

society for lincolnshire history & archaeology

Annual Report June 2006

chairman's report



President Catherine Wilson presenting ex-president, David Robinson, with a picture in thanks for his years of service.

Although the past year has not witnessed spectacular highlights it has, on the whole, been a successful one. It began by expressing our sincere thanks to our retiring President, David Robinson, who, in his very busy life, had taken an active interest in all aspects of the Society for eight years, and by a welcome to our new President, Mrs Catherine Wilson. Catherine has held several offices in the Society over the years but her knowledge of national heritage issues, gained through her career in recent years, is helping the Society to a wider view.

The Society took an active role in the development of the new Lincoln Museum, The Collection, and continues to foster an interest in it. The Executive has worked with the County Council in other ways. Cllr H H Turner was replaced by Cllr G Marsh as the County Council representative on the Executive Committee. Both have made helpful contributions to our deliberations. Through our representatives on various County and City bodies, we are able to express our concerns, regrets and pleasures. Having gained a prodigious museum close to Jews' Court we would like the County Council to make improvements at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life and will continue to press for this. During the year we have welcomed the County Librarian, Mr J Pateman, to discuss library plans with us and have responded to the County proposals for the integration of heritage services in the City.

Relations with the District Councils continue to be good. We respond to the various structure plans and special issues, like the development of The Maltings at Sleaford.

David Robinson was strongly of the opinion that if you sit through an AGM a tour or visit would be welcome after it. True to his theory he did just that for us at the last AGM. After chairing the meeting he told us about the art in the Louth Methodist Church (the venue), and then gave us a tour of the town with special reference to art.

Attendance at our meetings at Jews' Court is only a little improved but the day and weekend sessions go from strength to strength. Thanks to Dr Andrew Walker and the University staff we have had successful Local History and Archaeology days. The weekend at Horncastle in February, on the Reformation in Lincolnshire, was a sell-out and ended with demands to know of the date and subject for 2007. The Sleaford and Spalding Groups nearly always have full houses and are run most efficiently, but both have problems. The Spalding Group has moved its venue from the Grammar School Library to St John's Church Hall, which appears to be a satisfactory move. Like many organisations, including SLHA, they are both trying to find officers. Mrs Rose Clark has been

Patron	The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mrs B Cracroft-Eley
President	Mrs C Wilson
Chairman	Miss P Wheatley
Vice Chairman	Mr D Start
Treasurer	Mr P Hutchings
Adminstrator	Mr R Callow

Chairman at Spalding for many years but needs secretarial help, and Mrs Sandra Sardeson and Dr Simon Pawley have been holding the fort at Sleaford this part year to help David Bramford who continues as secretary. A replacement is needed for Brian Godwin who had been a most conscientious Chairman for many years, for which we thank him most sincerely.

A weekend out of the County is nearly a tradition – if three can count as such. The second one, a visit to South Wales in July 2005, proved popular and most enjoyable. Ken Hollamby devised an itinerary, visits, special guides and speakers that offered general interest to all, as well as special interests for archaeologists, industrial archaeologists and historians. (The third is to come in July this year). Terence Leach campaigned to get the many County local history societies to be affiliated to SLHA. That proved to be an uphill task. Nevertheless, we have been able to visit a number of them. Each year we ask a local group to designate one of their Autumn meetings as a Terence Leach Memorial meeting. This year we visited Scunthorpe and joined the Scunthorpe Museum Society to hear Dr Kevin Leahy talk about metal detectors' finds.

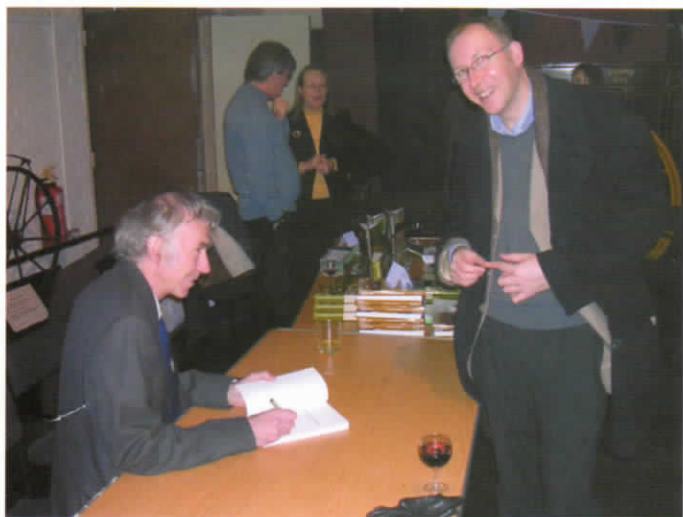


SLHA and FLARE visit to South Wales, July 2005.

action stations

The various committees have very different characters. The Industrial Team always have an item on the agenda "Industrial Archaeology in Lincolnshire". The Chairman asks each member in turn and nearly every one has something to report: a sign post might be missing, a bridge might be up for repair, a survey has been made or is needed and a host of sites throughout the County receive a mention. The Team is preparing for the next East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference to be held in Lincolnshire in 2007 – this is involving several team members who are now, also, preparing a bid to hold the prestigious AIA National Conference in 2009 in Lincolnshire.

The Local History Team has been very active in its recording programme which has involved a number of local groups. Having completed a series of World War II reminiscences they have begun recording memories of school days. These will become part of the County archive and are conducted in close association with the County Library and Archive Services and the University. Both their day and weekend



Author Dr Jonathan Brown signing a copy of his new book "Farming in Lincolnshire 1850-1945" for Dr Andrew Walker at the book-launch in February.

Neil Wright, Editor, receiving the AIA Award for the best Industrial Archaeology publication of the year from Professor Angus Buchanan, President of AIA.



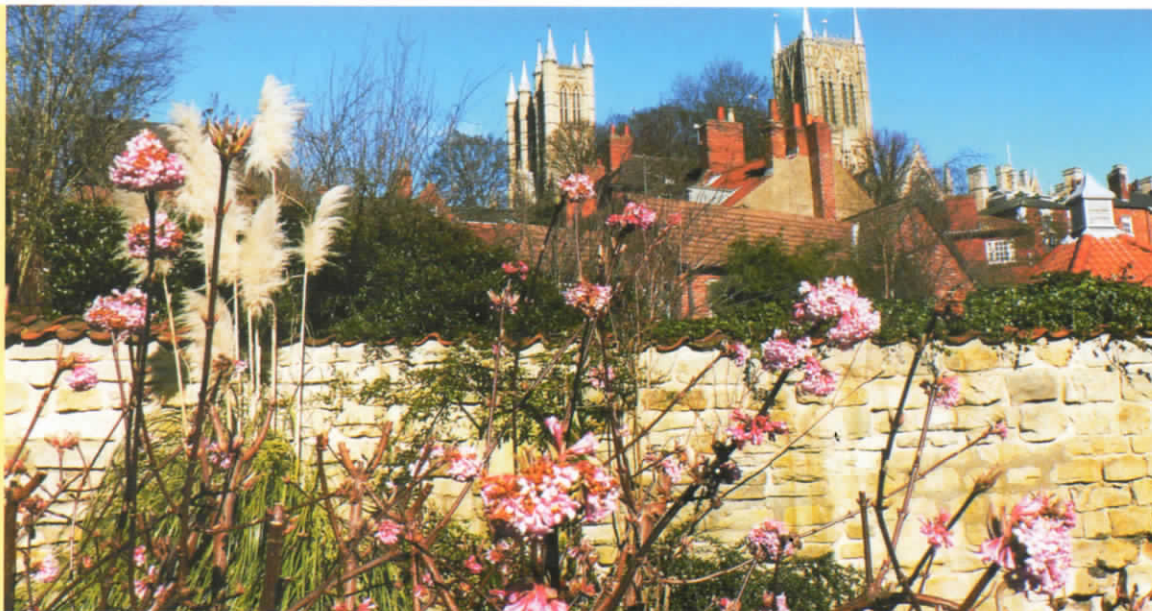
conferences have been well attended. The former was entitled "Lincolnshire Churches – A Rich Heritage" and the latter continued a religious theme, entitled "What the Reformation did for Lincolnshire".

The Archaeology Team's big day had to be transferred from the Riseholme Campus of the University, due to building operations, to the Lincolnshire Show Ground. The University staff were extremely helpful and the day on an environment topic was most successful. It is sad that the Society can no longer sponsor excavations but the Team keeps close contact with other local groups.

Rose Clark reports that the average attendance at Spalding meetings is 51.8, although only a small number are SLHA members. She feels this is justified in that the Group is encouraging and keeping up interest in local history in the area. We would all endorse this. Besides a full programme of talks the Group visited Elwood's Brewery Gardens, Wisbech, recently restored to their nineteenth century design, and had a tour of the historic castle area of the town.

David Bramford collates the Sleaford Historian to be distributed at each monthly meeting. There is always an item of local research as well as news. The Group is enjoying the updated facilities of the Church Room but will face a rise in the rent. Because of this, along with the rising costs of speakers, Simon Pawley, the Treasurer, is having to watch the budget closely.

Winter view of Jews' Court garden.





Lincolnshire Heritage bookstand at the Family History Day at the Lincolnshire Show Ground. February 2006.

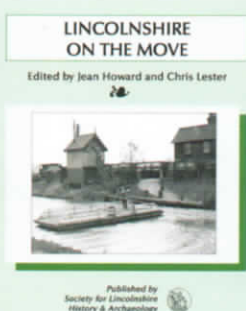
lincolnshire heritage ltd

The greatest change in the shop during the past year has been the closing sale of the stock of gifts. Mrs Sheila MacPhail has been the buyer for many years. She was concerned that the new museum shop would have a detrimental affect on our sale of small gifts. Others were concerned that the expansion of the new book market has led to a shortage of shelf space. It was, therefore, agreed that by ceasing to stock gifts we would be able to create more shelf footage for books in the Wagstaffe Room. We thank Sheila for her long years of service, both as a volunteer sales lady and a buyer. It is not unusual to find

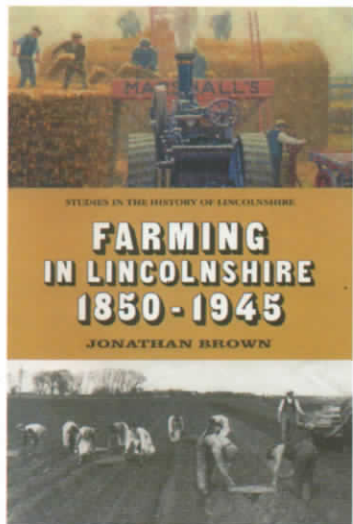
piles of workboxes around belonging to either Ken Redmore or Henry Wheatley. Both have made great changes in extending the shelving and re-modelling parts of both shop areas.

Trade has its ups and downs. Sometimes the Company Secretary/Treasurer, Rodney Callow, despairs of being able to pay the bills. Then we have several good weeks – Bernard Sullivan and Mrs Pamela D’Arcy take a book stand at yet another conference, and Autumn Leaves Bookshop sells a number of secondhand volumes for us on the internet and all is sweetness and light again. Pamela, our buyer, has extended the range of stock to include more family and general history volumes and Ken had created more space for the wide range of secondhand books. The Directors thank all of them and also the host of shop volunteers, Mrs Sue Smith, who arranges the rota and acts a general factotum, and Paul Hunter and Mrs Fenella Major who keep the shelves stocked. Our thanks are extended also to all those who very generously donate books both to our library and to the secondhand department.

Lincolnshire Heritage Booklets



Lincolnshire on the Move published in September 2005



Farming in Lincolnshire 1850-1945 published in February 2006

new publications

The History of Lincolnshire Committee and the Publications Committee have both had a busy year. Mr M Ireland, President of Lincolnshire Branch of the NFU launched "Farming in Lincolnshire 1850-1945" in February. It is the second in the series "Studies in the History of Lincolnshire". On the same day the committee learned that Mrs Elizabeth Nurser of Yard Publishing wished to resign. She has served on the Committee since well before 1989 and has been instrumental in ensuring three volumes of the first series and two of the second are of the highest quality. Even after moving to Sudbury she rarely missed a meeting. Her expertise will be greatly missed.

Mr Paul Hill, Manager of Lincolnshire Road Car Co., launched "Lincolnshire on the Move" for us at the Vintage Vehicle Museum in September. This is the first in a new series which complements those published by Heritage Lincolnshire. Both of our committees have books very near to publication. The year also witnessed a national award for "Lincolnshire Industrial Heritage – A Guide". We congratulate the Industrial Archaeology Team on this achievement.

We record our thanks to those producing our quarterly and annual series. Our Editor of "Lincolnshire History and Archaeology", Mark Bennet, is working hard to catch up the years – not an easy task when so many people are involved. Ros Beevers and Hilary Healey, editors of "Lincolnshire Past and Present", cope well with the task of getting to the printers four times a year - no mean achievement. Our Clerk, Sue Smith, produces SLHA Bulletin and also the monthly Sleaford Historian collated by David Bramford.

The organising and administrative prowess of our Administrator, Rodney Callow, has ensured success in all aspects of our work.

Mr Paul Hill of Lincolnshire Road Car Company launching "Lincolnshire on the Move" at the Vintage Vehicle Museum, Lincoln, in the presence of the Editors, Jean Howard and Chris Lester and some of the contributors.

