

# Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology



## Chairman's Report



*Miss Thora Wagstaffe retired from the bookshop after training all new volunteers and serving there regularly since it opened in 1990.*

It has been another eventful year. Against the background of all the regular Society activities we have seen the completion of Stewart Squires' initiative to bring the Society's procedures and policies up to date, Kathy Holland's establishment in her role as Society Secretary, the planning for the 2014 celebrations to mark the Society's 170th anniversary and the preparation of the associated HLF bid.

We have seen the retirement of several key volunteers during the year. In February we said goodbye to Mark

Acton who, in addition to his role as Membership and Marketing Officer, carried out numerous voluntary tasks both at Jews' Court and at events. His knowledge and experience, together with his energy and enthusiasm, have contributed enormously to the Society's success. I am pleased to say that Mark continues to keep in touch. The year also saw the retirements of Thora Wagstaffe, Paul Hunter and David Cowell, amongst others. Thora continues as Archivist. Fortunately, we have been able to work round these losses helped by new and existing volunteers but it does highlight how critically dependent we are on help from volunteers and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all of them.

Sadly, a number of long-standing members died during the year. They include Hilary Healey, Brian Dawson and Kathleen Johnson. We shall miss them all.

Under Stewart Squires' leadership the Board of Trustees has been strengthened and now meets regularly. The Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that the Society is properly directed and accountable, that it manages its resources properly and that it fulfils all its legal responsibilities.

It is pleasing to report a small but steady increase in membership; we now have over 900 individual and institutional members. The year's activities for Members have been both extensive and diverse. Over 60 events were held and the majority were staged outside Lincoln which demonstrates the Society's truly county-wide coverage. Events for the Wolds Walking Festival, Heritage Open Days and the Festival of Archaeology were also staged by the SLHA.

The Executive Committee met five times during the year. Finance continues to be a concern but the able stewardship of Chris Hewis, our Treasurer, is already resulting in better control and monitoring. We welcomed Cllr Barry Young as the representative of Lincolnshire County Council and I thank him for his interest and enthusiasm. A pleasant task of the Executive Committee was to formally recognise the Buildings Recording Group as a new SLHA Interest Group. The Group has rapidly evolved into a very active body which records buildings and trains its members in measurement and recording skills. Under its chairman, Prof David Stocker, and secretary, Ken Hollamby, it will run the national Vernacular Architecture Group's Spring meeting in Lincoln in 2016. Congratulations to the new Group which is a welcome addition to the Society's core activities.

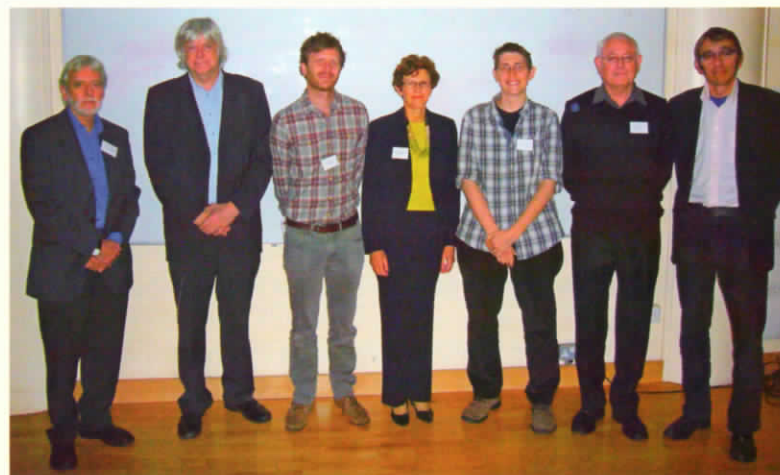
I should like to record my thanks to the Executive Committee and especially to Stewart Squires for support during the year.

*Chris Lester*

## Archaeology

Once again the Archaeology Team laid on an excellent series of lectures at Lincoln and on two occasions it was "standing room only" at St Hugh's Hall. Highlights included an account of the excavations at Lincoln Castle by Dr Jonathan Clark and new research at Stonehenge by Prof Mike Parker Pearson. The 2013 Archaeology Day took new research on pre-historic Lincolnshire as its theme. It also included a presentation about the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre by Lorraine Knowles, the Stonehenge Director at English Heritage.

*Chris Lester*



*The Archaeology Conference speakers. L to R Mick Jones, Tom Lane, Adam Daubney, Loraine Knowles, Antony Lee, Peter Chowne and Jeremy Taylor.*

**Patron** - The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Tony Worth  
**President** - Dr M J Jones  
**Chairman** - Chris Lester  
**Vice Chairman** - vacant

**Treasurer** - Chris Hewis  
**Society Secretary** - Kathy Holland  
**Clerk** - Sue Smith  
**Chairman of the Trustees** - Stewart Squires

## Spalding Group

The Spalding group delivered another successful lecture series although it elected not to hold meetings in January and February this year. Attendance was generally good. Most attendees are not SLHA members but they clearly have an interest in the County's history.

The Executive Committee continues to be concerned about the lack of volunteers to help run the Group and will continue to support it as best it can.

*Chris Lester*

## Sleaford Group



*The Sleaford Group's annual walk in June.*

Sleaford has had another varied and informative programme of talks by a wide variety of speakers.

Our annual walk in June was called "Watermills, Waterworks and Water Cress" and considered the River Sleas and its valley west of Sleaford. So successful was it that Michael Turland, who ran it, had to repeat the event again in the autumn for those who could not attend.

Richard Shaw kindly filled in at short notice for our October lecture, by talking again about Lincolnshire churches. Our scheduled speaker had been Hilary Healey, whose death robbed Lincolnshire of one of its best known, kindest and most knowledgeable speakers and deprived our group of one of its oldest and most steadfast friends. We experienced another shock only months later, with the news that we had lost Brian Dawson, who had entertained us on several occasions and had become a regular attender at our meetings too. Both are losses we cannot replace. I would also like to record my thanks and good wishes to Sandra Sardeson, who was my Co-Chair at Sleaford for many years and a good friend for even longer, but whose illness means we have had to say goodbye to her as an active member of our Group in the last year.

Finally, 2014 will also be my final year as Chair and Treasurer of the Group. We have been fortunate in securing the help of Dave Ellis, who has shadowed me as Treasurer this year and in whose capable hands I shall be happy to leave the finances. In November, the Group will need to appoint a new Chairman but I am confident we will continue to thrive in the future.

*Simon Pawley*

## Local History

The sudden death of Hilary Healey in May 2013 deprived the committee of one of its longest serving and most versatile members. Hilary was always ready with active help, advice and support and will be sadly missed. We also lost another greatly valued member when Miss Kathleen Johnson died after a short illness in July. Kathleen was a mine of information about Lincoln and its Shire, personalities and places.

The Team ran conferences about "Parks and Gardens" and the 170th Anniversary of the Society. This last took us through its metamorphosis from a Cleric-based antiquarian society in Louth to our present widely-based membership and diverse interests of our Teams in Lincoln.

The Terence Leach Lecture in September was on Gunby Hall and its families and was given in Sleaford, following the tradition of staging it around the County.

The Team participated fully in the Sunday Special afternoons, providing speakers on Lincoln Guilds and Chantries, Woodhall Spa Museum, the development of the Monks Manor Estate and Pearl stepped into a breach with an excellent account of the Lincolnshire Local History Society.

Members of the Team helped with the Society books at Heckington Show and are involved with the county project about War Memorials. They are also the Society's representative on the county recording steering group and are working on the Leach deposit of files at Jews' Court.



*Speakers at Antiquarians and Architects.*

*L to R Chris Johnson, Carol Bennett, Rob Wheeler, Pearl Wheatley and Christopher Mackintosh-Smith.*

More members are needed on the committee. If you are interested in furthering the growth of interest in Local History in the original County of Lincolnshire please do talk to Pearl Wheatley our active and very efficient secretary. I shall retire as Chairman of the Team at the end of the year and will take this opportunity to thank Pearl most sincerely for her hard work, efficiency and great support during my time in office.

*Brenda Webster*



*In October the Society presented talks and ran a bookstall at Echoes of the Past at the Lincolnshire Showground.*

## Industrial Archaeology

It has been another active year for the Team. Victorian water supply has continued to occupy our survey work. We have completed our ground survey work at Gunby Hall, where successively a ram pump, wind pump and a Lister engine provided the power. We also completed the survey of the water supply and distribution network for the Withcall estate and taken a photographic record of the pump on the Stenigot Estate.

## Finance

There was an overall shortfall of £13,000 for the year ended 31st March 2014, despite the increase in subscriptions. Income from subscriptions rose by 32% during the year to £18,500, which additionally reflected an increase in membership. Despite cash in reserves standing at over £100,000, income from interest has fallen from £9,000 in 2009 to less than £1,000.

Control of the Society's finances remains sound. Regular updated reports are presented at all Trustees and 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 regularly examining ways of further reducing expenditure.

Energy bills during the year rose by 50%, and expenditure during the year exceeded £4,500. Following an energy audit of Jews' Court, the Executive Committee, together with the Society's landlords, the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust, have implemented a lighting and heating upgrade. This has been partly funded by a grant award from the Cory Environmental Trust. We should now see a significant reduction in energy costs.

Postage and carriage costs continue to rise, up 24% to £6,000. It is difficult to see how this can be reduced, with such a widespread membership, although part of the regular correspondence is now delivered by hand where possible.

*Chris Hewis*

Guided walks this year have included the railway between Donington on Bain and South Willingham, including walking through the South Willingham Tunnel, for the Wolds Walking Festival. For Heritage Open Days there was a visit to the Sutton on Sea brick kiln and drainage mill. Three talks were arranged, Wrought Iron Bridges, at Saxilby; the Tea and Coffee Trade in Lincoln, at Stokes Café on High Bridge; and on Funerary Monuments, Headstones and Structures, also in Lincoln.

We have continued to work closely with the School of Engineering at Lincoln University and have produced a scrolling powerpoint presentation on the history of engineering in the County which they use on Open Days and other events.

We have taken into safe custody the Peter Grey photo collection. This comprises approximately 23,000 photographs, negatives and slides. Its value to the County was identified following the "Made in Lincoln" Millennium celebrations and it would have been lost if we had not acted. Work on sorting through it continues and the first tranche has been lodged with the County Archives.



*The picnic at Withcall provided a rare opportunity to enter the railway tunnel.*

We have carried out an oral recording of the operation of the Bewcarrs Pumping Station in the Isle of Axholme. There is a major Lottery funded initiative going on in the Humberhead Levels and we have been invited to contribute to the recording of the industrial history here.

Finally, we organised the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference in October. This was held at Winthorpe on the East Midlands Oil Industry and told the story from the early beginnings in Derbyshire in 1919, through development in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire from the 1940's to what is happening today in Lincolnshire.

*Stewart Squires*

## History of Lincolnshire Committee

The Committee was not able to publish a new volume during 2013, but it was heartened by the sales of Tom Green's volume on the British Kingdom of Lindsey, which came out in 2012. Early in 2014 we reprinted the paperback version of the book to cater for demand, and early reviews (in journals on both sides of the

Atlantic) have shown just how important the book is going to be in the interpretation of what is in many ways an obscure phase of the county's history.

Tom Green has now joined the committee, and is able to give us (and SLHA) advice on handling e-sales, Kindle versions of the book, and sales through Amazon and other e-outlets. Since so many copies of books are now acquired in these ways (rather than through traditional bookshops), it is critical to the committee's work to be on top of the digital revolution and to produce our books in the manner likely to be preferred by the potential audience.

For 2014 we have a number of books in active preparation, but we are not sure yet which will be the first ready for production. The committee's finances are healthy: all we need are the manuscripts!

Two long serving members of the committee, Ray Carroll and Rod Ambler, have recently stood down, but we welcome Ken Redmore who is now a full member of the committee, and Tom Green. We hope to announce two further recruits shortly, but amidst all this change there are still longstanding members with a variety of specialisations or research areas.

We were saddened to hear of the death during 2013 of Dr Joan Thirsk, first editor of the HLC series. Dr Shirley Brook, vice chair, attended the memorial event at Senate House, University of London, in January.

**John Beckett**

## Publications Committee

No new book has been published by the Society this year, though Volume 2 of the Leach and Pacey series on Lost Country Houses was re-printed in the autumn. A small leaflet has been printed to advertise all the Society's publications and is being distributed widely. We are hopeful that this will attract more sales and, with its attractive colourful design, adequately reflect the quality of our publications.

Since July 2013 our books have been advertised on the Amazon website and this is generating additional sales. We have also recently introduced PayPal on the SLHA website as a means of paying for our advertised books. This widely used and very convenient method of payment for goods from the internet should also improve our external marketing.

Ray Carroll, Reviews Editor for both Lincolnshire History & Archaeology and Lincolnshire Past & Present, is stepping down after 15 years in the role; he has made a huge contribution to our regular publications. We are pleased to welcome Claire Hubbard-Hall into this role. Thanks are due to our two editors, Mark Bennet (Journal) and Ros Beevers (LP&P), for their hard work over the year and the high standards they continue to set.

We were sorry to lose David Cowell, Postal Sales Officer, during the year; he was very meticulous in all he did. Mark Acton held the fort for several weeks until Chris Page volunteered to take up this important role early in 2014.

**Ken Redmore**

## Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd

LHLtd was formed as the trading arm of the Society when we moved into Jews' Court and runs the Jews' Court Bookshop with a dedicated team of volunteers. We regularly need new volunteers as some retire and others leave the county. Serving in the shop is not onerous and new volunteers are shown the ropes by working alongside those who have served for a while. If you might be interested please contact Fern Wilder the Volunteer Co-ordinator in the first instance. The company pays the rent and rates of Jews' Court (nearly £4,300 a year) and also hands over a balance to the SLHA at the end of the year. The year has been a reasonable one with sales similar to last year and a surplus of £4,900 has been transferred to the Society. We sell new books and also second hand ones, and donations of second hand books whether on Lincolnshire history, other subjects or fiction are always welcome. This year Pam D'Arcy has stood down as Book Purchaser and Thora Wagstaffe has retired from the task of initiating new bookshop volunteers. We are very grateful for the help that both Pam and Thora have given over the years.

**Neil Wright**

### Awards

The 2013 Flora Murray Award winner was "*Joseph and his Round the World Dreamboat*" a musical play produced by the Sir Joseph Banks Society and performed by the Young Stagers, a talented group of young performers based at Horncastle.

Visit <http://www.joseph-banks.org.uk/> for more information about this enterprising and thoroughly enjoyable project.

Awards for Excellence were made to Sally Badham and Paul Cockerham for their book "*The Beste and Fayrest of al Lincolnshire: The Church of St Botolph, Boston, Lincolnshire, and its Medieval Monuments*" and to the Friends of Chain Bridge Forge for the restoration of the forge at Spalding.

**The 2014 awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The following entries have been received:**

*Nettleham Bishop's Palace Heritage Amenity Project.* Interpretation of a local Scheduled Ancient Monument.

*The Lincoln Archaeology Open Lab Project.* Support for community archaeology groups.

*Boston Puritan Path.* Commemoration of key figures amongst the early settlers in USA.

*Preservation of Horncastle's History and Commemoration of its Famous Horse Fairs.* Archive and public art.

*Market Rasen - All Our Stories.* Virtual heritage tour.



**Award-winners at the 2013 AGM.**