

M^{rs} Wostenholm

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THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. II No. 2 - 1975

Editorial

This second issue of volume 2 of the Bulletin is the first that has been produced, without Mr. H.F. Bing being the Editor and the writer would like to place on record the very great debt the Society owes to Mr. Bing for overseeing the production of 12 issues over a period of 17 years.

The Old Rectory was first mentioned in Vol.1 No.2 of the Bulletin in 1959 when the late George Green contributed an article 'Loughborough Old Rectory House'. It received a mention in most of the later Bulletins culminating in the report in Vol.2 No.1 that it was hoped that the Borough Corporation would sponsor the publication of a full report. The reorganisation of local government and the present financial situation make this appear a remote possibility at present so included in this Bulletin is the long awaited report produced in a form that enables it, with the addition of some photographs, to be published as a self contained handbook.

W.S.M.

C.D.WOSTENHOLM

The Society suffered a grievous loss just before Christmas with the death of C.D. Wostenholm. Not only was Cyril Wostenholm a founder-member from the time of the Society's institution at the old Quest House in Park Street in 1955, but he had been the Society's first and only Treasurer. At the end of its first year he was able to report that there were twenty-four members and a balance of 12/3½. During his years in office he had seen the membership grow to the present 123, and had nursed the funds to a healthy stability.

A native of the Sheffield area, he had spent the last thirty years of his life in Loughborough, teaching at the former College School until his retirement seven years ago. A man of wide and varied interests, he played a full part in all the Society's activities, participating in excavations and giving many talks illustrated by his own colour slides. But he will perhaps be remembered best for the excursions he organised and led. These took the Society to many of the lesser-known places of the Midlands and South Yorkshire, and on these the archaeological interest was often supplemented by the fruits of his hobby of geology.

Despite declining health over the last year or so, he expressed the hope that he would be able to complete twenty years as the Society's Honorary Treasurer. Unhappily, he died a few months before achieving this ambition, but the Society is immensely indebted to him for his devotion to this self-imposed task and for his sage counsel over its formative years. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wostenholm and their two sons.

P.J.G.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD RECTORY, LOUGHBOROUGH.

This historic fragment stands like the Parish Church on the top of the low rise known as Toot Hill in the very heart of the ancient town of Loughborough. The town's records go back to the 1086 Domesday Survey, while archaeological evidence records man's activity back to at least 500 B.C.

The Old Rectory represents a rare survival of a stone built manor house structure dating substantially to the 13th century. The earliest surviving record of a rector is of Bertram, Dean of Lichfield in 1193. By 1220 Hugh Despenser is named Lord of the Manor of Loughborough and patron of four parts of the church. A fifth portion is recorded as being held by Philip de Cortlinstoke (taking the name from Costock Nottinghamshire) who evidently held a house or manor in the town and supplied his namesake - one A. de Cortlingstoke - as a vicar to the church. This entailed the vicar paying the Rector R. de Verdon supplied by Hugh Despenser a pension of 8 marks for the privilege. In 1228 it is recorded that "Henry, (the) chaplain, (was) presented by Thomas of Turville, rector of the church of Loughborough to the vicarage of the church of Loughborough", - - - - saying later of the vicarage, "the dwelling house of the church, which was Robert of Cortlinstok's near the church". This is possibly the earliest direct reference to this Old Rectory which by 1228 appears to have been acquired by the church from the Cortlinstoke family. It had doubtless been built years before 1228 when the first surviving records of this family in Loughborough appear.

From its size it is quite possible that as Loughborough grew prosperous as a merchant town in the later Middle Ages it formed a residence housing both Rector, together with attendant church chaplains, and servants. In 1344 the Rectory was taxed at 44 marks and paid 4 shillings for Peter's pence. For the year 1534-5 the value of the rectory was £26. A 16th century clergyman speaks in his Will of "the great reparacions" made by him to the rectory during his lifetime.

A set of glebe terriers dating between 1605 and 1674 give a very detailed description of the Old Rectory, which together with the architectural remains enabled the reconstruction drawings in this guide to be made. The oldest one is set out in full for study at the end. In addition to the Old Rectory itself, the then substantial grounds also contained a tithe barn of ten bays length, a Glebe barn of four bays, a hay barn of three bays, swinestyes and stables.

The stables mentioned were probably the ones used by cavalry during the periodic occupations by both Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War period. In 1644 the Rector, Nicholas Hall, escaped mounted Royalist Cavalry, who tried to seize him from his pulpit in church. Eventually he was unwillingly evicted from the Rectory and replaced by Oliver Bromskill. In 1662 he in turn was ejected and Nicholas Hall restored.

James Bickham, the Rector from 1761 to 1786, compiled a major collection of books which he bequeathed to the Rectory as an inheritance for all his successors to enjoy. It is now housed in the School of Librarianship, Loughborough Technical College.

The earliest known picture of the Old Rectory is an engraving dated 1794 and is contained in Nichols 'History of Leicestershire'

It shows the frontage facing the church with a square headed front door and four gables running into the long hall roof behind. The artist has taken licence to omit the medieval windows and doors by then blocked up, its medieval porch has gone, and shown is a ground and first floor row of square headed windows that indicate major internal reconstruction of the old medieval hall sometime in the late 17th or early 18th centuries. In 1799 - 1800 extensive repairs and improvements were carried out, under the supervision of the Loughborough architect, Christopher Staveley, at an estimated cost of £1350. Nichols, in his history dated 1804, says "A little distance from the churchyard gates stands the Rectory, or parsonage house, an ancient, strong edifice, built in the times when good English oak was plentiful hereabouts, as appears by the roof of this building in the inside".

In 1826, a terrible fire gutted the inside of the building and largely destroyed the ancient roof. As a result a late Georgian style block of reception and bed rooms was added making a new frontage at right angles to the old on the greensward area facing the road beyond the present ruined hall walls. The shell of the older part of the building was converted into kitchens and working domestic rooms and capped by a brick second storey of servants' bedrooms. In this state it survived until 1958.

Over this later period the extensive pasture and farmland belonging to the Rectory, giving it an air of a country mansion, gradually diminished as Loughborough grew. The numerous fetes and grand local occasions associated with the 19th and early 20th century Rectors are beyond the scope of this guide. For many, however, the nostalgic memory of the great rambling, creeper-covered Old Rectory, that age made slightly mysterious, set amid lawns, trees, and little paths winding through ferns and bluebells, still survives. It naturally had a strong tradition vouched by the last Rector, Archdeacon Lyon, of a secret tunnel from the Old Rectory to the Church. Such structures often really do exist and often prove to be medieval drain systems.

With the retirement of Archdeacon Lyon the building's centuries old function as a Rectory ceased. In 1958, the Old Rectory and some two-thirds of its immediate grounds were purchased by the Corporation as a site for old people's dwellings. For some time its fate hung in the balance. Between 1958 and 1961, members of the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society made a detailed examination of the whole building and compiled an invaluable record of photographs and drawings - despite terrible vandalism. From this it was possible to piece together the greater part of the original medieval plan that lay hidden behind later alterations. The interest generated locally and nationally by this work resulted in total demolition being avoided. In the autumn of 1962, all but the essential medieval core was demolished. The former extent of the building can be studied on the plan in the Old Rectory Museum. Between 1963 and 1967, restoration work, under the supervision of the Ministry of Works, was carried out to initial outlines provided by the Loughborough Archeological Society. The cost of this was met by the Corporation, with the help of a government grant. Today it serves as a small museum in a quiet oasis of a busy town.

The Old Rectory Today - a tour

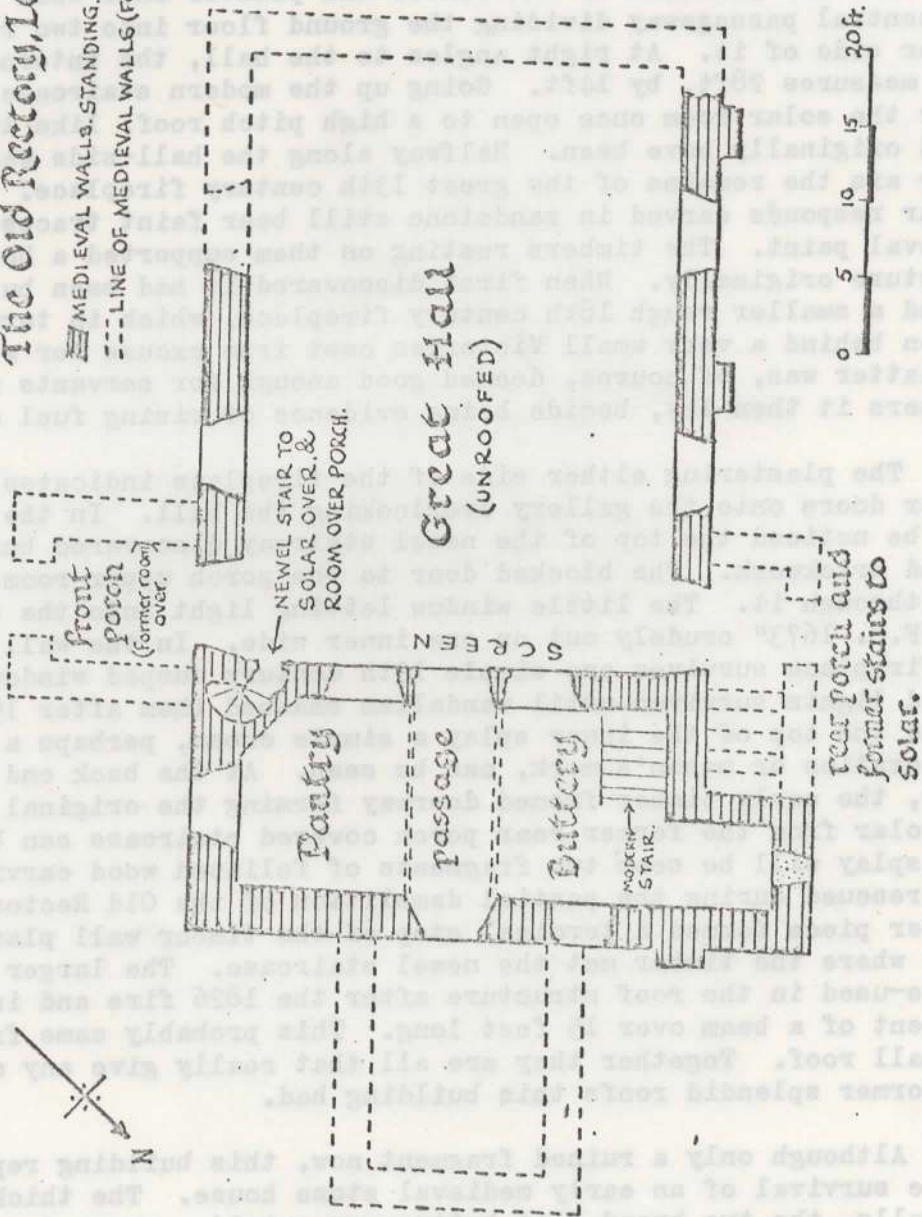
Standing first before the Old Rectory with your back to the Parish Church you are looking at the medieval front of the building. Because it was the front it was built of squared sandstone blocks in tints of cream, buff and grey. The other external sides are built of the local rough Charnwood Stone. The walls average three feet in thickness. The great pointed 13th century main entrance door still bears traces of moulded decoration and led into a great hall, open right up to the roof in the middle ages. This hall was lit by two tall windows on the front to the left of the door - traces of one making a ragged gap in the ruined wall can still be seen. Also surviving above it is a little timber of the original roof showing the high pitch it once had. Originally you would have entered this main door through a porch, the foundations of which lie beneath the path. Over the porch was a small room acting possibly almost like a guard room. The nearby Parish Church has such a room over its porch still surviving. This room was entered off a newel or spiral staircase leading off from the hall just inside the main door on the right. The blocked up entrance to this room over the porch can be seen slightly to the right over the main door on the first floor level outside. Beside it is a small glazed window that gives light to the staircase. To the right of the main door the building was divided into a ground and first floor level, having now a restored Swithland slated roof, that runs at right angles to the main hall. Notice the moulding still surviving on the upper window.

Enter the hall now and stand on the gravel facing the three doorways with the carved decoration infilling between them. Here you are in the great hall that was originally 42 feet long and, as now, 28 feet wide. Looking towards the domestic quarters with the solar or retiring chamber above it, the small 15th century door to the right led to the room over the porch previously described and also to the solar or bedroom. The central door led to a passage going right through this building to a single storey wing, now missing, on the other side (see the roof pitch stones when you walk around there). The doors to the left and right of the central one led to a buttery and pantry. The sadly mutilated but still beautiful carving set between the three doors is datable to between 1280 and 1340, being a nice example of geometrical tracery design - each different. It is amazing now, perhaps, to realise the mutilation that was done in the rebuilding after the 1826 fire. The left door was blocked by a huge Welsh kitchen dresser. The top of the central arch was cut back to fit a domestic square headed door, while a fireplace was built in front of the third arch and the carving was in the actual flue of the chimney which explains the soot traces on the carvings. All the projecting moulding was hacked off to allow a flush rendering of plaster, where it was to remain hidden and unknown for over 130 years. From the records we know that a minstrels gallery ran along the top of these doors entered upon from the solar by blocked entrances either side of the solar fireplace. The relieving arch to this fireplace can be seen above the central door. Originally there was another small door on the left balancing in proportion the spiral staircase door by the main entrance on the ground floor. Externally restoration has now hidden it, but it may have gone to a yet unexplored cellar.

The Old Rectory, Loughborough.

▨ MEDIEVAL WALLS, STANDING.

--- LINE OF MEDIEVAL WALLS (FOUNDATIONS ONLY)



B.C.J. Williams 1974.

Opposite the main entrance is the back door as it were. Go through it and observe the back of the Old Rectory. Originally you would have gone through a porch in doing so. In passing through this rear door you could also have turned sharp right and gone up a flight of steps covered by the porch roof to the old original way into the upper solar room. The 13th or early 14th century timber door now blocked with timber and plaster can clearly be seen at first floor level on this side. Being once under a porchway the timber was well protected. A portion of the roof pitch to this porch can also be seen. The back of the hall was also lit by two tall windows matching those on the front.

Entering into the roofed portion of the Old Rectory now, you will see surviving old timbers of the solar floor above you. You will also see portions of the timber and plaster wall work forming the central passageway dividing the ground floor into two rooms either side of it. At right angles to the hall, the internal overall area measures 28ft. by 14ft. Going up the modern staircase, you enter the solar room once open to a high pitch roof, like the hall would originally have been. Halfway along the hall-side wall of the solar are the remains of the great 13th century fireplace. Its two pillar responds carved in sandstone still bear faint traces of red medieval paint. The timbers resting on them supported a hood like structure originally. When first discovered it had been buried behind a smaller rough 18th century fireplace, which in turn was hidden behind a very small Victorian cast iron excuse for a fireplace. The latter was, of course, deemed good enough for servants in whose quarters it then lay, beside being evidence of rising fuel costs.

The plastering either side of the fireplace indicates the former doors onto the gallery overlooking the hall. In the corner will be noticed the top of the newel stairway discovered buried behind brickwork. The blocked door to the porch upper room can be seen through it. The little window letting light into the stairway has "F.P. 1673" crudely cut on one inner side. In the wall opposite the fireplace survives one simple 13th century cusped window whose leaded lights survived until vandalism smashed them after 1958. Toward the top of the inner splay a simple cross, perhaps a consecration or mason's mark, can be seen. At the back end of the solar, the early timber framed doorway forming the original way into the solar from the former rear porch covered staircase can be seen. On display will be seen two fragments of foliated wood carving that were rescued during the partial demolition of the Old Rectory. The smaller piece formed a terminal stop of the timber wall plate in the solar where the timber met the newel staircase. The larger piece was re-used in the roof structure after the 1826 fire and is an end fragment of a beam over 15 feet long. This probably came from the old hall roof. Together they are all that really give any clues to the former splendid roofs this building had.

Although only a ruined fragment now, this building represents a rare survival of an early medieval stone house. The thickness of the walls, the two broad flat buttresses outside, suggest a 12th century start for this building. This suggestion is hepled by the discovery of two stone fragments. One is a worn chevron decorated

window head in a nearby boundary wall. The second was the discovery of a re-used Norman doorhead lintel, its carving very badly worn, on the frontage of the old Rectory itself. This was removed for protection.

Parallels are not easy to come by, but the interior of the Guildhall in Leicester could be cited as a timber example of the Old Rectory hall. The restored manor house at Donington le Heath has similar features including 13th century windows like our solar example. The Norman hall at Boothby Pagnall in Lincolnshire has an outer staircase although perhaps a closer parallel may be seen in the hall and outer staircase of Stokesay Castle in Shropshire. As a Rectory this building probably represents one of the oldest in the country.

BRIAN C.J.WILLIAMS, A.T.D.

The Old Rectory is in the care of the Charnwood Council's Parks Department, and is open to the public on Thursdays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. during the months of May to September, and at other times by prior arrangement.

GLEBE TERRIER OF SEPTEMBER 29th. 1605

Imprimis the Homestall or site of the Parsonage lyeing between the Church Yard on the east the King's Highway on the west and south and a butting upon two closes th'one belonging to the Rectory th'other to the Lord on the north. Item within the said grounds are conteyned the orchard and garden walled Round by estimaconan Acre and an halfe divided by a quick hedge. Another grase' Plott adjoining to the Church Yard and fen'ed by a stone wall by estimacon three Roods or Court Yard walled about before which is a Convenyent Grase Plott at the Ent'ence of which is a small door and a parr of Gates.

Item the House being of stone has an Hall into which the entrance Lyes. On the left hand is a large Parlour with a Pantery behind it on the right is a small parlour with another Pantery at the end of it. The Passage through the Hall leads to a large Stare Case and another smaller Hall on the left hand of which is a good large Cellar divided in the middle. On the right hand of which passage is a convenyent Cole House and on the left brewhouse. All these rooms have Chambers over them with Convenyent Closetts and large Garretts over most of them the House is covered with slates.

Item in the Kitching Yard is a new pump with a new stone wall which divides this from a Large Barne Yard and towards the North East in the yard is a large Barne of tenn Bayes Thatched called the Tythe Barne near which are a row of Swinestyes made against a wall in th'other is another Barne called the Hay or Glebe Barne being about four bayes. There is also a stable and Barne for Hay consisting of three Bayes.

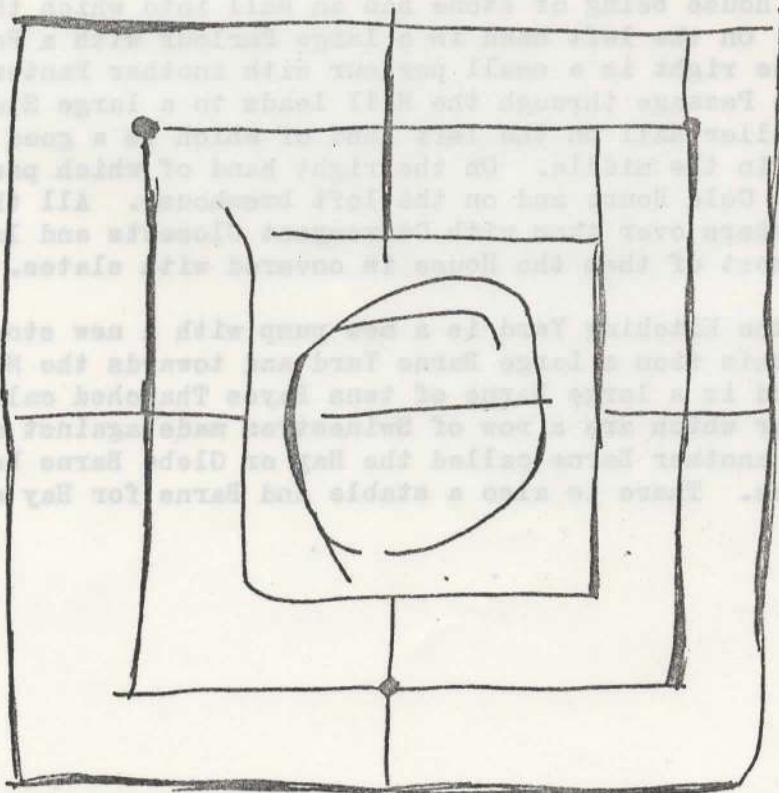
MERELLES or NINE MEN'S MORRIS

My report on the finding of a Nine Men's Morris stone in Wyfordby Church (Bulletin Vol. 2 No. 1 1973), has led to the discovery of yet another example of this ancient game. Kindly brought to my notice by Rev. J. Frostick of St. Botolph's Church Shepshed; who having read my previous article has recognised a Nine Men's Morris or Merelles game, carved on the wooden seat of a 15th century pew in the north aisle of his church.

A variation occurs in this example, for in the centre is scratched a circle with divisions. An example of this game excavated at Connerton in Cornwall has a star-like shape etched on the slab beside the gaming board, and a similar variation can be seen on the example in Hargrave Church, Northamptonshire. The object of these shapes is a little obscure; one theory is that during play, as the merells or counters are removed, they were placed within the circle or star-shape, in the opponents full view to avoid cheating; another theory suggests that bets were made on the result of each game, and the circle or star was a home for the stake placed before the game commenced. How to play the game of Merelles or Nine Men's Morris was described in the previous article.

The position of the pew where this game is carved at Shepshed is of interest, for two people sitting one each side of the marked out game could have played it, and probably did, whilst vicars of bygone years deliberated their lengthy sermons, for conveniently a large pillar in direct line with the pulpit would have shielded the players from the priest's view.

J. RICHARDS



Sketch of Nine Men's Morris, St. Botolph's Church, Shepshed.

Actual size c8" square.

SILEBY AND IT'S FIELD NAMES, with some suggestions of their derivations

SILEBY seems to have been derived from a Danish personal name SIGHULF - his BY - or homestead. Sighulf was most likely a member of the disbanded Danish army who settled in this particular place in the late 9th century. It was midway between the earlier settlements at Barrow-on-Soar and Cossington, both established on gravel patches just above the flood plain of the River Soar.

Sileby is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1087 as parcels of land of three different Manors. These were, the Royal Manor of Rothley, the Manor of the Earl of Leicester, Hugh Grantmesnil, and the Manor of Barrow-on-Soar belonging to Hugh Lupus Earl of Chester. Three slightly different names appear in the Survey for the village viz, Siglesbie, Siglebi and Seglebi.

Most of the field names seem to have originated soon after the settlement of the village.

In a Charter of 1478-9 (Hastings MS No.369) by which Thomas Gybson of Syleby co, Leycs, granted to Robert Gybson of Syleby, his son and Agnes his wife, certain lands in Syleby, the following field names are referred to and their relative positions identified to some extent.

'one croft next to the croft of the Lord' (of the Manor of Sileby) - by this date the three original Manors' lands had become amalgamated.

'Seynt Mary Hedeland' (Glebe land of St. Mary's Church Sileby)

'Howfeld on Myrehyll' (How- Saxon hill or mound, Myre - boggy) it therefore translates to 'the mound field on the boggy hill'.

'le Akers' An hybrid name, (le - Norman French, Akers - Norse fields) it therefore translates to 'the fields'.

'le Wroos' (the ?, Hroos - horse in Old Norse)

'Welbeck field' Spring - brook field. Now commemorated in Wellbrook Avenue.

'Lyttle Barowsyke' Little Barrow stream.

'Nether furlong and le gates' Lower furlong and the roads. (Gates - Scandinavian for roads).

'Bromchowe' Broom-hill ? Later records show there was a lot of furze and heathland.

'le Akersland' See le Akers above

'Mylnholme' Islet ? (Holme- Scandinavian for islet)

'candeby field' The homestead field of another Dane ?.

'le rushes' Shades of Loughborough !

'Meythewong' In later records Merrywong - Mary Vangr ? (Mary from St. Mary, Vangr - Scandinavian furlong).

'Candebysycke' Canby stream.

'Southfeld' Southfield was one of the open fields at the time of the enclosure award (1759) in Sileby.

'Sowt howgh headland' South hill headland ?.

'le Southend' Not by the sea !

'Welough doles next Halsted' Willows growing land near a cattle shelter ?.

'Hall meadows'

An indenture of 1625 names further pieces of land as follows.

'Hundri Hall Stockinge'

'Hyegate' High road, commemorated now in Highgate Road.

'Woodgate' The road into the woodlands.

'Between Gates' Between roads.

'Haystye'

In a Glebe terrier (an inventory of lands belonging to the church) of 1734 the open fields were listed as ;

Little Canby Field

Upper Canby Field

Howgate Field

Highgate Field

South Field

Each field contained various named furlongs as follows ;

Little Canby Field

High Breach furlong

Clous pitts furlong - clay pits ?

Walton Gate furlong - the footpath or road to
Walton on the Wolds.

Walton Gate betwixt the Closes

Whartlands - a corruption of thwart or wheat ?

Under the parks - ?

Six roods shooting into Howgate

Under the woulds

Whity bush - ?

In the hay and Shrobsty - ?

Cawdolls - ?

Upper Canby Field

betwixt the closes in Canby sick - small holdings
by the stream ?.

Frogholes or Barrow brook

Merrywong - see Meythewong in 1478 entry.

against Wheatlyheadland

High Stye

Bourne sick

Longsfurlong

South Field

Peasehill - a pea growing area now commemorated
in Peashill Close.

Stonylands

Barnards Close - Robert Barnard one time owner
of Sibley Mill, and relative of wealthy
Sibley born merchant Tailor William Lane.
Both of these Gentlemen left substantial
charities for the poor of Sibley.

Highgate Field

High Stye

against double hedges

Longsfurlong

under the parks

Nether Stye and Canby Sick

Bourne Acres

Seggshill Stye - Seggshill was the former name
of Sixhills. (Segg - sheep)

in the hay and haystye

betwixt gates

Greedon - Commemorated in the road name Greedon
Rise.

Meadow Ground

Platt abutting against Southfield lays - (platt
- place)

Southholme Bank platt

Southholme Gap platt

Felford ford plat - meadow fording place over the River Soar ?.

platt called bottom of Longlands Park platt

Diminsdale plat - Little valley ?.

Acre lands plat

Long Northing platt

Short Northing platt

Rye Grass

in a Marsh platt

Bramnsford platt - Another fording place over the Soar ?.

platt called betwixt dikes

Cow pastures - seven

Horse commons - five

Sheep commons - forty seven and half

The following field names have survived into the second half of the twentieth century.

The farm lands of Mr.P.Astill - the old Canby fields - Merrywong, Church headlands, Royal knolls, Rine hole, Mares House, Whartlands, Big and small Frogholes, Bonsick, Brink hill, Beanrick, Woodgate, Penclose, Four bush field, Dipping field, Brookfield, Barrowbrook field, Twelve Acres, Ten Acres, Hinck's front field, Quebec front field, Harrison lodge, Canby lodge, Clock piece (in allotments the rents of which pay for the winding of the church clock).

Some fields are still corrugated on the surface from earlier 'ridge and furrow' strip farming. In 1970 these were named, Televary, Spring fields, Upper Banks, Top and bottom warren, 'Rough uns', Open Wardes, Highgate furlong, Walton Gate furlong, Little Church headland and Mares House.

Finally, a bridge on the Sibley to Mountsorrel road over the River Soar is now known as Essex Bridge which is a corruption of its earlier names, Heathersic, Ithersic and Hithersick.

Until the war years of 1939-45 osiers were grown for the purpose of basket making on a field bounded by the road bridge and river, hence Heather or Osier stream.

J.H.WHITTINGTON

DISHLEY - An Introduction

Dishley. What visions does the name evoke ?

To today's generation, a growing housing estate adjoining Thorpe Acre, an industrial estate and sports fields.

To those a little older, a mile or so of fields between Loughborough and Hathern, with a watermill beside the Blackbrook where the brook passed under the A6 road, a farmhouse behind some pinetrees and a pair of 20th. century houses next to a tiny thatched cottage.

To those older still, an airfield during the 1939-1945 war on what was previously a steeple chase course, a disused toll house and perhaps skating on the mill pond when it froze in winter.

Road works and current building programmes are transforming Dishley; but these are the most recent of Dishley's transformations. The toll house disappeared in 1954, the mill has gone and the mill building is now converted into a modern home and the old keeper's cottage on Pear Tree Lane has also been modernised.

Although there is not even one sign in Dishley to say when one is there, Dishley is an old settlement. In the Domesday Book there are two entries. From one we learn that the lands had belonged to Queen Edith, daughter of Earl Godwin and the widow of King Edward the Confessor, had passed into the hands of the King (William I) and were then farmed by Earl Godwin. There was one hide of land, thirty three families (16 villeins, 16 sokemen and 1 bordar) who had eight ploughs. There were also two mills, ten acres of meadow and a wood that had been waste and which was four furlongs in both length and breadth. In the other entry Dishley is linked with Hathern under the entry giving the lands held by Earl Hugh. These lands included twenty acres of meadow, and a wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs long and 1 furlong broad, which had previously been held by King Harold. Whether they were actually in Dishley or Hathern is uncertain.

George H. Green (1) thought that Dishley would have been larger than Hathern. He also mentions a reputed Iron Age tumulus and a length of roadway starting and finishing in the fields of Dishley Grange which may have been Roman. The tumulus was in a field east of, and adjacent to, the A6 road almost at the summit of the hill leading out of Hathern. It was levelled by a bulldozer in about 1947, and was known locally as the 'Humpy'.

In the time of William II the lands at Dishley were owned by Rabellus de Seigneville (2). All of his lands were later given to Garendon Abbey by its founder Robert Bossu. All except the advowson of the church, which with certain tithes, was held by the Abbey of Leicester until 1454, when it was appropriated to Garendon (1st November 1454). Hamilton Thompson (3) says that the church was on the opposite side of the brook from the parishioners, and a petition was made for its appropriation to the Abbey of Garendon. This was agreed to by Bishop Chedworth (30th, January) and the Abbot of Garendon was directed to appoint a chaplain to serve it. The last

rector presented by the Abbot of Leicester was in 1453. A list of the rectors of Dishley supplied by Leicester Abbey is given by Hamilton Thompson (4).

In 1280 Dishley, Thorpe Acre and Loughborough were counted as one vill, and at the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 Dishley was leased by the Court of Augmentations to Sir Wm. Gorfyn, Knight. On March 8th 1540/1 Dishley was granted along with the Garendon lands to Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland. In 1573 it was restored to Edward, Earl of Rutland, after having being fiefed by the Queen, and in 1630, it was the property of George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. When Ambrose Phillipps purchased the Garendon estate in 1693 Dishley was included and has remained with the Phillipps-Delisle family to this day.

Where the original village exactly was, and how big it really was, is difficult to determine. It was a victim to the spread of sheep rearing. Seventy per cent of the income of Garendon Abbey came from sheep, and as less people are required to tend sheep than to till the land, the population of Dishley gradually dwindled. Leicestershire villages were deserted between 1450 and 1600, and the desertion of Dishley was probably in progress in 1458 when the church owing to the smallness of the revenues was left without services.

Dishley was a grange of Garendon Abbey which farmed 490 acres there. It would be during this period that the Stonebow Bridge over the Blackbrook was built, and the medieval road between Garendon Abbey and Pear Tree Lane was constructed. The monks would also have built the monastic barn, said by Nichols to have been 50 yards long and 15 yards broad, with beams described by Throsby as being like those of Leicester Castle (5). The architect Augustus Welby Pugin considered it to be the finest ancient barn in England. In 1846 it still existed (6), but was demolished by Charles March Phillipps (who died in 1862) to satisfy the whim of Farmer Charles Bosworth, his tenant.

It has been suggested (7) that Dishley church, now in ruins, was founded c1160. It belonged to the Deanery of Akeley which was instituted before 1220, but before 1428 it ceased to be a separate parish (8). The church history has been dealt with in detail in a previous Bulletin (9) and it is not proposed to repeat that information here, a few additional notes should suffice.

The Matriculus of Hugo Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, made in 1220 records Ricus as being rector of Dishley. Ricus is also given as the name of the rector of Hathern. The same priest may thus have been in charge of both parishes. The last minister was the Rev. E.T. March Phillipps, rector of Hathern.

The last memorable event held in the church was the marriage of Sophia, daughter of Thomas March Phillipps, to Henry Ryder, 2nd. son of the Earl of Harrowby, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The first recorded wedding was of Samuel Phillipps and Mary Allsopp by Rev. William Middleton (also rector of Hathern) in December 1776; and the last of Samuel Barson and Eliza Morley in September 1844 by the Rev. Santon.

In 1845 Dishley church was replaced by the church at Thorpe Acre which took the same dedication of All Saints and thereafter was left to decay. The ancient oak parish chest, however, is still preserved in the nave of Thorpe Acre Church. The font, after being dumped for many years in Shepshed Churchyard, was reinstated in St. Botolphs in 1968 where it stands in the north aisle. Doubt has been expressed whether the bowl and pedestal are both sections from the same original font. The bell, described by North (10) as cast in 1813 and weighing 2cwt. 1qr. 19lbs., was taken to Garendon, where it remained until 1890 when it was presented to St. Winefride's Church, Pick Street, Shepshed by Everard Delisle Esq. In 1928 it was transferred to the new St. Winefride's Church in Charnwood Road. It was used until Christmas 1949 when it was found to be cracked, and after being recast at Messrs. Taylor's Bell Foundry, was rehung and rung for the first time on Sunday 30th April 1950. The recast bell weighs 5cwt., is named Maria, and is inscribed "Oret voce pia pro nobis virgo Maria" (11).

In 1708 John Ransdale left a close of 10 acres called Turville Leys, in Woodhouse, in trust that the rents thereof should be distributed on St. Thomas's day and Good Friday amongst the poor of Thorpe Acre and Knightthorpe. His tombstone is in Dishley church yard.

The best picture of Dishley church before it became a ruin is among the drawings of W.E. Cook in 'Views of Leicestershire', published by H. Wills, Loughborough c1880. Drawings of the mill and millpond also appear in the same publication.

The ruins of the church have been renovated in recent years and are now kept in a respectable state by the present owner, Squire Gerard Delisle.

Near the church is a mausoleum in which are buried the bodies of Catherine, the second wife of Rev. Harriman Hamilton, vicar of Shepshed and the youngest daughter of Thomas March Phillipps who died in 1830, and the Rev. William March Phillipps who died in 1818. The tombstone to Catherine was removed from the ruins and is now in St. Botolph's Church, Shepshed.

There is an interesting reference to Dishley in Nichols (12) under the entry for Bowden Magna.

"May 7th. 1651. By virtue of an act of parliament, intituled an act for the better payment of augmentations, out of rectories, vicarages, or tithes, sequestered from papists and delinquents &c. it is ordered, that the yearly sum of £30 be paid, out of the impropriation of Dishley, in the county of Leicester, sequestered from the Countess dowager of Rutland recusant, to and for the increase of the maintenance of Nicholas Kindriche, minister of the parish church of Great Bowden in the county aforesaid; his present maintenance being only a stipend of £20 a year, and the commissioners for sequestrations in the said county are required to pay the same at such times and seasons of the year as the same shall become dues and payable.

Richard Edwards, Gilbert Millington,
Wm. Healingham, Pe. Temple Millington"

Dishley Grange was the home and farm of Robert Bakewell of sheep breeding fame. This period has been dealt with in detail by Nichols and others.

The present Dishley Grange farm was built in 1845. There are traces of a moat nearby. Could this once have been a site of a moated manor house ?

The bridge over the Blackbrook near the mill had two arches in 1675 and was rebuilt in 1889 (13). In 1974 the A6 road over the Blackbrook has been modified and a new bridge built.

By early in the 19th. century Dishley and Thorpe Acre were united as one parish. In 1888 and 1891 there were boundary changes between Dishley, Thorpe Acre, Knightthorpe, Garendon and Loughborough (for details and for the population at this period see the Victoria County History of Leicestershire Volume 11 p.200), and in 1936 the whole of Thorpe Acre and Dishley was transferred to Loughborough.

A short lane leading into a public footpath along the ancient boundary between Dishley and Hathern is today known as the 'Moors'. Could this be a corruption of 'Mere' an old name for a parish boundary ? There is a Long Mere Lane near Diseworth, a Mere Hill between Cotes and Prestwold, and between Charley Hall and the Oaks in Charnwood there is a footpath known as the 'Mires'.

F.Savage.

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LONG WHATTON EXCAVATION - Interim Report 1974

Excavation has continued on the moated site at Long Whatton during the summer of 1974.

An area of c 30sq.m. has been stripped to the west of the area explored during 1973. This has revealed the familiar scatter of Charnwood roof slates. These have been cleared and the line of the north wall has been exposed for a further 7m. An area of cobbles 24cm. in width joins this wall on the north side before the wall turns south at a distance of 7m. from the first parallel walls discovered in 1972. The area to the south of this wall will be examined for evidence of occupation during 1975.

Finds have been limited to roof nails, ridge tile fragments and a small amount of medieval pottery, including two sherds of green glazed ware with a simple rouletted decoration.

Looking forward to 1975, we have moved the tool shed and toilet onto the moated area in order to be able to offer our diggers a little more comfort! Our thanks go to the Cawdell family for allowing us to rent the whole of the moated area which will give us the opportunity of exploring the site more widely in 1975 - providing a variety of heavy and lighter tasks for those interested. Finally, our thanks to all our diggers without whose efforts a report would not be possible.

The opening of the 1975 season depends, as usual, upon the vagaries of our weather, and an announcement will be made at one of the indoor meetings.

E.MILLER
A.TARVER
S.WERRELL

CURE FOR AN INTERMITTANT FEVER - From the Common Place Book of the Rev. Robert Marsden October 7th. 1792

1. A vomit
 2. A dram of bark and a dram of conserve of wormwood, made into an electuary, with tincture of snake root. Take half at going to bed and half in ye morn. -fasting.
- Conserve of Wormwood, as in conserve of roses, is three times ye weight of sugar to one of wormwood.
Tincture of Snakeroot is an oz. of snakeroot, infused in a pint of brandy within the air of the fire.
This Remedy seldom misses and sures (sometimes) at twice or thrice taking.

Mrs.Marg. Vincent.

Miss P.White

with acknowledgements to the Nottinghamshire Records Office.

A LOCAL BIBLIOGRAPHY compiled by John Richards and Francis Savage

Interest in local history is on the increase. Many people move to live in new places, and wish to know something about their new environment. Frequently people with whom they come into contact are newcomers too so their questions go unanswered. Experts set down their findings in publications which are often little known and frequently dispersed. To help interested people to find out what has been written we offer this local bibliography. We do not claim to be complete, so if you know of any items that should be included in future lists, or know of any errors in this list, please let us know. All information will be appreciated.

Send your information to: Mr. F. Savage, 541 New Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 0EX.

Editor's Note These lists have not been produced in any special order and in some instances the full reference is not provided. It is hoped that when the lists are more complete they will be reissued in correct date order

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Further lists will follow in a later Bulletin.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1973-1974

After another season at the moated manor house 'dig' at Long Whatton, a series of successful excursions and a four week period of staffing the Old Rectory on Saturdays, the Society began the Winter Programme on October 6th. with a talk by Mr.F.D.Colquhoun of the Ordnance Survey, on 'The Ordnance Survey and Archaeology', in which the various maps of archaeological sites published by the Ordnance Survey were described and explained.

This was followed on November 3rd. by a half-day school on 'Some Aspects of Prehistory' by Professor D.A.Simpson, M.A., F.S.A. of the University of Leicester. His lectures were mainly about the Wessex Culture.

On December 1st Mr.S.B.Coley, our excavations advisor, under the title 'An Amateur Archaeologist in Palestine' related his experiences there, and gave a resume of 9000 years of history of the Holy Land.

January 5th. was Members' Evening. This continued the tradition of proving how popular members' evenings are. This year, due more to co-incidence than to preplanning, two films were shown, 'Peacock Pavement' from Leicestershire County Library and 'Caring for History' from the Department of the Environment. Unfortunately these took up time allotted to members' contributions. However, items of archaeological interest were able to be exhibited, some slides were shown, a photographic competition and a pictorial quiz were held. (Contributors to the evenings success were Mesdames Fisher, Cook, Tarver, and Messers Richards, Bing, Moffat, Stretton, Cooke, Greaves, Tacey and Olle).

February 2nd. was another highlight of the Winter, when the 'Battle of Bosworth' came under scrutiny. The Society turned up in force, about 70 members being present; a number which rather surprised the speaker, Dr.D.T.Williams, B.A., Ph.D. of the University of Leicester, who had anticipated a smaller attendance. The lecture justified the turnout and the enthusiastic reception was summed up by a lady member who said afterwards that it was the first time that she had enjoyed a battle.

For March 2nd. there was a return to Roman days, when Mr.A.A. Round, B.Sc., F.S.A. of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society gave an up-to-date report on the excavations of the Roman site of Letocetum at Wall in Staffordshire. He had been on the site a few hours earlier. This talk prepared us for our visit to the site in May.

The Annual General Meeting on April 6th. attracted a large attendance. Business affairs were soon dispatched and the evening continued with talks and slides postponed from the members evening.

The first of the Summer excursions was held on May 11th. This was led by Mr.Coley and was to Wall in Staffordshire. At Wall the President of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society, Mr.A.A. Round, who had spoken to us in March, acted as guide to the Roman site of Letocetum. After tea at Lichfield a homeward call was made

to see the church at Clifton Campville, which had several outstanding features, including an Easter sepulchre, wall paintings and medieval woodwork.

Messrs. H. Stretton and J. P. Brownlow were the leaders of the June 8th. excursion to Kirby Hall and Rockingham Castle in Northampton-shire. This excursion made history, for owing to very heavy bookings it was the first time that two coaches were required. Over 70 members took part, and the leaders gave a knowledgeable commentary on interesting things to be seen on both outward and return journeys. The maze at Wing was visited on the way home.

Nearer to home, Mr. B. C. J. Williams conducted an evening tour of Charnwood Forest on June 26th. He gave an interesting account of historical and scenic features as well as the archaeological, and a visit was made to the Hanging Stone Rocks near the Oaks-in-Charnwood Church.

On July 20th. a long excursion was accomplished. Long, not only in distance in miles, but also in years gone by. The destination was Wiltshire, and the places visited included the pre-historic monuments of Silbury Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow and the stone circle at Avebury. Even the much admired Saxon font in the Avebury church, although still ancient, seemed relatively modern by comparison. Our leader, Mr. J. M. Buckeridge, a Wiltshireman himself, was an admirable guide to his own land. To complete the day and to compliment the sites visited the fine collection of pre-historic exhibits in Devizes Museum was kept open especially for our visit.

The last excursion, on September 7th. was to Cambridge. The treasures of Cambridge cannot be exhausted in one day, and those to which our leader Mr. P. Greaves introduced us are sure to inspire further visits. He also introduced us to the Cromwell Museum at Huntingdon and the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial at Madingley.

As soon as weather permitted in the Spring, the excavations of the moated manor house at Long Whatton were resumed and continued throughout the Summer and Autumn.

In mid-August, for the third successive year, the Old Rectory was open on Saturdays, staffed by our members. The number of Saturdays it was open increased from four to eight and the number of our members who voluntarily staffed it increased from thirteen to thirty. A new exhibition was prepared for the Saturday openings which showed aspects of the preservation of the Old Rectory and the excavations at Garendon and Long Whatton.

F. SAVAGE

