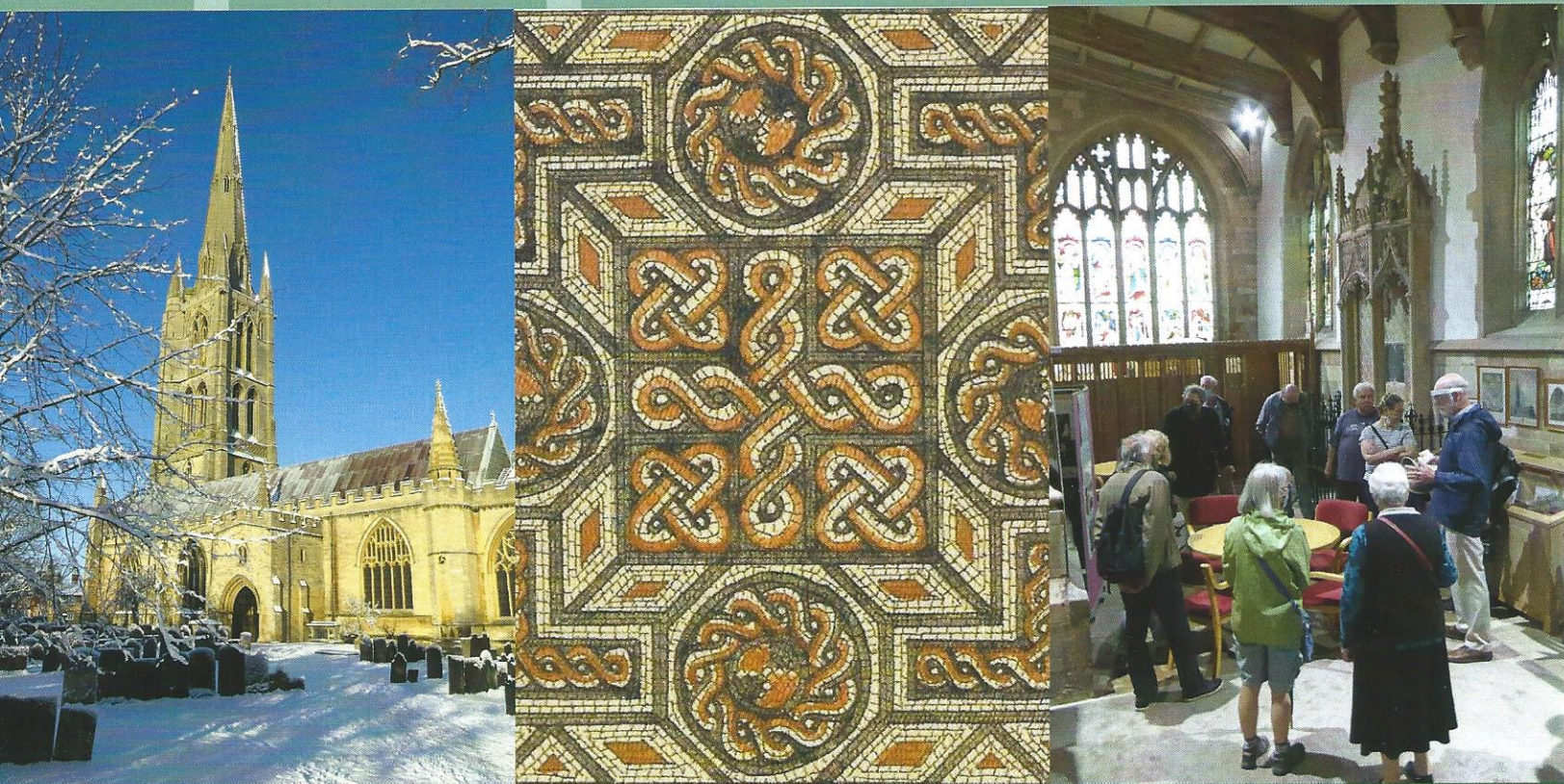


SOCIETY FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE
HISTORY &
ARCHAEOLOGY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Patron : Ursula Lidbetter
President : Naomi Field
Chairman : Ian George
Vice Chairman : Position Vacant

Treasurer : Chris Hewis
Secretary : Kathy Holland
Charity Number : 1182569
Total Membership : 579

Chairman's Report



We have lived through unprecedented times the study of which will provide fruitful material for historians for many years to come. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed so much that we previously took for granted. The worlds of work and recreation have changed enormously in a very short period of time. Only time will tell how many

of these changes remain permanent.

As is often at this time we find ourselves reflecting on friends we have lost. We sadly lost a former chairman of the society in 2021. Chris Lester was a force of nature and we were so fortunate that he applied his energy and vigour to improving our understanding of the local and industrial history of Lincolnshire. We must also record our regret at the loss of Kathleen Jefferson another leading member of the Society.

The good news is that the SLHA has continued to thrive. The number of people interested in the history of their area seems to continue to grow and this interest continues to be supported by widespread coverage for the subjects we all hold dear on television and radio. It is certainly true to say that the world of archaeology, work largely undertaken in response to development, has remained incredibly busy. The Society's membership number remains high which is both very pleasing and encouraging.

Over the period since our last AGM we have continued to be active. Following our tentative first steps into the world of Zoom our online talks have been very well supported. We have covered all sorts of subjects so far and I hope the variety of subject matter will continue to attract the large audiences we have had to date. For the more adventurous Ken Hollamby organised a highly successful tour to Hampshire which had to take place later in the year than planned. The Jews Court bookshop has re-opened for limited hours and this is proving to be very successful. I am grateful to Nick and Eva Moore and all the volunteers who support them for enabling this to happen.

I am very pleased to say we have been fortunate enough to have Ursula Lidbetter, Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Co-op join the Society as its Patron. Ursula is a passionate advocate for all things Lincolnshire and will be a great addition to the Society. We also have a new President, Naomi Field, who is already getting her teeth stuck into thorny issues for the society. The new chair of the Trustees, Steve Stefaniuk, is already proving to be a great asset to the Society too. As I have mentioned in Society newsletters over the past year there is always the need to find more volunteers to help run the society. That said, the society is well-placed to emerge from the pandemic in fine fettle. However, if you can offer some time to the Society we would love to hear from you.

We have seen great steps forward in terms of the Society's internal structures and carving out new ways of working which will bring greater efficiencies. There is more to be done but the society is positioning itself well to address the challenges it faces.

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

Property

The Property Team has continued to meet periodically throughout the year.

Chris Lester, a long serving and valued member of the Property Team, sadly passed away in August, his input to the Property Team will be missed by us all.

A new Chairman for the Property Team has yet to be appointed following the resignation of Arthur Ward. A full building Condition Survey of Jews' Court has been completed, and proposed repair works are to be tendered to three Contractors when relevant approvals have been obtained. An inspection of Jews' Court is to be carried out by a Structural Engineer in the early Autumn.

Members of the Property Team recently visited Bardney Abbey to assess the current situation. Further discussions are required with regard to issues regarding public access to the site and 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 the past year with grateful thanks to Dave Mellows.

A new window mounted extractor fan is to be installed in the rear ground floor office at Jews' Court to help improve ventilation in line with Covid-19 guidance.

Colin Holland, for the Property Team

Industrial Archaeology

Covid 19 inevitably curtailed our activities for the period cover by this report. Little fieldwork was possible and conventional talks were suspended throughout the year.

The Team organised a Zoom talk on the basics of Land Drainage. Members of the Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust joined us for this talk.

A small group of Team members conducted a walk to assess the existence and condition of industrial structures in Bardney and at Bardney Lock on the River Witham.

A similar visit to Nocton identified remnants of the Nocton Hall Hospital and features associated with the Nocton agricultural estate where evidence of significant recent investment was noted.

An "out of county" visit to the eastern end of the



Members of the IA Team on an informal walking tour around Nocton village led by Stewart Squires. The photo shows Nocton Hall

Chesterfield Canal; Gringley on the Hill to West Stockwith, indicated the canal to be in good order. The eastern end of the Sleaford Navigation, South Kyme to Chapel Hill, where the Navigation joins the River Witham, was also visited.

The project to celebrate Lincolnshire's Bricks and Brickmakers continues.

The Team is greatly saddened by the recent death of Chris Lester. Chris was a very active and much respected member of the Team. His most recent contribution was the updating of Neville Birch's book on the Industries of Stamford. This is to be published in the autumn of 2021.

Stephen Betteridge, Chairman of the Industrial Archaeology Team

Local History

The Local History team was unable to revive its planned conference for 2020 but has contributed its fair share of online talks for SLHA. We are arranging two conferences for 2022 – one on 'Houses and Gardens' in March and a second later in the year in conjunction with the University of Lincoln. Our newly formed Churches group, is also considering its first conference for 2022.

Mal Stainforth has kindly taken on the role of co-ordinating our guided walks group and reports that new volunteers are being trained and new walks planned. Hopefully circumstances will allow these popular walks to restart in 2022. Chris Padley's project of digitalising enclosure awards has not been helped by the crisis but we are looking for local groups to get involved in their own parishes. We were pleased to see the Brackenbury Lecture return to Raithby Chapel in July with a good attendance.

The team has mourned the loss of Kathleen Jefferson, a devoted and long-term member, who always provided sound advice. She will be much missed by us and the Tennyson Society. We welcomed Avril Golding to the team. I would like to thank all of the team for their continued work in these strange times and in particular Pearl Wheatley and Caroline Crane for keeping the show on the road.

Mark Acton, Chairman of the Local History team

Building Recording Group (RUBL)

We continue to contribute to the Sacred Landscapes of the Witham Valley project based at the University of Wales, Lampeter. This included tree ring dating

surveys of buildings at Kirkstead and Stixwold. Professor Mark Gardiner's paper on the twelfth century timbers at Lincoln Lane Farmhouse in Sixhills has been accepted for publication in the journal of the Vernacular Architecture Group.

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. Historic England is sponsoring a pilot Local List Lincolnshire project based at Heritage Lincolnshire. Members of the RUBL team, using the experience gained in the Lincoln Local List project, will be involved.

A guide is in preparation for guides who will be giving tours of Jews' Court. The Grantham team continue to monitor developments in the town. There have been regular Zoom meetings throughout the year.

Ken Hollamby, Secretary, for David Stocker, Chairman



'Time Travel for Armchair Archaeologists - A Visit to Toynton in 1614' was the subject of an on-line talk presented by Jenne Pape

Lincolnshire Heritage (Booksales)

The bookshop closed in March 2020 and did not reopen until the end of July 2021. During this period some income was brought in from online sales and the quarterly book listing. A lot of activity went on behind the scenes with sorting of the reserve stock, tidying the shop and changing a large quantity of the second-hand books on display. Also, a bespoke till screen and hand sanitisers were installed. Mask wearing is insisted on and the numbers at any one time are restricted. On opening there was a queue of regular customers who were excitedly looking forward to coming in again. The shop is only open for three days a week, partly due to a lack of volunteers, as it has been decided that at most times, particularly at weekends, there should be two on duty in the shop.

Nick & Eva Moore, Bookshop Managers

Trustees

I begin this short report by acknowledging the superb contribution made over many years by my predecessor as Chairman of the Trustees, Stewart Squires. Thanks to him and my fellow Trustees we continue the valuable work of managing our resources responsibly and fulfilling our governance role.

Our meetings are currently held via Zoom, which has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic. It is a huge benefit for us that we live in an age in which readily available technology allows us to continue our work in spite of enormous disruption such as that of the last two years.

We lose a long-term member of our body this year when David Start steps down. The Trustees have greatly benefited from his considerable experience and sound judgement, and on behalf of the Trustees I thank him

for all that he has done for us. Joining us at the last AGM we welcomed Mile Daly, and more recently Andrew Walker, both of whom will add considerably to our combined range of experience.

We continue to offer guidance on organisational matters, finance, and carry out periodic reviews of our conventions and constitution, all within a framework of our obligations as a charity. Another important consideration for us is the gradual and safe reopening of Jews Court, a difficult task but we are already seeing the benefits that the bookshop being able to welcome visitors will bring.

These benefits are more than just financial; we look forward to a time when once again Jews Court is the hub of our Society, and a meeting place for members, all of which flows from the tireless contribution of our volunteers, for whom no amount of thanks is too great.

Steve Stefaniuk, Chairman of the Trustees

Archaeology Team

The world of archaeology is dominated by professional services which tend to do the majority of archaeological work in response to planning matters.

We do what we can to encourage the companies providing these services to offer talks to the Society so that we keep as up to date as possible about recent discoveries. For the first time since it began back in 1992 the Lincolnshire Archaeology Day had to be cancelled in 2020. It will come back even better. The Archaeology Team contributed speakers and helped organise some of the Society's online talks. We continue to represent the society on a number of groups including the Historic Environment Advisory Panel run by Lincoln City Council and the groups being coordinated by Heritage Lincolnshire as they develop plans to find a new use for the Greyfriars building in Lincoln city centre.



Maidenwell Manor, built 1903, demolished 2000, featured in on-line presentation by Naomi Field in January 2021

The Archaeology Team has a widespread membership with its members coming from a large number of organisations. People are involved in all sorts of projects. We very much hope that members of the team will be involved in improving the management and presentation of the Society's Bardney Abbey in due course. Anyone with

skills in that area would be very welcome to join the team.

Ian George, Chairman of the Archaeology Team

History of Lincolnshire Committee

After over 30 years as chair of the History of Lincolnshire Committee, Professor John Beckett stood down from this post earlier in the year. All members of the Committee wish to pass on to Professor Beckett their thanks for his tremendous work chairing the Committee since 1988.

The work of the Committee has continued throughout the past twelve months, although of course those engaged in research for future volumes have been somewhat hampered by the problems of accessing

archival sources during the various Covid-19-related lockdowns.

Thanks are due particularly to Dr Caitlin Green, whose second edition of Britons and Anglo Saxons: Lincolnshire AD 400-650 was published in December 2020. This is a substantially updated volume, with a new 52-page introduction discussing recent research into the late- and post-Roman Lincoln region which has been undertaken since the publication of the first edition in 2012. This volume is available both as a hard copy from Jews' Court Bookshop, and also in e-book form, produced by Lulu Press. The sales of e-books in particular have been very pleasing and the Committee will continue publication in this format in future.

Committee members have engaged with the Society's Publications Review over the past 12 months, the results of which will be reported to the Executive Committee early in 2021-22.

Potential authors undertaking academic research into the history of the County are encouraged to contact members of the Committee to discuss the possibilities of publishing work under the Committee's auspices.

Dr Andrew Walker, Chair of the History of Lincolnshire Committee

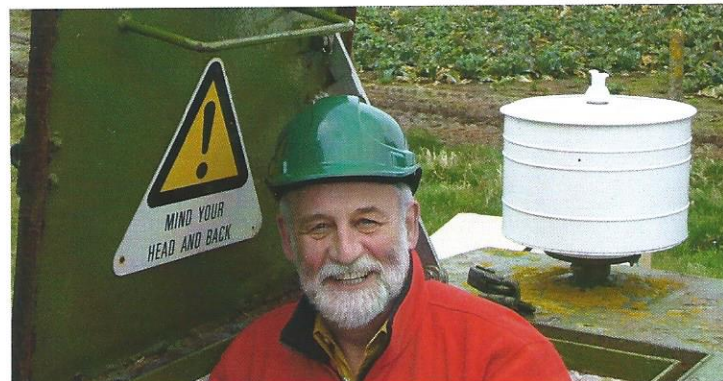
Treasurer's Report

Given the unprecedented circumstances during this year, the final accounts showed a surplus of £2,343. I have to thank our Secretary, Kathy Holland, for her help in both increasing income from subscriptions and reducing overall expenditure.

Income from subscriptions showed an increase of 15% over the previous year. Gift Aid refunds increased by 8%, and donations and grants almost doubled. The closure of the Jews' Court Bookshop (Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd) for most of the year greatly reduced our major source of income. Income almost halved, a reduction of £9,400. The loss would have been considerably greater without a government grant of £10,000.

Administration costs were reduced by £13,000 (29%). A stock write-off led to the increased costs for the History of Lincolnshire Committee.

Chris Hewis ACMA, Society Treasurer



Chris Lester 1945 - 2021

