



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

would like to welcome you to the fourth edition of the News Review



Nicholas Bennett, the Society's general editor, has recently retired after twenty three years as Cathedral Librarian and you can read reminiscences of some of the most notable parts of his career in the newsletter. He has also provided the transcript of a Lincolnshire clergyman's will for this edition: a reminder that the Society's next publication will be the first part of Lincolnshire Parish Clergy: A Biographical Register c.1214-1968, covering the rural deaneries of Aslaoe and Aveland. From the publications of other learned societies, you can also read a review by Rod Ambler of the Church of England Record Society's publication of *The Letters of Theophilus Lindsey*, a nonconformist minister with Lincolnshire connections. You can also find out more about the research of Alan Kissane in the 'Research in Progress' section on the back page.

Returning to the Society's own activities, its conference this Easter, *New Perspectives: Religious Life in Medieval Lincolnshire* was both very well attended and well-received: a range of speakers provided a varied and thought provoking programme. A fuller report by Marianne Wilson, one of the organisers is inside.

Following on from this very successful event this edition of the newsletter contains two more conference dates for your diary: the first is next year's Lincoln Record Society Conference to be held in April: this will be on the theme of Wartime Lincolnshire, in acknowledgement of the hundredth anniversary of the start of World War One. If you would like to give a short paper on this theme please contact Julian Haseldine at the address inside. If not, we very much hope that you will note the date and come to listen and debate. Further ahead, part of the celebrations for the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta will be an international conference in Lincoln in April of 2015. Again please consider coming to support this and to hear what promises to be an excellent group of speakers.

Philippa Hoskin





THE WILL OF THOMAS PALFREYMAN, RECTOR OF HACEBY (1670)

[Lincolnshire Archives, Stow Wills 1669-71/345.]

The following transcript provides a foretaste of the next LRS volume. The first part of *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register* covers the deaneries of Aslaoe and Aveland, including the tiny parish of Haceby, a few miles north-west of Folkingham. Thomas Palfreyman, a member of a Lincolnshire gentry family, was educated at New Inn Hall in the university of Oxford, graduating Master of Arts in 1635/6. He was ordained at around the same time. After a short period as Vicar of Threckingham, he was instituted to the rectory of Haceby in 1638, on the presentation of William Savile of Newton. On 21 November 1639 he married, at Bicker, Ann Harriman of Boston. Their daughter Christian married, on 25 April 1670, Francis Hopes. Four days later, Thomas Palfreyman made his will, indicating his wish that his widow continue to live at Haceby Rectory with their daughter and son-in-law. Palfreyman died shortly afterwards, whereupon Ann, who had acquired the advowson, duly presented Francis Hopes to the rectory; he was instituted on 26 July in that year.

In the name of God, Amen, &c.

I, Thomas Palfryman of Haceby in the County of Lincoln, Clark, being of perfect mind and memory, doe make this my last will and testament in manner as followeth.

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it, and I commit my Body to the ground from whence it came, to be decently interred in the Churchyard of Haceby by my father and mother who lye near the south wall of the Chancell of the said Church of Haceby, in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection unto eternall life through the alone merits of my dearest Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who dyed for me and rose againe to make me righteous.

Item I give unto my dear and loving wife Ann Palfryman fiftie pounds of lawfull English money, to be put out for her use within six months after my decease. And my further will and testament is, that she continue with my dear and loving son and daughter, Francis and Christian Hopes, at the Rectory of Haseby, and they to allow her dyet, lodging, fire, wasshing, candle, and five pounds per annum of lawfull English money towards the maintaining her with convenient apparell; and if it should soe fall out that the said Ann Palfryman shall think good at any time to remoove from her aforesaid son and daughter, that then they doe allow her bed and furniture for one Chamber and fifteen pounds per annum during the term of her naturall life, &c.

Item I give unto the said Ann Palfryman my wife, one, two, 3 or 4 of what Divinity Bookes she shall make choise of. Item I give unto my loving son in law Francis Hopes what Bookes he shall make choise of for his own use out of my library.

Item I give unto my Brother Richard Palfryman of Narwitch (if living) or to his wife living, fortie shillings to be paid within 6 months after my decease. But they being dead then the said 40s. to be given to his two daughters Christian and Ester.

Item I give to my Sister Anna Palfryman at Boston ten shillings (if by her demanded).

Item I give to my Cosen Richard Palfreyman ten shillings together with two bookes which he shall chuse out of such as shall remain undisposed of.

Item I give to my Cosen Mary Palfreyman ten shillings if she shall demand the same.

Item I give unto the poor of Haseby twenty shillings to be disposed of at the discretion of my executor.

The rest of my goods and Chattells undisposed of I bequeath unto my dear and beloved daughter Christian Hopes whom I doe appoint and constitute sole executrix of this my last will and testament (my funerall charges being defraid) which my will is shall not exceed the sum of ten pounds.

Item I give unto Alice Arnorld one ewe and lamb, &c.

In witness hereof I have set to my hand and seal, the 29th day of Aprill, the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventy.

Signed and sealed in the presence of

Francis Hopes

Alice Arnold her mark

Thomas Palfryman.

[Probate was granted 6 July 1670.]

Nicholas Bennett



Image: Harpswell, Church of St Chad: Effigy of William de Harington, Rector of Harpswell (d. 1349) - photograph by Nicholas Bennett.



HILARY HEALEY OBITUARY

14TH JANUARY 1935 - 13TH MAY 2013

We were all saddened to hear of the death of one of our long standing members.

Hilary Healey was a key member of one of our sister societies, the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, and was a fervent supporter of the study of archaeology and history throughout Lincolnshire.

Hilary was born and bred in Lincolnshire and dedicated her life to it. With her family she moved about the county to experience life in cold and draughty rectories, the last one being at Algakirk, when her father was the Bishop of Grimsby. School days over, Hilary entered Lincoln College of Art and completed her ATD to become a teacher and held a post as teacher of Art at Spalding Girls' High School. She was very much a Lincolnshire daughter, even to the extent of visiting Lincoln for a holiday.

In the later 1960's, Hilary's lifestyle changed completely when she switched to a career in archaeology to work with the Lincolnshire Archaeology Units and was also involved with The Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire. She was one of Mrs. Ethel Rudkin's protégées. Hilary worked with her on her digs and her research into medieval pottery kilns in the Toynton and Bolingbroke areas; becoming an expert in this field. It is no doubt true to say that the Rudkin mantle fell upon Hilary. She was ever willing to help others find their way around the heritage of their areas of the county. Many will recall receiving from Hilary snippets of information, guidance to find out more and encouragement to publish. There were few areas of Lincolnshire on which Hilary did not have knowledge - whether archaeology, buildings, history or people - her knowledge of Lincolnshire was vast.

Hilary was an active member of Lincolnshire Local History Society, to become the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in 1974. She first appears as a member of the executive in 1967 and her name was on that list ever

since. Sometimes it was as an elected member and always as a representative of one or more committees. If that was not enough, she has been associated with the publications of the Society, being joint editor of Lincolnshire Past and Present, initially with Terence Leach from the first issue in 1990, then with Chris Sturman and finally with Ros Beevers until the present time. In 1974 SLHA became a member of the Council for British Archaeology and Hilary was appointed as the representative to attend meetings in London and elsewhere.

All this would be enough for most active people but Hilary had time to use her drawing skills to illustrate Fenland scenes, capturing the essence of this special landscape. These skills are to be enjoyed in many local publications. There was regularly a sketch on the first page of Past and Present. Her own publications are few, like her Fenland Glossary, but her contribution to a wide range of books, essays and magazines is endless. Her book on Pinchbeck Mills is ready for the printers, but sadly too late for her to enjoy it.

Hilary, like Terence Leach and Ethel Rudkin, is a great loss to Lincolnshire. Individuals, as well as history and heritage groups, have lost a willing friend, one who was always prepared to go that extra mile - literally driving all over the county - to help, give talks, advice and support projects. Hilary was very humble, never seeking glory and never wanting any recognition for anything she did. It is now, looking back, that we realise, in Tom Lane's words, we had a treasure - a Lincolnshire treasure. We extend our sympathy to her sister Ana.

Pearl Wheatley

A version of this obituary appeared previously in Lincolnshire Past & Present, number 92 (Summer 2013).



LINCOLNSHIRE PARISH CLERGY c.1214-1968

A BIOGRAPHICAL REGISTER

Part I: The Deaneries of Aslaoe and Aveland

The parish churches of Lincolnshire are justly celebrated. The spires of Grantham and Louth, and the famous Boston Stump, provide a focal point from the surrounding landscape of fen, wold and marsh. The charms of remote country churches along the byways of the county have been extolled in prose and verse by writers such as Henry Thorold and Sir John Betjeman. Their architecture, their stained glass and sculpture, furniture and fabric, have all been carefully recorded. Yet little is known of the people who served these churches, the rectors and vicars who, in word and sacrament, taught the Christian faith to successive generations of parishioners.

This volume forms the first part of a much-needed survey of Lincolnshire parish clergy. The starting point is 1214, when Bishop Hugh of Wells introduced the earliest system of episcopal registration in Western Europe. The magnificent series of Lincoln bishop's registers provides a framework for the parish lists, setting out the succession of rectors or vicars for each church. Brief biographical sketches demonstrate the rich variety of the county's parsons - pastors, scholars, travellers and writers, soldiers and schoolmasters; while some, like John Wycliffe, achieved a wider fame. This biographical register gives to each of them their place in the history of Lincolnshire.

Nicholas Bennett



NEW PERSPECTIVES (2013):

Religious Life in Medieval Lincolnshire

12-13 April, 2013.

This year's LRS conference was held at Lincoln Cathedral centre at the beginning of April. It was attended by a total of sixty delegates over the course of the two day event. Conference delegates were able to enjoy the expertise of academics from the universities of Lincoln, Nottingham, London, Leicester, Oxford, Cardiff, York, Keele, Glasgow, Leeds and even Zurich! There were nine separate sessions and nineteen speakers, a combination of established academics as well as postgraduate students and early career researchers. The three keynote speakers were David Stocker, Philippa Hoskin and Alison McHardy who all presented fascinating papers on the foundation of churches in Lincoln, Robert Grosseteste and the dangerous clerks and Bishop Buckingham respectively. The conference meal was held at the White Hart Grille restaurant and was thoroughly enjoyed by all speakers who attended. The organisers received good feedback from many conference delegates, who commented that the conference presented a varied range of topics which stimulated discussion and the sharing of ideas. My colleague Alan Kissane and I would like to thank all speakers and delegates who attended the conference for their participation. We now look forward to the LRS conference for 2014, on the theme of wartime Lincolnshire, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of World War I (see Call for Papers below).

Marianne Wilson



CALL FOR PAPERS

WARTIME LINCOLNSHIRE Saturday 26 April 2014

A day conference sponsored by the Lincoln Record Society

The University of Lincoln

Papers are welcome on any aspect of the history of Lincolnshire during the First or Second World Wars including:

The 'Home Front'
Munitions and Wartime Industry
Land Workers
Military Bases
Objectors
Coastal Defences

Lincolnshire Military Units Overseas
Food and Rationing
Temporary Communities
Military Recruitment
Conscientious
Daily Life, Culture and Morale

To propose a paper of 20 minutes, or to register your interest in attending, please contact:
Julian Haseldine, Department of History, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX
tel. 01482 465600, email: j.p.haseldine@hull.ac.uk
Please send proposals, abstracts or expressions of interest by 31 January 2014.



CALL FOR PAPERS





The completion of the two volume edition of *The Letters of Theophilus Lindsey* edited by G.M. Ditchfield (I, 1747-1788; II 1789-1808, Church of England Record Society vols. 15, and 19, 2007 and 2012), makes available, with the help of its outstanding index, interesting material on religious thought in the county and diocese of Lincoln for the period that it covers.

Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808) resigned his Church of England living of Catterick in 1772 following the rejection of the Feathers Tavern petition. This sought relief from the obligation to subscribe to the set of doctrinal formulae of the Church of England known as the Thirty-Nine Articles that was required upon nomination to a benefice, on matriculation at the University of Oxford, or graduation at the University of Cambridge. Lindsey's own religious views had become Unitarian, and on his move to London he became minister to a congregation meeting off the Strand at Essex Street, from where he played a central role in the establishment of a distinct Unitarian denomination.

Lindsey's step brother-in-law was John Disney, a member of the Lincolnshire/Nottinghamshire family with a tradition of religious dissent. This included support of what became the Unitarian chapels on High Street, Lincoln, and at Kirkstead. John, who was vicar of Swinderby and rector of Panton, was an active member of the association formed to support the Feathers Tavern petition. Also, in 1782 he resigned his preferments, and became assistant minister to Lindsey at Essex Street, succeeding him as minister in 1793, and retiring in 1805.

Lindsey's letters reflect his involvement in the movements for ecclesiastical and political reform, as well as his role in the development of Unitarianism. In 1782, we find him making 'a long journey indeed into Lincolnshire ... on some necessary business as well as to see a most valuable man, Dr Disney', but there is little material on the local circumstances of Disney's parochial ministry and his resignation of Swinderby and Panton. The researcher will have to go elsewhere for material on the religious life of his parishes.

The activities of the bishops of Lincoln of the period, as also some of the county's M.Ps, are of interest and concern to Lindsey because of their attitudes to ecclesiastical and political issues. In a letter written in July 1791, he passes on the report that the final part of George Pretyman's visitation charge delivered at Bedford, had been 'a libel against the dissenters reproaching in very strong terms their late attempt to procure a repeal of the test laws'. Lindsey's letters in the 1790s show that he, along with his fellow Unitarians, felt themselves to be part of an unpopular and persecuted minority. Pretyman's 1794 charge, which unlike that of 1791 was published, referred to 'the Disciples of Socinus' as 'amongst the most zealous Abettors of Republican Principles'.

Among the material that relates to the development of Unitarianism, there is a letter written by Lindsey in October 1791 that refers to Disney's desire to promote 'the intended chapel at Newark'. It was not built – there is no record of a Unitarian chapel in the town until 1862. Ministers with Lincolnshire connections do, however, have some mention in the Letters. The history of Unitarianism in Fleet is obscure, and there were at various times Unitarian General Baptists as well as a Unitarian chapel in the parish. Edward Prowitt was Baptist minister there in 1787 where he was, according to Lindsey 'a little at his ease'. He had been 'obliged to quit the society' at Oxford 'for whom he was 'too liberal'.

Israel Worsley was chosen as the minister of a congregation of British merchants in Dunkirk that adopted a Unitarian liturgy in 1790. A product of the dissenting academy at Daventry and a graduate of the University of Aberdeen, he brought his considerable experience, which included a spell in prison in France, to his appointment as minister in Lincoln in 1806. He secured the Lincoln meeting house from a group of Calvinists who had been using it, as well as recovering the endowment associated with the chapel at Kirkstead. This endowment had been established by Daniel Disney, John Disney's great grandfather, originally to support a Presbyterian congregation that gathered in the medieval chapel building there.

The congregation that had originally gathered in Kirkstead with the support of the Disney family was socially far removed from the 'genteel audience' who attended the services conducted in the Essex Street chapel by John Disney, as assistant to Theophilus Lindsey and later as minister. The intellectual and political concerns of Lindsey's letters might also seem to be distant from those of Lincolnshire dissenters. Yet the links and associations that they reveal illustrate the patterns of religious life and thought through which Unitarianism developed the distinctive identity that continues to sustain the Unitarian chapel at Kirkstead as well as others in the county.

Rod Ambler





'YOUR LIBRARY IS YOUR PARADISE' – DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

A note on Dr Nicholas Bennett's term as librarian of Lincoln Cathedral.

Dr Nicholas Bennett, honorary general editor of the LRS, has faithfully filled the position of librarian of Lincoln Cathedral for the past twenty three years. In May this year, Nicholas finally hung up his reading glasses and retired from this role, passing on the baton to former assistant librarian, Mrs Julie Taylor. In honour of this historic occasion, I thought it only fitting to record for posterity a note on Nicholas' time as Cathedral librarian. Prior to his appointment as librarian in the summer of 1990, Nicholas had worked as an archivist at the Lincolnshire archives. He had already been involved with the Cathedral for several years, cataloguing the archives and singing in the Cathedral choir, so becoming librarian seemed to be a natural development. Nicholas had worked with his predecessors, Naomi Pearman and Joan Williams previously, because at that time the job of Cathedral librarian was a joint post with the Foster Library at Lincolnshire Archives. However, upon his appointment, Nicholas was given a clean slate to develop the Library according to his own vision.

As anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting the reading rooms at the Cathedral knows, Nicholas has worked diligently over the years to care for the collections of manuscripts and books and to make them available to visiting scholars. The collection of Cathedral manuscripts includes eighty eight which were there when the medieval Library was built in the fifteenth century, and perhaps forty of these were at Lincoln in the twelfth century, the gift of bishops, deans and canons of that time, including St Hugh himself. For Nicholas, the long affiliation of these manuscripts with the Library provides a daily reminder of the continuity of study at Lincoln, from the medieval Cathedral schools in the time of Gerald of Wales, William de Montibus and Walter Map, right through to our flourishing university life in the present day. The Library has been revitalised by Nicholas' extensive knowledge of the Cathedral archives and his passion for the manuscripts, including his particular favourite, the Gilbertine missal. He has an especial fondness for this manuscript both because it reflects monastic life here in Lincolnshire and because the older part of the manuscript may have been used by St Gilbert himself. This passion for the Cathedral manuscripts has long been reinforced by Nicholas' patient and enthusiastic support of scholars in their research endeavours.

Throughout his career, Nicholas has promoted the public profile of the Library through tireless rounds of talks and guided tours, exhibitions and events, as well as being the public face of the Library for the media. You may have seen the latest television appearance of the Wren Library in June on ITV's documentary Britain's Secret Homes, although you might not have known that it was Nicholas who pointed ITV's researchers in the direction of the manuscripts that they filmed, and supervised the presenters with the documents. When Nicholas was asked

about his experiences with the media, he shared some interesting anecdotes: 'It was very enjoyable meeting some of the well-known TV historians like Simon Schama and David Starkey. There was a worrying moment when Terry Jones, the Monty Python star, insisted on being filmed on the roof of Exchequer Gate, sitting on a crumbling parapet thirty feet from the ground. One very satisfying moment was when I introduced Michael Portillo to a key part of his Spanish heritage in the form of our first edition of Don Quixote; another was being told by Ian Hislop, on my giving a very evasive reply to his question about the filming of the Da Vinci Code, "That was a real politician's answer".'

The role of Cathedral librarian and the function of the Library have changed significantly throughout the past twenty three years. When Nicholas started out, the majority of enquiries came by post, with some by telephone and but now, following the information technology revolution, most enquiries are via e-mail. Another advance was Nicholas' development of the reference collection. In 1990, the Library housed only books printed before 1801. With an enthusiasm for book collecting to rival that of former Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, Michael Honeywood, Nicholas set out to build up a modern library in the fields of ecclesiastical history and church art and architecture. This process was greatly assisted by generous benefactions from the collections of Kathleen Major, Dorothy Owen and others. As a result, Lincoln Cathedral Library now holds not only extensive historic collections of manuscripts and rare books but also an important research library, particularly in the field of medieval church history. The recent launch of the online catalogue of these books was certainly a proud moment for Nicholas and will be of great benefit for future researchers wishing to search the collection.

Nicholas has enjoyed his term as Cathedral librarian, especially building up the book collection and meeting scholars with a range of different backgrounds and research interests. Then again, there will be some advantages to retirement, I'm sure he will not miss having to get up in the middle of the night and go into the Library when the burglar alarm frequently set itself off! It is unlikely that retirement will leave Nicholas twiddling his thumbs, as he has resumed the task he began in the 1980s of cataloguing the Cathedral archives. Much of his time will continue to be given to the LRS, in his capacity as general editor but also completing various projects such as the biographical registers he has started compiling of Lincolnshire parish clergy; the first part will be published this autumn and launched by the Bishop of Lincoln, Rt Rev Christopher Lowson in December. On behalf of all the readers who have found themselves welcomed into the Cathedral Library over the years, I would like to thank Nicholas for all of his hard work and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Marianne Wilson





2015 MAGNA CARTA CONFERENCE

The Lincoln Record Society will play an important part in national celebrations in 2015 to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta; the best copy of which is, of course, in Lincoln.

Plans are at an advanced stage for an academic conference to be held at the University of Lincoln over three days (Tuesday-Thursday, 7-9 April 2015) with lectures from internationally-renowned experts in the field. The keynote speakers will include Professor David Carpenter (King's College London), biographer of Henry III and author of numerous books and articles on kingship, politics, government, law and society in thirteenth century England. There will also be an Early Career Researchers session where younger scholars can share their new research. A series of events is also planned, including a formal conference meal (possibly in the Cathedral), a walking tour of uphill Lincoln, a visit to Lincoln Cathedral Library and, perhaps, a trip to Langton by Wragby, birthplace of Archbishop Stephen Langton, one of the architects of Magna Carta.

The conference will be open to members of the Society and the general public. A registration fee will be charged. Bursaries may be provided for early career researchers.

There is still plenty in the pipeline so watch this space for more news.

Paul Dryburgh



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The 103rd Annual General Meeting of the Society

This will be held in Hardy Teaching Room 1 at Bishop Grosseteste University on Saturday, 2nd November 2013 at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be served and this will be followed by a lecture by Dr Nicholas Bennett, as a preview prior to the publication of volume 103.

The launch of the latest Lincoln Record Society volume,

Volume 103, *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register, Part 1: The Deaneries of Aslaoe and Aveland*, edited by Dr Nicholas Bennett, will take place later in the year than usual, on Friday, 13 December 2013 at 4pm in Glentworth parish church. The event will include a lecture from Dr Nicholas Bennett, followed by the official launch of the book by Bishop of Lincoln, Rt Rev Christopher Lowson, as well as high tea afterwards in the village hall.

University of Lincoln Award

This year's Lincoln Record Society student prize for the best dissertation on the MA(Historical Studies) course at the University of Lincoln was awarded to Martyn Turner for his paper 'The Heavens Reflected Their Struggle: The Scunthorpe Iron and Steel Lockout of 1892/93'. The prize is a cheque for £100 and three years membership of the Society.

Dulcie Duke Award

For the fourth year in a row, the Lincoln Record Society is supporting the Dulcie Duke award at Bishop Grosseteste University. Rachel Maxey won this award and she was presented with a cheque for £100 and three years membership of the Society.

Notice of Subscription Increase

From 1st August 2013 all Society subscriptions will be increased to £25 per year. More details will be included in the next edition of the News Review.

A Note from the Editor

Do you enjoy receiving your bi-annual copy of the News Review? The Lincoln Record Society are looking to receive feedback from Society members about the News Review – if you have any comments, suggestions for articles or submissions then please contact newsletter editor Marianne Wilson at newsreview@lincoln-record-society.org.uk by 31st March 2014.





RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Having submitted my PhD within the last two months I was asked to explain a little bit more about my research and future goals, a review which is hopefully of some interest to LRS readers.



Entitled 'Lay Urban Identities in Late Medieval Lincoln, 1288-1400', my doctoral thesis deals with several characteristics central to the formation of identities for middling to wealthy inhabitants. Specifically this deals with the membership of guilds, the founders of chantries, urban government – and those who comprised this 'elite' group – and the concept

of neighbourhood, how it was formed and what contemporary, social or familial expectations were placed upon these often largely subjective spaces. As a result, my thesis demonstrates that institutions and ideas such as these were not only developments borne out of time and circumstance but were carefully constructed developments within a wider framework of urban management and physical space.

The last point is particularly central to my work and I argue throughout that no relationship or institution (a guild, for example), however tangible they may have seemed, can be properly understood without situating it within the space/place paradigm. For example, I questioned why a large proportion of civic elites in the city settled around the southern gate (later known as the Stonebow) at the beginning of the fourteenth century. As the evidence dictates, this emerged due to a complex blend of fiscal, economic, social and political developments, which were conducive not only to the aims of this particularly wealthy group but also to the image they sought to perpetuate as elites and office holders. Such developments included changes in urban legislation, the

emergence of new physical plots following the decline of the wool industry, the establishment of the Staple Port, and the re-location of the guildhall.

At a more macro level, my work also considers the relationship between Lincoln's civic authority – the mayors' council – and royal government through its fiscal and judicial obligations. Additionally, it reflects on how this impacted upon the city's collective identity and image from the revocation of its urban liberties in 1288 up to the beginning of the fifteenth century. It also outlines the centrality of the Black Death and its legacy upon urban laws and legislation, lay piety and population decline and the identities they inspired.

Perhaps one of the key messages to emerge from my thesis is that Lincoln did not in fact undergo the dramatic decline after 1350 which some scholars, including J. W. F. Hill, suggest took place. In fact, my thesis argues that Lincoln maintained parity with many other late medieval towns long after this date, including the much larger towns of Bristol and York, successfully attracting migrants from the surrounding area to fulfil the numerous empty plots and tenements, whilst concomitantly providing new services and trades.

Having now concluded this mammoth undertaking, my efforts are now concentrated upon making the transition from thesis to book. Beyond this I plan to write a book upon the impact of the Black Death on urban towns in the Midlands, all the while producing a full translation of the coroners' rolls for Lincoln during the fourteenth century (largely covering 1344-96).

Alan Kissane

PhD student at the University of Nottingham