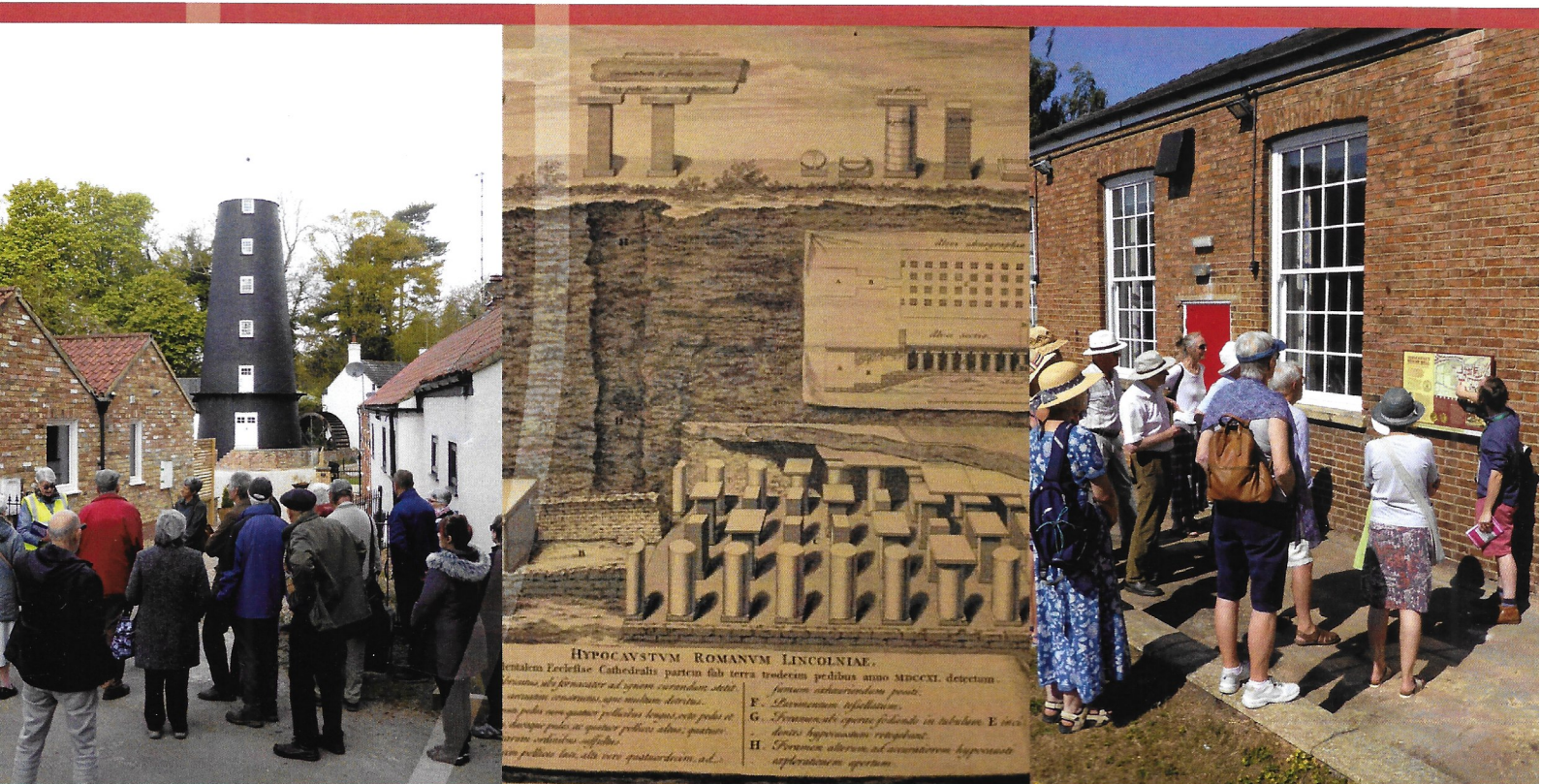


SOCIETY FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE
HISTORY &
ARCHAEOLOGY

2022 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 : 583

Chairman's Report



As we approach the Annual Meeting of the Society, we have a lot to be proud of from the past year. A year ago, we were still struggling as we emerged from the restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic. The AGM was held over Zoom and most activities were still

being done virtually. Over the past year the Society has begun to move back to holding in-person meetings and events. It is clear that there is a reluctance amongst many to mix in large groups while the threat of Covid is still around, so this remains a challenge for the Society going forward.

Despite these difficulties the Society has had a very good year. Probably the highlight was the Society being awarded the Lincoln Civic Award by the Mayor of Lincoln. A delegation of senior society members were invited to Lincoln's historic Guildhall for the ceremony, and a few weeks later the Chairman of our Trustees, Steve Stefaniuk, hosted a garden party to celebrate the achievement. As I said at the time, the award belongs to all those who have put so much time and effort into running the Society over the decades.

The activities of the Society have begun to step up once again which has been so good to see. Jews' Court bookshop is now open once more, although still on limited opening hours. Nick and Eva Moore have done a great job of getting the shop up and running again. We have held a number of in-person meetings, lectures and conferences. While it seems the numbers attending are not back to pre-Covid levels yet, for a Society which thrives on the interaction between its members this is an essential step forward. We are beginning to hold meetings at Jews Court again and in the process are addressing issues over how we manage the use of the building. We have not been able to make progress with Bardney Abbey over the past year and that needs to become more of a priority for the Society in the coming years.

It was great to see volume 52 of our journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* emerge. Particular thanks should go to Dave Start and Naomi Field for their hard work in pulling the contributions together. Our quarterly magazine, *Lincolnshire Past & Present*, continues to provide fascinating insights to the breadth of subjects the Society's members find of interest.

Behind the scenes a lot of work has been undertaken. We have undertaken a review of the Society's publications processes. This now involves much closer working between the Society's Publication Committee and the History of Lincolnshire Committee. We have begun to look at the constitution and structures of the Society with the hope of being able to streamline the way the Society works.

The Society has continued to benefit from a number of bequests and donations over the past year. We are, of

course, extremely grateful for all assistance the Society receives.

The one thing the Society lacks is volunteers. As well as funds, the running of the Society takes a lot of volunteer time. Many of the committees are running on less than full membership meaning, that more and more work falls on fewer people. Without more volunteers the society will have to reduce what it can achieve, and some activities will inevitably fall by the wayside. If you do have time to offer the Society, we would love to hear from you.

The Society would not achieve half of what it achieves without the hard work and dedication of its Secretary, Kathy Holland. My heartfelt thanks to her for all that she does in the face of all sorts of challenges to keep the Society going.

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

Property

Cyclical maintenance continues to be carried out at Jews' Court, including PAT Testing, boiler maintenance, annual asbestos check, radon monitoring, plus intruder and fire alarm servicing. Weekly/monthly checks and monitoring are carried out at approved intervals to the fire alarm call points, emergency lighting, the intruder alarm system and smoke and heat detection.

An inspection of Jews' Court was carried out by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue early in 2022, when the premises were rated as being 'Broadly Compliant', with some matters requiring attention. These included a new Fire Risk Assessment, updated Fire and Emergency Action Plans and training for staff and volunteers. Stephen Wells (Consultant) has produced the new Fire Risk Assessment which has now been sent to Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue for approval, the Fire and Emergency Action Plans have been updated and one training session has taken place with another planned. Additional proposed works include fire-stopping work to parts of the building and fire detection to the roof-space subject to listed building approval. Problems are on-going with regard to the external signage to Jews Court. The two low level 'refurbished' signs to either side of the main entrance, although recently re-fixed, are peeling again.

Maintenance of the gardens at Jews' Court has continued with grateful thanks to Dave Mellows.

Colin Holland for the Property Team

Industrial Archaeology

The launch of the book *Stamford's Industrial Past - An Untold Story* was successfully conducted by a half-day Zoom conference. The book, written by Neville Birch, was originally published in the 1970s in pamphlet form as *Stamford, an Industrial History*. The booklet was reviewed by a team of SLHA experts and expanded by the editor, Chris Lester. The book is a fitting tribute to Neville and

Chris and a celebration of the contributions made by many SLHA members. The Team organised a Zoom talk on *The Ruston in the Blue Lagoon*. This explained the recovery of the world's oldest excavator, a Lincoln built steam navvy from a flooded quarry and its restoration.

An in-person talk on Humberside Airport explained the origins of the airport. Starting as RAF bomber station it is now an international airport but with many associated additional uses.

An "out of county" visit to the Danum Steam Heritage Centre in Doncaster enabled Team members to enjoy this new display as well as providing the opportunity to visit surviving Great Northern Railway housing close by. Covid derailed the Team's plans in 2020 to visit and note surviving buildings and other structures associated with the East Lincolnshire Line and adjoining railway lines 50 years on from their closure in 1970. However a number of visits were successfully conducted during the period covered by this report.

Team members visited the Martin Chapman collection of historical agricultural machinery on an open day at Saltfleetby All Saints.

The project to celebrate Lincolnshire's Bricks and brickmakers is making encouraging progress.

A project to scan a selection of David Robinson's photographic slides of particular interest to the Society has commenced.



Members of the Society on a visit to St Helen's Church, Little Cawthorpe

Stephen Betteridge, Chairman of Industrial Archaeology

Local History

We were pleased to be able to hold our first conference in three years at the splendid venue of the Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa. Members and friends enjoyed a wide-ranging selection of talks on houses and gardens as well as the chance to take in the hotel's own gardens. We should like to thank the Petwood for their hospitality and fine buffet. The team is arranging two conferences for 2023. 'Reimagining Lincolnshire' is being organised in conjunction with the University of Lincoln who will host the event. Our churches group is to hold a conference in St Andrews in Epworth.

The churches group has held two visits to churches this year – the first to Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe, the second to Grantham. We hope further such events will take place.

The team continues to keep a weather eye on such diverse matters as the reinternment of Matthew Flinders, the future of Raithby Methodist chapel and the Heritage Services offered by Lincolnshire Council.



Mark Acton with speakers at the 2022 Conference

Mark Acton, Chairman of the Local History Team

Building Recording Group (RUBL)

This has been a year of work-in-progress. After the interruption due to the Covid19 pandemic, fieldwork has started again. Visits were made to Kirkstead and Stixwold as part of our



Kirkstead Abbey

contribution to the *Sacred Landscapes of the Witham Valley* project based at the University of Wales, Lampeter. A shortlist of target parishes to be studied was agreed for the research in preparation for the RUBL element of *The Lincolnshire Hearth Tax* volume which will be published by the Lincoln Record Society and the British Records Society in 2026. RUBL members are concerned about the failure of the planning system to recognise the mud and stud element of rural buildings in Lincolnshire that are not already on the statutory list. Work is in hand to organise a local meeting to start to address this problem. The paper recording the results of our research on Lincoln Lane Farmhouse in Sixhills was published in *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* Volume 52. RUBL members continue to play a leading role in the Lincoln Local List project. The Guide to Jews' Court for use by guides to the building is making good progress. The Grantham team continue to monitor developments in the town. There have been regular Zoom meetings throughout the year.

Ken Hollamby, Secretary of the Building Recording Group

Heritage (Booksales)

During the past year the Shop has been making progress in re-establishing itself following Covid. Neil Wright became Chairman of Lincolnshire Heritage (the Society's Trading Arm). Richard Croft, Roz Mellows and Chris Gilham have joined Steve Stefaniuk as Directors, with Chris Hewis remaining as Company Secretary. Roz Mellows has taken on the organisation of the volunteer rota and has been supervising the changing displays in the shop window. The Company has been able to continue its support for the Society, and we must thank all those members of the Society who have so generously donated books for resale. Despite the reduced trading during 2021, the shop was still able to make a donation of £9,102 to the Society and was able to provide the funding for the publication of Neville Birch's *The Industrial History of Stamford*.

In the current year it has only been possible to open the shop for three days a week, as we have fewer volunteers to work in the shop. We have been very saddened by the death of David Cowell, who has volunteered in the shop for 15 years, after he came to Lincoln, and was a king-pin of the volunteers. The bookshop represented the Society at the Heckington Show and this was a very successful event for promoting the Society and resulted in sales of almost £800.

Nick and Eva Moore, Bookshop Managers

Trustees

During 2022 our quarterly meetings have taken place via Zoom. Whilst we keep the possibility of a return to Jews' Court for our meetings open for review, this does mean being able to participate from the comfort of home and avoids the need to travel, something particularly welcome as the winter approaches.

The principal responsibility of the Trustees is to provide oversight of the Society's activities with regards to strategy, finance and reputation. Additionally, we monitor areas such as intellectual property, personnel, and are the final point of appeal in the event of disputes within the Society.

Safeguarding all of these essential areas is crucial to the long-term health and well-being of the Society and is an interesting and rewarding activity.

This year we have covered a wide range of topics, and have provided guidance on organisational matters, and the roles and responsibilities of SLHA officers. We have also been regularly updated on the progress of Lincolnshire Heritage, and the ongoing Publications Review.

We always welcome interest from anyone who would like to join our team, please do contact me if you would like to discuss this.

Steve Stefaniuk, Chairman of the Trustees

Archaeology Team

While the pandemic has had a big impact upon the Archaeology Team we have continued to meet every two months. Meetings now take place over Zoom. We have organized successful lectures and our Annual Conference. In 2021 the Archaeology Conference was held online. The attendance was not as high as we had hoped but the quality of papers was excellent. Jonathan Clarke from FAS Archaeology gave the keynote address on the recent discoveries on Lincoln Castle as revealed in the handsome recent volume, *Lincoln Castle Revealed*. Next time we also heard about the *Searching for Saxons* project, field systems in medieval Lincolnshire and the dynamics of the wildscape of the Isle of Axholme. In the afternoon session we concentrated on the stories emerging from the archaeological work undertaken on the Lincoln Eastern Bypass. Lectures and contributions to Sunday Specials have also continued and I am grateful to all those who have spoken to the Society.

Away from lectures and conferences members of the Archaeology Team have been involved in the city of Lincoln local listing initiative and work on the archaeology of the environs of Norton Disney Roman villa. The Archaeology Team also made a representation on the plans for Lincoln's Greyfriars. The Team also respond to a large amount of correspondence over the year, helping people learn more about the archaeology of the county.

Ian George, Chairman of the Archaeology Team

History of Lincolnshire Committee

The Committee met three times during the year, mainly online. It continues to monitor the progress of a number of potential publications exploring the history of the historic county. Works currently in preparation range chronologically from prehistoric Lincolnshire to some aspects of the county's twentieth-century history. Several interesting new book proposals have been received

through the year and the committee is in active dialogue with the potential authors.

It is hoped that a number of these works will be ready for publication in the near future.

The committee welcomed Naomi Field to its membership in the course of the year. Naomi is the representative of the Publications Committee. Partly in response to recommendations in the Society's Publications Review, the two committees are working increasingly closely, especially on areas of mutual interest, such as online publication, print on demand, and marketing.

Committee members were saddened to learn of the death of Professor Alan Rogers in April 2022. Professor Rogers had played an important part in the early years of the work of the History of Lincolnshire Committee, of which he became chair for a period from 1968.

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

The Society made a loss for the year of £10,179.

This was due mainly to the knock-on effects of the pandemic lockdown.

Subscription income was £4,500 less than the previous year, which had been higher than normal due to the payment of accounts in arrears.

Gift Aid income was £700 higher than the previous year.

The Jews' Court Bookshop was only able to return to opening a few days a week, with the subsequent resulting reduction in income.

There were two main contributing factors to the increase in administration costs.

Before the national lockdowns, volunteers delivered our magazines and members' correspondence whenever possible. This is no longer the case, resulting in postage costs almost doubling to £9,000.

I have decided to write off all depreciation costs this year, resulting in a one-off charge of £3,500.

None of our conferences and talks were held until April 2022; income from events was entirely generated from online talks.

With things returning to some sort of normality, and with help from the Trustees, Volunteers, and our Secretary, I sincerely hope to report a surplus next year.

Chris Hewis ACMA, Society Treasurer

Sleaford History Group

The Sleaford History Group has not met since the beginning of the original lockdown for Covid. I am looking to call a meeting to consider a future for the group. This will depend on whether there are members willing not only to support the group, but also to take on the essential offices of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer etc. Currently (as from the last AGM that was held) there are three committee members of which I, as Chairman, was one.

I will not stand for re-election as Chair, but would be willing to serve on a committee if one can be formed.

(Rev'd.) David Boutle, Retiring Chairman Sleaford SLHA History Group