

THE  
**BULLETIN**  
OF THE  
**LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT**  
**ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

No. 2  
AUTUMN 1959

The Loughborough & District Archaeological Society.

Officers & Committee 1959-60.

President: Mr. H.F. Bing, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Chairman: Mr. G. Riley.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Richards,  
"Sunnyside", 13, Rectory Road,  
Loughborough.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. C.D. Wostenholm,  
118, Park Road, Loughborough.

Press Secretary: Mr. J.H. Whittington.

Committee Members: Mr. P.J. Greaves.  
Mr. G.H. Green.  
Mr. P.J. Madgwick, M.A.  
Mrs. R. Schofield.  
Mr. K.G. Smith.  
Mr. B.C.J. Williams.

Page.

3 Property Demolition in Loughborough by G.H. Green

7 A Sexton Sparshead at Sibley by J.H. Whittington

8 Restoration of Sibley Church by J.H. Whittington

9 Diabley Water Mill by G.H. Green

10 Loughborough Old Rectory by G.H. Green

12 A Mountainous Great by H. Pege

16 Activities of the Society 1958-59.

THE BULLETIN OF THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NO.2 - AUTUMN 1959.

EDITORIAL.

More than one periodical, produced with high hope, has failed to reach a second issue. Such has not been the fate, we are glad to say, of the Bulletin of the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society. No.1., issued in Autumn 1958, is now followed by No.2., which is four pages bigger than its predecessor and we hope will be of even greater interest to its readers.

The progress of the Bulletin reflects that of the Society which has had a successful year's activity (see p.16) and looks forward to an interesting programme in the months ahead. The membership, however, is still less than its programme and the size of Loughborough warrant. We appeal to all readers of this Bulletin who are not already members, to join the Society and to those who are, to introduce others.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

	<u>Page.</u>
Property Demolition in Loughborough by G.H. Green	3
A Saxon Spearhead at Sileby by L.E. Robinson	7
Restoration of Sileby Church by J.H. Whittington	8
Dishley Water Mill by G.H. Green	9
Loughborough Old Rectory by G.H. Green	10
A Mountsorrel Groat by H. Pegg.	15
Activities of the Society 1958-59.	16

PROPERTY DEMOLITIONS IN LOUGHBOROUGH.

As in many English towns, rapid changes are in progress in Loughborough. Areas of poorer class property are vanishing under the Slum Clearance Schemes. New roads are being made to accommodate the increasing flow of traffic and properties lying on their course have to be taken down. In the town centre more ambitious stores are being erected involving the demolition of older shops. The Society has felt that it is within its province to watch all such changes in order that records, written and photographic, may be kept of the demolished buildings. This task may not lie in the realm of formal archaeology but the rules of the Society were fashioned wide enough to include history especially in those fields where the documentary sources are poor and observation needful with a view to recording important changes.

The following notes record some of the chief changes during 1958 and 1959. The number of properties demolished runs into many hundreds and those mentioned form, therefore, a selective, rather than an exhaustive list.

PINFOLD.

The last fragments of the former Loughborough Pinfold were swept away in 1959 in widening the Pinfold Gate-Sparrow Hill corner. The pinfold was an early forerunner of the last Pinfold in use for the town - the last one was on Moor Lane. The ancient fragment swept away was where the Pinfold Jetty came into Pinfold Gate at this corner and attached to it was a cottage that looked rather old but actually was not of great age. The demolition, however, revealed many older foundations showing that the site had had a long occupation.

PINFOLD STREET, CRADDOCK STREET and CHERRY TREE PLACE.

All the cottage properties in these three were demolished rapidly in the middle of 1959. The properties were of the third and fourth decade of the nineteenth century and of no architectural interest. Their chief feature was the large cellars that nearly all possessed. Prior to their erection this portion of the town held remnants of the small park, conery or warren connected with the Manor House from an early date, together with a Cherry Orchard of some extent. The building of the famous Bell Foundry here in 1840 led to the development of the surrounding housing. These demolitions have left Sparrow Hill Chapel and its former Manse in an island site but no doubt this will be only temporary. It is worth recording that the former Manse at the present time again has a clergyman as resident as it is temporarily housing the Rector of Loughborough.

The house has been a Strict Baptist Minister's, then inhabited by several Doctors, then a Methodist Minister's, and it is likely that after serving temporarily as an Anglican Manse it will fall to the demolisher's zeal. Its notable feature is that it has three wells - perhaps indicative of other earlier buildings on this site. It is built on a pocket of sand which has not made for structural stability.

#### JOHN STREET, DEAD LANE (CONTINUATION) ETC.

These several streets of small cottages (also chiefly of mid-nineteenth century period) lay between Shakespeare Street School and Rectory Place. They have been totally swept away. None of them had any interesting features.

#### FENNEL STREET.

On entering this street from Church Gate all the left-hand side is under clearance orders and most of the buildings have been demolished in the period under notice. The work has been speeded up to accommodate a much wider street in connection with the Bus Station and Car Park planned on the cleared site. Nearly all these properties were nineteenth century but a great surprise occurred in the shop on the corner of Fennel Street and Church Gate. It was pulled down with the exception of its gable nearest towards the Market Place which was left attached to the neighbouring shop in Church Gate. It proves to have a very large and extremely perfect cruck in it. It is of great height, the two timbers being opened out at the top by the insertion of a two feet wide cross-beam. The timbers seem to be cut from the same tree - merely a splitting open of its trunk down the centre and the curves suggest that it was not a very straight trunk either. The Society feel strongly that as this is possibly the very last of this style of house in the town it should be preserved in its present position. The remaining gable could be tidied up, the cruck picked out in black and the wall itself white plastered.

#### STONE YARD.

This was a side court off Church Gate just a few yards nearer to the Market Place than Fennel Street. Its cottages were very ordinary places although several were three storeyed. They occupied the right-hand side of Stone Yard when entering from Church Gate and the left-hand had formerly had a non-conformist chapel. Of this only two stone pier caps remained on wall pillars of brick. For the moment these have survived in position.

#### TOWN RESIDENCE UP AN ENTRY.

Between Fennel Street and the Stone Yard was an inconspicuous entry and most surprisingly a few yards up this

narrow passage stood a quite imposing three storeyed double-fronted house. There is little doubt that it was of late eighteenth century and must then have been regarded as an important town residence. It has been totally demolished.

#### MARKET PLACE CHANGES.

Two large firms have been busy erecting new premises in the Market Place. Messrs. F.W. Woolworth & Son Ltd., secured the old established premises of Messrs. T & F. Keightley Ltd. These had been at an early date occupied in the same trade by a family named Beeby, but earlier still the premises had been a coaching inn and the old stables remained in great abundance. All has been swept away to make room for a very large new store. Although watch was kept not many finds were made. The ancient mulberry tree which had still persisted in growing a few weak branches every Spring has gone (it seemed to be many hundred years old and sturdily refused to succumb to repeated maltreatment from passing lorry traffic). There were large cellarages, now filled in. The stables especially on the north side were mostly of Tudor period brick. The demolition exposed the side gable of the shops adjacent on the north side and some great timbers could be seen but they are now covered over again. This site is on the same side as the Town Hall from which it is separated by a Bank.

The other firm erecting a new shop was Boots Cash Chemists Ltd. They already had premises in the Market Place being the third shop from Swan Street corner. These premises were on the site of an old inn still remembered by the town's oldest inhabitants. Messrs. Boots secured the neighbouring building usually known as James's Vaults. This was flanked on the side nearest to Swan Street by the George Yard and on the other side by an old street that in former times ran through to Derby Square. They demolished the properties right through this strip of territory as far as the Public Conveniences on the left-hand side of George Yard. The demolition exposed the strange construction of the James's Vaults. Walls of old brick proved to have stone-filled rubble centres. The rooms were many, tiny and of chaotic patten. Much of the timbering was ancient and reputedly from old oak battleships, being curved, hence the other name sometimes attached to the premises "the Ship". Of chief interest was the nature of the ground below the ground floor line for holes sunk for purposes of foundations showed old puddled clay floors - three in sequence one above the other. The closed-in nature of the site and building complexities unfortunately prevented a photographic record being secured of these. They must have represented an early phase in the history of Loughborough housing. It is not unlikely that this actually revealed the site of the original Saxon settlement for the town brook is barely thirty yards from this point (it is covered in) and it would thus be typical of many Leicestershire site positions. The finished new premises have thus finally swept away an ancient inn site, covered the site of the former St. George Guild Hall and, possibly, of the first Loughborough.

While dealing with changes in the Market Place it may be fitting to mention that the cellars of the Golden Fleece Hotel on the corner of Granby Street when going out of the Market Place towards Forest Road contain some very old stone-work.

#### DEVONSHIRE SQUARE.

This small square lying between the Market Place and Forest Road has also undergone great changes. Its right-hand side (going towards Forest Road) consisted of the Temperance Hall, now called Granby Buildings, then a row of small cottages with a few small factories behind them, then the old established hosiery dyeworks of Messrs. Clarkes Ltd. The Temperance Hall incorporated in its wall towards Devonshire Square a fragment of exceedingly ancient stone walling and up to this present this remains. The cottages have been totally demolished. For a period of many months their privies remained exposed to public view until public outcry at their offensiveness led to their demolition. This left behind two small factory buildings which seem to represent the first of the small factories (places for perhaps a dozen workers) which heralded the change from the Domestic System to the Factory System. The Dyeworks were then taken over by T & F. Keightley Ltd when they left the site in the Market Place and the whole block has been modernised to include up-to-date display showrooms. At the rear a direct access over the brook has been made into the Cattle Market. Devonshire Square was in earlier times mainly occupied by a large fishpool.

#### PARK ROAD AND BEACON ROAD CORNER.

Although usually regarded as the chief residential side of the town there were two groups of small cottage property at this corner. One was a long row of cottages on the right-hand side at the entrance to Beacon Road. The other occurred just before the corner at a point facing the Royland Road opening and ran practically parallel to the Beacon Road group but some distance to its rear. It is said this second group was erected for the use of workmen building the Emmanuel Church on Forest Road. If this is so, they would date in the 1830's. Both groups have been demolished.

#### BARRACK ROW.

This rather inconspicuous row of cottages was approached either by the side of the Star Foundry where Sparrow Hill joins Nottingham Road or by a wide opening off Nottingham Road. They were pushed over in a few minutes in 1959 by bulldozers. It is most likely they represent the final phase of an early Loughborough Grammar School. For some centuries a Grammar School stood in one corner of the Parish Church graveyard. When it was pulled down in the nineteenth century it is recorded that the materials were used to build a row of cottages in Barrack Close. The roof timbers in the Barrack

Row cottages were very ancient oak timbers with wooden dowel pins and it would seem these, therefore, probably came from the old Grammar School. These cottages had no gardens.

#### CRUCK COTTAGES AT HATHERN.

As Hathern is now a ward of Loughborough, mention may be made of the demolition in mid-1959 of a group of old cottages in Wide Street - on the right-hand side when approached from the main Derby Road and a few yards from the point where Tanner's Lane branches off to the left. The cottages seem to have been three in number. They were quite small and examination of the deeds shows that for some centuries they belonged to a University College. They were on stone footings and when the half of the one nearest to the street front was demolished a very charming example of a cruck was exposed. Between the two forks the width at ground line was not much more than 6'6" and the timbers went straight into the ground. Before straight timber posts were added to square the building the cottages must have been almost miniature in size.

In concluding these notes on demolitions it should be repeated that photographs have been obtained where possible, and word descriptions also typed out on index cards. These are the property of the writer of these notes - Geo H. Green, 33, Queens Road, Loughborough. Mr. Green would allow access to these records to students with good references as to their bona fides.

#### Anglo-Saxon Spearhead discovered at Silbey.

While digging a post-hole in my garden at Silbey early in 1958, I unearthed a metal object which was later identified by the Leicester Museum authorities as an Anglo-Saxon spear-head and is now on exhibition in Leicester Museum. Having been cleaned at the Museum, the spear-head appears to be of iron with both the point and socket ends fairly complete though considerably corroded.

The site of the discovery was at the top of gently sloping ground about 1400 yards N.E. of Silbey Parish Church. The soil is heavy clay and seems to have been pastoral and agricultural and until 1935 when the house was built. The spear-head was found at a depth of 2 ft., at a spot approximately 67 ft. from the rear wall of the house and 4 ft. from the western boundary fence of the property.

L.E. Robinson.

Restoration and Redecoration in St. Mary's Parish Church,  
Sileby, May-August 1958.

An inspection of crumbling plasterwork which revealed a large portion of decayed plaster in the interior of the church, was undertaken towards the end of 1957. The Church Council, in view of this report, decided to embark on an extensive restoration of the whole of the interior of the Church. A restoration fund was launched in the New Year of 1958 and money began to flow in steadily. The work of restoration began in May 1958, and was completed in the following August.

All decayed plaster was removed and replaced with new plaster, treated with the latest damp resistant paint of an off-white colour, to tone with the stonework. All the exposed stonework was cleaned by a thorough scrubbing. Most of the arches, and particularly the Chancel Arch, bore heavy deposits of soot from the long use of tallow candles throughout bygone centuries. It was also decided to clean and treat with a timber preservative the roofs of the Chancel and aisles.

The lofty Nave Roof proved to be an extremely fine example of the medieval carpenter's art, with many interesting carved bosses (two bearing traces of gold leaf), and finely carved figures springing out into the clerestory above each corbel stone, with weird animal and human faces used as subjects for carving on the roof apex braces.

The corbel stones are carved with caricatures of men's faces, amusing in a gruesome sort of way; one has three teeth only, two in the upper jaw with a gap between, into which the solitary tooth of the lower jaw neatly fits. Another jovial looking character with a crescent moon shaped mouth has his tongue protruding in a very rude fashion, and possesses a pair of ears which sit on top of his head in the shape and manner of the horns of the devil. Another has his nose shaped like a pig's snout. The eyes in each of these ten faces on the corbel stones were formed by circular sockets between 2" and 3" deep.

In contrast, the ten wooden figures above the corbel stones (five either side of the clerestory) are more sober in character; each is robed in formalised monk's attire, with bare and cropped head. The two central figures on either side hold bishop's mitres at chest height, whilst the two figures abutting the Chancel arch, each hold a shield, as also do two other figures, both on the north side. Of these four shields, three have now been emblazoned with the coats-of-arms of former noted patrons of the church, viz., de Harecourt, de Segrave and Tho. de Brotherton, a former Earl Marshal of England. The latter two coats-of-arms were formerly recorded in stained glass windows in the Church in the 17th century, but were replaced with simple diamond shaped stained glass in the 19th century, and their subsequent fate is unknown. The four remaining wooden figures

.. hold interesting examples of medieval musical instruments, namely, a rebec, a lute, a portable organ and a shawm. The rebec was shaped like a narrow pear split in half longitudinally. It had a flat top, no sound post, and three strings and it was played with a bow, (much longer than a modern violin bow) and the rebec was extended downward in front of the body when played. It was a forerunner of the modern violin and was in common use in the Middle Ages. The portable organ was also widely used during the same period and was of great importance for music-making. It was supported by a strap over the player's shoulder. Keys were depressed with the right hand, whilst the left hand pumped the bellows. It usually had four or five ranks of two pipes in each rank. The Sibley example has only three ranks of pipes, two in each rank.

The whole of the Nave and Chancel roofs on completion of the restoration were also restored as near as could be ascertained to their former medieval glory, with the roof bosses, apex carvings, and parts of the wooden figures picked out in gold leaf, the hollow mouldings on the tie beams painted in red and the bosses alternately in red and blue. In all some five tons of plaster were used, and the cleaning of the timber and the re-decorating were done by a Sibley firm of craftsmen.

J.H. Whittington.

#### DISHLEY WATER MILL.

Beloved of painters, long the gathering point in winter of exponents of skating, and with a history extending back to Domesday Book, this ancient water mill on the Derby main road (A.6) just a mile from Loughborough Market Place, seemed to be falling into final decay. It has, however, been bought with a view to renovation for use as an ordinary residence. The reservoir feeding the mill race was drained some years ago thereby ending its reputation among skaters. The iron mill wheel which turned the internal machinery was also destroyed. During the present restoration four grinding wheels were brought outside. They varied in size. Three were of the usual millstone grit but one was quite unusual. It was composed of segmented pieces of alabaster and upon close examination it was seen that any remaining interstices were filled with flint stones chipped to required size and shape. The entire wheel was then cased in an iron tyre. It is hoped that the wheel will be preserved as it is of most unusual type. The fittings of the house also included a Cheese Press block made of Swithland slate and a sink in the same material. The rear elevation of this Mill House (which on its front elevation was ordinary brick) is heavily timbered, betraying its ancient origin. The final restored Mill House, brightly agleam with whitened walls, now makes an attractive addition to the landscape.

Geo. H. Green.

LOUGHBOROUGH'S OLD RECTORY HOUSE.

Predominant among the activities of the Society in 1959 has been the truly massive task of examining and making records in drawing and photograph of the Old Rectory House which lies at the rear of All Saints' Church, Loughborough. The work is far from completed but it is felt members of the Society will wish to be kept generally informed of progress. Any views expressed herein must be regarded as tentative and there is much of the story yet to unfold. Much has perished beyond possibility of accurate reconstruction.

Not only do the members of the Loughborough Archaeological Society owe a great debt to a group of its members and officials for undertaking this heavy task but surely future generations in Loughborough will rise up to pay tribute to the value of the records they have made. Amongst others thanks are given to Mr. Brian Williams, Mr. J. Richards (who added this work to his other appreciated duties as Secretary), Mr. & Mrs. G. Riley, Mr. J.H. Richling and our President, Mr. H.F. Bing (and not least to Mr. G.H. Green, the writer of this article.- Editor.) Special mention must be made also of generous help given during a brief stay in the town by Mr. W.C. Woodhouse, Archaeological Officer of the Ordnance Survey Department Chessington.

Documentary sources for the story of this house are few and of doubtful value. It is known there was a Parsonage House in Loughborough in 1189 A.D. and that it had even then had a previous inhabitant. A sixteenth century clergyman speaks in his will of "the great reparacions" which he had done to the Parsonage during his lifetime. Pochin, Nichols, Fletcher and Cooke, the Loughborough historians, give passing comments on the age of the Rectory but with little detail. An old plate shows it as a building with four gables on one front. The surviving church accounts make little or no reference to the building as the cost of repairs would be the concern of the incumbent. It is plain, therefore, that the unravelling of the story of the Old Rectory is particularly a task for the archaeologist and the questing spade.

Lest any sudden demolition should take place one of the first tasks was to secure a range of photographs. Mr. C. Skellern of Castle Donington kindly supplied some excellent ones. Mr. J.H. Whittington later took further photographs including some in colour. The land with the buildings upon it is being sold to the Corporation of Loughborough and present intentions are that the site should be used for the erection of flats for elderly people. The Society however is striving to get the Corporation to investigate the possibility of preserving the more significant portions of the old Rectory. It is felt that given the retention of this building, Loughborough will have gathered round it the remaining core of the earlier town. The surviving items would comprise in total an imposing group -

the Parish Church largely of 14th century, the Manor House with its early stone pillared fireplace, the Guildhall, the Windmill Inn with close-set timbers under its modern plaster, a pair of early houses with central passages, the Fennel Street corner cruck so recently revealed, the remains of Burton's House, the old non-conformist building in Warner's Lane with its association with Bakewell, the Barracks (once the Workhouse), the 1822 theatre, the fine Georgian houses in Rectory Place, etc. If the Rectory were allowed to vanish completely the remaining items would appear less significant and probably their total loss would only be a matter of time. As there are a number of public purposes to which the Rectory could be put - a cultural centre, an old people's clubhouse, a museum, a town's archives room etc - its retention would be an economy for the town rates as sooner or later all these must be provided. The changes in the road system and in trade may tend in the next few years to reduce the importance of the town but it might recoup its losses if it could acquire a tourist reputation: modern colleges and schools alongside interesting remains on the past. Additionally the Rectory would be an ideal asset to the Loughborough Colleges as a near-at-hand example for their students of developments in domestic architecture, serving both Art and Teachers' Training purposes. Every member of the Society is asked to urge these points upon the townspeople.

First glance at the building shows a nineteenth century portion in somewhat grandiose style, a central stone built portion and a length at the other end in timber with stone. These two latter portions are surmounted by a storey in old red brick.

The exterior elevations show the ridge lines of two vanished rather high pitched roofs, no fewer than nine arches of doors and window heads (practically all built up or containing later windows) and one window with a roll moulding on each jamb but minus head or sill. The periods of these features are difficult to determine. Because of more recently inserted features, it is not always easy to decide whether the original arch was round or pointed. A few further comments on these features may be made and for this purpose the two long elevations will be termed east and west and the two short elevations south and north, the main nineteenth century entrance being on the south elevation. The building does not exactly orientate to the cardinal points but the terms suffice for this brief description.

The north elevation contains a fairly complete roof pitch line coming to within a few feet of the present ground level. Just touching this on the left-hand side of the elevation (that is the observer's right hand when facing towards it) is a neat lancet window. Its jambs may have suffered re-building or patching but the head and sill seem to be untouched originals in a darker stone. The head is a single block and is cusped in

the plainest style. Such work is often dated between 1180 and 1220 A.D. There is on this elevation a built-up doorway which internally shows a very thick stone arch (slightly gothicised on its intrados but seemingly almost round on its extrados). A barred window is set into the filling-up material which is brick. The right-hand side of this elevation at its angle with the east elevation is cased with dark red bricks to the ground level for a width of about two feet.

The east elevation shows a strangely wide archway at ground level almost in the centre of the visible stone portion. It has no normal mouldings, rolls, etc. but its features are recessed into the stone. It is Gothic and is built-up. Originally there seems little doubt it opened into an extra wing on this side of the house although no roof pitch shows on this elevation. To the left hand (right hand of the observer facing the building) there is a built-up doorway at first floor level - there may have been a similar one at ground floor also. Just to its side a very tiny slit window was found and its pieces of filling have now been knocked out. This group of features will be explained further in examining the interior. To the right hand of the large wide ground floor archway is an arch of a very large window. This like the rest is filled up. Just beyond this the modern Victorian stucco commences and continues to the end of the elevation. However, search has shown that the early stone foundations continue along the base to about fifteen feet from the end. There is a plinth along this elevation of less worn stone (the stone on this front is chiefly a soft crumbling sandstone) which projects nearly a foot. It has a large section missing to take in the wide ground floor archway and some distance either side of it. The cut is of finished work as though it had been there in the original design.

The south elevation has a pillared portico on the circle and gives access to a little sub-entrance hall before the main one. There is no feature of noticeable interest. The work at this end was reputedly done after a fire around 1820. Up to the present few traces of fire have been found.

The west elevation has a curved side but a blind window space - its matching portion on the east elevation has a window. This elevation reveals that the Victorian portion is in effect a cross wing and projects a good many feet from the line of the early stone building. It is in red brick. A lean-to addition for a toilet and lavatory break the line of the original where this Victorian portion ceases and above the lean-to is a very large bedroom landing window in coloured glass. The lean-to masks a stone buttress but a second one is just visible at the end of it. The stone portion then shows in its entirety again with the old red brick storey above it. There is a gothic shaped window fairly complete in line the line of its head is cut through by some inserted red brick to hold a leaded window. A further later window is inserted above it.

The sill line of this stone Gothic window is very obvious and comes to within a few feet of the ground level. Then further along occurs a roof pitch which at one point is actually of "one piece" with the Gothic window jamb showing the whole to be in its original condition. The presence of this roof pitch suggests another wing formerly projecting from this side. Excavations made at ground level have revealed stone foundations or possibly a paved floor. Just above the stone foundations at some points a plaster or concrete floor occurs about two inches thick. Beyond this roof pitch feature occurs much higher up the wall a plastered area which incorporates a Gothic window-opening in blackened timber with a wooden springer going upwards from it for a couple of feet as though starting another decorative feature. Besides the Gothic shaped timbering a further timbering, partly hidden by a stone lean-to that juts out here at the end of this elevation, can be seen. This stone lean-to seemsto be a later addition and a stone date 1777 in the rather thick window opening may give its date of erection.

The north elevation has already been briefly described but it should be added that partly shrouded by the presence of this stone lean-to at its junction with the west elevation is a stone buttress of the flat type associated with the Normans.

Space forbids detailed description of the many rooms of the interior and without detailed plans word descriptions might be misleading. A number of important discoveries internally may be mentioned. Under the large iron rooms in the most recent portion of the building are five cellars of brick. Some are old brick and almost certainly comparable with the brickwork of the Guildhall in Churchgate and therefore of Tudor date. They seem to have been used for farming purposes being well supplied with arched thralls and there is a draining pit and roof hooks as though bacon salting etc., was performed here. The Tudor and Stuart clergyman was a farmer! These cellars would accommodate a large number of people and each is arched. There seems a chance that some modern brickwork might represent a further bricked up cellar or passage.

Under the two large rooms on the east elevation in the newer portion of the house are rows of supporting pillars - in one room of stone and in the next of brick. The old foundations of stone and the line of the end of the medieval building can be seen under the floor boards of the one nearest the end of this elevation. In the second of these rooms a hatchway goes through to a kitchen, the wall here being approximately 3 feet thick. A strange feature of the building is that at least two of its inner partition walls are

of stone and very thick. It suggests that the building may be an amalgamation of buildings formerly separate. The whole is suspiciously large for an early parsonage.

In the kitchen on the other side of this hatchway is a fine stone-flagged floor. By its side is another room used seemingly as a kitchen. (there is yet another kitchen further back). In this room, which has windows on to the east elevation, was made the discovery of a sealed up newel stone staircase. It had been sealed twice; once with thin plaster covered by very early wallpaper. Again (presumably when a new fireplace was inserted) by a wall of Tudor bricks covered by wallpaper. The bricks may have been reused from other buildings. The newel staircase goes through the first floor and reaches the second floor level. Except for two steps at the first bedroom level it is very complete and sound. Its doorway into this room is cusped but worn. Its doorway into the bedroom is slightly different but very old. By the side of this second doorway are the two features that can be seen outside: (a) the little slit window which has been opened up and (b) the built-up doorway with a cusped head that seems to have led into a vanished wing jutting from the east elevation. In this bedroom level of the newel staircase the room contains against a fairly recent fireplace, a stone pillar with small capital (seemingly Norman or early transitional) and this was again cased round with brick. Above it a heavy beam had been inserted longitudinally and a cross beam above it stretches over the modern fireplace to rest on another inserted beam. This may be a re-use of old materials but examination and stripping of this feature continues. Outside this bedroom, turning left at the doorway, a tiny narrow passage leads into the bedroom on the other side of the newel staircase. In this passage a nearly half round arch occurs set with stone voussoirs exceedingly narrow and with one sharply diminishing to serve as a key stone. This stone arch is set in a walling of random stone work and its opening, it is surprising to notice, is filled up by precisely similar work. It is almost as though the arch was put out of use as soon as built. It is of a style known in Roman times, often used in Saxon times and yet still used in forming arches of bridges over small streams another five centuries later.

The last kitchen against the north elevation is entered across a small passageway and at this point a stone arch occurs exactly in line with the arch of the built-up sideways opening mentioned on the north elevation. On either side of this arch are ordinary wooden cupboards but when the doors are opened each contains a stone Gothic arch with rounded arches above. This makes three arches in a row. In certain walls two safes were found: one blacksmith-made with side double doors and the other a nineteenth century one of which the key is lost. Both were sealed up behind wall paper.

This article ~~can~~ hope to serve only as an introduction to the multitude of interesting features of a building that may exceed in its long continuity of use as a residence any other in England. It is clear that around it before a final report can be issued will revolve many arguments as to dates, purposes and precise original layout. It is hoped one by one to solve many of the problems but everyone connected with its examination longs to have a picture of its pristine condition. Photography unfortunately came at least eight centuries too late!

Geo. H. Green.

---

Discovery of Edward VI Groat at Mountsorrel.

In December 1958 whilst digging a trench near the Green at Mountsorrel, workmen of the East-Midlands Gas Board discovered a silver coin which was passed to this Society for identification.

Mr. H. Pegg of Nottingham examined the coin and has provided the following report-----

"It is Base Groat of Edward VI (Canterbury Mint) with Portrait and Titles of Henry VIII. Mint-Mark Rose on obverse may be revealed if the coin is cleaned with care but this type does occur without a Mint-Mark. The reverse cross-ends contain half-roses.

This coin is a very common type owing to the enormous profit to be made from minting such rubbish. This and similar coins were struck from metal obtained by melting down the old testoons of Henry VIII. So base were these that they earned the name of "Old copper nose", worn coins showing quite clearly a shiny-nosed Henry VIII.

The evidence for attribution to the reign of Edward VI is too lengthy to give in a short note, but is confirmed by an order dated February 1550 for groats and half-groats to be "Printed with the whole face and inscription of our most dear late father". One such groat (a rare type) bears the ironical inscription on the reverse---"REDDE CUIQUE QUOD SUUM EST" (Render unto everyman what is his).

The coinage of Edward VI must have been bewildering owing to coins of different metal value being current at the same face value, but needless to say with the introduction of his "Fine coinage" in 1550-1, a tremendous improvement took place. This is reflected in the number of shillings of this coinage which still survive, and are among the most common of the early hammered coins available to collectors.

N.B. A groat was a four-penny-piece.

---

ACTIVITIES IN 1958-59.

The Quest House programme of lectures and excursions was adopted and supported during the summer of 1958, supplemented by a series of Informal Meetings held once a month at Quest House.

On July 12th members visited the excavations in Blue Boar Lane, Leicester, the Jewry Wall, Roman Pavements and Newarke House Museum.

Oct. 11th.	President's Evening: Pre-history in Pictures	H.F. Bing, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.
Nov. 8th	Archaeological Detection at Sutton-Hoo.	S.E. Thomas, M.A.
Dec. 6th.	Swithland Headstones.	K. Robertson-Ritchie.
1959 Jan. 17th.	Roaming Around.	J.H. Whittington.
Feb. 14th.	Leicestershire Dialect.	W. Jacques, M.A.
Mar. 21st.	Cotton-Water-Mills of Notts and Derbyshire.	Prof. J.D. Chambers. B.A., Ph.D.
Apr. 11th.	One-Day School. Archaeological Patterns of Leicestershire.	G.H. Green.
Apr. 25th.	Annual General Meeting.	
MAY 30th.	Visit to British Museum.	
June 4th.	All Saints' Rectory.	B.C.J. Williams.
June 16th.	Visit to Dishley with G.H. Green.	
July 2nd.	Hellenic Cruise.	H.T. Cross.

The Society has its Headquarters at Quest House, Ashby Road, Loughborough, where it meets monthly. Membership is 10s.6d. per annum. For further particulars apply to the Hon. Secretary:

Mr. J. Richards,  
13, Rectory Road,  
Loughborough.