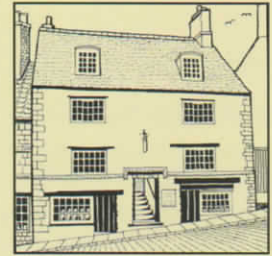


society for lincolnshire history & archaeology

Annual Report June 2013



Chairman's Report

This has been another busy year but with more activity relating to our staff and volunteers than has been the case in previous years. We have been very saddened by the sudden death of one of our longest serving members, Hilary Healey. Hilary was involved in many aspects of our work and will be missed. A full obituary will appear in our publications soon.



In February the Society said thank you to Rod Callow after 11 years as our Administrator. Rod and his wife Jan both received gifts from the Chairman

Rod Callow had been our Administrator for 11 years but stood down in February this year. Rod has been there organizing, encouraging and guiding us all that time, giving us the benefit of his skill, knowledge and sheer hard work. We wished him well at a party in February. The members collected the remarkable sum of £774.00, with which he commissioned a Windsor chair to be made.

Kathy Holland has followed him in the new post of Society Secretary. Kathy is settling in very well and has a wealth of ideas to help to take us forward. Another new face is Fern Wilder, who has taken on the new role of Volunteer Coordinator, a key role which you will hear more about as this next year progresses.

Sue Smith has been working in the office at Jews Court now for 20 years and we took the opportunity to thank her at the Volunteers Christmas Party by presenting her with a bouquet.

Rev John Wilford is standing down as Chairman of the Archaeology Team and as a Trustee. He has been a member of SLHA since 1975. Former Society Chairman in 1985-87, before this he was Vice-Chairman in 1983-85 and 2011/2 and for the period 1982-84, Secretary of the Archaeology Sub-committee. Since FLARE merged with the Society in 2009 he has been Chairman of the Archaeology Team. Dave Start's retirement from the Publications Committee is referred to by Ken Redmore below. Thank you John and David for all you have done for us.

Cairo Hickman stood down as the representative of the University of Lincoln and Pauline Mathers as the County Council representative. We thank them both for their contributions and interest in our work. Harry Ziegler has now come to us from the University.

We have adopted our Business Plan which will guide us through to 2017, updated our IT system and introduced our new website. We also launched our Facebook page.

Our activities continue to cover an impressive range. Our talks and conferences have been maintained together with a number of guided visits and walks. The latter continue to be enhanced with our involvement in the Wolds Walking Festival and Heritage Open Days. This has proved to be very successful as it also enables us to reach out to many non members whom we have a chance to encourage to join. We also welcome the birth of what we hope will become a new activity for the Society, recording vernacular buildings. Here volunteers are learning new survey and recording skills.

Finally, I now step down as Chairman of the Society. I have enjoyed the support of so many of you, for which I am very grateful. I would remind you that if the Society is to continue to grow we do need people to step forward to take on those roles of management and organization to deliver our programmes. Please think about this. It can be very rewarding, creates new friendships, develops new skills and is very enjoyable.

Stewart Squires



In May Ken Redmore led a walk along part of the Horncastle Canal as part of the Wolds Walking Festival

Patron

**The Lord
Lieutenant of
Lincolnshire,
Tony Worth
Dr M J Jones
Stewart Squires
Chris Lester
Chris Hewis
Kathy Holland
Mark Acton
Sue Smith**

President

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Treasurer

Society Secretary

Membership and

Marketing Officer

Secretary

Sleaford Group

Sleaford has had another successful year. The backbone of our activities remains our talks, held on the third Thursday of each month at St Denys Church Centre, just off Sleaford Market Place. In the last year, we have heard talks on subjects as diverse as "Papists and Popery after the Lincolnshire Rising", Sir Joseph Banks and "The Gilbertine Priory of Bridgend". We have also heard about Lincolnshire railways, workhouse records and the clergy of Georgian Sleaford. The 24th Annual W H Hosford Memorial Lecture in June 2012 was a fascinating summary of recent archaeological discoveries in Lincoln by Mick Jones and our annual Les Gostick Memorial walk in June was at Folkingham.

Besides our usual round of talks and activities, the Group has also continued to fly the flag for Heritage Open Days in Sleaford. In September 2012, Mike Turland and Simon Pawley conducted two walks in the town entitled "Carriers, Commerce and Cash", which looked at evidence of trade and travel in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Simon Pawley

Spalding Group

The Spalding Group continues to deliver a varied lecture programme with its regular talks being very well attended. However, it is unlikely to continue in this way unless volunteers come forward to assist in this work. The Society's Executive Committee has worked very hard with the Group to try to find a way forward and enhance their activities. One problem is that most people who attend the talks are not Society members. This is true also of almost all the Committee members, who themselves are very few in number. So, for example, as non members, they are unlikely to read these words or to react to our direct appeals to members in the area.

The Group is very important to the Society, they provide one fifth of our activities as well as helping to extend our work over an important part of our far flung County. We will continue to work with the Group to try to find a way forward.

Stewart Squires

Publications Committee

Lincolnshire's Farm Animals, a book written by Catherine Wilson and jointly published with Heckington and District Agricultural Society, was launched in July 2012 at the Heckington Show. To support her considerable knowledge of the subject Catherine has drawn on expert information from many quarters – notably Alan and Sue Stennett – and has brought together a superb array of illustrations, many published for the first time.

It is reassuring to note that almost without exception books published by the Society in recent years have been profitable, mostly within three or four years of publication. Nevertheless, we are looking at a variety of ways of

improving our marketing so that we can reach a wider range of customers.

At the beginning of December 2012 a completely new version of the Society's website became live. It incorporates many attractive and useful features. We cannot afford to ignore today's new methods of communication and publication and so we intend to continue developing our website as a medium of information and marketing.

Dave Start stepped down as chairman of this committee in 2012 after fifteen years in the post. We are missing his wise leadership and extensive knowledge of publishing.

Ken Redmore



The Horncastle Tyre Oven. Now a listed building following action by the Industrial Archaeology Team

Industrial Archaeology

It has been another active year for the Team. We submitted two sites for listing as listed buildings. Our application for the water tower at the former St John's Hospital, Bracebridge Heath was unsuccessful. By contrast was our application to list the wheelwright's workshop and tyre oven

at Foundry Street in Horncastle. These have been listed, Grade II, with the tyre oven being a very rare surviving example of its type nationally.

Victorian water supply has also continued to occupy us on survey work. We have had an initial look at the ram pump at Gunby Hall. We have a number of sites to look at on the Wolds and have had a successful visit to Withcall where not only the water wheel and underground pumphouse survive but also a number of water tanks on Wold top farms.

We have also carried out a survey of surviving dockwall timbers at Sutton Bridge, and led guided walks along both the Horncastle and Grantham Canals.

We are adding to our website bibliographies of books and articles,

all on IA topics. The latest are for Ironstone mines and quarries; Bricks and Tiles; Railways; and Canals and Waterways.

In Lincoln we were pleased to see the deposition of the Rustons archive with the County Archives, which we have campaigned for since the year 2000. We are also working with the School of Engineering at Lincoln University to ensure that the history of industrial innovation in the County is displayed within the building for the benefit of their students who come not only from Britain but also worldwide.

Finally, our annual IA Day in 2012 was on windpower and told the story from the development of the Lincolnshire Tower Mill right through to today's wind turbines.

Stewart Squires

Archaeology

Over the past year monthly SLHA archaeology lectures held in Lincoln, in St Hugh's Church Hall, have again been consistently well supported. They have ranged from recent work in Lincoln to diverse research projects from around the world. Eminent archaeologists have described the complexities of the Early West Front of Lincoln Cathedral (Dr David Taylor); Anglo-Saxon cremation urns and burials, and work on the cemetery at Cleatham (Gareth Perry); and a survey of early Christian sites and cemeteries in Anglo-Saxon Kent (Dr Andrew Richardson). We have looked at Fin Cop: a 'Derbyshire Hillfort at War' (Jim Brightman) the discovery, survey and graphic reconstruction drawings of Pavlopetrie: a 'City Beneath the Waves' (Dr Jon Henderson); recent fieldwork at Caistor by Norwich, Iron-Age capital of the Iceni people (Dr Will Bowden); and the interpretation of archaeological evidence from the 'Siege of Dura-Europos c. 256 AD' (Prof. Simon James).

The annual SLHA Archaeology Day on 6 October was held in St Wulfram's Church in Grantham. Seven speakers described the origins and positioning of our city and county churches, and how and why church architecture developed over the centuries. Chosen aspects of church history and archaeology were explored in depth. Over seventy members attended and the spectacular Church venue was unanimously agreed most appropriate. At the end of the afternoon Professor Philip Dixon led members on a tour of St Wulfram's, one of Lincolnshire's finest churches.

Work behind the scenes on the proposed 'Lincoln Medieval Tile Project' has been ongoing and progress is being made.

Finally, we must all thank our current SLHA President and former Lincoln City Archaeologist, Dr. Mick Jones, for attracting such a wide and eminent range of archaeologists to Lincoln.

John Wilford



In September the History of Lincolnshire Committee launched Thomas Green's book 'Britons and Anglo Saxons: Lincolnshire AD 400-650' on the site of the first church in the County, St Paul in the Bail, Lincoln

Local History

The Local History Team was sorry to lose Dr Tim Lomas as a member during the year. His wide experience and range of contacts have been very valuable to the Team and we wish him well.

Dr Lomas gave a most interesting talk in the November Sunday Special on "The National View of Local History". Pearl Wheatley, gave a comprehensive account of the life and work of one of our Society's predecessors, "The Society for Archaeology and Architecture" in January, and in March Chris Johnson presented a history of the Cordwainer's Hall, a building lost in the creation of Corporation Street in Lincoln during the late nineteenth century.

In September the Leach Lecture in memory of Terence Leach was given at Harrington Church by Jean Howard with an intriguing title "Come in to the garden, Fanny". Our Horncastle Conference was on the topic of "Lincolnshire Castles and Towers" and the speakers took us from "Brick Towers" to "Lincoln Castle in the 21st century" through a series of fascinating talks and pictures.

Brenda Webster

History of Lincolnshire Committee

The highlight for us of 2012 was the publication of Tom Green's long awaited volume on the British Kingdom of Lindsey. The book was launched on Tuesday 18th September 2012 at the Assembly Rooms in Lincoln. The book offers an interdisciplinary approach to the history of the Lincoln region in the post-Roman period, drawing upon a wide range of sources. In particular, it indicates that a British polity named *Lindes* was based at Lincoln into the sixth century, and that the seventh-century Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Lindsey had an intimate connection to this British political unit. The picture that emerges is also of importance nationally, helping to answer key questions regarding the origins of Anglo-Saxon Northumbria and, in particular, Lindisfarne.

This is the third volume in our 'Studies in the History of Lincolnshire' series, and in the immediate future it will be the first to be issued as an e-Book. Other volumes remain in progress, and we do our best to keep in touch with authors in the hope of encouraging their productivity levels!

John Beckett



Lincolnshire castles were the subject of the February conference at Horncastle. The speakers were, left to right, David Stocker, Mary Powell, David Start, Mary Anderson and David Roffe



Lincolnshire's Farm Animals was launched at the Heckington Show, in July, by our Patron, Tony Worth, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd

The company is the trading arm of the Society and, with the support of a dedicated group of volunteers, runs the Jews' Court Bookshop. We stock the widest range of new Lincolnshire books available anywhere, and always appreciate second-hand donations, especially of Lincolnshire books. In addition to paying the rent and rates on Jews' Court (nearly £4,300) and, despite the difficult trading conditions, the company was also able to make a Gift Aid donation to the Society for 2012 of just over £3,300.

Finance

The Society, as with many charitable organisations, continues to feel the effects of the current economic climate. There is an overall shortfall for the year ended 31st March 2013 of £13,730.

With interest rates at an all time low, income from this source has fallen from £9,000 in 2009 to £1,100. Increased income from subscription increases will not be felt until this year. There has been one-off exceptional expenditure on updating the I.T. systems at Jews' Court of £4,800.

Control of the Society's finances remains sound. Regular updated reports are presented at all Executive Committee meetings throughout the year. All conferences and special events are self-financing, and sale of publications by post and through the bookshop continue to show a reasonable profit. We are currently examining ways of further reducing expenditure.

Energy bills are increasing ahead of inflation, and expenditure during the year exceeded £3,000. An energy audit of Jews' Court has recently been completed, and the Executive Committee, together with the Society's landlords, the Jews' Court Trust, are looking at ways of implementing some of the recommendations. Another area of expenditure where I am sure that we can reduce costs is postage, costing £5,000 last year. We hope to produce an electronic version of Lincolnshire Past & Present for example, and are looking to expand the way we communicate with members by e-mail.

Until recently, the Society did not pay bank charges. However, due to the large volume of cheques we handle, we will now be incurring charges of over £500 per annum. We are again looking at ways to reduce this cost, and would encourage you all, where possible, to pay us by standing order or electronic transfer.

Chris Hewis

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Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Awards

In 2012 the Flora Murray Award winner was The Pickworth Project for their researches into the history of this Lincolnshire village. They had published two books and established a website, www.pickworthvillage.co.uk. SLHA Awards for Excellence were given to two others; the Saxilby History Trail, a leaflet and 20 plaques on buildings along the trail; and a book *Inventing Sempringham*, by Dr Katherine Sykes.

The 2013 Awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The judges have decided to make two SLHA Awards for Excellence as well as the Flora Murray Award. The following nominations were received this year.

The Beste and Fayrest of al Lincolnshire: The Church of St Botolph, Boston, Lincolnshire, and its Medieval Monuments. Book edited by Sally Badham & Paul Cockerham

People and Property in Medieval Stamford. Book edited by Alan Rogers

Geese, Gowts & Galligaskins: Life in a Fenland Village, 1560-1660 [Pinchbeck]. Book by Judith Withyman

The Last Baronets of Old Gainsborough. Book by Darron Childs

RAF Binbrook Heritage Centre

Restoration of Chain Bridge Forge, Spalding

Display of Artefacts at St Lawrence Church, Bardney, plus descriptive leaflet and booklet

Joseph and his Round the World Dreamboat. Musical play about Sir Joseph Banks



Award winners representing Pickworth and Saxilby with the President and Chairman