Friends of the Department of English Local History

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER NUMBER 12 OCTOBER 1999

The cover photograph, of the village green at Alconbury in Huntingdonshire, is taken from an original slide in the Attenborough Photographic Collection held by the Department of English Local History. The ELH archive holds some 1,200 photographs taken by F.L. Attenborough during his time as Principal of University College, Leicester, between 1931 and 1951.

A keen photographer, he accompanied W.G. Hoskins on many field trips and his photographs adorned many of the published results. Altogether there are 2,450 images, including some 1,160 photographs taken by Hoskins himself, held in the department, which are now made readily perusable (through the Helix Image Service for Higher Education) by using the department's web browser on http:www.helix.dmu.ac.uk as advertised in the last Newsletter.

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EDITORIAL

The twelve months since the last Newsletter have brought mixed fortune for the Friends. The period started badly. In November the stresses and strains of heading a department, which he himself paradoxically described as 'acephalous', finally told on Harold and led to his long-intended resignation as our chairman. As a founder member he had filled this rôle from inception and saw the realisation of a long desired aim with the award of the first Friends' bursaries in 1997. We shall miss him, in many ways, but are delighted that Keith Snell agreed to take on the burden of office at a difficult time.

As the four obituaries that appear in this edition indicate, worse was to come. In January we were saddened by news of Hugh Burns' death and then, a month later, by that of Anne Mitson, our membership secretary until last year when ill-health led to her resignation. In May we learned of Richard McKinley's death and then, as the first draft of this editorial was being penned, the news came that Tony Rollings had passed away, just a year after obtaining his PhD.

These shocks occurred against a continuing background of uncertainty about the future which has blighted the department over the last two years. The hope now is that with the appointment of Professor Robert Burgess as the new Vice-Chancellor from September 1999, there will be clarification of, and support for, the work of English Local History. Professor Burgess has already shown considerable interest in the department which he plans to visit around the time that we go to press.

So much for the bad bits. For the rest there have been some notable achievements (not least the publication of three Friends' papers and the long-awaited departmental bibliography) and events following on from the success of Jubilee Day in December, all of which are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In addition to the two customary occasions of the summer months - the W.G. Hoskins lecture and the Summer Outing, two other events were held of a kind which it is thought could feature more regularly in our calendar. The first of these was the summer lunch and village tour hosted by John Goodacre in his home village of Ashby Magna, and the second was the Ipstones Study Day in August. Your views about the attractions of similar future occasions of this kind are sought in a questionnaire enclosed with the Newsletter which we shall be grateful if you will complete and return before the end of November.

THE DEPARTMENT

SEMINAR PROGRAMME 1998-9

This year's seminar programme was launched by a very familiar face in the Department of English Local History. **Dr Robert Colls** (Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester) in his paper entitled 'The Englishness of Hoskins', began with a tribute to Hoskins. Dr Colls said that he regarded Hoskins to be 'of the left' and very much on the side of the poor. His 'Englishness' was never more evident than in his obvious disdain of all things modern, which for him had caused so much uglification of the landscape. In this respect he was prone to a sentimentalised view of a lost 'golden age'. He constantly searched for unwritten evidence, for example, in the landscape. He also sought to find true Englishness in the provincial and the local rather than in the metropolis. His fascination with the elusive sense of Englishness dominated his writing and continues to dominate historical thought today.

This paper provoked much debate even sparking off a discussion by e-mail amongst subscribers to elh-l [English Local History discussion list]. One particular contributor raised a contentious point not discussed in the seminar, but worth mentioning here, which is that Hoskins undoubtedly had a rose-tinted anti-modernist view of a lost England. Nothing wrong in that. Yet such a view, in general terms, could drift into a hostile protectionism of 'English heritage', characterised, for instance, in antagonism to ethnic invasion. In response to this, Dr Colls pointed out the difficulties inherent in trying to make people from the past fit a politically correct mould.

The next paper in the series was given by someone even more familiar to many of us. **Sylvia Pinches** (Department of English Local History, University of Leicester) gave a summary of her doctoral research into 'Dole and donations: the changing structures and purposes of charity in Warwickshire, 1760-1918'. Charities take many shapes and forms and their sources are very wide, ranging from parochial to governmental. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries about 1,000 endowed charities were founded in Warwickshire. Many such endowments specified the date on which doles or donations were to be made. Mrs Pinches saw in this an echo of the ritualised calendar of the Middle Ages. In Warwickshire the overwhelming number of charities were to be found in the Arden region, where there was also a greater preponderance of 'dole-days'. Whilst money happened to be the most popular form of dole, the distribution of clothing was also a common form of charity. In explaining the motive behind charitable giving, Mrs Pinches gave several reasons, ranging from the desire to perpetuate the memory of the donor through to a wish to encourage a kind of morality by dispensing charity to the 'poor of good fame'. Few doles were instituted before 1600 but from about 1630 about ten were founded each decade, with an upsurge at the beginning of the eighteenth century, a time of distress and crisis. Many charities in Warwickshire were of an intensely localised nature, perpetuated in a long tradition of trusteeship by friends and family of the original donors.

The next two seminars were firmly rooted in the

local landscape. **Anne Reeves** (Landscape Historian, Romney Marsh, Kent) gave a paper on 'Marshland landscapes: fieldwork and study from the Romney Marsh region of Bilsington, Kent'. She began with a description of the waterlogged fens which were harvested for thatch and fodder; and marshes which tended to be better drained than the fens. Marshes, composed of rich silts and clays, were highly prized and intensively exploited. Fens and marshes were often found in close proximity and in this respect Mrs Reeves argued for a 'holistic' approach to the landscape. Romney Marsh is the largest continuous tract of marshland in England but in reality it is a collective of several marshes. Some early Roman settlement has been found here and ploughland is referred to in Anglo-Saxon charters dating from the seventh century. Mrs Reeves encouraged a range of techniques in the approach to landscape research: field-walking, mapping; examining earth-works; analysing field- and place-names; exploring boundaries - the forms of and relationships between boundaries are of particular interest. Between 1050 and 1250 the population of Romney Marsh expanded then remained constant until about 1450, whereafter it experienced a sharp decline. Romney Marsh may be bleak today but within it there are layers of history fossilised in the landscape. Here it is possible to identify continuity in the 'palimpsest' that Hoskins described.

From a markedly different environment, **Dr Tom Greeves** (Cultural environmentalist) brought back to life the tinners of Devon in a paper entitled 'Tinners in their place: landscapes and records of the Devon stannaries'. He described this as a discrete topic because English tin is only found in Devon and Cornwall. Whilst tin was a highly commercialised medieval industry, it reached its nadir in Devon in the modern era when the last tin mine on Dartmoor was closed in 1930. The documentary sources for tin are very rich, yet frustrating as they tend to be selective. An excellent source exists in the form of coinage rolls for the four stannary towns of Chagford, Ashburton, Plymstock and Tavistock. Although these records survive from the mid-twelfth century, they are most fruitful from the late fifteenth into the early sixteenth centuries. Coinage rolls occasionally reveal lost church dedications where parish guilds are presented. The evidence found in court rolls, cases in Chancery and Star Chamber records is useful but sporadic. Therefore the best evidence for tinners in their place is unwritten - the landscape itself. Here a far more complete record is to be found. Dr Greeves drew attention to the many historical preconceptions surrounding tinning. For example, modern ideas about wilderness unfortunately coloured our perception of the past. He went on to describe how the rivers and streams of Dartmoor, whilst of little value today in monetary terms, at one time had the potential to generate a great deal of wealth. There is a growing appreciation today of the archaeological potential of tin workings and an increasing re-evaluation of the long-held view that tinners were isolated, semi-lawless and cut off from society. The landscape of the tinner is notoriously difficult to read and it is only now that more and more former mills are being recognised. In claiming that there is much richness out there, Dr Greeves ended with the statement that there is still much research to be done, particularly in placing tinners in the context of the wider world.

Dr Alasdair Crockett (Nuffield College, Oxford) made a welcome return to the department to deliver a seminar on 'Geography of religious pluralism in the nineteenth century'. Before his appointment as a Research Fellow at Nuffield, Alasdair spent three years in the department researching into the geography of religious secularisation in England and Wales and gave a fascinating and very original paper on the theory and geographical patterns of secularisation. Examining the theories of Berger and others, he developed an argument that related secularisation and the plausibility of belief to pluralistic environments. His paper explored regions of low religious attendance in 1851, like the Scottish and Welsh borders, London, the West Riding, Lancashire and the Weald, and examined reasons for the religious patterns he found. Some of the analysis delved back to the Compton Census of 1676 to look at long-term changes between then and the situation described by the 1851 Census of Religious Worship. Religious diversity, and hence lower religious attendance, was found to be especially notable in areas of high trade and retail employment, as well as areas of high population density. Among very many findings he described a triangular pattern of strong affiliation to the Church of England: most marked in a band across the south of England, and narrowing to a point in the north-west. In Wales, he argued, dissent had much more of a vitalising rôle upon religious attendance than was the case in England.

The argument and its complex statistical evidence gave rise to a very interesting discussion. This was a paper that will be remembered in particular for its considerable technical sophistication, examining the ways in which the subject could be enhanced by methods such as geographically weighted regression, introducing the department to the 'Gaussian distance decay function', and developing new measures to describe religious diversity and its effects on cultural areas and regional secularisation. Alasdair's path-breaking work is due to be published by Cambridge University Press.

The opening two seminars of the Spring term, although very different in presentation and content, nevertheless shared a religious connection. **Philip Masters** (Department of English Local History, University of Leicester), another research student, gave a well illustrated presentation on 'The Saxon and Early Norman Church in West Sussex', to which it is difficult to do justice in print. He wished in particular to trace the

rôle of minsters and their fabric, siting and relationship with other churches. He proceeded to describe the minster hypothesis before moving on to West Sussex. Although the Rape of Chichester was not founded until the thirteenth century, its compact size made it a convenient area of study into an earlier period. The material and plans of 76 pre-Reformation churches within this region have revealed much information, for instance on constructional technique. Slides were shown on various kinds of door and window. In building churches there seems to have been a conspicuous absence of material being recycled. There was very little systematic re-use of Roman material and there was evidence of a local stone industry. Church plans tended to fall into three categories: for example, the two-cell church at Cocking, the '3:1 ratio' church at Pagham, and, finally, those dating from the early twelfth century. Mr Masters' overall conclusion was that only a few churches in this region were pre-Conquest in origin, for example, the one at Bosham.

From an entirely different region and century, **Dr Marie Rowlands** (University of Wolverhampton) presented a paper on 'A New People: the social and geographical mobility of English Catholics in the eighteenth century'. She began by describing the world of the eighteenth-century Catholic as being one of constant change and activity. Her main evidence was drawn from the 1767 Return of Papists, a useful source inasmuch as it gives not only names of individuals but also their ages and occupations. However, the quality of the returns varies from diocese to diocese. Whilst there were no nil returns in the diocese of Chester, in the Lichfield diocese a total of 4,949 papists were listed and yet 420 out of 629 parishes made nil returns, which raises the question of under-enumeration. Going back to the Compton Census of 1676, Dr Rowlands argued that most people at that time, including Catholics, attended the parish church, even when the local lord was a Catholic, parishioners placing the observation of the law of the land before deference. Where Catholic gentry resided it did not follow that there would be a large number of Catholics of the lower order in the local countryside. Catholic missions founded in the countryside were often born of clerical initiative. Centres for the celebration of the mass frequently operated in an environment from which the local Catholic gentry had long since faded. As many mass centres were in the countryside, although many Catholics lived in urban centres, many rural missions were relocated to the nearest town. Those industrial parishes with a sizeable number of Catholics tended to be in the north of England. The largest Catholic mission was to be found in Liverpool, where 42% of adherents were under the age of 20 according to the 1767 Return. There was no evidence of Catholics clustering together. Rather, rich Catholics tended to live in groups, as did poor Catholics -social, not religious, zoning. According to the Return an overwhelming number of Catholics were not native to their abode of 1767. There was a suggestion that perhaps Catholics migrated to places where there was the 'opportunity for prayer'. Dr Rowlands concluded that Catholics in the eighteenth century were a 'people' rather than a 'community', and that their practice of religion was private rather than secret.

'The Essex gentry 1381-1450: county community or county of communities?' was the subject of a paper given by another research student, **Christopher Starr** (Department of English Local History, University of Leicester). He divided his presentation into four, beginning with a historiographical overview of the medieval county, the community, and the county community as a concept, before finishing with an investigation of Essex gentry. The medieval boundaries of Essex remain today in the landscape virtually unchanged. The county consists of 19 hundreds, the royal liberty of Havering and about 400 parishes. The Essex gentry consisted of several layers: about forty knights whose interests tended to be focused towards London and beyond; about eighty greater gentry whose interests were centred on Essex; and then the lesser parish gentry, about 150 in number, who tended to be holders of single manors. Historians have variously interpreted the concept of 'community' and several examples were given by Mr Starr. Community has the overwhelming implication of belonging and mutuality, whereas society does not. The gentry of Essex were members of more than one community. Had a cohesive county community of gentry existed in medieval Essex, it would have yielded considerable political influence. But for the greater gentry their interests were more regional, unlike the lesser gentry who identified themselves more with the county. Mr Starr gave a very detailed summary of the works of a number of academics who have studied county communities, *inter alia*, McFarlane, Everitt and Carpenter. In Essex communities were either social, political or functional in nature. The basic social group was the family which extended into a wider household as people came and went on a day-to-day basis. Reconstructing such affinities can be done by using the evidence of wills. Mr Starr saw in medieval Essex a county community which was political rather than social in its *raison d'être*.

Dr Caroline Barron (University of London) began her paper on 'Grass-roots democracy? Wards in medieval London' by asking 'How do wards work?' Were they merely units of administration or were they also a focus of loyalty and affection? She proceeded to explain the difference between a parish, a ward and a guild. The first two were linked with involuntary association, because everyone belonged to both whether they wanted to or not; whereas a guild embodied voluntary association. Wards grew in the eleventh

century when they had a military purpose of defence, but they also had judicial and administrative functions. Aldermen were expected to hold a wardmoot for men over the age of fifteen, who had to swear to serve the King and to keep the peace. Four such moots were held each year and attendance was compulsory, except for knights, clergy and women. In this respect the ward was mid-way between a parish (to which all belonged) and a guild (to which the free belonged) in terms of inclusivity. There is evidence in the later Middle Ages of competition between ward and guild, for instance, access to the freedom of the city. Wards generated very few records unlike the parish and the guild. No known minutes have survived from ward moots, although the procedure of convening a moot is known. One function of the moot was to list the names of hostellers; another, to authenticate weights and measures. Also, a variety of officers were elected, including beadles, constables, scavengers and rakers. From the evidence available it seems that wards did indeed voice the concerns of the ordinary men of London.

The 'goings-on' in Sileby in the seventeenth century were the focus of the final paper in this series which was given by **Professor B.S. Capp** (Department of History, University of Warwick) on 'The English Montaillou? The social and cultural world of Sileby, Leicestershire, in the 1630s'. Professor Capp's story centred on a sexual scandal, to which there were several witnesses involving a substantial cross-section of society. Sileby, on the Soar, was still an open-field village in the seventeenth century. There was a mixture of farmer graziers engaged in cattle fattening and sheep rearing as well as tanners, tailors, weavers and slaters in the community. Crucially, there was no settled minister and no manorial lord in residence. The Babingtons of Rothley were the nearest family of any importance. The dispute centred on two families, the Readings and the Churchs, yeomen and merchants respectively. Bridget Church was accused of a variety of offences by the Reading family, including adultery, incest and lewdness. Witnesses were questioned in their depositions as to their understanding of perjury and it seems that they all understood the seriousness of telling the truth, and there was a high degree of consistency in their subsequent statements. Bridget denied all the allegations made against her throughout the proceedings. Professor Capp questioned why she was not brought to book until nearly two years after the offences were alleged to have taken place. Certainly there had been an escalation in the hostility between the Readings and the Churchs, so perhaps there was an attempt to cause even further offence by deliberately sullying Bridget's reputation. Isabel and John Salter, the two key witnesses to Bridget's adultery, were themselves of dubious repute.

By means of the depositions of other witnesses Professor Capp reconstructed networks in the village and demonstrated fierce rivalries between opposing parties. He noted that, although the Salters came from the margins of society, they were yet able to cause severe disruption within the community. The lack of a political or religious hierarchy in the village meant that mediation failed to operate. Bridget Church, an inviting target because of her over-familiar ways and stormy marriage, was eventually cleared; a verdict which Professor Capp viewed as probably being sound. However, the failure of compromise and arbitration and the inevitably ensuing vexatious litigation had a devastating impact on the local community. Litigation in this case had proven to be an obstacle to the civilising process.

Penny Upton, Keith Snell.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS FOR 1998

Staff

H.S.A. Fox

'The people of Woodbury in the fifteenth century', *Devon Historian*, 56 (1998), pp. 3-8.

'Agriculture and field systems', in P.E. Szarmuch, T. Tuvormina and J.T. Rosenthal, eds *Medieval England: an Encyclopedia* (1998), pp. 11-12.

'From seasonal use to permanent settlement: fishing sites along the South Devon coast from the fourteenth century to the sixteenth', *Northern Seas Yearbook*, (Esbjerg, 1998), pp. 7-19.

Review of M. Kowaleski, *Local Markets and Regional Trade in Medieval Exeter* (1995), in *Agricultural History Review* 46 (1998), pp. 228-9.

Review of D. Hall, *The Open Fields of Northamptonshire* (1996), in *Landscape History*, 20 (1998), p. 139.

G.R. Jones

'Penda's footprint? Place-names containing personal names associated with those of early Mercian kings', *Nomina*, 21 (1998), pp. 29-62.

'What's in a name? St Michael, patron saint and cosmic guardian', in E. Bailey, ed. *Small is Cosmic: Millenial issues in Parochial Perspective*, Winterbourne P.C.C. (1998), pp. 13-22.

D.A. Postles

The Surnames of Leicestershire and Rutland, English Surnames Series VII (1998), 369pp.

Lay Piety in Transition: Local Society and New Religious Houses in England 1100-1280, Friends of the Department of English Local History (1998), 69pp.

Review of C. Platt, *King Death: The Black Death and its Aftermath in Late-Medieval England* (1996), in *Albion* 30 (1998), pp. 90-1.

K.D.M. Snell

ed. *The Regional Novel in Britain and Ireland, 1800-1990* (1998), x+300pp.

'The regional novel: themes for interdisciplinary research', *ibid.*, pp. 1-53.

'Famine letters and eye-witness accounts' in G.R. Barterian and D. Evans, eds *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* (1998), pp. 245-54.

'Agricultural seasonal unemployment, the standard of living and women's work in the south and east, 1690-1860, in P. Sharpe, ed. *Women's Work: the English Experience, 1650-1914* (1998), pp.73-121.

ed. (with L. Bellamy and T. Williamson) *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture*, 9:1, 9:2 (1998), 122 & 120pp.

Review of M.A. Williams, *Researching Local History: the Human Journey*, in *The Local Historian*, 28:1 (1998), pp. 53-4.

Review of Barry Reay, *Micro-histories: Demography, Society and Culture in Rural England, 1800-1930*, in *Journal of Economic History*, 58:4 (1998), pp. 1141-1143.

M.G. Thompson

'Demographic aspects of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Shapwick with Moorlinch', *Shapwick Project: the Eighth Report* (1998), pp. 171-80.

Review of C. Lewis, P. Mitchell-Fox and C. Dyer, *Village, Hamlet and Field: Changing Medieval Settlements in Central England* (1997), in *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 9:2 (1998), pp. 239-40.

ed. *Friends of the Department of English Local History Newsletter* (1998), 31 pp.

Students

S. Pinches

Father Hudson and his Society: a History, 1898-1998, Archdiocese of Birmingham Historical Commission (1998).

DEPARTMENTAL PAPERS

H.S.A. Fox

'The medieval countryside', University of Exeter (February 1999).

'Dartmouth: the very early years', at Dartmouth Guildhall, for Devon History Society (July 1999).

G.R. Jones

'Ghostly mentor, teacher of mysteries: Bartholomew, Guthlac, and the apostle's cult in early medieval England', at the Conference on Monastic Education, Downside Abbey, organised by Bristol University (July, 1999).

'Zones of presence, times of arrival, depths of meaning: universal saints' cults in western Europe',
at The International Medieval Institute's Medieval Congress, Leeds (July, 1999).

This last was one of nine papers given in a thread of three panels under the title of 'TASC:Towards a trans-national database and atlas of saints' cults'. The series was largely organised by Graham who himself moderated the second panel, Miriam Gill having likewise chaired the first, while Sam Riches, fondly remembered in the department as a research assistant to Charles, moderated the third. The sessions ended with a round-table and business session, one important consequence of which was the support given by a significant number of scholars to the TASC project (for details of which see the following article).

TRANS-NATIONAL SAINTS CULTS COLLOQUIUM 1999

An impressive, and internationally representative, group of scholars interested in the projected launch of 'Project TASC' (a European collaborative research programme leading to a trans-national electronic atlas and database of saints' cults) in October 2001, met in Leicester over three days in July. Organised from the department by Graham Jones, as project director and coordinator, the event was attended by members from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, and the U.S.A. as well as from the U.K. They covered much ground, both physically and metaphorically.

The programme got underway with a tour of, and a welcome to, Marc Fitch House by Charles Phythian-Adams, followed by a session on the aims, merits and objectives of the project. The group then proceeded to Leicester's medieval Guildhall where they were welcomed by the deputy Lord Mayor of Leicester, before being given a guided tour by Miriam Gill. The first day ended with a buffet supper at The Old Rectory, Rearsby, home of Harold Fox, where the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Sue Pearce, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

The second day was largely taken up by discussions about appropriate methodologies in terms of commonality across areas such as mapping, IT and database construction, followed by consideration of modes of execution, the various capabilities of participating institutions, sources of funding and overall strategy. This busy working day was rounded off by a visit to Hallaton, where Harold Fox described the history and character of this 'quintessential' English village, and Graham introduced the village church and told of the excitement engendered by the rediscovery of St Morrell of Hallaton. Over pre-dinner drinks at the Bewicke Arms, Dr Rosamund Faith (former MA student and one of our most distinguished Friends) described the work of her great-aunt, Miss Frances Arnold-Forster, author of *Studies in Church Dedications, or England's Patron Saints*, who is regarded as the founder of modern patrocinal studies.

The third day, Sunday, was devoted to talks about necessary protocols for the participants in the project, including the establishment of a steering committee, an annual meeting, newsletter, and an agreed future time-table. The colloquium was drawn to a close shortly after noon after a very productive and enjoyable time. Among the first fruits of their deliberations was an agreed programme of work for 1999-2000 to be accomplished before they meet again next year - in Rome, of course - where they will invite other institutions and individuals to join them. Graham is now editing revised papers to be published by Paul Watkins (Stamford) under the title *Saints of Europe: Towards a Trans-national Database and Atlas of Saints' Cults*.

RECENTLY COMPLETED THESES

Kate Parkin (PhD, 1999)

'Courts and the community: reconstructing the fourteenth-century peasant society of Wisbech Hundred, Cambridgeshire, from manor court rolls.'

This thesis assesses afresh the feasibility of social reconstruction based on court rolls, through a methodologically self-conscious analysis of records from Wisbech Hundred. It identifies a recent historiographical movement away from social history towards a 'legal' orthodoxy justified in terms of the nature of the records. It questions the definition of 'custom' implicit in this trend, while exposing and rejecting attempts to use Maitland's work to drive a wedge between legally- and sociologically-informed approaches to court rolls.

Computer-based analysis is applied to 316 court sessions held between 1327 and 1377 of the halimotes, leet, *curia* and hundred courts of Wisbech, Elm, Leverington, Newton and Tydd St Giles. These vills were under the single lordship of the bishop of Ely, whose fourteenth-century privileges and jurisdictions are here defined.

Court rolls are taken to record court rôles (jurors, essoins, etc.) and these are defined in detail as attributes of individuals, whose activities and interactions are thus considered strictly within the arena of the court. The predominant business of regulating land transfer receives particular attention, shedding light on custom and 'deathbed transfers'. Rudimentary social network analysis is undertaken, proving more useful as an interpretive mode than a mathematical technique. Narrative case-studies relate individuals and families to observed trends.

Finally, a refinement of existing methodologies is offered. It is suggested that, although social historians should indeed be sensitive to the limited purpose of these records, they need not abandon social reconstruction. Rather, the nature and dynamics of individuals' 'court-lives' should be defined with detailed reference to local custom and circumstances. This done, other classes of records can be utilised, each to illuminate its own aspect of individual lives. 'Identity' is advanced as a theoretical basis for keeping these lines of investigation separate until their combination in social reconstruction reflective of the multifaceted nature of society.

Christine Mary Vialls (PhD, 1999)

'The Laws of Settlement: their impact on the poor inhabitants of the Daventry area of Northamptonshire 1750-1834'

This thesis aims to analyse the Laws of Settlement. It is based on a collection of documents at the Northamptonshire Record Office which originated in the offices of several long-established firms of solicitors. It is obvious that the firms were deeply involved with settlement appeal cases. From the large number of barrister's briefs and case summaries found, it has been possible to reconstruct much of the work undertaken, not only by the solicitors, but also by the magistrates and the overseers of the poor.

The method used entailed the analysis of a number of cases, to demonstrate the various points of law and to show how these were interpreted in practice. To explain the points of law correctly, much use has been made of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century books written as aids for the justices, solicitors and overseers. With the additional use of some of the parish collections for the county, the last chapter of the thesis deals specifically with the work of the justices, solicitors and overseers, with the final section given over to the study of the effects the settlement laws had on the paupers themselves.The first four chapters deal in turn with the four most common ways in which a man or woman could gain a new settlement, while the fifth chapter deals with the settlement certificates and how they were used. Chapter six is a study of a number of cases where the complexity of the settlement laws either

led to parish officers making mistakes in their interpretation of the legislation, or where it seems that deliberate attempts were made to 'bend' the laws to the benefit of their own parishes.

MA DISSERTATIONS FOR 1998-9

Peter J.S. Barry

'Reconstructing the pre-inclosure social and topographic conditions of a Breckland village: Roudham.'

This study drew on a wide range of sources to find out about the people who lived in Roudham, how the landscape might have appeared to them, and their social and economic conditions leading up to inclosure by Act of Parliament in 1773. It was a small community. The mean population hardly exceeded 100 and fluctuated by perhaps 15 or 20 over the short term. Crises, when the annual deaths exceeded twice the ten-year mean, occurred about every 8-10 years. Lands outside the demesne were mostly owned by non-residents who rented them to other non-residents. Sub-tenants living in the village either worked the land themselves or, more often, were employed as labourers. Neither landowners physically removed from their lands, nor labourers, had a deep interest in the place. Turnover amongst individual inhabitants was therefore high and more than half only stayed a year or two - eleven years was the overall average duration of residence. A few families persisted for 70 years or so, but no one completed their life cycle there. This constitutes a curious disjunction in residence times that cries out for explanation.

The most common cause of dispersion of land ownership was failure of male descent, as women then inherited and carried ownership with them when they married outsiders. There were yeomen farmers, but with tenures so short that they had little long-term impact; there were no tradesmen or craftsmen who elsewhere brought a measure of social stability; vertical social development was minimal; and the London to Norwich road, which once might have gone through the village, passed it by to the north. The question is therefore posed as to why Roudham, with so little going for it, survived when its neighbours failed.

Patricia E. Buckham

'Representations of artisans from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century'

Historically those who earn their living by manual work fall into two distinct categories - the skilled and the unskilled. This study aims to discover whether the skilled craftsman or artisan is truthfully portrayed in paintings, engravings, trade histories and newspaper accounts during one of the most complex periods in English history. Before the nineteenth century the distinction between an artisan and a labourer was familiar to everyone. It depended on the completion of an apprenticeship with an organised craft, but there were those who, although very proficient, were not officially recognised as skilled workers. The illustration of working women who, along with their children, provided the Victorian illustrators with a political platform, is therefore an important part of the investigation.

Just as John Barrell discovered the relegation of the agricultural worker to the dark side of the landscape in the early part of this period, so this study shows the prominence of the machine over the worker in the late nineteenth-century illustration, representing the diminished status of the artisan. As the century drew to a close, the emergence of a working class saw the artisan endeavouring to maintain his position in the hierarchy of the new labour aristocracy. Early twentieth-century photographs illustrate some of the ways of identifying the artisan among his fellow workers.

David Fox

'Crosses of the North York Moors: a study of the stone crosses of the North York Moors, their origins and purposes'

This dissertation provides a comprehensive survey of 114 stone crosses that are, or were on good authority, to be found on the North York Moors. Complete with many illustrations and maps it combines topographical, place-name, archaeological and historiographical evidence in its attempt to divine the origins and purpose of these evocative artefacts. While many crosses have disappeared or been much damaged by the processes of time, post-Reformation iconoclasts, later puritanical zealots and more recent thieves and vandals, others have survived. The majority of these survivors are to be found within the inner fastnesses of the moors, 'the last drained and least visited areas of the landscape'. These areas were marked by a conservatism manifested in post-Reformation recusancy, adherence to tradition and superstitious belief.

Never losing sight of their religious significance, separate sections of the study describe crosses in churches (more ofen found on the fringes of the moors), their sometimes debateable, or dual, rôles as memorials, boundary markers, market crosses or, in one case, as marking a place of sanctuary, but above all as waymarkers. Of the 114 locations identified, 76 lie by track or roadside. In conclusion it is contended that whether boundary marker, guidepost or early churchyard cross, the influence of the great religious houses - Benedictines, Cistercians, Austins and others - was paramount in terms of their origins and early purposes. The destruction of many, sometimes begun by puritanical hatred of the use of symbolism in the church, was accentuated by the arrival of permanent road surfaces, vandalism and theft coming in the wake of the motor car, so that these ancient symbols, which not only inspired reverence and respect but also provided vital aid to the

traveller, may soon be entirely lost.

June Gilbert
'Off the beaten track: Glenfield (1871-1939) village or suburb?'

This investigation attempts to discover whether Glenfield remained a village or became a suburb during the years 1871 to 1939. 1871 was chosen as the starting point because this marked the beginning of the middle-class movement out of Leicester as factory building took over residential areas near its centre. 1939 saw the end of private house-building during the years of the second world war.

The principal sources used to understand changes in population, buildings, services, workplaces and transport systems were census returns (which showed a surprising number of people born outside Glenfield), a series of maps and plans, photographs, newspapers, interviews, and committee minute books. The census returns of 1871 and 1891 both show an increase in framework knitting at a time when it was declining in other areas. The boot and shoe industry was also rapidly increasing. Work was distributed from Leicester by bag-hosiers to framework knitters, and to boot and shoe workers through the basket work system. In this way the town was as much dependent upon the villagers as the workers were dependent on the town. Co-operation seems to have played a large part in the preservation of village life. The Glenfield Land Society was founded in 1874, the Glenfield Distributive Society in 1882 and the Glenfield Progress Co-operative Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Society Limited in 1892.

After consideration of descriptions of 'the suburb', it is concluded that Glenfield remained a village not because of its built environment, but because of a strong sense of belonging. This was brought about, firstly by the isolation of the village - there was no direct road into Leicester until the 1950s - and, secondly, because of the collective sense of belonging passed down through folk-memory, customs and nicknames. It was the importance of this sense of belonging, shared by the inhabitants which was significant in the classification of Glenfield as a village rather than a suburb.

Deborah Mary Lofas
'The introduction of Parish Councils'

This paper examines the composition and first five years of operation of a random handful of the new parish authorities created by the Local Government Act of 1894. Contemporary parliamentary debates, magazine articles and newspaper leaders indicate some of the fears regarding the legislation; minute and account books for parishes of various size and circumstances show the reality. Within parishes, the elections of 1894 did not generally transfer authority direct from one section of society to another, but power was shared among more people, with greater involvement of lower classes and less of the church. The Local Government Act essentially empowered parishes to meet locally identified needs, which, according to some commentators, was likely to bring social revolution and untold expenditure on the rates. In fact some parish councils did very little, but many more used their authority with common sense and financial economy to the benefit of local inhabitants. Sanitation, lighting, footpaths, water supplies, postal services and social welfare were just some of the issues tackled by parish councils in their first few years. Crucially, as each parish is unique, so is the activity and composition of each parish council, but common threads of experience can be found as well as differences. It is concluded, however, that an examination of approximately 0.1% of the parish councils created in 1894 hardly constitutes a comprehensive survey, and further research remains to be done on the subject.

Patricia O'Flanagan
'Sense of place in the novels of Maeve Binchy'

This dissertation focuses on the work of a modern popular author who has not been the subject of academic study. It relies upon a close study of Binchy's own work and material obtained from radio, television and magazine interviews. The majority of Maeve Binchy's books are set wholly in Ireland, and those which are not are partially set there, and all have a pervading sense of 'Irishness'. The books were of particular interest to Patricia O'Flanagan as an Irish person who lived in Ireland during the period in which many of them were set.

The techniques the author employs to create a sense of place were first identified. These proved to be various and the restrictions on the length of the dissertation did not permit a full consideration of them all. The study therefore concentrated on exploration of descriptions of geographical and physical features. Particular attention was paid to Binchy's creation of fictional communities, consideration of how she handles issues of belonging, and her use of identifying landmarks in those stories based in real locations. A distinction between rural and urban settings is made and the significance of the period the author was writing about, and the implications this would have for perceptions of belonging and place, are borne in mind.

The importance of the evocation of a sense of place in the novels cannot be underestimated. The study concludes that popular regional writing can provide a valuable historical resource with its detailed descriptions of the physical and social structures of communities and its charting of the everyday lives of ordinary people. It is suggested that the sustained popularity of the genre arises from the search for a fictional substitute for diminishing inclusive community life amongst present-day British readers.

Charles Haydon Rainsford

'The growth of Margate as a popular seaside resort through the development of transport and leisure activities - 1840-1939'

Betweeen 1840 and 1939, the coastal town of Margate on the Isle of Thanet at the North-East corner of Kent, changed from an established watering place and health retreat into a highly popular holiday resort. The town's celebrated healthy air and the medicinal qualities of its bathing water acted as a foundation upon which the settlement flourished.

The advent of steam in regard to both rail and sea transportation and the subsequent shortening of travel time opened up the town to a much wider potential audience. By developing these avenues of accessibility Margate was able to attract a greater number of people. This attraction was maintained through the development of a diverse set of bathing and leisure facilities which included sea bathing, beach entertainers, outdoor music, the pier, the jetty, zoological gardens and amusement rides. The Bank Holiday Act of 1870 introduced by the Isle of Thanet resident, Lord Avebury, combined with cheaper fares for travel, enabled the establishment of day-tripping as a national pastime of which Margate took great advantage.

By reinforcing its claim on people's leisure time through indoor entertainments like cinemas, theatres, pubs and concert parties, and offering outdoor pursuits such as bowls, tennis and golf, Margate could provide something for everyone. Providing both outdoor and indoor entertainment, the town could propose the complete holiday package, which, set by its sandy beaches created the Merry Margate so envied by other resorts in the first half of the twentieth century.

John W. Rowley

'Scraptoft: settlement to enclosure'

This dissertation aims to trace the development of a township on the eastern side of Leicestershire for the first millenium after the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons. Their history, like that of all agrarian societies, is rooted in its landscape and geography and the way in which they exploited them. An inter-disciplinary approach was therefore necessary, especially for the early period of settlement mobility, to determine a pattern of settlement within the wider area prior to final nucleation.

The earliest written evidence of the existence of Scraptoft dates from *c.*1042 when it was mentioned in a grant of lands for the foundation of Coventry Cathedral Priory. This ownwership made it unique in this part of Leicestershire, where Leicester and Owston abbeys were major landowners, and also provided valuable medieval documentary evidence. The priory's influence on the development of the village outlasted the dissolution of the monasteries and had a profound effect upon its later shape and character. Shortly before the dissolution Henry Wigley became the prior's bailiff and this heralded the rise of one family who were to dominate the village in the following centuries. They left copious records detailing their day-to-day dealings and these have been invaluable in the reconstruction of the early landscape.

A continuity of occupation in the immediate area since Roman times has been revealed alongside a demonstration of the way in which the village grew and prospered through the Middle Ages before shrinking into a small 'closed' community in the early modern period.

Ray Selden

'Policing Bedfordshire prior to the Rural Constabulary Act 1839'

This dissertation sets out to enquire into the state of policing in Bedfordshire in the half-century before the the setting up of the Bedford Borough Force in 1836 and the operation of the Rural Constabulary Act of 1839 which resulted in the county establishing its own full-time paid, professional force in 1840. Specific topics explored are, the status and social standing of the people employed as parish constables; the nature of the duties and statutory requirements of the constables; the level of crime in the county and the improvement, if any, brought about by the new system. In this last respect the reasons why Bedfordshire, relatively free from the public order problems associated with the Swing and Poor Law riots, nonetheless opted to exercise its discretion under the Act of 1839, when other more lawless areas in the country were failing to do so, are also considered.

Leading historians have for years advanced the view that the old system of policing that existed prior to 1829, viz., the old parish constables, were as corrupt as the criminals with whom they were called upon to deal. Some assumptions are that people were not fulfilling their obligation to take their turn at the annual elections; that the fees paid to deputies were mean and hardly worth accepting; that the constables were restricted to working in their own parishes; and that there was no co-ordination of their activities.

Increases in population had put the old voluntary system under stress and at the same time there was a growing middle-class voice that feared an uneducated labouring class and sought ways of controlling the institutions of the lower orders. Various committees of enquiry had sat to to look into such matters and in particular to allay the fears of the citizenry about the need for a system of policing that had as its main constituent a full-time, paid, professional constabulary force. What was needed was a proactive police force that, in addition to controlling the labouring classes, would act to bring criminals to justice - rather than one that relied upon the injured party's legal responsibility to prosecute offenders.

Auriol Thomson

'A study of rôles and relationships in a Rutland village in the mid-Victorian period: Glaston *c.* 1860-90'

This dissertation examines the village of Glaston as an example of mid-Victorian rural society in Rutland *c.* 1860-90 with earlier and later reference. The village proves to have been a traditional agricultural community which adapted slowly, did not develop manufacturing and was only affected by the industrial revolution insofar as improved roads (the turnpike runs through the village) and then the several railways crossing Rutland, facilitated contacts with other parts of England, especially London and Cambridge.

The majority of inhabitants were farmers, agricultural labourers and those in associated trades and services. Community affairs were run by the parish officers, under the chairmanship of the rector, through the vestry meeting. The members were predominantly the farmers, who also met in committee to make decisions over charity monies and to organise parish events, e.g. the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in 1887. Glaston had its own identity, villagers being conscious of birthplace, but there was a constant interaction with other nearby villages, and exchanges of population as marriage or work opportunities dictated. This meant that villagers were much inter-related (they still are) and all looked to Uppingham for more than primary services - for the market, chemist, doctor and lawyer.

The interest of the landowners was acknowledged. They added glamour or old-world charm by association and were expected to make charitable contributions. One, Evans-Freke, came into the village, built Bisbrooke Hall on its boundary and increasingly bought property and played a part at the vestry meeting from 1864 onwards. In 1861 Glaston acquired its first resident rector, Barnard Smith, who set about improving parish organisation, rebuilding the church and rectory and in general, together with Evans-Freke, raised the profile of the village. Neither man confined his energies to the parish and each became prominent in Uppingham and beyond. Smith's untimely death brought in Christopher Wordsworth as rector. His interests were more scholarly and his attitude less forthright, but he was equally assiduous in ecclesiastical and parish duties and more inclined to consult his parishioners and to protect the poor. Ironically, when Glaston parish was probably better run than ever before, civil administration was progressively moved away to the county town of Oakham, the provisional County Council first meeting in 1889 when Evans-Freke represented Glaston.

David Thomson

'Charities in Rutland'

This dissertation falls in to two parts. Firstly, local charities in Rutland, based on published sources and some research in the Leicestershire Record Office and the Public Record Office, are discussed (a brief summary of the charities concerned is produced as an appendix). The strengths and weaknesses of these sources are then examined and consideration is given to aspects such as the size and purpose of the charities, including the way in which the emphasis on giving may have changed over the years. The types of donors and the various forms of endowment are also considered, again including the way in which these may have been affected by the passage of time. This first section concludes with a consideration of the various legal problems which sometimes affected charities, with particular reference to an inquisition held at Oakham in 1688.

Secondly, the Rutland Society of Industry is discussed. This was formed in 1785 in order to encourage children to spin, knit and, from 1818, to sew. The society was financed by contributions from the parishes and by individual subscriptions and donations. Fairly generous prizes, depending on age, were given to the children for their work. Prizes were also given to those, men and women, who brought up four or more children to the age of fourteen without parish relief, and to previous child prize-winners who stayed in service for one year. The progress of the society is traced until the minute book ceases in 1916, but with the emphasis on the period before 1835 when it began to decline because parish contributions were withdrawn.

Sharon Toon

'Swithland slate headstones in Leicestershire'

This dissertation aims to contrast the symbolism contained on Swithland slate headstones in a defined section of rural and urban churchyards in Leicestershire, with a view to examining the changes occurring over time. It also focuses on non-symbolic themes contained on the headstones to examine the range of information they provide. An attempt is made to contrast findings in the rural and urban sites and to offer possible explanations as to why differences occurred.

A database, compiled from field visits, containing details of 1,559 slate headstones provided a principal source of information. Unfortunately there is very little published academic material, especially of a recent date, specifically on the Swithland slate headstones of Leicestershire. However, an interesting variety of references was discovered in largely 'local' writers which has partially covered this shortfall. The use of these secondary sources is limited to those that are of particular relevance to specific lines of enquiry.

The conclusion is reached that the symbolism contained on the headstones illustrates that there were not defined periods of appearance and disappearance (by supplanting) of the mortality concept by a later immortality concept, as was expected initially. Instead a general overlap appears in a number of slates which contain both mortality and immortality themes.

M.Phil and PhD THESES IN PROGRESS

The following list of theses in progress updates that which was published in the Newsletter of 1997. Once again it demonstrates the wide range of research undertaken under the auspices of the department, the quality of which is underlined by the continuing success of MA students in obtaining much sought after awards. In this latter connection our congratulations this year go to Kathy Burrell and Rob Lee, both of whom have secured Arts and Humanities Research Board (formerly British Academy) grants.

1) Registered since the 1997 listing

Badcock, Matthew
'Land ownership tenurial patterns and social conditions in rural Devon, 1840-1910' (joint with Dept of Geography)

Brown, Elaine
'Education, literacy and society: Leicester, 1800-1870'

Burrell, Katherine **(AHRB Grant)**
'Racial violence in Cardiff and Bristol, 1880-1939'

Carlton, Ann Elizabeth
'Centre and locality: Boston and Grimsby, 1530-1630'

Cresswell, Yvonne Maria
'Manx Folklore - a continuous or changing tradition?'

Featherby, Rupert Nicholas
'A historical/archaeological study of Swaledale'

Fox, Alan William
'Aspects of agrarian change in the Wreake Valley in 16th and 17th centuries'

Lee, Robert James **(AHRB Grant)**
'Nineteenth-century parish society and the country clergy: the politics of the Anglican Church and its effects in rural Norfolk'

Murray, Rhianydd
'A hosiery town: Hinckley *c.*1750-1950'

Stuart, Denis Gwynne
'The early history of Quakerism in Staffordshire, 1651-1743'

2) Previously listed

Pinches, Sylvia
'History of charities and relations with statutory bodies and provision of relief'

Robinson, Elizabeth
'Profile of Rugby Working Women 1870-1950'

Upton, Penny
'Deserted settlements in Warwickshire'

Upton, Anthony Arthur
'Warwickshire parishes: their clergy and the Reformation'

Barker, Anne E.
'Medieval settlement in Essex'

Cordle, Celia
'The culture of the Hop'

Davis, Vernon E.L.
'Economics, exploitation and environment, N.W. Leicester, *c.*1870'

Edwards, Eileen
'Social structure in late medieval Solihull'

Finnemore, Terence J.
'The early history of S. Staffordshire with especial reference to the evolution of boundaries'

Garratt, Delia
'Nineteenth-century religious societies in the West Midlands'

Hunt, Ian
'Growth of rural industries in parishes of N.W. Leicestershire'

Marston, Lynn
'Medieval Glastonbury'

Masters, Philip
'Anglo-Saxon and Norman minsters and territories in Sussex'

Orme, Patricia
'Church monuments as reflections of culture and society in medieval Warwickshire'

Paul, Elizabeth Derryan
'Rural communities and their churches, 1660-1830'

Phillips, Sibyl
'Nineteenth-century evangelicalism'

Sheppard, David
'Medieval and Early Modern landscapes of the Warwickshire Arden'

Shorthouse, Derek
'Local government and society in Gloucestershire *c.*1870-1920'

'Starr, Christopher Rupert
Attaining, maintaining and transferring gentry status in fourteenth-century Essex'

Thornton, Michael
'Deserted villages in Northamptonshire *c.*1300-*c.*1500'

Wolfe, Geoff
'Church and society in Warwickshire 1350-1540'

STAFF DISTINCTIONS

H.S.A. Fox

Our congratulations go to Harold who, in addition to his presidency of the Devon History Society, was elected President of the Medieval Settlement Research Group in 1998.

STAFF CHANGES

G.R. Jones

On the completion of his two-year Research Fellowship funded by the Leverhulme and Aurelius trusts, during which he has established a firm basis for the projected National Electronic Atlas of Saints' Cults, Graham is about to take up a research fellowship in the University of Wales at Aberystwyth. There he joins the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies where he will be involved with the compilation of another atlas - this time of the cultural and linguistic influence of the Celtic peoples throughout Europe. Although distinct from his research on saints' cults it will mesh well with this ongoing work, having regard to which he will retain his long and stimulating connection with the department by way of an Honorary Visiting Fellowship.

I first learned of Graham's existence when, as a raw researcher organising one of the late-lamented postgraduate research seminars, I received an electronic tape from distant Dubai of a paper he wished to give *in absentia* about one of his favourite saints - who else but Helen. Unfortunately this could not be played because of a faulty tape-deck, but his typescript was distributed and I expressed the hope that he would be with us in person for the next seminar. Not only did this prove to be the case, but better still, Graham, by then embarked upon his PhD, organised the event in exemplary fashion. He had arrived just months before from Dubai, travelling overland in a gas-guzzling vehicle (that then and since has provided overnight accomodation) by way of such places as the 'rose-red city' of Petra and Mar Gabriel in Turkey, his graphic description of which, at the start of his Spring seminar here in 1996, so engaged his audience.

Ever since, Graham has impressed and amazed us all with his immense energy and enthusiasm (sustained by copious quantities of wholemeal bread, honey, bananas and other organic foodstuffs, for the preparation of which the MFH kitchen really came into its own) - not just for the cult of saints, but for each and every aspect of history, local or otherwise and no matter how abstruse or esoteric. A dedicated scholar now, his earlier journalistic background and his mastery of IT skills, combined with presentational flair, have vastly benefited the department in the last five years. Three summers of research in Catalonia (the most recent is reported below) have provided the counterpoise to much hard work and a wide range of activity; from discovering lost saints (see the 'The enigmatic St Morrell', below) to teaching undergraduates, taking tutor groups, organising and teaching evening classes and seminars in Leicester, Bristol, Leeds and beyond, presenting papers and appearing on local radio and television to expound on such things as the connection between Leicester and King Lear. As if all this, and more besides, were not enough, he was the driving force behind the very successful international colloquium which met here in July in order to prepare for the trans-national data-base of saints' cults. With so much to do, and so much achieved, it is no wonder that he haunted Marc Fitch House from dawn to dusk and after, often for six or seven days each week.

Graham will be much missed, but his Leicester connections having been forged so well, we know that we shall see and hear from him not infrequently. In the meantime we wish him every continued success, many new discoveries and much happiness.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

In addition to the distinguished visitors who attended the trans-national colloquium in July (reported below), that month also saw the visit of Professor Renzo Dionigi, Professor of Surgery and Vice-Chancellor (Rettore) of the Università Degli Studi Dell'Insubria (Varese, Italy). He was seeking advice about the establishment of an International Research Centre for the study of Local Histories and Cultural Diversities in his university. Following the visit there has been a good deal of correspondence concerning collaboration between this centre and ours.

As the Newsletter goes to press we await the imminent visit of three officials of the Dutch Government (Department of Culture) who are visiting England specifically in order to study, 1) academic local history (especially teaching) in England as developed by the Department of English Local History, 2) the structure of local history in England.

Further details about both of these interesting developments in a future Newsletter.

STEER ARCHIVE CATALOGUE

Celia Swainson's work on the Steer archive has continued throughout the year and at the last count 1,992 guides and pamphlets had been catalogued on a county by county basis.

GIFTS TO THE MAP ROOM AND LIBRARY

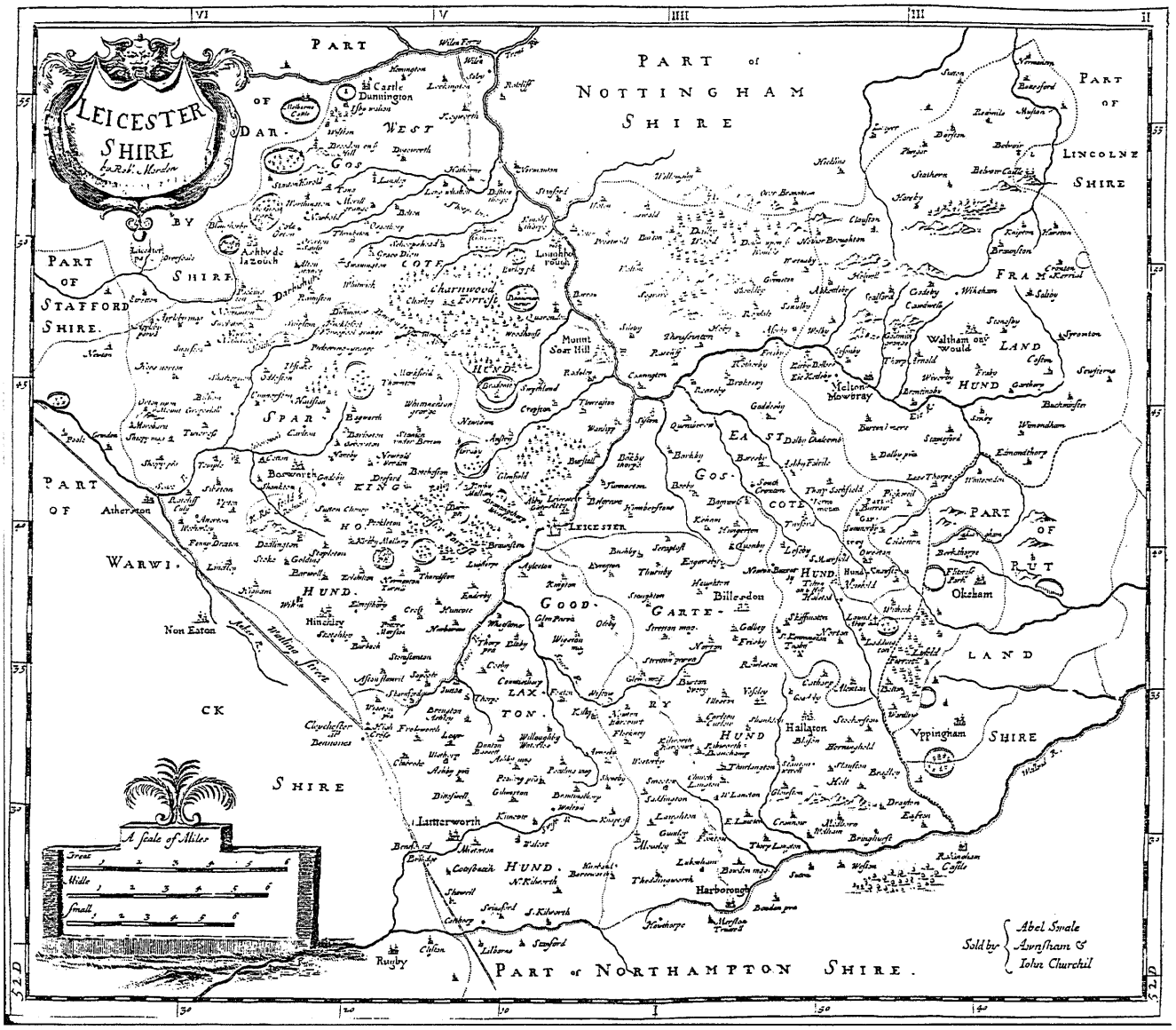
Once again we tender warm thanks to all those who have helped to augment the department's collections. Those who have made gifts in the last year include E Allwright,

W. Bates, E. Edwards, G. Forster, H. Fox, P. Gant, B. Johnson, J. Heathcote-Ball, A.P. Moretti, The Moxon Society, C. Phythian-Adams, S. Pinches, M. Tranter, C. Vialls, E. Vollans, B. Waites*, J. Winterburn.

* indicates author

To single out any of these benefactors, some of whom make donations almost every year, is, perhaps, invidious, but your attention is drawn to the illustration below of Robert Morden's 1695 map of the County of Leicester, an original of which is one of five framed maps given by John Heathcote Ball, all of which will shortly grace the walls of the department.

In addition the department is extremely grateful to Mrs P. Gant of Cambridge, Richard McKinley's sister, who has kindly arranged for his books to be given to the department, for the Marc Fitch Fund Library, in memory of him.



SEMINAR PROGRAMME 1999-2000

If you would like to come to any of the following seminars, you will be very welcome. They are held in the Seminar Room at Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road. **We regret that it is essential that you notify the Departmental Secretary (Mrs Pauline Whitmore on Leicester 0116 252 2762) THE DAY BEFORE as there may be limits on the number of spaces available. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to turn away visitors who have not telephoned.**

All seminars take place at 2.15 to 4.00 p.m. (approx), followed by tea.

TERM I (1999)

Dr Steven Bassett (Department of History, University of Birmingham)	Thursday 14 October	How the west was won: the Anglo-Saxon takeover of the west midlands
Dr Roey Sweet (Economic & Social History, University of Leicester)	Thursday 4 November	Reform and Renewal in Urban Government before 1835
Dr Dennis Mills (Open University)	Thursday 18 November	The Sibthorps of Canwick Hall, Lincoln, and their estates in four counties, c.1716-1940
Dr Brian Short (School of Cultural and Community Studies, University of Sussex)	Thursday 9 December	A Domesday of English farming: the National Farm Survey 1941-1943

TERM II (2000)

Dr Jo Story (Department of History, University of Leicester)	Thursday 3 February	Charlemagne and the Anglo-Saxons
Ms Pat Orme (Dept. of English Local History, University of Leicester)	Thursday 24 February	Piety, penitence and power: a glance at Warwickshire church monuments from 1450-1656
Dr Michael Zell (School of Humanities, University of Greenwich)	Thursday 2 March	Private profit and public welfare: work for the provincial poor in early Stuart Englan
Professor Richard Marks, (Research Department, the Victoria & Albert Museum)	Thursday 9 March	Patronage, piety and power in the medieval parish church: reading imagery of Stanford on Avon, Northamptonshire
Mr Alan Fox (Dept. of English Local History, University of Leicester)	Thursday 16 March	A boundary between cultural provinces? The border area between Leicestershire and Kestevan in the 18th century
Dr Geoff Brandwood	Thursday 23 March	'A Church as it should be' - the rise and triumph of ecclesiology in Early Victorian Leicestershire

ANOTHER CATALONIAN SUMMER

Trudging up and down grid-lines with cumbersome archaeological probes in Mediterranean heat, recording about 2,000 resistivity readings at metre intervals, is possibly not everyone's idea of how to spend one's annual leave. The indefatigable Graham reports, however, that tracing the outlines of the late religious community at the core of an important pilgrimage site was a satisfying outcome. Aches were soothed with refreshment while the findings were compared with two sixteenth-century inventories of the sanctuary of Sant Magi north of Tarragona.

Graham's third summer season of work on the saints' cults of Catalunya, was aided this year as last with grants from the department and the Faculty of Arts. He also made further progress towards explaining the rare occidentation (west-facing plan) of the shrine altar, visited places associated with the saint in a corridor (possibly a transhumance route?) between Tarragona and the Pyrenees, added fourteenth-century material to his database of dedications in Catalunya generally, and was presented with books and other items towards a growing archive.

This year's activity ended with two days' work at the Centre for Catalan Studies attached to the University of Perpignan, since the northernmost Magi site is a well in the French Pyrenees. This followed one of those bizarre events with which every fieldworker can amuse friends and colleagues for months to follow. Advised (correctly as it turned out) that useful information about the well could be had from the proprietor of a nearby but secluded house, Graham knocked at the door, which was opened by a well-proportioned lady without a stitch of clothing. The house was a naturist club. Graham assures us that he kept his cool and collected a good deal of information. As to whether his own clothes stayed on, he just won't say.

PRO APPOINTMENT

Following the completion of her PhD (reported above) we were delighted to learn that Kate Parkin has secured a five-year contract at the PRO. She will be one of two Research Associates engaged, to work under Christine Carpenter, to complete the *Calendars of Inquisitions Post Mortem* for the 'missing' period from 1422 to 1485. We wish her well in this endeavour, and also in her eventual move to the ancient property that she and her husband, John, have been renovating in Boston.

THE JOHN NICHOLS PRIZE

You are reminded that there is still time to enter for the John Nichols Prize of £100. This is available for a scholarly essay, not exceeding 20,000 words, which considers some theme or aspect of English local history sympathetic to the department's approaches. The closing date for submissions is 31st December. MA course participants may, if they receive a distinction for their dissertation, simply send a note indicating their wish to enter to Dave Postles, from whom other potential applicants may obtain further particulars.

OBITUARIES

Richard McKinley 1921 - 1999

It is sad to report the death, on 23 May 1999, of Richard McKinley who retired from the department in 1986 as Marc Fitch Senior Research Fellow, continuing to occupy a room after that as an Honorary Research Fellow. Richard came to University College Leicester in 1949 not long after the department was founded: the young Manchester graduate, already with several years of war service behind him, was given space in the College's Hatton Room as Local Assistant Editor for the Victoria County History, under W.G. Hoskins. He kept in touch until quite recently: his death thus marks fifty years of association with the department.

Richard was the department's foremost scholar. All of his colleagues have recognized that, without any sense of envy or jealousy, but as established fact: Herbert Finberg described him as the most learned man he knew. A rigorous training at the renowned Manchester School under Jacob, Redford, Namier and Cheney, work for the Victoria County History under the ever-vigilant and painstaking Pugh, his own scrutiny of so many counties for the English Surnames Survey, his work as an archivist in the West Country and the Midlands - all gave him an unrivalled command of English history. What one feared most in asking him to help with some historical query was the negative answer for as likely as not this meant that the problem was without solution. Many members of staff in the department and many generations of students have been guided towards a happy solution to their queries by his profound knowledge of the Middle Ages. In addition, he could assist if the question was on the subject of twentieth-century local government, or the poor law, or the Tudor subsidies ... the range was enviable and the recall instantaneous. No narrow specialism here.

One cannot write of a Manchester medievalist without recalling the sombre features of Tait and Tout who peer awkwardly out from the frontispiece of their *Festschriften*. Richard McKinley was not at all like that. His was a humane and benign appearance, with a good sense of humour just below the surface. Although they were not to be offered without a little prompting, a fund of humourous anecdotes (not least about the department) and a wry chuckle could be drawn from him without too much difficulty. He would talk too about his service years in Burma with the Royal Artillery where

his task was to calculate the range of artillery fire, about his travels in Europe and elsewhere and about his reading, which ranged far beyond his research. One interest which was not suspected, unless prised out of him in conversation, was in the histories and pre-histories of exotic people and places: Egyptians, Minoans, Etruscans, Slavs ... . Another was military history generally and, especially, the history of siege warfare. The former was inspired long ago when, as a clergyman's son near Oldham, he came across and became devoted to an historical encyclopedia, a compendium which fired the young boy's imagination and was obviously an influence on his career and his leisure interests. It is not surprising that his library contained many volumes in the *Ancient Peoples and Places* series edited by Glyn Daniel, and two works on the defence of Gibraltar by George Augustus Eliott.

He leaves behind, as well as influential papers, two monuments which add lustre to the Department of English Local History. One is the *Victoria History of the County of Leicester*, originally edited from the department by W.G. Hoskins. Hoskins to a large extent planned the thematic volumes, but it was left to Richard to bring these plans to fruition and to carry the series forward with topographical volumes on the City of Leicester and on Gartree Hundred. He admitted that when he first came to Leicester his task was to infill the vacant spaces in the design. The sections on 'Religious history' came naturally to him, for he had recently completed his MA dissertation on the cartulary of Breedon Priory; but characteristically he turned his hand to subjects initially more foreign to him, on 'Political history, 1885-1950' and on 'The forests of Leicestershire' - and made them his own. The VCH volumes for Leicestershire, although still incomplete, are undoubtedly among the best of the county sets of the post-war period. The thematic volumes contain a glittering collection of scholars: Richard himself, Simmons, Plumb, Thirsk, Hilton. The topographical voulumes, a *genre* still (quite wrongly) maligned in some circles, belong to the new generation which, for each parish, adds comprehensive sections invaluable to the social historian - on nonconformity and economic history for example - to the old paragraphs on 'manorial descent' and 'the church'. This work came to an end in 1956, when the local funding ran out.

Richard's other great achievement comprises the first five volumes of the English Surnames Survey. The germ of the idea was no doubt sown by Hoskins: it is clear from several of his early writings that he became fascinated by the ways in which surnames both persisted, in some cases, and ramified numerically and geographically, in others. The team which set up the Survey - W.G. Hoskins, Marc Fitch, F.W. Steer, Sir Anthony Wagner - naturally turned to Richard, and he returned to Leicester in 1965, after spells as Archivist for Exeter City Council and for Staffordshire, to become its first Director. From the outset the Survey was very much under his command: he influenced the choice of counties to be covered, he desined the strategy for research, he did all the work at the quarry face itself (except for the volume on Yorkshire, West Riding); the very scheme for classification of names was his, for when he started there was none which was satisfactory for the uses to which surnames were now being put - the elucidation of certain fundamental problems of social and economic history. His primacy in the field was acknowledged in 1989 when he became Chairman of the Council for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland.

When he retired as Director in 1986, he had completed (or nearly so) four volumes in the Survey, Norfolk with Suffolk, Oxfordshire, Lancashire and Sussex - a remarkable achievement. He also carried out some of the work on the Devon volume, brought to completion by David Postles. At the retirement celebrations in that year, Charles Phythian-Adams described Richard as 'the historian's historian', a compliment which many may aspire to, but few achieve. Just so. But there were other talents still, for in his retirement he distilled twenty-five years of work on surnames - in the *History of British Surnames* (Longmans, 1990) a popular work which earned him many invitations to speak before local audiences.

Richard's colleagues and students valued all of these qualities and above all, in an age when it is no longer safe to assume that all people in universities are entirely sincere, they valued his complete integrity and reliability. He never deviated from the research task in hand; he thought hard about how to teach his students, a task which became increasingly difficult in medieval palaeography classes, as more and more of them lacked the necessary Latin; and he was dedicated to the rhythms of the academic year. You knew where you were with Richard McKinley.

Harold Fox

Anne Mitson 1943 - 1999

All who knew her were much saddened by news of Anne's sudden death, after a period of illness, early in February. Anne first entered the department as a mature MA student in 1981 following an early career as a secretary, housewife and mother. Having completed her first degree in English and History at what was then Nottingham Trent Polytechnic immediately prior to her MA course, she went on triumphantly to complete her innovative PhD thesis ' Social, economic and kinship networks in rural south-west Nottinghamshire *c.* 1580 - 1700', in 1987. Publication of a significant part of this work followed in the volume edited by Charles, *Societies, Cultures and Kinship, 1580 - 1850.* In addition, she published a number of other papers, the latest of which, 'An exchange of letters:

estate management and Lady Yarborough', appeared in *Women's History Review* in 1998.

The Friends owe an enormous debt to Anne. Not only was she our faithful membership secretary, organising the circulation of the Newsletter up until the last issue, but she was also one of its enthusiastic founding members to whom much credit must go for its realisation in 1989, and its continuing success. Charles and your editor represented the department and Friends at a memorial service held at St Leonard's Church, Wollaton, on February 18, at which students and colleagues from Nottingham Trent University (where she held a teaching post), joined many former colleagues and fellow students alongside her close-knit family to celebrate her life and its many achievements.

Charles writes: 'Quiet, self-effacing, disarmingly amused and amusing, Anne was nevertheless a person of unobtrusive drive, extraordinary efficiency and deep seriousness. She thoroughly merited her historical successes at Trent, before coming here as a mature undergraduate, and after as a gifted and understanding teacher. Appropriately an annual lecture has already been created there in her memory. At Leicester her MA with distinction won her one of the first E.S.R.C. awards to be granted to an erstwhile Polytechnic student, and it allowed her to convert from part-time to full-time candidature for her PhD (completed, characteristically, on time). Fortunately the publication from the thesis of some of her highly significant findings on early-modern kinship patterns in South Nottinghamshire - amongst others stemming from her subsequent work on Lincolnshire - brought her a well-earned sense of achievement before her premature death which she confronted stoically and with typical courage. By it we are cruelly deprived of a delightful personality, a woman of cultured interests in good music, theatre and conversation, whose understated elegance of dress regularly lent an example of style to the sartorially-challenged male inmates of Marc Fitch House. She will be missed by us all, both as a personal friend of charm and distinction, and also as a pioneer officer of the Friends, who cared passionately for the future of the department and the pursuit of scholarship in all aspects of local and social history.

Hugh Burns 1947 - 1998

After a debilitating illness Hugh Burns died in a Swansea hospital near to his mother's home on December 28th last. Hugh was one of a sextet of full-time MA students who enlivened Marc Fitch House in 1993-4. While fitting in easily with his fellows he was an atypical postgraduate, having progressed to higher education via a craft apprenticeship, followed by some 18 years of service in the Royal Navy and naval dockyards. He took his first degree, in Historical Studies, at the University of Portsmouth and came direct from that experience to the MA. Nothing if not determined, Hugh finally obtained his second degree in 1996 having written a dissertation which drew upon his specialised knowledge of the navy and Portsmouth - 'Aspects of the Portsmouth area in fiction'.

Jonathan Pitt, one of his friends and contemporaries at MFH, writes, 'I always admired the way Hugh had set out to completely change the course of his life ... by going back to college and then working through an MA, especially given the age at which he started. ... he did not always find the MA easy, but he did keep at it when some of our (part-time) contemporaries did not. His mother says he very much enjoyed the field-course in Cumbria - all six full-timers stayed in the same cottage and we all felt, I think, that that week helped us to become a closer-knit group. Evening walks down to the river, and to the pub, quickly became established regular activities. It wasn't always obvious that Hugh was enjoying himself (especially when he was hungry at lunch-time, having eaten his sandwiches at 10 or 10.30), but that was often the case with Hugh ... you just had to know him pretty well in order to know that he was having fun, but he was fun to have around.

Tony Rollings 1927-1999

News of Tony's death on 25th August arrived as the editing of the Newsletter was nearing completion and set the seal on a mournful year of mortality.

Tony was a remarkable man whose courage, cheerfulnes and determination to complete his Ph.D (reported last year) in the face of incapacitating illness won the admiration of all who knew him. He was educated at Tetbury Grammar School and the University of Wales where he took his first degree in English in 1948. He went on to take a second BA, this time in History, as an external student of London Univesity in 1957. He enjoyed a long teaching career, for the last twenty years of which he was the Principal of Roundhill Community College in Thurmaston, Leicestershire. Following his retirement he embarked upon his PhD, 'Aspects of Anglo-Saxon history in the East Midlands with special reference to the lower Soar valley', as a part-time student in 1990 and there can be little doubt that, given normal good health, his application combined with his background knowledge of Anglo-Saxon England and original turn of mind, would have resulted in a much earlier award of his doctorate than in the event proved possible. A firm supporter of the Friends, Tony was last seen in Marc Fitch House on Jubilee Day which he attended throughout, although we know that it involved an enormous effort on his part. Harold Fox represented the department at the funeral service at St Peter's Church, Belgrave, on September 2nd.

Charles writes: 'Tony was one of the characters of the department. Even in his later years of illness he

sustained such a positive view of life; through thick and thin he was determined to complete his PhD. Complete it he did, and he defended it robustly at the viva. He must have been an engaging teacher and an understanding Principal: you could feel his enormous enthusiasm for his subject; enjoy his appetite for life; and spot the mischievous twinkle in his eye. He was fascinated by archaeology and by Old English (which he studied originally under Kenneth Cameron), and came to local history rather later, apparently much appreciating the numerous classes and seminars that he attended in the department. He was a delight to supervise not only because of his relish for scholarship and his penetrating mind, but also because he shared both one's irritation at unnecessary bureaucracy and a mutual interest in home-cooking. His vitality, even during illness, was such that it remains difficult to believe that he is no more'.

Randolph Wise 1925-1999

Sadly, just as we go to press, we learn of the death of the Very Reverend Randolph Wise, Dean Emeritus of Peterborough, who completed his MA, 'Corby: the growth and decline of a steel town - 1930-1990', in 1996. A full obituary of this remarkable man will appear in the next Newsletter.

On behalf of all Friends we extend our deepest sympathies to the families of, and all those close to, those whose loss is reported above.

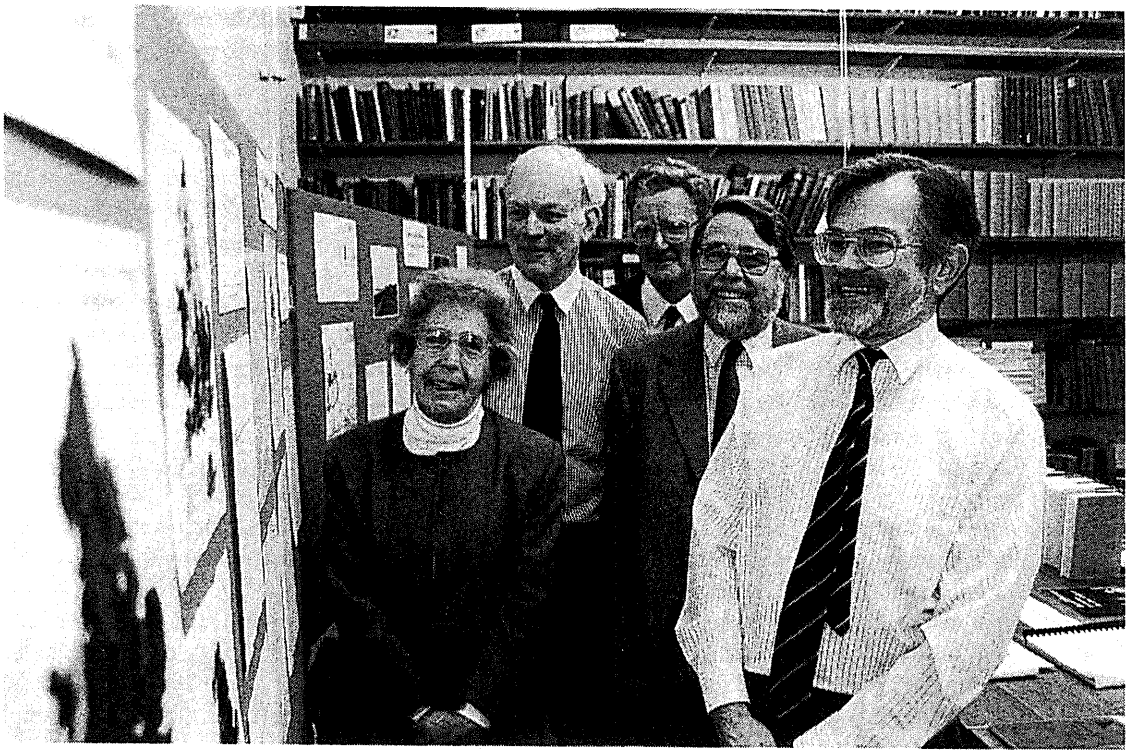
EVENTS SPONSORED BY FRIENDS

JUBILEE OPEN DAY AND PUBLIC LECTURE

The department's 50th Jubilee celebrations were brought to a very successful climax on Saturday 5th December last year when some 300 Friends and guests packed the Rattray lecture theatre to hear Professor Mick Aston of the University of Bristol and Channel 4's 'Time Team', talk about the making of that programme.

Mick (attired in the famous multi-coloured sweater) gave much of himself during a very full day. He was among the first to arrive of those who thronged Marc Fitch House from mid-morning onwards to view the exhibitions and meet up with old friends.

He attended each of the five mini-lectures, delivered in a packed seminar room, which ranged over subjects as diverse as a Catholic Friendly Society in nineteenth-century Birmingham (Sylvia Pinches), Thomas Gainsborough and rural England (Keith Snell), Saints and the English (Graham Jones) and the enticing 'Titillation or title? Godiva's ride as mental map' (Charles Phythian-Adams). To round-off this miscellany, Professor Alan Everitt recalled his early memories of the department to an audience that overflowed on to the landing.



The photograph (courtesy of the *Leicester Mercury*) shows, from left to right, a loyal but unnamed Friend, Ken Hawker, Derek Shorthouse, Charles Phythian-Adams and Mike Thompson, looking at one of the Jubilee Day exhibits

Professor Aston's talk provided a most fitting end to the day - it was after all a most appropriate case of one great enthusiast, populariser and communicator contributing towards an occasion that was born of the genius of another such man. His account of the team, and technology, behind 'the Team' fascinated his audience and the foretaste he gave us of programmes yet to be made whetted the appetite. After a lively question and answer session and a vote of thanks from Vernon Davis (who else?), Mick proceeded to draw the Jubilee raffle. Although this apparently resulted in alcholic beverages going to avowed teetotallers, and pet food to those without cat or dog, it nevertheless realised net proceeds of over £1600, the largest element in a total net profit for the day of over £2,300, a sum which will help to fund student bursaries for another year. Demonstrating both stamina and commitment to the events of the day, Mick was among the last to leave the convivial gathering in the Rattray coffee bar following the end of the formal proceedings, where he met and talked to many of his audience.

Altogether it was a most rewarding occasion for which much credit is due to the Jubilee sub-committee (Derek Shorthouse, Sylvia Pinches, Ken Hawker, John Rowley and Mike Thompson), many helpers - most notably Chris Draycott, Pauline Whitmore and Ken Smith - and those named above who gave mini-lectures.

TENTH W.G. HOSKINS LECTURE

The tenth W. G. Hoskins lecture on the 5th June 1999 was given by Alan Everitt, who was welcomed back to the department, of which he had been the head, for fourteen years. The subject of his talk was 'Commons and the livelihoods associated with them'.

Professor Everitt began by pointing out that W. G. Hoskins, in association with Dudley Stamp, had written in the 1960s about commons, a subject which had subsequently received little attention until recently. Some of Hoskins' conclusions are now being revised, but his main one was true - considerable attrition of England's commons had indeed occurred over the last 300 years. This conclusion was supported by Professor Everitt's research which indicates that today commons cover only three per cent of England whereas in 1690 the figure had been around twenty-five per cent. Today commons are mainly concentrated in the fells and moors of the north and west, although there are a good number of examples in parts of lowland England, especially in Hampshire and Surrey, each with over 15,000 acres.

Previously the situation was more complex with many more survivals in the lowlands into the nineteenth century, particularly in Buckinghamshire, Surrey and Sussex. Commons had persisted close to London before its inexorable growth passed over and round them. Many of the place names in London indicate their past as commons, for example Hyde Park, Wimbledon Common, Hackney Downs and Wormwood Scrubs. A nineteenth-century railway brochure advertised the wonderful opportunities for walking amongst wild flowers and woods close to its line from the capital to Tunbridge Wells.

In other parts of the country there was, in the nineteenth century, a similar situation to that of the London area, for example in the Black Country, the Potteries and in the vicinity of the 'new town' of Coalville in Leicestershire. The writers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as Daniel Defoe, Celia Fiennes and Robert Plot give some indication of the complex reality behind Hoskins' 'peasant economy'.

At this point Professor Everitt defined 'common'. He was speaking here of the common 'wastes' outside the common fields and meadows. In fact 'commons' were much more numerous away from areas where common fields were the norm, as in the Midlands. The term 'waste' as applied to commons should not be taken as meaning 'useless'. The 'wastes' were certainly more intractable and not intensively cultivated, in fact usually scrub, moor and woodland, but such areas had their uses. Quite often commons were separate from the rest of the parish, but important because they broadened the economy of the whole area. In places commons coalesced to form larger areas as, for example, in the east Derbyshire woodlands.

There are about 400 'greens' in England, but relatively few are village greens, although some were planned at the centres of villages especially in north-east England. More typically greens tend to be part of common land hamlets, and are not usually represented in records until late medieval or early modern times.

It was also emphasised that common land was not public property and had not been since the tenth century. Usually it belonged to manorial lords who allowed certain rights of use by their tenants - the commoners (rather than the whole population); such rights varied considerably from place to place. In fact there were frequent conflicts of interest between the lords and peasants, as well as between parishes where there was inter-commoning.

We do not know how much common land was lost because of parliamentary enclosure in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, although it must have been at least two-and-a-quarter million acres, and possibly as much as three-and-a-half million. The piecemeal private enclosure that had taken place from medieval times continued right through to the nineteenth century, especially in those parts of England where common fields were not the norm. For example, Kent probably lost 70,000 acres by piecemeal enclosure, with possibly three million acres in the whole of England.

Kent is the county of Professor Everitt's youth

and he described it as being typical of old woodland country, with twenty-five percent of its area still covered by woodland and commons compared with largely woodland-free Leicestershire, which is typical of old common field country. In regions of old woodland, pieces of common are much more likely to have survived despite piecemeal enclosure, with 240 commons still in Surrey and 186 in Hertfordshire. In such areas the commons in adjacent parishes are often linked to form chains. The decision to reduce the amount of common land in the old woodland areas was often taken by the manorial lords, who, along with other enclosers, used quarter sessions, private legal agreements and personal agreements to accomplish their aims. Other enclosure occurred because of the need for land for industrial development, and for the construction of public buildings such as hospitals and workhouses.

Also significant was the small-scale encroachment by landless people, who tended to drift towards the commons and wastes. There was a widespread belief that if one could build a house overnight, with smoke coming out of the chimney in the morning, then one had a right to live there. Although there was no legal backing for this belief, the wastes and commons became the homes of squatters, particularly in areas of weak manorial control. The method of house construction may have been developed from those used for seasonal shielings. Such dwellings tended to be scattered but could nevertheless form the basis of an industrial settlement. Their successors may still be seen today, after several re-buildings, usually with very little garden.

Some of the typical occupations of the commons are well-known to local historians, for example pottery and tile making. Others however, particularly those that developed since medieval times, are not so well-known. Examples include spooners and hassock, hurdle, hone (i.e. whetstone) and broom makers. They may well be under-represented in documents because occupations were often combined, particularly with farming and inn-keeping. It must be remembered that many products that seem unimportant today were essential in former times, for example wooden shovels, scythes and sickles.

Some areas in the country became associated with specialist crafts, often because of localised raw materials. Brandon in Suffolk was important for gun flint manufacture, Wymondham in Norfolk for spoons, and the Chilterns of Hertfordshire for wood products such as spoons and shovels. Castle Donington was associated with basket-weaving based on the withy banks alongside the Trent. Coleshill, a detached part of Hertfordshire, had potters' earth that was used for domestic earthenware and Cove Common in Hampshire had thirteen potteries at one time, peat for fuel being a major locational factor.

Woodland occupations were definitely the most important with a wide range of products including hurdles particularly around Beaconsfield and Chalfont St Giles; scrubbing brushes and brooms, notably around Croydon, using the butcher's broom shrub; spindles and butchers' skewers from the spindle tree; and brooms from the bast of trees. Further resources were the fifty varieties of willow as well as wild dogwood, hazel, alder, rushes and sedges. Apparently trivial items such as goose grass (for feeding geese of course) and nettles (for green dye) were part of the economy. Even as the area of the commons declined, many of us can remember itinerant gypsy women selling wooden clothes pegs earlier this century.

The commons were thus areas of humble materials, humble products and humble people, yet they could give rise to important settlements. They were also often areas of nonconformity, including religious nonconformity. The people who lived there were linked by a kind of bush telegraph, with news carried by travelling tinkers, chapmen, drovers, gypsies, horse dealers, even brigands and smugglers who met at public houses, fairs and, in particular, at market places.

In conclusion Professor Everitt stressed that every settlement that developed on the commons has a distinctive history. Such settlements were often marked by people with strong individuality, even if they were low on the social scale.

At the end of the lecture, questions were asked about the position of commons in relation to county and parish boundaries. There does seem to be a relationship in many areas but there are exceptions. The Hertfordshire/Middlesex boundary was drawn quite late through a line of commons so that former parishes were divided, leaving places like North and South Mimms on either side. Regarding the relationship between religious nonconformity and commons we must beware of being too deterministic, although Quaker meeting houses are frequently on or near them. However, there is little support for a connection in the Surrey/Sussex/ Hampshire area, perhaps because influential individuals living there managed to hinder the development of nonconformity.

Other questions were concerned with the perceptions of the inhabitants of the commons as they declined. Professor Everitt replied that there was considerable variation across occupations with some, like water-crock making, lasting well into the twentieth century but, he added, we must not be too obsessed by 'decline', because decline of every economy is inevitable in the long-term.

At the end of his talk Professor Everitt received warm applause from the appreciative audience for a memorable Hoskins lecture as befitted the last one of the twentieth century. After the vote of thanks by Vernon Davis, members went to Marc Fitch House for another excellent tea organised by our ever-faithful Chris

Draycott, and the opportunity to buy items from the book sale which raised the sum of £143 [disappointingly much less than in the last several years, ed.].
Alan Fox

FRIENDS SUMMER OUTING

Students who wish to write dissertations in postmodern style might consider, as a model, a theatrical form known as simultaneous theatre in which different, apparently unrelated actions take place on various parts of the stage at the same time. Thus on Saturday 10th July, while Miriam Gill was telling us about the finest fourteenth century domestic wall paintings in northern Europe (only discovered thanks to a Dad's Army darts match), her insightful comments were accompanied by a loud clinking of coins and a ringing cash register. The relationship between these events was not hard to work out as the English Heritage custodian later exhibited a vigorous disdain for 'scholars'.

The day of the outing began with the ever efficient Sylvia Pinches, replete with firmly clasped clipboard, confirming that we were all properly present and organised. It was, however, beyond her powers to moderate the easy confidence of our driver, whose immortal words, 'I've studied the map. I've discussed the way in the pub. I know where I'm going', ensured that Sylvia needed to study the route for the rest of the day!

Our first stop was Peakirk, five miles north of Peterborough. The party having divided, some were regaled with stories by kindly and devoted nuns concerning their chapel, while others viewed fourteenth-century murals in the parish church which is uniquely dedicated to St Pega. Miriam Gill explained that seeing the St Christopher, immediately opposite the north door, would keep us safe for the rest of the day and protect us from weariness. On this latter point, and in the interests of critical scholarship, together with the unquestioning allegiance to the truth that all truth is relative except for the truth that there is no truth, I feel compelled to point out that her remarks were untrue, for on the way home at the end of the day I slept throughout, though it could be argued that if I had more faith in the image's mystical powers ... well, who knows!

Being an essentially religious day it seemed entirely appropriate to discuss pagan 'goings-on' in the Isle of Man over coffee at the Ruddy Duck. Now, properly protected against weariness from a modernist viewpoint, we embarked on a journey in which Sylvia's faith in our driver's navigational skills was sorely tested before we eventually arrived at Longthorpe Tower. Here, among other medieval delights, one of which was too bestial to describe in a respectable journal, we were granted a revelation that 'reason' was not entirely the invention of Enlightenment rationalism after all, for behold we saw a wheel, around which were symbols of the five senses, being turned or controlled by King Reason.

The next stop was Flag Fen, where it could be said the Friends consumed lunch in post-modern style for our party fragmented, individuals choosing different aspects of the facilities and large area available. Later, Michael, our Welsh guide, provided a highly informative tour, holding us all spellbound round a site where, in his own words, '... there is not a lot to see'. Three thousand years ago Flag Fen had been under water when Bronze Age peoples had built a processional way and an island by driving posts into the bottom and then dropping tree trunks between them to form a rickety platform. Michael suggested that dead 'warriors' had been carried to the man-made island and that during the journey their weapons were laid beneath the top layer of timber. On the island their bodies may have been placed on stones, burned, and their ashes scattered on the water in the belief that their spirits would thus be freed.

The tour over, Sylvia gave the heroic Friends thirty minutes freedom to explore the Roman herb garden (original?), adopt a duck, or buy some tea (possibly not original), before we were wafted back to Leicester after a most enjoyable and memorable excursion, for which special thanks are due to Sylvia for her careful organisation and to Miriam Gill for unlocking the mysteries of medieval murals.
William Bates

SUMMER LUNCH

11th July 1999

A fresh event in the usual Friends' calendar took place when our treasurer, John Goodacre and his wife Stephanie, invited Friends to join in a party at The White House, Ashby Magna, to coincide with ten days of festivity in celebration, both of his birthday and their wedding anniversary.

Members of the Leicestershire Historic Buildings Trust, and other of John's friends, joined with us to number some two dozen folk, including young John Francis, who enjoyed hospitality amid the marquees in the gardens under the Goodacre Arms and Banner (motto 'Loyalty'), on a beautiful summer's day.

After a delicious luncheon of salmon followed by strawberries and cream, we enjoyed a leisurely tour along the village's main street. We were guided by John's gentle and informative lecture on the vernacular architecture of the buildings, learned of the benefits of cobbles in the farmyard, and of the problems of repair and restoration of old buildings to effect a sympathetic, if expensive, result acceptable to English Heritage. We visited the church and spent some time looking at the Goodacre family memorials both inside and out. The charity boards on the almshouses and the old school (now a village hall) brought home the effects of generous

charity benefaction on a small community.

Back at the White House there were cups of tea and slices of birthday cake, followed by ice-cream which was very welcome on such a sunny day. It was a splendid occasion, with John and Stephanie so welcoming, the location so beautiful, the weather incredible and chances for Friends to get to know others with similar interests in various aspects of local history. It is also good to report that a profit was made to swell the Friends' funds.

Cynthia Thomas

IPSTONES STUDY DAY

21st August 1999

'A hard and wicked place' was how one nineteenth-century visiting preacher described Ipstones, but for our Study Day it was warm and welcoming, without a hint of wickedness. On my preliminary visit in April the hail had been coming horizontally off the moor, but on this Saturday the sun shone brightly, enhancing our enjoyment of the very interesting programme of speakers and visits which had been devised by Marion Aldis and Pam Inder.

The photograph shows John Goodacre, his wife Stephanie, holding son and heir John Francis, Alan Tennant and Ken Hawker, among other guests at The White House, Ashby Magna

Unfortunately only five members of the Friends of ELH came, but this was counterbalanced by the encouraging fact that a dozen non-members, from Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire, had responded to the publicity and came along. This therefore met one of the purposes of the Friends, which is to encourage the study of local history *à la* Leicester school.

Whoever we were, we were greeted at the Memorial Hall with coffee and biscuits by Mrs Fishburn, one of the churchwardens (or 'churchwanderers' as my son recently misread a charity board in Everdon church!). There was an opportunity to browse through a selection of books for sale, and to examine maps, census returns and other documents all brought by Pam and Marion. After my brief welcome on behalf of the Friends, Pam and Marion gave the first of their double acts of the day. They explained how they had become interested in the family papers of the Sneyds, gave a brief outline of the history of the district and, with the help of slides, an introduction to the main members of the Sneyd family. Marion ended by mentioning Susannah Ingleby's cures for chilblains, which led nicely on to the next speaker. Dr Alun Davis, a retired anaesthetist, told us about medical provision for the poor of North Staffordshire in the nineteenth century. He spoke particularly about the development of the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and his medical knowledge helped us to interpret mortality statistics in such a way that we understood that Victorian hospitals were perhaps not so bad as we sometimes have been led to believe. The third speaker was Mr Paul Anderton, a well-known Staffordshire historian, who told us about the town of Leek and its silk industry in the nineteenth century. He pointed out that William Morris's visits to the town and its dye-works, not only influenced his craft work, but that seeing the conditions of the industry, and its workers, also gave an impetus to his social and economic thinking.

After a pleasant pub lunch, Mrs Fishburn showed us around the parish church of St Leonard's. Then we embarked on a coach tour of the district with Pam and Marion's second double act of the day keeping us entertained and informed. The thread running through the day was the Sneyd family; as landowners, mine owners and members of the clergy they were closely linked with the social and economic life of the district, and this interconnectedness of life in the past was apparent through all the lectures and the tour. The afternoon drive vividly brought in the other vital element of Leicester local history - the landscape. Here, deep, densely wooded valleys cut into the higher bleak moorland, and even on this sunny summer day we could appreciate the ruggedness of the people who lived (and live) in this area, and the stamina of the Sneyds, who seem to have walked everywhere. After our much easier trip we were still glad to return to the Memorial Hall at 5 o'clock, where Mrs Fishburn had once again got the kettle on. Although we were small in number, those who came had a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Sylvia Pinches

DIARY DATES

Formal notice is hereby given that the **Friends Annual General Meeting** for 1999 will be held after the Thursday afternoon seminar on 18th November (see Seminar Programme above) at 4.45 p.m. Please do your best to attend.

Eleventh W.G. Hoskins Lecture

This will either be on Saturday 13th or Saturday 20th May 2000, when it is hoped that Oliver Rackham will be the speaker.

Annual Summer Outing

Will be on July 8th, when it is probable that we shall visit various places in and around the Severn Valley.

Brixworth Study Day

Following the success of the Ipstones day it is proposed to hold, jointly with the Friends of Brixworth Church, a similar event on April 1st. This will be a day not to be missed. In addition to other planned sessions, including a guided tour of the village, David Parsons, one of the organisers with Sylvia Pinches, will show participants around the magnificent Saxon church that he knows so well.

BURSARIES

Two 'Friends' bursaries, to a total value of £750, have been awarded to two part-time MA students commencing their studies in September 1999.

LOGO COMPETITION

Only one entry was received in the competition, advertised in the last Newsletter, for a suitable Friends' logo for letterheads and publications. The offer of a £10 prize remains open to the originator of any suggestion adopted.

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGED?

University Challenge is now thoroughly well trodden into the cultural humus of the late twentieth century and, in its second coming, seems to be as popular as ever. Having been an aficionado for years and frequently finding myself thinking 'I know that', when the opportunity arose to try out for the 1998 Leicester team, it proved to be irresistible.

The programme is produced for the BBC by Granada Television in Manchester, and all colleges and universities are invited to enter a team. The process of team selection is left to individual institutions; in the case of Leicester, the team was chosen after a 30-question quiz organised by the Students' Union. After that, the BBC whittles the hopefuls down to a final 28 teams by a preliminary written general knowledge test, then a second test and audition. At the outset, very little seemed to be at stake since there were some 160 applicants and the simple odds of progressing were thus about 5-1 against. But, eventually a message on my answerphone confirmed that we had indeed succeeded in reaching the televised stage and suddenly, with it, the feeling that this might not be such a good idea after all.

Programmes are recorded in two blocks. In our case, the first round was in June and the second and all subsequent rounds in November. With a few special programmes added (including a reappearance of the triumphant Leicester team from the first series in the days of monochrome TV) that amounts to some thirty programmes recorded over about ten days - up to four shows a day. The seamless quality of the broadcast programme and the illusion of real-time progress are a tribute to the professional standards of the production team and a wide selection of jackets (worn over jeans) and ties for Jeremy Paxman.

For our first appearance we were stationed at the Britannia Hotel, a spectacular monument to late Victorian high camp, and we took the opportunity of the overnight accomodation to become better acquainted. The four of us in the team (plus our excellent and long-suffering reserve) had hardly met previously - others, it transpired, were well prepared having practised by competing in college and pub quizzes. We eschewed such professionalism preferring to rely on the strategy traditionally adopted by legions of British amateurs: show up and hope for the best. Our opponents were a team of postgraduate lawyers from City University, London, and it was to be the final recording of the first round. By the time we were ushered into the studio, after watching the previous recording, nervous tension had peaked and I was rapidly adjusting my ambitions, preparing to settle for not appearing a complete buffoon on TV and avoiding any of JP's famous scathing put-downs. Up to this point, I had taken the precaution of not revealing my participation to anyone and, in the event of abject humiliation, was planning to keep quiet or invent an unlikely *doppelgänger*.

As is often the case in high-adrenalin situations, memory is both unreliable and very selective. I recall: the audience, an odd assortment of genuine supporters of both teams, University Challenge regulars and some who seemed to be disappointed not to be watching 'Stars in Their Eyes'; a warm-up comedian doing his best to engender some enthusiasm; the set, rather shabby at close range, a tangle of wires and mostly held together by tape. Once the recording started, events proceeded at such a pace that most of it is a blur. We began reasonably then seemed to get becalmed - I remember thinking that I knew most of the opposition's questions and very few of ours. With only two minutes remaining, we were still 40 points in arrears, but managed to claw our way back by answering three starter questions to tie on the bell and so earn a sudden-death penalty shoot-out! Not a time for faint hearts and, fortunately, Brian Mellerick was first to the buzzer to identify the flag of Bosnia from a partial description. The production team were delighted - a tie being considered 'good television' and the most exciting match of the first round - and we were lucky to be there for the subsequent end-of-term party.

So we had at least won a round and would not be consigned to the oblivion reserved for first-round losers. In the four months before the second recording block, we met as a team on only three occasions, making the most of the broadcast shows to practise our strategy. There is only one strategy - know the answer and get in first. As we had been the final match of the first round, we had to record the second without the benefit or embarrassment of seeing our debut performance. So it was back to Manchester, with enough changes of shirt to see us through to the final in the unlikely event.

Our second opponents were Selwyn College, Cambridge. We won this match quite easily and were thus into the final eight. By this time, with the numbers reduced, there was more of a chance to meet and get to know some of the other teams, and an enforced weekend in Manchester provided the opportunity for an eclectic cultural extravaganza - the Museum of Science and Industry, Chetham's Library and the Coronation Street set in Granada Studios. Arrangements, in my case time off work at short notice, were thrown into chaos when JP was visited by a throat infection and, just minutes into the recording of the first quarter-final, the producer called a halt to proceedings as the star presenter's voice disintegrated. A hastily rearranged schedule had us due to appear on Friday 13th.

Paxman duly restored and Leicester pitted against a formidable Oriel College. We lost. We lost heavily and at one stage it seemed that we might record some kind of record defeat, but at last we achieved respectability with a few face-saving points at the end

when the game was already lost. A knockout format is always likely to produce some cruel luck - we might have met Oriel in round one - and so much depends on the way the questions fall. So, won two, lost one; a reasonable record on the whole and, I think, probably about right.

I have always been attracted by trivia, by the pursuit of essentially useless knowledge for its own sake and, having reached middle age, having been educated above and beyond what is either useful or desirable, one inevitably accretes a certain amount of knowledge. To what extent did my time at ELH help? Well it's difficult to know by what means any particular fact lodges in the brain; certainly questions on any of my subjects were few and it seems that most of the time we relied on general knowledge. But I'm indebted to my current interests (PhD in the history of eighteenth-century civil engineering) for knowing something about canals.

My abiding impression of the experience is one of excitement and great fun. It was fascinating to see the workings of a TV studio at first hand. It was surreal to be queuing for lunch with the cast of Coronation Street. It was good, as a rathet peripheral and part-time postgraduate, to be drawn briefly into campus society. The programme is a splendid institution and it's a neat and amusing irony that the BBC employs its chief political Rottweiler to present what is after all only a game show. If you are eligible, have a go!

David Bates

David Bates is a Friend who, having already a Cambridge PhD in biochemistry, completed his MA in the department in 1994 with his dissertation 'Industrial location: cotton-spinning in Northampton, a case study'. He followed this by completing another PhD in the Department of History at Leicester.

TALKING TO FRIENDS: ALAN EVERITT

Professor Alan Everitt needs little introduction. As the holder of the Hatton Chair of English Local History he headed the department from 1968 until his retirement in 1982. His reminiscences of early days in the department were a highlight of the Jubilee Open Day seminar programme last December, and in this interview he tells us more about his life and work.

Friend: What were the factors or people in your background which led to your interest in English local history?

AE: I grew up in Kent and was educated at Sevenoaks School; but my forbears came from Worcestershire, Wales, and southern Ireland. We were a family of five, brought up among the Brethren, who are often thought of as strict. But although they were strict in some ways (for instance, you weren't allowed to go to cinemas), we were bred up in a house of books, and that made a great difference. We were all tremendous readers. My beloved Aunt Esther, who was father's sister, was the most voracious reader I have ever known. She was a metal artist. More important than the 'strictures' of the Brethren was their strong sense of community. That has certainly influenced my work, though I left them nearly 40 years ago.

I don't remember a time when I wasn't interested in the past, but I didn't really think of it as 'history' because it didn't link in any way with what we were taught as history at school. Many things awakened my interest. I always wanted to be an architect, not an historian, and my concern was first aroused by old buildings. That was partly because father and mother and Aunt Esther were also interested in historic buildings. My grandfather lived in Cornwall, at Morwenstow, in the extreme north and my parents used to spend their Easter holiday there. On the way back they would stop in places like Wells, Sherborne, or Salisbury and see the cathedral or abbey. They would talk about it when they came home and I had a great longing to be with them and see these great churches. Another thing is that I was brought up in an old market town. Sevenoaks was a small place then, but it had historic buildings of every century from the thirteenth to the early twentieth. I became very interested in these and in the sort of life people might have lived in them, especially in the Sackvilles' great house, Knole, from which we were only a few minutes walk. So those were the sorts of things which awakened my enthusiasm. Then quite by chance one day I found on the shelves at home Dent's little series of books (of the 1920s), called *Cathedrals, Abbeys and Famous Churches*. At once I was completely hooked.

Yet another thing which sparked my interest was that in 1935, we moved to a bigger house, which was a 'vernacular revival' building of about 1900. It interested me greatly, partly because it connected with my Aunt's work which came at the end of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and she and her assistant, George Harding, were magical people to awaken a child's interest in craftsmanship of any kind.

Friend: How did you fare at school?

AE: Well, the history master was very good at getting you through exams, but had no ability to interest you. But one person who did greatly influence me was George Rich, who was the brother of the Cambridge historian E.E. Rich, and he taught English Literature. He wasn't much concerned with literary criticism, but with getting you to read the texts, so he took us through many of the English authors. By the time I left school I had read all

of Shakespeare, Jane Austen, George Eliot, the better books of Thomas Hardy, Walter Scott and a great deal else of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. I just became a ferocious reader.

Friend: What happened after school?

AE: After four years in the army I went to St Andrews in 1948 and registered to read English Literature. In a Scottish university at that time you had to read so many 'General' subjects, so I took English, History, and Political Economy, but I wanted to major in English. You had to go through a lot of literary criticism, which often seemed to me sterile and negative. My history tutor, Sir Charles Ogilvie, said one day: 'Why worry? Stick your legs up on the mantelpiece and read Keats; but study history'. This was some of the best advice I ever had. Everything in those days was dominated by the need to get a job, because there were just no jobs, with so many people coming out of the army and the navy. But perhaps the most valuable thing I learned at university was something of intellectual discipline. The way Sir Charles taught us made us think hard, and my enthusiasm became specially fired when we got to the Civil War period. It suddenly seemed to me that a curtain was drawn back on English society and you really got to know the ordinary people.

Friend: Where did you start your working life?

AE: I did get a job when I graduated - with the Universities Association in London. It was rather a dull job, as an editorial assistant, and they made me stay for three years. But there by chance I discovered that I could read for a PhD part time at the Institute of Historical Research, which was only about two hundred yards away at the Senate House. I registered and was supervised by Robert Latham, the editor of Pepys. I wanted to do something on the Civil War, and he suggested I should work on Kent. Almost at once, however, I came upon an unexpected problem. The sources for identifying the Parliamentarians and Royalists seemed to show that most people were both 'Parliamentarians' and 'Royalists'. That drove me to look into the social history of the county and of the families concerned, and where they lived. I think I was one of the first people who looked at the houses of the local landed families as evidence of county society rather than as architectural history. I found a very different picture from anything I had expected. I tried to work systematically and soon found that most of them were quite modest people, not great landed families. Then I had to relate it all to the political history of the period. I was very fortunate in working on Kent because there were masses of family letters, diaries and account books for that period. These enabled me to recreate a good deal about family life. I found it all deeply fascinating and it was this that pulled me away from pure political history to a study of the county community, and eventually led to my book on Kent and the Great Rebellion.

Friend: Who were the scholars who were influencing you at that time?

AE: I was working part time for my PhD and full time for the Universities Association. London was in some ways rather a strange university - chaotic, but with a streak of genius. I attended seminars on the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and was influenced by R.H. Tawney and S.T. Bindoff. Tawney had written a good deal on the gentry. The IHR has a marvellous research library. It was open until 9.00 p.m. and I spent every evening there. A close friend, once said to me: 'Don't you ever have any social life?'. 'Social life' I said, 'but this is life itself!'. My Saturdays were spent in the British Museum or the Public Record Office. I suppose it was tough, but it didn't seem so to me. I loved it. The IHR had a special collection on Kent, so I had a lot of luck. I also learned a great deal from fellow-students, English and American, some of them now eminent people.

Friend: What brought you to Leicester?

AE: My first connection with Leicester was through the John Nichols prize. I decided to submit an entry and sent a copy of my essay on the 'County Committee of Kent in the Civil War' tc Tawney. There it disappeared, but eventually it turned up in his waste paper basket! I had no copy, but I just managed to get it retyped in time and bunged it in to Finberg. I won the prize and a few weeks later went to see him and had my first talk. Shortly after that, my three years at the Universities' Association came to an end and so I gave them notice. There were no State scholarships in Arts then, but having been a graduate of a Scottish university I was eligible to apply for a Carnegie scholarship. Luckily I was successful, and so I was able to finish my thesis off in two years.

Friend: Did your career begin to take off then?

AE: Well, Finberg with Joan Thirsk and others had started work on the *Agrarian History of England*, and a research assistantship, which I put in for went, quite rightly, to Margaret Midgley. But a little later a second assistantship came up, the money for which also came from the Nuffield Foundation, and I was appointed to it. I worked for Joan Thirsk in London and I came very much under the influence of her approach to agrarian history.

Friend: What areas were you working in specifically?

AE: Joan left me largely to work by myself in the Public Record Office. But the first task she gave me was to go to Maidstone and study 30 probate inventories from downland Kent and 30 from the Weald, which opened up a new world for me. Then it was suggested by Finberg that I should write two of the proposed chapters for the *Agrarian History*, on 'Marketing' and 'Farm Labourers'. I got on well with Finberg. He could be sharp, but I found him very supportive. He and his wife Josceline were very kind. I did my two chapters, and loved my time working for Joan too.

Friend: Did you move to Leicester?

AE: Not until the first of January 1960, when I became a research fellow in urban history. I finished my work on 'Marketing' and began to study a single place - Northampton. I had to leave Kent, and the English Midlands seemed a total contrast; but I think I learned a lot through that. I hated Leicester at first; it made me feel shut in; but the thing that began to interest me was the great market, which in 1960 was higgledy piggledy and ramshackle to a degree, but it was the largest retail market in England, with 480 stalls. It was a marvellous place. Some of the stalls had descended in the same families for generations, although they were just rented from the corporation. There were wonderful stalls, especially for silver, china, and material remnants. Northampton market wasn't quite as exciting, but the town as a whole fascinated me in two ways. I was much interested in Hoskins's work on occupational structures, and got very absorbed in that subject in Northampton, particularly in the inns, of which it was a great centre. The town also led to my work on Nonconformity . In the nineteenth century Northampton came to be known as the 'Mecca of English dissent', and I was especially interested in the great eighteenth-century figure, Philip Doddridge. I also got interested in the Northampton Infirmary, which was one of the first county infirmaries for the poor. These things helped to shed light on the spirit of that period as a whole, when so many new strands of religious life came together in Northamptonshire.

Friend: How do you assess your own contribution to the discipline, or which aspects do you consider to have been the most important?

AE: In much of my work, one of the things which has most interested me is taking the long view, and seeing how different historical movements develop and influence one another. One of the things I am most pleased about in the department is the way in which they still take this long view. It becomes more and more difficult of course because so much more is known about each period. The department still goes right through from Anglo-Saxon to Modern, and it must be a tremendous strain. I am sure I should fail the MA if I took it now!

Friend: You are one of the people who links the early days in the department with the present, how did you find those early days?

AE: Well, Hoskins came back when Finberg retired in 1965, which was when the MA started. I came under his personal influence and he brought people with new ideas into the department, including Charles, who came in 1965 and Peter Eden. I never found Hoskins difficult, although some people did because he had a very quick temper, but he was not difficult with people unless he thought they despised him, which wasn't surprising. He was already a well known figure on radio and had been a reader at Oxford, so it was somewhat amazing that he came back to Leicester. The MA course went on for two years, when Hoskins decided to retire early at the age of 60. I had an enormous amount of kindness from both Hoskins and his wife Jane, and stayed with them often at Melton Mowbray. He gave me many lovely dinners in old inns he thought I should be interested in, and I also stayed with them after their return to Devon - I felt I owed them a great deal.

Friend: Who else was in the department then?

AE: There was Peter Eden, who could also be fairly idiosyncratic, but had a streak of genius for noticing things, especially in topography. He picked up all the details of building alignments and the topographical details of towns. Peter opened my eyes really to the importance of topographical evidence. Both Peter and his wife were also extremely kind. We had wonderful times together in the Leicestershire area, and I got to know Norfolk through them too - another contrasting region. My special region on the MA was Kent. I learned an awful lot from the students, who were good enough to say that they learned something from me too! It was tremendously hard work and I was just about dead at the end of the week. So I think were they, but every year we discovered something new - something unexpected.

Friend: When did you become head of the Department?

AE: When Hoskins retired in 1968 which had created a very difficult situation. Then in 1975 had a quite serious back injury, and eventually, in 1983, I had to take early retirement too. I couldn't have survived those years without the support of Charles and other colleagues, or without Muriel. We have been so fortunate to have had two such dedicated secretaries as Muriel and Pauline.

Friend: Which aspects of the work you started do you feel have been continued in the department?

AE: It is hard to say all the areas that have been continued, since I had to retire finally in 1985, and so much has happened since then. But I always felt that you must not direct people too much - everyone must have their own individuality and interest, and happily everyone has had. With the MA students , you can do so much and then it's like launching a ship - the ocean is before you to explore for yourself. I think one of the nicest things about the MA was that people developed new interests while they were on the course and one of the most interesting things was to find entirely new topics springing up out of what they had been taught or observed themselves.

Friend: How helpful or influential do you consider literature to be in the study of English local history?

AE: This takes me back to what I did at school with George Rich, and the English 'realist' tradition of George Eliot, Arnold Bennett, Mrs Oliphant, and so on. I have always been interested in what people do or make, whether farm-labourers, travelling merchants, or, especially craftsmen. Then when I was working on the *Agrarian History* I discovered the literature of English rural life, by writers such as William Cobbett, Richard Jeffries, W.H. Hudson and George Sturt. Like the novelists they tended to look back to the past, seeing it not nostalgically, but as a society they remembered in their youth, or to a way of life they saw the survival of in their own time. Survivals are always worth noticing, and writers like these opened my eyes to many things which are rarely mentioned in more formal books or records.

Friend: What are you working on now?

AE: On the history of common land, for which early maps are one important source. I am always grateful to my father for showing me how to read maps and explore the countryside, on foot or by bicycle. Place-names are another major source; but as historians we need to look at these not only as place-name scholars do, by studying them in their individual elements, analytically. That is essential; but we also need to put all the names in an area together, to try and recreate an entire countryside, in the light of cartographic evidence, and of course other sources.

Friend: Thank you.

THE ENIGMATIC SAINT MORRELL

Typical of the publicity that has accrued to the department through the research activities of Graham Jones is the following (slightly amended) article from the Leicester University Bulletin which itself drew upon two articles in the Leicester Mercury, the first of which was happily coincident with Jubilee Day.

SAINT AND CULT DISCOVERED AT HALLATON

Research in the Department of English Local History has recently uncovered the existence of an enigmatic saint and his cult in Hallaton. The discovery was announced to the media to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Department which held an Open Day on December 5 when an illustrated lecture by Mick Aston of TV's Time Team fame also took place.

Dr Graham Jones of the Department said: 'My research is about saints and the people who revere them, and it takes me across Europe. So it was appropriate in our jubilee year that there was excitement for me just ten miles down the road, when, with the help of a previous student of this Department, I was able to confirm recently the existence of a local saint, Morrell of Hallaton. It was Jane Laughton, now with the University's Urban History Centre's "Midlands Small Towns" project, who stumbled across the clinching evidence for Morrell in the will of a rector of Hallaton who, in 1532, had left money for someone to go on a religious pilgrimage to the shrines of three saints, beginning with Our Lady of Walsingham and ending with St Mawrell of Hallaton.

'There is no evidence that he was known anywhere else, but his shrine or image was a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, when Hallaton was the third wealthiest town in Leicestershire.

'Morrell, previously suspected because of a) a so-called "holy well", and b) my feeling that Hallaton church's previous north aisle and mysterious door behind the altar indicated the presence of a cult, is nevertheless something of an enigma, for a number of reasons. Now he will take his place in the Department's plans for an international colloquium to be held at the University next year to launch a trans-national database and electronic atlas of saints' cults, for which funding will be sought from the European Union.

'Appropriately too, Hallaton was a favourite research location for W.G. Hoskins, founder of the Department and well-known for the television series based on his book, *The Making of the English Landscape*. He wrote, for example, about its four medieval fairs and once-busy market. We normally take our MA students to Hallaton, not only for its topographical and historic interest, but also because it is known to East Midlanders as the place where the annual 'bottle-kicking' takes place - Hallaton v the ancient rivals, Medbourne, followed by a communal feast of hare pie.

A somewhat more historically informative account of Graham's discovery appeared in the first TASC Newsletter which revealed that, 'Opinion is divided over possible Old English origins [of Morrell's name]. Alternatively, Morrell might be Maurilius, fourth

bishop of Agen, adding to the list of minor Gallic saints venerated in England.

FRIENDS PAPERS

It was Dave Postles who first suggested the idea of Friends' Papers to our secretary. He sponsored the first one - *Lay Piety in Transition* - the sales of which have benefited the Friends' funds to a considerable extent. This is now out of stock but it is hoped that, in due course, Dave will be producing a revised and enlarged edition. Two other publications have followed, both from former winners of the John Nichols Prize, and early sales augur well for the continuing success of this venture. Tania McIntosh's *The Decline of Stourbridge Fair* (£4 inc. p&p) and Amanda Flather's *Politics of Place* (£6 inc. p&p), will be followed by more such papers (the fourth, by Marion Aldis and Pam Inder, about a private census made in Ipstone, Staffs, in 1839, is expected to appear shortly) in a series which, among other things, could provide an ideal first publishing opportunity for our emergent scholars.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Reservations for Seminars:
Mrs Pauline Whitmore, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR; tel: 0116 2522762; FAX 0116 2525769.

Contributions to Newsletters and Books for the Booksale:
marked 'Newsletter' or 'Booksale', to Mike Thompson, Marc Fitch House.

Purchase of Friends publications: Derek Shorthouse, 3, Cams Ground, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8LZ tel. 01452 311974, or Mike Thompson, Marc Fitch House, tel. 0116 2522837, e-mail mgt4@le.ac.uk

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A TAILPIECE

Auriol Thomson, whose MA dissertation is reported above, had an ancestor who, she suggested in a recent letter to *The Times*, might have had the solution to the controversy about fox-hunting, she wrote:

'Sir, George Templer (1781-1843), Master of the South Devon Hunt, also kept a pack of foxes with which he used to hunt rabbit and hare.

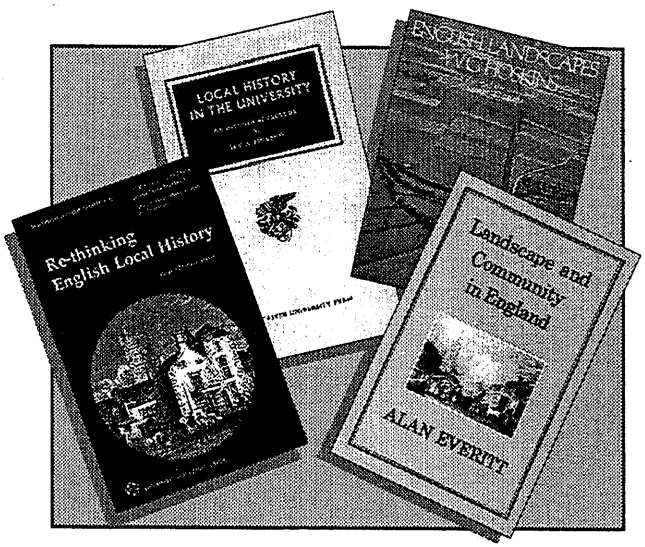
Is this the way forward?

Yours faithfully,
etc, etc.

JUBILEE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The most significant publishing event of the year came (just in time for the annual Hoskins lecture and Open Day) with the long-awaited *Departmental Bibliography and History - 1948-1998.* This provides a rich, and indeed indispensable, listing of over 3,000 items authored by staff and students of the department over its lifetime. If you have not already bought a copy you are urged to do so while stocks last!

English Local History: The Leicester Approach a Departmental Bibliography and History 1948-1998



Compiled and edited by Margery Tranter, Ken Hawker, John Rowley, and Mike Thompson

Introduced by Charles Phythian-Adams

Friends of the Department of English Local History
(University of Leicester)
1999

Copies of the *Bibliography* are readily available from the Secretary of the Friends or from the Newsletter editor at Marc Fitch House. The price is £10 if collected or £11.50 to include post and packing. Cheques (payable in advance) should be made out in favour of the Friends of the Department of English Local History

FRIENDS PAPERS

1) Dave Postles, *Lay Piety in Transition: Local Society and New Religious houses in England 1100-1280* (currently out of stock)

2) Tania McIntosh, *The Decline of Stourbridge Fair, 1770-1934*, **£4.0**

3) Amanda Flather, *Politics of Place*, **£6.0**

Copies of the 2nd and 3rd papers are available from the Secretary of the Friends. Prices include post and packing. Cheques (payable in advance) should be made out in favour of the Friends of the Department of English Local History

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