

President : Position Vacant
Chairman : Ian George
Vice Chairman : Position Vacant
Treasurer : Chris Hewis

Secretary : Kathy Holland
Charity Number : 1182569
Total Membership : 609

Chairman's Report



I took over the Chair in the saddest possible circumstances. This year life has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that it took the life of our much loved, hardworking Chairman, Nigel

Burn, is something many of us have struggled to come to terms with. Nonetheless, the society goes on. Nigel had been instrumental in overseeing the merging of the SLHA with the Jews Court Trust. His legacy is the strong position the society now finds itself in. Now we must build upon that fine legacy. This is only appropriate as we celebrated our 175th anniversary this year.

Prior to the nationwide lockdown in late March the various teams within the society had been as active as ever putting on a huge array of events. The lecture programme remained robust and the society is still able to attract highly regarded speakers to present their work to us.



Members of the Society on a guided walk around the historic buildings of Grantham

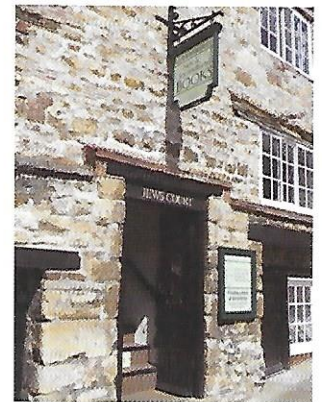
The pandemic has had a huge impact upon daily life. The society has not been immune to this. Jews Court has been closed and

face-to-face events have not been possible. The Trustees and Executive have continued to meet, using modern technology to keep business going. We are now exploring the use of technology to continue a lecture programme. This will offer us the opportunity to reach a much wider audience, people being able to experience talks from the comfort of their own homes. The society must adapt to these circumstances and grab the opportunities emerging from the pandemic gives us.

Ian George, Chairman of the Society for Lincoln History & Archaeology

Property

The Property Team has continued to meet following the loss of two members, namely Nigel Burn who sadly passed away in March, and the resignation of Arthur Ward, Chairman of the Property Team. A new Chairman has yet to be appointed.



New signage at Jews' Court

A full building Condition Survey of Jews' Court has now been completed, works identified in the Report need to be costed up and a Schedule produced. The Team are planning a site visit and assessment of Bardney Abbey with regard both to public safety access raising awareness of the archaeological and ecological value of the site.

On-going maintenance at Jews' Court has included regular testing and annual inspection of the alarm systems, annual asbestos inspection, PAT testing and boiler servicing. Maintenance to the gardens at Jews' Court has continued throughout Lockdown.

Listed building consent has been obtained for the installation of pull-handles to the main entrance off Steep Hill to improve access to the building.

Colin Holland, for the Property Team

Industrial Archaeology

The highlight of the year was the EMIAC 97 'Melting and Smelting' Industrial Heritage Day held at British Steel's Scunthorpe Works in October. As the Team's energies were devoted to this event, it replaced the usual autumn SLHA Annual I.A. Conference.



The EMIAC 97 'Melting and Smelting' Conference held at British Steel's Scunthorpe Works

EMIAC 97 was booked to capacity. There were three morning talks given by local experts, using a range of delivery techniques and styles to emphasise the realities of iron and steel making and the development and importance of the iron and steel industry to Scunthorpe and the wider world.



British Steel's Scunthorpe Works in 2019

It is sometimes not appreciated that some steel making techniques invented and developed in Scunthorpe were adopted worldwide. The afternoon was devoted to an enjoyable and informative steam-hauled rail trip around the steel works.

A visit to Market Rasen was conducted to assess the existing buildings of industrial interest. Individual Team members have managed to visit some sites, but Covid-19 related restrictions curtailed our organised site visits.

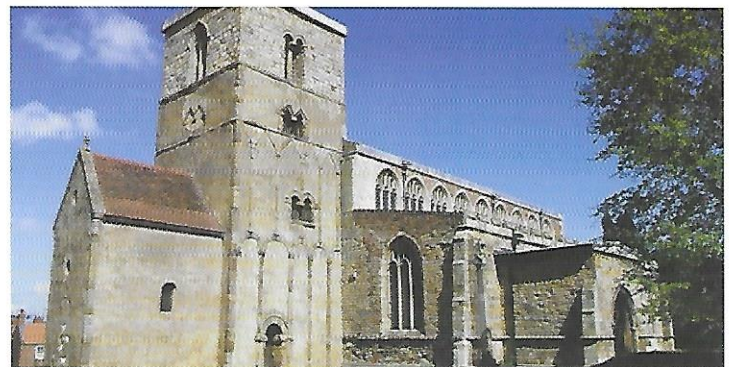
In 2020 the Team organised a talk on The Temperance Movement and contributed to the Sunday Specials with topics including Claxby Ironstone Mine, the Industries of Stamford and the Feather Industry of South Lincolnshire.

The Team has found an appropriate home for David Robinson's brick collection at Alford Manor House Museum. Team members are developing the concept of a Lincolnshire Brick website to provide further information about brickyards and brick making in the County.

Stephen Betteridge, Chairman of the Industrial Archaeology Team

Local History

Along with the rest of SLHA we mourned the death of Nigel Burn. He regularly attended our meetings and was full of common sense and useful advice. His chief legacy to us will be the guided tours of Lincoln which were proving increasingly popular.



St Peter's Church, Barton on Humber. In 2021, the SLHA plan to organise a series of talks and visits to Lincolnshire Churches

We very much hope to continue and expand the programme when normality returns. The team also regrets the loss of Dennis Mills who did so much for Lincolnshire history and historians by establishing Heritage Open Days and the Lincolnshire Archive Research Seminars as well his work with SLHA and the History of Lincolnshire Committee.

We have rescheduled our cancelled 2020 activities for 2021 and are crossing our fingers that our conference on seventeenth-century Lincolnshire, 'Levellers and Leeches', will take place much as previously planned.

In January we hosted a meeting at Jews' Court for those with an interest in the county's historic churches and to gauge whether we should start talks and visits on the subject. The positive response, not only from those attending, led us to plan some trips which included Barton-upon-Humber. With churches slowly reopening we hope that 2021 will be more fruitful. A conference on churches has been discussed but not yet planned.

As ever, we welcome any new members who wish to join us.

Mark Acton, Chairman of the Local History team

Building Recording Group (RUBL)

The paper describing the results of our survey of Lincoln Lane Farmhouse, Sixhills has been accepted for publication in Volume 52 of the SLHA Journal. The full report has been deposited with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The paper on Old Church Cottage at Aubourn was published in Volume 51 of the SLHA Journal. The report of the survey of Hophill Cottage, Aubourn was completed and a copy delivered to the owner.



Members of the Building Recording Group surveying a building in Stixwould

As part of our contribution to the Sacred Landscapes of the Witham Valley project based at Lampeter University we undertook surveys

of buildings at Kirkstead and Stixwould. Members of the RUBL team are contributing to The Lincolnshire Hearth Tax volume which will be published by the Lincoln Record Society and the British Records Society in 2026. RUBL representatives continue to contribute to the Lincoln Local List project and the Lincolnshire Extensive Urban Survey advisory group.

Our team in Grantham published a report on their survey of the Grade II listed Grantham Pest House. The excavation at St. Peter's Green, Grantham was the subject of the January 2020 monthly talk. All work has been suspended during the Covid19 pandemic but meetings continue using Zoom.

Ken Hollamby, Secretary, for David Stocker, Chairman

Sleaford Group

The group was able to present a full programme in the Autumn of 2019 and in the first two months of 2020; after this COVID restrictions prevented further meetings

Subjects covered included 'Sleaford's Industrial Past', 'Witham Valley Monasteries', 'Viking Lincolnshire' and 'Wills of our Fathers' (this last relevant to Local History, not simply to Family History) and 'Lafford Deanery Churches'

At the AGM held in December, the Revd David Boutle was re-elected Chairman and Messrs David Marriage and Douglas Hoare were re-elected to the Committee. Sadly our Treasurer Alan Jones has had to stand down for family health reasons. We are very grateful to Alan for all he has done for the group and the moral support we received from him.

As mentioned, we have had to cancel meetings because of the Covid pandemic. However we are looking to re-start once we are able to do so. As with the rest of the Society we mourned the loss of the Society's Chairman, Nigel Burn who gave invaluable support to the group, both by advice and attendance. May he rest in peace.

Reverend David Boutle, Chairman of the SLHA Sleaford History Group

Trustees

What a remarkable year. The first half saw the completion of the amalgamation of the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust to form our new charity and ensure our future. The ownership and maintenance of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Bardney Abbey is a particularly exciting new venture for us. Sadly, in March, we lost the main architect and guide for us of that merger, Nigel Burn. He did so much for our Society, as Chairman, a Trustee, with book sales and an active member of the Local History Team, and he is very much missed.



Carved stonework from Bardney Abbey, examples of which are on display in the Parish Church of St Lawrence, Bardney

The last AGM saw some changes to our Trustee body. Long-time Trustee Ken Redmore stood down after several years of sound advice and major support for the changes we had to bring about. We gained Roz Mellows, Nick Moore, Steve Stefaniuk and Arthur Ward, although Arthur has since resigned.



Sue Smith (left) on her retirement after 27 years in the Society Office, pictured with Stewart Squires and Kathy Holland

Our work now is concentrated on organisational issues, not least how we operate successfully within what the politicians call the 'new normal' as well as

continuing to strive to get the Society's budget back into the black. I was looking forward to a quieter period of contemplation and reflection after the upheaval of the last few years but financially we have to reduce risk. Nevertheless, we continue to look forward and work to ensure the future of our remarkably long lived Society.

Stewart Squires, Chairman of the Trustees

Lincolnshire Heritage (Booksales)

In 2019 the turnover of Lincolnshire Heritage, the trading arm of the SLHA, was £35,640. Lincolnshire Heritage passed £27,751 to the Society at the start of 2020.

Trade just before Christmas was busy, but fell away in the New Year. In March, with the Covid-19 lockdown, the shop had to close. Lincolnshire Heritage received the £10,000 Government support grant from Lincoln City Council. During lockdown we fulfilled postal sales and re-established sales on ABE, which were particularly successful. This, together with the newsletter listings, produced some income and Lincolnshire Heritage hopes to make a donation of about £18,000 next year. Nigel Burn, the chairman of Lincolnshire Heritage, who had contributed much to its development will be greatly missed. Chris Lester has been appointed by the Society's Trustees as a new Director and further appointments will be made to widen skills and maintain continuity.

Restricted space and Covid-19 regulations precluded the re-opening in the shop and restricted volunteer help. We have had help with the collection of donated books and Bill Stead has continued to renovate books, while Kathy and Colin Holland helped greatly with sending out postal sales. We have concentrated on putting more books onto ABE and developing E-book listings, to be circulated on a regular basis. When current restrictions are lifted we will need more volunteers to help with 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

Publications

Publishing printed books in the traditional way has served the Society well over the years and generally been profitable, but we are actively examining methods of publication which are financially less risky and which will broaden our range of publications.

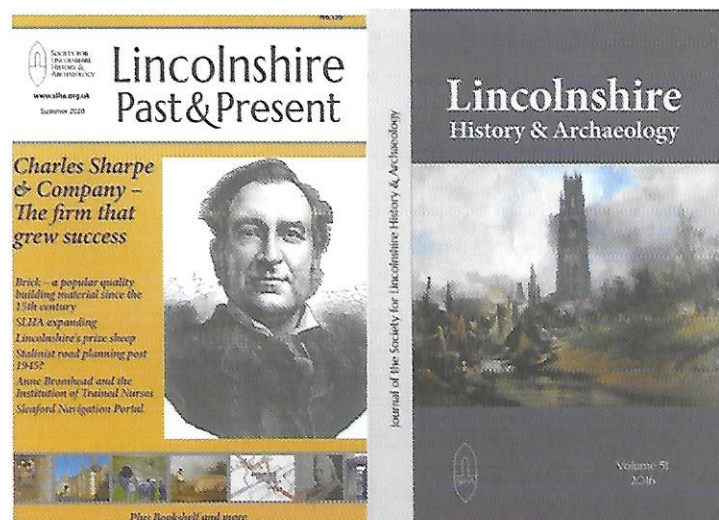
Volume 51 of the Society's Journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, published in December 2019, presents ten substantial and wide-ranging articles on Lincolnshire. This is the third volume to come out in our new, smaller format, and has been well received by the membership.

Dr Brian Hodgkinson has been awarded the prestigious 'David Hey Memorial Article 2020' by the British Association for Local History for his article on 'The Holland Causeway and Bridge End Priory', published in LHA Volume 50. This is the second year in succession that LHA articles have received national recognition through BALH.

When it was impossible to arrange conventional printing during 'lockdown', issue No.119 of our magazine *Lincolnshire Past & Present* was published on line. We intend to assess this method of publication as a future possibility.

We are much in debt to our editors for the consistently high standard of their work. They rely on unsolicited contributions and are always grateful for new material.

Ken Redmore, Publications Committee



Archaeology Team

Prior to the lockdown the Archaeology Team was meeting every two months and sharing expertise on the archaeology of the county.

We were pleased to feed into the SLHA response to the County Council's consultation on the future of its Heritage Service. We also gave our support to the Heritage Lincolnshire initiative to provide Lincoln City Council with a new, sustainable use for Greyfriars in Lincoln.



Greyfriars, Lincoln in the early twentieth century

The Archaeology Day in November 2019 was a great success and we were pleased to take the event to Sleaford. Among a number of talks, we heard from Tom Lane on coastal saltmaking in Lincolnshire, a timely opportunity for him to promote his recently published book. Our keynote speaker was Colin Haselgrove who spoke about the Iron Age tribes of Lincolnshire. We also took in the Black Death, courtesy of Carenza Lewis and Roman Winterton in a talk by Natasha Powers.



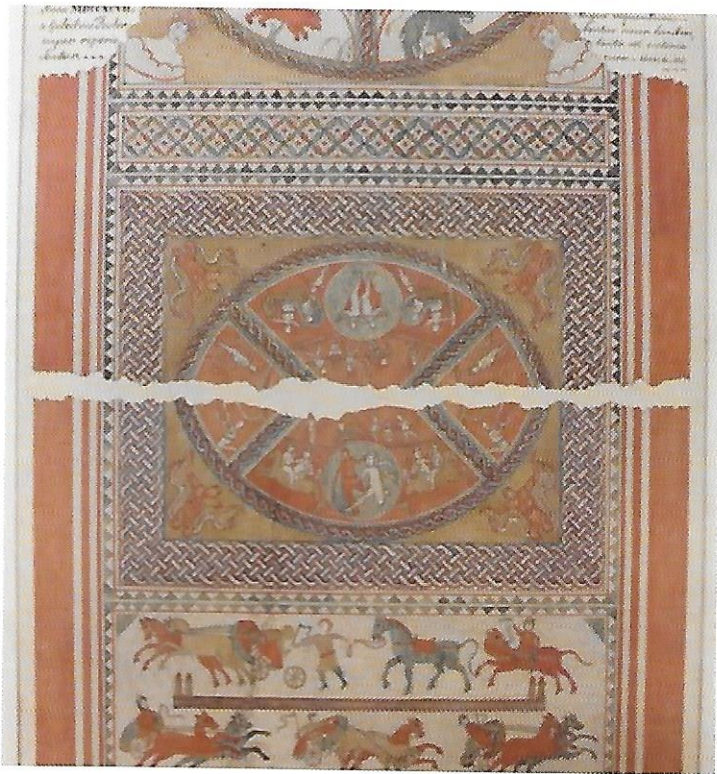
Archaeology Conference at the Riverside Centre, Sleaford, November 2019.

The evening lecture series and Sunday Specials provided great interest also. Paul Stamper spoke about his recently published work on the legacy of the Great War in our landscape today. Both Brian Porter and Natasha Powers spoke at Sunday Specials. We clearly hope to re-schedule the lectures we had planned but then had to cancel due to Covid-19.

Ian George, Chairman of the Archaeology Team

Family Activities

The Covid-19 pandemic sadly curtailed much of the programme planned for families which the Society continues to develop using a variety of resources. We have had to postpone several proposed events and activities until 2021, including participation in National Events, including the National Archaeology Festival and Heritage Open Days



*Drawing of a Roman mosaic from Horkstow
(Courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council)*



*Roman greyhound brooch
from Fulbeck. Image
courtesy of Lincolnshire
County Council*

An example of a Family Activity Day was the successful half term event with 80 visitors of all ages at Kirton-in-Lindsey Jubilee Town Hall in February. The theme was Invaders and Traders with a focus on Romans and Vikings. Visitors had the opportunity to investigate a selection of images of Lincolnshire archaeology plus real and replica artefacts

The decorated Roman dagger sheath excavated in East Bight Lincoln in 1981 provided inspiration for one of the craft activities. This sheath dating to the first Century was badly corroded but x-rays and careful conservation revealed panels of intricate decoration.

Other activities included making a Roman shield, decorating Viking beads, designing a Viking ship prow in clay, making Roman mosaic patterns and a runic activity.

The event was organised by Kathy Holland of the Society with thanks to the Kirton-in-Lindsey Society, the Jubilee Town Hall and The Collection for the loan of a selection of artefacts.

2020 Society Study Tour

Thirty members booked on our postponed July tour which was to have been based at Winchester University. This would have included a visit to the Mary Rose in Portsmouth. We plan to run the same tour in July 2021.

Ken Hollamby, Study Tour Organiser



*Winners of the 2019 Society Awards with SLHA
President Rod Ambler*

David Buckle (Wold Newton History Website)

Linda Sproston (Utterby heritage Collection)

175th Anniversary of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology (SLHA)

The Lincolnshire Society for Encouragement of Ecclesiastical Architecture – the earliest forerunner of SLHA in a direct line of ‘ancestry’ – held its first annual meeting on 21 November 1844 in Louth.

On 21 November 2019, the 175th anniversary of this auspicious occasion, SLHA Trustees and Executive Committee members met with guests representing local councils and heritage organisations to mark the occasion.

Pearl Wheatley, MBE, SLHA Vice-President and former Chairman, gave a succinct and lively account of the Society’s history.



A series of panels displaying the Society’s activities and achievements, produced for an earlier exhibition by Kathy Holland, SLHA Administrator, were displayed in the meeting room. Documents illustrating the work and resources of the SLHA were also laid out and the display was open to all for several days.

Plans to tour the exhibition and arrange supporting events later in the year of celebration sadly did not take place because of the developing situation with Coronavirus.



Additional information about the history of the SLHA can be found on the website

The Insignia of the original Diocesan Society

Treasurer’s Report

The Society made a loss for the year of £5,244, a 30% improvement on the previous year.

Income showed an increase of 17%.

Whilst income from membership subscriptions was 4% (£821) less than the previous year, all other areas of income showed an increase.

We received £1,569 in Gift Aid refunds, and income from our popular Conference Events at £12,968 was 77% higher than the previous year. The events showed a surplus over expenditure of £3,117.

Profit from our subsidiary, Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd, which operates the Jews’ Court Bookshop, contributed £21,960 to the Society, an increase on the previous year of £3,629 (20%).

There was an overall reduction in administration costs of 5%. An exceptional item on £2,735 in legal fees was the final settlement on completion of the incorporation of the Jews’ Court and Bardney Abbey Trust into the Society.

A buildings reserve has been created from the cash received because of the merger, to be used solely for the maintenance of the two historic sites.

Chris Hewis ACMA, Society Treasurer



Nigel Burn, former Chairman of the SLHA who sadly passed away in March 2020