

# society for lincolnshire history & archaeology

Annual Report June 2008

## chairman's report

Gorbachev in his book *Perestroika* wrote: 'From the outset we realised that we had no time to lose. It is very important not to stay too long on a starting line, to overcome the lag, to get out of the quagmire of conservatism, and to break the inertia of stagnation. This cannot be done in an evolutionary way, by timid, creeping reforms'. Perestroika, he says, means restructuring, in other words revolution. So there must be construction after the demolition of what is obsolete.



*The 2007 AGM was held in Gainsborough and was followed by a tour of historic Gainsborough led by Stewart Squires*

This past year has witnessed many members taking part in an assessment of where we are, where we are going and how we can travel. In other words perestroika. The exercise has been, I think, enjoyable and enlightening. Members have been made more aware of where we are and certainly aware of the potential of the Society. It is possible to draw up plans for the future and make full use of the uniqueness of the Society in its role as a leader in the County's history and archaeology. Gorbachev keeps referring to the need for a democratic approach to change – everyone must be involved.

How true. In order for SLHA to achieve its full potential the membership must be involved. This means more people willing to give practical help by coming forward and accepting responsible roles.

There have been no new officers for many years – the Chairman has been in office far too long – and the trustees, excellent as they are, would welcome new blood. This examination of the present situation and the prospects for the future has certainly alerted members for the need to re-think and act.

One outcome of these deliberations was the decision to appoint a Membership and Public Relations Secretary, paid for one day a week. Publicity is one of the areas in which the Executive considered we under-achieve and changing banks, plus raising the subscription, lost us many members. We need to improve our performance in both areas.

Nevertheless, the Society is not stagnant. There has been a busy programme of meetings and conferences. Archaeology, as well as Industrial Archaeology, was well represented in the visit to East Anglia – another successful trip thanks to Ken Hollamby and Rodney Callow. There has been increased liaison with local groups, local authorities and national bodies. We have recruited new members, although not in sufficient numbers.

The highlight of 2007 was the bumper crop of new publications. We published three new books and reprinted the second volume of *Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses*. In February we launched our new website, which has been well received. This gives much more information as well as articles, and all is the

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**  
Administrator **Mr R Callow**

work of Ken Redmore under the guidance of our website manager, Adrian Wheel. We thank them both most warmly.

Mrs Rosalind Boyce was in charge of the photograph index at the Lincolnshire Archives but, at the re-organisation of Cultural Services staff, took her leave and became our librarian. This is excellent news for us.

On a sad note, the Friends of Lincolnshire Archaeology (FLA) decided to close down. This has been an active and practical group and is a loss to those interested in field archaeology. We thank them for handing over to SLHA the residue of their funds. The Executive and the Archaeology Team have been in discussions with the Friends of Lincoln Archaeological Research and Education (FLARE), as the latter considers joining SLHA in 2009. Local societies must be prepared to adapt to social and demographic change to meet the needs of their memberships and we look forward to working closer with FLARE to create a greater awareness and knowledge of the history and heritage of Lincolnshire.

*Pearl Wheatley (Chairman)*



*Pearl Wheatley with the Lincoln Civic party, Mr and Mrs Tony Worth, and the Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council Mr David Dickinson and Mrs Dickinson on the occasion of the presentation of Pearl's MBE*

## industrial archaeology



*Members of the Industrial Archaeology Team take a well earned break during the survey of Holdingham watermill*

We have kept up a flow of speakers for our talks and articles for our publications, and produced two books for publication, as well as organising two conferences. We have objected to two planning applications in Lincoln and have completed the recording of Holdingham Mill. The raising of the profile of the RB dragline machinery for fen

drainage is being worked on. The Society has accepted a gift of a large number of old Ordnance Survey maps and we have started to catalogue these to enable decisions to be made as to their future. Our enthusiasm is expressed in the number of people in the Team



*A visit to the Lade Bank Pumping Station arranged as part of the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference weekend held in May 2007*

and we regularly have up to fourteen people around the table at our meetings.

*Stewart Squires (Chairman, IA Team)*

## sleaford group

Sleaford History Group had had another busy year with a number of very popular speakers.

Our talks included the return of the Lincolnshire Film Archive in September, showing an extended piece of film of a local secondary school in the 1960s, with a number of familiar faces in it. We also had an outing and field trip to Osbournby led by Hilary Healey, an evening of local folk music by Brian Dawson and a very popular talk on Sleaford's role as the seed capital of the world. Other speakers have included Philip Talon on place names, Nicholas Bennett on the (often absentee) clergy of Tennyson's Lincolnshire, and local speakers Douglas Hoare, Henry Brown, Nigel Panting and Christopher Micklethwaite.

Our 2007 Hosford Memorial Lecture was on Horncastle Horse Fair and was given by David Robinson. Next year's lecture, the 20<sup>th</sup>, will feature some new research on the history and evolution of Carre Street in Sleaford by Simon Pawley.

Attendances this year have been good and despite rising expenses – caused (as all organisers will know) by increasing costs of speakers and venues – Sleaford Group continues to thrive and prosper. We are grateful to the Executive Committee for their continuing support of our activities and thank all our friends, helpers and attendees for their unwavering loyalty to the group.

*Simon Pawley (Chairman, Sleaford Group)*

## history of lincolnshire committee

The History of Lincolnshire Committee was not able to publish a volume in 2007, although we have several in preparation.

Ian Straw stood down as Treasurer in the Spring, and the task has been taken over by Eric Hair. Wendy Atkin has replaced long serving production editor Elizabeth Nurser. The Committee met three times during the year on Friday afternoons at Jews' Court, where we discussed the forthcoming publications programme, marketing, and book sales. We hope that at least one of the books currently 'in the pipeline' will appear in 2008.

*John Beckett (Chairman, History of Lincs Committee)*



*Lady Willoughby de Eresby proposes a vote of thanks to lecturer Dr Nicholas Bennett for the 2007 Brackenbury Lecture entitled: 'Gallopings curates and nests of rooks: the clergy of Tennyson's Lincolnshire'*

## local history team



*Participants in the Horncastle Crafts and Craftsmen weekend, held in February 2008, visit Lincoln Cathedral*

The Local History weekend held at Horncastle College in February 2008, was as instructive and enjoyable as ever. The topic of 'In the Making - Crafts and Craftsmen' was covered by some excellent speakers who enthused about medieval glassmakers, stone masonry, masons' marks, medieval tiles and English pottery from medieval times to modern master-craft. The possible origins of the Epworth Chest were considered from Hamburg

to Hull but with no definite conclusion reached!

The Local History Day at the University of Lincoln's Riseholme Campus was another excellent opportunity for members from wide and far to get together to hear stimulating ideas propounded and discussed.

The continuing project throughout the year has been the book of Oral History entitled *Ration Books and Rabbit Pie*, which was initiated by the Local History Team. The recording of the memories of women in Lincolnshire about their lives during World War 2 was done by local history societies in the County on mini-recorders purchased by SLHA with a grant from Lincolnshire County Council. These recordings were then transcribed and edited - half an hour's talk taking an hour to write down! Biographies have been written, photographs copied, illustrations gathered, copyright problems (mostly) overcome and a publication date looms in late summer 2008.

*Brenda Webster* (Chairman, Local History Team)



*Reproduction medieval pottery on display at the Crafts and Craftsmen weekend held at Horncastle in February 2008*

## jews' court bookshop

*Part of the Jews' Court bookshop on Steep Hill, Lincoln - The best local history bookshop in the county*



The year has been one of finding shelf space for the host of new books on Lincolnshire rolling off the presses. On average we receive two new volumes each week. Mrs Pam D'Arcy has a problem keeping track of them and Paul Hunter fitting them into the displays.

The second-hand section has faced similar demands. Thanks to donors we have received many valuable volumes on engineering, religion and history, as well as many on a variety of topics. We are grateful to members and friends.

The shop receipts were surprisingly low during the summer of 2007, but the average over the year was most satisfactory.

We said goodbye to Mrs Fen Major who has managed the day-to-day second-hand stock, and said hello to Bill Stead to carry on the good work.

*Pearl Wheatley*

## south holland local history group

The Group had a successful season in 2006-2007. Attendance at lectures was good, with John Honnor's East Coast Floods attracting an audience of 70. Unfortunately this upward trend in audience numbers did not apply to the AGM.

The number of SLHA members in the group continues to fall, despite our attempts to promote membership. However, over the season our bookstall sold £62.55 worth of books for the Society.

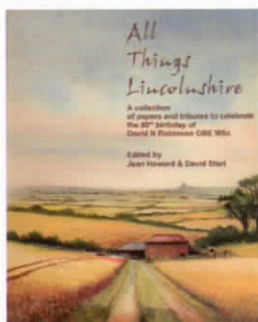
We are happy in our new venue, St John's Church Lounge; our financial position is sound, and we have loyal supporters. All would be well if we could fill the post of Secretary for the group!

*Rose Clark* (Chairman, South Holland Group)

## new publications



David Robinson at the launch of *All Things Lincolnshire*, together with the book's editors David Start and Jean Howard

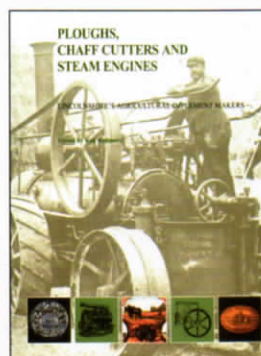


*All Things Lincolnshire* – A collection of papers and tributes to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of David N Robinson OBE – published in August 2007

The Publications Committee have met regularly during the year to progress our periodicals, *Past and Present* and *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, and our programme of book publication. Our thanks go to our two *P & P* editors, Ros Beevers and Hilary Healey and to journal editor Mark Bennet for their hard work through the year. Mention must also be made of Ray Carroll's sterling work as book review editor – especially as there is an ever increasing number of new books on Lincolnshire appearing each year.

During the year the Society reprinted Volume II of the *Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses* series by T Leach and R Pacey. We also published three new books: in May we produced *Grantham: An Industrial Heritage Trail* by Peter Stevenson and Ken Redmore; in August we launched *All Things Lincolnshire* a festschrift to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of our past president David Robinson and in November we launched *Ploughs, Chaff Cutters and Steam Engines* – a book detailing the agricultural implement manufacturers who made Lincolnshire world famous in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We have a busy forward publication programme planned. In 2008 we plan to publish two new titles: *Papermaking in Lincolnshire 1600-1900* by

*Ploughs, Chaff Cutters and Steam Engines: Lincolnshire's Agricultural Implement Makers*, edited by Ken Redmore, was published in November 2007



Hugh Nott and *Ration Books and Rabbit Pie* (based on oral history research into experiences of Lincolnshire women during WWII) edited by Linda Crust. In future years we plan books on Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge, Turnor's farm buildings, industrial Sleaford and Lincolnshire gravestones. Further reprints of out of print titles will also be undertaken.

Publication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not only paper-based and mention must be made of the Society's website, which has undergone a major restructuring during the year. Special thanks must go to Ken Redmore who scaled the steep learning curve that few others dared contemplate and together with website manager Adrian Wheel has produced an attractive and easy to manage new website which will increasingly become one of the main sources of information and news of society events and activities.

David Start (Vice Chairman)

## archaeology team

The Annual Archaeology Day at Lincoln University was on an unusual topic. 'Digging Big Holes – Archaeological Landscapes and Quarrying' does not slip off the tongue. Nevertheless it proved a popular topic, which led to a successful day.

The team has not met on many occasions but the general programme held the usual complement of talks, which included a report on the Sudbrooke villa dig by Craig Spence. It is good to hear of local people involved in excavations.

Pearl Wheatley

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## treasurer's report

Financial year 2007/8 showed pleasing results with membership subscriptions undergoing a very significant increase. Thanks are due to Mark Acton for his diligence in this matter. Donations in the year were also very good and the Society's range of events has proved to be popular and viable.

The Society's accounts for 2007/8 will be submitted for approval at the 2008 Annual General Meeting. Copies of the Society's accounts are available to view on the Charity Commission's website at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) (enter the Society's name or Charity No. 504766 and follow the link to account documents). Alternatively the accounts for 2007/8 will be available for view at the AGM and subsequently at Jews' Court throughout the year.

Philip Hutchings  
(Hon. Treasurer)