences imposed by law – has also been a feature of some protests, most notably the Anti-vaccination Movement of the later nineteenth century, of which Leicester became the main centre; local opposition to the allocation of public funding to denominational schools under the Education Act of 1902; and Conscientious Objection to conscription in the First World War. Sales of bananas and celery – and occasionally flowers – may seem an unlikely cause of such resistance, but they became so in Leicester in the early 1930s. I would like to consider some of the context of this protest, the issues at stake, and their eventual resolution.

Towards the end of November 1932, eight banana and celery sellers were fined between 2s.6d. and 7s.6d. at the Leicester Police Court for illegal street-selling, which was prohibited within an area of sixty-six streets around Leicester Market. (1) There had been similar prosecutions from July 1932 onwards, but matters began to escalate in the autumn as the 'celery season' – from October to January – got well under way. More prosecutions followed in November and into December, both for selling in prohibited areas and for obstruction, when the sellers refused police requests to move their carts. Fines were imposed ranging from 5s. to 40s. for repeated offences. (2) In one instance, Frank Dawson (aged 28) of Britannia Street, who had twelve previous convictions for illegal selling, pleaded guilty to five charges of selling bananas in Cheapside, a prohibited area on the edge of the Market, and was fined 5s. He denied a sixth charge of selling celery in Cheapside on the grounds that he had had no celery that year: 'If it were bananas I would plead guilty, but not celery'. This charge was dismissed despite police evidence that: 'There were six of them in Cheapside, all selling celery'. (3)

A few days later five street-sellers were fined a total of £3.2s.6d. for similar offences. They included Bert Thompson (aged 28) of New Lane, fined 7s.6d., and Benjamin Dilks (aged 35) of Percival Street, fined £2 on four counts. Dilks said that: 'All I have to say is that I was trying to earn a living'. 'You cannot earn a living', the Lord

Mayor, Cllr A. Hawkes replied, 'by breaking the law. It is as bad as stealing' – to which Dilks responded 'I was not stealing and you have no business to say a thing like that'. (4) On the following day James Dixon was fined £3 for five cases of selling celery in prohibited areas and one of obstruction. Earlier in the month he was said by police to have waved a stick of celery in the air and said 'I am saving this for the new Lord Mayor', who was ex officio Chief Magistrate. (5)



Councillor A. Hawkes. (Reproduced by permission of Leicester City Libraries.)

Benjamin Dilks was soon back in court for selling in Cheapside and was fined 10s. on each of two counts. Among others fined on the same day were Ernest Rogers (aged 29), of Court B, Redcross Street, 5s. on two counts of selling celery in Hotel Street; Thomas William Foster (aged 28) of Eaton Square, 5s. for his first offence; and Thomas James Buckley (aged 22) of Pasture Lane, fined 5s. on two counts. Walter Bailey (aged 30) of Court A, Charter Street, also appeared and complained that he had two summonses for the same day. Supt Gabbitas of the Borough Police told the court that this was possible as he was 'selling flowers in the morning and all through the day'. Bailey pleaded guilty to 'being there, but not to selling. I had only been there two minutes when they took my name', and was fined 7s.6d. (6)

Faced with these recalcitrant attitudes, in mid-December the Chief Constable, O. J. B. Cole, appeared in the Leicester

Police Court and asked magistrates to impose heavier sentences on the street-sellers. Since the end of July 1932, 219 summonses had been issued, 142 people had been convicted, and 72 cases were pending. Five men had been convicted more than ten times, one fifteen times, one seventeen times and one nineteen times. While this was not on the scale of the Anti-vaccination protests – when a backlog of around 1100 prosecutions threatened to make the whole system unworkable – it still caused both the police and the courts what Mr H. H. Woolley, one of the magistrates, described as ‘a bit of trouble’. In the view of the Chief Constable it was ‘an intolerable position’, and he suggested that the magistrates impose the maximum fine of 40s., or closer to the maximum, ‘to stop this abuse once and for all’. (7) The police met with no resistance from the street-sellers, the leader of the Street Traders’ Association, Sydney Lewitt, having impressed upon them ‘the necessity of being polite to the police and supplying them with their names and addresses when requested without demur’; but Mr Woolley described their duty in this matter as ‘very unpleasant... They do not like it, but I believe they are doing it with judgement and tact’. (8)

As one of the street-sellers said: ‘I am sure that they have other things to do beside summoning us all the time’. However, this apparent change in police attitude was viewed ‘with alarm’ by the Street Traders’ Association, coming as it did in the midst of negotiations with the Markets Committee

of the Council for an ‘amicable agreement’. (9) Promising ‘a fight to the finish’, Sydney Lewitt had said early in December 1932 that: ‘Some people seem to think the situation is funny, but I can assure you the thirty men in Leicester whose living depends on street trading do not think so. What we want is justice. At the moment we do not think we are getting a square deal.’ (10) At least some members of the public agreed. ‘You are discommoding the public by standing in a busy thoroughfare’, Mr Woolley told one street-seller in court: ‘...and I want to say that the magistrates have made up their minds that this obstruction of the busiest part of Cheapside has to be stopped. Let me advise you there are plenty of other places, a little further away, perhaps, where I would suggest you go. We have no desire to stop you getting a living, but the streets must be kept clear from obstruction. You will do yourself a bit of good if you take the advice...’ (11)

Not uncommonly however, when officers took the names of street sellers, ‘a crowd gathered and the vendors did a good trade subsequently’; and a banana seller who collapsed at the Town Hall after his court case was subsequently visited at home by an 83 year old woman bringing a parcel of provisions in a ‘luxurious limousine’. (12) This public sympathy was not due simply to the high levels of unemployment in Leicester during the winter of 1932-33, although this was clearly a factor. In December 1932 it reached 10.8% of the insured population, an increase of

nearly 2% on the previous month. This was low by comparison with some other areas of the country such as the North East and South Wales, but such statistics were of little comfort to those who could not find work, and the contrast between those who had work and those who did not was arguably more acutely felt in areas of relative prosperity than in those where a higher proportion of the working population was in the same position. ‘I cannot live on fresh air’, one of the sellers prosecuted in November 1932 said to the court: ‘It’s the only chance I’ve got of getting a living. It is impossible to get a living outside the 66 streets... as the people are afraid on account of the credit they get from little shopkeepers’. ‘I shall go on doing it’, another said on the same occasion: ‘How can my wife’s dole money keep eight of us?’ (13)



The open market between the Saracen's Head in Hotel Street and the White Swan at the top of the Market Place, Leicester in 1929. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

Leicestershire Historian 2012

Many of the street-sellers were also ex-servicemen, giving them a still greater claim on public sympathy in the eyes of some. They included Arthur Ford (aged 35) who had been hawking for 12 years and told the Police Court that he had been in the shoe trade before the war and 'could not get back into it'. Unemployment benefit was restricted to a relatively small number of occupations at this time, and like the street-sellers in general, he was not eligible for it. (14) In November 1932 twenty ex-service members of the Street Traders Association also wrote to the Prince of Wales, asking why men who 'fought for His Majesty in the last war, and would be willing to do so again, should the occasion arise, should be suppressed in this manner, when only trying to get an honest living?'. The Prince forwarded their letter to the British Legion 'for consideration'; but while post-war unemployment among ex-servicemen had been one of the reasons for its formation in 1921, there was little it could do to resolve this particular situation. (15)

The Markets Committee, chaired by Cllr C J Pearce, found itself in an invidious position. Cast on the one hand as 'oppressors' of men who were clearly 'trying to get an honest living', it was bound on the other to protect the interests of the market traders who had gone through the requisite process of tendering for stalls, and were being undercut by those trading illegally. Some had already threatened to boycott wholesalers who sold celery and bananas to illegal traders. (16) At this time the number of regular street-sellers was said to be around 20, 'but the numbers have now swelled to 30 owing to the agitation'. (17) However, as Cllr Pearce explained to a deputation including Sydney Lewitt and Arthur Ford on 5th December 1932, the Committee had 'no jurisdiction over the streets of Leicester, and no power to alter or amend the bye-laws of the city'. Such a process would be lengthy, even assuming that the Council agreed to pursue it. On the other hand, 'my Committee is willing and anxious to help you in any way it can', and 'until such time as the order may be altered or amended, if at all', it made what Cllr Pearce called 'a sporting offer'. (18)

Firstly, it was prepared to rent out stalls in the Market on non-market days for 3s. a day. Secondly, the traders could rent a stand at the Haymarket on any day for 1s., even though this would mean the Council losing revenue from the motor car park and omnibus station there. They could also stand at the North Evington Market without charge, provided they removed their own refuse. These offers were rejected on the grounds that 'People do not go to these places to buy anything', to which Cllr Pearce replied 'How do you know until you have tried?' (19) No agreement could be reached; but speaking after the meeting to a local newspaper reporter, Cllr Pearce denied that the Committee had 'a down' on the street-sellers. 'They had a definite place in the life of the city', he said: 'They sold "small" which

shopkeepers did not keep and for that reason they found a ready market. If they had permanent stands the public would know where to find them and they would make a good living'. (20)



Alderman W. E. Hincks, J. P. (Reproduced by permission of Leicester City Libraries.)

'You think you are doing something heroic, defying the law, don't you?', the Lord Mayor said to one defendant in the Police Court on 6th December 1932. The question was rhetorical; but later in the month it was Cllr Hawkes himself who sought a way out of an increasingly intractable situation by offering to adjourn the cases against nine street-sellers sine die if they would give an undertaking not to sell in the prohibited area. The Bench, he said, was 'not at all vindictive in dealing with these cases of men deliberately ignoring the instructions of the police and breaking the laws of the city', and he wished to impress this both on the men themselves 'and upon a certain portion of the public of Leicester'. Three, including Arthur Ford, accepted this 'Christmas truce'. Six refused, among them Sydney Lewitt who was fined a total of £7.10s., the highest fines so far imposed. 'How am I to live?', he asked the Bench. 'We are here to administer the law', the Lord Mayor replied, to which Lewitt responded: 'And I am here for justice'. (21)

Some street-sellers went to prison because they were unable to pay the fines. Others, including Sydney Lewitt, went to prison because they refused to pay. He had already accumulated fines of 32s.6d., and on 14th December 1932 was sent to prison for 25 days in default of payment. At that time, a local newspaper reported, three of his children were ill, one with infantile paralysis and one with pneumonia. They had been prescribed extra nutrients by a doctor, but the family was unable to pay for them. His wife 'occasionally' made slippers on an outdoor basis, but had had no work for two weeks. In a good week she might be able to make £1, but the rent of their house was over 15s., leaving very little for other household expenses, let alone for the payment of the fines. The money for these was raised on his behalf, but being in the words of his wife, 'strong-minded', he refused

to accept it. The fines were paid instead by Alderman W E Hincks, a Liberal member of the Council and long-time Secretary of the Leicester Charity Organisation Society. No soft touch where the 'undeserving poor' were concerned, his very public intervention undoubtedly sent a strong message as to his own views of the dispute and the need to find some resolution. (22)

However, matters now took a rather bizarre turn. Six days after being released, the *Leicester Mercury* reported that Mr Lewitt had been sent back to Welford Road prison for non-payment of fines, just after being set up in business by some unidentified but 'influential friends'. Following a meeting with Cllr Pearce he had been offered and had accepted a stall in the Market to sell artificial flowers. He had then appeared in court and given an undertaking not to sell in the prohibited areas, but had been detained by police on leaving for non-payment of £9. 14s. in fines, carrying a four month prison term in default. Someone – also unidentified – had quickly paid the fine. He was again released, and as a gesture of thanks the Street Traders' Association made a donation of one sovereign to the Leicester Infirmary. (23)



Sydney Lewitt, leader of the Street Traders' Association, with his wife, on his release from prison 22nd December 1932. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

At this point all parties to the dispute seemed inclined to compromise, not least because public opinion was not universally on the side of the street-sellers. Len Whatsize, who took over as Chairman of the Street Traders' Association when Sydney Lewitt was in prison, said that its members would now tender for stalls in the Market and 'accept any reasonable offer'. Many of them: 'were in dire poverty. We do not know how to help them as we have no funds. We have not wanted to assume a militant attitude... Our case has been mis-represented and we are afraid that we shall have to suffer for it.' In any event, he suggested, once the celery season ended there would be only around 12 regular hawkers - 'and it may be possible the police will not object to our selling in the prohibited areas if we keep on the move'. (24)

This was effectively the end of the 'hawkers' war', as one local newspaper described it. It was a small-scale and short-lived dispute by some of the standards of Leicester's past, but it demonstrated that 'passive resistance' could still be an effective means of protest: of securing a platform on which to air one's grievances, of getting an element of public opinion onside, and of gaining sufficient support from 'influential friends' to challenge those in authority and persuade them to compromise. Men who were in dire poverty had little to lose, but as they claimed again and again, they were genuinely 'trying to get an honest living in a difficult economic climate, and at least some of them were also driven by a sense of 'justice' denied to them in their present situation. This is perhaps captured in a personal memory of one of the street-sellers from Harry Limbert:

'A genuine character was the celery man who lived in Surrey Street. He could be seen washing every stick in a tin bath outside his house before he placed them in rows on his barrow... he had a running battle with the police. He would park his barrow somewhere in the town and sell his wares, but I think that the market traders complained about him and the police had to keep moving him on. But being the man he was he kept standing up for his rights'. (25)

References and Notes:

1. *Leicester Mercury*, 25th November 1932.
2. *Leicester Mercury*, 7th December 1932.
3. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 1st December 1932.
4. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 7th December 1932.
5. *Leicester Mercury*, 8th December 1932.
6. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 13th December 1932.
7. *Leicester Mercury*, 12th December 1932; *Leicester Evening Mail*, 1st December 1932.
8. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 1st December 1932. Sydney Patrick Lewitt was the grandson of Liza Lewitt, a greengrocer of Rolleston Street, North Evington. At the time of the above dispute he was resident in Fayrhurst Road, Saffron Lane Estate.
9. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 12th December 1932.
10. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 5th December 1932.
11. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 1st December 1932.
12. *Leicester Mercury*, 10th December 1932.
13. *Leicester Mercury*, 25th November 1932.
14. *Leicester Mercury*, 12th December 1932.
15. *Leicester Mercury*, 1st December 1932.
16. *Leicester Mercury*, 28th November 1932.
17. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 6th December 1932.
18. 19. and 20. *Ibid.*
21. *Leicester Evening Mail*, 14th December 1932.
22. *Leicester Mercury*, 22nd December 1932.
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25. Harry Limbert, *The Street Cries of Old East Leicester* (n.d.).

Shooting Gargoyles: making headway

Bob Trubshaw

‘Project Gargoyle’ was set up in 2009 with the aim of photographing and cataloguing all of the figurative medieval carvings which decorate the interiors and exteriors of around 300 churches in Leicestershire and Rutland. The project is organised by staff of Leicestershire County Council, and has the full support of the Dioceses of Leicester and Peterborough. The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is also represented on the committee. The photographs and associated information will form part of the Historic Environment Records for Leicestershire and Rutland.

No one has attempted to record all the medieval carvings in a county before, making this an ambitious and pioneering project. During 2010, a small number of churches were photographed to test out the best way of recording and documenting these carvings. By the beginning of 2011 ten churches had been fully recorded. At the time of writing in early 2012, the completed records for twenty-two churches have been added to Leicestershire County Council’s Historic Environment Records database. Public access to the images can be found via the Project Gargoyle website (1) through links to the English Heritage Gateway website which shows a small number of the photographs taken so far for the area, including: Allextion, Anstey, Barkby, Barrow upon Soar, Breedon on the Hill, Cossington, Countesthorpe, Diseworth, Foston, Frisby on the Wreake, Long Whatton, Newbold Verdon, Peatling Magna, Rothley, Seagrave, Shepshed, Swithland, Theddingworth, Thorpe Langton, Thurcaston, and Tilton on the Hill.



A human head between the arches in the north aisle of Frisby on the Wreake Church. (Photograph by David Morley.)



One of the more 'minimalist' medieval carvings, north aisle of Swithland Church. (Photograph by Steve Harris.)

The ‘head count’ from the project so far is more than a thousand carvings, many of which had never been photographed or recorded before. Most are in stone but some are wooden, the latter usually being interior decorations on fifteenth century roof timbers. The carvings depict a wide variety of subjects, ranging from stylised or caricatured human heads to weird and wonderful imaginary beasts. Collectively they provide an excellent insight into the minds of medieval people, as many are pulling faces, tongue-poking, or depict such fantastic entities as ‘green men’ or dragons. (2) One of the most splendid of these ‘green men’ has been up on the roof of the nave at Sileby for nearly six hundred years (although the paint and gilding was renewed about fifty years ago).

Many of these carvings are human heads. Some are rather simple and stylised but others are more realistic. Some have crowns, presumably being depictions of the king at the time; and are often paired with heads wearing ornate headdresses who were presumably their queens. But more often these heads are portraits - of the medieval men and women who paid for the churches to be expanded, or the clergy at the time, while others seem more like caricatures, perhaps depicting some of the stonemasons themselves.

Apart from the kings and queens, we will never know the names of these people from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, but we can still have a good idea of what they looked like – and how fashions in women’s headgear and men’s haircuts and beards changed over the decades.

Along with these human heads are assorted animals, most often cows or sheep, and a whole host of monsters and beasties. Some, like those at Theddingworth, have clung perilously to the corners of the tower since the fifteenth century. The sheer imagination used to invent such grotesques rivals anything in modern comics and horror films. If these medieval masons were alive today, they might be working in the special effects workshops of film studios.



A good example of a foliate face or ‘green man’ at Thurcaston Church. (Photograph by David Morley.)

As to their function, a variety of purposes have been suggested. Clearly many of the external gargoyles served as water spouts with the practical purpose of channelling rainwater away from the fabric of the church building. Deeper symbolic and educational roles include to ward off evil; to help the church convey messages to the ordinary people (many of whom would have been illiterate in the medieval period), and possibly to frighten people into attending church.

Considering that they were also seen by some in the church as long ago as in medieval times as a form of idolatry, it is fortunate that they have survived in such large numbers, whilst the Victorian Gothic revival helped to conserve many, although the fashion for bare stone or wood meant any remaining traces of paint and gilding have largely been removed.

Impressive as the current one thousand or more carvings already recorded by Project Gargoyle is, this is only the start. There are probably more than ten thousand medieval

carvings in Leicestershire and Rutland – and there may be twice as many. Indeed, this was one of the main reasons for setting up Project Gargoyle – we simply do not know how much medieval sculpture there is in the counties’ churches. But clearly there is a massive amount of medieval art which deserves to be much better understood and appreciated.

All the photography for the project is done by volunteers working to a clear set of guidelines. The work done so far by the photographers is most impressive but what is really needed now is a much bigger team of photographers. The equipment needed is a digital SLR, long telephoto lens and a tripod. If you are interested in being part of this prestigious project to document the heritage of Leicestershire and Rutland, then detailed guidelines and relevant contact details are online at the Project Gargoyle website.

References and notes

1. www.leics.gov.uk/gargoyle
2. Bob Trubshaw, ‘Mawming and mooning – the minds of medieval masons’, *Leicestershire Historian*, 43 (2007), p32-5.

Bob Trubshaw first took an interest in the medieval carvings of Leicestershire and Rutland about 25 years ago and is the Volunteer Co-ordinator for Project Gargoyle. He is author of the *Good Gargoyle Guide: Medieval Carvings of Leicestershire and Rutland*, which is aimed at encouraging people who would not normally take an interest in church architecture to get out and about hunting further examples of these extraordinary sculptures. Bob can be contacted via email at bobtrubs@indigogroup.co.uk or by phone 01672 539077.



A serious-looking man to be found on the tower arch at Shepshed. (Photograph by Ernie Miller.)

Some High Notes from Hinckley's Public Choral History

Bob Gibson

On the evening of Wednesday 30th January 2008 a packed audience gathered in Hinckley's Parish Church of St Mary to hear a celebratory concert given by Hinckley Choral Union. The concert marked the centenary of the founding in 1908 of the Hinckley Choral Society, which had performed its first public concert exactly one hundred years earlier in Hinckley's gas-lit St George's Hall, adjacent to the town's former George Hotel. One hundred years on, the programme included several works performed a century earlier, including two pieces by Edward Elgar that would have been almost certainly new to most of the 1908 audience as this was some time before the advent of recordings and radio.

However, although the concert of 30th January 1908 was a significant landmark in Hinckley's choral history, it was by no means a first. Along with most nineteenth century industrial towns, Hinckley's public choral performances have a much longer pedigree. St George's Hall was on the site of the town's mid-nineteenth century Corn Exchange, itself a site of earlier choral performances from at least 1859. (1) Even earlier, there is a record of a choral concert organised to raise funds to repair the organ at St Mary's parish church in 1838. (2)

Yet, a definitive first for a Hinckley choral performance remains something for speculation. Hinckley, a town with a strong flavour of non-conformity, seems to have followed the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century enthusiasm for choral singing in non-conformist chapels commonly found in Northern England and Wales. (3) An 1832 obituary for John Hopkins of Burbage in the *Leicester Chronicle* refers to his contribution to both Burbage Parish Church music and Hinckley Choral Society and his long interest in music. (4) It also seems a reasonable assumption that Hinckley had a growing interest in choral music from the early years of the nineteenth century and throughout the Victorian era. (5) For comparison, in Leicester, William Gardiner formed a choral group for a festival at St Margaret's in 1827 and although he refers to the choir of Leicester's Great Meeting chapel, he does not mention any town or public choral group. (6) Another member of the Hopkins family, Eliza, who is believed to have joined a London opera company, is recalled by Thomas Harrold as singing as a teenager in St Mary's Hinckley on Sunday evenings. (7) This must have been in the late 1820s or early 1830s as Harrold refers to 'Vicar Brown' (8), alias the Rev Matthew Browne, vicar of Hinckley from 1812 to 1842. (9)

Eliza, described as 'of London Concerts' was also one of the solo performers at a concert along with Mr Pearsall of Lichfield Cathedral in 1838. (10) The conductor was William McEwan (1806-1865), a member of another talented musical Hinckley family and one of several key individuals to make immense contributions to Hinckley's musical scene across a period spanning almost two centuries. The elder of two sons of Elliot McEwan, William had a role in the early musical education of a young Mary Ann Evans, later to become the well-known novelist George Eliot. (11) William was also prominent in a concert more than two decades later, when, early in 1860, solo parts were taken by members of the Atkins and Davis families, two of Hinckley's most prominent hosiery families. (12) William McEwan was organist and choirmaster at St Mary's for many years, and following his death in 1865, a benefit choral concert at the Corn Exchange was organised to support the McEwan family. This took place on Thursday evening 16th February 1865, and several of William's own compositions were included in a programme along with pieces by Mendelssohn, and ending with *Glory and love to the men of old* – the Soldiers' Chorus from Gounod's *Faust*. (13)

William McEwan's life spanned some difficult times in Hinckley. During the hardships of the 1840s, Hinckley's hosiery workers experienced real poverty, and again in the early 1860s, with soup kitchens being set up in the town as the American Civil War skewed the cotton market and led to slump conditions in many textile and hosiery towns. Nevertheless, for those who looked to improve themselves, it is recorded that classes for vocal music were held on Thursday evenings at the Mechanics Institute. (14)

The musical gods again smiled on Hinckley in the summer of 1878. That year brought two young men, one still a teenager, to important posts in the town. John McClure, a Lancastrian by birth and of Scots ancestry, became an assistant master at the Hinckley Grammar School that had reopened in 1877. At almost the same time, Charles John King was appointed organist and choirmaster at St Mary's. Both men were to have a substantial influence on the town's choral scene. McClure, the son of a Congregationalist businessman from Wigan, attended the Borough Congregational Church in Hinckley. However, linked by a common love of music, the two men bridged the often uneasy divide between Anglicanism and Non-conformity, and McClure became assistant conductor to the recently

formed Hinckley Choral Society launched by King. (15) Writing within living memory of these late nineteenth century events, Henry Francis's 1930 *History of Hinckley* describes the friendship struck up by these two young musicians and credits King as the person who took McClure's keen interest in music to a much more serious and academic study. (16)

McClure left Hinckley in 1882 after only four years to pursue further studies at Cambridge University. He went on to become headmaster of the prestigious Mill Hill School in 1891, a post he retained until the end of his life in February 1922. Alongside his headship, McClure made huge contributions in the wider fields of both education and music. He was elected to the corporation of the Trinity College of Music in 1906 and was chairman in 1920. He also compiled a new hymnal for the Congregational Union and chaired that organisation in 1919. Six years earlier he had been awarded a knighthood for his services to education. (17)

Charles John King's appointment as organist and choirmaster at St Mary's Parish Church was announced in the *Musical Times* of July 1878. Born in Brighton in 1857, King had been a chorister at St George's Chapel in Windsor, and despite his youth, had already served as organist at Farnham Royal before coming to Hinckley. Within weeks of his arrival in the town on Friday 15th November 1878, he presided over a concert in St George's Hall, where his piano performance of Lizst's *Rigoletto* is reported to have won great acclaim and an encore. (18) Back in the 1830s a score of *Handel's Messiah* cost around one guinea (£1.05p), way beyond the means of all but the comfortably-off. By the 1880s this cost had fallen to about a shilling (5p), though still a considerable sum for an ordinary hosiery or textile worker. (19) The choir formed by McClure and King, Hinckley Choral Society, appears to have enjoyed a lifespan of around two decades, being at its peak whilst Charles King remained in the town. The *Musical Times* records a concert conducted by King on 11th May 1885 (20), a few years after McClure's departure, when the principal performers were Miss Alice Hope, Mr A. E. Hawley, Major Davis, Mr Pridmore, Mr T. Baxter, Mr King and Mr Bingley Shaw. Six months later in November a Mozart concert was performed with Henry Suman from Oxford as the principal soloist. (21)

In 1891 Charles King was also enticed away from Hinckley, his move being through the Rev Charles Brooks, a former vicar at St Mary's who had moved to Northampton in July 1890. King accepted the post of organist and choirmaster at Holy Sepulchre in Northampton. Four years later, King moved within Northampton to St Matthew's, where he remained until his death in February 1934. During five decades in the town, he made a huge contribution to the musical life of Northampton, including teaching at both

Northampton Boys Grammar School and Northampton Girls High School. (22) Both McClure and King paid return visits to the town that gave them a youthful start. McClure attended the celebrations for the jubilee opening of Hinckley's Congregational Church in January 1920, whilst King had received a 'cordial welcome' when he came back to St Mary's in late February 1908. (23)

King's successor at St Mary's was Benjamin Barrow. He moved north from East London with his wife and teenage son and settled in Spa Lane. However, it seems the Hinckley climate did not suit Barrow's health, and in 1899, following medical advice to seek warmer climes, he became organist at Holy Trinity in the North African city of Algiers. Hinckley's parishioners showed their appreciation by presenting Barrow with 'a purse of money' on his departure, including £2.6s.0d donated by the town's Choral Society. (24) A musical service was also held in Hinckley Parish Church on 1st June 1899 when a choir of sixty sang.

.. HINCKLEY ..
Parish Church.
 A SPECIAL
MUSICAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON
Thursday Evening, June 1, 1899.
 PART I.
 Mendelssohn's **95th Psalm.**
 PART II.
MISCELLANEOUS.
 SOLOISTS:
Mrs. E. Squire (Hinckley), Miss Bowen (Hinckley), Miss Lord (Burbage), Mr. J. Manton Rowell (Nuneaton), Mr. F. Waine Taylor (Bedford), Chorus of 60.
 Organist: **Mr. B. Barrow, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O.**
 The Collection, after paying expenses, will be given to the Church-warden's Fund.
 The Church Doors will be opened at **7.30**, and the Service will begin at **8.**
 . . . All the Sittings are FREE. . . .
 John Baxter & Sons, Printers, Hinckley and Leicester.

Programme for 1st June 1899, with Benjamin Barrow as organist.

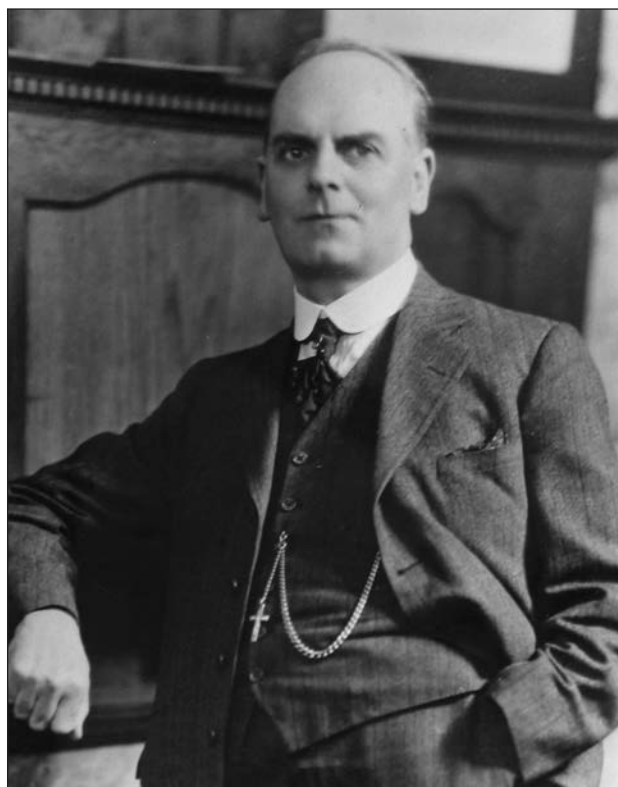
After Benjamin Barrow's departure, there appears to be a gap in Hinckley's public choral life. Eight years elapsed, before in October 1907, a meeting was called to be held at St George's Hall to consider forming a town choral society, when it was noted that it was 'some years' since such a society had existed. (25) Events of thirty years earlier were repeated as once again two newcomers to Hinckley were at the forefront of events. Charing the 1907 meeting was

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Harold Pheysey (1870-1943), the then recently appointed manager of Parr's Bank (now NatWest). In his late 30s, Pheysey had come to Leicestershire following the takeover in 1902 of Pares Leicestershire Bank by the Warrington-based Parr's Bank. The 1911 census reveals the status of the early twentieth century local bank manager as he and his wife enjoyed the services of both a housemaid and cook at the Bank House premises. (26) Pheysey also served as the treasurer to the St Mary's organ fund.

The second newcomer to the town was newly appointed organist and choirmaster at St Mary's, Paul Henry Rochard (1883-1940). Though only 23, Rochard already had two years experience in a similar post in South Shields and had been tutored by Dr George Robertson Sinclair of Hereford Cathedral, one of the most eminent musicians in the country, and a personal friend of Edward Elgar. Rochard is undoubtedly among the greatest musical talents ever to have graced Hinckley. Rochard was born in Newport (Monmouthshire) and was of French descent. His father had come to South Wales where he had become a successful coal broker on the Cardiff Exchange at the height of prosperity of the South Wales coal industry. However, Paul chose music as his career rather than commerce and trained while a teenager at the Matthey Piano School in London; a school that produced renowned pianists such as Myra Hess and Clifford Curzon.

Within a few days of the October meeting over sixty members had been recruited. Crucially there was support from several of the most prominent Hinckley business community with representatives of the Baxter, Hawley, Davis, Bedford and Atkins families. In addition, support also came from the town's professional group, with two local bank managers, two local doctors and the borough surveyor, Edward Crump. Membership eventually reached over a hundred. Among apologies for non-attendance at the October 1907 meeting, but offering full support to the new venture, was one from Hugh Atkins (1838-1911), a partner in Hinckley's largest hosiery business, and organist and choirmaster at the Great Meeting for many years. He also wrote a series of compositions to fit the story of many of the parables that were still performed at the Great Meeting until at the least the 1970s.



Paul Rochard, Musical Director of the 1908 Hinckley Choral Society, among the greatest musical talents ever to have graced Hinckley.

Initially Rochard is reported to have taken some persuasion to take on the role of director of the new choir, as he was already a key player in a huge project overseeing the design of a new organ for St Mary's. Several major events occurred at St Mary's in 1907-8 in connection with this new organ and Rochard received rave reviews for his performance on the last occasion the old organ was used in December 1907. (27) Just three months after the inaugural meeting, the new Choir gave its first public concert on 30th January 1908. At

2s.6d. (12½p) tickets were not cheap, but the *Hinckley Times* pronounced the event 'an unqualified success'. (28) The programme's opening work was the contemporary Edward Elgar's 'Coronation ode', composed for King Edward VII's coronation. Paul Rochard, who resided at the now-demolished St Mary's House off Mount Road (29), conducted, and the accompanist was Miss Alice Lord, a Burbage schoolteacher who was organist at St Catherine's Burbage for many years, and prominent in many musical events and groups around the Hinckley and Burbage area.

In addition to his duties at St Mary's which included midweek choral evensong, and his role with the Hinckley Choral Society, Paul Rochard also gave regular organ recitals across many parts of the country, and often featured works by French organ composer, Felix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911). In late 1916 Rochard was called into the Navy war service. He was to return to Hinckley in March 1919, but it seems much had changed and he decided to move on. In August 1919 it was announced that he was to leave Hinckley to take up the post of organist and choirmaster at Kendal Parish Church. (30) He remained in Kendal until 1931 when he moved to Lancaster Priory which, in 1926, had become the seat of a suffragan bishop in the newly formed Diocese of Blackburn. Rochard continued to give many organ recitals and in the mid-1930s was a regular on the BBC's North regional radio broadcasts, often from the same Cavaille-Coll organ in Manchester Town Hall where Guilmant himself had performed on his visits to England. (31) Rochard died in October 1940 aged only 56 and is buried at Scotforth Municipal Cemetery on the outskirts of Lancaster. (32)



Hinckley Choral Society 1948-9, with the Choir's festival trophies.

After Rochard's departure from Hinckley, there was no town or public choral society for over two decades. However, there was a huge amount of other musical activity in the town. In 1909 the Hinckley Amateur Operatic Society was formed (33). Male voice choirs were active in Hinckley, Burbage and Earl Shilton, whilst Burbage also had a minstrel group where Alice Lord was musical arranger. (34) In common with most industrial areas, there were additionally several brass bands in the locality. But Hinckley's greatest claim to musical fame in the 1920s probably came from the open-air performances staged in the Castle Grounds. In July 1924 Elgar's *Caractacus* was performed in full costume and with orchestral backing. It is reported that audiences came from all over the Midlands (35); a year earlier a similar event had mounted Glück's *Orpheus*. In May 1925 Louis Vierne (1870-1937), the blind French organist from Notre Dame Paris gave an organ recital at St Mary's to an audience estimated at over 1,200 strong. (36) His stay in Hinckley is said to have inspired him to write 'Les cloches de Hinckley' following a disturbed night's sleep thanks to the chimes of St Mary's clock as he stayed in the nearby George Hotel.

Despite this abundant musical activity in the town a revival of choral music, other than the work of individual church choirs, had to wait several years. But when it came, the renaissance was not only on a grand scale but it also brought to Hinckley a rising young soloist, whose birth centenary is being commemorated in 2012, Lancashire-born Kathleen Ferrier (1912-1953). Her career was cruelly curtailed by illness, but during her rise to fame in the early 1940s, she twice visited Hinckley in the space of six months in 1943-4 as a soloist at Hinckley Choral Society concerts. (37)

The foundations for these visits came three years earlier in January 1940, when, against the backdrop of wartime

uncertainty, a meeting took place, much in the manner of 1907, to 'help promote and increase the desire for good music in the town and to raise funds for various local charities'. Chair of Hinckley Urban District Council and Castle Street grocer, Councillor Fred Burton, presided over the meeting with key support coming from County Councillor and long-serving choirmaster at Hinckley Baptist Church Mr James Pratt, local hosiery manufacturers, William Puffer and Robert Smallshaw, and also Frank Oldham, the headmaster of Hinckley Grammar School, who became the chair of an elected committee of ten. (38)

The new group made rapid progress. Only weeks later on Sunday evening 25th February, the Regent Cinema became the venue for the new Society's first concert, a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Victor Thomas (1886-1970) choirmaster of the Leicester Philharmonic was engaged as conductor, and he brought with him four top professional soloists, Elsie Suddaby (soprano), Marie Hall (contralto), Edward Reach (tenor) and Henry Gill (bass) to join a choir that numbered almost one hundred and fifty. A full list of names of these singers exists. Many members of well-known Hinckley families were among them whilst several local businesses offered sponsorship with the aim of raising funds for the British Red Cross. At the end of the performance the audience was invited to stand and sing 'the doxology' to the tune 'old 100th'. (39) Further concerts were staged including a Boxing Day performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the Congregational Church (now URC) on the Borough, but the choir number had fallen to ninety-six. Furthermore there was only moderate audience support and the concert resulted in a loss of over £50, a considerable sum in 1940. (40) This precipitated an intense debate in committee about the genre of music that should be performed to win local support. However, it resulted in the sudden resignation of Victor Thomas from his role as musical director, as he refused to lead the choir in a proposed concert of 'lighter' music. On the recommendation of George Gray, organist and choirmaster at Leicester Cathedral, the services of Mr Harold Barnes, then living in the Clarendon Park area of Leicester, were secured. (41) Barnes was to direct the Hinckley Choral Society for over a decade. He was organist and choirmaster at St Mary's Melton Mowbray and later took holy orders, becoming vicar at the East Leicestershire parish of Tugby with East Norton and Skeffington in 1966 and moving in 1970 to spend seven years in the Northamptonshire parish of Sulgrave.

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It therefore fell to Harold Barnes to direct the two performances in Hinckley that featured Kathleen Ferrier as a soloist. The first of these took place on the afternoon of Sunday 31st October 1943 when Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was performed in front of a capacity audience, estimated to be about a thousand, the profits being donated to Hinckley and District Hospital. 'Serious music and a capacity audience – never before in the memory of the present generation have these things joined hands causing such abounded enthusiasm and admiration in Hinckley', proclaimed the *Hinckley Times & Guardian*. (42) Only months later, on 27th February 1944, the Choral Society performed Handel's *Messiah*, when it was reported, 'Kathleen Ferrier, who is rapidly building up her reputation as the leading national contralto will be paying a return visit to Hinckley and is looking forward to it eagerly'. (43) These two visits made a great impression on those who heard them and were the subject of correspondence in the *Hinckley Times* sixty years later in the autumn of 2003.

By mid-1945 choir numbers had fallen considerably. The difficulties and uncertainties of wartime life may have played a part, but it seems Hinckley's affinity with public choral concerts had once again waned. However, a core of the remaining members of the choir evolved into a dedicated group of around twenty people. They entered choral festivals across the Midlands with considerable success. Further recognition of their ability came from their inclusion in several BBC Midlands Regional radio broadcasts and in 1948 they recorded (in old 78rpm format) songs by contemporary composer, Gerald Finzi; a copy of this record survives in the present choir archive, having recently been donated by Lt.Col.(rtd) Stephen Poulton, the grandson of choir member, Miriam McCulloch. A downside to this outside success was that the choir rarely performed in Hinckley itself. In addition, some key members left the area for business or personal reasons and with no apparent injection of new blood, the inevitable result was that the ideals of 1940 were lost and this choir too passed into history, with its last known performance taking place early in 1956. In August 1956 a lunch meeting of Hinckley Rotary Club provided the setting for a spectacular outburst from one of its members about an alleged lack of culture in the town. Mr Robert Smallshaw, Managing Director of the Trojan Knitwear Company, (a founder of the 1940 Choral Society), asserted the town had 'no appreciation of music'. He recalled the time of Paul Rochard, forty years earlier and suggested that Rochard had left Hinckley partly due to its lack of culture. (44) His comments provoked some outrage with a resultant robust correspondence in the local press.

Fortunately, as the last embers of the 1940 choir died away, a new luminary appeared on the scene. In the mid-1950s Leicestershire's Education Department allocated substantial resources towards musical education across the county.

Among the county musical advisers who regularly visited schools and community groups in the town at this time was a young Richard Butt. With local assistance from Alec Stanley, he brought together members largely from non-conformist churches in the town to form a new choir in 1958 that became known initially as Hinckley & District Choral Union. The choir was reformed at a meeting in Albert Road School on 10th February 1966, with Butt coming from Birmingham to attend the formative meeting. By this time another of Hinckley's choral champions moved away from Leicestershire and on to a higher stage, as Richard Butt joined the BBC as a producer at Birmingham's Pebble Mill studios and also became Musical Director of the Birmingham Bach Choir, a post he held for twenty-six years. (45)

Back in Hinckley the new choral group, styling itself the Hinckley Choral Union, initially came under the direction of another county musical advisor, John Westcombe, but other commitments often prevented his being present in Hinckley for rehearsals. Hence in 1968 Eric Bamberger became the first local director of the new choir. He came to Hinckley in 1963 as a teacher and played a huge role in the musical life of the town until his death in 2007. He was an officer of the Hinckley Music Club for many years, and organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity, Hinckley. He was at the helm of the choir for over a decade and set a course that is still discernible in the work of the choir today.

The 2008 centenary commemoration of Rochard's choir was under the baton of the Choral Union's long-standing Director, Richard Archer, who took on the role in 1979. The 2008 programme included some of Elgar's work that Rochard had introduced to the town a century earlier. A large and appreciative audience included some former members of the choir who travelled back to Hinckley from as far away as the Orkney Isles and Yorkshire especially for the occasion.

A few months later in November 2008 there was a return to Hinckley for locally born Timothy Hone, Head of Liturgy and Music at Salisbury Cathedral, as accompanist to the Choral Union's performance of Handel's *Messiah* at St Mary's, when extra seating had to be hastily found to accommodate everyone. Just over thirty years earlier a youthful Timothy Hone had accompanied the Choral Union in Richard Archer's very first concert on 9th December 1978, a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Interestingly Timothy Hone had also given an organ recital at St Mary's in late 2007, when, among his introductory words to one of his items, he made specific acknowledgement of the talent of Paul Rochard, from a century earlier.

Much has changed with regard to the economic and social backdrop since the earliest of Hinckley choral's events and the time of Paul Rochard and the visits of Kathleen Ferrier. Hinckley's hosiery heyday is long past with stark differences

between the catchment area and memberships of the 1908 choir, that of 1940, and the present Hinckley Choral Union. Records strongly suggest that both in 1908 and 1940 many singers lived within walking distance of Hinckley town centre. In 2012 the situation is very different. Even if Burbage is taken into consideration, fewer than one in five of the current membership resides in the immediate Hinckley area, with support largely coming from surrounding villages and communities not just in Hinckley and Bosworth, but as far distant as Hartshill in Warwickshire and Blaby. The choir is currently enjoying its largest membership (over seventy in 2012) within its almost fifty years unbroken history. However, this produces a difficulty in finding suitable venues in both Hinckley and the surrounding villages that are spacious enough to comfortably accommodate such a number. This is a salient reminder of another of Robert Smallshaw's complaints from 1956, that, unlike many industrial towns, Hinckley has never enjoyed the luxury of a dedicated concert or lecture hall from either public or philanthropic sources; a fact that, half a century on, still remains unaddressed in current town development plans.



Hinckley Choral Union at Sheepy Magna, 2006.

History shows that Hinckley has undoubtedly served as a stepping stone on a path to musical success for several individuals. The present committee and choir of Hinckley Choral Union strive to uphold the town's long public choral pedigree in an era where the availability and pattern of leisure activity is arguably changing more rapidly than at any time since the beginning of the industrial age.

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Leicestershire's Commemorative Plaques

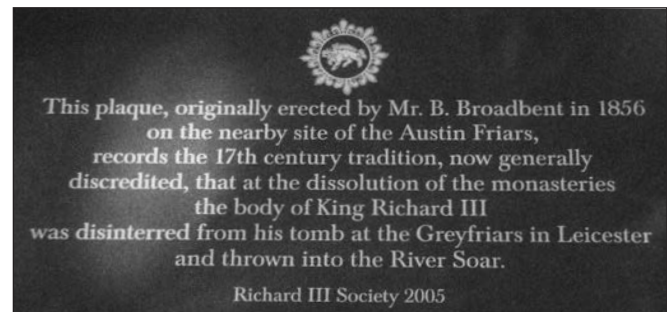
J. D. Bennett

Outdoor plaques commemorating notable individuals, buildings or events began to appear in the nineteenth century. The first ones in London were erected by the Royal Society of Arts in the late 1860s. Later plaques were put up by the London County Council and its successor, the Greater London Council, and they are now the responsibility of English Heritage. Some London local authorities also have their own plaque schemes. Plaques come in various shapes and colours, although circular blue ones are now the most common version, including those erected by English Heritage.

Leicester has several commemorative plaques, which predate the R.S.A. ones in London, all relating to King Richard III. The oldest one, dating from 1856, was originally on a small building by Bow Bridge and refers to the disposal of the King's remains in the River Soar at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, a now generally discredited story. A stone plaque, it was put up by Benjamin Broadbent, a local builder, and has now been resited in St Augustine Road. Two others in cast iron, which appear to be contemporary with the rebuilt Bow Bridge of 1862, record the unfortunate King's passage across it, to and from Bosworth Field, one of them quoting an extract from John Speed's *History of Great Britain* (1611).

From photographic evidence we know that at the end of the nineteenth century there were at least two more plaques on buildings in Leicester – on the ancient house in St Nicholas Street where John Bunyan and later John Wesley are alleged to have stayed, and the Huntingdon Tower in High Street, the last remnant of Lord's Place, the mansion of the Earls of Huntingdon. Both buildings have long since disappeared, but the Huntingdon Tower plaque has survived and is in the care of Leicester Museums. Apparently made of cast iron, it is similar to one on the Museum in New Walk, recording its opening to the public in June 1849, with a collection of exhibits formed by the Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society. Plaques were also erected at the entrance to Abbey Park, commemorating its opening by the Prince and Princess of Wales in May 1882, and on the later Huntingdon Tower Buildings in High Street, on the site of the vanished tower. Following a suggestion by local historian S. H. Skillington in 1928, a number of rectangular bronze plaques were erected on historic buildings in Leicester during the 1930s, the inscriptions for which may also have been written by him. Many are in and around the Newarke – on the Newarke Gateway, the Chantry House, the Castle, the Southern

Gateway, Castle Yard, and the former Trinity Hospital. Those on the Hawthorn Building of De Montfort University commemorate the long-vanished Collegiate Church, and the Whipping Toms, whose violent activities on Shrove Tuesdays were finally abolished by local Act of Parliament in 1846. There are also others on the Guildhall, the former Free Grammar School, Highcross Street, and the Church of St Nicholas.



Richard III commemorative plaque, St Augustine Road, Leicester, which makes reference to a discredited tradition.

The first of the circular blue plaques was erected in 1978 on *Thorncroft*, the London Road home of Thomas Cook, the 'pioneer of modern tourism'. This was followed by others commemorating Mary Linwood, the 'eminent needlework artist' (Belgrave Gate); Charles Bennion, who 'presented Bradgate Park to the people of Leicestershire' (Belgrave Road); Joseph Aloysius Hansom, 'inventor and architect' (the College of Adult Education, Belvoir Street, and the Museum, New Walk); Thomas Cooper, 'Chartist' (Churchgate); Lawrence Wright, 'composer and publisher of popular songs' (Conduit Street); Dr Mary Royce, 'founder of the Royce Institute' (Crane Street); Francis 'Tanky' Smith, 'Leicester's first private detective' (London Road); Ernest William Gimson, 'arts and crafts architect and designer' (the Belmont Hotel, New Walk); Fanny Fullager, 'Leicester's first woman Poor Law Guardian' (Pocklington's Walk); Arthur Colahan, 'composer of Galway Bay (Prebend Street); John Flower, artist (Regent Road); Agnes Archer Evans, 'pioneering teacher of girls education' (St. Martins); and Benjamin Burrows, 'composer and inventor' (University Road). Away from the centre there are plaques for Alice Hawkins, 'leader of the women's suffrage movement in Leicester' (Equity Shoes, Western Road); and novelists C. P. Snow (Richmond Road, Aylestone), and E. Phillips Oppenheim (the Cedars, Main Street, Evington).

The emphasis has not been exclusively on people: buildings are also represented, particularly ones that have disappeared.

These include the sites of the town gates; the Leicester & Leicestershire Maternity Hospital (East Bond Street / Causeway Lane); the High Cross (Highcross Street); William Carey's cottage (St. Nicholas Circle); and Fox's Glacier Mints factory (Oxford Street).



Plaque on Oxford Street, Leicester commemorating Fox's Glacier mints made in Leicester since 1895, and depicting Peppy the Polar Bear who helped promote the mints.

A number of illustrated rectangular metal plaques were also erected in the 1990s in the area designated as Castle Park, Leicester's historic core. They are on Wygston's House (Applegate); the Church of St Mary de Castro; the entrances to Castle Gardens; the Jain Centre (Oxford Street); the Cathedral; St Nicholas Church; and the Jewry Wall (St Nicholas Circle).

Others have been put up by the Richard III Society, on the former NatWest Bank, Greyfriars, to mark the site of the church where the king was buried after his death at Bosworth Field in 1485, and on St Augustine Road, beside Broadbent's resited plaque. Leicester Civic Society has also erected one in Braunstone Gate, illustrating the now vanished Bowstring Bridge, a relic of the Great Central Railway.

There are also plaques commemorating more than one person - in Castle Street, recording the presence in Leicester in August 1485 of Richard III and Henry VII within the space of two days, and at the Museum in New Walk, for Victorian naturalists Henry Walter Bates and Alfred Russel Wallace. Two more remind us of the men of the United States 82nd Airborne Division, stationed in Leicester in the months leading up to the D-Day landings in June 1944 (Braunstone Park and Victoria Park).

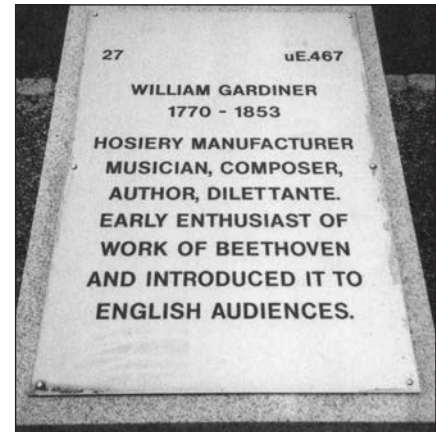
An unusual plaque in the shape of a film negative commemorates 'the first cinema screening in Leicester', at the Tivoli Theatre in June 1896 (Belgrave Gate / Wilton Street). The march of Leicester's unemployed to London in June 1905 is recorded by a slate plaque in the Market Place floor, and Cank Street Well is marked by a plaque in St Martins.

There are illustrated plaques on the former Co-operative Society building in High Street, designed by Thomas Hind and opened in 1884, and on the Globe public house in Silver

Street. Three statues by James Butler of the Leicester Seamstress in Hotel Street reflect the contribution made by women to the local hosiery industry. Richard III in Castle Gardens, and Thomas Cook outside London Road station, also have descriptive plaques on their plinths.

Mention too should be made of the memorial plaques erected on the site of the former chapels of Welford Road Cemetery as part of a major restoration project in 2005-6. One hundred notable citizens buried in the cemetery are commemorated by rectangular, stainless steel plaques mounted on granite slabs, with names, dates and brief biographical details, an unusual and possibly unique cemetery feature.

William Gardiner is amongst those commemorated at Leicester's Welford Road Cemetery.



Fifty years ago the only commemorative plaques in the county were at the Bilstone gibbet where the body of murderer John Massey was hung in irons in 1801; at King Richard's Well on Bosworth Field, with a Latin inscription erected by Dr Samuel Parr in 1813; and on Bradgate Park, marking its presentation to the people of Leicestershire by Charles Bennion in 1928.

Now plaques can be seen in both towns and villages. Some have been put up by local authorities, others by or in conjunction with local history and amenity societies, who have also sometimes published blue plaque walks or heritage trails to highlight them.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 was marked by a new series of metal plaques. They were erected at Hallaton, to record the famous Bottle Kicking; at Knaptoft Church ruins; at Lutterworth, on the Town Hall and the former Coach & Horses, Church Street; at Market Harborough in Adam and Eve Street, to commemorate physicist Sir William H. Bragg, and on the Old Town Hall; at Medbourne, on the pack-horse bridge; and at Melton on Anne of Cleves House.

The 150th anniversary of Thomas Cook's first railway excursion, from Leicester to Loughborough in July 1841, was also commemorated by a series of cast iron plaques on sites of buildings connected with him; these were promoted by the Leicester Victorian Society. In Leicester for instance,

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they were erected in King Street, on the former Temperance Hotel in Granby Street, and on Elizabeth House, London Road. Others were at Belvoir Castle, the Congregational Chapel, Kibworth Harcourt, the railway station and Southfields Park, Loughborough, and Quakers Yard, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch's role as a spa in the early nineteenth century is recalled by some of the blue plaques to be seen there - the site of the Theatre Royal, Bath Street, and the Royal Hotel and Rawdon Terrace on Station Road, both built for visitors to the spa, along with Ivanhoe Terrace, South Street, reminding us that Sir Walter Scott's famous novel *Ivanhoe*, published in 1819, brought many people here.

The Friends of Thringstone have erected a number of metal plaques on village buildings. One of the most interesting is at Bauble Yard, Main Street, the site of a long-forgotten Leicestershire industry, the making of 'baubles' - alabaster ornaments - which was at its peak in the 1870s and '80s. These were sold locally at Mount St Bernard's Abbey, at fairs and seaside resorts, and even exported to the United States. Another plaque is on St Andrew's Church, where Charles Booth, the author of *Life and Labour of the People of London* (1891-1903) is buried, as well as victims of the Whitwick Colliery Disaster of 1898.

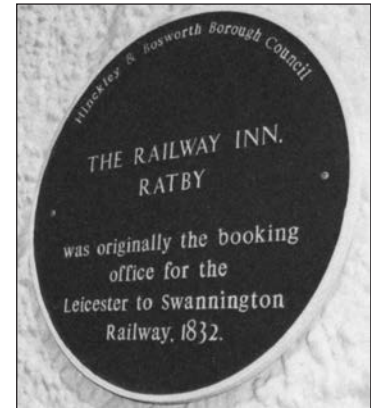
The oval blue plaques erected by the Lubenham Heritage Group also describe local buildings. Dating from the eighteenth century, the Tower House, Rushes Lane, and Gore Lodge, School Lane, were converted into hunting boxes for racehorse owner Benedict John (Jack) Angell in the 1860s and '70s. *The Laurels*, Main Street, was the former home of Joshua Perkins, who combined the manufacture of ketchup and pickles with that of coach lace, while the Old Hall, Old Hall Lane, is renowned as the place where King Charles I slept the night before the battle of Naseby in 1645.

The ancient Charity of Thomas Barton, originally founded in 1400 to provide for the upkeep of 'pavements and cawseys' in Stoke Golding, was amended in 1992 to allow for other things of benefit to the village. One such project was a series of blue plaques relating to its history. They include St Margaret of Antioch, described by Pevsner as 'one of the most beautiful churches in Leicestershire'; and in Station Road, the site of Crown Hill, where Henry VII was crowned following his victory at Bosworth Field in August 1485; at the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal wharf which opened in 1804, and at the former Stoke Golding station on the Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway (1873).

The Leicester & Swannington Railway (1832), being the first steam-operated line in the Midlands and one of the earliest in Britain, is recalled by two plaques at Ratby. A blue one on the Railway Inn on Station Road reminds us that

it was once used as a booking office, and a bronze one next door marks the bridleway 'Comet Trail' which follows the trackbed of the L.&S.R. (The first train to pass through Ratby was hauled by the locomotive *Comet*.) The original station at Glenfield was replaced in 1875, and though this too is also now demolished, it is pictured on a brass plaque at Stephenson Court, Station Road.

The Railway Inn Ratby is commemorated as originally being the booking office for the Leicester to Swannington Railway.



Leicestershire's part in the abolition of slavery in the British Empire is recorded by a plaque on the Anti-Slavery Memorial on the lawns at Rothley Court Hotel (formerly Rothley Temple) - the parliamentary bill which led to the Emancipation Act of 1833 was drafted here by Sir William Wilberforce and Thomas Babington. Lord Macaulay who was born here in 1800 is also commemorated by a plaque.

A metal plaque over the entrance to the Framework Knitters' Almshouses in Stoughton Road, Oadby, records their inauguration in September 1907. Originally established by the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters of London in 1734, they were moved here from Shoreditch, largely at the instigation of former Master John A. Corah, and opened in October 1908 with twelve almshouses for 'poor workmen in the hosiery trade'. The North Memorial Homes across the road were built with the fund set up by Sir Jonathan North to assist ex-servicemen disabled in the Great War. Consisting of twenty cottages and a recreation hall designed by Trevor Sawday, a metal plaque at the entrance records their opening by the Prince of Wales in March 1927.

Melton Mowbray has plaques commemorating both buildings and people. Replicas of two of the three market crosses - the Corn Cross (High Street / Nottingham Street) and the Butter Cross (Market Place) - have commemorative plaques. The Sage Cross is also remembered by a plaque on Morrison's supermarket, Thorpe End. Two other vanished buildings - the Hospital and Chapel of St John of Jerusalem and *The Limes*, home of the Hudson family - are recorded by plaques at the Memorial Gardens, Wilton Road. A blue plaque in Leicester Street erected by the Melton Pork Pie Association celebrates one of the town's most famous products. Other blue plaques, promoted by the Melton & District Civic Society, have been erected in Burton Street to

commemorate Thomas Cromwell, 'Lord Chancellor of England to Henry VIII' (Anne of Cleves House); the seventh Earl Cardigan, who 'led the charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War' (Cardigan House); and Sir Malcolm Sargent, 'conductor and composer' (Manor House).

As well as commemorating Thomas Cook, Loughborough has plaques for John Heathcote, 'inventor and lace maker' (Leicester Road) and Robert Bakewell, 'livestock breeder' (Warners Lane), while Lutterworth has remembered Sir Frank Whittle, 'the pioneer who developed the jet engine', with plaques and a bust in the Memorial Gardens, Church Street.

Novelists Charlotte M. Brame (Castle Street) and Elizabeth Coxhead (Mount Grace High School, Leicester Road) are among a number of people commemorated by blue plaques at Hinckley. Others include Joseph Hansom, inventor of the famous cab (NatWest Bank, The Borough, and Edwards Centre, Regent Street); pugilist Nat Langham (Cross Keys Yard, Castle Street); Joseph Dare, 'domestic missionary, poet and teacher' and the Rev Philip Doddridge, 'dissenting minister' (Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel, Baines Lane); William Iliffe, who 'introduced the stocking frame to Hinckley' (Museum, Lower Bond Street); and Robert J. Lees, author, journalist and spiritualist (Upper Bond Street).

A number of blue plaques, mostly put up by the Burbage Heritage Group remind us of former local residents. The most famous was George Canning, a future Prime Minister (Constitutional Club, Church Street), who often stayed there in 1811-1814 while his son was being treated by the famous Dr Chessher at Hinckley. Others commemorate Kinard Baghot de la Bere, engineer, agricultural writer, and the discover of isinglass as a preservative (Burbage Hall); Roger Cotes, who became Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge (St Catherine's Church gates); and Herbert Robinson, an internationally recognised rose grower (Church Street).



Kinard Baghot de la Bere, the discoverer of the use of isinglass is commemorated by this plaque at Burbage Hall.

In a joint project, Wigston Civic Society and the Greater Wigston Historical Society erected a series of blue plaques in 2006-7 commemorating local people. These include W.

G. Hoskins, who lived in Sandy Rise when he was an assistant lecturer at University College Leicester, in the 1930s; William E. Boulter, VC, who lived in Central Avenue; theatre impresario Donald Ross, who grew up in Long Street; his wife, music-hall star Gertie Gitana, who performed at the Marquis of Queensbury, Blaby Road; and Orson Wright, the creator of South Wigston, who built Orange Tree House, Orange Street, for his sister.

A number of other people are commemorated by plaques elsewhere in the county: Bishop William Beveridge (Bishop Beveridge House, Beveridge Street, Barrow-on-Soar); Samuel Deacon, preacher and clockmaker (Baptist Chapel, Main Street, Barton-in-the-Beans); George Smith, social reformer and author (George Smith Close / London Road, Coalville); Dr Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury (Church of England Primary School, Main Street, Higham-on-the-Hill); Sir Harold Ridley, pioneering ophthalmic surgeon (*Little Lebanon*, Kibworth Harcourt); Thomas Hooker, Puritan clergyman (Dixie Grammar School, Station Road, Market Bosworth); John Welsey (The Green, Markfield); and John Ferneley, sporting artist and painter (The Green, Thrusington).

Leicestershire now has more than two hundred plaques commemorating people who were born or lived here, buildings or the sites of buildings of historical interest, and events of local, and sometimes national importance, helping to make us all more aware of the history around us.

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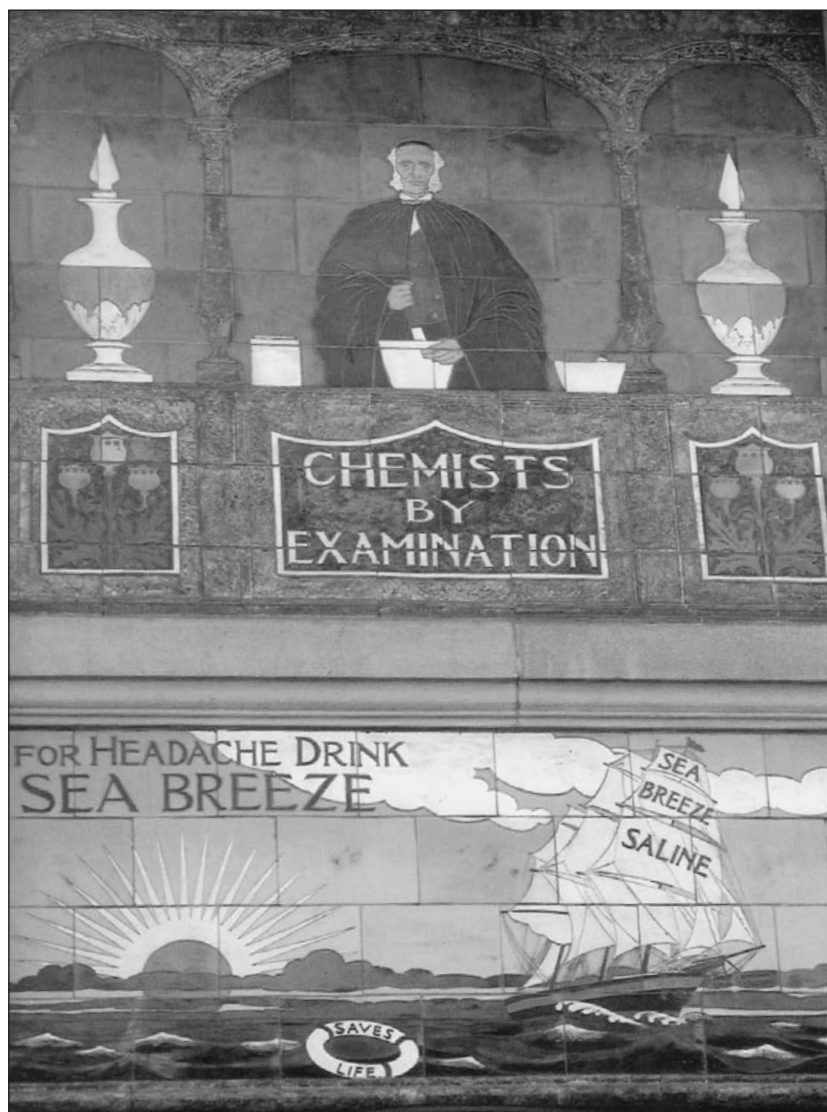
The Apothecary: the history of the oldest advertisement in High Street, Leicester

Edna Blake

As they pass by below, very few people probably look up to notice what must be the oldest advertisement in Leicester's High Street. Having been there since 1904 and placed above number 58, this highly decorative advertisement consists of two tiled panels. The upper panel depicts an apothecary in skullcap and gown with a pestle and mortar – he is flanked by storage vessels, with the assurance of 'Chemists by Examination' printed beneath. The lower panel comprises a ship in full sail riding the waves at sunrise, and has the words 'Sea Breeze Saline' prominently displayed on its sails.

The 'Saline' was a noted proprietary medicine, produced in Leicester at the end of the nineteenth and during the first

half of the twentieth centuries, initially by Thomas Edward Butler and his son James Arthur Butler, and later by Thomas's grandson Arthur Harry Butler. This article seeks to find out who these people were who must have enjoyed considerable success in order to afford to build what was so large a chemists shop on the newly-widened High Street in 1904. It looks at the development of this business against the background of the conditions which were likely to affect the health of the expanding population of Leicester, and of developments in pharmacy, spanning the period between 1840 when Thomas Edward Butler first established the business, and 1926 when his son James died, concluding with a brief look at the eventual demise of the business following the death of Arthur Harry in 1946.



Decorative tiled panels which can be seen above 58 High Street, Leicester.

Thomas Edward Butler was born in Leicester c1820, the son of Thomas Butler Senior, who appears to have been a boot-and shoemaker, living in Cank Street in 1827. (1) In 1839, the year before he established his first chemist business, Thomas Edward was baptised at Harvey Lane Chapel, where his father had taken him as a child to hear Robert Hall preach. (2) Many years later, the Reverend J. Cornish, delivering the eulogy at Thomas' funeral in 1904, spoke of 'the Christian zeal which animated Thomas from the moment of his conversion up to the last'. (3) This 'zeal' perhaps helps to explain Thomas' wish to alleviate the suffering of the poor, whose living conditions in the town, gave rise to disease and early death.

Thomas opened his first chemist shop in new premises in Leicester's Sanvey Gate in 1840 (4), and like most chemists shops of the nineteenth century, it would probably have sold patent medicines and herbs alongside foodstuffs, toilet articles, oils and candles. The population of Leicester in 1841 was 49,934, having increased from 39,306 in 1831. By 1841, the medical needs of this growing population were met by twenty-seven chemists and druggists, two patent medicine vendors, five physicians and thirty-one surgeons. (5) The number of chemists and druggists reflects the considerable growth in self-styled chemists and druggists in the early part of the nineteenth century, when anyone could open a chemist shop and supply any remedy they chose, from harmless coloured water, to the most toxic substances without regulation. (6) In 1844, H. W. Rumsey, giving evidence to a Select Committee on Medical Poor Relief, described how, 'the ignorant and uninformed', in preference to a qualified physician, used the druggist's shop, where a diagnosis was arrived at by a mere glance of the shopman at the customer and treatment prescribed. 'The inevitable results to the community are fearful loss of life and destruction of health.' (7)

The area surrounding Thomas' Sanvey Gate chemist shop was poor, with many houses overcrowded as the town struggled to accommodate the growing population. New housing was being built, but was dense and with inadequate ventilation, having doors and windows on one side only which people were reluctant to leave open because, as George Bown reported to the Council in 1846, the accumulation of filth was 'highly prejudicial and dangerous to the inhabitants'. In the worst parts of the town, life expectancy was less than seventeen years. (8) Many of these people would have been too poor to afford chemists' medicines, and would have turned instead to itinerant quacks or 'wise women'. (9) Others tried alterative measures. Tom Barclay, a child in Leicester in the 1850s, described how his mother, a poor Irish immigrant, took her children, suffering from 'chin cough', later thought by him to probably be whooping cough, to church. There they knelt before the altar rails and, 'the kind priest gave us a drink out of the

sacramental chalice; I don't know was the liquor wine or water, or whether it cured us'. (10) There was much scope for the work of a young chemist in 1840s Leicester.



58 High Street and the corner of Carts Lane, Leicester today.

Information about Thomas Butler's knowledge of medicines in 1840 can only be speculative. He may have been apprenticed to one of the chemists in the town, perhaps to John Butler, possibly a relative who had a shop in Belgrave Gate in 1835, or he may have been influenced by self-styled Dr Coffin, who revived the use of more affordable herbs as medicines, particularly in the industrial towns of the north of England and the Midlands, where memory of traditional remedies was dying out. Thomas enjoyed success with his business in Sanvey Gate. He married Frances Hubbard of West Street, in 1842. By 1851, the family had grown to include four children – Thomas Edward, Sarah Ann, Frances and Emma. Other members of the household included Thomas's sister-in-law, one domestic servant, and two apprentices, one of whom was John Hallam who had his own chemist shop in Upper Brown Street by 1854.

Thomas Butler was concerned with more than the physical health of the people of Sanvey Gate and surrounding area. He was said to be a pioneer when he began a Sunday school class for infants in Sanvey Gate, as well as classes for the young men and women of the district. (11) He visited the sick and dying in the neighbourhood. Joseph Dare reported, in 1849, the resentment such perceived interference caused among the ordained clergy when he wrote of an aged mother and her dying son whom Thomas had visited. In the course

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of two visits by the clergy of a nearby church, the mother was ordered to keep Thomas Butler away from her son if she wished the clergy to visit him. On both occasions, the mother refused, saying that her family and others among the poor 'had often experienced the kindness of that gentleman in seasons of affliction and death'. (12) The Vicar 'seemed to be filled with astonishment that such a man dare exercise holy office and minister in things sacred' and again asked the woman to forbid Mr Butler to visit her son. The woman would not, and on being asked what Mr Butler did when he called, she replied, 'he reads and prays by them'. (13) For many years, Thomas Butler was a deacon of Harvey Lane Chapel and, with his friend Samuel Baines, was a lay-preacher who opened Sunday schools in Whetstone and Birstall, walking there and back, 'teaching and preaching and visiting every house in the village, getting strange and interesting experience'. (14)

The Pharmaceutical Society was formed in 1841 to improve the education of chemists by running courses and improving standards of training. By 1842, it had two thousand members and examinations were introduced in 1852 for those wishing to call themselves pharmaceutical chemists. Thomas Butler joined the Pharmaceutical Society on 1st June 1853 and registered as a pharmaceutical chemist on 31st December 1868. (15)

During the 1840s and 1850s, attempts were made to make Leicester a healthier place in which to live, with street cleaning introduced, and minimum distances between houses and pig sties stipulated, as well as improvements to the water supply. However, the latter continued to be polluted because of an inadequate sewerage system, which did not function properly until nearly the end of the century. Given this, the insanitary housing conditions of many, and the poverty, particularly at times of unemployment, it is unsurprising that, during the 1850s, the health of many remained poor.

Thomas and his family moved to 11 Grape Street, off East Bond Street, during the 1850s, although he kept his shop in Sanvey Gate. His wife, Frances and her baby, died in childbirth in November 1859. By 1861, Thomas' eldest son, Thomas, was apprenticed to his father, whilst his eldest daughter, Sarah, ran the household with the help of a servant.

The 1860s was a decade of expansion for Leicester with the growth of shoe manufacturing, the development of engineering to provide machinery for the industry and the increasing mechanisation of hosiery manufacture (16). The number of working mothers in this industry grew considerably, and their absence from home was blamed, in part, for the continuing high level of infant mortality in Leicester. (17) In 1871, the infant mortality rate reached 252.4 per 1,000 (18), a level which was ascribed to outbreaks of illness, the poor physical condition of many

babies at birth, inadequate hygiene and poisonous drugs given to soothe babies. (19) Some deaths could no doubt be attributed to these causes but by this time, the sewerage system had serious failings due to the rapidly increasing population, giving rise to disease and death, particularly among the most vulnerable. (20) Thomas' own daughter, Emma Jane, died aged sixteen in 1864. Two years later, Thomas re-married, his second wife being Sarah Thornton, aged forty-six, a stocking maker from Walton, near Lutterworth.

Following the Pharmacy Act, 1868 it was unlawful for any unqualified person to sell or dispense poisons or call themselves a chemist, druggist or pharmacist, and the Pharmaceutical Society's examinations became compulsory for those wishing to practise as chemists. The Leicester Chemists' Association was formed in February 1869 for 'the Educational Improvement of Chemists' Assistants and Apprentices'. (21) James Arthur Butler, aged seventeen, by this time apprenticed to his father, was one of the nineteen founder members, paying an annual subscription of five shillings. It was proposed that classes would be held in arithmetic, Latin, Materia Medica, botany and chemistry. The following extract from the programme for 1880 gives a flavour of the subjects covered in the weekly classes:

Jan. 19th, Circulation of the Blood, Mr. G.M. Winter
 March 31st, Mnemonics, Mr. Cowen
 June 9th, Flowers, their Structure and Arrangement, Mr. Lewitt
 June 16th, Water, its Forms and Properties, Mr. Plant
 June 30th, Arsenicum, Mr. Burford. (22)

Most of these classes were held in the evening, beginning at 8.30pm, but sometimes the apprentices were required to attend before their working day began. For example, on June 17th 1889, a class in practical botany, led by Mr S. F. Burford FCS, was held at the Abbey Park Botanic Garden at 6.30am. Perhaps to encourage participation, a prize was to be awarded at the end of the session. (23)

Thomas, his wife and four of his children were still living at 41 Sanvey Gate, in 1871. His wife Sarah was away on the night of the census, visiting Susannah Knight, in Narborough. His daughter Fanny, aged twenty four, was a dressmaker, James Arthur, aged nineteen, was still apprenticed to his father, Anne Selina, aged eighteen, helped with domestic duties, while his youngest son Henry Alfred, was apprenticed to a carpenter. Also present were his grandson John Thornton, aged six, Arthur Pertever, a curate at St. Margaret's Church and fifteen year old Agnes Burditt, a domestic servant. The family retained ownership of 41 Sanvey Gate for many years. In 1881, it was the home of daughter Fanny, her husband John Booth and their two children and ten years later, son James and his family were living there.

Eventually, Thomas Butler acquired all the properties between numbers 41 and 51 Sanvey Gate. However, by 1881, following the death of his son, Henry Alfred, in October 1877, Thomas and Sarah moved to 'The Retreat' Narborough, where he became very involved in the local churches, in particular, that of Huncote.

James Arthur Butler joined his father as a partner in the business in 1878, having passed the minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society and becoming registered in April 1875. (24) Thomas' eldest son, also named Thomas, who had been apprenticed to his father in 1861, had left pharmacy and by 1881, was a physician, living in Kingston-on-Thames with his wife Elizabeth and three young sons, all of whom were born in Somerset East, South Africa.

By the 1870s people in Leicester, as in other industrial towns, had greater security of employment and more money. Demand for patent medicines increased as many people preferred them to traditional remedies. They were available from not only chemists but also grocers, hairdressers and publicans. Amazing claims were made for them. For example, 'Dr. William's Pink Pills for Pale People' advertised that they would 'supply Good Rich Blood, building up the system against the ravages of deadly diseases and restoring lost strength'. In order to be cured of a range of ailments, from anaemia to paralysis, people were advised to ask for them by their full name, price 2s. 9d. per box. (25)

It was against this background that Thomas Butler and his son James developed their own patent medicine, 'Sea Breeze Saline' as featured later on the High Street advertisement. It was a headache cure and daily tonic, said to be especially beneficial for the liver. It may have contained ingredients similar to Eno's Fruit Salts, namely, equal quantities of bicarbonate of soda, tartaric acid, Rochelle salts, a half quantity of cream of tartar and a fourfold quantity of finely powdered sugar. The Butler business was also manufacturing citrate of magnesia, herb beer extract and other summer beverages (26), which they supplied to many grocers' shops in the town and surrounding area.

By 1883, Thomas and James had three additional chemist shops under the company name of T. E. Butler & Son - one at 34 Waterloo Street, in the rapidly developing area near the railway station, another at 67 Loughborough Road, in the village of Belgrave, and another at 124 Birstall Street, to

the east of the town centre. The company paid for a highlighted entry in the 1887 edition of Wright's Directory, describing themselves as 'druggists, wholesale grocers and drysaltery dealers'. They continued to find suitable shops and ceased trading from others, until in 1904, they were trading at 41-51 Sanvey Gate, 22 Loseby Lane, 3 Hinckley Road, 82-84 Belgrave Road, 109a King Richards Road, 232 Loughborough Road, 170b Belgrave Gate, 83 Upper Conduit Street, 163 Fosse Road North and 1 Oxendon Street. (27) The manufacturing and wholesale arm of the business was carried out at 2-10 Town Hall Lane. Of the forty chemists serving Leicester's population of 211,000, Thomas Butler's business was the largest. At the time of his death, Thomas Butler was described as being familiar with and giving trusted advice in the districts where he carried on business. (28)

During the 1890s, Thomas and James Butler had taken Thomas' grandson Horace Moore Thornton into the partnership. However, on May 10th 1898, the London Gazette announced the dissolution by mutual consent of the partnership from first day of January 1898.

Drink Sea Breeze.

The Best **SPRING MEDICINE** for **SICK HEAD-ACHE.** For **INDIGESTION.** For **CHILDREN.**
For **ADULTS.** For **BILIOUSNESS,** etc.

INVIGORATING. COOLING. HEALTH-GIVING.

No Household complete without **Sea Breeze!** Sold by every Shopkeeper in Town and County, in Air-tight, Enamelled Tins, $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. 3d.; $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. 6d.; 1-lb. 1s.; and Family Tins 2s. 6d. Protected and Registered.

Sea Breeze!

Sea Breeze!

Good for The Blues.



BUTLER'S
Sea * Breeze

HAS TROOPS OF ADMIRERS.

ANOTHER GOOD THING.

TAKE COUNSEL



See that you get -

BUTLER'S

Fever and Colds are and will be very Prevalent. Don't Neglect! Procure our Powders at once!

BUTLER'S INFLUENZA POWDERS
FOR FEVERS.

BUTLER'S FEVER POWDERS
FOR COLDS.

BUTLER'S INFLUENZA POWDERS
FOR SORE THROATS.

Feverish Heats, Measles, etc., immediately subdued.
Suitable alike for Young and Old.
Perfectly Safe and Agreeable to take.

AN ADMIRABLE MEDICINE TO HAVE IN THE HOUSE. ALWAYS READY.

Sold in Packets 4d., 6d., and 1s. each. Fancy Box 2s. 6d., and by Agents 3 Powders for 2d.

£2 REWARD TO ANY PERSON PROVING A FRAUDULENT SALE.

SOLE MAKERS AND INVENTORS:

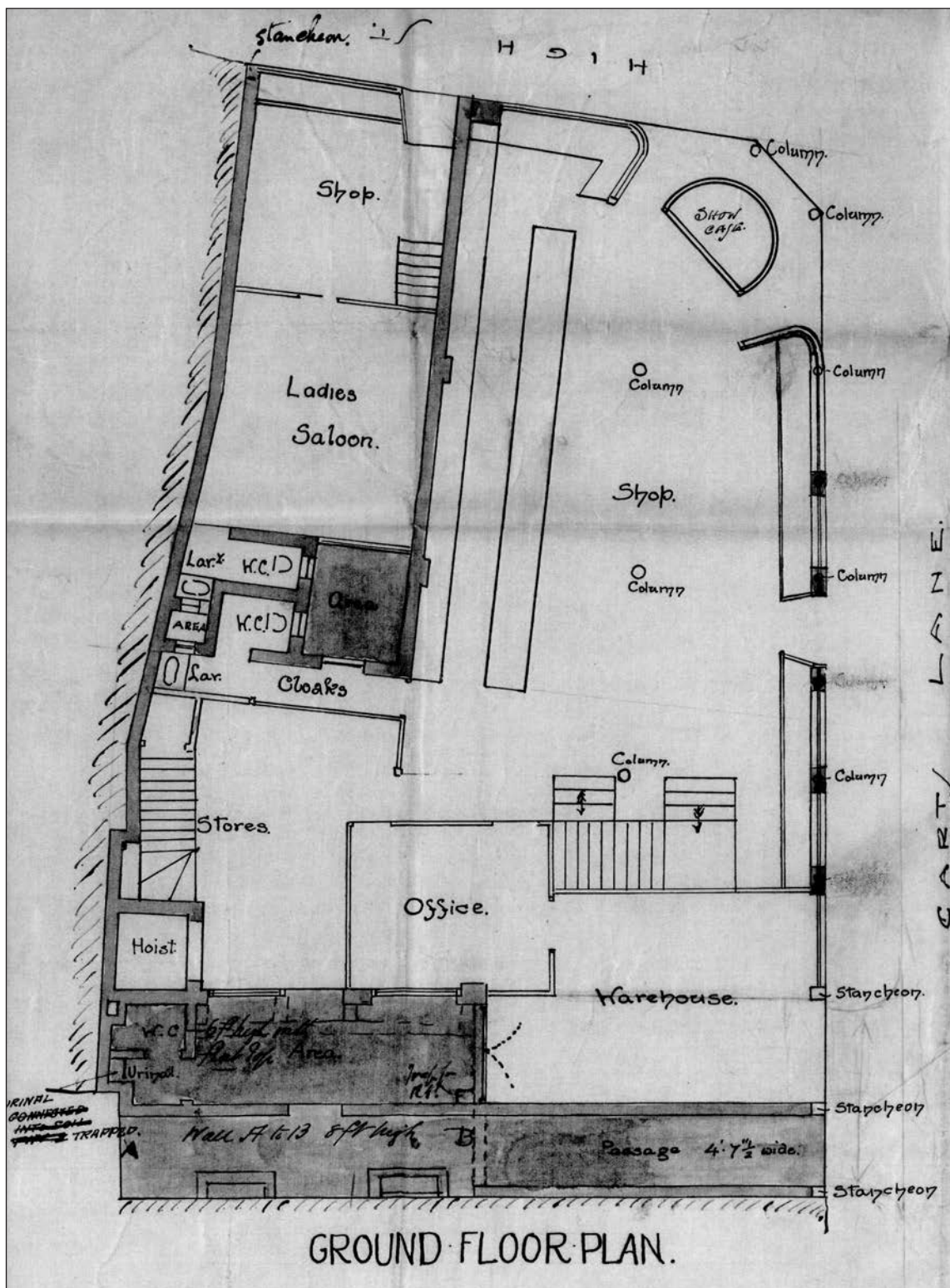
T. E. BUTLER, SON, & CO.,
Sea Breeze Factory,
TOWN HALL LANE AND BRANCHES, LEICESTER.

Advertisement for 'Sea Breeze Saline', Leicester Pioneer, 17th October 1903.

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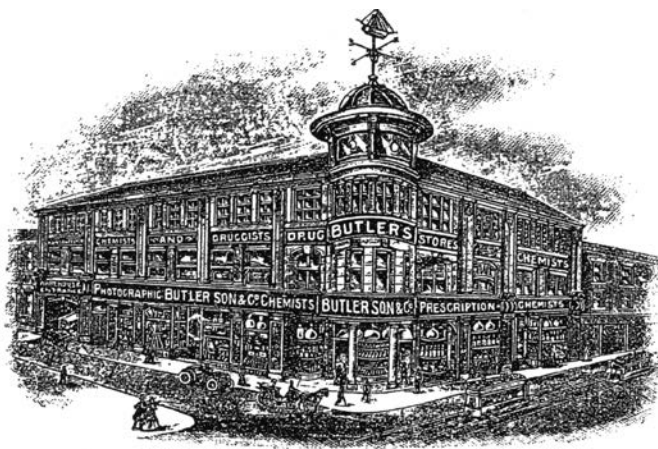
In 1903, Thomas Butler, Son & Co. had a change of direction. Perhaps from their Town Hall Lane premises, they had watched the widening of the High Street and realised that it would attract many more people to shop in that area. Thomas was in his eighties by this time and no doubt James had more input into the business. By this time, people had more money to spend on non-essential items. Photography was increasing in popularity as a hobby for the more affluent

and chemists were ideally suited to supply much of their equipment. For whatever reason, the Butlers decided to build a shop, much larger than anything they had previously owned. The Council agreed early in 1903 to sell surplus land on the corner of the High Street and Carts Lane to T.E. Butler, Son & Co. The Butlers bought three hundred and sixty one and a quarter square yards of land for £6,750 with immediate plans to start building. (29)



Ground floor plan of 58 and 60 High Street Leicester. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland).

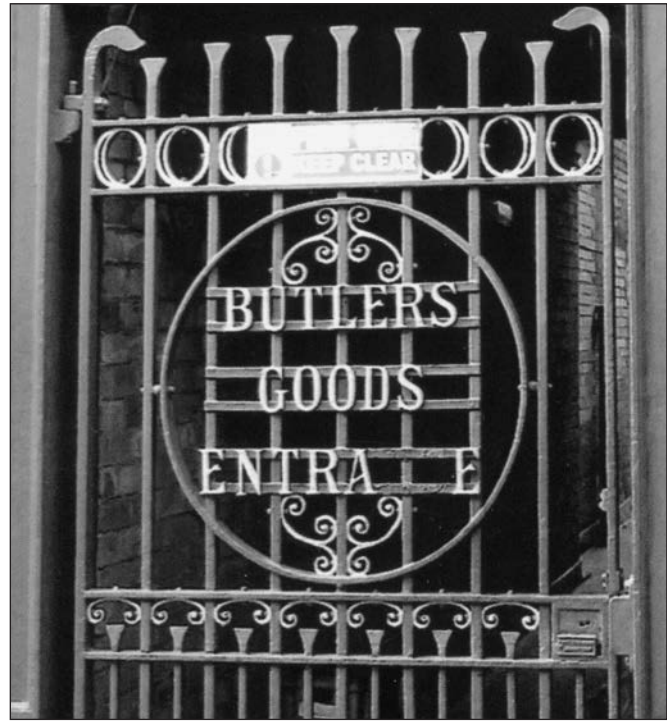
The architect was Arthur E. Sawday, whose plans for a large shop, with a basement, and two floors above the shop, incorporating a smaller ground floor shop next door, facing the High Street, were approved in September 1903. When the building was completed at the end of 1904, it was described as 'one of the best bits of street architecture in the town' (30), and 'probably the finest retail pharmacy in the country', the outside having pilasters of 'artistic designs in Doulton ware, highly glazed and coloured'. (31) The ship, Thomas Butler's trademark, was part of the weather vane, surmounting the dome of the building, but this is no longer in place. Sadly, Thomas Butler did not live to see the opening of the shop, having been ill for some time, he died on December 4th 1904. However, his image remains since the apothecary, in the decorative panel of glazed terracotta tiles, made by the Istock company, Hathernware, is described as 'a striking reproduction of the late Mr. T. E. Butler. (32) We are also reminded, when we look at the panel, of how usual it was to use opiates in pharmacy given what look like poppy seed heads on either side of the words, 'Chemists by Examination'. Corner sites in Leicester often feature architecturally striking buildings and Arthur Sawday's design at 58 High Street is no exception with its nautical theme, corner tower and dome reminiscent of a lighthouse. The round windows beneath the dome, some of which have the image of a pestle and mortar and 'est. 1840' moulded into them, were lit at night by two large red-globed electric lamps. (33)



Drawing of the new Butler Pharmacy, 58 and 60 High Street, Leicester, as depicted in the Chemist and Druggist 18th February, 1905.

Both the exterior and the interior of the shop were designed to impress. The large semi-circular display case, immediately inside the corner entrance, was one of many display cases. Messrs. Parnall and Sons Ltd. of Bristol made all the fittings of polished, solid mahogany and the whole shop was lit by 'a profusion of electric lights', which like the electric lift, was powered by a generator in the basement. It was James Butler's wish to make it 'the finest genuine chemist's business in the country'. (34) Was this a reference to the fast-expanding country-wide empire of his

contemporary and near neighbour, Jesse Boot of Nottingham, who had never passed any of the Pharmaceutical Society's examinations, and some of whose shops included libraries and cafes? (35)



Decorative ironwork which can still be seen at the entrance to 10 Carts Lane, Leicester.

The wrought iron gate of the goods entrance in Carts Lane remains in place. All supplies would have been brought through here. Many of the bulkier items would have been stored in the large basement area, while on the first floor, rooms accommodated James Butler's private office, patent medicines, foods, sundries, surgical instruments, photographic equipment and the preparation of 'Sea Breeze'. The top floor was used as a drying, bottling and storage room. The cost of the whole enterprise was estimated by James Butler to be £12,000. (36) Today, the ground floor frontage of the Pilot clothes shop has modernised windows and cladding covers the exterior walls. However, the small shop next door, 'Anabis', 60, High Street, still retains the curved glass windows and iron work that was once a feature of the larger shop. In 1905, the smaller shop was let to William T. Callard, a baker, who remained there for a number of years.

The opening of James Butler's grand chemist shop on High Street took place on Thursday, 9th February 1905, when more than a hundred guests were invited to inspect the premises. Many of the 'great and good' of Leicester were present, including the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Alderman and Mrs Sawday, Alderman Windley, Canon Sanders, Alderman Collins, Colonel Harvey, the Borough Coroner Dr Williams, Dr Hancock, Dr Coleman, the Reverend Cornish, Mr A. F. Holland, Chairman of the Board

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of Guardians, and other professional people and their wives. The Merrall Brothers' Orchestra, with singers Miss Wilby and Miss Chamberlain, provided the musical accompaniment to the afternoon tea and it was the Merrall Brothers' band, with Miss Maud Clark, Miss Chamberlain and Mr H. Warner, who played the music at the evening celebrations when an even greater number of guests were invited to a whist drive on the first floor, and a dance and concert on the second floor. (37) The shop opened to the public on the following day.

The displays, sometimes lit by electric light, would have been designed to attract the eyes of customers by arranging many items of the same product together for maximum impact. The shop assistants, responsible for the presentation and maintenance of the displays, would have been carefully chosen, and by the beginning of the twentieth century, female assistants were required in order to avoid embarrassment to women customers as pharmacists and their apprentices were invariably male. It is probable that many of T. E. Butler, Son & Co. shop assistants were recruited from the congregation at Harvey Lane Chapel from girls of families that they knew, for it would have been important for them to know that members of staff were discreet, clean and presentable.

By 1896, Thomas Edward Butler and his wife Sarah had moved back to Leicester, making their home first at 25 Evington Road, and by 1898, at 47 St Albans Road. It was here that Thomas died, aged eighty-four on 4th December 1904. The funeral of 'the Grand Old Man' of Harvey Lane Chapel (38), was conducted by the Reverend J. Cornish, and attended by a large congregation, including fellow chemists, some of his employees, members of the church at Huncote and about thirty members of Thomas' Old People's Bible class, in addition to family members and civic dignitaries. The Reverend Cornish spoke of Thomas' work for the chapel since 1839, his generosity, 'his delight in the Scriptures and his prayerfulness'. (39) It was said that his concern for the moral and spiritual welfare of his fellow men would live long in the memories of those who had come into contact with him. (40) He is buried at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

In his will, Thomas left almost all of his estate in trust to his wife, with James Arthur Butler inheriting the total business after her death. His library, he asked to be divided between those of his children living in England at the time of his death. Was this an indication that his son Thomas and his family had returned to South Africa? There was no mention of them being present at the funeral, and apart from son Thomas' wife Elizabeth receiving a legacy of £50, which was to go to their son Archibald if she predeceased her father-in-law, they were not beneficiaries of Thomas' will. His other children or, if they had died, then their spouses,

were all recipients of pecuniary bequests, which were to be paid after the death of Sarah, his wife, and the residue of his £5,531 9s. 10d. estate was to be paid to Harvey Lane Chapel for the continuation of their mission work, also at this time. Sarah Butler died in February 1906, leaving legacies to her niece, Anne Hallam, and Anne's husband William, to her friend, Rose Conway, to Helen Butler, wife of James Arthur, with the residue to be divided between the children of her late nephew, John Moore Thornton, the husband of Sarah, eldest daughter of Thomas Edward Butler.



Butler's 'Sea Breeze' tonic. (Photograph by Philip R. French, reproduced by permission of Leicester City Arts & Museum Service.)

After Thomas Butler's death, several of the smaller shops were closed with only the High Street shop, 51 Sanvey Gate, 109a King Richards Road and 163 Fosse Road North, as well as the manufacturing base in Town Hall Lane, being retained by 1906. (41) The business was further consolidated by 1914, with manufacturing transferred to 10 Carts Lane, the goods entrance giving access to the rear of the High Street premises where the basement and upper floors were used for the production of 'Sea Breeze Saline', fever powders and other popular remedies, as well as the bottling and packaging of commodities, bought in bulk, like glycerine and liquid paraffin. The company supplied many village shops with these and with grocery items. The High Street shop was under the management of George Trant, and the Sanvey Gate shop, which was also an opticians, was managed by William Allwood. (42) By 1922, both of these shops were rented out, 58 High Street to Needham Ltd., while William Allwood rented 51 Sanvey Gate. The wholesale and manufacturing business continued to be run by James Butler and his son Arthur from 10 Carts Lane. (43)

James Arthur Butler died in November 1926, aged seventy-five, leaving an estate valued at £19,990 14s. 3d. At the time of his death, he was highly esteemed, in public and private life, alike. Like his father, he, too, had been involved with the work of Harvey Lane Chapel, having given twenty-five years continuous work to the Sunday school. He had been elected to the Leicester Board of Guardians in 1882 and was the chairman from 1905-1907, after which he retired from Poor Law work. (43) In 1875, he had married Ellen Jackson, and they had three children – Millicent, Arthur Harry, and Ethel. They lived in turn in King Richards Road, Sanvey Gate and Fosse Road North, all roads in which the Butlers had shops, but James and his family did not live above the shop at any of these addresses. By 1914, having appointed managers to his shops, the family moved to 'The Gables', New Birstall, and by 1922, they had moved further out to 'South View', Quorn. At the time of his death, he was living at 'Woodside', Park Road, Birstall with his second wife, Annie. In his will, he left his business, which he stipulated should continue under the name of T. E. Butler, Son & Co., including the trade name of 'Sea Breeze', to his son, Arthur Harry, with the express desire that he employ his sisters, giving them 'adequate salaries' as long as they wished to be employed. Arthur was also to pay his stepmother £2 per week on a Saturday. After leaving legacies of £50 to Frederick Hinton Pick, and £25 to Beatrice Margaret Pallett, both of whom were long-serving employees, a legacy of £25 to his daughter-in-law, Lillian Butler, and insurance money to his wife, the rest of his estate was to be divided equally between his three children.

The High Street shop continued to be known as Butler's Pharmacy and Chemists, although it was rented to William

Allwood in 1926, Squire & Co. of Birmingham in 1929, and Taylors Cash Chemists in 1932. Henry Wigfall & Son, cycle and radio dealers, changed the nature of the shop in 1936, while Butler's wholesale business continued at 10 Carts Lane, using the basement and upper floors of the High Street building. The electric hoist facilitated the movement of goods between floors.

After his father's death, Arthur Harry managed the business until his death in 1946, aged sixty-one. There being no family successor to assume responsibility for the business, a manager, Mr Stimpson was appointed. With the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948 which provided free prescriptions, and with better advertising from their competitors for products such as Andrews Liver Salts and Carr's Fever Powders, demand for the Butler products was reduced, and manufacture of them ceased in the 1950s. The wholesale business continued to supply patent medicines, cleaning materials and groceries to village shops, and to the grocers' shops serving the new council estates as they were built around Leicester. However, with increased competition, retaining this business was difficult, and company profits declined. Mr Stimpson had ideas to revitalise the business by introducing new lines such as haberdashery and pet food, but he died suddenly in 1959 before he had had time to bring about the necessary change. After the death of Lillian Butler in 1960, aged eighty, death duties had to be paid. The company was wound up in 1962 after the sale of all its assets, including the High Street building where many of the original fixtures and fittings had been stored in the basement since the shop's change of use in 1936.



Women filling bottles, thought to be at Carts Lane, early decades of the twentieth century. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

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Surprisingly, Thomas Edward Butler has a legacy in South Africa. His son, Thomas Edward, the physician, and his family, did return to Cape Province, where Thomas practised as a doctor. The founder of the company's great-great grandson, Frank S. Butler, informs me that Archibald Thornton Butler trained as a chemist and, early in his career, was given the formula for his grandfather's headache powder, naming it 'Grandpa's Headache Powder'. Frank Butler writes that the powder, still known by this name, remains a commercial success in South Africa. Archibald's son, Reginald Edward Thornton Butler, established a pharmacy in Grahamstown, South Africa, and the business there still retains the name R. E. T. Butler.

This research, which began with an old and beautiful advertisement on a building in High Street Leicester, has followed the development of a company, which began with a small chemist's shop, serving the needs of people in a poor area of Leicester, and ended with a wholesale business run from a prestigious building in one of the main streets of the town, and a legacy in South Africa. During its growth, the business was affected firstly by increased regulation brought about by the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society in the nineteenth century, and secondly, by the growing prosperity of the people of Leicester. T. E. Butler, Son & Co. responded to the increasing demand for proprietary medicines by making one of their own, which continued in production for half a century. The business tried to adapt to changing circumstances during the twentieth century, but the death of Mr Stimpson before he could implement changes to modernise and expand the company, followed by the death of Lilian Butler and the payment of taxes, caused its eventual closure. The discovery of the life of a man, now forgotten, who cared about the welfare of the poor in his town, and through his life and work, tried to relieve some of their misery, was unexpected. The fine building that he and his son commissioned has been altered to suit the needs of twenty-first century retailers, but it is most satisfying to know that the building and the advertisement are listed, and that the 'apothecary' has a name. Thomas Edward Butler deserves no less.

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31. *Chemist and Druggist*, 28th January 1905.
32. and 33. *Ibid.*
34. *Leicester Guardian*, 18th February 1905.
35. C. Weir, *Jesse Boot of Nottingham*, (Boots Co. PLC, Nottingham, 1994), p.46.
36. *Leicester Mercury*, 10th February 1905.
37. *Chemist and Druggist*, 18th February 1905, p.264.
38. *Leicester Guardian*, 10th December 1904.
39. and 40. *Leicester Chronicle*, 10th December 1904.
41. *Wright's Directory*, (1906).
42. *Wright's Directory*, (1914).
42. *Kelly's Directory*, (1922).
43. *Leicester Mail*, 6th November 1926.

Recent Publications

Edited by Cynthia Brown

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND: GENERAL

BETTY'S DIARIES: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELIZABETH HEWES OF RAVENSTONE, LEICESTERSHIRE 1944-2011

Mary Julia Johns

Fantastic State Limited, 2010, 728pp, illus., ISBN 9781899820993, £24.99

Elizabeth 'Betty' Hewes started to keep a diary in 1944 at the age of twelve, and continued to do so for the fifty-seven years until her death in 2001. Most of the entries are short, made in five-year diaries, with only six lines of space for each entry: 'each entry filled these lines exactly... "a work of art" she had perfected over many years'. All her diaries have been transcribed unabridged by her niece Mary, a task that took her nine years 'on and off', and are also available as a CD-ROM. They record Betty's childhood in Ravenstone, where she lived the whole of her life, along with her schooldays in Coalville, her career in the Motor Vehicle Licensing Office in Leicester, and later at the Department of Energy in Wigston, and her involvement with her church and the Coalville Amateur Dramatic Society. They give an unusually detailed insight into her life, and the social and political changes over time that affected her. Not all the entries are personal however, and many show a great interest in the wider world. Most of those for the week beginning 17th November 1985 consist of reflections on the possible connections between planetary alignments and changes in weather patterns, prompted by the eruption of the volcano Nevado Del Ruiz in Colombia; that of 25th May 1990 is on the FA Cup Final replay, in which Manchester United beat Crystal Palace 1 – 0.

Cynthia Brown

CHILDREN'S HISTORY OF LEICESTER

Rosalind Adam

Home Town World, 2011, 32pp, illus., ISBN 9781849931281, £7.99

Advances in publishing have generated many attractive general history books for children, as the shelves of public libraries and bookshops reveal. Very little, however, has been produced about local history for children. The 'Home Town World' series which, according to its website, is 'an exciting new concept ... bringing history alive for children aged 4 to 14 by keeping it local', is therefore a welcome innovation. There are nine sections, moving from Ratae

Corieltavorum through Tudor Leicester and Stocking Weavers to Leicester Today and Tomorrow, rounded off by a glossary and an index. The straightforward narrative sections are necessarily brief but informative, and outline most of the significant events and developments in Leicester's history. The authentic photographs, both old and new, are a real strength and I liked the 'How do we know?' sections in each chapter: it is so important that children are introduced to the process of doing history as well as learning what we already know. The imaginary accounts written by a typical child from each period are a nice device to engage present-day children and encourage empathetic understanding. Condensing two thousand years of history into thirty-two pages is a challenge, and inevitably choices have to be made. Some obvious omissions are the boot and shoe industry and any mention of Leicester Tigers Rugby Football Club, and there is a big gap between the early Victorian period and the mid-twentieth century. Some acknowledgement of the changing lives of children would also have been welcome in a book written for children, especially the ending of child labour and the coming of universal public education. As part of a series, the book follows the 'house style', which means lots of colour, variety, cartoons and stylistic tricks such as ink splats and 'pretend' notice boards, along with exhortations to 'love this book' and 'be amazed'. Most of the double page spreads contain as many as ten different font styles and colours and four different cartoon figures, making for bite-size history, rather than continuity of the narrative. There are a few factual quibbles. It is odd to describe Hallaton as 'just outside Leicester', and to say 'In Leicester, they built Foxton Locks' rather than Leicestershire. However, introducing children to the history of their locality is a very worthwhile aim, and to date this is the only book of its type. It is lavishly presented and good value for money.

Mel Vlaeminke

FRANCIS BURGESS GOODACRE: CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHARLES DARWIN 1873-1879: SPECIES, GEESE AND HEMEROZOOLOGY

M. Ashmole and J. Goodacre

J. Goodacre, 2011, 56pp, illus.

In the nineteenth century, the work of great thinkers like Charles Darwin was often complemented by the investigations of lesser-known enthusiasts – 'amateurs' in the positive sense of the word – who managed to make time to carry out their own investigations into scientific and

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natural phenomena. Francis Burges Goodacre of Lutterworth House was one such. His interest in natural history began at an early age and he amassed a huge collection of specimens, with which he illustrated his public lectures, not only in Leicestershire but also in London and Norfolk. Two of his great-grandchildren have compiled this interesting volume, focusing on their ancestor's correspondence with Charles Darwin. Goodacre was an Anglican priest as well as a doctor of medicine, but his true calling was that of naturalist. As a student at Cambridge, he came into contact with zoologists and others keen on the latest ideas of Darwin. Goodacre's pamphlet, *Hemerozoology*, on natural selection in relation to domesticated animals, was published with Darwin's encouragement in 1875. It is reproduced in full in this booklet. An interesting introductory essay sets the scene for the correspondence between Goodacre and Darwin, reports of lectures by Goodacre, and reproductions of the title-pages of some of Darwin's books. The booklet is nicely presented and well-illustrated. This is a unique insight into a fascinating local character and his connections with one of the great men of nineteenth-century scientific thought.

John Hinks

**THE HOUSE OF CURE: LIFE WITHIN
LEICESTERSHIRE'S FIRST LUNATIC ASYLUM TAKEN
FROM SURVIVING HISTORICAL RECORDS**

Diane Lockley

Anchorprint Group Limited, 2011, 136pp, illus., £9.99

No campus tour of Leicester University would be replete without the observation that the Fielding-Johnson building, which now houses the university's administration, used to be a lunatic asylum. It is difficult, however, to write the history of the experience of the mentally ill. The shifting definitions and conceptions of what it means to be 'mentally ill' render this one of the most difficult areas of enquiry. So often, accounts deal with 'what would now be called...', risking anachronistic projections of modern diagnoses. The author has successfully overcome this problem by starting with the records, which focus on grounds for admission, as well as constructing the experiences of those living within the asylum - the relief offered by quiet recreation in the library or in the gardens, for example. The issues of labels and medical categories are dealt with in a glossary at the start, but because so many of this institution's records have survived, readers do get some kind of insight into life within the asylum. Contributions to writing the history of mental health that take this approach are invaluable. As it is often said, the way society treats the weakest and most vulnerable tells you all you need to know about its morals. The progressive ethos of this 'House of Cure' should reflect well on nineteenth century Leicestershire.

Malcolm Noble

**MRS JASVIR CHOHAN: LIFE STORY OF A SIKH
WOMAN AND HER IDENTITY – MEMORY AND
NARRATIVE SERIES NO 3**

Kiyotaka Sato

Research Centre for the History of Religious and Cultural Diversity, Meiji University, Tokyo, 2011, 186pp, illus.

This is the third volume in Professor Kiyotaka Sato's 'Memory and Narrative' series, based on oral histories and other research conducted by him into religious and cultural diversity in Leicester. The subject of this book, Mrs Jasvir Chohan, came to Leicester from the Punjab as a child of eight with her family in 1962, and she has lived and worked in the city ever since. Professor Sato interviewed her on nine separate occasions, and describes these as 'some of the most rewarding interviews of all those I conducted'. Mrs Chohan reflects at length on her relationships with her own family, particularly the influence of an aunt and uncle who 'taught us the Western culture and our own culture as Punjabi Sikhs, out of their sense of responsibility to bring us up as good citizens'. She talks of her arranged marriage at the age of 18 – 'it was all arranged marriages and such was the understanding ... [but] I didn't meet him until the wedding day' – and of her children who were brought up 'westernised fashion – because we were living in a western country I didn't want to force strong Sikh values on them as far as marriage was concerned. I felt that they should have a choice'.

Through her work at Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre she saw at first hand the emphasis placed by a predominantly Hindu Gujarati population on preserving their own culture and celebrating their traditional festivals, and was 'surprised because I was westernised and I did not understand my own Sikh culture'. Her account of how she explored and embraced this culture is one of the most interesting aspects of the book, leading her in due course to become the first female manager of a Sikh community centre in Britain, and the first female President of the Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara in Leicester. Professor Sato provides valuable information about Sikhism to place Mrs Chohan's account in a wider context, and the book includes many of her family photographs as well as images of Sikh celebrations and holy sites, maps, and a glossary of Sikh religious terms. It is a valuable and very accessible addition to the recent history of Leicester's multi-faith communities.

Cynthia Brown

**MR SARUP SINGH MBE AND MRS GURMIT KAUR:
LIFE STORIES OF A SIKH ARTIST AND HIS WIFE –
MEMORY AND NARRATIVE SERIES NO 4**

Kiyotaka Sato

Research Centre for the History of religious and Cultural Diversity, Meiji University, Tokyo, 2012, 179pp, illus.

Continuing his memory and narrative series, Kiyotako Sato presents the story of Mr Sarup Singh MBE and his wife Mrs Gurmit Kaur. The narrative is divided into two parts, with the greater part being given over to Mr Sarup Singh. He tells us in his own words about his upbringing in rural India and his subsequent move to Leicester in 1959 to study painting. A vivid picture is drawn of the difficulties he faced in finding suitable accommodation, and the harsh realities of hard unskilled jobs, and harassment in the workplace. Sarup Singh is well known for his pioneering work at the Guru Nanak Sikh Museum and for his many portraits. Though he does not talk in detail about his inspirations or methods as an artist, we do learn that 'My paintings are not from photographs. Those are my imagination'.

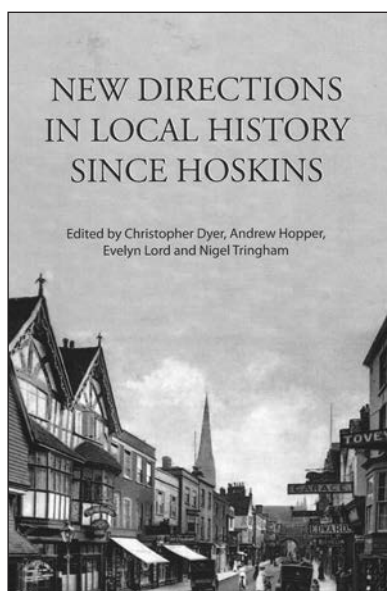
Mrs Gurmit Kaur's testimony tells us about her arranged marriage and her subsequent experience of working for the first time. We get a good insight into what life was like living in Leicester in the 1960s, when the Asian population was small in numbers and how this contrasts with life within Leicester's 'Asian' communities today. The book is very well illustrated with many colour photographs of family and social events and, of course, many examples of Mr Singh's art, whose eclecticism is perfectly illustrated by portraits of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Sophia Loren sharing the same page. Professor Sato has produced a very readable book which gives a fascinating glimpse of Leicester's Sikh community through the words of two of its key members.

Philip R. French

NEW DIRECTIONS IN LOCAL HISTORY SINCE HOSKINS

Christopher Dyer, Andrew Hopper, Evelyn Lord and Andrew Tringham, ed.

University of Hertfordshire Press, 2011, 288pp, illus., ISBN 9781907396120, £16.99



This collection of papers demonstrates, celebrates and analyses the practice of local history today. The book has resulted from a conference organised in July 2009 by the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester, and the British Association for Local History, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of W. G.

Hoskins's handbook *Local History in England*. This key work famously encouraged a more inclusive approach to local studies, encouraging practitioners to move away from an over-preoccupation with 'lords of the manor', and to consider broader social, economic and cultural aspects of local societies.

In the spirit of Hoskins, this volume includes fifteen papers on local history derived from recent research, in a wide variety of topics and historical periods. The papers are grouped into five sections: 'The practice of local history', 'Race class and ethnic identity', 'Making a living in town and country', 'Religious culture and belief' and 'Sources, methods and techniques'. The authors of the papers include senior academics, newer researchers and practitioners from outside academia, and there is also a useful introduction by the editors, tracing the development of the field, as well as highlighting current issues. Acknowledgement is given to the contribution of both amateurs and professionals to the study of local history. The book is illustrated with a variety of black and white and colour images, including photographs of historical buildings as well as documents, maps, trade cards, architectural drawings and a local history website, demonstrating the wide variety of sources available to researchers. Overall the volume gives a useful insight into the state of the art in local history, with examples of current research and indications for future development.

Siobhan Begley

PARANORMAL LEICESTER

Stephen Butt

Amberley Publishing, 2011, 96pp, illus., ISBN 9781848687523, £9.99

Anyone who enjoys their local history spiced up with folklore, mystery and 'things that go bump in the night' will surely enjoy this latest book by local historian and Radio Leicester presenter, Stephen Butt. It is a nicely produced publication, well-written, researched and illustrated with thirty-five black and white photographs, many of them taken by the author. The first two chapters provide a fascinating introduction to the rich variety of local folk tales, myths, hauntings and other strange happenings in the city and county, both historical and modern day. The next four chapters are more in-depth accounts of specific areas or stories: the Belgrave Triangle, Black Annis, the Epic House Haunting, and the highly intriguing story of the Victorian medium, Robert James Lees. Lees was alleged to have used his powers in the hunt for the Whitechapel murderer, Jack the Ripper - but are the stories of his involvement true? The final chapter has been written as a tour around the Castle Park area of Leicester which readers can follow on foot, viewing many of the buildings and sites mentioned in the

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text. The author has included plenty of historical context and background, as well as oral testimonies and supporting documents. There is also a useful bibliography for those who want to read further.

Angela Cutting

STILTON CHEESE: A HISTORY

Trevor Hickman

Amberley Publishing, 2012, 128pp, illus., ISBN 9781445607634, £12.99

Trevor Hickman has previously published two books on the history of cheese production in the Midlands. This third volume takes a chronological approach, prompted in part by a perceived tendency for food critics to 'stray away from recorded facts' as well as the 'considerable interest and comment' generated by these earlier volumes. The introduction gives an overview of Stilton cheese production, challenging some 'myths and legends' in the process. A chapter on cream cheese in the Midlands traces its origins to the Roman period, along with the village of Stilton, said to have evolved from a Roman camp called Sticitone around AD45. This takes us through to the cheese produced in Wymondham in the mid eighteenth century by Frances Pawlett and her husband, who dominated the Stilton cheese trade from 1842. The final chapter traces the development of Melton Mowbray as a centre for Stilton cheese, with many images of the buildings, people and processes associated with its production, ending with a brief account of the first Artisan Cheese Fair held in Melton in June 2011.

Cynthia Brown

THE SURVEY OF ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES VOL. LXXXVIII: THE PLACE-NAMES OF LEICESTERSHIRE: PART FIVE – GUTHLAXTON HUNDRED

Barrie Cox

English Place-Name Society, 2011, 316pp, £40

Historians are invariably concerned with place-names, described by the late Margaret Gelling, as 'signposts to the past'. The difficulty with place-names is that they are not easy to interpret. Assumption is a great threat because of the resemblance many old words and parts of names have to modern words, and anything other than immaculate research from the multi-talented archaeologist-cum-historian-cum-linguist risks fallacy. The only volumes to which one may turn reliably are those of the English Place Name Society. The quantity and intensity of research needed to produce this survey is matched only by the quality, and this latest instalment is no exception.

This most recent volume is published as part of a study of 'perceptions of place', which says something of how we might think of the place-name. This research is essential

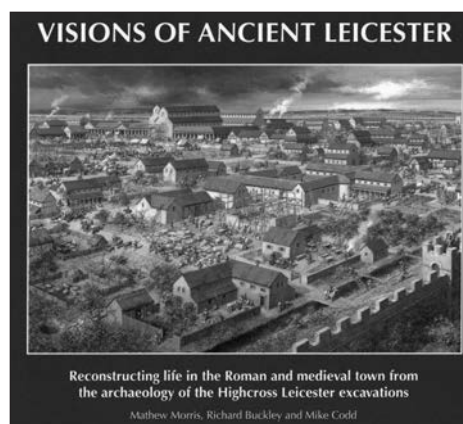
and no local historian can be without it. These are detailed, technical entries, but they are more accessible to the non-specialist, than for example, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and for this, Cox is to be commended. Nonetheless a complete set of the five Leicestershire volumes would be no small investment for a personal library. However, they are not consigned solely to the realm of public libraries and record offices. The online key to English place-names, effectively the companion to these volumes, contains all the information on a searchable map (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>, presently accessible without subscription).

Malcolm Noble

VISIONS OF ANCIENT LEICESTER: RECONSTRUCTING LIFE IN THE ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL TOWN FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HIGHCROSS LEICESTER EXCAVATIONS

Matthew Morris, Richard Buckley and Mike Codd

University of Leicester, 2011, 64pp, illus., ISBN 9780956017970



This book presents the results of some of the most significant excavations ever undertaken in Leicester. It uses the artwork of Mike Codd to reconstruct places 'as the people who lived, worked and died there would have experienced them', alongside a detailed but very accessible analysis and interpretation of the archaeological evidence. As we are reminded in the introduction, although there is not much above ground to suggest it, Leicester is an ancient city with a history spanning over 2000 years. Excavations carried out between 2003 and 2009 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services have added significantly to our knowledge of this history, particularly in the area of the Highcross shopping centre development.

Early sections of the book explain some of the challenges of excavating in Leicester, including the often asked question of why the archaeology that is uncovered cannot be preserved and displayed to public view. They also explain that archaeology is 'an imperfect science', providing a

useful context for the analysis that follows. This begins with the pre-Roman settlement of the Corieltauvi, which is thought to have been located on the east bank of the River Soar, near to the present St Nicholas Circle. More extensive evidence about the Roman settlement enables an exploration of individual buildings including the Forum and Basilica, the Roman Baths, and the Market Hall. An extensive section on Vine Street follows its development from timber buildings in the early to mid second century AD, through to the final masonry buildings on the site in the mid to late fourth century, giving much fascinating information about the design, occupation and use of Roman townhouses in the process. The section on the Vine Street 'Curse Tablets' is particularly interesting, explaining their purpose and revealing 'something of the voices of ordinary people which would otherwise be totally lost'.

Archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon and Danish periods is much less abundant, and these sections are necessarily briefer if no less illuminating. The remainder of the book is devoted to the medieval town, covering not only the more familiar sites, such as the Castle, The Newarke and the Free Grammar School, but also the lines of the town walls, its market sites, the medieval High Street (now Higher Cross Street) which incorporated a brewery, and the excavation of medieval churches and graveyards. Throughout the book, streets, buildings and the everyday life of the town are reconstructed in Mike Codd's artwork, and - combined with highly readable text, maps and images of artefacts - this book really does bring the ancient town of Leicester to life.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

BLOOD CRIES AFAR: THE FORGOTTEN INVASION OF ENGLAND 1216

Sean McGlynn
The History Press, 2012

THE CHRISTMAS CARDS OF RIGBY GRAHAM

Derek Deadman and Rigby Graham
Landseer Press, 2011

CURIOUS ABOUT LEICESTER: WALKS OF DISCOVERY IN AND AROUND LEICESTER

Sue Jennings and Robert Brook
Lightbeam UK Limited, 2011

THE GREYS: A LONG AND NOBLE LINE

Anthony Squires
Silk Press, 2011

Leicestershire Historian 2012

THE HISTORY OF LADYBIRD BOOKS (DVD)

Loughborough Reminiscence Project
The Authors, 2011

LEICESTER: THOMAS COOK POCKET GUIDE

Thomas Cook Publishing
The Author, 2011

MADELEINE

Kate McCann
Bantam Press, 2011

NEW LIFE STORIES: MORE STORIES FROM HIS ACCLAIMED RADIO 4 SERIES

Sir David Attenborough
Collins, 2011

TWO IRON AGE 'AGGREGATED' SETTLEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONS OF LEICESTER: EXCAVATIONS AT BEAUMONT LEYS AND HUMBERSTONE - LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH NO. 19

J. Thomas
University of Leicester School of Archaeology and Ancient History, 2011

A SELF-TAUGHT GENIUS: JOHN FLOWER 1793-1861 (exhibition booklet)

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
The Authors, 2011

MILITARY AND WAR

COMMANDER OF THE KARTERIA: HONOURED IN GREECE, UNKNOWN AT HOME (The story of Captain Frank Abney-Hastings a hero of the Greek Wars of Independence)

Maurice Abney-Hastings
Author House 2012

GIRLS IN KHAKI (INCLUDES LEICESTERSHIRE ATS VETERANS)

Barbara Green
The History Press, 2012

LIFE LINES (World War II letters of the author's parents)

Ruth David
Christians Aware, 2012

HOW LUTTERWORTH GOT ITS WAR MEMORIAL

Andy Ward
The Author, 2011

SPITFIRE ACE OF ACES: THE TRUE STORY OF JOHNNY JOHNSON

Dilip Sakar
Amberley Publishing, 2011

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RELIGION AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

A CHURCH ON JARROM STREET: 150 YEARS OF ST ANDREW'S, LEICESTER

Paul Griffiths

Kairos Press, 2012, 48pp, illus., ISBN 9781871344325, £4.50

St Andrew's church on Jarrom Street, Leicester, served a new parish created from that of St Mary de Castro to serve new working-class areas nearby. Designed by the eminent Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott, it was a 'striking, even shocking' building for its time. Built in brick – still an unusual material for an Anglican church – it had no aisles, projecting chapels or tower, creating a very large interior space. 'The view presented on entering the church at the west door is strikingly beautiful', in the words of the *Leicester Journal* at its consecration in 1862, 'the lofty arches... together with the complicated timbers of the roof, adding much to the general effect'. This 150th anniversary history begins by explaining the decision to build a new church here, both in terms of the expansion of Leicester itself, and the wider context of Victorian religious thought and action. It goes on to describe its growth over the next decades, including the Mission meetings held in schools, the Sunday School 'treats' for children, and the adult organisations such as the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society that were attached to the church. The contributions of individual priests are also covered in some detail, in particular the three in the Anglo-Catholic tradition who served the parish for a total of more than 70 years in the twentieth century. The final section of the book relates the struggle for survival as the area of the church was redeveloped. The loss of population through slum clearance schemes had a major impact on its congregation, while its very existence appeared to be jeopardised by the need for the Royal Infirmary on the one hand and Leicester Polytechnic - now De Montfort University – to expand. However, St Andrew's 'still stands boldly on Jarrom Street as a witness to the past and as a symbol of hope for the future', and the book is a fitting tribute to its resilience.

Cynthia Brown

A GOLDEN AGE 1889-1914: A HISTORY OF THE RELIGIOUS REVIVAL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANGLO-CATHOLICISM IN THE PARISH OF WIGSTON MAGNA

Janice Broughton

Broughton Publishing, 2011, 56 pp., illus., £4.00

Using her extensive local knowledge of the churches of All Saints and St Wistan's (St Wolstan's), the author looks back

to an era when the church 'formed an integral part of our childhood'. However this history is not just about nostalgia. It is a well-researched and informative work, which gives an evocative picture of the importance of the church in the social and communal life of the village.

The Wigston parish magazine is used as the primary source for much of the book, being first introduced in 1889 by the new incumbent, the Reverend Henry Mason. It is Reverend Mason who is seen as revitalising the local churches, by re-introducing major festivals such as the harvest festival and the celebration of St Wulstan's day. One of great strengths of this book is how it relates the story of the parish's religious development from the revivalism of the 1880s to the Anglo-Catholicism introduced locally from 1912, within the context of the national picture of religious and social change. With the forthcoming 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, one wonders how many other books we will see which look back on 1914 as the end of a golden age.

Philip R. French

LEICESTER FAITH TRAIL

University of Leicester

The Authors, 2011, 16pp

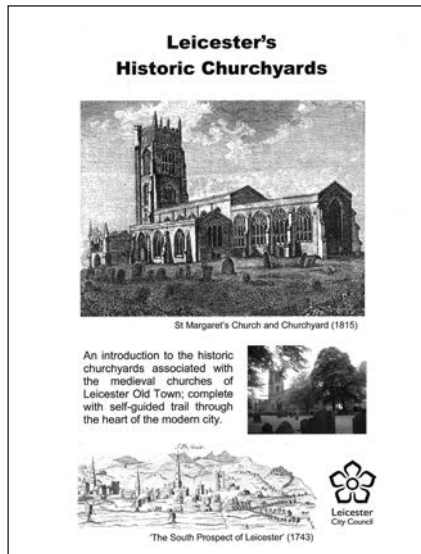
This trail, produced by the University of Leicester School of Archaeology and Ancient History with the support of Leicester Council of Faiths, covers a route of just under three miles in length, taking in buildings and other sites relating to Christian and non-Christian faiths in Leicester. These include St Mary de Castro church, the Leicester Synagogue in Highfield Street, the Central Mosque in Conduit Street, the Jain Centre in Oxford Street, the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Holy Bones, the Nagarjuna Kadampa Buddhist Centre in Guildhall Lane, and the Swaminarayan Hindu Mission in St James Street. There is also a section on the World Arts Gallery at New Walk Museum, and the Secular Hall in Humberstone Gate. Each entry begins with an overview of the specific faith and its history in Leicester, before describing the building and giving contact details. A map shows each location and gives an indication of how long it takes to walk from one to another. There are also some general guidelines on visiting places of worship. The trail aims to highlight buildings 'which include historical, modern and adapted architecture illustrating the diversity of the vibrant places of worship in Leicester', and as such provides an interesting and useful introduction to the City's multicultural communities.

Cynthia Brown

LEICESTER'S HISTORIC CHURCHYARDS

Leicester City Council Parks and Green Spaces

The Authors, 2012, 12pp



This brief guide covers the historic churchyards of five of Leicester's medieval churches - All Saints, St Margaret, St Martin (now the Cathedral), St Mary de Castro and St Nicholas - which are described as 'some of the city's oldest and most valuable green spaces'. In

addition to a historical overview, it identifies some notable graves and memorials, and in the case of St Mary de Castro, information about plants in that area of the churchyard managed as a nature area. The guide includes a map enabling it to be used as a trail around the area of the former medieval town. The 'lost' churchyards of long demolished churches both within and beyond the old town walls are also identified, along with historic churchyards in Leicester's suburbs, among them those of St Peter's in Belgrave, St Mary's in Humberstone, and St Denys in Evington, the latter also designated as a Local Wildlife Area.

Cynthia Brown

RELIGIOUS DISSENT AND THE AIKIN-BARBAULD CIRCLE 1740 - 1860

Felicity James and Ian Inkster ed.

Cambridge University Press, 2011

This is a new collection of essays edited by Felicity James, lecturer in eighteenth and nineteenth century literature at the University of Leicester and Ian Inkster, Research Professor of International History in the Faculty of Humanities of Nottingham Trent University. It tells, for the first time in detail, the story of a remarkable Dissenting family. The achievements of John Aiken Senior, a tutor at the well-known Warrington Academy, his children, the poet, Anna Letitia Barbauld and John Aiken Junior, physician, literary critic and geographer and, in turn, his four children are all documented. However, it was the collaboration and complex interactions within their family network as well as with their friends and associates, which helped make their contribution as a whole to the literature and ideas of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries so important. The major influence of

religious Dissenters, at the forefront of the country's intellectual and cultural life at that time, is also clearly demonstrated.

This is a fascinating book, introducing what will be new material to most readers. It is dense, scholarly and thought provoking, and will doubtless trigger further research in the area. It takes a multidisciplinary approach with contributions from the point of view of literary criticism, geography and history of religion, which may be of interest to those from a range of academic disciplines. John Aiken Senior, began his school in Kibworth Harcourt, in 1742, which was, at the time, something of a centre of nonconformity. The local links in this book will be of particular interest to some, whilst it will also appeal to anyone interested in family biographies.

Gillian Lighton

Other recent publications

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE REV JOHN JENKINSON, BAPTIST MINISTER OF KETTERING AND OAKHAM

Ron Greenall

Northamptonshire Record Society, 2011

THE COURT ROLLS OF THE RECTORY MANOR OF UPPINGHAM, VOLUME VII, 27 NOVEMBER 1851 TO 21 SEPTEMBER 1858

Uppingham Local History group

The Authors, 2011

MEN WITH A VISION: SOME REMARKABLE STORIES OF BAPTISTS IN LEICESTER AND COUNTY

G. Lee

Reprint, 2011

MY LIFE, MY FAITH (Interviews with five Leicester Friends)

Leicester Society of Friends

Leicester Quaker Press, 2011

THE REGISTERS OF HENRY BURGHERSH 1320-1342: I. INSTITUTIONS TO BENEFICES IN THE ARCHDEACONRIES OF LINCOLN, STOW AND LEICESTER

Nicholas Bennett ed.

Lincoln Record Society, 2011

RUTLAND IN DISSENT: 350 YEARS OF PROTESTANT MEETING HOUSES AND CHAPELS

Pauline Collet

Spiegel Press, 2011

*Leicestershire Historian 2012*ST ANDREW'S, THRINGSTONE – GRAVEYARD
BOOKLETNita Pearson
Teamprint, 2012A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST
CATHERINE, BURBAGEDon Peacock
The Author, 2011

A SON OF THE RECTORY (APPLEBY MAGNA)

Aubrey Moore
Information Byway cic, 2nd edn., 2011**SPORT AND LEISURE**

ACCOUNTS OF FOX-HUNTING IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Anon
Read Books, 2011

THE BELVOIR: THE DUKE OF RUTLAND'S HOUNDS

Michael Clayton
Merlin Unwin Books, 2011THE CINEMA ERA IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLANDBrian Johnson
The Author, 2nd edn., 2011IVAN MARKS: THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION (Articles
written by angler Ivan Marks for the Angling Times 1970s
& 80s)Ivan Marks
M Press, 2011LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB: THE GLORY
YEARS 1995 – 2000Jack Hubbard
The Author, 2011LIVES IN CRICKET: MAURICE TOMPKIN – MORE
THAN JUST RUNSRichard Holdridge
ACS, 2011

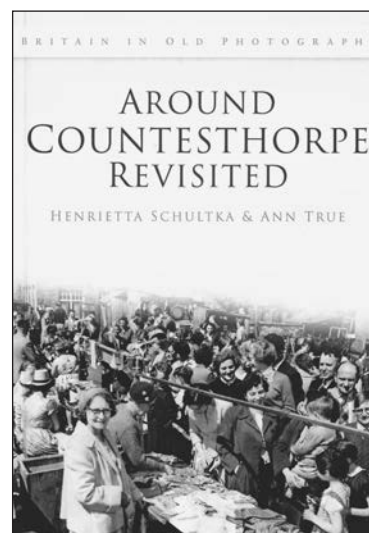
THE RISE AND FALL OF MATT HAMPSON

Paul Kimmage
Simon and Schuster, 2011

TAKING A PUNT ON MY LIFE

Willie Thorne
Vision Sports Publishing, 2011A WEEK'S FOX-HUNTING AT MELTON,
LEICESTERSHIREVarious
Read Books, 2011**TOWNS, VILLAGES AND HOUSES****AROUND COUNTESTHORPE REVISITED**Henrietta Schultka and Ann True
The History Press, 2011, 128pp, illus., ISBN
9780752458519, £12.99

This is a follow-up volume to *Around Countesthorpe*, published just over a decade ago. It consists of over 220 archive images, many previously unpublished, and draws heavily on the personal collection of Henrietta Schultka. The largest selection of photographs relates to Countesthorpe itself, followed by shorter chapters on some of the surrounding villages – Willoughby Waterleys, Peatling Magna, Peatling Parva, Bruntingthorpe, Foston and Kilby, and Newton Harcourt and Wistow. It is especially valuable to have a record of these smaller villages, which would not merit a publication of their own.



The photographs are loosely grouped by topic and range across dates, with some relatively recent ones from the 1980s. They include images of the 'public face' of the various villages – their churches, pubs and major buildings, such as Peatling Parva Hall and Wistow Hall. There are also many of people and events – of 'ordinary people' doing 'ordinary things' – which are generally rarer and demonstrate the benefits of access to a personal collection. Close scrutiny of some of these reveals a wealth of detail about life in the past. To take just one example, the 1960s view of a village shop shows a passer-by in old-fashioned hair rollers, alongside advertising hoardings for Woodbine cigarettes and Lyons Maid ice cream. In fact, the many photos of people would lend themselves to a historical study of fashion and costume – and of facial hair! Weddings, schools, sport and farming are all featured, and include some good photos of sheep shearing, old tractors and milking cows. Wartime is well represented, including a proud photo of five members of the Peatling Magna Home Guard, armed and stood to

attention, and a number of cameos of serving individuals. Detailed and informative captions accompany each image, and personal reminiscences are supported by some research into censuses and directories. The photographs are reproduced to a high quality. Overall, this is a reasonably priced book of particular interest to a relatively wide catchment area of villages.

Mel Vlaeminke

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH CASTLE AND KIRBY MUXLOE CASTLE

John Goodall

English Heritage, 2011, 40pp, illus., ISBN 9781848021099

The guide books published by English Heritage have always been informative and accessible. In their current versions, they are also highly attractive, being extensively illustrated with good-quality colour photography and reproductions of older pictures. The tall format is unusual but works well, enabling the informative text and illustrations to sit happily together on the page. This guide covers two Leicestershire castles, Ashby de la Zouch and Kirby Muxloe, both built by William, first Baron Hastings (c1430-1483). Lord Hastings, a powerful and wealthy man very close to Edward IV, owned a number of estates, not only in Leicestershire but in other parts of the Midlands and beyond. Of his many building works and plans, the remains of the castle at Ashby and Kirby are his most prominent local reminders. This guide book comprises two sections: a descriptive tour of both sites, plus well-written historical background. There are one-page features on the duties of servants. Also featured is the 1607 visit to Ashby, of the Dowager Countess of Derby to her son-in-law and daughter, the Earl and Countess of Huntingdon, complete with elaborate entertainments. The guide very competently meets the needs of visitors, while those wishing to delve further are well served by the guide to further reading. This guidebook is highly recommended, as is a visit to both of these impressive local castles.

John Hinks

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH: THE SPA TOWN (DVD)

Ashby de la Zouch Museum

The Authors, 2011

For a brief and exciting moment in the nineteenth century, Ashby de la Zouch was a popular spa town. Never more than modestly successful, Ashby managed for several decades to attract numerous visitors to 'take the waters', though it was no threat to the really fashionable spas, like Bath, Cheltenham and Leamington. The healing waters of the locality were first made available to the public at Moira in the 1810s. Located rather too close for comfort to the noise and dirt of coal-mining operations, the Moira baths were

never very popular and a four-mile pipeline was proposed to convey the mineral water from Moira to the more pleasant surroundings of Ashby. This never materialised, due to the high cost of the scheme, and the water was instead transported in tanks, by canal boat and pony-railroad. Ashby's impressive 'Ivanhoe' Baths (named after Sir Walter Scott's highly popular novel of 1819) were completed in 1822. The Royal Hotel soon followed, along with a number of attractive boarding houses in Regency style. The Baths are long gone – they did not survive the end of the century and were demolished in 1962 – but the Royal Hotel and several attractive terraces of houses do survive as a reminder of Ashby's brief heyday as a spa town. This video, which plays for one hour, is an informative and entertaining complement to Kenneth Hillier's book, *Ashby de la Zouch: the Spa Town* (3rd impression, 2009). Both may be purchased from Ashby's excellent local museum, which houses a scale model of the Baths as a further reminder of Ashby's past glories.

John Hinks

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PAST AND PRESENT: THE JOURNAL OF ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH MUSEUM, 13

Various authors

Ashby de la Zouch Museum, 2011, 48pp

This edition of the journal consists of an interesting and wide-ranging collection of articles covering topics from the mediaeval period to the twentieth century. Eric Michaelson writes about 'An American's unlikely introduction to Ashby ...', based on a fifteenth century deed granting lands in Ashby to John Tatenall and his wife Agnes, and his exploration of its content and context. This led him to identify the 'lady of the manor' to which the lands eventually passed as Joan Beauchamp, and to an exploration of her own life. Pat Dixon gives an account of the Manor House in Ashby, 'nestling tranquilly' between the ruins of the Castle and St Helen's church. The house was built in the early 1830s as a dwelling and office for John Simmonds Mammatt, steward to the Marquis of Hastings. The occupants of the house are traced, and their contribution to the town explored in some detail.

Coal mining in the Lount area is analysed by Keith Gilliver from the later eighteenth century to the closure of New Lount Colliery in 1968. The site was acquired by Leicestershire County Council in 1999 and is now a nature reserve. The Earl Ferrers' lead mines at Dimmingsdale, near East Midlands Airport, are now also a nature reserve, and the subject of a short article by Paul Monk. Nigel Holmes writes of Ashby's connections with the First World War campaign in Mesopotamia, particularly the involvement of Pte Thomas York, L/Cpl William Wolfenden Kaberry and Pte Herbert Henry Keeling, all three of them dying during the war. The lives and deaths of other local men are also

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explored. The journal concludes with the fourth in a series on the Victorians by Eric Coxon, on the life of Barbara Yelverton, Marchioness of Hastings and Baroness Grey de Ruthyn (1810-1858), particularly noted as a 'passionate fossil-hunter who has recently been dubbed as "the First Lady of Fossils"'.

Cynthia Brown

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH WORKHOUSE AND THE ASHBY POOR LAW UNION

Wendy Freer

Ashby de la Zouch Museum, 2012, 132pp, illus., ISBN 9780954779979, £9.95

This is not a history of Ashby Workhouse as such, but of the experience of the poor in the workhouse, from the parish workhouse of the late eighteenth century to the Public Assistance Board Institution of the 1930s. As the author usefully reminds us at the outset, the meaning of the word 'poor' varies according to the perceptions of different ages in history as to what actually constitutes poverty. It is defined here as 'those people, who for one reason or another, had reached a time in their lives when they could no longer maintain and look after themselves'. They included adults with no work or low incomes, the sick, disabled and elderly, and the abandoned and orphaned.

Following sections on the pre-1834 Poor Laws and parish workhouse, the main focus of the book is on the experiences of the poor following the 1834 reform, which was intended to discourage all but the destitute from seeking relief from the new Poor Law Unions. That of Ashby originally covered twenty-three parishes and was administered by thirty Poor Law Guardians. A complete set of their fortnightly meetings from 1830 to 1930 fortunately survives. From these and the admission registers, the author has compiled a vivid and detailed account of the workhouse, its Guardians, staff and inmates. It includes an analysis of the workhouse population – more diverse than the common picture of children, the elderly and infirm suggests – and the provision made for different categories of paupers. The section on health and medical care is particularly welcome, these being important aspects that often attract little attention. The book concludes with an account of the workhouse in the First World War, when food shortages and the conscription of staff caused significant disruption, and its transition to a Public Assistance Board Institution after the abolition of the Poor Laws in 1930, through to its closure in 1936. There are many interesting photographs, adding to an understanding of the human face of institutions often regarded by contemporaries and represented in historical terms as inhumane.

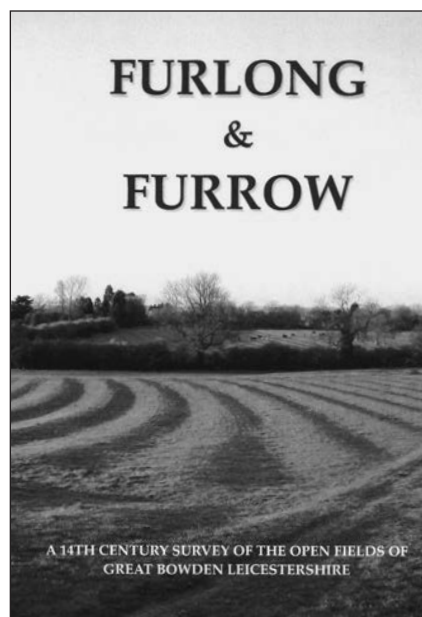
Cynthia Brown

FURLONG AND FURROW: A 14TH CENTURY SURVEY OF THE OPEN FIELDS OF GREAT BOWDEN, LEICESTERSHIRE

Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology

The Authors, 2011, 48pp, £5

In 2008, at a workshop led by Tony Brown, the Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology group were introduced to a medieval survey of Great Bowden's open fields, written in Latin on vellum, eleven and a half feet long, and held at the British Library. Although undated, other evidence suggests that it relates to a period between 1331 and 1336, when Great Bowden was much larger than the civil parish of today.



The main part of this publication consists of a transcription and translation of the document, working from a scanned copy. The survey itself shows that the ancient parish of Great Bowden was divided into four open fields, two of them worked together to give a three year crop rotation. One of

the most interesting features is the names of furlongs, over 200 of which have been identified and are listed alongside a modern interpretation. However, the booklet is fascinating as much for the group's reflections on the process of transcription and translation, as for the actual content of the survey. At first 'we weren't sure we would ever be able to decipher the medieval handwriting or translate the Latin into understandable modern English'; and the whole process involved 'many afternoons of discussion, patient re-typing of our various versions, and the enlistment of people more expert at Latin than ourselves'. Scanning the document into a computer to enlarge the text went some way to help, though abbreviations and contractions of words were a constant challenge, and sometimes all that could be attempted was a 'best guess'. For all these reasons, however, as Michael Wood notes in his introduction, this is 'a work of great value to all local historians, both for the information it contains and as a model for future research... another example of how local hands-on research is expanding our views of the past right across Britain'.

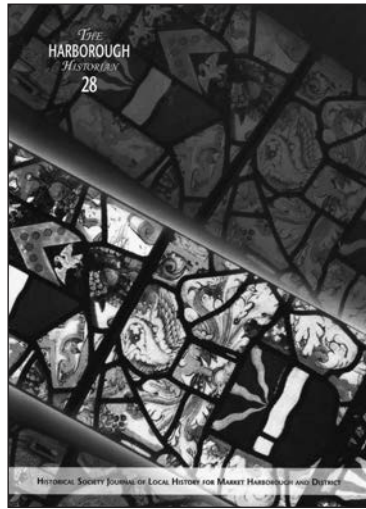
Cynthia Brown

THE HARBOROUGH HISTORIAN, 28

Various authors

Market Harborough Historical Society, 2011, 60pp, illus.

Sir Edward Green of Dingley Hall and Braybrooke Castle, the Ishams of Northamptonshire, and the tragic death of the Great Bowden railwayman Robert Herron killed in July 1892 when the train he was driving was derailed near Melton Mowbray, are among the subjects of articles in the 2011 journal of



the Market Harborough Historical Society. Diana Potter gives an account of the life of Thomas William Hustler (1911 – 1993), an engineer and surveyor whose entire working life except for a period during World War II, was spent with Market Harborough Urban District Council, while Bob Hakewill recounts that of John Hull, a Harborough-born man who became the first minter of silver coins in British North America, ‘famous in the USA and yet unknown in this country’. Other articles explore Nevill Holt Hall, the Bible verses on the Old Grammar School, the history of a Farndon farmhouse, and pre-Reformation wall paintings in Leicestershire and Rutland churches, alongside Part 2 of Pat Perkins’ study of 39 High Street in Market Harborough. There are also accounts of a special lecture and exhibition at Goldsmiths’ Hall in London of the Corieltavi silver bowl from the Hallaton Treasure in June 2011, and of the Society’s summer outing to Nevill Holt in June 2011. The journal is as always well-illustrated and very readable.

Cynthia Brown

THE HISTORY OF RATBY, Volume No. 4

Doug Harwood, ed.

Ratby Local History Group, 2011, 174pp, illus.

This substantial volume is the fourth in a series recording the history of Ratby, a village to the northwest of Leicester. It is published by the Ratby Local History Group, and presents a formidable amount of research. There are four main sections: More Memories of Ratby: 1920-1950; Sanitation and Health Care in Ratby; The Lost Yards of Ratby; and The History of Caring for the Poor in Ratby: Part One – 1530 to 1834. A short tribute to a local centenarian, and a thorough index round off the volume. Much of the work is credited to two people, augmented by recollections from a number of

local residents. These constitute a detailed and intimate view of different aspects of life in Ratby, from the joys of the Majestic Cinema and Ballroom, to the horrors of shared outside toilets serviced by the ‘night-soil’ cart.

The two main contributors – Doug Harwood, Chair of the Group, and the late Dennis Green, to whom this volume is dedicated – write well-informed and engaging pieces on such topics as the Ratby Co-op, local funerals in the past, and the ‘Lost Yards of Ratby’. These draw primarily on personal reminiscences and anecdotes with, in most cases, background research into the documentary evidence. The longest article, on Caring for the Poor by Michael Ball, is a detailed and authoritative, copiously referenced study, which benefits from a strong narrative flow, with the story due to be continued in a future volume. The publication is well-illustrated, but the quality of some of the photographs could perhaps be improved.

Readers who know Ratby well will naturally appreciate this publication more than those who do not, but to document the history of one community in such detail is a worthwhile undertaking, requiring laborious collection and collation of material.

Mel Vlaeminke

KIBWORTH GUIDE BOOK: THREE WALKS AROUND HISTORIC KIBWORTH AND SMEETON WESTERBY

Kibworth Improvement Team

The Authors, 2012, 44pp

This guide is intended to ‘make a lasting contribution to the ongoing story’ of the three villages - Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Smeeton Westerby - featured in Michael Wood’s BBC TV series *The Story of England* which was screened in 2010. Each of the three walks identifies over thirty buildings or other sites of interest in the relevant village, accompanied by a map and a well-researched and accessible commentary that places the sites in their historical context. Some of the lesser-known connections include 70 Leicester Road in Kibworth Beauchamp, the birthplace of Sir Nicholas Harold Lloyd Ridley, inventor of the intra-ocular lens used to treat cataracts; and the location in Smeeton Westerby of the annual Statute or ‘Stattis’ Fair at which servants were hired. Each walk takes around one and a half hours, but guidance is given about shorter routes where appropriate, along with advice about car parking and road safety. The guide is produced by the Kibworth Improvement Team with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, parish councils and local businesses.

Cynthia Brown

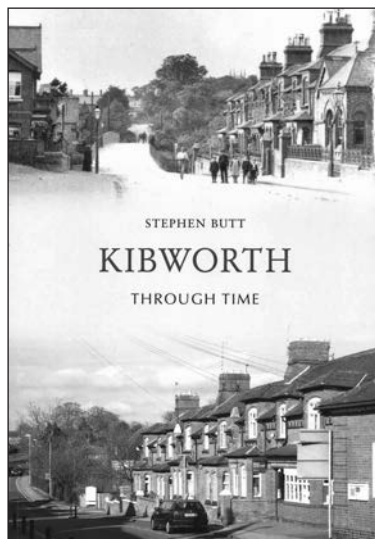
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KIBWORTH THROUGH TIME

Stephen Butt

Amberley Publishing, 2011, 96pp, illus., ISBN 9781445603865, £14.99

Following the format established by this publisher and used in other publications by the same author, *Kibworth Through Time* is a collection of photographs from the past and present. The focus is very much on buildings and, to a historian, the old ones are the most interesting. They are, of course, harder to collect and research, and many of the captions give glimpses into fascinating aspects of Kibworth's history that leave the reader wanting to know more! There are reminders of the village's industrial heritage with the factories of the world-famous Gents clocks and of Johnson & Barnes hosiery, which in its heyday employed 400 local people, and of its unusually strong nonconformist background in the shape of the famous Dissenting Academy and the Congregational Chapel. Transport features too, with some wonderful old railway photos, and several reminders of the poor state of the roads, then occupied only by the occasional horse and cart or motor vehicle.



Each 'old' photo is matched by a modern colour one of the same location. There are fine photos of some of Kibworth's more attractive views, such as St Wilfred's Parish Church, the Manor House and the windmill. Where the 'new' is now a s o m e w h a t undistinguished street scene or modern shop, the photo could perhaps

have been smaller, to allow for more 'history' and greater variety in the presentation. Nearly all the captions include a location, and a simple map to find some of these sites, such as 'Little End', 'Station Hollow' and 'The Villas', would have been a welcome inclusion if, like me, one is inspired by the photographs to go exploring! Overall, this is a professional publication with high quality reproductions of both old and new photos.

Mel Vlaeminke

MARKET HARBOROUGH AND THE LOCAL VILLAGES

Trevor Hickman

Amberley Publishing, 2011, 192pp, illus., ISBN 9781445603933, £14.99

This is a personal selection of archive and modern photographs and other images from the author's own collection, all of a high quality of reproduction, and with informative captions. As well as Market Harborough itself, the book covers thirty-eight villages in the southern area of Harborough District including Blaston, Carlton Curlieu, Cranoe, Stockerston and Stonton Wyville, alongside the perhaps more familiar Langtons, Kibworth Beauchamp and Harcourt, and Hallaton and Medbourne. The images include maps, engravings and advertisements, one of the latter for Hopton & Sons at the Union Works in Market Harborough in 1904 offering a wide range of 'Bent Timber for Carriage, Cart and Motor Builders' and 'Wheels of all descriptions'.

The book is divided into six chapters corresponding to geographical areas. The first, 'Off the Grand Union', begins with several views of Wistow Hall and the church of St Wistan, before moving on to Fleckney and ending, by way of another eight villages, at Husbands Bosworth. Here and elsewhere in the book most of the images are of buildings or village scenes, but they also cover local people such as Jack Badcock, born in Fleckney, and the author from 1954 of many natural history articles for the *Leicester Mercury*, illustrated with his own drawings. Market Harborough, Little Bowden and Great Bowden have a chapter of their own, while the section 'Out to Eyebrook' ranges through Hallaton, Horninghold, Medbourne, Nevill Holt and Bringhurst, concluding with a view of Eyebrook Reservoir itself near Great Easton. The 'Roman Well' featured in the section on Great Easton itself is just one of many interesting landmarks of which this reviewer was totally unaware before reading the book. As the author notes, this is not intended to be a history of the Market Harborough area, but 'a compilation of interesting images' that the author considers 'to be of a historical nature', and it fulfils this aim very well.

Cynthia Brown

MEMORIES OF A BOWDEN BOY: A COLLECTION OF MEMORIES OF GREAT BOWDEN, ITS PEOPLE AND VILLAGE LIFE DURING THE NINETEEN TWENTIES AND THIRTIES

Reginald Frederick Wright

Great Bowden Historical Society, 2011, 44pp

Reginald Frederick Wright was born in Knights End Road in Great Bowden in 1918 and lived in the village until his marriage in 1948. He then moved to Market Harborough and later to Devon, where he died in 2005. He recalls that in the early twentieth century 'the Wright clan must have been one of the largest' in Great Bowden, 'very much involved in all aspects of village life ... and it was quite normal to see a gathering of up to thirty people, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends' at the weekly get-together in the family farmhouse

in Upper Green Place, 'occasionally augmented by relatives from the Leicester and Melton Mowbray branches of the family'. However, as the author insists, this is not primarily an autobiography but a memoir of the village itself during the 1920s and '30s. It includes, for instance, a section on gas lighting, and the 'King Lamp' - larger and 'more decorative' than the others - in the middle of the village green, 'which was really the main focus of the village'. Among his reflections on schooldays, are memories of dental treatment that may cause readers (like me) who attended school as late as the 1950s to wince at the memory: 'little short of barbaric. Extractions were performed without any form of anaesthetic and fillings similarly ...'. Despite a considerable decline in the incidence of the disease, vaccination against smallpox remained compulsory and it was still necessary for parents to 'testify an objection before a magistrate' for their children to be excused it. Entertainment, employment, shops and pubs are among the many other aspects of village life recalled, along with people living in the village. One of his 'outstanding recollections' was that of haymaking, when the children would go with the women to take tea and sandwiches to the men working in the fields, and a 'most enjoyable picnic would ensue ... the youngsters were allowed to romp in the hay which all helped to turn the crop'. The book concludes with memories of service in the Home Guard during World War II, and a footnote prompted by a 'nostalgic visit' when the author was 'somewhat disappointed to see that the sacred site of the King Lamp had been usurped by a tree'. This is a very readable and entertaining book that gives a vivid sense of Great Bowden between the wars, and of the author's own life in the village.

Cynthia Brown

SWITHLAND CHURCH AND ESTATE: THE STORY OF A LEICESTERSHIRE VILLAGE

Bob Osborne and Anne Horton

Swithland Parish Press, 2011, 716pp, illus., ISBN 9780956932402, £25

It is not possible to do justice to a study of this length and complexity in a short review here. What follows, therefore, is an overview of the format and content of the book, pending a more detailed review that it is hoped will be published elsewhere. As the acknowledgements indicate, the work was started by Bob Osborne, Swithland Parochial Church Council Secretary, and completed following his sudden death in 1999 by Anne Horton, Rector of Swithland. It begins with an analysis of the 'considerable lordship' established over 800 years ago, with a particular focus on the Danvers family as lords of the manor. Subsequent chapters deal in turn with specific aspects of the village's history. That on local government covers a range of bodies and their officers, including the churchwardens, overseers of the poor, parish constables - and perhaps unexpectedly - the

Swithland Town Crier, an office filled for many years by members of the Bunney family. The parish church and its clergy, and the Dissenting and Nonconformist chapels established in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are also analysed in detail, as is the impact of the Civil War in the seventeenth century, in which the Danvers family were 'heavily involved as active and committed participants', both in the war itself and its aftermath. Other chapters on agriculture, the Swithland slate industry, reservoirs and railways, trace the economic development of the village, while sections on education, village buildings and local families give a good sense of its social life and relationships. Swithland's 'Grey Lady' predictably features in the chapter on myths and legends. Others may be less familiar, including the question of why a small portion of the tomb of Sir Joseph and Dame Frances Danvers, built in 1745, appears to lie beyond the eastern wall of the churchyard, including speculation that this allowed Sir Joseph's favourite dog to be buried with him. The final chapters deal with the period of transition from the First World War to the sale of the estate in 1954, when many of the properties were bought by sitting tenants. The extensive Appendices feature transcripts of wills dating from 1598 to 1721, a list of parish incumbents and other ministers, and transcripts of parish registers and the Swithland School Admissions register from 1865 - 1980. The family trees of the Danvers, the Bunney family, and Humphrey Butler of Co. Cavan, from whom the earls of Lanesborough were descended, are also included, along with a detailed glossary and bibliography. The book is generously illustrated, and thanks to the subscribers also listed in it, astonishingly good value for the price. While others might not aspire to something of the same size and complexity in relation to their own villages, they would certainly find it of great value in identifying both the potential range of sources and the vast range of topics that they can be used to explore.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

36 HIGH STREET WEST AND SHIELD'S YARD: A MINI-HISTORY

Uppingham Local History group

The Authors, 2nd edn., 2011

1896 AND ALL THAT - THE STORY OF A FARMING FAMILY IN HUNCOTE

John Ratcliffe

The Author's Family, 2011

ALE HOUSES OF WHITWICK

Christopher T. Matchet

Whitwick Historical Society, 2011

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THE ANGEL HOTEL OF MARKET HARBOROUGH
Bob Hakewill
Omniprint, 2011

BRIGHT WAS THE MORNING (Memoir of Glenfield)
Mary Essinger
Heart of Albion Press, 2011

EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL CENTENARY 1912-2012:
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BUILDING OF THE HALL
THROUGH THE PARISH MAGAZINES OF THE TIME
Evington Villages Hall Trustees ed.
The Authors, 2012

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (Memoir of a Lutterworth catering
company)
Graham Johnson
The Author, 2011

A FURTHER STROLL AROUND BYGONE SHEPshed
Marjorie Schulz
Panda Eyes, 2011

HINCKLEY CARNIVAL: A HISTORY
Andrew Pratt
Hinckley and Bosworth Museum, 2011

HISTORIC POSTCARD ROTHLEY: THE COLLECTED
RECORD
Terry Sheppard
Rothley Heritage Trust, 2011

THE HISTORY OF BARROW HALL AND ITS
RESIDENTS
Malcolm Dark
Reprint, 2011

IBSTOCK COLLIERY
Mike Kinder
The Author, 2011

LUTTERWORTH THROUGH TIME
Geoff Smith
Amberley Publishing, 2011

MEMORIES OF THURMASTON: VOLUME 2
Thurmaston Heritage Group
The Authors, 2011

MY HISTORICAL AND PICTORIAL SCRAPBOOK OF
STANTON-UNDER-BARDON AND BITS ABOUT
NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES AND PLACES OF
INTEREST
Janet Lowe
The Author, 2012

OUR RUTLAND: RUTLAND PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE
YEAR
Adam Falconbridge
Buy the Book, 2011

PEATLING MAGNA'S NOSTALGIC RECIPES
Peatling Magna Writing Group
The Authors, 2011

RUTLAND ROUNDABOUTS: PERSONAL POETRY
FROM BRITAIN'S SMALLEST COUNTY
Brian Martin
Spiegl Press, 2011

TO KNOW AND TO GIVE: SOUTH WIGSTON HIGH
SCHOOL AND ARTS COLLEGE 1938 - 2008
Derek Seaton and Pamela Ward
The Authors, 2011

TRANSPORT

THE BUSES OF LEICESTER CITY TRANSPORT –
A.E.C. BRIDGEMASTER
Simon Gill, Mike Greenwood and Peter Newland
Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, 2011

HARBILT ELECTRIC TRUCKS: A SHORT HISTORY
COMPILED FOR HARBOROUGH MUSEUM
Bob Hakewill
The Author, 2011

THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN
LEICESTER
Leicester City Bus
Reprint, 2011; original 1987

LOUGHBOROUGH'S MIDLAND STATION
John Harrison
Reprint, 2011

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