



SOCIETY FOR  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
HISTORY &  
ARCHAEOLOGY

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Patron : Tony Worth CVO  
President : Dr Rod Ambler  
Chairman : Neil Wright

Vice Chairman : Nigel Burn  
Treasurer : Chris Hewis  
Secretary : Kathy Holland

## Chairman's Report

This report covers another period of great and varied activity by the Society, from 1 April 2015 to 31 August 2016. The extended period is due to the AGM date being changed so that the meeting can receive the audited accounts. Soon after last year's AGM we were saddened to hear of the death of Richard Thornton, who had died on 16 August 2015 at the age of 73. He was Chairman of the SLHA from 1987 to 1989, having previously been Chairman of the Society's Family History Committee.



*The 2016 study tour at Laxey on the Isle of Man*

As usual the Society has held lectures in Lincoln, Sleaford, Spalding and other places, and a number of day conferences. Other varied events included the Society picnic at Langton by Spilsby on 19 June 2016 and the Study Tour to the Isle of Man in July 2016. The Society bookstall has been at many of our own events and also the Heckington Show.

The Leach Memorial Lecture was held on 5 September 2015 at Burgh le Marsh windmill with the Burgh le Marsh Heritage Group. There were two talks, Eileen Chantry telling us about Jabez Good, and Father Terry Steele showing pictures of Anglican churches in Lincolnshire in the 1980s. The Executive decided that the scope of the Memorial Lectures should be widened to also commemorate other worthy past members of the Society.

We have also organised events in Lincolnshire for other bodies. In March 2016 the CBA East Midlands Group conference was at Navenby. Later that month the Vernacular Architecture Group Conference was held at the Lincoln Hotel,

organised by the Building Recording Group. This new group has opened up a whole new area of enthusiastic activity for the Society.

Mark Bennett is standing down as Editor of "Lincolnshire History and Archaeology" after 20 years, and we must thank him for his valuable contribution to the Society. Dave Start leads an Editorial Committee that has reviewed the format of the journal and will be producing the next issue.

The Society heard of proposals to develop Jews' Court as a Heritage Centre, reflecting the medieval Jewish history of that part of Lincoln. Those proposals were a potential threat to the future of the Society as it is today, and the Trustees of the Society are now working closely with the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust to resolve this issue.

Finally I must thank all those who have helped me in my 15 month term as Chairman of the Society.

*Neil Wright*



*Award winners at the 2015 AGM in Sleaford*

## Society Trustees

The two main issues that have taken the Trustees' time over the past year have been the renewal of the Jews' Court lease and the relationship between the SLHA and the Jews' Court and Bardney Abbey Trust (JCBAT), which owns the building. It has been a very difficult year. We have faced up to a threat of the potential loss of Jews' Court as our headquarters and the consequent threat to our future, but this now looks to have been successfully resolved. Indeed, we have now

been offered a three-year lease on acceptable terms. Unfortunately, we have incurred legal costs which were unavoidable to get to this stage.

We continue to consider health and safety issues affecting the building and its staff; the recent maintenance work at Jews' Court together and the overhaul of our Fire Risk Assessment have been examples of this.

*Stewart Squires*



*Jews' Court, location of SLHA office and bookshop*

### **Sleaford Group**

Throughout the period, the group has continued to provide monthly meetings with speakers on a wide variety of subjects. The Les Gostick Memorial Walk this year gave members an interesting insight into the history of non-conformist chapels in Sleaford. The 28th Hosford Memorial Lecture in 2016 was given by Nigel Burn on 'Magna Carta: Lincolnshire Connections'. Members have also continued to organise events for the annual Heritage Open Days in September.

The officers and committee were re-elected at the AGM in November 2015. However, our treasurer has given notice of resignation at the 2016 AGM. At the time of writing, no potential successor has come forward. This presents the group with a serious problem which could endanger its future.

Though numbers at meetings are lower than a few years ago (possibly partly because there are a number of groups in the town concerned with the history and heritage of Sleaford), the group remains viable as far as numbers are concerned. We continue to produce our 'Sleaford Historian'.

*David Boutle*

### **Spalding Group**

It is with sadness we record the untimely death of our chairman, Dennis Wolfe. We are grateful for his contribution to the work of the group over several years. Keith Seaton has been elected to chair the group in his place.

The Spalding group has had a varied programme of talks during the last year, not all history related but including natural history (Records of Nesting Birds local to Spalding) and music (The History of the Ukulele with Music & the History of Sound). The group did not have a Christmas social in December as it was poorly attended in the previous year, and no meetings were held in January or February.

Speakers have been booked for September 2016 through to November 2017 and we hope our meetings will be well attended by our usual audience of local people, although not many of them are full members of the SLHA. The average number of people attending is around 24 depending on the subject of the talk or the weather.

*Keith J Seaton*



*A visit to the church of St John Baptist, Sutterby*

### **Archaeology**

The Archaeology team has had a successful year, and currently has a vibrant membership reflecting a cross section of professional and community archaeology in the county.

A number of very popular evening lectures have been arranged at St Hugh's Hall during the year, on subjects such as Roman burial textiles, the Roman altars from Maryport, Roman wall painting, and the archaeology of trade across

the North Sea. The successful 2015 Archaeology Day, held at The Collection, was on the theme of 'Art and Archaeology' and saw a variety of speakers talk on subjects as diverse as Roman mirrors, Egyptian textiles and Lincoln Cathedral.



*Fine Roman model of a bull: subject of a talk at SLHA*

The team has been involved in supporting events such as Bishop Grosseteste University's excavations at Harpswell and their associated Family Day, and the CBA East Midlands 2016 conference entitled 'Aspects of Invasion in the East Midlands', held at Navenby.

The team is currently engaged in submitting a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to initiate a community project analysing medieval tile from Lincolnshire.

*Antony Lee*

### Building Recording

2016 was the group's year for hosting the national annual conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group in Lincoln for four days in March - and producing the conference booklet beforehand. This was a major undertaking. Highlights included the Hackthorn Estate (organised by Ken Redmore and Derek Broughton) and 'Mainly Mud-and-Stud' (Naomi Field and Jenne Pape). There were also visits within Lincoln and an innovative day



*Preparing limestone blocks, Clipsham Quarry*

looking at building stone – both its winning and its use (Ken Hollamby). Memorable visits, meals, conversations, and evening events (including Tom Lane's 'Lincolnshire entertainment') at the Lincoln Hotel were impeccable organised, and around 100 delegates left Lincolnshire with a new appreciation of the county's rich architectural heritage. Many congratulations to the steering group, and especially Ken Hollamby, who made it happen.

We did not want to lose sight of our other projects, however, so Jenne Pape has continued to organise fieldwork in Aubourn, as part of our continuing Trent Valley project. The 'Nunnery' project at Sixhills is also well-underway (undertaken in association with the local heritage group), whilst the proposed Grantham project (John Manterfield and Ruth Crook) and the forthcoming Boston project are still being planned.



*Recording a building with medieval stone at Sixhills*

The group has organised two visits this year: to Norwell (Notts), notable for the variety of major medieval timber-framed buildings hiding under anonymous brickwork; then to Southwell, where we also found many hidden timber-frames, contextualised for us by Southwell Archaeology (Building Recording Section).

Finally, particular thanks to Ken Hollamby, who keeps the group on the straight- and-narrow, and to Jenne Pape, Naomi Field and Richard Croft (who has acquired the skill of 'rectified photography', which will be in demand as the group develops).

*David Stocker*

## Industrial Archaeology

We have continued our fieldwork and related studies including further investigation of country house water supplies, an iron foundry at Scunthorpe and a large brickworks at East Halton. Uncertainty over the future of Scunthorpe Steelworks led to a project to identify important heritage assets; this work is on-going.



*Walking Festival group by the Grantham Canal*

Members have participated in external events including local shows, walking festivals, Heritage Open Days and the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference. Stewart Squires has raised funds and publicity through the Down Your Wold project and members have given talks about industrial archaeology throughout the county. The project to supply the University of Lincoln and Lincoln UTC with display panels depicting Lincolnshire's engineering heritage is finally reaching fruition.

We held a well-attended conference in Sleaford about Lincolnshire's waterways and our talks for the Society have included railways, vernacular chair-making, mill-wrighting and oil engines. Outings to Heckington (windmill, brewery, station, church and village) and Papplewick (pumping station and reservoir) were arranged.



*The underground reservoir at Papplewick*

We have carried on campaigning against threats to industrial heritage and are currently engaged with the future of Stamp End, Lincoln, railway bridge, which may be the world's oldest surviving wrought-iron box girder structure.



*Investigating a ram pump chamber at Scawby*

In thanking the Team for their enthusiasm, I must pay tribute to Stephen Betteridge who has been our Secretary for 25 years.

*Chris Lester*

## Local History

Enthusiastic new members have led to the revitalisation of the Local History Team over the last year. Mark Acton has become chairman, Pearl Wheatley continues as the indefatigable secretary and Caroline Crane makes a highly efficient minutes secretary.



*A talk about Lincolnshire chairs and chairmakers*

Our flagship event in 2016 was the day conference on Law and Order held at Grantham Museum. All the talks were enjoyed by a modest but appreciative group of members and non-members. Several of the

speakers were members of the Local History Team. We hosted the SLHA Christmas Party in In December where the dialect group Far Welter'd gave a performance of poems, stories and jokes. The Society has since sold many copies of their book 'Inder-End', which is still on sale in the Jews' Court bookshop.



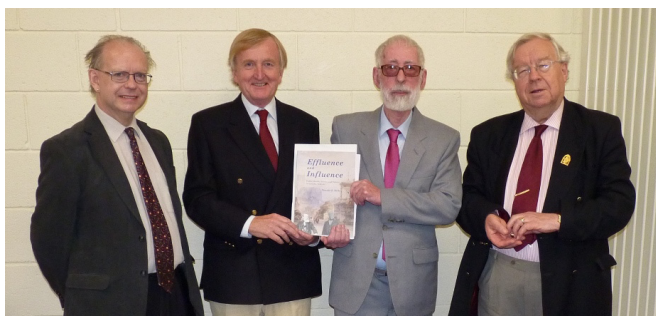
*Raithby Chapel, location of Brackenbury Lecture*

Jean Howard led a walk around Louth on our behalf for the Wolds Walking Festival. It took place on the 96th anniversary of the catastrophic flood of 1920, and Jean gave the party of 25 a well-researched tour of the key sites. The team has continued to support the friends of Raithby Chapel in their endeavours to get the building open again and we were delighted that the Brackenbury Lecture (arranged by the Tennyson Society) was held there this year. We organised our share of lectures for Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening events, which included talks by Andrew Walker on Lincoln Races and Anna Marie Roos on the Lister sisters.

*Mark Acton*

## Publications

In autumn 2015 the Society published *Effluence and Influence: Public Health, Sewers and Politics in Lincoln, 1848-50* by Dr Dennis Mills, a substantial book which describes an intriguing and significant period of the city's history.



*Launch of Dennis Mills's book by Lord Patrick Cormack*

By way of experiment, we have also reprinted in booklet form the authoritative journal article by Christopher Padley on the Caistor canal. The effective marketing of these books and our other titles remains a challenge, but it is good to report increased sales from website advertising. Thanks are due to Chris Page for managing the despatch of books by post so promptly and efficiently.

The 100th issue of our quarterly magazine, *Lincolnshire Past & Present*, appeared in summer 2015 – a landmark edition. We owe a great deal to Ros Beevers for her long spell as editor and designer of this this highly regarded publication.



Over the past 12 months the society has been 'rebranded', with new logo and other design features affecting not only our publications but also other aspects of our 'public face'.

*Ken Redmore*

## The Journal

The Society wishes to record its thanks to our retiring Hon. Editor, Mark Bennet, who has edited the Society's Journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (LHA)*, since 1997. Mark's last edition was volume 48, published earlier this year.



The Society has created a small Journal Editorial Committee to carry the work forward with Dave Start as editor. We have also taken the opportunity to review the format of LHA to reflect changes in the periodical publishing world that have taken place in the past twenty years and also to link in with the SLHA's own branding revision which took place in 2015. From volume 49, the format of the JWournal will change and colour illustration will be encouraged. All papers submitted for publication will now be subject to

peer review, and we have created an Editorial Advisory Board of academics throughout the UK to help us find the best reviewers for this task.

We would encourage all our members, or indeed anyone researching the history and archaeology of Lincolnshire, to publish their research in the pages of the Society's Journal.

*Dave Start*



*Visit to St Peter & St Paul church, Langton by Partney*

## History of Lincolnshire

Sadly, another year has passed without us able to produce a new book in the series. We have potential writers lined up, and books 'in progress', but our difficulty is to extract the finished version from the author. Our books continue to sell well, and with help from Dr Caitlin Green we have been able to improve our online sales, which is now a major means of selling all new books.

We were sorry to lose Eric Hair, who resigned from the position of treasurer, and we would like to thank him for several years of very devoted service. We are grateful to Chris Hewis for taking on our accounts to add to his burden of the Society's finances.

As ever, we look forward positively to the year ahead. We have the funds to publish a book in our series just as soon as we have a complete manuscript.

*John Beckett*

## Past and Present Project

The Past and Present Project, celebrating 170 years of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, was completed in 2016. The Project included producing a vibrant

touring exhibition, which attracted over 30,000 visitors, and a diverse programme of events and activities which included talks, craft events, guided walks, traditional music, vintage film shows and family workshops.



*A child's clay model of a Lincolnshire Buff cockerel*

The exhibition has been shown at a number of venues around Lincolnshire, including museums, heritage centres and libraries where it formed the focus for a wide variety of events. The family craft sessions inspired by history and heritage have proved especially successful and are now integrated into the Society programme.

The Past and Present Project has helped enable the Society to engage with new audiences and raise awareness of its role of encouraging interest in the research, study and recording of heritage related subjects. The Society plans to continue to utilise the exhibition and offer it for loan to new venues and continue to develop a programme of related events and activities.

*Kathy Holland*

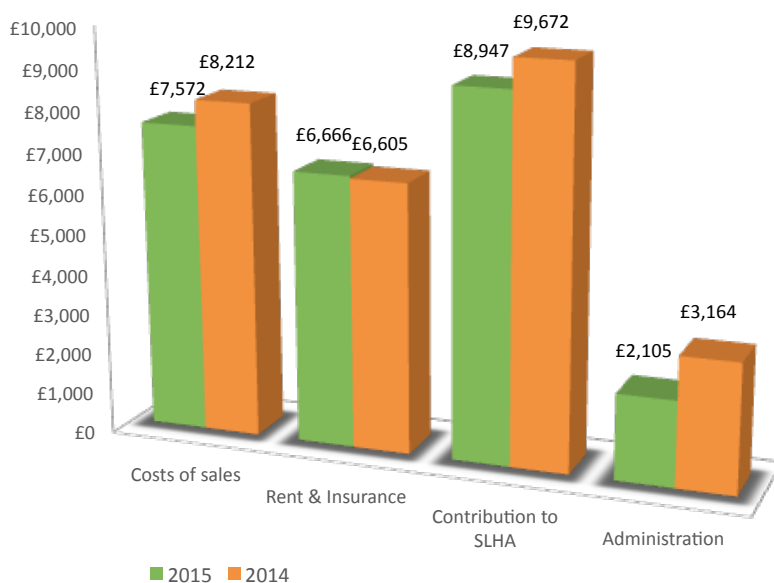


*Mother and son after 'Gargoyles & Green Men' session*

## Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who run our bookshop at Jews' Court. Some serve customers at the counter, often on a regular basis; others do essential work behind the scenes. We are grateful to Mark Acton, who has taken over the roles of New Book Buyer and Bookshop Manager, and Ros Beevers and her team who have dealt with second hand books. Nick and Eva Moore, with a wealth of book selling experience, are playing an increasingly important role; we are most fortunate in having them work with us.

The bookshop continues to make a significant contribution to Society income. Although turnover was slightly reduced on the previous year, the final surplus transferred to SLHA general funds was almost £9,000. As in previous years, the profit from the bookshop also meets full rent and buildings insurance costs for Jews' Court (over £6,000 in total).



## Society Accounts: Financial Overview

After several years of cost reduction, which has begun to show real benefit, it is regrettable that there has been a large reduction in income, resulting in a loss of over £20,000. Income from Society events is much less than in previous years and the irregular publication of new books has had the effect this year of reducing income from book sales whilst publication costs have risen. These trends should be reversed in the forthcoming year.

*Chris Hewis*

