

society for lincolnshire history & archaeology

Annual Report June 2009

chairman's report

2008 was the year that brought to fruition the examination of our structure, our aims and objectives and our forward planning. Starting at the end of 2007 we progressed reviewing ourselves and completed the process by November 2008. One Executive Committee meeting was given over to the final assessment and plan. We were severely critical of what we should, should not and ought to, act upon. The major outcome was our determination to concentrate on greater attention to publicity and recruitment, with the result that we created a new paid post. We engaged Mark Acton for one day a week for this specific purpose. This means that in total we have the equivalent of one full-time employee per week. Kate Mitchell of Sheffield gave generously of her time to lead us through the various stages of this study. We are most grateful to her and to our Vice-Chairman, Dave Start, for their help and promised to review our stance and progress every autumn.

Mark Acton was appointed Membership and Marketing Officer in May. He has initiated new ideas to encourage increased recruitment. Each new member will receive a free copy of one of a selection of SLHA publications and all members will have the opportunity to purchase any SLHA publication at 20% discount. This has proved popular with members and aided our sales. A notice board in the entrance to Jews' Court draws attention to the SLHA website which, we hope, will encourage visitors to seek more. Other matters in hand are a new publicity leaflet and a new Society logo.

Another matter that received criticism during our management survey, was our need to establish a higher profile in other parts of the County. We have held our AGMs and annual Leach Lecture in different venues, often linking with other groups. Every year we share in the Brackenbury Lecture and make visits to locations outside the City. This past year we included a tour of Saxilby with the Saxilby and District History Society, and held joint functions in Dunholme, Spilsby, Tealby and Heckington.

One area in which we have success is our publications programme. The year witnessed several new books. *Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses, Part 1* sold so well we ordered a reprint and also added Part 3 to our stock. Mrs Joyce Leach gave us permission to reprint Terence Leach's *Lincolnshire Country Houses and their Families*, parts 1 and 2. Demand has been great for these and initially sales have gone well.

In the autumn of 2008 we had two further book launches. *Ration Books and Rabbit Pie* was launched at Spilsby by Tony Worth, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and now our Patron. *Rabbit Pie* has sold well and is a real credit to the production team who, with several local history groups around the County, recorded wartime reminiscences and converted them into this popular publication.

The other publication was *Paper Making in Lincolnshire*, launched by mills expert Jon Sass at Tealby, where there were several paper mills. Many local people joined us with the author, Hugh Nott, who lives in the village.



Members view a horse powered winding engine on a trip to Beamish in July

The Publications Committee, under the leadership of Dave Start, have extensive plans stretching several years ahead.

Ken Redmore wears many hats for SLHA. He manages the second-hand book department, ably assisted by Bill Stead; he keeps track of and edits Industrial Archaeology articles and publications; he assisted in the production of *Ration Books and Rabbit Pie*; helps in many ways in Jews' Court, and edits our website. This latter he keep up-to-date on a weekly basis. A weekend event will appear on the web on Monday. SLHA web is among the best of such

Patron

**The Lord Lieutenant
of Lincolnshire**

Tony Worth

President

Mrs C Wilson

Chairman

Miss P Wheatley

Vice Chairman

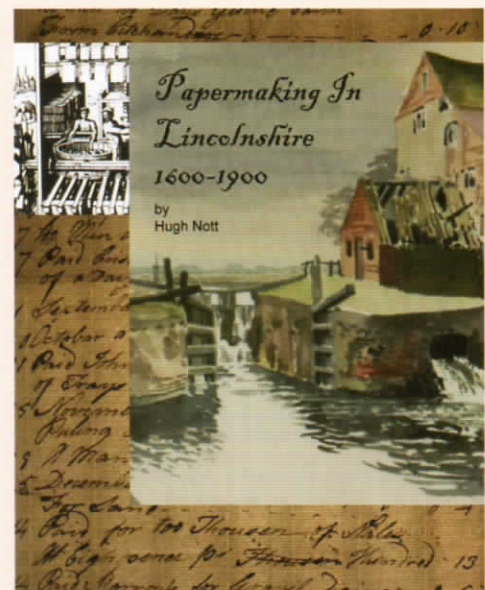
Mr D Start

Treasurer

Mr P Hutchings

Administrator

Mr R Callow



The Society launched the book *Papermaking in Lincolnshire at Tealby* in October

organisations as ours and is a most valuable asset. Our sincere thanks go to Ken for his dedication and prompt action.

We often forget the amount of time and energy required to produce our quarterly magazine and our annual journal. Our editors' tasks involve far more than collecting articles. Negotiating with authors is not simple and not always a pleasant task. Editors are dependent upon receiving items for print and all of them would say "Please send more". *Lincolnshire Past and Present* has been produced every quarter. However, we very much regret and apologise for the delay in publishing the next volume of *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Our editors are all volunteers and two have very exacting full-time jobs. Efforts are in hand to catch up the printing of the journal. We ask members to be patient.

After many years as a member of the Executive, Miss Thora Wagstaffe decided to resign. We thank her for her considerable help in that capacity and are pleased she is to remain a Vice-President and a volunteer in the shop. Another Executive vacancy arose with the appointment of Mark

Acton to a paid post. These vacancies were filled by David Stocker and Chris Lester. We welcome them and hope they enjoy their terms of office. All other officers remained the same, apart from Mrs Jennifer Jackson who resigned as secretary to the Local History Team. Jennifer is still involved with the Archaeology Team.

We could not survive without the army of volunteers in Jews' Court, in the shop and representing us on other bodies. We have representatives on departments in both the City and County Councils as well as a number of heritage societies and organisations around the County. We thank them all for their help, advice and time.

A week-end tour is now an annual event. This year the party travelled to Northumberland and visited a variety of venues to suit all tastes. Our thanks go to the leader, Ken Hollamby, and our administrator for ensuring success. Other successes are achieved by our quiz teams. They swept the board in the annual archaeology quiz organised by Heritage Lincolnshire.

Pearl Wheatley (Chairman)

industrial archaeology committee

This year has members of our team working towards the publications *The Sutton Bridge, an Industrial History* and *Building a Railway – Bourne to Saxby*. Both are due to be published in the autumn of 2009, timed to coincide with the national conference of



*Ken Redmore receiving the AIA prize from Prof. Angus Buchanan for our recent book *Ploughs, Chaffcutters and Steam Engines**

the Association for Industrial Archaeology which will be held at the University in Lincoln in September. This is a signal honour; it runs for one week and, as well as supporting its organisation, we are running a number of study tours and visits across the county.

We are very pleased and proud to report the award of a cheque for £200 by the AIA for our book *Ploughs, Chaffcutters and Steam Engines*. Ken Redmore attended the AIA Conference in Wiltshire at the end of August to receive the award, the certificate for which hangs in the office alongside the similar award we received in

2004 for *Lincolnshire's Industrial Heritage – A Guide*. We hope now to produce a second volume and we are actively seeking authors who can contribute to this.

We have also begun to consider our conference for 2010 which will be on the theme of one of Lincolnshire's most famous agricultural products - potatoes.

Members have given some considerable thought to the planning applications which will bring about the regeneration of the Sleaford Maltings and we have made several comments. At the time of writing no decision had been made on this.

We have been unsuccessful in lobbying for the retention of the heritage display on the history of St Mark's railway station in Lincoln. At the time the station was redeveloped into a shopping centre a corner of the Lakeland store was retained for the display. However, Lakeland, despite some initially encouraging noises in response to our concern over its potential loss due to a revamp of the store, has taken over the space. The material is currently in store but we understand from the City Council that it is unlikely to be rehoused within the station site.

We have also lobbied for the replacement of the metal fencing erected by Network Rail around the High Street level crossing barriers in Lincoln. This is incongruous as part of the setting of St Mary's Church and the adjacent conduit. Again, without success so far but, nevertheless, we shall continue to campaign where we feel the need.

On top of this we have kept up a flow of speakers for our talks and articles for our publications.

Stewart Squires

spalding group

South Holland Local History Group continues to attract good audiences to its lectures and last season's average attendance was 42. We have had an interesting range of speakers, but the task of finding them gets harder each year, the more so since the Gentlemen's Society recently instituted their own programme of public lectures. However I am pleased to report that the Spalding Group is thriving and during last season the monthly bookstall, which sells SLHA publications, sold books to the value of £141.

We have a loyal group of supporters, including some new recruits, but few of them are ready to take up office. The Group has operated without a secretary for two years by sharing out the work amongst the committee. After 21 years as Chairman I intend to retire in September 2009 but it is proving most difficult to find a successor – the future of the Group depends on finding someone willing to take office and I very much hope that a suitable candidate will come forward.

We are thinking positively for the future and our lecture programme for 2009-2010 is already arranged.

Rose Clark

jews' court trust

Jews' Court Trust is the owner of Jews' Court. We thank the Trustees for decorating the lower kitchen and toilet block and giving us a new carpet in the office. The Trustees have also decided to refurbish the lower kitchen to give us suitable cupboards and fittings. We are grateful for this generosity.

Pearl Wheatley

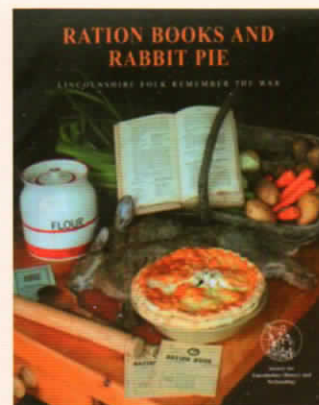
local history committee

The launch by Tony Worth (then acting Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire) of the book of oral history, *Ration Books and Rabbit Pies*, was the special event of the year for the Local History Team. It took place at Spilsby as part of that society's Open Day and was acclaimed a splendid success – the bookstall's copies were sold out before lunch! All those Local History groups and individuals who volunteered their services in both gathering and giving the memories which make up this remarkable publication were sincerely thanked for all their efforts. We were most grateful for the enthusiastic hospitality offered by the Spilsby group. The book has received good reviews and continues to sell well.

The Local History Weekend Conference held in February was again well-supported with the topic: 'Eat, Drink and be Merry' proving popular during and after the lectures. The last lecture on Sunday morning was 'Wartime Food' and the College joined in the spirit of the occasion by providing 'Lord Woolton Pie' and jam roly-poly for lunch!

As this report goes to press the Local History Day is yet to come but the topic of Oral History in the Midlands promises to be very interesting.

Brenda Webster



Ration Books and Rabbit Pies, our oral history book on life in Lincolnshire in WWII, was launched in Spilsby in September

history of lincolnshire committee



Society visit to Harlaxton Manor in July

The History of Lincolnshire Committee met three times during the year and considered a number of manuscript proposals. Several books are in preparation, but none were ready for publication during the past year. Dr Julian Haseldine joined the committee and Derek Wellman stepped down as secretary; we were delighted to welcome Mrs Abbie Turner as his replacement. Derek has been a great servant of the committee for many years and we shall miss his barbed asides about academic authors and their understanding of the word deadline! Book sales were steady during the year, and we await a new title as the spur to future marketing plans. Eric Hair kept a vigilant watch on our finances as interest rates collapsed. At the end of the year we were saddened, as were many other sections of the SLHA, by the untimely death of Dr Alan Vince, who served on the committee for a number of years in the 1990s.

John Beckett

lincolnshire heritage

Last year we recorded the number of new books on Lincolnshire arriving every week. There has been no let-up over the past twelve months and the shelves are still overflowing. Although we sympathise with some assistants who occasionally have a boring day with few customers, overall the trade has been good in both new and second-hand sections. We now have access to other company websites and sell both SLHA publications and second-hand books on them. This helps to bring the Society to an even wider market.

SLHA Members enjoying a visit to Bateman's Brewery at Wainfleet in February 2009



sleaford group

Sleaford Group has had an eventful year. In January, as our regulars will remember, we had a serious financial crisis, when the cumulative effect of three years of rising bills for our venue meant that we were in serious danger of not being able to pay our booked speakers. The Executive Committee very kindly advanced our annual grant and raised it as a one-off payment and since then we have taken steps to prevent the problem happening again. One major source of income is now our bookstall, which this year generated much needed additional funds for the group. Members have also been very generous in supporting our refreshment sales and our occasional raffles and in putting small donations in the tin at the door.

Our talks included David Hopkins on the work of an archaeological illustrator; Nicholas Bennett on 'Galloping Curates and Nest of Rooks', a fascinating glimpse of the effects of absentee clergy in north Lincolnshire; women in the First World War; the history of SLHA itself (by Pearl Wheatley); ironstone mining in Lincolnshire and the history of flying. More local subjects have included Thomas Parry, the evolution of Carre Street in Sleaford (the 20th W H Hosford Memorial Lecture), the Enclosure of Sleaford and the medieval bishops of Lincoln and the hamlet of Boughton. There have also been outings, in particular Michael Turland's Les Gostick Memorial walk looking at date stones in the town.



Examining Armstrong's waterwheel at Cragside, Northumberland

In September we are planning a series of guided tours and talks on local art and architectures for Heritage Open Days.

We are, as always, grateful to the Executive Committee for their continuing support of our activities and thank all our friends, helpers and attendees for their loyalty to the group.

Simon Pawley

archaeology committee

Last year we announced with regret the closing of the Friends of Lincolnshire Archaeology and the beginnings of negotiations of yet another closure. After many years serving the needs of Lincoln City Archaeology and providing interesting programmes for its members, Friends of Lincoln Archaeology and Education requested a move to become part of SLHA. As from 1st April 2009 FLARE (now Friends of Lincolnshire Archaeology and Education) has augmented SLHA Archaeology Team and has brought with it plans for future expansion of this section of the Society.

The annual Archaeology Day last October was a tremendous success with a record number of delegates. Lincolnshire abbeys and priories proved a most popular topic. It also provided an insight into the forthcoming new book in the History of Lincolnshire series on this subject, by Dr Glyn Coppack, one of the speakers.

Pearl Wheatley



Somerton Castle, Boothby Graffoe – The Society sponsored a geophysical survey at the castle during August

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finance

The substantial legacy from Dr Kathleen Major made it possible to employ an Administrator by using the interest from the investments. Some members have voiced concern that in the present financial climate we may encounter problems. Our Treasurer assures us we have a healthy balance and can cope with employing our Administrator, Rodney Callow, and the Membership Officer, Mark Acton, for the foreseeable future. Our Clerk, Mrs Susan Smith, has her salary paid mostly by Lincolnshire Heritage.