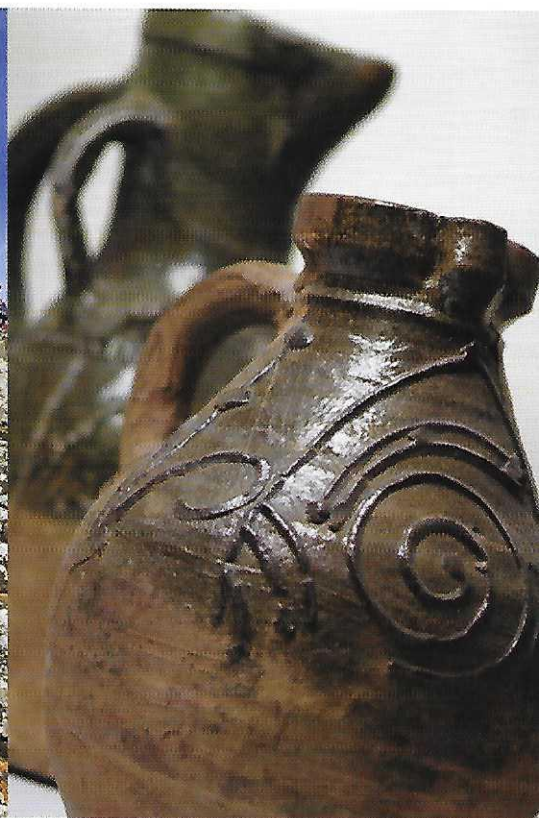
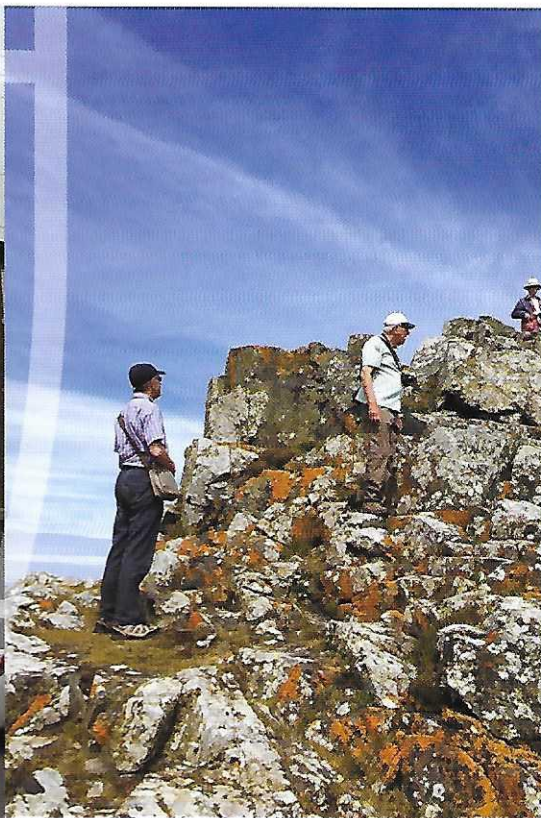


SOCIETY FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE
HISTORY &
ARCHAEOLOGY

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Patron: Tony Worth CVO
President : Dr Rod Ambler
Chairman : Nigel Burn
Vice Chairman : Position vacant

Treasurer : Chris Hewis
Secretary : Kathy Holland
Charity Number: 504766
Total Membership: 750

Chairman's Report

When I began to draft this report I thought that I would list all those to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for their help and assistance to me throughout my first year in office. I very soon realised that if I did so then there would be no room in this report for anything else, but it is only appropriate that I should begin by recording my gratitude and thanks to all who have made my first year in office so enjoyable.

There are two major items which have occupied us during the present year, and which I shall not detail here, as they are agenda items at this AGM. They are a proposed merger with JCBAT, our landlords, and a review of our finances leading to a proposal that we increase our subscriptions.



Society Members on the 2017 Annual Study Tour to Cornwall

Throughout the year we have had a full programme of events. During the summer a number of us participated in a study tour of the archaeology, both ancient and industrial, of Cornwall. Meanwhile back in Lincolnshire there have been monthly talks at St Hugh's Hall, day-long conferences organised by each of the four groups, not to mention the Sunday specials which have enlivened our winter's evenings. You only have to attend these events to be impressed by the breadth of the subject matter that our society covers, and the quality of the speakers.

Finally I must pay tribute to the contribution made by our bookshop, whose financial contribution to the society has been so essential, and to the energy and activity our bookshop managers and volunteers.

Nigel Burn

Chairman of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (SLHA)



After the 2016 AGM, members enjoyed a visit to St Andrew's Church at Epworth

Sleaford Group

In the year from September 2016 to date, the group has managed to lay on a full programme of meetings and speakers. Themes have varied from the specifically local, e.g. 'Edward Samuel – a remarkable Sleaford resident' and two items related to Sleaford Parish Church, to the general, e.g. 'Medieval Armour from tomb effigies and other sources'. Periods have ranged from early to modern and fields from Family History to 18th Century travel.

However, the attendance has been lower than one would like. The one sheet newsletter, *Sleaford Historian*, continues to be produced each month when there is a lecture.

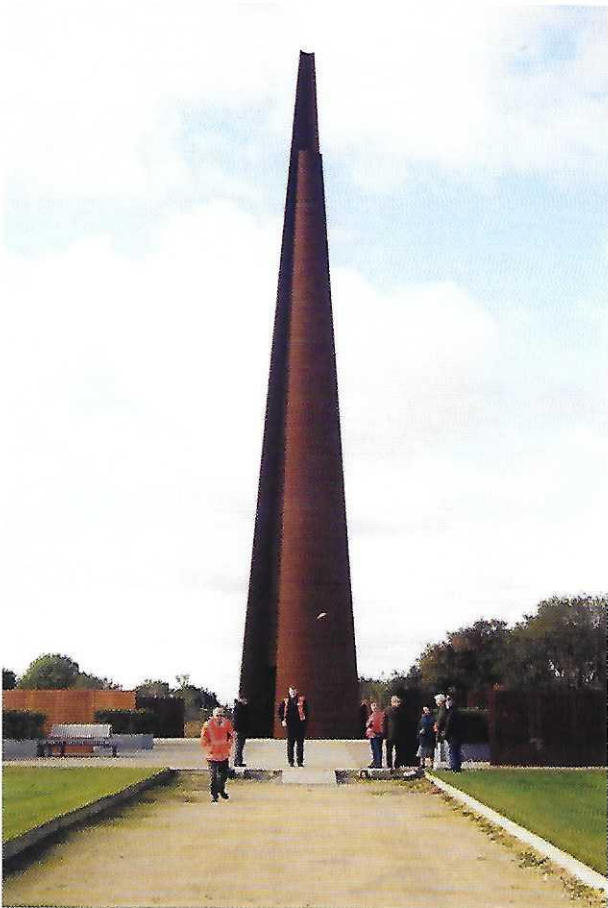
The group has a serious problem in finding members to take office or even to serve on the committee. Since the AGM in November 2016, the treasurer, who had given notice, has continued to do the task informally for one more year. A Chairman and Vice Chairman were appointed, but no secretary. The future

organisation of the group is a matter of concern, both in the group and to the SLHA executive, and various suggestions have been made which will need to be discussed both in Sleaford and in Lincoln. It would be a loss if the group were to cease to meet. The programme for autumn 2017 is in place, but what happens next year has still to be sorted out.

*Reverend David Boutle,
Chairman of the Sleaford Group*

Local History

We were pleased to help celebrate the 90th birthday of our Secretary, Pearl Wheatley, who continues to do most of the work running the team, with the occasional interference of the chairman. Michael Cowling joined the ranks of the team this year.



Bomber Memorial Visit organised by the Local History Team

Our flagship event in 2017 was our day conference on health provision in Lincolnshire throughout the ages, held in Nettleham. We thank the excellent speakers who gave entertaining and wide-ranging talks. Speakers have now been arranged for next year's conference whose subject will be the Military Religious Orders.



The 2017 Brackenbury Lecture on Sir John Franklin was presented by Catherine Wilson

A small working party under Helen Smith is updating the guide to researching parish histories which was compiled by Dennis Mills some years ago in the pre-digital age and which can be found on our website. We thank Dennis for his continued interest in this project.

The team continues to take an interest in Raithby Methodist Chapel and we were pleased that this year's Brackenbury lecture, a fine talk on John Franklin by Catherine Wilson, raised over £100 for that cause. Our thanks to Jean Howard for her work in this area.

The team's contributions to next year's programme have been arranged and will include talks on the Gilbertines and Lincolnshire in Old Postcards. As ever, we welcome new members to join us in our work.

*Mark Acton,
Chairman of the Local History Group*

Buildings Recording Group (RUBL)

Following the national annual conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group in Lincoln in 2016, 2017 has seen RUBL return to its established roster of projects. Fieldwork continued in Aubourn, as part of our 'Trent Valley' project.

The 'Nunnery' project at Sixhills has also seen a lot of activity, alongside our partners, the Hainton Heritage Group. Monthly recording sessions continued throughout the autumn and winter of 2016, and led towards a 'table day' at South Willingham Hall in November, when we made our first attempt at pulling our results together. During the first part of 2017, we have conducted a series of more 'specialist' fieldwork days, each concentrating on a particular issue in the building.



RUBL members inspecting buildings in Walsingham (Norfolk)

In March 2017 RUBL organised a study day on the early buildings of Grantham. The purpose was to collect expressions of interest in establishing a systematic survey of the town's early buildings, from amongst Grantham residents, and a project team has now been identified.



RUBL Conference at Grantham

This year, RUBL organised a visit to Little Walsingham, where we were entertained by the Norfolk Building Recording Group.

Our proposed work in Boston is still in development, and we also look forward to participating in the community building-recording programme.

David Stocker
Chairman of the Buildings Recording Group (RUBL)

Publications

Two books have been published this year. Neil Wright's book on the Georgian theatre in Lincolnshire, *Treading the Boards*, was launched by Tony Worth, the Society's Patron, in the historic Stamford Theatre in October 2016.

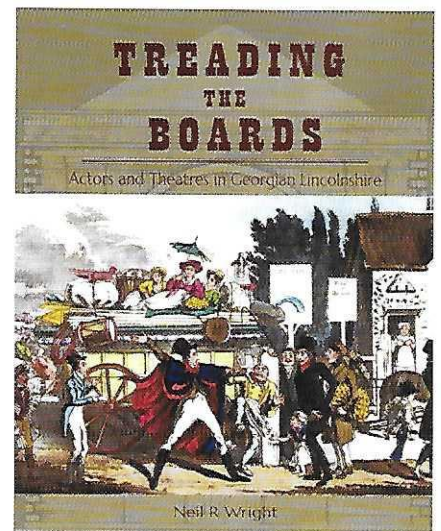
Boston 1086-1225:

A Medieval Boom Town by Stephen Rigby was published in June 2017. Both books were typeset and designed by Ros Beevers and in every way are worthy and attractive additions to the wide range of titles published by the Society.

Ros also continues to edit, typeset and design *Lincolnshire Past & Present* every quarter. We are very fortunate in having her skills – and unfailing attention to deadlines – behind this key publication. Thanks must also go to those who write articles and provide such a wide range of interesting material about the county. New contributors are always welcome.

The death in January of Ray Carroll, our Reviews Editor, was a huge loss. For twenty years he had tracked new books and arranged reviews for both our journal and magazine with great skill and efficiency. We are pleased to welcome as his joint successors Dr Hope Williard of the University of Lincoln and Tim Davies, local history librarian with North Lincolnshire Council in Scunthorpe.

Ken Redmore
Chairman of the Publications Committee



Treading the Boards



Lincolnshire Past & Present

Society Trustees

The immediate future of the Society has been secured with the signing of our new three year lease. The possible merger with JCBAT continues to occupy our deliberations. Following our review of cost savings we have been looking at ways of increasing income and we are very pleased to note our much improved financial situation. This has been achieved by the actions and enthusiasm of our staff and volunteers for which we are so grateful.

We have agreed to become involved with the initial viability study into the options for the future of the Greyfriars building in Lincoln as a partner with the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire. A new use is still several years away but the Lincoln City Council is very keen to ensure it has a future.

*Stewart Squires
Chairman of the Trustees*



The Society treated Pearl Wheatley to a flight over Lincolnshire for her 90th birthday



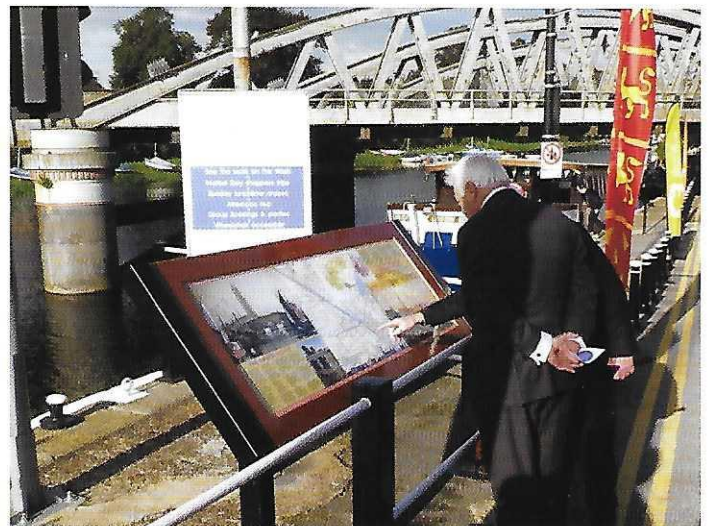
*The 2016 Flora Murray Award Winners
Flora Murray Award - Lincolnshire Film Archive
(Peter Ryde, 2nd left, and Steve White, centre)
Award of Excellence - Navenby Archaeology Group
(Ian Cox, 2nd right)
Also pictured - Dr Rod Ambler, SLHA President (left)
and Neil Wright, SLHA Chairman (right)*

Industrial Archaeology

Fieldwork has mainly concerned the investigation of private water supplies, notably at Scawby Hall, Black Springs (Thoresway) and the Heneage Estate at Hainton, thanks to the support of the landowners.

We staged a well-attended EMIAC conference on the theme of Lincoln's industries during WW1 and we contributed to the Society's lecture programmes. Members enjoyed a tour of some IA aspects of the Isle of Axholme.

Neil Wright initiated a project to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the completion of Boston's Grand Sluice, bringing together different agencies and creating the legacy of an interpretive panel depicting its history. Our posters depicting Lincolnshire's industrial heritage await unveiling at the University of Lincoln and a set has been displayed by Lincoln UTC. Members have also contributed to projects such as the Walking Festivals and Heritage Open Days.



Mr Toby Dennis, Lord Lieutenant examining the Boston Grand Sluice Interpretive Panel

We joined national organisations in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent Grimsby's port operator from demolishing the Cosalt buildings, a range of Victorian and Edwardian buildings forming part of Historic England's 'most important representation of industrial-scale fishing in England'. On a brighter note, we have been involved in the replacement of Stamp End railway bridge and its historic Fairbairn box-girders which have been saved.



The Isle of Axholme Tour organised by the IA Team

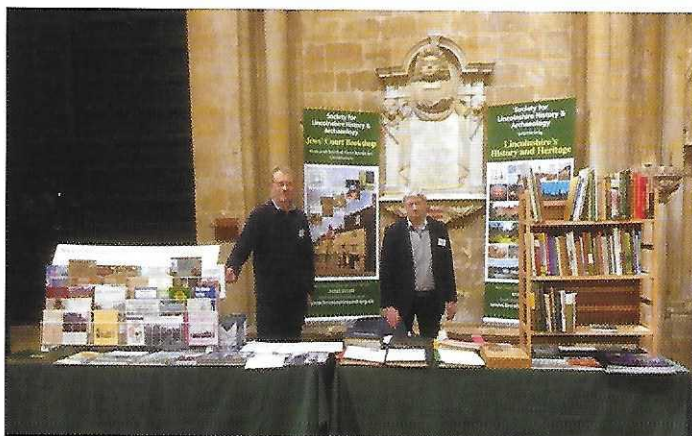
These achievements have been made possible by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of whom I feel proud to be part.

*Chris Lester
Chairman of the Industrial Archaeology Group*

Book Sales

Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd, the trading arm of the Society, has dealt with the purchase and sale of books since we moved into Jews' Court, and it will also, from this financial year, pay the costs of publishing the Society's own books.

During 2016/17 our book sales have increased considerably and continue to give ever more support to the finances of the Society. Nick and Eva Moore took over the management of the Jews' Court Bookshop in January, as well as continuing to deal with bookstalls at events organised by the Society or other events in the county, such as the Heckington Show. They also put secondhand books on to Amazon. Chris Page is dealing with postal sales as a result of Amazon, our own website and from telephone calls.

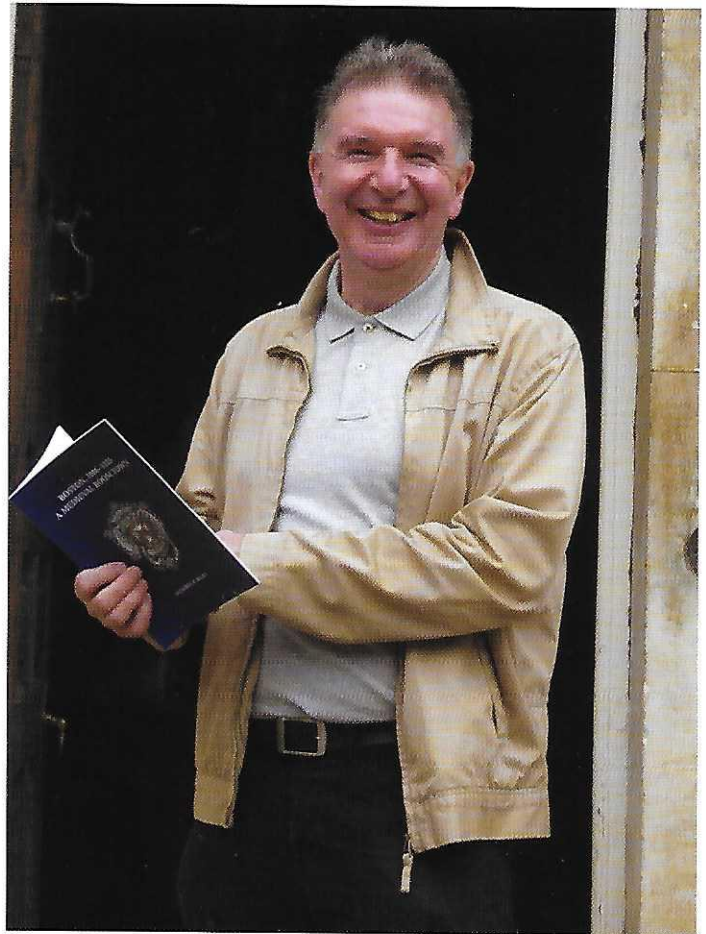


The Society Bookstall at the Sparks Festival in Lincoln Cathedral

Total sales in the twelve months up to 31 August were approximately 14% higher than this period last year. Lincolnshire Heritage, after the payment of overheads, contributed £18,584 to the Society in its financial year ending December 2016.

The bookshop is very dependent on the generosity of members and others who have donated books and volunteered in the shop and the Directors would like to thank them.

*Neil Wright
Chairman of Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd*



Stephen Rigby, author of SLHA's new book on Medieval Boston

History of Lincolnshire

The History of Lincolnshire Committee met three times during 2016. Although several books are well advanced, none was ready for publication during the year. Eric Hair stood down as our treasurer, and Chris Hewis kindly took on the responsibilities involved.

We developed (successfully) our online presence for sales, largely through the work of Caitlin Green and Wendy Atkin. We continue to monitor our stock, and to promote sales of

our books through whatever channels seem most appropriate. Above all, we look forward to receiving a publishable manuscript so that we can once again begin publishing books.

John Beckett
Chairman of the History of Lincolnshire Committee

Archaeology

The archaeology team have had a busy and successful year. Team membership is at an all-time high, and the group has become the primary archaeological forum in the county with representatives from all branches of professional, academic and community archaeology coming together.

Over the past year the team have organised some fascinating and popular public lectures, investigating themes from the cultural and artistic context of Roman finger rings, to innovative archaeological fieldwork projects on the north east Lincolnshire coast and at the Roman town of Caistor-by-Norwich. The 2016 Archaeology Day attracted a bumper crowd to Bishop Grosseteste University and featured some wonderful talks on recent research across the region.

The team delivered the Society's 2016 Christmas Party, the Medieval theme of which seems to have been a great success, aided particularly by some authentic Medieval sweetmeats and savouries specially prepared by Jane Young, Jo Gray and Zoe Tomlinson.

Society members were able to learn about the excavations at Harpswell, managed by Bishop Grosseteste University, including members of the archaeology team), during an open day in July, which also included the Society's annual picnic. A behind the scenes tour of The Collection's archaeological stores, also in July, gave members an opportunity to learn about how the museum manages its collections and to see some items not normally on public view.

Antony Lee
Chairman of the Archaeology Group



Some interesting artefacts were seen on the Archaeology Store Tour

Treasurer's Report

Society Accounts: Financial Overview

I am pleased to report that following a substantial loss (£20,785) in the financial year ended 31 March 2016, the 2016/17 Accounts show only a small loss of £532.

Whilst income from subscriptions was slightly down on the previous financial year, the shortfall was covered by an increase in donations; the overall cost of membership services was similar to the previous year.

Administration costs were only £1,400 (4%) higher than 2015/16, due to a one off increase in legal fees.

The considerable increase in the Bookshop surplus of almost £10,000 was by far the main contributor to the loss reduction.

Chris Hewis
Treasurer

