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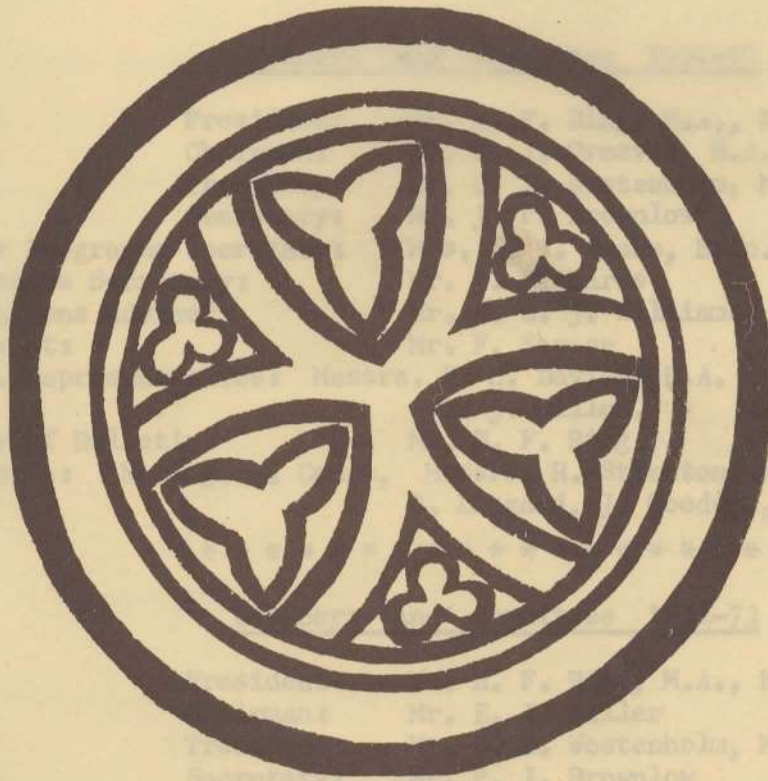
THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Committee 1973-74

# BULLETIN

of the

## LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Vol. 2 No.1

Autumn 1973

THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Committee 1973-74

- President: Mr. H. F. Bing, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.,  
45 Rempstone Road,  
East Leake,  
Loughborough. Tel. East Leake 2350
- Chairman: Mr. E. J. Miller,  
41 Mayfield Drive,  
Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 61075
- Secretary: Mr. J. P. Brownlow,  
31 Cowdray Close,  
Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 4995
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118 Park Road,  
Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 4980
- Excursions Secretary: Mr. J. Richards,  
28 Ashleigh Drive,  
Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 68949
- Winter Programme  
Secretary: Mrs. S. J. Cooke, B.Sc.,  
447 London Road,  
Leicester. Tel. Leicester 706338
- Excavations Adviser: Rev. S. B. Coley, M.A.,  
8 Elvaston Drive,  
Sawley,  
Long Eaton,  
Derby. Tel. Long Eaton 5303
- Publicity Secretary and  
Archivist: Mr. F. Savage,  
541 New Ashby Road,  
Loughborough.
- C.B.A. Representatives: ( Miss P. White,  
{ 122a Outwoods Drive  
{ Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 4612  
{ B.C.J. Williams, A.T.D.,  
{ 25 Colgrove Road,  
{ Loughborough. Tel. Loughborough 5096
- Editor of Bulletin: Mr. H. F. Bing
- Auditor: Mr. J. W. Loseby
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C O N T E N T S

	Page:
Officers and Committee Members 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73.	1
Officers and Committee Members 1973-74. . . . .	2
Contents . . . . .	3
Editorial . . . . .	4
Swithland Slates. . . . . O. C. Tacey . . . . .	6
Merelles or Nine Men's Morris. J. Richards . . . . .	10
Hathern Cross. . . . . F. Savage . . . . .	12
"Modern Leicester", A Century Ago. O. C. Tacey . . . . .	15
Excavation at Long Whatton . . . Rev. S. B. Coley . . . . .	19
Book Reviews . . . . .	22
Loughborough & District Civic Trust . . . . .	23
The Society's Activities 1970-71 . . . . .	24
The Society's Activities 1971-72 . . . . .	24
The Society's Activities 1972-73 . . . . .	25

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Drawings of Nine Men's Morris Boards found in St. Mary's Church, Wyfordby. . . . .	11a
Long Whatton 1973 - plan . . . . .	20a
Long Whatton 1972-3 - pottery . . . . .	21a



Editorial

With this issue we start a new volume of our Bulletin. Volume I contained eleven issues. This may seem an odd number but the change to the continental size paper (one of the results of entry into the Common Market!) made it seem desirable to begin a fresh volume with this issue, so that members who wish may now get Volume I bound. It was in anticipation of this that the last issue contained an index to the first eleven numbers. (If you are missing one or two issues the Secretary can supply spare copies of most of them.)

We apologise to readers for the delay in producing this issue. Our aim over the years has been to produce an annual Bulletin, but it is not easy for a small society covering a very limited area, and one not particularly rich in archaeological material, to find new local material of interest to fill an annual issue. In introducing the first issue of the Bulletin in 1958, I wrote: "How frequently it will appear, how large it will become, how soon it will appear in print and be able to contain photographs and maps: all these depend upon the response of members and friends." Well, on the whole, members and friends have responded well. In the course of 15 years, we have produced 12 issues. The first was a very slim one containing only nine pages of text. Subsequent issues have risen to between thirty and forty pages. Our circulation does not yet justify the expense of printing, but at least we have managed to produce numerous illustrations in the way of photographs, plans and drawings. So the Society may feel justly proud of its achievement in this as in other aspects of its work. Its excavations and its programmes of lectures and excursions have all maintained a high standard.

. . . . .

Once again we have to record the loss of a very valued member. John Goodwin died in Nottingham Hospital on 24 March 1972, following a heart attack. He had been a keen member of the Committee for four years and a regular participant in the excavation work at Garendon, but will, above all, be remembered by all who knew him for his friendliness and good humour and for his readiness at all times to help others in any way he could.

. . . . .

GARENDON ABBEY Since the report on the excavation undertaken during 1969-70 which appeared in our last issue, further excavation continued through 1971. Operations were then concluded, (a) because it was felt that with the excavation of the Chapter House, Transept and East End of the Church, a satisfactory point had been reached and further digging was likely to create a number of difficult problems, and (b) because Squire De Lisle (the owner of Garendon) was at that time contemplating building a house there. However, since then he



has bought, and removed to, Quenby Hall and has indicated that he would be willing for digging to be restarted at some future date. This, however, is not likely to be possible before the conclusion of the Society's present excavation work at Long Whatton, of which a first report appears in this issue. In the meantime, Mr. Brian Williams is engaged in writing up a full report of the work which has been done at Garendon.

.....

THE OLD RECTORY, LOUGHBOROUGH: Mr. Brian Williams' full report of the excavation and preservation of the mediaeval parts of the Old Rectory is now in the hands of the Borough Librarian and it is hoped that the Borough Council will be prepared to sponsor its publication.

The number of people visiting the Old Rectory has greatly increased as the result of the arrangements made for it to be open to the public on certain Saturdays during the late summer (staffed by members of the Society) in addition to the official opening on Thursdays. The Society is very grateful to those members who have volunteered for this service.

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## SWITHLAND SLATES

Nichols says in his *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester (West Goscote Hundred)*, 1804:

"On the edge of Charnwood Forest are some excellent slate pits, proprietors of which are the Earl of Stamford, Hon. Butler Danvers, and Mr. Hind.

The part belonging to the Earl is rented to Mr. Hind, and that of Danvers to Mr. Johnson.

These pits are very deep and extensive and employ a good number of hands.

Superficial quarries have been worked since time immemorial, but the earlier product was of a coarse quality, compared with those which are raised now, some of which are equal to Westmorland slate.

When blocks of slate are loosened (by blasting); they are drawn up by a machine in pieces from 1 Cwt to a ton and a half. The blocks are first cleft into slabs, and the slabs into slate, or if too strong or coarse for this purpose are thrown aside as coarse slabs for various purposes.

Labourers at pits are paid in summer at rate of 2/3 and 2/6 per day and in winter 2 shillings.

Sawing is performed at rate of 10<sup>d</sup> per foot.

The blocks are sawed with a hand saw, and are kept in proper state for operation of saw with constant supplies of sand and water.

Some of the slates made for curriers (dressers of tanned leather) are as large as 9' x 4', and are valued at 9<sup>d</sup> per foot.

Price of roofing slates are 3/- a score for large and same sum for six score of the common small sort.

Milk troughs are charged at rate of 2/9<sup>d</sup> per gallon, and sink slates at 2<sup>d</sup> per foot.

A cheese press complete costs about 3 guineas, on account of the appendages.

Chimney pieces, when plain, are charged at the rate of 2/6 per foot, more polished workmanship charged accordingly. "

From sketches in Nichols, the blocks of slate appear to be lifted from the pit by a windlass framework. Pulley and ropes can be seen and men wheeling barrows.

From various sources we gather that after some use of surface slate in Roman times, the Swithland quarries were revived about 1260, for in a Leicester tallage roll of 1271, three slaters are listed among those taxed.

As the pits were deepened, better quality slates were obtained. Mention is made of a tackle and horse wheel for drawing up the blocks at one pit.



## SWITHLAND SLATES (continued)

Some slate slabs were piled up and sold in the rough for a few shillings, but when made into a finished product and polished, fetched much more.

Swithland slates being much heavier than the Welsh slates, owing to a wider cleavage, require stronger timbers to carry them on roofs, and entail more labour in fixing. These facts, and the reduction in rail rates from North Wales to the Midlands led to the falling off in the trade in the 80's of last century.

There is evidence that the local canals helped in the export of Swithland slates during their period of prosperity.

### Uses of Slates and Slabs

These were many and varied. Roofing slates were used for manor houses, halls, and large public buildings from mediaeval times and later for cottages.

In the later years of the 18th century, a number of cottages, built out of rough stone from the slate pits, were erected on waste ground off Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves.

Great use was made of all waste products from the slate pits in the neighbourhood.

Slabs unsuited for gravestones were laid in hundreds of gateways in Leicestershire; as drainways to underlying water channels; and could also be seen as stepping stones or rough bridges over streams on footpath routes. Thousands of tons of waste from quarries in the north corner of Swithland woods were used as foundations for Midland aerodromes during the last war.

Some of the tesserae in the Roman pavement (around 175 AD) in the forum area in Leicester consist of Swithland slate.

There is documentary evidence for 2,000 slates purchased at 3/1<sup>d</sup> per thousand (including cost of cartage) for the roof of the Great Hall of Leicester Castle in 1377.

The cellars in the ruins of Bradgate House are paved with Swithland slate slabs, and smaller specimens form the tops of the drains which run under the kitchen floor.

St. Mark's church in Leicester is roofed with Swithland slates and the church itself built with blocks of slate from the late Mr. Perry-Herries' private quarry, which was at the foot of Beacon Hill.

Many old farm houses in the Swithland area have, or had, slate troughs for salting bacon, or for holding milk, and slate slabs for dairy paving.

The presses in which Leicester cheeses were made had slate stone weights descending on to slate slabs, in which were channels for the escape of whey.



## SWITHLAND SLATES (continued)

Other uses for Swithland Slates were gravestones, gate posts, thresholds and steps, milestones, fireplace surrounds, and mantel pieces, and also gable panels, cattle and dog troughs, window sills and wall copings: even clock faces, as at Belgrave parish church. Sun dials of this material also occur, both horizontal and vertical, as over the porch at Breedon on the Hill (1749) and at St. Nicholas Church, Leicester.

### Swithland Slate Grave Stones

The best period for these stones was around 1700-1750, and a school of gravestone carvers flourished in Leicester for over 100 years.

One side of the slate slab was rubbed down until it presented a hard green-grey polished surface, and the back side left rough.

The earliest gravestones (1673 at Swithland) are small and rectangular, and the edges appear to have been chipped, not sawn. The lettering is carried to the edges of the stone and fills the whole space. This early lettering is rather deeply incised, plain and rather amateurish, of block type and "V" cut.

Tools used were the chisel, constantly sharpened, a knife, and a small lead or wooden hammer. Later and larger stones usually have shaped tops, possibly caused in some cases by the cutting away of blemishes at the corners.

A strip may be marked across the top of the stone for a little carved relief or unobtrusive ornaments. Lettering tended progressively to get shallower. Later development shows the designs becoming more involved, and letters were formed with elaborate flourishes. Capital letters in adjacent lines tend to be tied together with an extension of the curving lines of their formation.

The usual method of carving was by incision, but in some cases, particularly at the beginning of the period, the design stands out with sharpness from a skilfully rendered surface. Towards the mid-18th century and later, wide marginal surfaces were left, filled with vertical ornamentation of Renaissance style, and running the full height of the slab. By 1820, Greek frets and tiny rosettes appear.

Of ornamentation, we now find floral patterns, and funeral urns, heads of cherubs with shoulder wings (especially in the upper corners of stones), religious symbols and traditional emblems of mortality. Sunk medallions were often placed above the inscription.

Carved heraldry developed about 1760, and examples are stones erected for Sampson and Pougher at All Saints, Leicester. The lettering of the more decorated period was a sort of script, combined with copper plate scrolls.

Human figure work on stones was usually poor. In general, after 1840, slate design deteriorated and graceful ornament disappeared. Often the slab was divided vertically, the left hand side for the husband and the right for the wife. One side or the other is often



## SWITHLAND SLATES (continued)

not filled in (giving us cause for interesting speculation). An example of this omission is Biddle (1794) at Rothley.

Sometimes the two sections of stone face are obviously carved by different craftsmen.

The trade of the deceased is at times mentioned, as at Loughborough:

John Clarke	Butcher
Will Bone	Toolmaker
Joseph Clarke	Apothecary

Also mentioned are saddler, mat maker, plumber, currier, and grocer.

Some of the stones bear the craftsmen's names. The Hulls can be traced from 1761-1834 from their signed stones, and the name Hind is very persistent in graveyards for over 90 years. (This name has already been mentioned in connection with the Swithland slate quarry's workings). The first instance where a craftsman carved his own name is dated 1750. Other craftsmen's names to be found on stones are W. Charles (Stanford on Soar), Roworth (Wymeswold), Dolmon (Loughborough) and Alt (Breedon).

There are, or were, thousands of slate headstones in Leicestershire alone, 700 in St. Margaret's, Leicester; 109 at Rothley; and the same number at Swithland. Specimens have been found as far afield as Chesterfield and Alfreton (Derbyshire), and Sutton in Ashfield (Notts.). The size of stones varies considerably. That of the Fisher memorial at Wanlip (1782) is about 20 times as large as that of Dorothy Hall at Swithland (1673).

There are, or were, some nice Swithland slate headstones in the yard of Woodgate Baptist Church, Loughborough, although they have been moved around several times to make way for building extensions. One of these stones has drapery in low relief to form two panels, beautifully carved and original in design. Also here is a locally well known stone to a poor woman, Sarah Johnson, whose various operations for dropsy are minutely described on the stone, together with pints of water drawn off, and the names of the surgeons who operated.

Finally, at Rothley, is a very unusual stone representing the Last Judgment. The carving depicts the graveyard at Swithland, with the Swithland church steeple falling down, and the dead emerging from their graves. Even the carved inscriptions on the Swithland gravestones can be seen reproduced.

There appears to be a suspicion of humour, or perhaps malice, in transforming the effects of the Last Judgment to Swithland, instead of showing the local scene.

O. C. TACEY

### Sources of Information

Records of Leicester Archaeological Society (Vol. 22). The late Colonel Martin on Swithland Slate Quarries; Mr. Herbert on gravestones (I believe he was a Leicester architect in the 1920s and earlier); Nichols and Throsby, Leicestershire historians; White's Directory of Leicestershire; Highways and Byways in Leicestershire.



## MERELLES or NINE MEN'S MORRIS

The game of "Nine Men's Morris", or, as it was formerly called in England, - Merelles -, is a very ancient game indeed, and is known under many differing names in other countries, as well as in other parts of England. For example, in Germany it was known as Mahle; in France as Merelle; in Iceland as Mylla; in Poland as Siegen Wulf Myll; whilst different districts of England knew this game as Morelles, The Mill, Merry Peg, Peg Meryll; Morells; Meg Merryleys; Morris or Morrice; Blind Man's Morris; Nine Men's Marriage; etc. Shakespeare refers to this game as "Nine Men's Morris" in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 2, Scene 1.

The Merelles or Nine Men's Morris board was usually etched on a stone slab, or when played by shepherds was marked out on the ground. It consisted of three squares, one inside the other, the squares being connected by four lines drawn through the sides of the squares - as in the accompanying sketch; thus making twenty-four points of intersection.

Two players commence the game, each having nine counters of differing colours, or nine small, flat stones, which they alternatively place upon the gaming board at the intersecting points; the object being to place three such stones in a row, or to prevent your opponent doing so, as in the modern "Noughts and Crosses" game. Three in a row allows the player to remove any one of his opponent's men from the board. When all the counters, stones or men are on the board, the game then continues in a similar manner to "Draughts", each player in turn moving his 'men' one point at a time, and continuing to try and obtain three in a line, or hinder his opponent from doing so. The game is won when the opponent's men have all been removed.

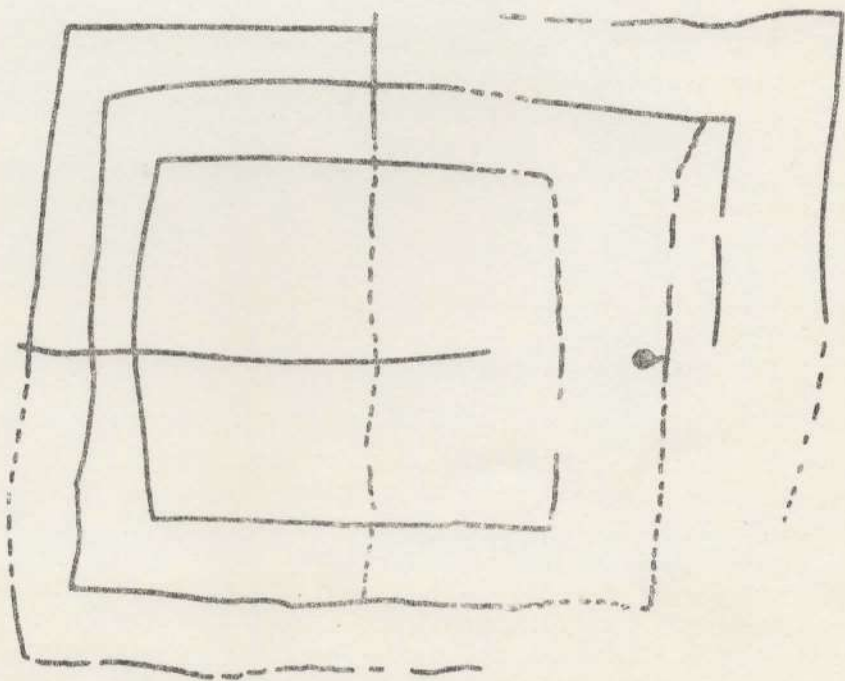
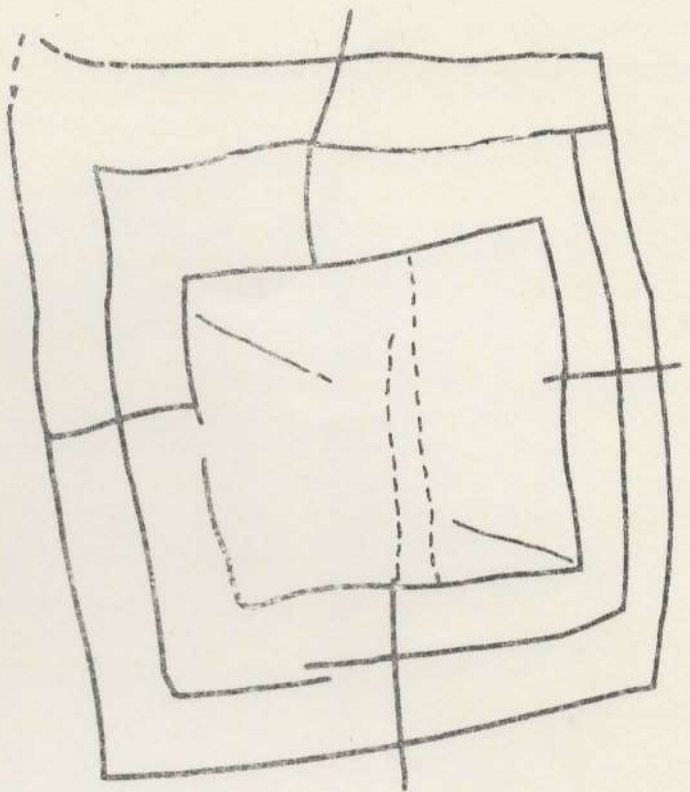
A Merelles - or Nine Men's Morris - stone has recently been discovered, forming part of a window-sill in St. Mary's Church, Wyfordby, which is three miles east of Melton Mowbray. The window itself can be dated back at least to the fourteenth century, and after most careful examination, this stone is thought to have been in its position as a window-sill from about that period, and so is some 600 years old, at least.

About a century ago, another similar 'Merelles' stone was found in the church at Hargrave in Northamptonshire; and a few other examples still exist; e.g. there is one in a small museum at Hutton-le-hole, Yorkshire; and also in the Manx Museum, Isle of Man. Gaming boards etched in wood and stone can still be seen in the cloisters of some of our cathedrals, but these were almost certainly the work of schoolboys in pre-Reformation times, for surviving examples can be dated to about the middle of the sixteenth century.

The finding of a Merelles stone, and research into the origins of this game, brought great pleasure and satisfaction to the writer of this article; and he trusts that other members of the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society may be encouraged to examine with great care the fabric of our older local churches, etc., and record their finds.

J. RICHARDS

(Drawing overleaf)



Drawings of Nine Men's Morris Boards found in St. Mary's Church,  
Wyfordby.



HATCHER CROSS

near the Church, in the center of Hatcher, in an open space where four narrow roads, forming an ancient stone cross. It consists of a graduated base, above which, on a square moulded shaft, stands an octagonal shaft finished with a moulded capital.

The origin and history of this cross are difficult to discover. Some account given for its being there are, that it was to keep away evil spirits and to mark the spot where the earliest religious services were held. I have found in "Antiquities of Lancashire" by John Smith, in 1790, the words, "There remains an old cross in an open space near the church."

As there are many crosses in Lancashire, some standing on a base of a few feet in height, some on a base of several feet, and some on a base of several feet, we will first describe the general pattern of their history.

A certain mistake is often made, people appear to have the crosses as being, they are not by an ancient cross, and the places where crosses are placed are not the same as in the past. In pre-historic times these crosses were usually built with a cross base.

The Christian crosses, however, are a change of style, and on the side of a cross, the base is a new pattern for and the cross is placed on a solid base. On certain and dependent the design is not well for the construction, services are held at the cross and probably from the top.

As crosses are built on a base, the cross becomes a permanent place for meeting and worship, and the scene of the local market.

As some instances in which, population and agriculture, the village they were held before mentioned, some districts, selected from the records, and the progress for which they had been used were forgotten.

MERELLES OR NINE MEN'S MORRIS BOARD

There seems no reason to doubt that the cross at Hatcher has had a similar history.

As it stands today (1873), Hatcher Cross is in a good state of repair. It was reported during 1870, but previously there were large spaces between the stones.

The graduated base of apparently the original work was originally eight courses of sandstone blocks about eleven inches deep, fourteen to fifteen inches wide, and from thirteen to forty-two inches long. Some of these have been replaced and repaired, and now are badly worn.

HATHERN CROSS

Near the Church, in the centre of Hathern, in an open space where four streets meet, stands an ancient stone cross. It consists of a graduated base, above which, on a square moulded plinth, springs an octagonal shaft finished with a moulded capital.

The origin and history of this cross are difficult to discover. Among reasons given for its being there are, that it was to keep away plague and to scare away the powers of evil. Although it probably dates from at least the fourteenth century, the earliest reference that I have found is in "Excursions in Leicestershire" by John Throsby. In 1790 he wrote, "Here remains an old cross in an open space near the church."

As there are many ancient crosses throughout this country, and records of at least forty in Leicestershire alone, some similar to Hathern cross, others quite different, we will first sketch the general pattern of their history.

1. A Christian missionary visits a place, people gather to hear him, converts are made, they are served by an itinerant clergy, and the places where services are held becomes hallowed and marked with a form of cross. In pre-Conquest times these crosses were usually monoliths with a cross head.
2. The Christian community increases, a chapel is built, often on the site of, or near, the cross. If the latter, the cross is preserved and rebuilt or replaced in a more permanent form, and often raised on a series of steps. On festivals and days when the chapel is too small for the congregation, services are held at the cross and preaching done from its steps.<sup>1</sup>
3. As churches and chapels became assembly places for secular as well as religious purposes, so too the cross becomes a convenient place for meetings and business, and the scene of the local market.<sup>2</sup>
4. As towns increased in size, population and importance, the village markets gave way to those of the towns, and crosses near which they were held became neglected, often deteriorated, suffered from vandalism, and the purposes for which they had been used were forgotten.
5. In recent years, interest in ancient monuments has increased and led to restoration and preservation of old crosses.

There seems no reason to doubt that the cross at Hathern has had a similar history.

As it stands today (1973), Hathern Cross is in a good state of repair. It was repointed during 1970, but previously there were large spaces between the stones.

The graduated base of apparently five unequal steps was originally eight courses of sandstone blocks about eleven inches deep, fourteen to sixteen inches wide, and from thirteen to forty-one inches long. Some of these have been replaced and repaired, and most are badly worn;



some by as much as six inches on their exposed faces. Beneath this base is a foundation course of Charnwood Forest stone, and this measures about ten feet six inches square.

On the steps is a plinth or socket. This is a solid sandstone block thirty-four inches square and twenty-four inches high, with a four-inch deep torus moulding along the four uppermost edges. Traces of carving can still be seen on the four sides of the plinth. Each side has two semi-circles separated by a half square.

From the street level to the top of the plinth is about eight feet four inches, and from this height springs the tapered shaft which brings the total height of the cross to about twenty feet.

At about fourteen inches above the plinth, the shaft, which is thirteen inches square at the springing line, becomes octagonal with sides of approximately six inches. At the very top of the shaft is an octagonal moulded capital.

That the shaft should have crashed down during a storm during the early 1920s (it was afterwards repaired and strengthened) is not surprising. For, towards the turn of this century it became the practice to make bonfires at the top of the cross. One of these was to celebrate the end of the Boer War, and on this occasion an effigy of General Kruger was burnt there.

It is not unlikely that the shaft was originally crowned with a head. It may have been a cross, a niche for a statue, or even a lantern head,<sup>3</sup> but all records or evidence are apparently lost.

At the south-west corner of the base, touching the Charnwood rock base, and eight inches from the lowest step, stands a solitary stone of Charnwood rock, eighteen inches high, a tapering rectangle in plan, with sides ranging from nine and a half inches to twelve and a half, and having a curve or bulge on the side opposite to the steps, which begins about four inches above ground level. This could have served as a tethering post for animals, either lost ones awaiting claim (rather unlikely as there are remains of a pinfold about two hundred yards away), or when the cross was used as a market place (a 75 years old Hathern inhabitant recently told me that his grandmother remembered it being used as such); or the stone could be a remains of a whipping post.<sup>4</sup>

Whether the orientation of the cross bears significance, I do not know. It lies about 20° off the cardinal points.

During the nineteenth century, Hathern Cross was the subject of a poem by the Rev. Henry Alford, Vicar of Wymeswold, and author of the hymn, "Come, ye thankful people, come" (he more than once took services at Hathern and was the special preacher at the re-opening services at Hathern on Whit Sunday, 1862, when the church was restored). According to G. H. Green, "it (the cross) was semi-ruinous in Alford's day."<sup>5</sup>

A drawing by W. E. Cooke, c.1875, shows it in such a state.

Unfortunately, the drawing in John Nichol's History of Leicestershire is so idealised and inaccurate that it fails to give any idea of the state of the Cross at the end of the eighteenth century. Apart from telling us that the Hathern Plate shows it, he gives no further information.



## HATHERN CROSS (continued)

T. R. Potter, writing in 1868,<sup>7</sup> states that Hathern Cross was mutilated by the Roundheads. The Rev. A.J. Ison, in 1927,<sup>8</sup> elucidates this a little. He writes:- "It was in all probability during the Commonwealth that the Calvary of the Cross was broken in accordance with the Ordinance of 1644 (May 9th) which extended the clause about removal of crosses, images, etc., - previously confined to churches, chapels or places belonging to them - to all open places whatsoever."

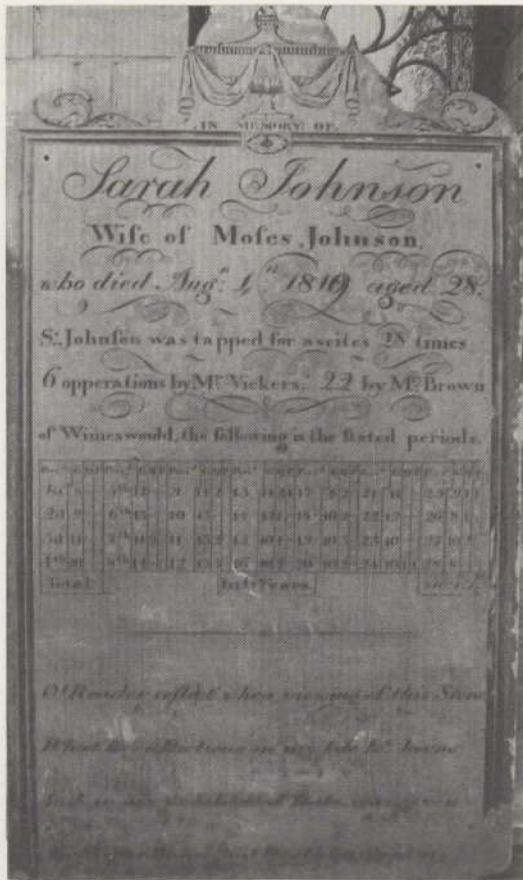
There is no evidence of stocks being set up near the cross, but it is probable that there once was. Mr. S. Smith who died at the age of 84 in 1949, having spent all his life in Hathern, told me that there were once stocks and a round house on the Round Bank (near the A.6 road, and since the advent of the motor bus wrongly called Hathern Green - the Green lies east of the churchyard), but of this I have found no further evidence.

F. SAVAGE

### Notes and References

1. Probably the last time recorded of preaching from Hathern Cross was in 1821-2, when an evangelical group, "The Ranters", invaded Hathern and preached and prayed in the streets and from the Cross (Records of the Life and Ministry of Rev. E.T. March Phillipps, M.A., Vicar of Hathern, etc., London 1862).
2. See Dr. T. Pochin's "Loughborough in 1779" (edited and reprinted 1970 by J.D. Bennett, the Book House, Loughborough). He mentions a butter and hen cross in Loughborough Market place, built on the site of an earlier cross. In Commonwealth days it was the law that Banns of Marriage were proclaimed from Market crosses. The Rev. A. J. Ison (see Note 7 below) states, "In several instances the intention of marriage was published "in the Market Place at Loughborough" on "three severall Market Days". The actual weddings occurred at Hathern, Lockington, Garendon, Mountsorrel and Kingston."
3. A local example of a lantern head is on the cross from Mountsorrel now in Swithland Park where it was transferred in 1793, and the present Butter Market substituted.
4. Bottesford in North East Leicestershire still has a cross of similar design to Hathern. It has lost the upper part of the shaft and head, but still has carvings on the four sides of the shaft plinth (in this case the arms of the de Roos family - the Lords of Belvoir). A wooden whipping post and stocks are adjacent. Another similar cross was restored and rebuilt in the summer of 1971 in the churchyard at Walton-on-the-Wolds, Leicestershire.
5. G. H. Green in "Leicestershire and Rutland Life", Vol.1, No.5, page 40 (1964). He also quotes verses of the poem.
6. Views in Leicestershire, drawn by W.E. Cooke, Pub. H. Wills, Loughborough. Not dated, probably c.1888.
7. T. R. Potter, "Rambles Around Loughborough," 1868.
8. Rev. A. J. Ison, B.A. "A few notes on the History of Hathern" in the Shepshed Almanac for 1928 (H. Freeman, Shepshed).





SWITHLAND SLATE HEADSTONES



HATHERN CROSS



(Reprinted) OCA TRUSTED A HISTORICAL RECORD

"MODERN LEICESTER", A CENTURY AGO

I have recently been lucky enough to acquire a book (condition dilapidated) called "Modern Leicester  
Jottings of Personal Experience & Research,  
by Robert Read, Junr.,  
Leicester, Winks & Co., 53 High St.,  
1881."

The book is dedicated to the Duke of Rutland.

This volume is twice quoted by Jack Simmons in his "City of Leicester", but without actual identification. Otherwise, I can find no reference to it, in any other book on Leicester which I have read. Much of the information supplied could, I imagine, have been acquired from the various Borough records, but the author has often explained, expanded and revived the dry facts of local history, and much of his information on gas, water, sewerage, etc., could certainly be classified as industrial archaeology.

As is usual in minor publications of that date, there is a quota of advertisements. These afford interesting glimpses of industrial history, through the types of goods stocked by the retailers of the period:

"Household furniture, Feather beds, Wool and Straw mattresses",  
and how is this for an example of the forerunner of the modern car exchange market:

"Central Carriage Repository

The proprietor begs to inform the public that he reserves an extensive show room for the storage of every description of vehicle that may be on sale or exchange, thus making a ready medium for any one having a carriage to dispose of. "

"Wanks & Son, Steam Printing Works."

This advertisement carries an illustration of their printing machine, looking like a cross between an old fashioned mangle and a grandfather clock.

There is an advertisement for chaplets and crosses in metal, with porcelain flowers at 3<sup>s</sup>/6<sup>d</sup> each.

We have come full circle now and plastics have taken over from nature again.

Old Leicester firms that have only vanished recently or are still in business are represented by Kendalls, umbrella manufacturers, Snaiths', wallpapers and paints, Everards, brewers, and chemists, Berridge and Wands.

There is the occasional vintage advert., which now seems humorous:

"Vitae Donum"

"It is as certified, free from, and owes its stimulating property in no measure to alcohol, so that it is what has been long sought for, 'a nice Teetotaler's drink'. "



## "MODERN LEICESTER", A CENTURY AGO (continued)

The woodcuts and drawings in "Modern Leicester" are interesting and bring back memories, such as the Bell Hotel, just demolished, and the Royal Opera House, drawn by George Spaunton Catlow, who was later art master at the Wyggeston Boys' School.

"Modern Leicester" commences with a chapter on Belvoir Castle and the Dukes of Rutland, and here, as throughout the book, part of its attraction lies in the very ornate, not to say fulsome style employed, well flavoured with superlatives.

For instance, the author refers to the sixth Duke, his contemporary, as "The noble Manners, who is not only noble, because he wears the strawberry-leaved coronet, but because he is the owner of a just, generous, philanthropic and thoughtful soul."

Visitors to Belvoir mentioned are the Prince Regent, and later Queen Adelaide, the Queen Dowager. Referring to the visit of this lady, we find "The Royal Progress from Gopsall, the seat of Earl Howe, through Leicester and Melton Mowbray, was attended by every circumstance of loyal rejoicing; while from Melton to Belvoir, her majesty was escorted by a troop of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. At Croxton Park, the royal party was met by the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood in carriages, and a splendid cavalcade composed of the entire Belvoir hunt, headed by Lord Forester, M.F.H."

"Through an avenue thus lined, Queen Adelaide drove across Blackberry Hill, and over the Knipton Reservoir to the guarded entrance to the castle. The Duke of Rutland's band struck up "God save the Queen", a royal salute was fired from the bastion, the royal guest was conducted to the grand saloon. "

Gopsall, Gunley, Garendon, all gone now! - and Leicestershire had so little to show of such buildings!

We now come to some remarks on the Corporation and their achievements.

In 1774 the town gates were removed, but our author remarks that within the mediaeval limits there is "much abundant evidence of 'rus in urbe'," - so Leicester was still in some respects a pleasant enough place, with trees and gardens and orchards.

"The New Walk was formed by the Corporation in 1785 to be a 'place of healthy exercise for the inhabitants'." Before 1835 the local legislature consisted of a mayor, 24 aldermen, and 48 Common Council men, none of whom were elected by popular vote. After the passing of the new Corporation Act, the election of the Council was much the same as at present.

When the new Corporation came into office, their desire was to abolish all abuses and reminders of the old corrupt set-up, and "the gold mace as an empty 'bauble' fell under the hammer for £85. Thirty years later it was repurchased by public subscription:

"The sergeant's mace which was also sold was presented back to the Corporation in 1876. It is of the date of Charles II. "

There follows a list of new streets built, including Filbert Street



"MODERN LEICESTER", A CENTURY AGO (continued)

of football fame, and improvements in the "No man's land" in Humberstone Gate (sounds topical), with a suggestion for:

"a miniature reproduction of the tree-shaded boulevards of Paris"

to be laid down there.

In 1868 the clock tower was built: "A thing of beauty and a joy for ever" according to our author. Previously, occupying the Clock Tower site or East Gate were "an unsightly old playhouse and a weighing machine". The lay-out of the market is much criticised:

"The Corn Exchange with its hideous 'bridge of sighs' is no credit to the metropolis of leather and elastic."

and

"It is difficult to see where the £280 went in 1877 when the Fish Market was extended. Who will be the benefactor of skilful conception and indomitable energy to carry out a creditable market scheme? He will deserve a statue to keep the Duke company" - along with the

"piled heaps of market stalls with their timber legs in the air."

To those who have followed all the controversy and argument over the reconstruction of Leicester's present market place in the past decade, even involving the reappearance of the good old Duke, all this sounds so, so, familiar!

The author continues with a very readable account of the Council's struggle with the sewage and flooding problems, and a description of the various alterations of the town's waterways, including widening and deepening various channels of river and canal, building sluices and weirs and digging new cuts.

Of the Abbey Park (written in 1881):

"Perhaps it would be rash as yet to designate the coming Abbey Meadow Park 'Our Corporation Folly', but the very large expenditure going on and contemplated in that dank, diphtherial and febrile spot, positively gives me the shivers. Total cost £56,856 (a rough calculation). Our descendants 100 years hence, if the floods are then dried up, and if the town has then by chance extended in that direction, may thank us for our unexampled generosity."

We are then treated to a lament that the Corporation has allowed the Wharf Street cricket ground, the Dane's Hill park, and Birstall Hall park to be lost to the public.

Then a chapter on Leicester's gas supply, with the Corporation in 1877 taking over from the Leicester Gas Company (formed in 1821 with 14 shareholders). The Aylestone Road gas works were then built. Profuse facts and figures are supplied as usual, with a sharp criticism that the new Gas Committee are

"in lamentable collision with legitimate tradesmen in the vain hope of inflating gas-consumption by trading in gas stoves,"



"MODERN LEICESTER", A CENTURY AGO (continued)

and a hope that the Committee will

"stoop to conquer by making a masterly movement to the rear."

Shades of a modern Gas Showroom!

Leicester's water supply is next discussed, with mention of the original supply from a spring near Conduit Street to a cistern in the Market Place. There followed the construction in 1853 of a reservoir at Thornton by a private company, and around 1866 the Bradgate reservoir was built. The concern was taken over by the Corporation in 1873, and shareholders were compensated with Corporation 4 per cent Debenture Stock.

In the account of the establishment of the cemetery on the Welford Road (1849), our author waxes lyrical:

"It is a fit resting place for 'Hands that the rod of Empire might have swayed!'"

and, "Since the first interment on the 28th June, 1849, some 65,000 wayfarers, 'After life's fitful fever, sleep well' in this pleasant spot. "

Then praise for the "necropolitan" style of the gravestones at Wilford Road, so much superior, according to the author, to the Swithland slate type found in the older churchyards:

"The backs of these stones (Swithland slate) has the appearance of a disorganised regiment of blackboards, placed upright."

Further sections of this book treat of the origins, content, personnel and finances (up to 1880) of the museum, library, town hall, cattle market, public baths, schools and hospitals and local charities. There is also a section on amusements, theatres, elections, industry and transport.

Spatial limitation prevents any further remarks on the remainder of "Modern Leicester". Possibly, a future Bulletin might contain more.

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O. C. TACEY



## EXCAVATION AT LONG WHATTON

### A Mediaeval 'Moated Manor' Site at Long Whatton (Interim Report)

It has long been known that there is a moated manor house site at Long Whatton, and soon after my arrival in the district Mr. Brian Williams was good enough to point it out to me, along with a number of other features in nearby fields.

In the winter of 1971-2, The Loughborough Society were good enough to ask me to investigate the site after it had been surveyed by a team of civil engineers under Mr. Pegg, to whom I am very grateful.

The site of the building is in the middle of a field of permanent pasture which has never been ploughed, thus preserving the quite sharp contours of the ditch. There are a number of other unexplained features, including a possible fish pond, and from an air photograph the outlines of possible fields. Though no Mediaeval 'rig and furrow' cultivation as outlined in other parts of the village.

In the spring of 1972, a trench 1 metre wide was started from the centre, approximately, towards the south. When the turf was off, there appeared a large quantity of sandstone slates with single holes. The area covered by the slates was several square metres, and there was a fair quantity of nails, and a small quantity of charcoal present. Below the slates there appeared a wall, or the footings of one. At this stage we increased the width of the trench to the east and another box was opened in the direction which offered most promise of results. There was some trouble locating the wall we were looking for, until someone had the brainwave of looking under the baulk. There it was!

At this stage we divided our activities to provide work for the ladies and the earth movers. The earth movers dug a trench to the lip of the ditch, and found as expected the layer of Kuyper marl over the boulder clay. The Ordnance Survey one inch geological map shows a small patch of the Kuyper marl in just this place. We hope in the future to take this trench across the ditch to find out more about its construction.

Meanwhile, the work on the east of the trench was enlarged, and the four walls of what we thought was a room were cleared. The baulk between the two sections was taken down and the whole 'room' was slowly cleared of the dark earth caused by occupation.

It soon became clear that what we had was not a room as such, but a pair of walls running parallel, which had been blocked off by some inferior cross walls. The major walls, running north and south were built of cut stone, much of it broken to a degree by frost over the years. The cross walls were built of rubble, some of it faced, but mainly as collected by the builders.

There are some peculiarities about these walls. They are butt jointed (see photograph), and not cut into the other wall. This argues a later date for the cross walls. On the other hand, most of the walls of each period are built on a single layer of smooth cobbles (see photograph); and in one case on the east wall, where the robbing had removed almost the entire wall, its course was clearly seen



## EXCAVATION AT LONG WHATTON (continued)

by the pebbles left in place. They were a level layer just as wide as the wall.

Further work is required on the 'room', especially as in places the occupation layer runs under the walls.

The west wall, at the point where it abuts the north wall, turns and goes westwards to parts unknown, while the east wall continues northwards and in the small section that we have of it, it is of very fine structure indeed. At the moment we are pursuing the west wall westwards, and we hope to find more of the house in the rest of the season.

The pottery fragments recovered from the occupation layer are drawn and described overleaf. But I think it is significant that the total amount of pottery was small by comparison with similar sites. It is possible we have yet to uncover the main occupation area.

At the very end of the season, just as this report was being drafted, another wall has come to light in the western area of the excavation. It is much too soon to say what it is, but the site is becoming far more complex than we at first thought. This in itself is exciting enough, but there is I am sure a lot left for many more seasons.

At this point, I would like to thank Lord Crawshaw, the owner, and Messrs. Peter and Robert Cawdell, who with their father farm the field in question, for allowing the excavation, and for the interest they have taken.

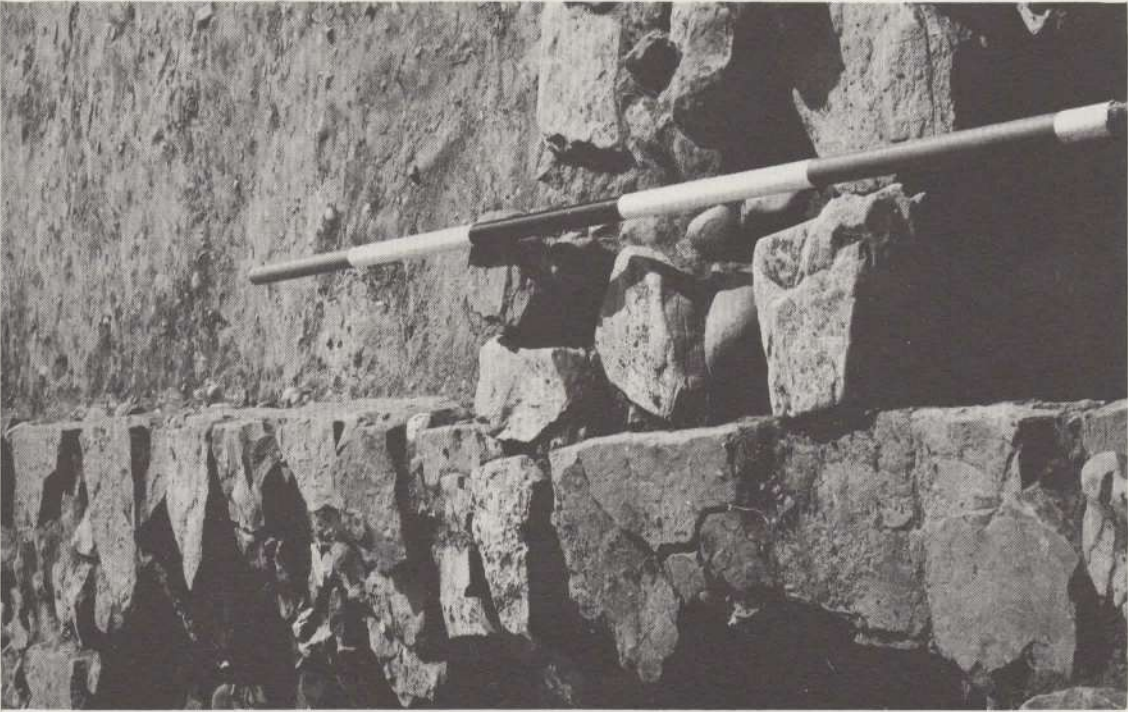
We have been fortunate in having many friends, and a generous number of experts in various fields have been to see and advise when required. In particular, Mr. Moffatt has been several times with his auger to test doubtful places. Mr. Derek Hope has surveyed the site and drawn the plans; Mr. Miller the photographs; Mrs. Tarver has drawn and described the pottery, and I am most grateful to her. Mrs. Tarver and Mr. Werrell have been acting as my chief assistants. We have received help in the digging from a number of members of the Society. To all of them, and the many others who came for a time or two, we offer grateful thanks.

In saying this I must make it clear that I alone am by tradition responsible for any opinions expressed herein.

We hope to start again as soon as the weather is fit, and intending diggers are asked to let me know, with addresses and telephone numbers, so that I can let them know when the time comes.

S. B. COLEY.





Above: North-East corner butt joint



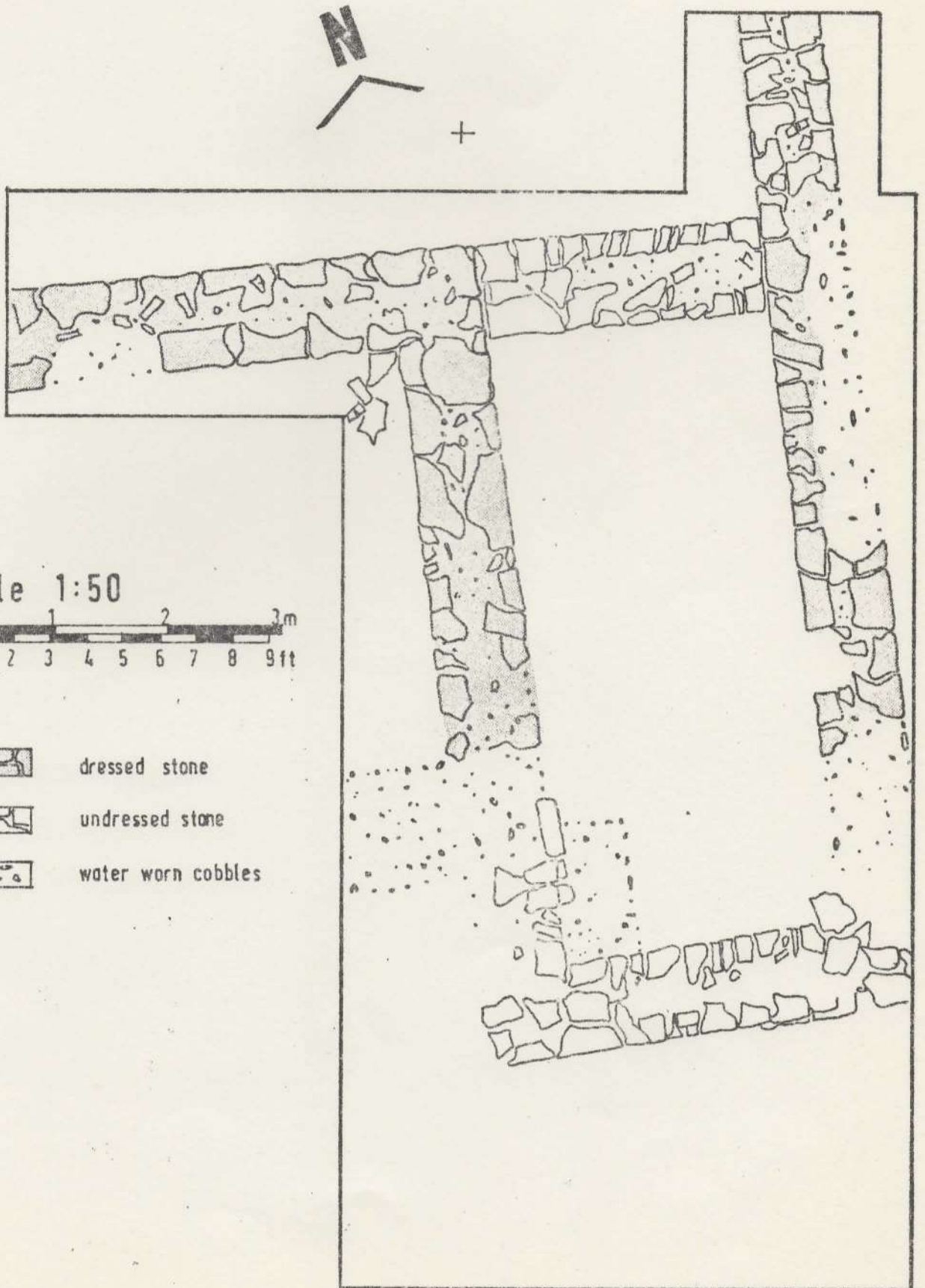
Top right: Site looking North

Right: Detail of West wall



# long whatton

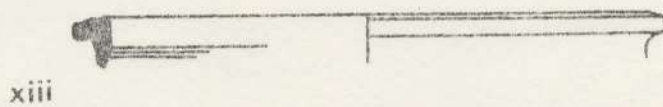
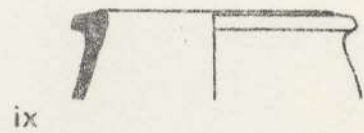
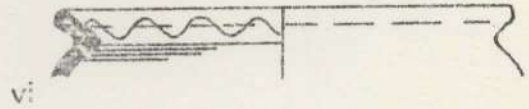
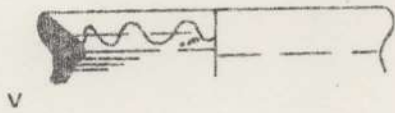
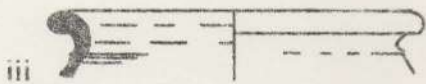
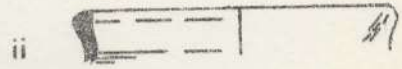
## 1973



20a



LONG WHATTON 1972-3





LONG WHATTON 1972-3

Pottery

- i Grey ware, probably Roman.
- ii Grey buff sandy ware. External scratch marks.
- iii Buff sandy cooking pot.
- iv Buff sandy cooking pot.
- v Orange/buff sandy cooking pot, incised decoration on lip.
- vi Orange/buff sandy cooking pot, incised decoration on lip.
- vii Orange/buff sandy cooking pot, grey core, unglazed.
- viii Orange sandy cooking pot, unglazed.
- ix Orange sandy cooking pot, unglazed.
- x Neck of jug, grey/white body with light green glaze externally.
- xi Orange sandy cooking pot, unglazed.
- xii Neck of jug, buff body. External green glaze extending over rim.
- xiii Cooking pot, sand gritted cream body with trace of internal green glaze.

As well as pottery, there have been a number of ridge tiles found. Some have decoration in the form of shaped points on the ridge itself, others are covered in green glaze. The roof slates are very rough sandstone with a hole at one of the corners for fixing. The sandstone has been split across the grain, making them fairly thick. A number of nails were found in conjunction with the roofing slates, but most were completely oxidised.



## BOOK REVIEWS

"Views of the Ancient Buildings of the Town and County of Leicester" drawn by J. Flower, with notes by J. D. Bennett. (De Elarge, High Street, Syston, Leicester. 1972. 26 plates, 10 pp. text £3-75.)

"A Prospect of Leicestershire" by Brian J. Bailey. Illustrated by David Weston. (The Inglenook Press, Pulloxhill, Bedford. 1973. pp 48. £1-50.)

These two books complement each other. The former was originally published in parts in 1826, while the latter is a completely new work.

Some of John Flower's views are familiar from postcards and calendars, but this is the first time that they have appeared as a complete volume. A few of the buildings depicted still remain, but most have disappeared. However, they give a contemporary picture of scenes in the city and county of Leicester in the early 19th century, and the appearance of the buildings which do remain can be compared with their state today. Eight pages of the text are Flower's own notes, the other two pages are by J. D. Bennett.

The "Prospect" is a delightful book, by two natives of Leicestershire. It is claimed to be a personal view, and so it is, and we may not entirely agree with the author. He presents snippets of Leicestershire history and life in a style that makes enjoyable reading but is perhaps a little caustic in places. The production, binding, paper and printing are all first class (although my preference is for the binding of the "Views", also first class), and the book would make an excellent present for all who have an affection for Leicestershire, especially those in exile. But hurry, it is in a limited edition of only 500, and deserves to be quickly sold out.

Both books increase our knowledge and appreciation of the county. Regrettably, most bookshops - especially those run on easy sellers and a quick return basis - do not stock either book, so we can be grateful that we have the Book House in Frederick Street (Loughborough) where both these books and similar works can be obtained.

F. SAVAGE.

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### RECENT NEW BOOKS ON ARCHAEOLOGY

Members may be interested to know of the following recent publications:-

Town and Country: Verulamium and the Roman Chilterns by Dr. Keith Branigan. 160 pp. 90 illustrations. Published by Spurbooks Ltd., 1, Station Road, Bourne End, Bucks. £2-95.

Handbook for Industrial Archaeologists by Kenneth Hudson. 84 pp. John Baker 75p.

Techniques of Industrial Archaeology by J.P.M. Pannell, 191 pp. David & Charles £1-75.

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## LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST

The Loughborough & District Civic Trust shares with the Loughborough & District Archaeological Society a desire to preserve local features of historical and architectural interest. Readers may therefore be interested in the following statement issued by the Trust:

### WHAT is THE LOUGHBOROUGH CIVIC TRUST?

Loughborough has its own Civic Trust. Formed in 1965, it is concerned with the preservation of the character and beauty of the town and its surroundings and with the improvement and development of amenities. There is plenty to be concerned about.

### What does the LOUGHBOROUGH CIVIC TRUST do?

The Trust runs an annual programme of visits, lectures, meetings and discussions on aspects of town conservation, improvement and development. Public meetings are usually held at the Public Library, smaller meetings at Quest House, Radmoor. Among recent meetings have been those dealing with Speculative Housing in Loughborough, the development of the University campus, the Town Map. During the present session the theme of the meetings programme is Looking at Loughborough.

There is also a programme of exhibitions and projects. In April 1968 the Trust organised, in co-operation with other amenity societies in Loughborough, an exhibition on the Loughborough Canal. This was connected with one of the Trust's main projects, the improvement of the Canal. A modest programme of improving the towpaths and the planting of trees has been initiated with the support and encouragement of the Borough Council. Further survey work has been begun, especially of trees and buildings, but much remains to be done.

### What do I do to JOIN?

The Trust looks forward to a vigorous extension of its activities and would very much welcome an increase in its membership. All who are interested in and sympathise with the objects of the Trust are eligible to join. Especially welcome are those who would be willing to make a contribution to the work.

Those interested should get in touch with one of the following:

F. E. Foden	Mrs. J. Bates	Miss P. White
10 Sunnyhill Road,	10 Priory Road,	122a Outwoods Drive,
Loughborough.	Loughborough.	Loughborough.

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THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1970-71

- 1970
- October 3rd The Story of our Villages,  
Mr. A.E. Lockington Vial, FRPS.
- October 10th Visit to Loughborough Grammar School,  
Mr. W. R. Griffiths, M.A.
- November 7th Half-day School, Roman Britain and Local Roman Sites  
Mr. J. B. Whitwell, M.A.
- December 5th History of the Posts  
Mr. J. Barlow.
- 1971
- January 9th Members' Evening.
- February 6th Memories of Egypt  
Mr. J. P. Brownlow.
- March 6th Whither shall we wander?  
Mr. C. D. Wostenholm, M.Sc., and  
Mr. B.C.J. Williams, ATD.
- April 3rd Annual General Meeting
- May 12th Evening Excursion to Thrumpton Hall  
Leader: Mr. H. F. Bing, M.A.
- June 5th Day Excursion to King's Lynn  
Leader: Mr. W. S. Moffat, M.Sc.
- June 30th Evening Excursion to the Vale of Belvoir  
Leader: Mr. B.C.J. Williams, ATD.
- August 14th Half-day Excursion to Sheffield  
Leader: Mr. C. D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.
- September 11th Day Excursion to Chedworth, Cirencester and Fairford  
Leaders: Mr. H.F. Bing, M.A., Mr. C.D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.  
and Mr. F. Savage.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1971-72

- 1971
- October 2nd Watermills. Christopher R. Irwin.
- November 6th Half-day School. Exploring Market Towns.  
Prof. A.M. Everitt, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S.
- December 4th Holy Wells & Hermitages.  
Mr. B.C.J. Williams, A.T.D., and  
Mr. G. T. Lingard.



THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1971-72

- 1972 January 8th Members' Evening.
- February 5th Excavations at Willington.  
Miss H.M. Wheeler, B.A.
- March 4th Wansdyke, Wat's Dyke & Offa's Dyke.  
Mr. P. J. Greaves, M.A.
- March 25th Annual General Meeting.
- May 6th Day Excursion to Chester.  
Leader: Mr. P. J. Greaves, M.A.
- June 7th Evening Excursion to Hallaton.  
Leader: Mr. J. P. Brownlow.
- June 24th Half-day Excursion to Conisborough Castle  
and Roche Abbey.  
Leader: Rev. S. B. Colley, M.A.
- July 29th Half-day Excursion to Fotheringay & Titchmarsh.  
Leader: Mr. C. D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.
- September 8th Evening Excursion to Nottingham Caves.  
Leader: Mr. J. Richards.
- September 23rd Half-day Excursion to Kibworth Harcourt  
Post-Mill & Carlton Gurlieu Hall.  
Leader: Mr. J. P. Brownlow.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1972-73

- 1972 October 7th Windmills.  
Mr. K. Lord, F.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.
- November 4th Half-day School. The Geology and History  
of Charnwood Forest. Mr. W. S. Moffat, M.Sc.,  
& Mr. B.C.J. Williams, A.T.D.
- December 2nd Witchcraft in Leicestershire.  
Mr. E. Swift, B.A.
- 1973 January 6th Members' Evening.
- February 3rd The Rural Metalworkers of the Sheffield Region.  
Dr. D. G. Hey, M.A., Ph.D.
- March 3rd Lincoln Cathedral, A Closer Look.  
Mr. D. G. Hewson.
- April 7th Annual General Meeting.
- May 5th Day Excursion to Lincoln.  
Leader: Mr. H. F. Bing, M.A.



THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1972-73

1973

- June 2nd Half-day Excursion to Lichfield & Tamworth.  
Leader: Mr. W. S. Moffat, M.Sc.
- June 20th Evening Excursion to Bingham.  
Leaders: Mr. B.C.J. Williams, A.T.D., and  
Mr. J. Richards.
- July 14th Half-day Excursion to Boston.  
Leader: Mr. C. D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.
- September 8th Half-day Excursion to Hardwicke Hall.  
Leader: Mr. C. D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1973-74

- October 7th
- November 4th
- December 2nd
- January 6th
- February 3rd
- March 3rd
- April 7th
- May 2nd



THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1973

1973

June 2nd Half-day Excursion to Whitford & Fenworthy.  
Leader: Mr. W. S. Hutton, M.B.

June 20th Evening Excursion to ...  
Leaders: Mr. S. J. ... and  
Mr. J. Richards.

July 14th Half-day Excursion to ...  
Leader: Mr. C. B. ...

September 5th Half-day Excursion to ...  
Leader: Mr. C. B. ...

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