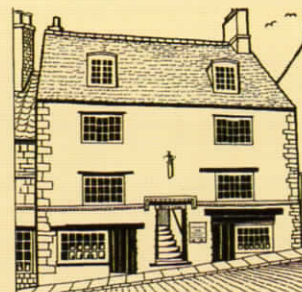


# society for lincolnshire history & archaeology

Annual Report May 2010



## chairman's report

2009/10 has been another eventful year for the Society with successful day conferences, the annual Horncastle weekend, a week-long conference with the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA), and a number of new publications. It was also the first year since FLARE merged with the Society and this has greatly strengthened our Archaeology Team, as described elsewhere in this report.

This was the first year of my two-year term as Chairman of SLHA, also of Chris Lester and Stewart Squires as your Vice-Chairmen. Pearl Wheatley stood down last year after nine years as Chairman and the Society presented her with some small fruit trees for the garden of her new home as a mark of our gratitude and esteem. Pearl had been an extremely hard working Chairman and is a hard act to follow. As I was in full-time employment I felt the need for two Vice-Chairmen to assist me. I hope that the Society will now return to its earlier arrangement whereby a Chairman serves for two years and is succeeded by one of the Vice-Chairmen, who should also serve for two years.

The Society continues to work with national bodies and local societies which are interested in history, archaeology etc. This all helps to raise our profile. We wrote to the National Archives to express concern at the reduction of hours and staff. The major event last year was the national conference of the AIA which was held in Lincolnshire in September with SLHA as the local organiser. About 100 people from all over the UK attended the residential conference based in the Brayford campus of the University of Lincoln. Our Industrial Archaeology Team arranged seven lectures, a film show by the Lincolnshire Film Archive and twelve tours (4 half-day and eight full-day) that covered most of the county.

After the conference the AIA made awards to Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust and the Lincolnshire Film Archive. The President and Chairman of the AIA made the presentations on 25 January 2010 and the Spalding Gentlemen's Society kindly provided their museum as the venue for the ceremony.

The Terence Leach Memorial lecture is a joint event held every year, and on 29 September 2009 Jon Sass spoke on the subject of "Lincolnshire Water Mills". Our Archaeology Day in spring 2010 included the AGM of "Rescue" and in April 2010 our Local History Day was part of the British Association for Local History conference held in Lincoln.

Other Society events during 2009/10 included our annual Weekend Study Tour. This year it was in Kent from 3 to 6 July and was based at the Medway Campus of the University of Greenwich. We visited sites in Greenwich, Rochester, Chatham and other places. We also had an outing to Derbyshire, including Cromford and Arbor Low, on 16 May, a Sleaford Canal walk on 10 May and a visit to RAF Cranwell on 12 June. The planned visit to Flag Fen and Peterborough Cathedral had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

For many years the Society has had a library at Jews' Court and in recent times it has been revamped by Ros Boyce. However very few people use the library and we need to consider what can be done to make best use of the collection.

We also continued our programmes of lectures at Lincoln, Sleaford and Spalding, which now include a monthly series organised by the Archaeology Team and held at St Hugh's Hall in Lincoln. We publish a card listing the lectures held at St Hugh's Hall and it is intended that in future this will also list the ones at Jews' Court.

Sadly the Society has lost a number of prominent members during the year. Flora Murray was an amazing person and was

Patron

**The Lord  
Lieutenant  
of Lincolnshire,  
Tony Worth**

President  
Chairman  
Vice-Chairmen

**Mrs C M Wilson  
Mr N R Wright  
Mr C J Lester  
Mr S E Squires  
Mr P Hutchings  
Mr R Callow**

Treasurer  
Administrator  
Membership and  
Marketing Officer  
Clerk

**Mr M Acton  
Mrs S Smith**

*A group of  
members visiting  
RAF College  
Cranwell, June  
2009*



still an active member of the Executive and the Local History Team, and a Director of Lincolnshire Heritage, up to the age of 96. As Director of the Lindsey and Holland Rural Community Council she ran the Society from 1935 to 1974 and was Chairman in 1991-93. Alan Vince's sudden death in 2009 was a loss to archaeology nationally as well as locally. Alan had been Chairman of our Archaeology Committee 1990-93 and Vice-Chairman of the Society 1993-96. Jean Scott had been Chairman and then President of FLARE and became a Vice-President of SLHA with effect from 1 April 2009. Betty Kirkham of Hogsthorpe had been a member of the Society since 1967 and did much work in her own area. Eleanor Bennett was also a long serving member and a very regular attender at Society events right until the end.

To commemorate Flora Murray's contribution to the Society the CD of Tennyson's Dialect Poems, re-issued by the Society in 2009, was dedicated to her memory. Half of the collection made at the memorial service for Eleanor Bennett was given to the Society. Arthur Owen, widower of our former President Dr Dorothy Owen, died in 2008 and in his Will left us a bequest that was received in 2009. These funds will be used in due course to commemorate these two former members of the Society.

Finally I would like to thank those members of the Society who generously give their time and effort to help run the numerous activities of the Society, and fund raising through Lincolnshire Heritage and the bookshop.

Neil Wright,  
Chairman of the Society

## local history team

The Team has been involved in planning its contribution to the British Association for Local History Conference to be held at the University of Lincoln on 23 to 25 April 2010. The theme of the Conference will be "Twentieth Century History".

The annual Horncastle Weekend was held at the Residential College on 19 to 21 February 2010 and the subject was "Changing Childhood". This will be the last year that the College has its own residential accommodation, and with the College we are exploring the possibility of using other accommodation in Horncastle for 2011.

The Team arranges the annual Terence Leach Memorial Lecture and in 2009 that was held in conjunction with the Brigg Amateur Social Historians (BASH). On 29 September Jon Sass spoke on "Lincolnshire Water Mills" at BASH's very sociable venue in the Brigg and District Servicemens Club.

The Team has been involved in Oral History for some time and is currently seeking to identify what other oral history recordings there are around the county. Many bodies and individuals hold recordings but we are concerned that there is no central secure depository for them in the county.



*The annual Brackenbury Lecture in Raithby's historic Methodist Chapel was given by Professor Mark Seaward*

## history of lincolnshire committee

The Committee was set up in 1966 to publish a scholarly history of the county planned as a twelve volume series. This was completed in 1998, but by then it was clear that twelve volumes would do little more than touch the surface of the county's rich history, and it was decided to begin a second series of books: "Studies in the History of Lincolnshire". Two volumes have been published so far, on the Wolds (Charles Rawding) and on recent farming (Jonathan Brown), and further volumes are expected in the near future on the Lincolnshire Show (Andrew Walker) and the county's religious houses (Glyn Coppack).

The Committee is always on the look out for manuscripts that fall within its remit, and anyone who would like to know more is asked to contact, in the first instance, the Committee's Chairman, Professor John Beckett, at [john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk).



*Following the 2009 AGM of the society in Bourne, an afternoon visit was arranged to Red Hall*

## spalding group

South Holland Local History Group has had a successful lecture season. The programme drew good audiences, with 63 attending Peter Ryde's archive film presentation. Other popular talks included John Honnor's on drainage pumping engines, local farmer Rex Sly's on fenland families, a personal look at Stamford by Kevin Harrison and Grimsby and the east coast ports in the 19th century by John Wilson.

Good audience numbers boosted the Group's finances from donations and refreshment sales, as they have a dedicated group of ladies to provide refreshments quickly and efficiently. Over the season Lincolnshire Heritage has benefited from the sale of books to the value of £223.29 at the bookstall.

The Group is now an established part of the South Holland cultural scene and the friendly meetings foster an interest in the history of Lincolnshire, and South Holland in particular. Despite the Group's popularity there are problems in recruiting officials.



*Members on the July 2009 Study Tour to Kent arriving at Chatham Dockyard*

## industrial archaeology team

The most time consuming and rewarding project for the IA Team in 2009 has been their involvement with the AIA conference as reported elsewhere in this report. We are now busy organising the EMIAC which will be held in October 2010 in Holbeach, on the theme of "Fenland Farming – a Taste of Lincolnshire".

Publications this year have been "Building a Railway, Bourne to Saxby" by Stewart Squires and Ken Hollamby, which was jointly published with the Lincoln Record Society, "Sutton Bridge, An Industrial History" by Neil Wright with help from Beryl Jackson, and "Lincolnshire's Industrial Past" which was the notes for the 12 tours arranged for the AIA Conference.

Fieldwork has seen the completion of the survey of Holdingham Water Mill, preliminary work on Bishopbridge at the head of the Ancholme Navigation, and a survey of a small, and long redundant, sewage treatment works which was built to serve Canwick Hall. The Gwynne pumps of the pumping station at Wiggshall St Germans in Norfolk were made in Lincoln and were recorded prior to demolition.

The Society had bookstalls at the EMIAC at Crich in Derbyshire and the Carrington Steam Rally. We also walked part of the Sleaford Canal at Sleaford, and the site of the Nettleton Mines near Caistor, the latter as part of the Wolds Walking Festival. The owner of Field Farm at Epworth has a collection of farm wagons, some very rare, and we will offer advice about their value.

Campaigning has included taking an interest in the proposed Lincoln Eastern Relief Road to ensure that vital remains of Lincoln's mining history are not overlooked and arguing for the retention of some of the former Lincoln Castings building as part of the redevelopment of the site. We have maintained an interest in the ongoing proposals for Sleaford Maltings and in the future of the semi-derelict Ice Factory on Grimsby Docks.

## sleaford group

Sleaford History Group has had good attendances throughout the year and a number of very popular speakers. Family history was represented by Anne Cole's talk on "The Wandering Poor" in May 2009. Other talks in 2009 included "Buildings at Risk" by Liz Bates of Heritage Lincolnshire, "Holdingham Mill" by John Sass and "Tupholme Abbey" by Ian Jebbett. In the early part of 2010, they had Malcolm Smith on "The Age of Steam", Geoff Lee on the history of brewing and Malcom Knapp on Grantham during the Second World War. For the Christmas event the Lincoln-based medieval and Renaissance musicians Chevrette played a variety of songs and tunes using an assortment of early instruments.

The 2009 Les Gostick Memorial Walk was "Hic Jacet: A History of Monuments As Represented in St Denys' Church" by Douglas Hoare and in July 2009 Rodney Lines gave a memorable talk and some recitations of Tennyson's Lincolnshire dialect poems for the Annual W.H.Hosford Memorial Lecture. The group also ran a full day event on "Art in Architecture" for Heritage Days in September 2009, with a walk in the morning and a series of short illustrated talks in the afternoon.



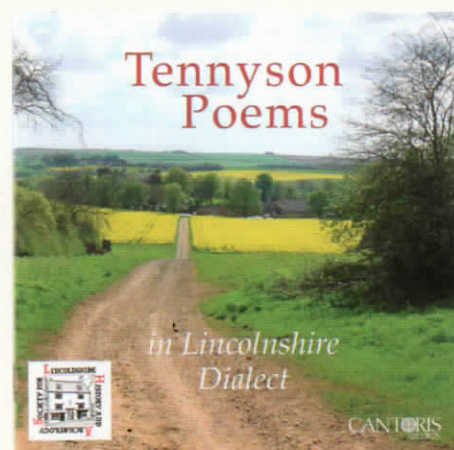
*Pearl Wheatley, former SLHA chairman, beginning a tour of Horncastle schools in February 2010*



*In early May 2009 an SLHA group walked along the Sleaford navigation towpath to Evedon Church*



*The national AIA Conference, hosted by SLHA, included 12 full day tours, one of which was to the Corus steelworks in Scunthorpe*



*Recordings of Tennyson's dialect poems, first made by Edward Campion and Edith Burgess in 1969, have been reissued by the society on CD*

## publications committee

One of our most successful book launches in recent years was "Sutton Bridge – An Industrial History" on 28 November 2009 in Sutton Bridge. The book by Neil Wright with help from Beryl Jackson was officially launched by Councillor Jenny Rowe and there was then an unexpected and complimentary contribution by Francis Pryor, who is a local resident as well as a nationally known archaeologist.

We know that members of the Society, and other recipients

of the annual journal, are concerned that publication has got behind-hand. This delay is being addressed and we will get two issues of the journal out each year for the next two or three years so that by 2012 we will have caught up. This will start in spring 2010 and by the time of the AGM you should have received Volumes 42 and 43 (for 2007 and 2008) simultaneously – one with a major archaeological article and the other with a number of other articles.

## archaeology team

FLARE has now amalgamated with the Society, and our Archaeology Team has been strengthened. All FLARE funds have now been transferred to the SLHA, as has the stock of publications, and the separate website has been closed. The Team supports the Sunday Specials at Jews' Court as well as the programme of monthly lectures at St Hugh's Hall, Lincoln.

The Team has had reports during the year on a proposed medieval and post-medieval tile project. This is a Community Archaeology Project and it was agreed that SLHA would provide £500 to cover the cost of initial lecture and training days on 24

February and 17 March 2010. Subsequent funding for the project should come from the National Lottery and CBA.

The annual Archaeology Day is usually in the autumn but for 2010 it was brought forward to the spring so we have had two since the previous annual report. The 2009 Conference on 3 October was on the Anglo-Saxons and had the unexpected bonus of a first-hand report by Kevin Leahy on the recently discovered Staffordshire hoard. The conference on 20 March 2010 was on the theme of "The End of Roman Lincoln". Both of these excellent conferences were over subscribed.



Sutton Bridge book launch (Francis Pryor, Beryl Jackson, Tony Worth, Neil Wright)

## lincolnshire heritage ltd

Lincolnshire Heritage is the commercial arm of the Society, handling the income and expenditure of the bookshop and paying our rent to the Jews' Court Trust. The income from book sales has held up despite the recession. The Executive have recognised that disabled access to Jews' Court is not good and we have asked Jews' Court Trust to see what might be done to improve the situation.

## finance

The Society's finances are still in a sound condition, with income from subscriptions, book sales and interest on our reserves more than covering our expenditure. All conferences are self-financing. The recession of the last 18 months or so has not made much difference to the financial position of the Society as our income is very similar to previous years. In addition we have received donations and bequests that will further help the Society.

Membership of the Society has increased during the year due to the activity of Mark Acton, our new Membership and Marketing Officer, and to the merger with FLARE, although quite a few FLARE members already belonged to SLHA.



The impressive former Chatham Naval College, base for the 2009 SLHA Study Tour

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