

SOCIETY FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE
HISTORY &
ARCHAEOLOGY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

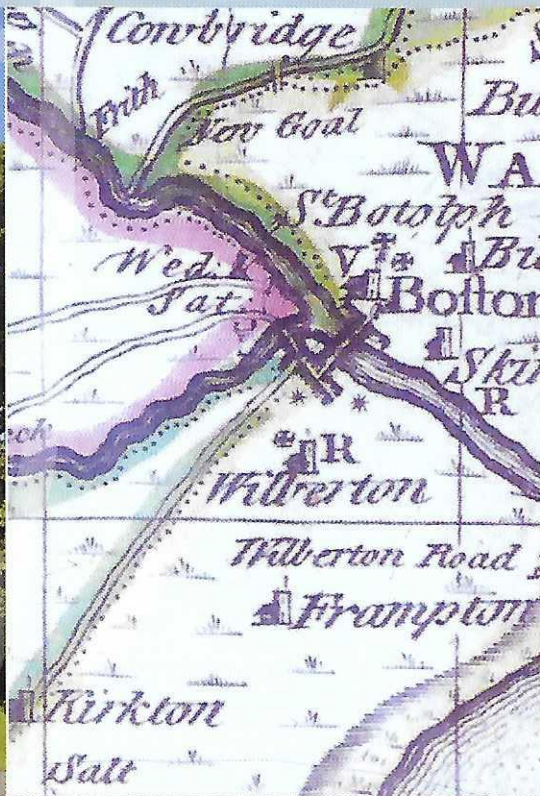


Image Courtesy of IBCC

President : Dr Rod Ambler
Chairman : Nigel Burn
Vice Chairman : Position Vacant
Treasurer : Chris Hewis

Secretary : Kathy Holland
Charity Number : 1182569
Total Membership : 657

Chairman's Report

The date of our 2019 AGM is a momentous one for our Society, for not only will 2019 mark the Society's 175th anniversary, but on the 12th of October 2019 our merger with the Jews Court and Bardney Abbey Trust will take effect, and so this will be the first AGM of the SLHA as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, incorporating the objects of both the SLHA and of JCBAC.

Your trustees have put a lot of work into bringing this merger about, and we have a new constitution, approved by the members at last year's AGM and subsequently also approved by the Charity Commission. One consequence of this new constitution will be the election of trustees at this year's AGM, in addition to the officers of the executive.



Speakers at the Civil War Conference

Those of you who have visited Jews' Court lately will have noticed that we have replaced our old and rather worn signage, emphasising the status of the building as our headquarters.

As promised at last year's AGM a gift aid claim has been prepared and submitted to the Revenue.

We have continued to update our IT equipment during the year, and this year we installed a new server the old one having reached the end of its useful life.



Winners of the 2018 Society Awards with SLHA President Rod Ambler

On the countywide front the decision by the Lincolnshire County Council to cut its support for heritage services remains difficult to understand. Lincolnshire is a county whose rich heritage is one of its principal assets. We have joined with other heritage societies in the county to oppose this decision.

The Society remains in good heart thanks to the hard work of its members. The reports of the individual sections come with this report and must speak for themselves.

Only a few weeks ago I was pleased to read a description of our Society in the papers of one of the other heritage organisations as "One of the most active and vibrant of the County societies."

Not bad for an old lady of 175!

Nigel Burn, Chairman of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology

Property

The Property Committee (Interim) was established on 24th March 2019, with responsibility to oversee the two properties held by the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust JCBAT: Bardney Abbey site, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and Jews' Court, a Grade 1 Heritage Asset; and as a pre-requisite to the forthcoming amalgamation of JCBAT and

SLHA, whereby these two properties pass to the SLHA.



The Annual Open Air Service on the site of Bardney Abbey

The initial actions of the Property Committee have been as follows:

- To seek and obtain a full Building Condition Survey for Jews' Court from an RICS accredited company;
- Draw together the Schedule of Dilapidations as prepared by SLHA for Jews' Court and the prioritisation of works as outlined in the Building Condition Survey into an Action Plan of works and ensure they are compliant with current legislation as places accessed by the public and, in case of Jews' Court, the societies staff and members;
- Prepare, for Bardney Abbey a similar draft Action Plan.
- Liaise with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to ascertain the ecological value of the Bardney Abbey site.
- Seek to prepare a Financial Management Plan for a rolling-programme over 5 years

One over-arching aspect of the Committee will be to develop both properties and in respect of Bardney Abbey, enhance public access and awareness of its archaeological and ecological value.

Arthur Ward, Chairman of the Property Team

Industrial Archaeology

The Team resolved the longstanding matter of the lack of a permanent Chairman. Stephen Betteridge relinquished the role of Secretary to become



Investigating Alford Manor House lift

Chairman with Neil Wright replacing him as Secretary.

The Annual Industrial Archaeology Conference "Maritime Boston" was held at Boston Guildhall.

The morning's talks emphasised the importance of Boston's development as a port of international as well as national trade. The afternoon included guided walks in the town and a visit to Shodfriars Hall.

SLHA was represented at the SPARK Engineering Festival held in Lincoln Cathedral. Team members were on hand to explain the debts current mechanical and civil engineering owe to past developments and experiences.

The Team organised talks on topics including Bomber Command and Lincoln's Brayford Pool.

Site visits and recording surveys have been conducted at Oxcombe wind pump, the Alford Manor House lift, Gunby Hall water supply features, Bourne, and recording of the brick kiln at East Halton has been completed.



Gunby Hall

It is pleasing to report Network Rail has installed an interpretive panel at Stamp End Railway Bridge, Lincoln explaining the importance of this early box girder bridge and the steps taken to preserve elements of it during its recent reconstruction. Industrial Archaeology Team members were active in ensuring the pioneering nature of this bridge is recognised.



We remember with sadness the death of Neville Birch who contributed much to the Industrial Archaeology Committee and the Society over the many years.

Stephen Betteridge, Industrial Archaeology Team

Neville Birch 1932 - 2018

Sleaford Group

This year the group has provided a full programme of meetings with speakers covering a wide range of subjects. The quality has been good, though we do not attract the numbers we might hope for. In putting the programme together, I would like to express special thanks to our treasurer, Alan Jones, for his hard work for the group not only in this way, but also in re-establishing the bookstall at our meetings and, looking to the future, in producing and circulating a questionnaire both to the group and more widely to establish thoughts about how we might develop our programme.

David Marriage, who has done great work with the Museum Trust and Civic Trust, has come on to the committee, giving constructive ideas on this. We have also benefitted from advice and support from the Society Chairman, Nigel Burn. The committee are currently working on the programme for 2020. Sadly, the year has seen the death of David Bramford, a founder member, secretary and later vice chairman of the group. David's funeral at Dembleby church – a place he loved dearly and where he was churchwarden and Synod representative for many years – was a full house, showing the regard in which he was held. May he rest in peace.

Reverend David Boutle, Chairman of the Sleaford Group

Local History

We mourned the loss of Brenda Webster and Peter Leonard this year. Brenda served as Team Chairman for many years. Always friendly and helpful she possessed considerable knowledge of local history. Peter was a relative newcomer but his enthusiasm was obvious and he was happy to stand in as Chairman on occasion. We will miss them both.



Speakers at 'Beside the Seaside' Conference

Our 2019 conference 'Beside the Seaside' was a great success with both venue and speakers being much appreciated by the audience. Many thanks to Kathy Holland and Caroline Crane for their hard work. The 2020 event is to be on '17th Century Lincolnshire' with a likely venue in Gainsborough.



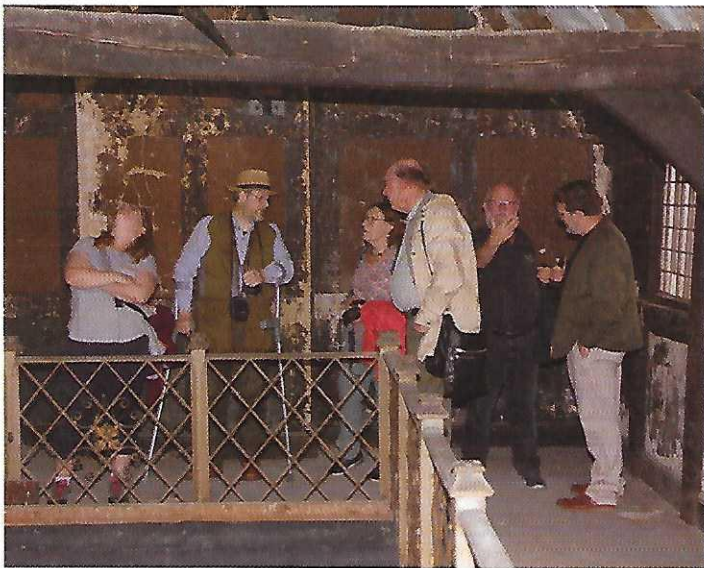
The team is supporting a programme of guided walks in Lincoln. The volunteer guides have so far led more than 550 people on tours of Roman Uphill Lincoln, Lincoln in the Industrial era and Medieval Streets and Markets. We are looking to expand this range of activities and welcome ideas and offers of help.

We are glad to report that Chris Padley is making progress in his project to digitise enclosure awards. Less pleasing are Lincolnshire County Council's plans for Heritage Services. Thanks to Catherine Wilson for putting across the Team's views to the Council.

Mark Acton, Chairman of the Local History Team

Building Recording Group (RUBL)

This year has been dominated by our work at Lincoln Lane Farmhouse in Sixhills. Research on the building was completed and a 200 page report prepared and delivered to the Hainton Estate. This will contribute to their plans for the restoration of the building. Hi-tech research continued on the 12th century timbers discovered in one of the floors of the building and a report is in preparation. An SLHA outing was organised by RUBL in June at Hainton Community pub for members to learn about our work and to visit Lincoln Lane Farmhouse.



RUBL visit to Boston Shodfriars Hall.
Image courtesy of Richard Croft

The report on Old Church Cottage at Aubourn will be published in Volume 51 of the SLHA Journal.

During the year RUBL contributed to projects at Boston and on the Isle of Axholme and gave advice to Lincoln City Council on the Harlequin site on Steep Hill.

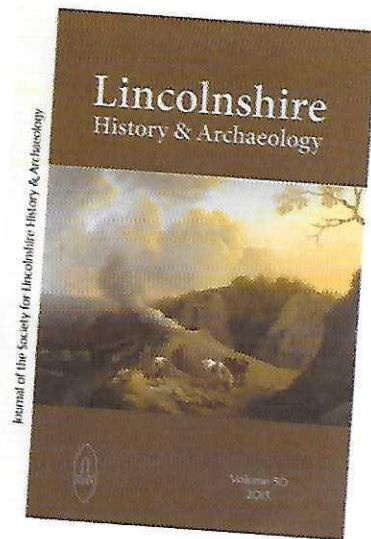
RUBL has agreed to contribute to the *Sacred Landscapes of the Witham Valley* Project, which is part of national project based at Lampeter University. RUBL representatives are on the Lincoln Local List project and the Lincolnshire Extensive Urban Survey advisory group.

Our team in Grantham organised a geophysical survey and community excavation at St. Peter's Hill in Grantham.

Ken Hollamby, Buildings Recording Group

Publications

For the first time in several years no new book was published by the Society in 2018, though preparatory work on three future titles is progressing well. Because of the high financial outlay on new books, we are considering print-on-demand and e-books as alternatives to the traditional method of publication for some of our titles.



The article by SLHA member Adam Cartwright on Mowbray's, the Grantham Brewers, in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* Volume 49 received a coveted award from the British Association for Local History earlier this year. This recognises the excellent quality of Adam's work and also reflects on the high standard of presentation of the SLHA journal.

The reputation of both *SLHA* and *Lincolnshire Past & Present* for variety of topic and quality of content is something we value. We are indebted to all those who write articles for these publications; new contributors, whatever their experience, are always welcomed.

Back copies of both journal and magazine are being made available freely as pdf downloads on the SLHA website. The website, seven years old in its current format, is undergoing an informal review to ensure it remains effective and accessible in the rapidly developing world of digital communication.

Ken Redmore, Publications Committee

Trustees

The main issue for the Trustees in the year has been the creation of the new charity, the merger of the Jews Court and Bardney Abbey Trust with the SLHA. This, together with the preparation of the Constitution, will have been achieved by the time of our AGM. A number of issues have arisen that have had to be dealt with, to do with procedural and administrative relationships to

ensure compliance with Charity Commission requirements.



Reconstruction drawing of Bardney Abbey by David Vale

We have also considered how the Board of Trustees is functioning and fulfilling its role using a set of tools provided by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. This identified two areas of weakness; one related to our lack of an up to date SLHA Business Plan, together with potential financial risks associated with our publications programme. These will be two issues facing the Society in the near future.



Jews' Court, Lincoln headquarters of the Society

In the year two Trustees, David Stocker and David Sleight, have resigned and we shall miss their interest and advice. We welcome two new ones, Nick Moore and Steve Stefaniuk.

The Trustees have noted the Society's continuing financial improvements and are very grateful to the many volunteers whose hard work has brought this about.

Stewart Squires, Chairman of the Trustees

Lincolnshire Heritage (Booksales)

In 2018 the turnover of the shop remained at around £40,000. While there was a noticeable increase in shop sales, there was a decrease in postal sales. The Society's publications stock has been transferred to Lincolnshire Heritage for a payment of £21,776, but Lincolnshire Heritage has had to write down the stock value to £8,818 to reflect its future resale value.

Lincolnshire Heritage transferred £8,529 to the SLHA, representing the surplus in the 2018 trading year. The present economic uncertainty has led to a slight decrease in bookshop sales, but we have re-established internet sales through ABE books. Greater profitability is being achieved from the sales of second-hand stock, rather than new books.

The creation of the downstairs bookshop office and volunteer room has improved working conditions and access to books. Improvements have been made in the shed with new electric heating and lighting.



Society Bookstall at The Collection, Lincoln

The Bookshop has arranged displays at the Heckington show and at Society events and conferences.

The success of the shop is very dependent on all those people who donate books for resale, and all the volunteers who work in the shop or behind the scenes. We must thank them for all for their help.

We increasingly need more volunteers to help with selling in the shop. If you have time to spare and can help, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Nick & Eva Moore, Bookshop Managers

History of Lincolnshire Committee

The History of Lincolnshire Committee met three times this year. Forthcoming volumes were discussed and options for print on demand and e-books are being examined. Although we have again had to go through a full year without being able to publish a volume, there is good progress with a book on Georgian Boston.

We have also had two promising new proposals and are optimistic that at least one of these could be seen through to publication comparatively quickly. Peter Chowne's forthcoming archaeology volume continues in progress, and we are looking forward to the completion of a volume on monastic houses by Glyn Coppack.

Shirley Brook, Vice Chair of the History of Lincolnshire Committee

Archaeology

The Archaeology Team has had another successful year. Its members are drawn from all sectors of the archaeological community of the county and between them are engaged in most of the most interesting research underway in the county. Much of this gets reported at the annual Archaeology Live! Event.



Archaeological evidence for feasting at Lincoln Castle

In 2018 the Conference was again held at Christ's Hospital School and was well attended with the audience being thrilled by our keynote speaker Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick talking about the early forays by Julius Caesar into southern England. Other speakers covered everything from random discoveries to research-led excavation and every period from Neolithic long barrows to relatively recent artefacts retrieved on the Lincolnshire

coast. The displays gave those attending the opportunity to buy books and meet like-minded people.

We have had a number of fascinating talks throughout the year at both evening lectures and Sunday Specials. Carenza Lewis spoke to us about the medieval town of Dunwich in Suffolk. Closer to home Cecily Spall thrilled us with tales of feasting as evidenced by the excavations at Lincoln Castle.

Many people give up valuable time to help the work of the team and all of them deserve a great deal of gratitude for their unstinting hard work.

Ian George, Chairman of the Archaeology Team

2019 Society Study Tour



Tour group at the Bronze Age site at Merrivale on Dartmoor

The 2019 Study Tour was based at Exeter University. There were thirty-six people in the party. There were visits to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, a cruise along the Jurassic coast to Sidmouth followed by a tour of the Beer Quarry Caves. There was an archaeological walk at Merrivale on Dartmoor. The tour ended with a visit to the Coldharbour woollen mill near Uffculme in Devon. Plans are in hand for a tour based at Winchester University in 2020.

Ken Hollamby, Tour Organiser

Family Events - The Society continues to develop and present a number of popular Family Activity Days at venues around the county. The craft and investigative activities are inspired by a variety of resources, including images, maps and artefacts that relate to the History and Archaeology of Lincolnshire. *Kathy Holland*



Treasurer's Report

The Society made a loss for the year of £7,473, 13.8% of turnover.

Although income from subscriptions fell 8% from the previous year, the shortfall was covered by increased income from donations and room hire.

Although no gift aid refund claim was made in the year, I am pleased to report that returns have now been completed which will be received in 2019/20.

Following the conclusion of the purchase of the book stock from the Society last year, Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd, our trading arm trading as the Jews' Court Bookshop, contributed a healthy surplus of £18,000 to the Society.

The annual Conferences, organised by our interest groups, have increased in popularity, and contributed almost £4,000.

Administration expenses were considerably higher than the previous year. The 20% increase in general office expenses possibly reflects the overall increase in Society activities.

There were two items of exceptional expenditure.

Our IT systems were upgraded with a new server, now providing 'cloud' backup and increased security.

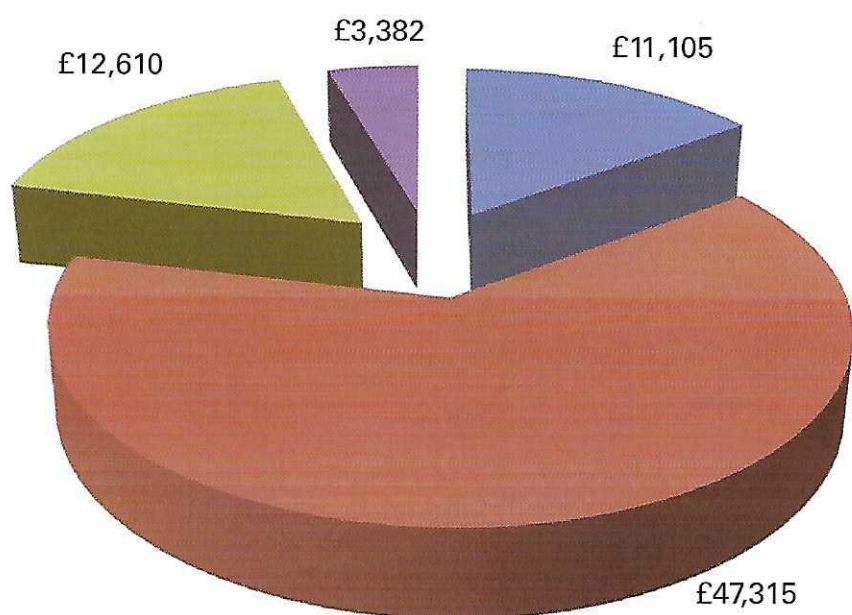
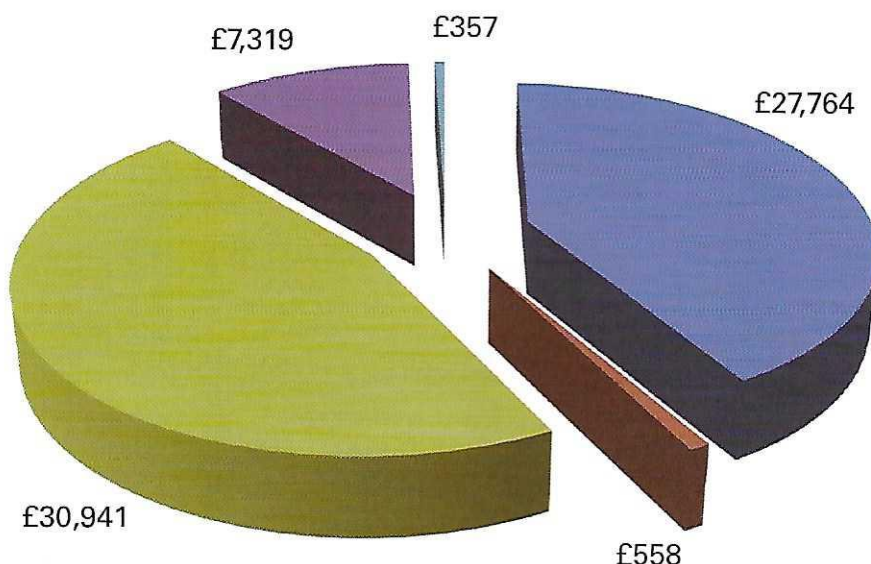
Additionally, legal fees were incurred due to the merger with the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust and the subsequent formation of the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Bank and cash balances remain healthy, showing a slight increase on the previous year.

Chris Hewis ACMA

Total Income = £66,939

- Membership Services
- Administration
- Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd (Bookshop)
- Events
- History of Lincolnshire Committee



Total Expenditure = £74,412

- Membership Services
- Administration
- Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd (Bookshop)
- Events
- History of Lincolnshire Committee (£0)