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NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society

THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

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

"Medieval records may be likened to children of a former time who do not speak unless spoken to ...". I am grateful when working in the search room at LAO that Christopher Cheney's dictum is not taken too literally. But I know what he meant.

There are other sorts of records that do not reveal their secrets unless some totting up is done. When Nicholas Bennett's second volume of the Lincolnshire Parish Clergy drops through your door, you may be moved to wonder why the exchange of benefices seems to be concentrated in particular periods and whether those who exchanged were likely to stay a longer or shorter period than average in their new parish.

This sort of totting up can be done on the back of an envelope, grouped into fives by the traditional four strokes and a cross-bar. In contrast, anything involving accounts requires the summing of columns, which is best done these days using a spreadsheet. So engaging with records of this sort involves abstracting figures from them, typing them into a spreadsheet, and only then can one start the process of engagement. These preliminaries are tedious; not many readers are likely to bother. This is perhaps why the LRS has not published very many editions of accounts - other than the society's own annual accounts, of course.

One way of sparing the reader the tedious labour is to publish the figures in a spreadsheet in the first place. The reader can then start exploring ideas straight away. Or, more probably, he can read what the editor thought were the salient messages, and proceed to prove the editor wrong.

The Society is trying this new approach for an edition of the Fossdyke Toll Accounts, 1714-37. By delivering it electronically via the website, it is possible to provide it to members as a bonus, over and above the annual Main Series volume. The Council recognises that this will be little use to members who do not have internet access; but a straight reading of the text of these accounts is of little value, except perhaps as an alternative to counting sheep as a way of inducing slumber:

16th April, 10 tons of coal from the Trent;
- 17th, 8 tons of coal from the Trent;
- 21st, 2 tons of goods to the Trent;
- 24th, 12 tons of coal and cinders from the Trent

It sounds unutterably dull, until one starts pondering why it was worth importing cinders? For a running track at a hitherto unknown eighteenth-century sports field? Read the introduction to the accounts when they are put on the website to learn how answers to questions like that can be teased out.

What other records would benefit from being made available in this way? Keeping with the theme of tolls, turnpike roads come to mind. There is an astonishingly detailed set of accounts from the toll bar at Haddow (alias Odder) which lists for each day for a single year the numbers of vehicles of different categories, of horses with riders, and of livestock. More widely available are the annual sums for which different toll bars were let. So there is certainly material for turnpike roads which would benefit from being made accessible.

There are plenty of other subjects which could be illuminated in this way. Potential editors of datasets are invited to contact us with proposals.

This edition of the News Review boasts an insight into our latest publication, which has been recently launched, *Robert Grosseteste as Bishop of Lincoln: The episcopal rolls 1235-1253*, by the editor Philippa Hoskin. Marianne Wilson has been involved in Lincolnshire's Great Exhibition and shares her views on the exhibits with us. The England's Immigrants Database project 1330-1550 is explained by Alan Kissane, who has been exploring the distribution of aliens in Lincolnshire in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. I have provided a discussion about the practice of keeping scrapbooks in the Victorian period, with particular reference to members of the same Lincoln family. We have also included a feature on the Magna Carta barons which have appeared around Lincoln in celebration of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

Rob Wheeler

LINCOLNSHIRE'S GREAT EXHIBITION

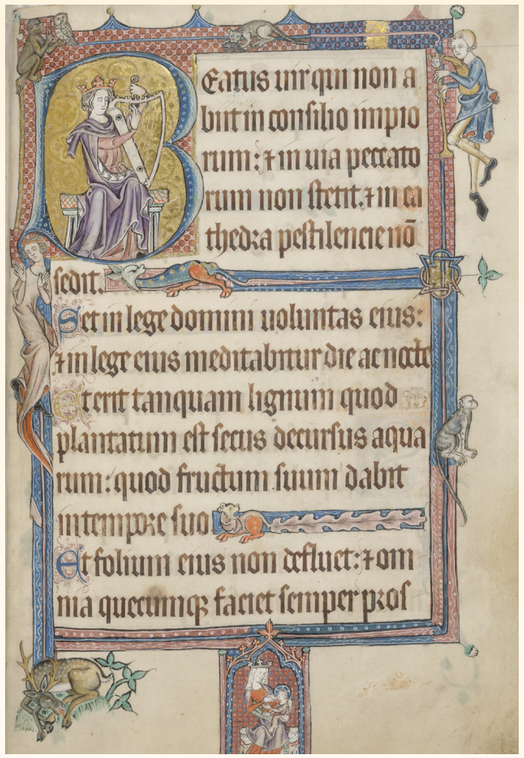
I have been fortunate enough to be part of the team involved in organising Lincolnshire's Great Exhibition

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see a collection of rare and unusual items, with Lincolnshire connections, at four different venues across Lincoln: The Collection, The Usher Gallery, Lincoln Cathedral's Wren and Medieval Libraries and Lincoln Castle.

Magna Carta's 800th anniversary year was the catalyst to Lincolnshire's Great Exhibition; as I'm sure you are all well aware by now, Lincoln is home to one of the country's four surviving copies of the 1215 Magna Carta. The Lincoln copy of Magna Carta is the most beautifully written and most accurate of the surviving four 1215 copies. It is the only copy that has its intended destination written on the document – on the reverse 'Lincolnia' is written twice. Magna Carta is a document of crucial importance; it established the tenets of the governmental structure and legal system, from which our current systems have developed. The Great Charter has been called upon numerous times in our own history, for example, by parliamentary opposition to King Charles I, by the founding fathers of the United States of America, and it still features in political debates today. This exhibition is the only place in the world where you can see a 1215 Magna Carta, alongside a 1217 Charter of the Forest and a definitive edition of the 1225 Magna Carta from the National Archives.

Several themes have been addressed throughout the exhibition and these range in time from the medieval period, when the county had a significant role in both the ecclesiastical and political history of Britain, to the modern era, in which Lincolnshire figures have played a part on the national and international stage. The exhibition celebrates a number of significant people who were born in the county, well-known figures such as Isaac Newton and Margaret Thatcher but also other historically important characters. Sir Geoffrey Luttrell (1276-1345), was lord of the manor of Irnham village, near Stamford, and he commissioned a book of psalms or a psalter, which has become legendary and is a true highlight of this exhibition. The Luttrell Psalter has been called 'arguably the most famous fourteenth-century illuminated manuscript'. With visually stunning illuminations, the images in the margins depict detailed scenes from daily life in a medieval village, alongside inventive mythical creatures. What is unique about the Luttrell Psalter is that it preserves the memory of ordinary people, as well as the wealthy. There is lavish spectacle depicted in the psalter, such as the image of Sir Geoffrey Luttrell mounted on his horse, in full armour, but this is contrasted with scenes of everyday life, such as a sower casting seed on his land.

In addition to this, we extended our remit to include in the exhibition the work of individuals who were not actually born in Lincolnshire, but who became closely associated with the county. Chief among these was George Stubbs, most famous for his paintings of horses, whose celebrated sketches of *The Anatomy of the Horse* were created in North Lincolnshire. Stubbs held the unfashionable view that observation of nature was the best way for artists to learn; he withdrew from his practice for two years to devote himself to the study of equine anatomy, at the small and remote hamlet of Horkstow. He probably leased a farmhouse in Horkstow from his friend Elizabeth Nelthorpe, and set up a dissecting room in an adjoining barn. Stubbs worked on the suspended cadavers of slowly putrefying horses to perfect his anatomical sketches for *The Anatomy of the Horse*. His research was governed by his own personal desire to understand what lay beneath the skin, what contours muscles might shape, and how subcutaneous veins might appear.



The Luttrell Psalter

We also celebrate the work of Peter DeWint, a master of watercolour, who so eloquently shows us the diversity of landscape that the county has to offer. In 1814, De Wint and his brother-in-law, William Hilton, bought a house in Lincoln, on the junction of Drury Lane and Union Road; the view from it was extensive and here De Wint studied effects and skies. He found the historic buildings of Lincoln ideal material for his paintings, and the Cathedral a constant source of inspiration. He was notable in his love of the Lincolnshire landscape, his wife Harriet writing that 'what a commonplace observer would consider flat and unmeaning was in his eyes highly picturesque. The long, extensive distances with their ever varying effects … the cornfields and hayfields … afforded him unceasing delight.'

The treasures of Lincolnshire bring together a variety of people and objects that span a wide chronological and geographical area. The key message to take away from this exhibition is that Lincolnshire has a lot to celebrate and the legacy of our past achievements lives on.

Marianne Wilson

LINCOLNSHIRE'S GREAT EXHIBITION

The Anatomy of the Horse, George Stubbs

ENGLAND'S IMMIGRANTS DATABASE PROJECT

Over the past year, it has been my pleasure to become actively involved with the England's Immigrants Database (http://www.englandsimmigrants.com/), a collaborative AHRC funded project between the University of York, The National Archives and the Humanities Research Institute, University of Sheffield. Organised under the excellent stewardship of Professor Mark Ormrod at York, this project has sought to provide the most comprehensive body of evidence for immigration into England during the later Middle Ages. Drawing upon two main sources, the alien subsidy returns (1440-87) and letters of denization (1330-1550), the England's Immigrants Database provides entries for thousands (64,773) of resident aliens (as immigrants were also known), all of whom dwelt in various towns and villages across England. Each entry contains various details for individuals, including their name, occupation, place of residence, nationality, marital and social status, and so on, though as is to be expected with many medieval documents, such details are not readily available for all. Used collectively or individually this evidence provides an unparalleled insight into the lives and experiences of aliens in medieval England.

At present, work by scholars associated with the project includes case studies on ethnic groups, including the French, Italians, Portuguese and Germans, as well as places, including the port towns of Bristol and Hull. This is expanded to much broader areas, including the counties of Yorkshire and Devon and also wider themes, such as intermarriage or Bohemian relations to the king's court, for example. This research is due to be published in a collected volume by Brepols in 2016, thus making the work more widely available. The volume will follow in the footsteps of the very successful database launch held at King's Manor in York in February, which drew an audience of over 100, including specialists and members of the public.

In terms of my own involvement in the project, I am currently working alongside Dr Jonathan Mackman, one of the project's lead researchers, to provide a detailed case study of Lincolnshire for the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. As well as outlining the distribution of aliens throughout the county and how this changed over this period, it is our intention to consider their role in judicial pleas. Put a different way, this questions the extent to which they were involved in crime, including cases of felony (rape, murder, assault), economic crimes (trespass, theft) and cases of misfortune (i,e, accidental death). Our initial findings have discovered over 220 aliens for the county, the majority of whom resided in the towns of Lincoln and Boston. These included natives of Brabant, Germany, Holland and Flanders above all others, though there was a considerable Welsh presence, especially in rural areas. There was an increase in the number of Scottish immigrants in the county in the fifteenth century, a curious shift from the earlier period, and one not yet easily explicable. Even so, there is much more to be said about these findings, not least to speak of their active involvement in a variety of crimes (as both victims and perpetrators), especially murder. In particular, there was considerable violence in Boston between immigrants of Germanic origin who sought to control trade in and out of the port. Theft, it seems, was more common in rural areas, perhaps providing easier cover for felons, a phenomenon identified in Norfolk, for example.

Such studies naturally enhance our current understanding of the later Middle Ages and, in terms of the work of Jonathan and myself, provide a clearer picture of previously unexplored aspects of Lincolnshire history and crime. This will hopefully pave the way for future studies on immigration in the county, all of which will shed light not only on medieval attitudes towards those not originally from these shores but also serve to make our own contemporary society reflect upon many of these same issues today.

Alan Kissane

LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY

PLEASURES AND PAINS OF SCRAPBOOKS

In the course of working on the Ellisons of Boultham and on the heirs of Natty Clayton the Industrialist, I have been surprised to find how widespread the practice was of keeping a scrap book.

These are not the easiest of sources to work with, but they often provide fascinating insights into the minds of their compilers, and they have often survived when other papers have been lost. The term 'scrap book' can cover quite a range of compilations: I want to contrast here four different volumes stretching over a period of eighty years, from the 1840s to the 1920s. I should start, though, by expressing my gratitude to the descendants of the compilers for granting me access to these.

The earliest of the volumes seems to have been started in 1843 by the poet Henry Ellison, the younger brother of Major Richard Ellison of Boultham. The spine declares it to be a 'Literary Scrap Book', and a dedication on the end-paper confirms that intention. In practice, a high proportion of the articles are political in nature, which makes this a useful source for tracing the changes in the compiler's political views since the publication ten years earlier of his first book.

Of course, there are problems here. Does the inclusion of an article - say, a Times leader - indicate that Ellison concurred with the views, or merely admired the language? Or was he pasting it in so that he could laugh at the author's foolishness? Fortunately, Ellison writes in his own titles, he underlines certain phrases, and he occasionally provides comments. Taken together, these make it clear that he approves the reasoning and not just the wording of the author. The comments themselves can be revealing: in Figure 1, he quotes from one of St Paul's Epistles to Timothy in the original Greek. It is not surprising that an Oxford graduate of this era should be able to go back to the Greek to resolve ambiguities of meaning, but to quote it when no such issues arose seems to imply a regularity of use that one would expect only of a serious biblical scholar.

Irritatingly - and this is true of all the volumes described - he rarely gives the date or the source of the cuttings. Using a search engine enables the modern reader to identify a proportion of them, and it turns out that Ellison tried to fill the book in a regular order, although short gaps at the ends of pages are liable to be filled later. So one can assign an approximate date to pieces, with a caveat for the short ones.

Henry Ellison may have inspired his nephew, Rev CC Ellison of Bracebridge, to start a scrapbook himself. The nephew is mentioned in the newspapers far more often than his uncle, either because of his chairmanship of the Poor Law Union, or of the Parish Vestry, or because of his hobbies - gardening and ornamental turning - which led to his entering competitions whose results were reported. In consequence, far more of the volume is explicitly about the compiler. Fortunately - because reports of horticultural shows can rapidly pall - there is still a smattering of political pieces included, presumably because CC Ellison agreed with the views expressed.

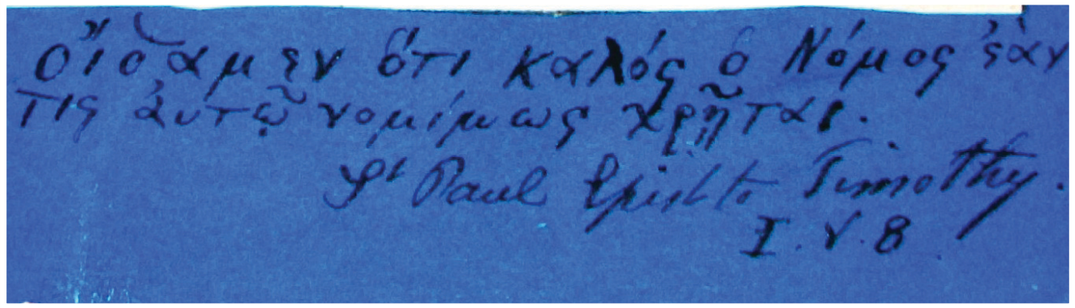
CC Ellison was a cousin of the industrialist Alfred Shuttleworth, whose nephew Robert Clayton Swan also kept a scrapbook. The newspaper cuttings in this volume are mostly about other people - apparently friends and acquaintances. There are also numerous documents pasted in: letters, race-cards, sale catalogues and the like. The great problem with the volume is that a chronological order is only approximately adhered to: one can find occasional items that are as much as a couple of years removed in time from their neighbours in the volume, and there is no apparent pattern to this. Furthermore, the sporting papers which supplied so many of the cuttings have mostly not been digitised, so searching for a sample of the text rarely produces an answer. Against that, many of the letters included were selected judiciously and are of immense value to the historian. There is a particular thrill in encountering a letter endorsed by the sender: 'Please see overleaf and destroy at once.'

At least one of Swan's daughters also kept a scrapbook, and here the scrapbook is starting to turn into a photograph album. There is still a significant proportion of cuttings, but they seem to be selected for the illustrations - especially of people - rather than the text. The album spans the First World War and all too many of the cuttings are about young men from County families who have become one of the increasing number of casualties. Hester Clayton Swan joined a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) at Blair Castle, which had become a military hospital, and numerous photographs cover this period of her life.

Photographs in albums pose their own set of problems. Does the photograph of a particular house imply that the compiler lived there, stayed there for a few days, or merely walked past with a camera? Hester's album answers this to some extent by using as a title in her album the address from the writing paper of the property in question. Occasionally she even includes an envelope addressed to herself at the property. But one longs for a written explanation, such as 'We stayed here from July to October 1917 while father's battalion was at Holt'.

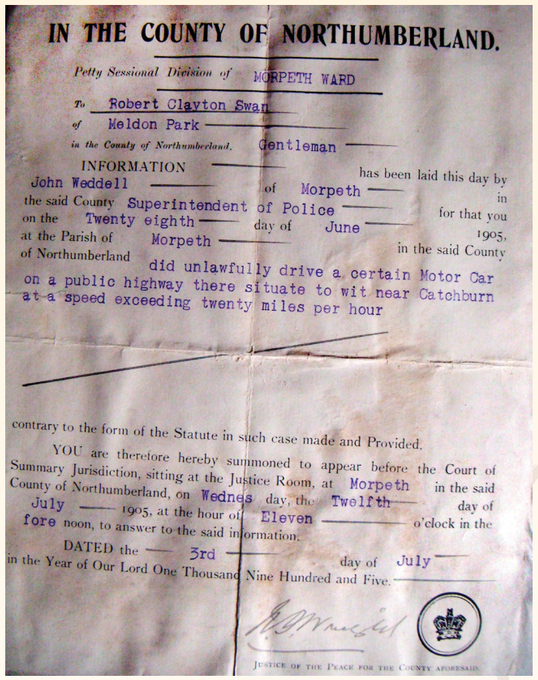
Do people still keep scrapbooks? I suppose the physical volume has now been replaced by the electronic one. Photographs now carry metadata - though one must take account of how this is affected by photo-editing programs. But the biggest problem is that the normal electronic folder makes no provision for the user to write in a caption, let alone a longer explanation. There are ways round this, but they are cumbersome, and few bother. The historian of the future - or even the compilers' grandchildren - will have vast numbers of photographs to look at, and not the faintest idea what they are about.

Rob Wheeler



Greek quote (I Tom 1 v8). The observant will note that the second word is omitted and there is a superfluous iota subscript.

A summons for speeding, 28 June 1905. Note the speed limit.



IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Petty Sessional Division of MORPETH WARD

To Robert Clayton Swan
of Weldon Park
in the County of Northumberland, Gentleman

INFORMATION has been laid this day by John Weddell of Morpeth in the said County Superintendent of Police for that you on the Twenty eighth day of June 1905, at the Parish of Morpeth in the said County of Northumberland did unlawfully drive a certain Motor Car on a public highway there situate to wit near Catchburn at a speed exceeding twenty miles per hour

contrary to the form of the Statute in such case made and Provided.

YOU are therefore hereby summoned to appear before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, sitting at the Justice Room, at Morpeth in the said County of Northumberland, on Wednes day, the Twelfth day of July 1905, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the fore noon, to answer to the said information.

DATED the 3rd day of July in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR THE COUNTY AFORESAID.

Robert Clayton Swan (at the tiller) and his cousin Natty Cockburn on the lake at Hartsholme, 1895.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Record Society

The 105th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held from 2pm on Saturday 24 October 2015 at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. All members are welcome. Please forward this notice to other interested parties.

Book launch for the forthcoming volume: Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214-1968: A Biographical Register. Part II, edited by Nicholas Bennett

This volume will be launched by Lady Willoughby at St Michael's and All Angels church, Edenham on Friday 4th March 2016 at 4pm, followed by the usual refreshments. All are welcome.

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

The eminent ecclestiastical historian Christopher Cheney said of medieval documents, that they are like the good children of long ago.

They only speak when they are spoken to, and they never talk to strangers. Certainly if we do not stop and ask the documents in front of us questions – What are you? Why and how were you created? What did the people who created you really use you for and what have you become since then? – we have no chance of really understanding what these records are trying to tell us. Too often though it is assumed that when a document looks standard, repetitive and as though it is part of routine administration we do not need to ask any of those questions at all because the document will have nothing important, or interesting, to tell us. Instead we can mine it for scraps of 'interesting' information and then pass on.

The eight administrative rolls – one from each archdeaconry – which make up Robert Grosseteste's episcopal register for the diocese of Lincoln have sometimes been allowed to fall into this category. They look, frankly, dull. Many of the entries tell us only who has been made rector or vicar of a particular church, who the patrons (those responsible for suggesting the next incumbent to the bishop) were and a few details of the income the new incumbent could expect. These entries are relieved by information about new heads of religious houses in the diocese and – on the dorse of the rolls – a more miscellaneous, but sparse, collection of documents about private chantries, settlements of disputes and the occasional indulgence. Even historians who are particularly interested in Grosseteste's work in his diocese have tended to leaf through these records just for particular entries; for example, a series of clergymen whose educational standards have disappointed the bishop and who have to prepare for examinations on particular subjects or risk losing their jobs, clergymen allowed or instructed to spend time at the universities, one of them at Paris, or two new rectors who know no English one of whom has to have an assistant appointed to work with him and one of whom is rejected out of hand. These are entries which can be fleshed out with the more 'interesting' records Grosseteste left directly related to pastoral care – his letters. In these circumstances, a new edition of Grosseteste's rolls could seem a project which is worthy rather than exciting or innovative: replacing an old, and erroneous, edition with something new and hopefully more accurate.

Making that assumption, however, would be a mistake. The rolls do have those individual, illuminating entries which add to Grosseteste's reputation as an educator and a bishop who rejected foreign incumbents for his diocese. They provide information for local, as well as administrative and ecclesiastical historians, about particular practice in the diocese. If, however, we stop and 'talk' to the rolls – thinking about their content, their size, their handwriting – we find that they are far more interesting in their entirety too and they give us an insight into Bishop Grosseteste himself. These rolls, supposedly the administrative records of the diocese, are not nice and orderly but hurried, confused and clearly often neglected. They have not only omitted entries (which we might expect in so large a diocese) but a number of entries are only partially completed. Their hands reveal that they were often put down, and only picked up again after several years rather than months. Clearly Grosseteste made no attempt to ensure that these records were regularly written and checked, even though the most common entries were an essential way of making sure each parish in the diocese had a resident clergyman to teach and preach, so leading men and women to the salvation, a process that Grosseteste thought was his main duty as bishop.

Why would this be so? The state of the rolls tells us about Grosseteste's own approach to his work. Yes, salvation was vital, and Grosseteste, as bishop, though he had the main responsibility for ensuring all his parishioners were saved: not doing so would make him as good as a murderer and damn him on the Day of Judgment. But the weight of this responsibility made Grosseteste eager to look not at a central administrative process, but at what he could do in person. So he introduces his famous personal visitations for example: checking the behaviour, education and qualifications of the clergy as well as the way of life of their parishioners in person. Grosseteste's rolls demonstrate the sense of urgency the bishop felt about his face to face work in the parishes and with his own clergy, and add to our sense of his own concern for preaching, teaching and hearing confession. When we ask them to speak to us about the way and time in which they were created they give us a new insight into a famous reformer, and his work in his diocese as bishop.

Philippa Hoskin

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

Kathleen Major series Booklaunch

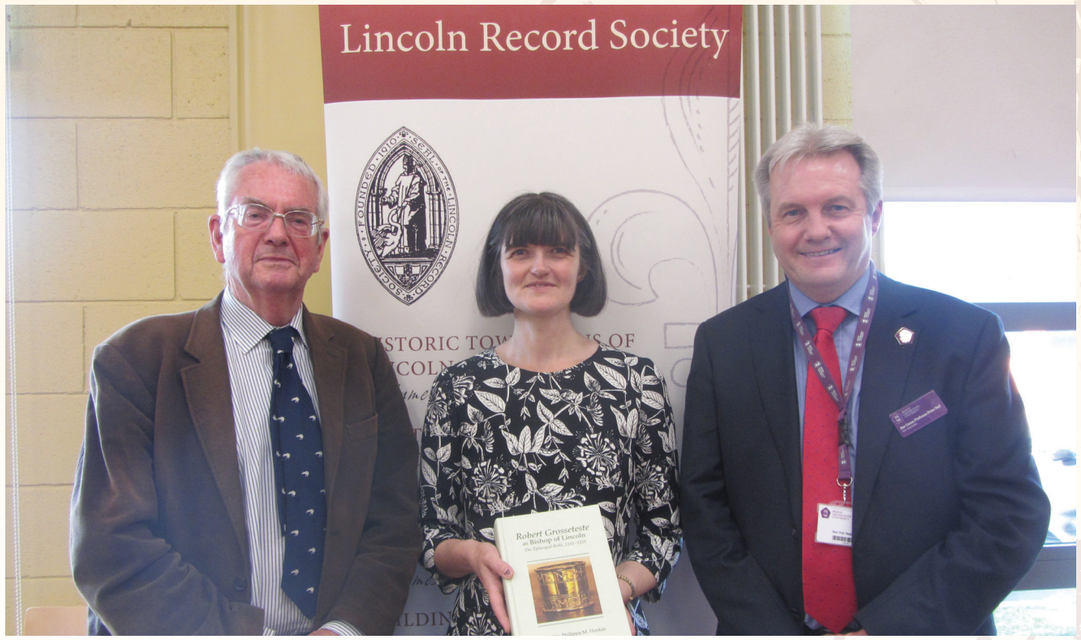
The first volume in the new Kathleen Major series, to celebrate one of our Society's generous benefactors, was launched with great fanfare on Friday 11th September at 4pm. This is a new series of publications devoted to medieval texts, which are available for Society members to buy at preferential rates, in addition to the main series volumes received as part of subscription to the Society. We were warmly welcomed into Bishop Grosseteste University and treated to a fascinating lecture outlining what we can learn from these episcopal rolls by Dr Hoskin. Reverend Canon Professor Peter Neil, Vice Chancellor of BGU, officially launched the volume and we were then able to finish off a delicious spread of tea, sandwiches and cakes – well almost!

Marianne Wilson

The audience are engrossed.

Dr. Philippa Hoskin in full flow.

Reverand Canon Professor Peter Neil, Vice Chancellor of BGU launches the volume.



The president of the Society, the editor of the volume and our host

LINCOLN'S MAGNA CARTA BARONS

This summer, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, 25 baron sculptures have been stationed around Lincoln

and people have been encouraged to follow the Barons' charter trail.

Each baron was created by a local artist and sponsored by a local business to reflect a different theme, as well as being named after one of the barons that were present at the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215. These barons have stimulated interest in Magna Carta around the city for young and old alike, and will be auctioned to raise money for The Trussell Trust on 1st October.

Text by Marianne Wilson.
Images by Ken Hollamby.