



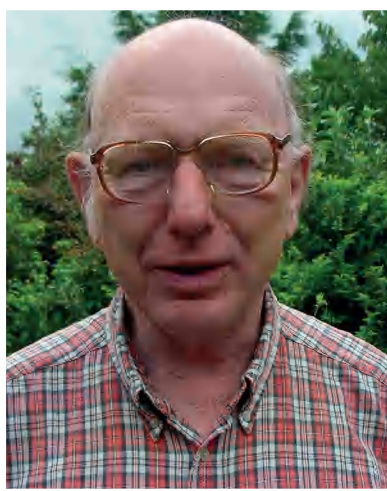
NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



HONORARY TREASURER'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fifth edition of the News Review



Welcome to the fifth edition of the News Review. There are changes afoot in the Lincoln Record Society, and we would like to take this opportunity to keep our members up to date with how these changes will affect you. The Finance and Publications Committee are responsible for the day to day management of the Society. They are appointed by Council who have overall responsibility for the Society's activities. The Council, who are the Society's trustees, are elected at the Annual General Meeting, which this year is on November 1st, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Details of the Society's finances are in the Annual Report. After long consideration and investigation, the trustees decided that the Kathleen Major fund would be better invested in the markets, rather than in the

low interest cash account. This took place earlier in the year but the real benefits will not start to show until next year's accounts. On August 1st the annual subscription was increased to £25. Those of you who have experience in these matters will know that subscription increases are not to be entered into lightly, and it will take some time before all of those paying by standing order change to the new rate.

The reason for these changes is so that we can expand our range of activities and services to members. Included with this News Review is a flier for the first of our Kathleen Major Series of publications, *Robert Grosseteste as Bishop of Lincoln: The Episcopal Rolls 1235-1253*, edited by Philippa Hoskin. The Kathleen Major Series and the Occasional Series, which will be launched in 2016, are in addition to the annual volume covered by members' subscriptions. At last year's AGM we agreed that members will pay for these volumes. As you will see from the accompanying flier, members can buy the Robert Grosseteste volume at a preferential price. We hope that you will support this new venture, which can only succeed if it is profitable.

We have taken the opportunity of the change in annual subscription to redesign the membership application form. Membership has fallen this year so please do what you can

to encourage your friends and colleagues to join the Society. All the details are on our website. Apologies for the search facility on the website being out of action. We are doing our best to resolve the problem.

The News Review is a forum that all members are welcome to contribute to. In this edition we welcome new contributors Dennis Mills and Victoria Thorpe looking at life in the Cathedral close in 1841 and Brian Hodgkinson describing his work on monasticism in Lincolnshire. We are also always pleased to hear from old friends. Michael Jones has been visiting the on-line medieval archives of Brittany and Rod Ambler looks at Volume 4 of our publications about parish life in the early eighteenth century. We were sad to hear that Sir James Holt, a former president of the Society, passed away in April, and David Crook has written a short obituary. This will be followed by a longer piece in the next News Review. Philippa Hoskin looks forward to our Magna Carta conference next year and our editor, Marianne Wilson, fills us in on last year's book launch and this year's wartime Lincolnshire conference.

Ken Hollamby

Hon. Treasurer





MEDIEVAL LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHIVES ABROAD: A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE

The links between Lincolnshire and Brittany in the Middle Ages are well-known.

Many years ago Sir Frank Stenton drew attention to the settlement of Bretons, particularly in south-eastern Lincolnshire towards the wash, after the conquest. They came as followers of a cadet branch of the ducal family which was rewarded with the great Honour of Richmond (North Yorkshire) though their most profitable estates lay elsewhere in Eastern England. Most relevant to us, the town of Boston itself owes its origins to them.

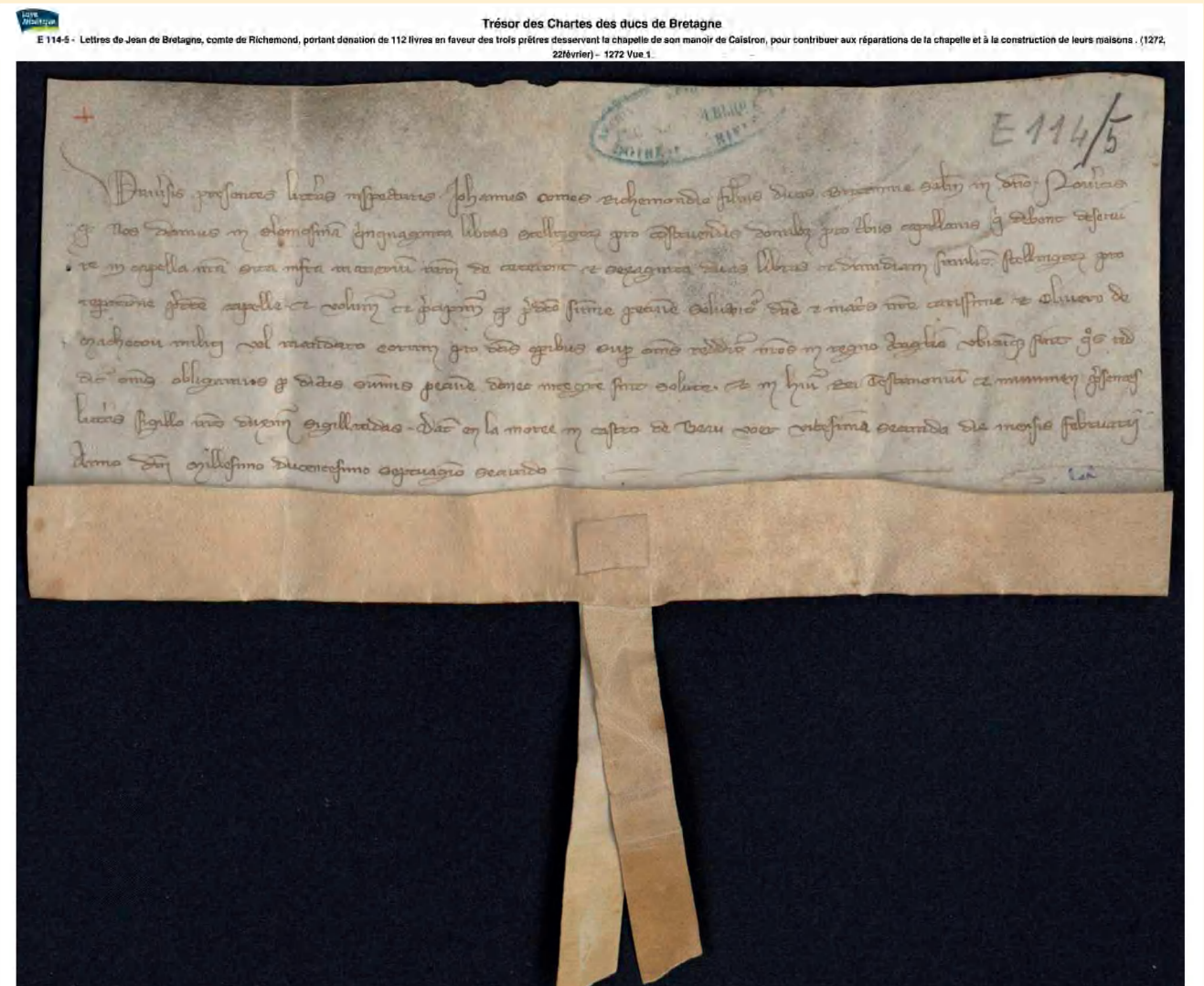
After the mid twelfth century, the Honour passed directly into the hands of the dukes of Brittany. With occasional intermissions, owing to political disputes between England and Brittany, the Honour remained in Breton hands until 1399, when Henry IV seized it. Even so, dukes or junior members of the family continued to bear the title earl of Richmond for another century and more.

When I published *Ducal Brittany, 1364-1399* in 1970, I briefly cited a number of documents relating to the ducal estates around Boston, as well as to a Register of the Honour, drawn up in 1398. This provides considerable

detail on its administration in the immediate post-Black Death period, including much evidence for its Lincolnshire lands. These documents have survived at Nantes in the principal ducal archives, le Trésor des chartes des ducs de Bretagne. The Trésor has recently been entirely digitised, and can be consulted on-line at www.loire-atlantique.fr/jcms/cg1_252737/tresor-des-chartes

To give a hint of the archival riches that can now be accessed so easily, there is a rental for the town of Boston of 1373-4 that provides details on at least 100 named tenants as well as indicating where properties lay, and throwing light on economic conditions (e.g. mention of Gasconrowe with its cellars and a crane for unloading ships). However, to get the best out of this website a few explanatory remarks on how the Trésor is currently structured are necessary. This will be the subject of a second notice in the next Newsletter.

Michael Jones





TAKING THE CENSUS IN LINCOLN MINSTER CLOSE, 1841

Our research on this topic arises partly from the initiative described by Dr Anne Irving in Historic Lincoln Revealed, summer 2013 issue, page eight.

The project is entitled *Lincoln Cathedral Connected*, one of the intentions being to connect the community and visitors more securely with the history of the building and those associated with it.

The Close originated as a walled area in which medieval cathedral clergy and administrators could lead a secluded life – to what extent was it populated by such persons in the mid-nineteenth century? The Close Wall is a good boundary to use, despite being much reduced by 1841 and its course is traceable by using the first three volumes of the Civic Trust's *Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln*.

In 1841 the state for the first time issued a form (a schedule) to every household in the country through the Census Office and local registrars of births, deaths and marriages, using an army of enumerators. The latter transferred the information from the householders' schedules to the census enumerators' books. The schedules were destroyed, but the books survived and are now accessible online.

Our boundary neatly encapsulates a series of whole streets, except that in the case of Eastgate only a small part of the street is within the Close. Fortunately the enumerators troubled to record addresses methodically in the form of, say, '12 Eastgate'. Also, the current house numbering is very similar to that of 1841, except in James Street. Thus we were able to identify the 63 households enumerated in the Close on census night.

There were two enumerators because the Close was divided between the parishes of St Mary Magdalene and St Margaret, which were used as enumeration districts. Benjamin Draper for St Mary's was a perfumer, hairdresser and animal and bird preserver, living in Bailgate. In St Margaret's the enumerator was George Betham, in the household of Edward Betham at 2 St Leonard's Lane, Edward being a surveyor, including to the Dean and Chapter.

Census night was 6-7 June, rather than a date around 31 March and Easter that had been used before (and always since). Easter was a period of the year when most boarding school pupils and college students were at home on vacation, and few people were working away, or on holiday, or in London for the 'season'. Thus it was that George Betham in 1841 was obliged to record that a certain number of absent persons were 'of the higher classes who resort to watering places, etc'.

There were 353 people in the Close, 312 living in family households, of whom 207 were female and only 105 were male. The very skewed gender ratio was due to a servant population of 118, 102 of whom were female. The servants were also largely responsible for the unusual age pyramid,

no less than 104 persons falling in the age groups 16-20 and 21-25. There were few children except in the two boarding schools, institutional households containing 23 in a girls' school and 18 in a boys' school, the latter kept by George Boole, the famous mathematician.

Our grouping of household heads has produced the following results: 8 clergymen, 14 other professionals or major employers, 17 living on independent means, 11 tradesmen/craftsmen, 5 servants where the usual head has not been traced, 2 others and 5 empty properties. Other professionals included the well-known figures of Edward J Willson, architect; Robert Swan, solicitor and diocesan registrar; and Dr Edward P Charlesworth, physician. Charles Seely, corn merchant and miller, was the only large employer, later to be a substantial owner of coal mines, MP and chairman of the House of Commons Committee on Admiralty Reform in 1868. The senior clergyman included the sub-dean (Thomas Manners-Sutton), but the Chancellor (George Pretyman) and the Precentor (Richard Pretyman) were away on census night. Other clergymen had parishes elsewhere, some in combination with minor cathedral posts. The tradesmen/craftsmen included the licensee of the Black Horse at 5 Eastgate, a plumber (probably working on the cathedral) and a chemist and a tailor.



Charles Seely, Courtesy of Daphne Denaro, www.brookvillagehistory.co.uk



Oscar Gustav Rejlander, a self portrait from Wikipedia

In the Lincoln public health debate of 1849-50, when the City Council proposed to install a comprehensive underground sewerage scheme, Swan (Tory), and Seely (Radical, later Liberal) and Willson were all councillors and Charlesworth (Whig) was an expert witness. They were all in principle in favour of the scheme. Did they take walks round the Close to discuss tactics?! Another interesting inhabitant was Oscar Rejlander, a Swedish artist living in lodgings at 7 Minster Yard, who later was described as the 'father of art photography'.

Dennis Mills and Victoria Thorpe





RECORDS OF PARISH LIFE IN EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LINCOLNSHIRE

Canon R.E.G. Cole's edition of "Speculum Dioceseos Lincolnensis...1705-1723" has served as an invaluable resource for students of the religious and social life of the county.

Canon R.E.G. Cole's edition of *Speculum Dioceseos Lincolnensis...1705-1723*, the fourth volume in the Lincoln Record Society's main series, has served since its publication in 1913 as an invaluable resource for students of the religious and social life of the county in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. The volume covers the archdeaconries of Lincoln and Stow – the ancient county of Lincoln – and, as the Society's Centenary History shows, Canon Cole completed a transcript of the remainder of the *Speculum* for the four counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Buckinghamshire and Leicester, with part of Hertford. This was never published, although the part of the *Speculum* for Leicestershire, based on transcriptions by the indefatigable Alfred Gibbons, had appeared in the *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers* for 1894 as part of a series on 'Documents relating to Leicestershire, preserved in the Episcopal Registers at Lincoln'.

Bishop Wake's Summary of Visitation Returns from the Diocese of Lincoln, 1706-1715 in the British Academy's series of Records of Social and Economic History, with its coverage in two volumes of the whole of the diocese (Part 1 *Lincolnshire*, Part 2 *Outside Lincolnshire*), brings interesting new material to add to that already published. Wake's three volume manuscript summary of his diocesan visitation returns kept, with his other papers at Christ Church, Oxford, was based on the parish returns that were made in response to the printed questionnaires that he sent out at visitations. Dr John Broad has supplemented this edition of Wake's summary with material from surviving original returns to produce this valuable addition to the British Academy series.

Some idea of the scope and interest of this edition of the *Summary* can be seen by comparing it with that in print in the Society's edition of the *Speculum*. The sections concerned with Epworth, where the Revd Samuel Wesley, father of John and Charles was Rector, can be used to do this. Samuel Wesley was, within the context of the period, a diligent High Churchman with, as the *Speculum* records from two visitation returns, a large parish of 300 and about 340 families, including over 80 dissenters, of whom 60 were Baptists and the rest Quakers. Wake's *Summary*, while also noting 300 families, records 100 'Anabaptists & Quakers', and notes that they met in 'private Licensed houses' – two licensed Baptist and one Quaker conventicle according to the *Speculum*. The 1709 return to Wake's visitation enquiries printed in the *Summary* also notes that the Baptists had 'a Meeting where Peter Foster teaches: his congregation in all scarce 100'.

The *Speculum* notes Mr Wesley's diligent churchmanship, with services twice each Sunday, on feasts, and on the fourth and sixth days of the week. The returns for the 1712 visitation in the *Summary* confirm this, noting that there was 'Divine Service twice every Lords day: Also Litany days [Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and other times at the bishop's command, according to the 1662 Prayer Book rubric], & Holy-days'. There is also the additional information from 1712 that, because Samuel Wesley was a Proctor in Convocation, 'He spends summer at Epworth, Winter in Henry VII's chapel [in Westminster Abbey and a meeting place of the lower house of Convocation]'. The *Speculum* notes this as frequent non-residence in London, while the 1715 return refers to the Rector as, 'Often not resident, and when so, in London'. He had informed Bishop Wake 'recently' of the reasons for this.

While the information on Sunday and weekday services in the *Summary* adds little of substance to that in the *Speculum*, the material on Holy Communion and the number of communicants at Epworth is of greater interest. The *Speculum* records monthly Communion services but, in addition, the return for 1712 printed in the *Summary*, also notes that 'Of above 600 communicants about 40 usually receive. At Easter 80'. This was an improvement on the situation in 1709, when 30 or 40 from 'about 600' communicants were said to have received at Easter, although 'More than Halfe of These never communicate at all'.

Material on the value of the living of Epworth, charities, schools, the new rectory house built following the fire of 1709 – in 1712 Samuel Wesley's copies of Wake's catechism, issued in 1707, were reported as 'Burnt, with the rest of my Books' – as well as the record of the public performance of penances, add to the interest of the *Summary*. A note on the number of unbaptized people in the parish in 1712, with its somewhat underhand reference to the validity of Mrs Wesley's 'Presbyterian Baptism', is a possible reflection of tensions in parish life, while Bishop Wake's concern with 'Antiquitys' reflects some of the other interests that are apparent in his visitation enquiries: in 1706 the 'Ruines of Mowbray's Palace' at Epworth were 'now almost buried'.

Rod Ambler





A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PRINTING OF LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY VOLUMES

Our long run of publications gives palimpsest of the changes in printing technology. Initially we used letterpress printing, then offset lithography and today digital.

Volume 1 *Lincolnshire Church Notes* made by Gervase Holles was published in 1911. It was printed by W.K. Morton & Sons Ltd. who then had offices at 290 High Street, Lincoln but by 1914 Mortons had moved to Horncastle where they are still in business. Mortons printed 20 of the first 26 volumes. Five were printed by J.W. Ruddock & Sons of Lincoln and one has no printing detail. Four volumes have a note that they were *Issued for the Lincoln Record Society by W.K. Morton & Sons*. There is no indication how the other volumes were distributed. In 1931 with the publication of the first volume of *The Registrum Antiquissimum* (Vol. 27) printing moved to The Hereford Times at Hereford. The work stayed with the Hereford Times until Volume 60 in 1965. They produced 32 volumes for the Society. This proved fortuitous as in World War II paper was allocated based on usage for the period immediately before the war. This enabled the Society to produce two volumes in 1940 and two in 1944. In 1967 Ruddocks were back in favour and they printed another seven volumes, although with two excursions to Gateshead for Volumes 62 and 67, which were printed by the Northumberland Press Ltd. There is no printer recorded in 1950 for the first large format book, Volume 42 *Facsimiles of Charters in Volumes V and VI The Registrum Antiquissimum*. However, a specialist printer was chosen for the second volume of facsimiles in 1973 (Vol. 68). This was The Cotswold Collotype Co., Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire. Two other printers were also used, Popper & Company Ltd. of Welwyn Garden City and Fakenham Press Ltd. from Norfolk.

Things changed in 1984 when Boydell Press come on to the scene. Boydell Press is an imprint of Boydell & Brewer Ltd. Volume 75 *Stow Church Restored 1846-1866* was the first volume published by Boydell & Brewer for the Society. It was printed by Short Run Press Ltd., Exeter, Devon. Today, of course, we associate short runs with digital printing but then that was still in the future. Although there was no volume published in 1985, on July 1st 1985 the Society entered into a contract with Boydell & Brewer Ltd., then at Museum Street, Ipswich. This contract, which we review from time to time, is still in force today. Boydell & Brewer provide the Society with a full range of publishing services which include book design, production, marketing, distribution, warehousing and stock-control. The Society, as a matter of policy, have instructed Boydell & Brewer only to use British companies to produce our books as we believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can to maintain these skills in the UK. Until 2004, when they withdrew from the market, the St. Edmondsbury Press, a subsidiary

of Cambridge University Press produced our books. Recently the books have been produced by Anthony Rowe, now a member of the CIP Group at Chippenham, Wiltshire and latterly in Croyden; the one exception being Volume 87 *Building a Railway* which was printed by PrintWright of Ipswich.

In 2004 we produced our first full colour volume in the large format that has now evolved into the Occasional Series which will be launched in 2014. Volume 92 *Town Plans of Lincoln* was a new venture for the Society being published jointly with The Survey of Lincoln. Its reprint in 2010 was another first. We dispensed with the dust jacket and printed the illustration and title directly onto the case. Volume 92 was followed by Volume 96 *Maps of the Witham Fens* and Volume 98 *Building a Railway* in the same format. In 2007 the Society introduced coloured dust jackets with Volume 95 *'Gratefull to Providence'*. These are now standard for new volumes. In 2005 the Society introduced paperback facsimile reprints of the more popular out of print volumes. They looked old fashioned, so in 2010 a new cover was designed when we reprinted, with a new introduction, Volume 55 *The Building Accounts of Tattershall Castle*. This design will be used on future paperback reprints.

One of the benefits of using the technical expertise of Boydell & Brewer is that it enables the Society to take advantage of improvements in technology that are fundamentally changing the publishing industry. Our long run of publications gives palimpsest of the changes in printing technology. Initially we used letterpress printing, then offset lithography and today digital. The Society is now looking at ink-jet printing which has recently arrived in the UK for book production. We are considering, along with Boydell & Brewer, how we can integrate e-publishing into our programme. The Society intends to stay with printed books and will use on-line and e-publishing where it is advantageous to do so.

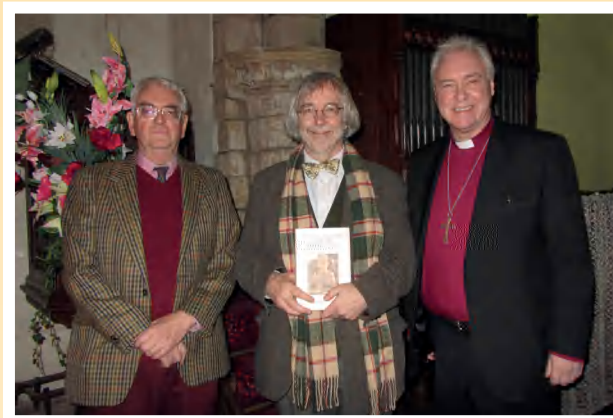
Ken Hollamby





BOOK LAUNCH

The launch of last year's Lincoln Record Society volume, volume 103, *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register, Part 1: The Deaneries of Aslaco and Aveland*, edited by Dr Nicholas Bennett, took place on Friday, 13 December 2013 in Glentworth parish church. This series of biographical registers of parish clergy will provide a valuable resource for historians of Lincolnshire and you won't have to wait too long until the second instalment. The festivities began with the official presentation of the LRS prize for the best dissertation at the University of Lincoln, which was presented to one of our members, Wendy Atkin. Nicholas then gave an engaging and entertaining lecture, highlighting some of the notable aspects of the lives of past clergy from the deanery. This was followed by a short talk by the Bishop of Lincoln, Rt Rev Christopher Lowson, and the official launch of the volume. LRS members were then pleased to retire from the chilly church into the village hall, where we were presented with a feast of sandwiches and



cakes, tea and coffee, organised by the parishioners of Glentworth. This year's volume, *The Correspondence of William Stukely and Maurice Johnson*, edited by Michael and Diana Honeybone, was launched on 25th September 2014 at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, and a review of this will follow in the next News Review.

Marianne Wilson



LINCOLN MAGNA CARTA CONFERENCE APRIL 2015

Plans are continuing for the Lincoln Record Society's international conference to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, of which the best copy is in Lincoln. This will be held at the University of Lincoln 7-9 April 2015.

Speakers on the main day of the conference will include academics from the University of East Anglia, King's College London, the University of Lincoln, The National Archives, the University of Christ Church, Canterbury, the University of Lorraine, the University of Glasgow and the University of Oxford. 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. The day will end with a formal conference meal in the cathedral chapter house.

The final day will provide delegates with the opportunity of a variety of visits, including a talk in Lincoln Cathedral Library, a walking tour of uphill Lincoln and the opportunity of a private viewing of the Magna Carta in the new display facilities before their official opening to the public

The conference will begin with a session for early career researchers (doctoral students, or postdoctoral researchers within five years of completion who are not in full time academic posts) on the Tuesday afternoon; a call for papers has gone out this August for proposals.

The conference will be open to members of the Society and the general public. A registration fee will be charged.

Philippa Hoskin



PROFESSOR SIR JAMES CLARKE HOLT, M.A., D.PHIL., HON. D.LITT., F.B.A., F.S.A

Professor Sir James Clarke Holt, a former president of the Lincoln Record Society, died on 9 April, two weeks short of his ninety-second birthday. His funeral was held in Cambridge on 25 April, and the Society was represented by current president Professor Michael Jones and Council member Dr David Crook. A memorial service for Sir James will be held at 3.30 pm in Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Saturday, 25 October 2014, followed by a reception at Fitzwilliam College. LRS members are invited to attend both the service and reception but if you would like to attend the reception, could you please notify the

Master's Secretary, Mrs Deborah Jordan: daj41@cam.ac.uk. After distinguished war service from 1942 to 1945, Sir James completed his degree at Oxford and then taught medieval English history successively at the universities of Nottingham, Reading and Cambridge until his retirement in 1988. He was President of the Royal Historical Society from 1981-5, and a Fellow of the British Academy from 1988. At Cambridge he also served as Master of Fitzwilliam College from 1981 to 1988.

David Crook





WARTIME LINCOLNSHIRE CONFERENCE 2014

The University of Lincoln hosted the LRS conference this year, on the theme of Wartime Lincolnshire, on Saturday 26th April 2014. There were three sessions of papers, the first was organised around views from Lincolnshire's Home Front, 1914-1918, the session after lunch concerned the preparation for and execution of military encounters in the First World War and the final session looked at military service over two world wars. The conference was well attended and included a presentation by Michael Credland, the author of *The First World War Memorials of Lincolnshire*, followed by the official launch of the book by Judy Theobald from BBC Lincolnshire. Many thanks to Julian Haseldine and Philippa Hoskin for organising another successful LRS conference!

ROBERT GROSSETESTE AS BISHOP OF LINCOLN: THE EPISCOPAL ROLLS 1235-1253

Philippa Hoskin

The first volume in the Kathleen Major series will be published in Spring 2015. Robert Grosseteste, teacher, scholar and pastor, remains one of the dominant figures of the medieval English church. The study of Grosseteste's career as a diocesan bishop has been hampered by the relative inaccessibility of the records of his episcopate, published in an unsatisfactory edition in 1911 and long out of print. This completely new edition of Grosseteste's episcopal rolls makes it possible to take a fresh look at how he tackled the vexed issues of clerical ignorance, pluralism and non-residence in the aftermath of the reforms of the Lateran Council of 1216. They are presented with an introductory study and elucidatory notes. Normally priced at £60, this volume will be available to LRS members at a special discounted price of £35 plus £3 P&P.



NOTES AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't forget that this year's **Lincoln Record Society AGM** will take place on **1 November 2014** at 2pm at Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln, in Teaching Room 1. Please come along and join your fellow LRS members for the meeting, which will include a lecture by Philippa Hoskin as a taster for the launch of the forthcoming Kathleen Major series, followed by tea and cakes.

The LRS prize for the best project on the level two module Themes in Regional & Local History, at the University of Lincoln, was awarded to Richard Stockton. His study was about St John's Church, Scunthorpe, and his prize was £100, plus three years membership of the LRS.

Ian Packer, University of Lincoln.

Lincoln Film Society and the LRS are planning to work together to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta next year with a programme of films from around the world that reflect the significance of the document. We aim to raise awareness of the fact that many people in different parts of the world still do not have access to the rights we take for granted in the UK. The films will reflect current, as well as historical events.

Richard Hill, Chairman of the Lincoln Film Society

The Dulcie Duke award was presented to second year student Tracey Jones at Bishop Grosseteste University. Tracey's essay was about the history of the Monk's Road area. Dr Nicholas Bennett made a presentation from the LRS of a cheque for £100 and three years free membership.

Ken Hollamby, Hon. Treasurer.

Next year there will be a unique opportunity to see some remarkable paintings, manuscripts and artefacts with a Lincolnshire connection, gathered from collections all over the country and further afield, available in Lincoln for a limited period. **Lincolnshire's Great Exhibition** will open from **26th June 2015 until 27th September** and the exhibition will take place across Lincoln Cathedral, The Collection and the Usher Art gallery. Keep your eye on the News Review and Facebook page for further information...

If you have an idea for an article for the News Review then please e-mail the editor, Marianne Wilson, at the following address: mariannelouisewilson85@gmail.com





COMPLETED RESEARCH

I finished my part-time PhD at the University of Nottingham early in 2013, graduating the following December. This article will reveal aspects of the study and my ongoing research into monasticism within Lincolnshire.



My thesis is titled “Withering on the Vine”: the connectivity between the people of Lincolnshire and their monastic houses: 1500-1540’. It is an examination into how the county’s religious houses interacted with the local population during this period, and equally how Lincolnshire parishioners regarded their monasteries.

Were they seen as centres of spirituality and learning or alternatively as economic entities, extracting tithes, rents and manor court fines?

The principal research documents were the testaments of over 4,000 Lincolnshire parishioners. This figure included the four LRS volumes of wills, those in the Lincolnshire Archives from various local ecclesiastical courts and finally over 200 from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) deposited at the National Archives. Together they reveal an extensive range of patronage issuing from the differing social strata within the county during this period of considerable economic and religious transformation. A geographical element was also uncovered. Data revealed the distance from testator to the respective monastery and the extent to which patronage was locally retained (generally within ten miles) but also within the same district: Lindsey, Kesteven etc.

The few surviving churchwarden’s accounts (notably Louth and Wigtoft), were also examined to understand everyday life within a parish environment, and connectivity with local religious houses. Finally, monastic and deanery visitation reports were scrutinised. These reveal the bishop’s attempts to retain spiritual and economic stability within close-knit monastic communities, as revelations of scandal, both fiscal and moral, could easily threaten income via testamentary patronage. The deanery visitations of 1519 disclose the lives

of the parish clergy and their flocks; both being presented with accusations of misdemeanour, both spiritual and moral. They also reveal monasteries neglecting their rectoral responsibilities to their tithe-paying parishioners.

Further research looked into testamentary benefaction distributed to the various sectors of the Church and charity. More comprehensive data from 1532-40, included religious houses but also donations to the parish church, Lincoln Cathedral, religious guilds, the poor and local infrastructure. These testaments reveal considerable fluctuations in patronage within these specific areas. Significantly, donations to the cathedral declined 40% from 1534 to 1539; a period which included the Lincolnshire Rising of 1536. This, coupled with a significant rise in the number of wills from 1530 onward reveal that Lincolnshire testators through legal documentation composed “in nomine Dei”, were safeguarding their wealth within increasingly troubled times, simultaneously securing their souls against changes in religious doctrine.

The conclusions of the research underline the traditional piety of Lincolnshire parishioners during this period. They repeatedly requested prayers to secure their souls in the afterlife; largely rejecting doctrinal edicts from the state-owned Church. The monasteries may have perished, but the parish church did not “Wither on the Vine”.

With the thesis complete, I am concentrating my efforts on a number of projects. Professor John Beckett has suggested I contribute a volume for the “History of Lincolnshire” series based on the thesis. Dr. Nicholas Bennett has also asked me to transcribe the Second Book of the Louth Churchwarden’s Accounts. Finally, in gratitude for the goodwill shown by Lincolnshire people during my undertaking, I have deposited photocopies of approximately 300 PCC wills at the Lincoln Cathedral Archive, and a copy of the 15th-century “Pinchbeck Fen Map” in the Lincolnshire Archives.

Dr. Brian Hodgkinson.

