LINCOLNSHIRE PAST & PRESENT
No 30 Winter 1997/98

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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Winter issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 14 February 1998. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LJ. Tel 01522 521337. It will help the Editors if articles are sent typed, double spaced, and with a good margin. More detailed notes for contributors (please send SAE) are available from Jews’ Court.

Cover: Watson’s Court, between 35-36 High Street, St Botoiph’s, Lincoln
EDITORIAL

This was planned to be a festive number, but the untimely death of Christopher Sturman has tempered the contents. Although Christopher had withdrawn from the LPB2 team, and appointed Mark Bennet as his assistant on the journal, he was still involved at the time of his death. The deliberately short tribute included in this issue will be supplemented by a much more comprehensive account in the journal. It is not often that an obituary to a Lincolnshire man gains prominence in a national newspaper (see the Independent of 18 November 1997). The Society's President, and myself as your Chairman, are planning to publish the volume on William Brown that Christopher was working on at his death, as a memorial to his life. It will be a joint SLHA/Louth Society publication.

However, we have retained the cover, designed by John Ketteringham. May I here add my thanks to John for regularly constructing the Diary Dates from information I have collated; how do you like the Diary Dates that are included with this mailing? Once again we have managed to assemble a variety of articles: four of them in the form of synopses of short talks given at a Sunday Special earlier in the year. Members of our Society have been heavily involved in the organisation and delivery of two important conferences this autumn: the now widely respected annual Archaeology Day; and the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, that came to Lincolnshire for the first time in three years. Reports on both conferences have been commissioned and are included here. In marked contrast I have contributed an article, which I hope is not too long, on Lincoln's nineteenth century experiences as it expanded. Many members will be aware of the requirements of the National Curriculum within schools. With regards to history, Lincoln is much visited by school parties on visits to the castle and the cathedral. Jews' Court is the base for some of the children who are required to study the Romans. However, when it comes to experiencing the medieval times, the work being undertaken at Gainsborough Old Hall by Heather Cummins and her staff is worthy of a wider audience. The inclusion of the ode to computers in a Geoffrey Chaucer mode leads me on to the SLHA web-site. This is being worked on by Howard Davies, a final year degree student at the University of Lincolnshire. It was suggested to us by his tutor, Paul Reeve, and the University will foster our web site. Hopefully by Easter 1998, people around the world will be able to read about SLHA and our county.

Neville Birch (Joint Editor)
The Society has introduced a series of Sunday afternoon lectures at Jews' Court in Lincoln, aiming to provide an interesting and stimulating afternoon's entertainment. Four short lectures are given on different subjects from the Society's various areas of involvement: archaeology, local history and industrial archaeology. On Sunday 11 May the afternoon of lectures was organised by the Society's Archaeology Committee. The speakers were Maureen Birch, Honorary Secretary of the Society; Mary Lucas, tutor to the Lincoln group of the Nottingham University Advanced Certificate Course in Local History; Ian George, Archaeological Officer of the City of Lincoln; and Chris Lester, Chairman of the Industrial Archaeology Committee. It would be a shame if the contents of these four talks should reach only those who were able to attend on that Sunday. The talks were well received and they deserve to be shared with a wider audience. Therefore I asked each participant for a brief synopsis of the talk they gave on that day and I present these below.

The Sunday Specials of May 1997

Edited by Mark Bennet and Neville Birch

PLOWS

The plough can be described as being to the farmer what the spade is to the gardener; both turn over the soil. In contrast, Jethro Tull put ploughing on a par with writing when he said that they are two different talents, and he that writes must have spent time in his study that time which is necessary to be spent in the fields by him who will be master of cultivating them.

One of the earliest implements for preparing the soil was a wooden hoe invented by the Egyptians. Shaped like a capital 'A' it was little more than a digging stick. The earliest known farmers in Britain used a version of this hoe. The plough described by Samuel in the Old Testament consisted of a piece of tough wood bent at the foot and pointed; with a sheath or share of iron; and a short cross-piece forming the handle. Palladius mentions two types, one of which was 'eared' and used on low-lying, level ground. The Saxons used a large plough which required many oxen to pull it. Plough teams made up from animals supplied by several tenants were a common sight during medieval times; the Luttrell Psalter illustrates a swing plough being hauled by oxen. Lincolnshire has contributed to the development of plough design; the eighteenth century 'Lincolnshire Plough' with its twisted mould board was the best. Major contributions during the nineteenth century were John Cooke of Lincoln, with his Lindum Plough, and Richard Hornsby and his chilled double furrow digging plough.

By Maureen Birch

When steam ploughing became a possibility Henry Handley of Culverthorpe Hall, offered in 1829 a prize for the best steam plough, whilst Lord Willoughby d'Eresby encouraged the development of steam ploughing sets. Later, when the internal combustion engine was developing, Marshall's of Gainsborough was to become famous for its plough pulling tractor as the Field Marshall. Despite the advent of steam and diesel tractors, it is horses that are still the favourite drawing power at ploughing matches throughout Lincolnshire.
SURVEYING UNGLAMOROUS WIGFORD - A Student Project

Mary Lucas

The impetus for this project was the establishment of a committee to carry out a complete survey of Lincoln, on completion of The Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln, sponsored by the Lincoln Civic Trust. Starting with the area of Wigford, and within Wigford, the southern part of the parish of St Swithin. It was part of this area that the class of the Nottingham University advanced certificate course in local history undertook to survey as a group research workshop for one term in 1996, producing a body of information which would form a useful part of the whole survey.

The area bounded by the Witham, Melville Street, Sinclair Street and Norman Street is an unglamorous part of the city, lacking the high-profile ancient buildings, such as St Mary’s Guildhall and very early churches that exist further south in Wigford. In fact scant pre-1960 property exists in this block, following an unusually large amount of twentieth century demolition, mainly for slum clearance and redevelopment. Consequently there is limited visual evidence of the history of the site, so documentary research is crucial in recreating its past.

The basis of research was the extant deed bundles, furnished by Mr Chris Johnson, containing over four hundred deeds, many of which contained a great deal of information. Initially most of the time was spent as a group in the archives office, listing, reading and recording all the relevant deed details. The thirteen students then continued individually, collating results and delving into other sources to flesh out the property pattern. Wills, dating back in some cases to the seventeenth century, and census returns, facilitated the reconstruction of families owning the properties. Inventories were useful in bringing to life how the houses were furnished and the owners lived. Maps dating from 1722 to the present were matched with property descriptions. Directories, tax returns, apprenticeships lists and other documents were studied. Finally to complete the picture, the whole area was photographed, and all earlier pictures were recorded. A privately owned 1970 film of the area was unearthed and put onto a video tape, and a parallel video was made to record the changes which had occurred in the intervening years.

An extremely detailed study was finally produced in the form of two well-indexed, large files of information arranged by location, and a database of all people and properties, a copy of which was deposited in the archive office and is available to interested bodies wishing to pursue further research. Apart from its intrinsic value, this study also serves as an example of what can be achieved by an amateur group, with guidance, meeting only once a week for one term, who have some knowledge of research techniques and boundless enthusiasm.

An Introduction to the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database

Abstract of the talk given by Ian K. George

Lincoln is one of the historic gems of this country with a wealth of rich archaeological deposits beneath its streets. There are presently a large number of initiatives taking place that will ensure that its heritage is better managed in the future. The management of Lincoln’s archaeological heritage is changing in response to the national initiative on urban archaeology. The planning system is one of the main ways in which our archaeological heritage is protected and managed today. In particular through the use of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) that was produced in 1990. Thus any planning application made in Lincolnshire today is seen by an archaeologist and the possible effects on the archaeological heritage considered.

To aid in the planning process within urban areas, English Heritage has established a national urban archaeology project. Lincoln City Council has
commissioned the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CIAU) to provide an Urban Archaeology Database. This project will produce a series of linked databases and computerised maps of the archaeological events and historic monuments in the city. For the first time an attempt will be made to map the historic land surface across the city for five different time periods, ie a deposit model. The City Council will use this as the basis for the production of a policy framework for the management and promotion of the city's heritage. An assessment of the city's archaeology will be made and a strategy drawn up for its management. This will take place within a national framework of management and research and will help to secure a future for Lincoln's archaeological heritage.

THE CHAIN HOME RADAR STATION AT RAF STENIGOT

By Christopher J. Lester

Radars are one of the great technological advances of the twentieth century. Although it was primarily a military development its peacetime applications are numerous and it impacts all our lives in one way or another. The Chain Home radar system was the world's first operational air defence radar system and from it evolved many of the radar technologies and systems concepts which are known today. These considerations led the Industrial Archaeology Committee to become involved in recording the radar site at RAF Stenigot, Dennington-on-Bain.

Chain Home was developed during the 1930s by a team led by Robert (later Sir Robert) Watson-Watt. Following successful trials, five stations were built to protect the Thames Estuary. This was followed rapidly in 1937-38 by the building of a further fifteen stations, including Stenigot, in a chain extending from the Isle of Wight round the east coast to the Shetland Islands. The system was capable of detecting a bomber aircraft flying at 35,000 feet (10700 metres) at a range of 180 miles (290 kilometres) and directing fighter aircraft to intercept it. One of four transmitter towers survives and is recognised as a building of special architectural or historical interest. As such it is a listed building. It comprises a steel lattice tower 360 feet (110 metres) high and it is the most complete mast to survive in its original location. The concrete bases of the other towers survive. Nearby is the transmitter building, also listed. It is of brick construction surrounded by a concrete and earth blast wall and capped with a reinforced concrete roof, enclosed by a retaining wall holding flint shingle to disperse blast.

The receiver building (listed) is located 1,000 yards (900 metres) to the north and is of similar construction. Here, skilled operators interpreted the received signals and passed them to an electro-mechanical computer to translate the readings into usable plots. Both receiver and transmitter buildings are in excellent condition. The site was unusual in that many of the ancillary buildings and structures were still present at the time of the survey, although most of them were demolished in April 1997. They included the water tower and standby set-house. The latter was constructed like the main equipment blocks and originally housed a Marles Blackstone diesel generator set. There was also an underground armoury, petrol store, pillbox and a Gee Hut; Gee being a navigational aid. The Buried Reserve, a replica system underground for use after surface bomb damage, was not excavated but its position was located by aerial photography. A semi-detached pair of brick houses, characteristic of most Chain Home sites, is still present. The station typically employed about 120 people. They lived at the 'B-site' camp approximately 1,000 yards (900 metres) to the east. Only the gates and the water tower remain here. Chain Home stations were built to a standard design and in this respect Stenigot was a 'textbook' example. Had it survived, it would have formed a fitting tribute to the ingenuity of its designers and the skill of its operators.
FACES AND PLACES


Since the end of his old life and the beginning of public notoriety Glanville had been forced to change his address three times, finally settling in a small Lincolnshire farming community situated between Woodhall Spa and Tattershall, part of that flat countryside adjacent to the Wash which, during the war, had been peppered with air bases. He had purchased a cottage with a view over the fens towards the red Norman tower of Tattershall Castle, taking up residence under the assumed name of Plimpton, a disguise that was soon penetrated by the locals. There he lived a solitary existence, visited by few of his old friends. The cottage was isolated from the nearest village, having once been attached to a now-derelict pumping station. The freehold included an acre of black fen soil crisscrossed by dikes.

There was an unseasonal sprinkling of frost on the ground the morning Hillsden arrived, making the dark ploughed fields around the cottage glisten like open-cast coal mines. A small wooden bridge straddled the dike separating Glanville's land from the road.

Can members suggest the location of Glanville's cottage? Neville Bich.

FLAX AND PEPPERMINT. I was interested to see the brief item on the growing of flax and peppermint in Lincolnshire. The Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica has a description of the processes of growing and distilling peppermint in Lincolnshire. I have my own question about flax. My aunt, when she married over fifty years ago, was given a supply of linen sheets by her mother. These in turn were some of the, still unused, sheets my grandmother had been given on her wedding, in 1902, by either her parents or grandparents. They are said to have been woven by my great-great-grandfather, John Toule, of Langham Hall near Newark. Forgive me for straying over the border into Nottinghamshire, but this is in the area where Lincs and Notts are intermingled, and the family connections straddle both. I have often wondered whether linen weaving was a local industry that John Toule was engaged in, or if this was an example of self-sufficiency writ large. The family tradition is that woven by means just that, and that the Toules ran a very self-sufficient household. But it seems odd for someone well off enough to live in a hall to be engaged in a manual trade. Was there a linen industry in the Trent valley in the last century; if so was it based on local flax growing? The sheets, by the way, are still going strong. I slept on one, signed and dated 1867, the last time I went to stay, earlier this year. Chris Peadley.

HARRY BURTON OF STAMFORD. In SLHA Newsletter No 56 (April 1988) page 6, an item appeared with the following heading: Harry Burton of Stamford - Lincolnshire's Link with Tutenhamun. Apparently Harry Burton was an archaeological photographer, and a Miss Marsha Hill of the Department of Egyptian Art, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, had written to the Society requesting information about him. Miss Hill had promised to send a copy of the article which she was writing and details were to be published in a future Newsletter. I haven't been able to trace the article and would be grateful if any member can help. Indeed I would appreciate any information about Burton. John Kettridge.

WORKING IN LINCOLN. I am collecting information about the work of my great-great-grandfather, Henry Teague. He spent most of his working life in Lincoln, much of it with the City Water Works (c1847-1897). I have found a number of papers he published on steam engines and related topics but I can find very little specifically on his work for Lincoln. I would be very pleased if any reader could direct me to anything on this important work and I would of course be happy to contribute copies of what I have if you wish. D. J. Willington.

SPRING HEELED JACK. Does anyone know a story I have heard about an agile Lincoln criminal (c1900) who would give the police the slip by jumping over high walls? Was there really such a character, and if so, who was he? Ros Beevers
OBITUARY
Christopher John Sturman 1950 - 1997

It will come as a shock to members to learn of the untimely death on 5 November of Christopher Sturman, Lincolnshire scholar and historian of distinction, who was editor of the Society's journal. Aged only 47, he lost a brave fight against cancer.

Although he taught out of the county, in East Anglia, he was a regular visitor to Louth and Lincoln pursuing his researches. He became reviews editor in 1985, taking over as journal editor three years later and regularly contributing papers himself. He was also instrumental in establishing this quarterly publication in 1990. He was joint author of 300 Years of Schooling in North Somercotes (1990) and of Poems by Two Brothers (1993), and he edited the Society's publications, Some Historians of Lincolnshire (1992), and the Terence Leach memorial volume, Lincolnshire People and Places (1996).

Christopher was educated at King Edward VI School, Louth and at Christ's College, Cambridge, going on to Queen Mary College, London to do further research on the history of the Lincolnshire Marsh round North Somercotes, the landscape he loved best. His academic interest ranged across Tennyson and minor Lincolnshire verse, the regional novel and biographical research on seldom-regarded Lincolnshire 'worthies'. He has been described as a polymath of the old-fashioned kind rather than a blinkered specialist.

An important work on William Brown's Panorama of Louth was in preparation when he died, and this will now be planned as a memorial volume.

A full obituary will appear in the next issue of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

David Robinson
Learning can be Fun

Writes Heather Cummins Curator and Manager Gainsborough Old Hall

The best school trip we've ever been on

So was the comment from one of our recent young visitors to Gainsborough Old Hall. Education is a key word here. Our special service to schools has developed over the last ten years. Today we welcome more than 10,000 school children to the Hall every year and our bookings diary is virtually full through to July 1998!

We owe our popularity with schools to one man - Henry VIII. He visited the Hall in 1541 and stayed for four days. Henry has always figured large in the teaching of history with his outsized personality and personage. However, since the introduction of the National Curriculum he has become even more important as 'Life in Tudor Times' is now one of the set topics for Key Stage 2 children (ie seven to eleven years). 'Fun' is not the word which automatically springs to mind when talking about education. However, it has been scientifically proven that we learn best by doing. Consequently hands-on activities and role-play figure very prominently in our schools programme. We are also more inclined to accept information if it is delivered in an entertaining and interesting way. Schoolchildren arriving at the Old Hall are encouraged to get into role immediately by taking part in a re-enactment of a feast such as would have been held to celebrate Henry's visit. All the children are given characters to play including Henry and his wife Katherine Howard, Lord Thomas Burgh and his wife Lady Agnes, the Lord Steward, the panter, ewerers, servers, acrobats, minstrels and guests. Costumes are provided, which not only help to get into role, but provide an extra layer in an unheated Old Hall.

The feast provides the opportunity to teach the children about the strict codes of etiquette which were used in Tudor times and to help dispel the popular image of rude and ribald revelries. The feast concluded, action moves to the medieval kitchen. Our kitchen is said to be one of the finest examples of its type in the country. Certainly it has changed very little from when the Hall was first built. The children are given a couple of minutes to explore themselves before taking part in a picture quiz. Examples of modern kitchen appliances are chosen, the children then seek the historic equivalent. The vacuum cleaner becomes a broom whilst the sink equates to the wooden buckets full of water. This idea of comparing and contrasting modern and historic times is very much part of the National Curriculum and provides the ideal opportunity to emphasise important facts such as there was no electricity, gas or running water five hundred years ago. The children then set about turning back the clock. A Clerk of the Kitchen is chosen, whose job it is to keep good order. Each child is then given a task to do. Tasks include baking bread, making puddings, churning the butter and turning the spit. As each job is allocated it is explained in detail. The children then freeze until 'Action!' is called. Suddenly there is movement and noise, bustle and chatter and the whole place comes alive. Although a seasoned veteran of school party visits this is always my favourite part and still never fails to impress upon me the benefits of teaching history through action.

Moving upstairs to the solar, the children are encouraged to find clues about whose room this may have been and to think about the equivalent room in their home. In essence this is the Lord of the Manor's private apartment. Although it has a bed in it, it was used more like a bed-sitting room of today, with tables, a chair and a settle. A scenario is constructed. The Lord and Lady are on their way back from London. Their luggage has arrived before them and it is our job to get the room ready for them. First the bed is made, taking the three mattresses out of the travelling trunk - the first of straw, the second of wool, and the final one of feathers. Next the contents of the Lord's chest are taken out and passed around. All these items are authentic replicas so the children are free to handle them without fear of causing damage or breakages. These items include pewter tableware, writing
equipment, combs, and purses containing coins, eating knives, spoons and other examples of personal ephemera. This exercise gives lots of opportunity for talk and discussion. The handling of these objects adds greatly to the children's experience.

Returning to the Great Hall, the children's attention is turned towards the building itself. How was it constructed? What is it made of? This sets the scene for the last part of the session during which the children undertake a variety of activities associated with different building techniques. These include wattle and daub and lath and plaster wall models, replica floor tiles with decorative stamps and Plastiscine for making their own designs and a roof construction model. This is an entirely new session, introduced in September, which has been enthusiastically received by teachers and children alike. By this time there are usually more than a few rumbling tummies so the children take a well-earned lunch break. The Old Hall staff leave them at this point, as the afternoon session is left free for the teachers to organise as they wish. All our pre-booked parties will have already received one of our teachers' packs. This contains quiz sheets which can be copied. Alternatively some teachers prefer to make work-sheets of their own. There are also opportunities to spend time drawing and sketching, both inside the building and in the grounds (weather permitting). There is also our shop - a must for all visiting schoolchildren!

And so for the future. Although we are fortunate in having a well-established and popular programme this does not mean that we are complacent and content to rest on our laurels. Gainsborough Old Hall is such a wonderful building; it offers endless opportunities for learning experiences, not just for history, but for art, science, mathematics, and technology and design too. Also it is not only schoolchildren who can have fun learning, there are lots of other people as well. We are full of ideas and look forward to the future, feeling very positive and confident that this five hundred-year-old manor house still has much to offer and will continue to bring enjoyment, knowledge and fun to a great many people.

Children watch a demonstration before having a go themselves
In these days of frenzied appeals for scrap and waste paper, the following story sent by a member from Gainsborough, contains a moral for all of us. It concerns the 'Boke of St Albans', a curious production printed at St Albans in 1536, and one of the few books known to have come from the press in that town. The story of the Granville copy now in the British Museum as told by our contributor runs as follows:

In June 1844, a pedlar called at a cottage in Blyton and asked an old widow named Naylor whether she had any rags to sell. She said not but offered him some old paper and took from a shelf the 'Boke of St Albans' and others weighing 9lbs. For these she received 9d. The pedlar carried them through Gainsborough tied up in string past a chemist's shop, who being used to buying old papers to wrap his drugs in, called the man in, and struck by the appearance of the 'Boke of St Albans' gave him 3/- for the lot. Not being able to read the colophon he took it to an equally ignorant stationer, and offered it to him for a guinea, at which price he declined it but proposed that it should be exposed in his window as a means of obtaining some information about it. It was accordingly placed there with this label, 'Very Old Curious Work'.

A collector of books went in and offered 2/6 for it, which invited the suspicion of the vendor. Soon after Mr Bird, Vicar of Gainsborough went in and asked the price, wishing to possess a very early specimen but not knowing the great value of the book. While he was examining it, Stark, a very intelligent book-seller came in, to whom at once Mr Bird ceded the right pre-emption. Stark betrayed such visible anxiety that the vendor Smith declined settling a price. Soon after Sir C. Anderson of Lea came in and took the book to collate, but took it back in the morning having found it imperfect in the middle, and offered £5 for it. Sir Charles had no book of reference to guide him to its value, but in the meantime Stark had employed a friend to obtain for him the refusal of it, and had undertaken to give a little more than the sum Sir Charles might offer. On finding that at least £5 could be got for it, Smith went to the chemist and gave him two guineas, and then sold it to Stark's agent for seven guineas. Stark took it to London, and sold it to the Rt Hon T. Grenville for seventy guineas.

I have now to state how it came that a book without covers of such extreme age was preserved. About 50 years since, the Library of Thonock Hall in the parish of Gainsborough, the seat of the Hickman Bacon family underwent great repairs, the books being sorted over by a most ignorant person, whose selection appears to have been determined by the coat. All books without covers were thrown into a great heap and condemned to all the purposes which Leland laments in the sack of the libraries by the visitors. But they found favour in the eyes of a literate gardener who begged leave to take what he liked home. He selected a large quantity of sermons before the House of Commons, local pamphlets, tracts from 1680-1710, Opera books etc. He made a list of them which I afterwards found in the College containing No 43 'Cotanources'. The old fellow was something of a herald and drew from his books what he held to be his Coat.

After his death, all that could be stuffed into a large chest were put away in a garret, but a few favourites and the 'Boke' among them remained on the shelves in the kitchen for years till his widow grew so 'stalled' of dusting them that she determined to sell them. Had she been in poverty I should have urged on Stark, the duty of giving her a small sum out of his fat gains.

The above was copied from very old pencil notes, most difficult to decipher, hence there may be some inaccuracies.
Neville Birch looks at Lincoln's Nineteenth Century Working Class Housing

During the nineteenth century the provision and improvement of housing for the labouring classes was always subject to economics and whim, that is until the advent of mandatory legislation. The construction of such houses was not normally a remunerative investment: the expected eight per cent happened rarely. It is worth noting that mud and stud cottages were still being built at this time in rural Lincolnshire because they were cheap, and warm as no air got through, yet in towns it was felt important to ensure that there was ventilation; even if it got blocked up by occupants!

In *The Victorian City* (1973), Olsen points out, 'Given the level of wages ... for both the very poor and the industrious artisan in Victorian England, their chief requirements as to housing was that it be cheap and that it be densely enough built so that everyone could live within walking distance of his work.' Often it would appear that the housing of the poor was deliberately hidden behind new substantial villas. But the lower the income group to be housed, the cheaper the buildings in terms of quality and quantity of materials, of workmanship, of fittings, and of amenities. Perhaps shoddy or nasty but it could be built to an honest price for the job that was done. For the first forty years of the century there was no regulatory control of such building, or of its location in a town. Public or philanthropic efforts could do little more than advertise the problems: but they did try! During the 1840s there arose bodies such as the Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes, and several landowners built artisan model dwellings for their labourers, which accommodated a minority of families in cottages of more generous dimensions. The Earl of Yarborough's villages, and those at Belton, South Rauceby, and South Kyme, spring to mind. Even the Great Exhibition of 1851 had such housing on display, some of it designed by Prince Albert. In Lincoln there is the Swanpool Estate built earlier this (twentieth) century.

So it was that Parliament began to legislate, to enable local authorities to tackle the problems. According to Edward Dewsnup there were twenty-eight major Public Housing and Health Acts between 1851 and 1905. Their clauses were largely permissive and depended on the initiatives and resources of local sanitary authorities and councils for implementation and enforcement. Such local authorities were more responsive to health legislation than to that dealing purely with housing. However, they were sometimes combined, as in the standards that came to be imposed upon builders of new constructions: here, overcrowding was defined as more than two persons per room.

The history of building regulation is one of the regulators never quite catching up with the builders,
but there was piecemeal enlarging of statutory codes so as to reduce risks of fire and to health. The machinery for approving street plans and drainage levels took time to evolve. It required incorruptible officers to administer it. Only in the last decade of the century was adequate control possible. The city of Lincoln was like an open parish writ large. In 1844 fifty houses were built for the poor coming in from inhospitable country areas. The 1851 census lists 379 male farmworkers living in the city, in parishes adjacent to the countryside where they worked. During 1831-71 Lincoln's population increased 150% whilst the county's was only a third up. During 1831-1901 Lincoln grew some 400%, the county increased by two-thirds. Tables 1 and 2 indicate that most of the incomers to Lincoln were young on arrival, and they then had families after settlement in the city.

This influx of people required housing, and it was achieved by filling in the gaps along the existing streets, then building behind the street frontage, in yards or upon large gardens. Many of the High Street properties had gardens stretching back to the River Witham or the Small Dyke. Here a passage or archway would lead to a plot of land on which as many houses as possible would be built. These usually small, poor dwellings would be terraced in rows, facing each other or arranged back-to-back.

At the beginning of the century the ancient suburb of Newport in north Lincoln was almost bereft of houses, but from the mid-century there was much building along the road with courts behind. The number of houses in St Nicholas' Parish, including the Newport area, rose from 235 to 1,300 between 1841 and 1901. In the same period the parish population rose from 1,053 to 5,767. (See Fig 1)

Table 1 People of 20 years or over in age

<table>
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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>born outside Lincolnshire</td>
<td>2811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born within Lincolnshire, but not in Lincoln</td>
<td>3968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born in Lincoln</td>
<td>3022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9801</td>
</tr>
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Table 2 People under the age of 20 years

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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>born outside Lincolnshire</td>
<td>1118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born within Lincolnshire, but not in Lincoln</td>
<td>1470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born in Lincoln</td>
<td>5147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig 1 Mid-century Housing Development in the Newport Area, Lincoln
Having filled in the gaps, where could further housing be built? Two undertakings occurred that provided both land and new access. First, the previously wet land to the east of the High Street became available when it was drained by the River Witham commissioners who improved the Sincil Dyke. Secondly, a new road, a turnpike, was constructed between Broadgate and Canwick Hill. Between the turnpike and the High Street, new streets were laid out, and blocks of housing erected, by such entrepreneurs as the Rev Francis Swan on his now more valuable land. However, it took time as the *Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury* (23 May 1851) ironically reported:

The new roads from the South Common Road to the High Street are not yet completed, though many months have elapsed since they were commenced. Of course, the matter being a private speculation, the party has a right to procrastinate to the heart's content of delay; but delay reduces the chances of rendering the proposed accommodation to the public a profitable speculation by inducing parties to purchase and build, for capital is erecting itself in the brick and mortar form in other directions. Perhaps it is needless to say that some of it might have been fixed here, had the roads been complete and the land in the market.

Further land became available from the secularised Black Monks' and Saint Catherine's estates, and from released Dean and Chapter land. In 1857 land owned by the recently deceased brewer Thomas Winn was offered for sale in 250 lots. All of this enabled land both to the north and south of Monks Road, and at the south end of the High Street to be made available for housing. The Lincoln Dispensary Report of 1856 insisted that much had been done to improve the condition of the humbler classes, though much remained to be done. There were more dwellings, and they were by then seldom occupied by more than one family, as they had been fifteen or twenty years before, but:

First, they are much too small for the large families of many of the occupiers, if they are to enjoy health, decency and comfort, in many cases there being only one sleeping room for a family consisting of two parents and six to eight children; secondly, all proper means for ventilation seem to be neglected, and thirdly, the solitary privy appropriated to several cottages (with perhaps an open cesspool or ashpit) is permitted to remain uncleansed for months or even years, exhaling constantly a noxious effluvium, and polluting still further the confined atmosphere of the dwellings ... Surprising is it that habitations are allowed to be built in this corporate city without provision being required by the authorities to carry away the dirt and filth which necessarily collect around any habitation. In too many instances the surface water ever is unable to make its escape, and therefore collects close to the cottage ... and sends forth the seeds of disease?

On 30 October 1857 the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* provided another snapshot of conditions by reporting the scathing comments of the Lincoln coroner, Mr Hitchens:

In Lincoln we have a corporation, and typhus fever; a Board of Lighting, Paving, and Cleansing, and scarlet fever; a Sanitary board, and diarrhoea; all more prevalent than has been known for years. We also have a Water Company, and streets stinking in our nostrils for want of flushing the channels.

Although beset by stalling tactics on behalf of property owners, Lincoln corporation, on 30 January 1866, resolved to adopt the Local Government Act 1858 as amended in 1861. The corporation became a local board, and their bylaws being made, were confirmed by the Local Government Supplementary Act of 1866, and adopted. No longer were the parishes left to operate on their own. A Medical Officer of Health, Dr Harrison, was appointed but there was no increase in the rates. Highways were to be uniformly repaired and new street layouts controlled. Scavenging and the emptying of privies was to be done at the public expense. All properties were to be subject to rates, and assessments across parishes standardised. Further, under the terms of the Public Health Acts of 1872 and 1875 the municipal corporation also became an urban sanitary authority. This body was required to levy a general district rate, which replaced the local board rate, and the older lighting and paving rate. There were people on the city council who were keen to improve the living conditions of the poor. Stanley Udale, a merchant tailor, served between 1889 and 1899, and during 1895 Udale completed a very thorough survey of the worst housing in the city.
His report, *The Slums of Lincoln: a Painful Record*, presented in July of that year, embraced some 290 dwellings, located in forty-six properties, all of which he felt should be condemned. Unfortunately I was unable to read the actual report and had to fall back on a later newspaper article by Sir Francis Hill, *Lights of Lincoln by X Ray* in the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* of 22 January 1944. Apparently, Udale’s survey included several courts in St Peter-at-Gowts and in St Marks; a large number off Waterside, both north and south sides; off Sincil Street; and in the Drapery area. Hill wrote, ‘The particulars that are before me showed dark dwellings, damp rooms, conveniences close to the pantry, and in some cases, pigsties and manure heaps close to the house door.’ He goes on to draw out telling phrases: ‘very low and disreputable lot; very old and out of condition; past mending; houses overcrowded; back to back; and a harbour not a home.’ Apparently Councillor Udale persuaded the city council to adopt part of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890. He also proposed that the city build fifty houses in New Boultham, just outside the city boundary.

There were to be two house types. Type 1 would have two living rooms, back kitchen and three bedrooms. It could be built for £162 and let at 3s/6d per week. Type 2 would have a living room, bedroom and kitchen, a separate yard and conveniences, and be built for £120.

The Public Health Board, under the terms of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890, was asked to sanction a loan of £6,500 for this purpose, but refused, arguing that the gist of the Act was to buy houses, pull them down, and build anew on the same site. But the council argued that if slum properties were purchased there would be heavy compensation; if they built new houses elsewhere the slums would soon be emptied! Without the loan the scheme could not be implemented; so it remained a choice between ‘rabbit Warrens’ and improved houses at rents beyond the tenants’ means. Sir Francis Hill in his *Victorian Lincoln* is worth reading on this matter. He reports the City Surveyor as stating that ‘out of 10,000 houses in the city, only thirty-four at rents from 4/6 to 6/6 were empty, ten of them delapidated.’ The need for the proposed housing was obvious. Fig 2 shows the rapid expansion of both Lincoln and Grimsby during the nineteenth century. Lincoln’s population rose from 7,205 in 1801 to 48,784 in 1901. (See Fig 4).

Whilst it was unfortunate that no reports on Lincoln for the earlier part of the century have been discovered, a run of annual reports by the Medical Officer of Health covering the years 1893 to 1908 have been procured. The Medical Officer of Health, at the request of the Board, inspected the hinterland of Ashton’s Court, the Drapery, Brummit’s Ropey, and much of the new parish of Saint Martin’s. His report points out the consequences of turning people out of these dwellings in order to improve them; where does one accommodate them in the interim? In any case, he suggests, the low rentals attract people who care little about the conditions in which they exist!

In August 1901, the Medical Officer was instructed, to pay special attention to the cleanliness of the
various courts and alleys of the city. During that month, and the next, thirty-nine of these courts and alleys were flushed, cleansed and disinfected, once a week, at a cost of £7. 'Never had these places been so clean and sweet as during that time."

Under the heading of Nuisances there were regular entries. A typical one, for 1902, includes six notices about the cleansing of filthy houses and overcrowding: thirteen houses condemned as unfit for human habitation; ten houses needing to be put into sanitary condition; three houses previously condemned were now demolished; and three houses were closed. In 1903 he reports on a well-built, nearly new, six roomed house, whose walls were filthy, and 'pantry shelves so dirty and foul as to require planing before any decent woman would put food upon them.'

Every year the Medical Officer emphasised the need to educate the occupiers to a higher sense of cleanliness and decency. But he did point out that 'there is an undoubted lack of houses at a rental such as can be paid by a man with an average wage of (or under) 20 shillings per week. This leads to overcrowding with all the attendant evils.' So for much of the nineteenth century the majority of Lincoln’s poor lived in houses thrown up for roughly £25, paying yearly rents of about £6. Yet these were considered better than the mud, stud and thatched cottages still being built in villages.

NOTES

5 Sir Francis Hill, *Victorian Lincoln* (1974) p95 (hereafter *Hill*)
7 quoted by Hill p163
8 see Hill p167-71 for a fuller account
9 from LTI p88
10 1901 Report p 19
11 ibid
12 1902 Report p8
13 1903 Report p10
14 1901 Report p13
15 ibid.
On Saturday, 16 October 1997, on a gloriously sunny autumn morning, about a hundred people assembled at the magnificent College Hall of the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, Lincolnshire, for the 1997 East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference. The subject, The RAF in Lincolnshire, was organised by the SLHA and covered three illustrated lectures on different aspects of the RAF's involvement with Lincolnshire over eighty years, together with afternoon tours of some of the many RAF sites in the county.

Write Ronald and Ann Loxley reporting on

EMIAC DAY AT CRANWELL

Following a welcome by Squadron Leader Don Wood the College Secretary, Ray Hooley described the history of the construction of aircraft in Lincoln during the 1914-18 war. Many well-known types were produced by the engineering factories of Lincoln and some were designed by these firms themselves. Ray suggested that Lincoln was found to be suitable for this work because many of the agricultural machinery manufacturers in Lincoln produced threshing tackle, traditionally made in wood. Expertise and experience in this material was particularly useful in building aircraft whose main structures were, in most cases, made of wood. He also showed photographs of wartime factories in which women 'munitionettes' were cutting the fabric for the aircraft wings. After a short break and a chance to wander through some of the immaculately kept rooms of the College, Mike Osborne spoke about the Defence of Britain Project in Lincolnshire, an illustrated survey of the remaining structures and installations to be found at airfield sites in the county and their place and significance in the defence of Britain in the two World Wars.

The final lecture of the morning was on 'The Development of Military Flying in Lincolnshire' by Mike Hodgson, which dealt with the growth of the RAF presence in Germany from the Great War to the present day and its influence on local economies and landscape. He showed us the evolution of Waddington from its beginnings to the present advanced technology base for the AWACs. An excellent lunch was served in the very impressive dining room of the College - a tall room with pillared walls, an ornate ceiling, and seventeen high windows between which hang portraits of distinguished Old Cranwellians including HRH the Prince of Wales, Sir Frank Whittle, and Group Captain Douglas Bader. At one end of the room, the current Queen's Colour for the RAF College is displayed. Cranwell College was developed to signal the distinct existence of the third military service in 1918, when the Royal Naval Air Service amalgamated with the Army's Royal Flying Corps to become the Royal Air Force in its own right.

After lunch, conference members were taken in coaches to features of RAF history at neighbouring past or present air stations, with well-informed and amusing guides. Among the places visited was the Metheringham Visitor Centre, located in a collection of buildings almost unchanged in external appearance from their original purpose as World War II ration stores, but now containing many souvenirs and memorabilia of members of the squadrons who were based at Metheringham. Outside, a flower garden memorial reminded us of some of those who died. At Bracebridge Heath we noted the hangars of the original World War I airfield, still displaying their Belfast Trust roof construction. Another port of call was the control tower at Culeby Grange. Here visitors were allowed to enter and climb to the balcony and flat roof. One could visualise the airfield in wartime use, and be reminded of the Thor missiles once located here. Even so - one member found time to 'scrum' apples!

We returned to Cranwell for tea and a last look round the College building and beautifully kept grounds where the magnificent trees are probably at their best since they were planted in the early 1930s. Time was too short to give us more than a taste of all that the College could show, but the day offered the unique privilege of learning and savouring, in a significant location, something of the place of the RAF in Lincolnshire. Our thanks to all who arranged and contributed to the conference - especially Chris Lester and the Industrial Archaeology Committee of SLHA - and the hospitality of the College, for making it such an enjoyable day.
Lincolnshire Haslet

Dolly Wheatley, now aged 89, passes on this recipe:

This is the recipe we used when I helped my mother-in-law, a native of Coningsby, and the recipe I have followed after the annual pig killing. The pig was killed on the allotment. After the butcher had cut it up the women of the house set to work on the making up of the meat after the hams and bacon had been trimmed up.

All the meat was put in a large tin bath so the first job was to sort it out. The dark meat was for pork pies, the light meat for sausage, and that with blood on it was for the haslets. Each lot was kept in white enamel buckets or bowls. That done, we started making up. Nothing was weighed with scales; it was all guess-work. The meat was minced with a hand turn machine screwed to the top of the table.

To make the haslet we first got the breadcrumbs ready. The loaf would be two or three days old. The crusts were removed and the bread was rubbed by hand into a clean bowl. All the mixing was done in a pancheon. The ingredients were:

- 1 bread loaf
- A tablespoon (or more to taste) of finely chopped fresh sage
- Pepper and salt to taste
- Cold water.

The method was to mix the pork, breadcrumbs, salt, pepper and sage in the pancheon, with clean hands, and add enough cold water to bind it. Then make about three haslets and wrap each one in another part of the pig, the skirt (diaphragm), and place in the side oven of the kitchen range. Cook for about an hour. Haslets are eaten cold. It took about three days of heavy work to put the whole pig away and make up all the meat.

Illustration by Valerie Littlewood from Lincolnshire Country Food by Eileen Elder (1985), Scunthorpe Borough Museum
NOTES AND QUERIES

30.1 GIPPLE: (N&Q 29.6) Dr P. R. Bampton has replied to Colin Beevers' enquiry. He suggests that the Anglo-Saxon name relates to a gap, perhaps the Ancaster Gap? There was a terrace of, probably, four dwellings as his great-great-grandfather was born at No 4 Gipple Cottages. Possibly they belonged to the Thorold Estate. Are there any photographs of the cottages? Mark Bennet suggests that the name derived from the monastic grange of St Catherine's Priory, Lincoln, recorded as Gippulle Grange. These monastic farms were often rented out to local farmers, and in the mid-1530s Gippul Grange had a rented value of 20 shillings per year. (Valor Ecclesiasticus temp Henrici VIII auctore iudicio regia institutus, 6 vols, Record Commission (1810-34) vol IV p33). Could the word be as used in place names such as Gipping (Suffolk) and Gipton (Yorkshire) where it relates to the personal name 'Gyppa'?

30.2 THE MYSTERY PICTURE in N&Q 29.1 has prompted an answer from Les Gostick who sent a recent photograph. The cross is at Ewerby, and superseded a medieval one. He does not know when it was erected but it was restored in 1897/8. In June 1897 Ewerby celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and used some of the money raised - £30 - to restore the village cross. This was expended in reconstructing the base. This consisted of 'six circular steps with another under (the) ground level. The first two steps are old, the rest modern. The longest step measures 22 yards in circumference.' Lord Winchilsea paid for a new shaft and cross of stone from the Weldon Quarries. They were placed in position during August 1898. Apparently the tree shown to the rear of the cross in the N&Q 29.1 photograph grew very large only to be blown down during 'the great gale of February 1990.' It fell on the cross which was on the other side of the road, and destroyed the shaft. Mr Gostick's photograph shows the clearing-up operations the next day. It is heartening to know that the damage was subsequently made good. Thanks also to Michael Scott who supplied similar information.

February 1990
30.3 A LINCOLNSHIRE GANG. Dennis Mills gives the date of LP&P 29 cover picture (with the rest of the picture reproduced on p22) as 1876. An illustration of the wood engraving by Robert Walker Macbeth after an untraced oil painting was published in The Graphic magazine Vol 14 (60-61) on 15 July of that year. It appears in The Victorian Countryside by Gordon E. Mingay, Routledge Kegan Paul (1981), Vol 1, Fig 31. Other illustrations in the same book show similar paintings, some also of Lincolnshire scenes. The source for the Lincolnshire Gang is given as the Witt Library at the Courtauld Institute of Art.

30.4 CANON SWABY’S 100 YEARS Ago article that featured the Rev Charles Tennyson Turner (LP&P29) prompted Nigel Kirkman to quote from a letter written to Rupert Hart-Davis, dated 20 August 1959, by John Betjeman: the sonnets of Charles Tennyson Turner are so surprisingly beautiful that they ought to be republished in selected form... they vary in quality, but the best, of which Sir Charles Tennyson and I would make a selection, could be reduced to 100. Will you consider this? Have a look at The Brilliant Day, Harvest Home, Our Church Clock, Wind on the Corn, and see if you don’t agree... with an etching or wood engraving of Grasby and the long view over the marsh from the Wolds, this would make a handsome book to delight all lovers of poetry and of clear, unregarded, wide-skyed Lines. (A Hundred Sonnets of Charles Tennyson Turner was indeed published in 1960). In a footnote Betjeman’s daughter writes that J.B. has always worshipped Alfred Tennyson, loved Lincolnshire as a result and was active in the Tennyson Society. Among other Lincolnshire references in this volume of letters, John Betjeman’s interview for the BBC in 1962, with Lady Diana Montgomery-Massingberd of Gunby Hall, prompted Siegfried Sassoon to ask Betjeman for the name of the publisher of the lady’s reminiscences, as the broadcast had moved me very much in all ways evocative of the civilised world she outlined.

30.6 THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY in Salt Lake City, Utah, although used extensively by Carolyn (Ingledew) Joyce, could not supply the information she needed. After visiting Gainsborough in 1996 she wrote to SLHA: ‘My 3rd great-grandfather, Edward Ingledew, was buried 16 July 1828 in All Saint’s parish in Gainsborough. I already have the details of the burial record. My hopes were to locate a headstone or record of a monumental inscription. I was disappointed to see that All Saint’s burial yard no longer exists in full. I was informed that sometime in the 1960s or 70s all the headstones were taken up and destroyed. The churchyard was then landscaped and only a few stones exist around the church itself. Was there any written record made of the monumental inscriptions before the headstones were destroyed?’

‘Edward Ingledew’s occupation was that of Engineer/Millwright/Ironfounder. He operated a millwright shop in Gainsborough, and a warehouse and foundry shops in Newark, on the River Trent. He left the businesses in the charge of his sons Edward and George upon his death. (There was) a Thomas Ingledew living in Gainsborough at the same time as Edward. Thomas Ingledew married Edward’s wife’s sister. (Edward’s and Thomas’ wives were Ann and Jane Fenwick). Thomas’ burial record indicates that he was also a millwright. I am trying
to find out if Edward and Thomas were brothers or cousins or some other relation. Edward was born in 1773, Thomas about 1782; Edward presumably born in Wilton by Redcar, Yorkshire, and Thomas’ birthplace unknown.

‘Do you have available land and property records, deeds, business sales and transactions, or any records that would help? In Gainsborough, Edward had personal property on Silver Street. In Newark he had personal property in Millgate. His widow, Ann and their children lived there.

‘I have tried to give as much detail as possible. My purpose in this research is to put together a history of the Ingleedew family and to be able to trace the lineage beyond Edward Ingleedew. Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated.’

RECRUITING FOR THE NAVY
(Original Document)

Submitted by Rex Russell, this Notice is from the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, 9 December 1796:

FORTY POUNDS BOUNTY

TWO able-bodied MEN are wanted to serve in his Majesty's NAVY, for the Parishes of Middle Raisin, Tealby, Croxby, and Usselby . . . . to whom a Bounty of FORTY POUNDS EACH will be given, by the officers of Middle Raisin aforesaid.

(There were many such Notices in issues of 16, 23 and 30 December 1796 and 6 January 1797)

Thomas Rowlandson’s drawings of a sailor and a ship’s cook (early nineteenth century)
The Excise Mannes Tale

This amusing poem first appeared as part VII of 'Uponne the Ryde' in a Customs and Exise magazine dated 1970 so is in itself very old in computer terms. A ride is one of the divisions into which a country is divided for purposes of exise, hence 'riding officer'. The poem is entitled The Computre Programere.

When traidres can not cope with their aaffures
som see the answere to destracted prayers
in a computre's trumpeted precisicon,
and greet celerite of composicioun.
In troughwe, when prikklie problems press around them,
computres may serve onlie to confound them,
but whercomputres governe everich thing,
amonges the staf the programere is king.
And oon swich king I hadde uponne my Ryde
that used to be my solaticr gyde
thru alle the trakkes of his owne strange contree
of alpha and numernk binarie.

He smoket a pype, and quietlic puffet at it
the whyles he spake of charactere and bit,
magnetik diskes, and alle the trials he suffed
that his computre was nat fully hoffred.
Nathles he was of his machene most proude, and
sceptik gibes he sternlie disallowed;
if I implyd som detayle porelie rekkoned
he wolde disclaim it in a microsecond,
and, thumming his poneched cards, he wolde assure
the data was alle in the backing stor,
and som test program wolde anon devize
to prove it, with prodigious enterprize.
Computres coude in ne wyse err, quod he,
mistakes deryved but fro humanitie.

His Companye sent forth bukes of alle sortes
throught the lande, and eek to forgen portes,
but journel or sales day buke they hadde non,
instead, computre prymt-outs by the tonne.
And he wolde helpe me oer these papre dunes,
sith, like a draganman, he wist the runes:
Fotran and Cobol he graspt at a luke,
and papre taie he coude rede like a buke;
ocital he knew, prime data coude define -
he was in alle respectes a man on lyne.

In his profession nedes must shote this lyne,
but ay he kept a twinkle in his eyen,
and spake nat like som stoffed sherte fro greet height,
but was alwey a merie-humored wight.
Longe houres aloon I spent on visites ther,
but export rebate was my onlie care,
so now I see the programere ne more,
ne stryve to follow his computre lore.

Howard
A New Look at Heritage Days

By Pearl Wheatley

Several years ago the County Council Museum Service launched a programme to take museums to the people. Village halls were converted for the day into information and activity centres based on museum and art gallery exhibits, if possible, a local slant. Classes from the village school and other schools in the area visited the hall during the day for demonstrations, hands-on exhibits and quizzes. Many children enjoyed the experience so much they returned in the evening with their parents and grandparents. Adults were welcome all day but had a freer range in the evening, often bringing items for identification. The finale was always one of the popular quizzes run by staff of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.

Very quickly future Heritage Days grew to include instruction by staff of the County Archives, enactments by staff of Gainsborough Old Hall, displays and hand-outs from the environmental services and involvement of other departments of the Recreational Services Department. The day would not be all giving by the staff - they too gained from proffered local knowledge, especially from those of long memory or any who specialised in their local history or archaeology. After a short break the Heritage Day has shed its coat for a toga! Jonathan Platt, Development Manager (Heritage Services) on 21 October presented The Roman Invasion of Helperingham. School children were able to sample aspects of life in Roman Helperingham and enjoy a walk round the village. In the evening Julia Dabbs of the library service provided a large selection of documents for visitors to glean answers to the local history quiz. There was a chance to view the exhibits and study and learn about Lincolnshire County Council’s heritage provision from the excellent display boards round the room. Then the visitors were treated to illustrated talks about the Roman invasion and its effect on Lincolnshire and Helperingham.

This most successful day was arranged by Jonathan Platt and supported by staff of City and County Museum, the library service and Heritage Lincolnshire. Village communities can offer their village hall for future days - not necessarily for a Roman theme. SLHA members with active groups might take advantage of this and lodge a request with Jonathan at Lincolnshire County Offices.

HERITAGE FROM THE AIR

Archaeology in Lincolnshire

A Report by Ian Straw

This year's Archaeology Day proved to be an absorbing and informative event, revealing through a number of well-illustrated talks the many new archaeological discoveries that the Air Photo Unit of the RCHME and others have made in Lincolnshire in recent years. The Commission's National Mapping Project aims to interpret all archaeological information found on existing aerial photographs. The Lincolnshire part of the project is the largest to date. For example, 6,500 earthwork sites have now been recorded, 60% of these being new discoveries, and 7,500 crop mark sites (70% new to the record). The value of such photography in interpreting previously known locations and unearthing new sites in Lincolnshire was clearly demonstrated at this conference.

Bob Bewley of RCHME opened the conference by reviewing the development of aerial archaeology, from the early years of the century, through the
period of rapid growth after 1945 when aircraft and new camera technology allowed much more accurate and detailed survey, to the highly sophisticated studies possible today. The National Aerial Photograph Archive in Swindon can be visited and used for research purposes. Peter Horne followed this with a clear exposition of how aerial photographs can be interpreted, for example, by the effects on crop growth of subterranean archaeological remains, and the shadows cast on a sunny winter’s day by embankments and low earthworks.

Dilwyn Jones then focused on how aerial photography has aided our understanding of Romano-British settlements on the Lincolnshire Wolds. Crop mark features often shown up readily on the area’s permeable chalky soils. Some quite major settlements, farms and villas have been discovered, typically rectilinear in plan, for example, at Kirminston, Ashby Puerorum and Stanton-Le-Yale. The use of aerial photographs in interpreting the large mounds evident near the coast between Tetney and North Somercotes was explained by Damian Grady. These are thought to be the legacy of medieval and post-medieval salt production, sea defences and human settlement.

Lincolnshire has a multiplicity of linear boundary lines, the majority of which were not known until the aerial reconnaissance of the 1970s. Yvonne Boutwood reviewed this work, providing possible explanations for these alignments which are common in the west of the county along the Jurassic limestone escarpment. Were these lines estate or territorial boundaries, or ditches to control livestock? Field walking is now necessary to examine and analyse these photographic finds. The morning session closed with a tribute by Paul Everson to the life and work of the late Tom Hayes, whose contribution to aerial reconnaissance in Lincolnshire has only been appreciated recently. This talk and the exhibition of some of his work at the conference will go some way to rectifying this.

The enormous quantity of data now available and accessible to the archaeological student and researcher was admirably demonstrated in the first afternoon talk by Mark Bennett using the medium of computer technology. The County’s Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record now contains records of over 15,000 sites and finds, about a quarter of which can be seen on aerial photographs. Mark used computer screen projection to show how the record can be interpreted to reveal what is known and has been found at a particular site, and how aerial views can be superimposed over the Ordnance Survey map and any mapped discoveries in an area to aid significantly to our understanding. Clearly there is an exciting future for this method of archaeological research.

Tom Lane then ensured that conference members were not too carried away with the use of aerial photography in archaeological interpretation; it can be a most valuable aid but detailed fieldwork and excavation is essential. Sites in areas without crop marks cannot be indicated by aerial photography. Two excavated sites along the Lincolnshire fen edge (Welland Bank Quarry or Pit and Burgh Fen Hill Fort) were examined to indicate where field evidence appears to contradict evidence from aerial photography. As many skills and tools as possible should be combined to aid our interpretation of the county’s archaeology. Alison Deegan’s paper looked in particular at aerial photographs along the Trent Valley between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and in other parts of the latter county.

Finally, to round off a most interesting day, well attended and well organised, Robert Van de Noort of Hull University looked at wetland archaeology in North Lincolnshire, reminding the conference again that aerial photography will not provide evidence and answers in all cases. Wetland environments, of course, are excellent in preserving archaeological remains but they are not revealed by conventional aerial research.

During the day various informative displays, information desks and bookstalls were available for conference members to visit. Officers from RAF Marham, for example, demonstrated how archaeological sites are now being discovered using infra-red photography. The Society had a record day for the sale of books and other literature. We are indebted to Ian George and David Start for organising an excellent day’s conference. The conference texts will be published by SLHIA.
Late for the Train?
The editor is in the picture - are you? Can you say where in Lincolnshire this is?

Wapentake Wordsearch
This puzzle first appeared in the Skeford Historian, February 1995. Diligent searching should reveal the names of the following ancient Lincolnshire wapentakes (sub-divisions of the county) hidden in the grid opposite: Aswardham, Aveland, Boothby, Candleshoe, Elloe, Flaxwell, Garthorpe, Hill, Kirton, Lawless, Loveden, Ness, Skirbeck, Threoo, Well, Winnibriggs. Horizontal, vertical or diagonal, left to right or right to left, when you have found them all, the spare letters in order will make 4 more wapentakes.

Lincolnshire Men
Some famous men from Lincolnshire history are hidden in these clues

1 He died the same year as a royal namesake - but was the other way inclined - being a man of the cloth.
2 He makes confused donkey rest by the Trent.
3 November 1200 was his swan song.
4 Similar to 3, he went 'white-hooded, scarlet-slippered, swift through swirling winter snows' in spirit near the Abbey Church of St Andrew.
5 He branched out into free enterprise against customs with spirit of a different kind on the Sutton coast.
6 He was at large in Stamford.
7 He knew the value of haute couture from Bourne.
8 He was an antipodean in tune with Brigg folk.