EDITORIAL

As we go to press many of you will be getting ready for Heritage Open Days. The idea of Heritage Open Days originated as a European initiative, and was introduced into Lincolnshire by SLHA member (and regular contributor to this magazine) Dr Dennis Mille, in time for us to participate in 1994. Supported (and insured) nationally by the Civic Trust, the events are planned by a steering group and co-ordinated by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, who also produce the leaflet. A themed booklet has been an important addition to the events since 1999, with about half the venues connecting to the theme.

This year’s theme, the twentieth century, is explored in the book, ‘Twentieth Century – What Heritage?’ edited by Paula Judson and Chris Lester, whose title sums up many people’s attitude to the idea. This is to some extent reflected in the venues chosen for the theme. From a huge initial list, mostly architectural, only just over twenty actual twentieth century buildings appear on the final list! Some venues, when approached, seemed baffled that they should be of architectural interest to anyone!

Here in Lincolnshire Past & Present we think we do quite well in promoting the twentieth century – industry, airfield remains, guideposts, cinemas. Since we still remember the last century, please continue sending us your (illustrated) recollections. We would also be interested in pictures of buildings that had specific uses and have not survived.

As usual we have a variety of articles, several by new contributors, which is very welcome. However, as I have written so much above, I will let these articles speak for themselves.

Hilary Healey
St Hybald of Hibaldstow

Ian Thompson

Hibaldstow is a North Lincolnshire village, 9 miles south-east of Scunthorpe, and its parish church is thought to contain the buried remains of an Anglo-Saxon saint. This is a rare thing in Britain, for most saints' relics were burnt or scattered at the time of the Reformation, and if the body of Hybald did escape desecration it was probably owing to the obscurity of his cult. It is unlikely that it was ever widespread or popular since, with the exception of a few well-known figures like Oswald, Chad and Cuthbert, the Saxon Church was not much given to promoting its own saints.

Of the twenty-odd surviving pre-Conquest liturgical calendars, only one mentions Hybald, another one mentions Hilda, and none of them mentions Cedd. (Only eight of them mention Bede.) The reference to Hybald occurs, surprisingly, in the 11th century Martyrology of Exeter—though his name may have been copied from another calendar, which was subsequently lost. The scribe who included him seems not to have known much about him except that he was an abbot and confesser, for he adds the curious phrase: 'in Britannia minor'—meaning that he died in Brittany, which is clearly incorrect. Perhaps this is why he was commemorated at Exeter since many Celtic saints from Devon and Cornwall migrated to Brittany.

However, Hybald was an English-speaking not a Celtic-speaking churchman, and his sphere of influence was northern, not southern or west country. Indeed, the only churches with surviving ancient dedications to St Hybald are those in the vicinity of Hibaldstow itself.

So who was Hybald? For a short answer to this question we must refer to the Venerable Bede who mentions him, though only in passing, in his History of the English Church and People, book 4, chapter 3. Hybald, of Hybaldstow. Bede tells us, was a very holy and abstemious man, and an abbot in the province of Lindsey. The Exeter Martyrology gives his feast day as 14 December and another document of about the same age states that he was buried at Hibaldstow. These are the only definite details about him that we possess.

We are, however, fortunate in the fact that Hybald is mentioned by Bede, for this places him in some sort of context and offers a starting point for deduction and conjecture. Bede's reference to Hybald occurs in a chapter devoted to the life and death of St Chad. After calling attention to certain supernatural phenomena that are said to have accompanied Chad's death, Bede continues:

"With this revelation ... agrees the discourse of the most reverend Father Egbert ... who long led a monastic life with the same Chad, when both were youths in Ireland, praying, fasting and meditating on the Holy Scriptures. But when Chad afterwards returned into his own country, Egbert continued in a strange land for our Lord's sake till the end of his life. A long time after, Hybald, a most holy and abstemious man, was an abbot in the province of Lindsey, came out of Britain to visit him, and whilst these holy men were discoursing of the life of the former fathers, and rejoicing to imitate the same, mention was made of the most reverend bishop Chad, whereupon Egbert said, "I know a man in this island, still in the flesh, who, when that bishop passed out of this world, saw the soul of his brother Cedd, with a company of angels, descending from heaven, who, having taken his soul along with them, returned thither again." Whether he said this of himself, or of some other, we do not certainly know, but the same
being said by so great a man, there can be no doubt of the truth thereof [bk 4, ch 1].

Now Chad had been bishop of Mercia, with responsibility also for the province of Lindsey. Chad’s concern for Lindsey is suggested by the fact that soon after his appointment he persuaded Wulfhere, King of Mercia, to grant him 50 hides of land to found a monastery at Ad Barowe, ie Barrow on Humber. He is unlikely to have done this purely to foster the monastic life. Chad, like his elder brother Ceadda, was trained in the ways of the Celtic Church, where the founding of monasteries went hand in hand with missionary activity.

In fact Lindsey had been partly evangelized by Paulinus c627-630, but without any proper follow-up since Paulinus retreated to Kent following the death in battle of his patron, the Christian King Edwin of Northumbria, in 632. Thereafter Lindsey was a grey area politically, controlled sometimes by Northumbria and sometimes by Mercia, and it is very unlikely that there was any real pastoral provision in the region, at least before the appointment of Bishop Diuma to the see of Mercia in 656 and perhaps not even then. The creation of a monastery at Barrow on Humber (c.660) certainly suggests that Chad felt the need to re-establish a Christian presence in northern Lindsey, and perhaps Hybald’s monastery was another of Chad’s foundations and part of the same plan. Several other Lincolnshire monasteries would seem to date from about the same time.

To return to the passage in Bede, Egbert, we know, was born in either 638 or 639 for he died on 24 April 729 at the age of 90. He spent most of his life in Ireland, fulfilling a vow of voluntary exile from his native Northumbria, and ended his days ministering to the community on Iona. However, as an adolescent he was educated and clothed as a monk at Lindisfarne along with St Chad. The impulse that took both of them to Ireland fired many others, for as Bede remarks (III.27):

‘At this period there were many English nobles and lesser folk in Ireland who left their own land under the episcopate of Bishops Finan and Colman [both of Lindisfarne] either to pursue religious studies or to lead a life of stricter discipline. Some of them soon devoted themselves to the monastic life, while others preferred to travel, studying under various teachers in turn. The Irish welcomed them all kindly, and, without asking for any payment, provided them with daily food, books and instruction.’

The question arises, was Hybald one of these peregrini, a former monk of Lindisfarne who accompanied Chad and Egbert to Ireland, perhaps returning to England at the same time as Chad? The answer is almost certainly yes, for Bede gives us one vital piece of information — he tells us that Hybald went to Ireland ‘a long time afterwards’ in order to visit Egbert. The inference must be that Hybald and Egbert were former friends and companions (for why else would Hybald want to see Egbert?) and the only places where they could possibly have been together were Ireland and Lindisfarne.

Indeed, if Egbert and Hybald were former friends, what is more natural than that they should wish to see each other again before they died, and that Hybald should make the journey to Ireland because Egbert was prevented by his vow from coming to England? Moreover Egbert’s vision of the death of Chad, which recalls St Paul’s mystical vision (2 Cor 12: 2-4) and involves the same oblique self-reference, was hardly the sort of confidence that he would be likely to share with a passing stranger. From this episode alone we may reasonably infer that Hybald and Egbert knew each other very well. This brings me to the question of Hybald’s date. If the foregoing hypothesis is correct, and Hybald was a companion and contemporary of Chad and Egbert, he is likely to have been born some time between 635 and 639. The exodus to Ireland must have occurred around 655 and Chad was probably recalled to England c659-60 to assist with the new monastic community at Lastingham founded by his brother Ceadda. If Hybald returned with him he may have been for a time a monk of Lastingham, and subsequently of Barrow, from which place his own monastery was almost certainly colonized, probably in the early 670s.

Even more speculative is the date of Hybald’s death. It is by no means clear whether Hybald was known personally to Bede though a case can be made for identifying him with ‘a priest venerable for his age and of great veracity’, from whom Bede received further information about Egbert (bk 3 ch 27). All that we know for certain is that Chad died in 672 and that Hybald visited Egbert ‘a long time afterwards’, which in Bede’s phrasebook could mean anything from about five years to upwards of twenty. Bede’s information about Egbert is detailed up to the early 690s but very sketchy thereafter.

On the other hand some monologists, without any supporting evidence, give the date of Hybald’s death as 683. Bede speaks of him in the past tense, implying that he died (as one would expect) before the Historia was published in 731. More than this we are unable to say.

Several problems unconnected with the above remain to be considered. The Dictionary of Christian Biography, ed W. Smith and H. Wace, 4 vols., 1877-87, conjectured that Hybald’s monastery was Bardney, and this assumption has been repeated in a number of later works. In fact there is no
evidence to connect Hybald with Bardney and in all probability DCB favoured Bardney on the slender grounds that although it was an early and very famous monastery we do not know the names of any of its 7th century abbots. To be sure there is one dedication to Hibald [sic] at Ashby de la Launde, about 12 miles south of Bardney but this is evidently recent. In 1540, according to the will of Thomas de la Launde, the church at Ashby was dedicated to the Blessed Trinity. A private chapel in the manor house (c170) was dedicated to St Margaret (Lincolnshire Notes and Queries, XVII, p135).

Yet if Hybald’s monastery was not Bardney, where was it, and why was he buried in an ordinary parish church? The answer to the first question (and inferentially to the second) is, almost certainly, that the monastery was at, or near, Hibaldstow. It probably had a short life and if, as seems most likely, it was constructed entirely of wood, it would leave no obvious trace on the ground. Stenton remarks: "The monasteries founded in the 7th century often failed to attract congregations which could maintain a full religious life. Many of them expired after a few years of precarious existence." (Anglo-Saxon England, 3rd ed., p161). Hybald’s association with Hibaldstow is, however, attested by the eleventh century list of saints’ resting places already mentioned, which states that his body lies "... in Lindsey, at the place called Ceesage near the river called Ancholme", Ceesage (which would have been pronounced "Checkserse") is otherwise unknown but is presumably synonymous with Hibaldstow, which means "the burial place of Hybald". Moreover the three churches with surviving ancient dedications to Hybald (Scawby, Hibaldstow and Manton) are all situated close together on the dip slope above the River Ancholme.

Further evidence for the existence of a monastic site hereabouts is provided by the discovery of one of the county’s rare fragments of pre-Viking (perhaps 8th century) sculpture in the church of the adjacent parish of Redbourne (David Stocker in Pre-Viking Lindsey, 1993, p113). Sculptures of that kind and date are at least very likely to have a monastic origin.

The proximity of Hibaldstow to the River Ancholme is anyway suggestive since every Saxon monastery known to us from this period (c.650-750) was situated either on the sea coast in the vicinity of a safe anchorage, or close to a navigable river. From Hibaldstow, by water, it would have been no more than a morning’s journey to the monastery at Barrow on Humber, and from Barrow it would have been possible, by a relatively short sea journey, to reach the great Northumbrian monasteries at Whitby, Monkwearmouth, Jarrow and Lindisfarne. It is almost certainly by this route that Hybald travelled to Ireland, using the Tyne gap to reach the Irish Sea.

Another matter that has prompted speculation is the alleged inclusion of Hybald’s name in the Durham Liber Vitae. This is a composite document with a nucleus list of some 3,150 names compiled apparently in the 9th century by the monks of Lindisfarne (or, less probably, by the monks of Jarrow-Monkwearmouth), for the purpose of liturgical commemoration. During the celebration of Mass the Liber would have been placed upon the altar, and there would have been a general commemoration of all those persons listed within its pages. Mary Insull, in her Short History of Hibaldstow (1958), states that Hybald’s name is inscribed in gold in the Liber, "which would indicate that he was a person of some importance."

At first sight it would also seem to link Hybald with Lindisfarne (assuming that the Liber was indeed compiled there) since at that period, liturgical commemorations tended to focus on persons who had been members of the church or monastery in question. In fact the Liber is by no means so helpful as at first appears. Even among the list of monks the name Hybald occurs six times (it
also occurs once among the clericorum) and it is anybody's guess whether one of these entries is that of our saint. Moreover names in the Liber are inscribed alternately in silver (odd numbers) and gold (even numbers), and the scheme of illumination is therefore merely decorative. Beyond this there is much that we still do not know about the Liber, and for the time being, and so far as our own Hybald is concerned, the document is best discounted. In 1866 when Hibaldstow church was undergoing extensive restoration, a stone coffin was discovered beneath the floor of the chancel. An eyewitness of the discovery, Mr Thomas Waimouth, subsequently wrote: "I was present when the stone coffin was found in 1866. My father was rebuilding the chancel for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the coffin was found buried under the floor. The stone lid was about six inches thick, but was cracked, and was cut out in two pieces. On being raised, a complete skeleton was exposed to view, which immediately fell to pieces. I remember the remark at the time that it must have been a tall man. 'The coffin was cut from one large stone and the skull rested in a hollow cut for the purpose. With a great deal of labour, the coffin was taken out and placed on the floor of the tower, where it remained until the building was completed, whilst the bones were taken care of in the church under the pulpit. Before the new floor was laid, the coffin was replaced under the floor, opposite the buttress in the south wall. It was said at the time that there was no doubt that it was St Hybald's coffin and I may be the only man living who remembers this, for it was over sixty years ago.'"

It is a pity that the exhumation was not described in detail at the time. In particular one would like to know more about the coffin — whether it was rectangular or tapered, and whether the box and lid were decorated. A lid 'six inches thick' sounds early, and the phrase 'with a good deal of labour' suggest abnormal weight. Since the parish of Hibaldstow includes the site of the Romano-British settlement at Stanwells it is worth considering whether the body of Hybald could have been laid to rest in a re-used Roman period stone coffin. However, all known classical sarcophagi have flat bases, i.e. with no hollow for the head. The Anglo-Saxon tradition, as seen at the ecclesiastical sites of Jarrow-Monkwearmouth and Dacre, and in the lay cemetery at Crowland 714 was of lead, probably manufactured at Wirksworth in Derbyshire. A decorated Saxon stone coffin with a thick lid survives from St Alkmund's church at Derby and is now in the local museum. Here too, however, the inside of the base is flat.

We can, I think, dismiss the idea that the Hibaldstow coffin was of the later medieval type with a keyhole cut for the head since the writer's father was an experienced church architect and would presumably have recognised it as such. The son's remark that 'the coffin was cut from one large stone' may also be significant, implying that it was not in the Scottish tradition of stone box coffins constructed from slabs and corner posts (of which a magnificent 8th century example survives at St Andrew's). The fact that Waimouth senior, and others present at the exhumation, believed that they had found the tomb of St Hybald suggests that something about the sarcophagus, or the manner of burial, convinced them that it was of very early date. One can only hope that a future opportunity will occur to dissim the coffin and examine it again.

**Acknowledgements**

Following the trail of St Hybald has not been easy and I am indebted to the patience and kindness of many authorities. I am particularly grateful to Mrs S. M. Youngs of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities of the British Museum for her letter on early stone coffins, which I have taken the liberty of reproducing almost verbatim. I should also like to thank Professor Kenneth Cameron for information on
North Lincolnshire place-names; Lynda Rellison of Durham University for a number of insights into the Durham Liber Vitae; and Dr Nicholas Bennett, vice-chancellor and Librarian of Lincoln Cathedral, for making available to me much information on early church calendars. Finally to Kevin Leahy, Principal Curator, North Lincolnshire Museum, my very sincere thanks for reading the draft typescript and offering some helpful suggestions. Needless to add, any errors that have survived the help and scrutiny of the above are entirely owing to my own perversity.

NOTES
2 Hybel's date in the Calendar has been variously given as 18 September (two RC menologies); 22 September (Arnold-Purser's Studies in Church Dedication); 11 October (Lincoln Diocesan Calendar), and 14 December (Holweck's Biographical Dictionary of the Saints and the Oxford Dictionary of Saints). Only ODS cites ancient authority (the Exeter Martyrology) and 14 December would thus seem to have a credibility that is lacking for the other dates. St Hybel has been recently adopted into various Eastern Orthodox calendars and here too he is commemorated on 14 December (following ODS).
3 Seccan be am Godes sanctum on Eange Lande aerost reston, extant in two MSS: (1) Cambridge Corpus Christi College 201 pp149-51; and (2) London, British Library, Stowe 944, 34v 39r.
4 Bede, History, bk 4, ch 3. Wulfhere's gift of land to Chad could also be seen as a political move. The area was threatened by Northumbria and might be difficult to hold. Positioning a monastery at Barrow gave Wulfhere certain advantages. He would not have to defend the estate, the sanctity of the place might serve to keep out pious foes, and it would serve the good of his soul. As the estate was probably captured royal property it would be his to give away.
5 There are circumstantial links with Chad in the case of at least two of these monasteries. When Oswald's remains were interred at Barkney, c. 685, Aldwin was abbot of Parnice and his sister Ethelhild abbess of a nearby monastery or double monastery. Their elder brother Ethelham had been a companion of Chad and Egbert in Ireland but died of the plague there in 665-6. Another brother, Ethelwin, was bishop of Lindsey c. 679-692.
6 The first known abbot of Barkney was Fethelred, King of Mercia, who retired to Barkney following his abdication in 704 and died there in 716 (Sawyer, Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, Lincoln 1998, p64).
7 David Stoker, 'The Early Church in Lincolnshire' (Pevsner Lindsey, Lincoln, 1993, pp 101-122), calls attention to the fact that early Saxon monasteries were often situated on topographically enclosed sites, e.g. promontories, islands, and land that was virtually cut off from the surrounding countryside by rivers and riverine marshes. Two such marsh-bound sites, Tunstall and Hayes, were situated respectively east and south-east of Hibliestowe, and Stocker thinks that Hybel's monastic enclosure may have incorporated both of these virtual islands.

Another possibility is Cadney, a former island just east of the River Ancholme. Before the Danish invasion Peterborough Abbey seems to have held land at a place called Cceden ac (Caddy's Oak) and this was tentatively identified as Cadney by C. Hart in The Early Charters of Eastern England, 1966, p67. However this identification has been frequently questioned. Surprisingly no one seems to have considered the possibility that Hybel's monastery was on the site of the existing parish church.
8 Suttes Society vols 13 (1841) and 136 (1923), the latter being a facsimile.
9 See for example Gregory Dix, The Shape of the Liturgy, 2nd ed, 1945, p510.
10 Quoted by Mary Insull, op. cit. p12.

John de Toynton and Walter Barde

Jack Baird is working on the early history of the above family. Mr Baird has a 15th century reference to Isabel de Northolme, widow of John de Toynton, regarding lands in Gainsborough both before and after her marriage with Walter Barde. The Northolme concerned may be the one that is part of Gainsborough, but he has also come across Northolme near Wainfleet. He believes that the Toynton mentioned is Toynton All Saints, but it may be Low or High Toynton.

There are also connections with Tealby, North Kelsey and Pinchbeck, but some of these appear to predate King John.

It is quite a complex story, but perhaps we do have members who are researching their local medieval history who can help.

Mr Baird's address is Ekliden, 4 Statton Close, Lea, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5EY.
A John Harrison puzzle

G. Bryant

Following the publication of David Sobel's splendidly readable biography in 1995 and the more recent TV programme devoted to his work, John Harrison's fame has spread far and wide. His story, one of dogged determination in the face of all too often stubborn and ignorant officialdom, has caught the public imagination. Working first from his house in Barrow-on-Humber but later in London this 'village carpenter' built clocks of amazing sophistication and accuracy. Their ability to keep accurate time whilst travelling aboard rolling ships meant that sea captains were able for the very first time to calculate their vessels' longitude whilst sailing in any part of the world's oceans. It goes without saying that countless sailors owe their lives to John Harrison.

Harrison appears to have begun thinking about the making of his first sea clock in the late 1720s and in 1730 he travelled to London to discuss his work with Edmund Halley, the Astronomer Royal, and George Graham, the first clock maker of his day. Graham was so impressed with Harrison that he and several other supporters provided gifts and loans to finance actual work on the sea clock at Barrow.

We are told (see Betts, J. John Harrison, National Maritime Museum 1993, p13) that Harrison spent the next five years working on his first sea clock - now usually referred to as H1. After displaying his work in London the clock was sent for sea trial aboard the Centurion and the Oxford, which ships sailed respectively to Lisbon and back in 1736. In the following year the Board of Longitude - whose job it was to award a substantial cash prize to whoever could produce a means of determining longitude at sea - were so impressed that they agreed to sponsor Harrison's work, first with a grant of £250. Betts then stated that: 'During his time in London Harrison evidently discovered how the city's unique facilities and connections made work easier. He seems to have moved to London in 1736 (my italics) on his return from Lisbon, first living in Leather Lane in Holborn, then moving to Red Lion Square in about 1739.'

Rupert Gould (Gould, R. T., The Marine Chronometer, Woodbridge 1989, p68) was of a similar opinion: '... he [Harrison] settled permanently in London after his return from Lisbon ... first in Orange Street off Red Lion Square, and afterwards in the Square itself.'


However, Andrew King (in Vaughan, D. (ed.), The Royal Society and the Fourth Dimension: The History of Timekeeping, The Antiquarian Horological Society 1993, p 39) states that: 'It seems that when Harrison decided to settle in London finally around

![Figure 1](image)

May 4th 1739

Work done at Thornton Church

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Fig 1

John Harrison

... 1738 or 1739 ... [my italics]. Eric Whittle (Whittle, E., The Inventor of the Marine Chronometer, Wakefield 1984, p15) wrote similarly that: 'Harrison returned to Barrow upon Humber [my italics] and spent the next two years [1737-1739] making his second sea clock [H2].'

So when did Harrison move to London? Among the documents preserved at St Lawrence's church, Thornton Curtis, North Lincolnshire, are an incomplete
series of churchwardens' accounts and other papers, which confirm that at the time Harrison was working on his early clocks he was earning his living as a carpenter. In 1730/1 (as we have seen the first year he went to London) he was paid '.... for one day mending belts,' and in 1733/4 he was variously paid '.... money to by deals with; [paid] charges for going to Hull; paid ... for 5 days att 1s. 6d per day; and paid Allowances 1s 10d.' However, more puzzling are entries in the 1738/9 accounts which clearly read — 'pd John Harrison a bill for work 00 : 10 : 6' and 'pd John Harrison a bill for work 00 : 10 : 3'. Not only that but the invoice for the first work dated 9 May 1739 and apparently signed by John Harrison himself — 'Witness my hand John Harrison' — is preserved. (Fig 1.)

So if these later documents are to be believed, it might be that John Harrison did not leave Barrow for London in 1736 but worked (full-time?) as a carpenter and (in his spare time?) as a skilled clockmaker at his home in Lincolnshire for a further two or three years before eventually moving permanently to London. The 1735 to 1738 accounts are not preserved and whilst his brother James appears in the 1738/9, 1739/40 and 1743/4 accounts John’s name is absent.

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**Items from original documents — compiled by Rex Russell**

'Since the Civil War [1640s] there has been little in the way of history to record in connection with our county.'

From *Lincolnshire County Geographics* E. Mansel Symson MA, MD, FSA. Cambridge University Press. 1913.

**Letter in Stamford Mercury 16 January, 1835**

Sir,

I am directed to inform the Brocklesby Tenants that they are at full liberty to give their votes and interest, at the ensuing election for the Division of Lindsey, as they may think proper.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

ROB. JNO. ATKINSON
Brocklesby, 2nd January, 1835.

— Atkinson was Agent for the Earl of Yarborough’s estate.

**Sir John Astley**

— became the second Conservative MP for north Lincs in 1874. This is how he describes himself in his autobiography, 'Fifty Years of My Life...'

'I now became a Legislator — oh dear, was there ever such a parody on that exalted title! I had always vowed nothing should induce me to stick M.P. at the end of my name... and the knowledge that I was in no way fitted for the House of Commons, had determined me never to spend a bob in trying for a seat, but when my Lincolnshire friends... put it to me that if I would only stand there would be no opposition, and that all my expenses would be paid, I softly gave way... I had never discussed or thought much about politics. I distrusted old Gladstone, and had no great admiration for Disraeli. However, I went for the old Tory colours...’
Lincolnshire in the Industrial Period

Neil Wright

This is the third part of a statement summarising a view of Lincolnshire in the Industrial Period, originally produced as a contribution towards a Regional Draft Research Framework for the East Midlands in this period. The first and second parts were in the Spring and Summer 2001 editions of Lincolnshire Past & Present.

Public utilities
The development of public utilities is largely a feature of the late 19th and 20th centuries. In 1750 Lincoln and Grantham each had water conduits to provide a limited water supply, but there as elsewhere individual householders looked to wells or cisterns to store rainwater from their roofs. River water was a possible source but was of doubtful value as the rivers were also polluted by sewage. Improvement commissioners were established in a number of towns to provide rudimentary street lighting and policing but it was the creation of Gas Light and Coke Companies from the 1820s that led to better street lighting. In late Victorian times several large enterprises, such as Boston Dock and Marshall & Sons of Gainsborough, built their own electricity generating plant and from 1899 local authorities and private companies started to produce public electricity supplies. Some of the first public supplies were used to power trams in Lincoln and Grimsby, but it was the 1950s before electricity reached the most remote parts of the county. As the services have needed to be modernised many of the original structures have been cleared away, often after a number of drastic alterations. The 1820s office block of Stamford gas works and the fine stone-faced front block of Sleaford gas works still remain, as does the 1890s office of Lincoln electricity works beside Brayford Pool, though the latter has been disused and bricked up for a number of years whilst awaiting a new use.

Agriculture
Throughout this period from 1750 to the present there were dramatic changes in agriculture. The enclosure had disappeared as a result of parliamentary enclosure. Efforts to drain and enclose the fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire had been made for centuries, and in Cambridgeshire the Duke of Bedford was largely successful in the 17th century but it was the 18th and early 19th centuries before the deeper fens of Lincolnshire were subdued. Boston was surrounded by vast common fens shared with many adjoining parishes. There, the process of enclosure needed expensive drainage works even...

Sleaford gasworks entrance
before the fen could be divided between the parishes concerned, and each parish then had to undertake the enclosure of its own part of the fen. The 26,000 acre Holland Fen to the west of the town was drained, divided and enclosed in the 1760s/70s, and the adjacent East, West and Wildmore Fens north of Boston, containing together some 40,000 acres of common land, were only worth reclaiming in 1800-12 during the high food prices of the Napoleonic Wars. These fens had previously been used for grazing cattle, horses and geese, for fishing and wildfowling, and for the digging of turfs, cutting of thatch etc.

In the fen areas of the county there was a need for scoop wheels and later, for pumps to raise the surface water from the drains into the main watercourses and rivers. These engines were at first driven by wind, but most were replaced by steam-engines in the early 19th century, then by oil-engines a century or so later and finally by electric power. There are still remains of some wind driven engines at Amber Hill, steam engines at Dugdlyke and Pinchbeck, and diesel engines at Dugdlyke and Gayton; electric engines are still in use. Drainage systems and engines are a distinctive feature of the Lincolnshire landscape and still remain as testimony to the skill of engineers such as John Grundy and John Rennie.

During the period of High Farming in the 19th century a few model farms were built, such as at Stainton le Vale where a number of buildings remain. Later in the century in the face of agricultural depression farms in the fens in particular began to specialise in higher value crops such as potatoes, bulbs and seeds, and this part of the county is still one of the most important agricultural producing areas in the East Midlands.

**Settlement**

For most of the period after 1750 Lincoln continued as the principal urban centre of Lincolnshire, being a cathedral city, the administrative centre of the second largest county, and a market town, but it was not the first industrial town in the county and its engineering works did not start until the 1840s. The first town to experience urban and commercial expansion, and have engineering works with an international market, was Boston. After the fens around Boston were drained and enclosed from the 1760s onwards, they were rapidly converted to the growing of arable crops, and this produce had to be sent out of the area by ship, in contrast to the previous main crops, which had been herded on their own feet. This led to the great expansion of Boston's shipping trade in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, prosperity for its merchants who set up private banks (at its peak during the Napoleonic wars there were six such banks in Boston), a tripling of its population and increasing prosperity for its shopkeepers and craftsmen serving the expanding town. By 1851 the population of Boston had actually grown as large as that of Lincoln, but the railways, which ended its profitable coastal shipping trade, stopped Boston's growth, just as Lincoln's modern expansion took off.

Grimsby started growing at the same time as Lincoln, and though it started from a smaller base, by the end of the 19th century it had effectively combined with the adjacent resort of Cleethorpes and they had overtaken the county town as the largest urban area in Lincolnshire.

There were very few attempts to build planned settlements in Lincolnshire in the Industrial period. The earliest was New Bolingbroke built by John Parkinson in the 1820s in the middle of the fens north of Boston. That area of the fen was so vast that when it was enclosed Parkinson felt a market was needed in the centre and he laid out a market place, built a short crescent of fine houses facing it, a bone-marrow (textile) factory and rows of smaller houses along the main road, but it never grew much beyond his original settlement and the market failed to become established. The original Lincolnshire terminus of the MSLR was at New Holland on the Humber bank, where a ferry went across to Hull. Before the railway arrived there were only one or two houses so the company built

*Lade Bank pumping station at Old Leake* — built in 1867

continued on page 14
45.1 Uphill Lincoln remembered

The photograph of the public urinal in the Summer 2001 issue brought back vivid boyhood memories. I am 88 years of age, and in 1918 started my schooling at Eastgate Infants School, which was situated near Eastgate Church (then the favourite venue for high society weddings in the city). I think it was dedicated to Saint Peter. Immediately next to the urinal was situated one of the two Lincoln police stations, serving the uphill district. The other one, serving the downhill district, was in South Park opposite the South Common. Whichever way I went to school, because I lived in Rasen Lane, I had to pass the urinal, and indeed on occasions found it very convenient! Opposite the police station and urinal, in Church Lane, was the old churchyard and burial ground of a church existing before the present Church of St Nicholas was built in Newport, where I was a choirboy for some years, the vicar being the Reverend Patrick Clay. In the old churchyard there were two huge chestnut trees, which provided us with our conkers for the game 'conker-smacks' — sometimes we might be lucky enough to get a tough one that could become in due course 'a hundred-and-oner' (no baking in the oven allowed!).

The urinal continued to provide its conveniences throughout my schooldays, because I later went to Christ's Hospital School (with F. T. Baker), and thus still passed the building each day. The uphill area of Lincoln near the Cathedral was such a lovely place for children to spend their early years. I do not have the pleasure of knowing Councillor Rook, but may I wish him well?

Norman Clarke, Pocklington, York

45.2 Mystery picture 1

The postcard shown left was posted in Sleaford on 7 August 1905, so it may well be a landmark in local parkland. Could it be Aswarby, Culverthorpe, Blankeney, Bilsfholm? Any ideas welcome.

45.3 John de Toynon & Walter Barde

Jack Baird is working on the early history of the above family. Mr Baird has a 15th century reference to Isabel de Northolme, widow of John de Toynon, regarding lands in Gaynesburgh both before and after her marriage with Walter Barde. The Northolme concerned may be the one that is part of Gainsborough, but he has also come across Northolme near Wainfleet. He believes that the Toynon mentioned is Toynon All Saints, but it may be Low or High Toynon. There are also connections with Tealby, North Kelsey and Pinchbeck, but some of these appear to predate King John. If you can help, please contact Mr Baird at Ekliden, 4 Stainton Close, Lea, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5EW.
queries etc.

Former police station on South Park in downhill Lincoln - now a private house

45.4 Mystery picture 2
This unused postcard was bought in Lincolnshire with other items years ago, and thought to be in the county. The feeling was that it might be a seaside place - because of the B&B sign! Any ideas?

45.5 Another Lincs tornado!
The Stamford Mercury, 13 July 2001, reported on a tornado seen in Stamford and Ryhall on Friday, 6 July. It was captured on video recorder by Ryhall resident Des Newman.

45.6 Church awards
For the first time the Lincoln Diocese has held a Tourist Church of the Year Award. Boston Stump was voted the leading attraction overall, with Coates winner in the Small Parishes section. There were other awards for 'honeypot' churches. All denominations were eligible for entry, and Epworth Wesley Memorial Methodist was a winner in the Medium Parishes section.
houses round three sides of a square, called Manchester Square, for its workers who staffed the company's facilities at the terminus, and a hotel for people coming by road to the ferry.

When the Scunthorpe iron ore was first being exploited the major landowner was Rowland Winn and he hoped to make Frodingham parish the centre of the new settlement. He built a public hall and several streets of decent housing which still remain, but people setting up shop preferred to do so in Scunthorpe parish on land not owned by Winn so Scunthorpe became the centre of the new town.

The most important attempt at a planned settlement was Swanpool Garden Suburb on the edge of Lincoln. This was a very ambitious scheme for a self-contained community on garden suburb principles proposed in 1919 by Colonel Ruston, one of the directors of Ruston and Hornsby, but due to the financial difficulties of the city's engineering industry in the 1920s only 113 of the planned 2000 houses were built and the rest of the scheme was abandoned.

During the first half of the 19th century all communities in Lincolnshire were expanding to a greater or lesser degree, but later, particularly after the start of agricultural depression in the 1870s, the situation was more varied. Some towns and villages continued to expand, but others started to decline and this divergence has continued to the present.

**Administrative and Social Organisation**

Over the last two centuries another significant change in towns has been a steady centralisation in administration. One of the first instances was the creation of the Poor Law Unions to replace individual parishes, with a Union Workhouse located at a central location. They were created in the 1830s, and a century or so later the workhouses were divided between health authorities and County Councils as welfare authorities. A number that became hospitals still survive in Lincolnshire, as at Louth, Caistor and Fleet, though most of those that went to Social Services have since been demolished. Other hospitals were built in the late 19th century and most of those have been demolished in recent years as the National Health Service has concentrated its resources in a small number of larger hospitals.

New courthouses were built in the early 19th century and many of them still continued to be used for that purpose. Grimsby Town Hall and Boston Municipal Buildings are still used as local government offices by district councils, and 18th and 19th century town halls in Stamford and Louth are used by successor Town Councils, but most other councils now operate from more modern premises. Lincoln City Council holds its meetings in the traditional chamber over the medieval Stonebow in the city centre, but its offices are in a 1960s office block.

Most factory owners relied on speculative builders to erect...
streets of housing and other amenities for their workers. The few public buildings to be erected by rich capitalists include a number of churches in Lincoln, a church in Spitalgate at Grantham and a church hall in Gainsborough. They also contributed towards the cost of wards in the County Hospital. Joseph Ruston built the Drill Hall in Lincoln and paid the interest on a loan for the construction of the church spire on the Congregational church in the city.

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Social History Day
June 2001

Over 150 people assembled at Bishop Grossestete College on 30 June 2001 for SLHA's Social History Day. The theme was domestic life in England from 1550 to 1800. Dr Dennis Mills welcomed delegates and provided a short introduction to 'the traditional household'. He compared evidence across Europe and suggested that in England the large, multi-generational extended family living together in one home was an exception.

Professor David Hey, University of Sheffield, spoke on 'moving house: how common, how far?' He suggested that although people might have moved house quite frequently, many lived and died in the same parish. To support this view he had plotted surnames obtained from various dated historical sources - e.g. the hearth tax, protestation returns - onto maps, to show that each 'country', using the term in its Victorian sense of a locality, had a number of distinctive names that remain concentrated in the same areas today. Examples included the surnames of Brumby to the north of Lincoln and Lushy in the coastal villages of Lindsey. Out of 161 families studied in one area 44% remained for a century and 16% for 200 years. He referred to a church seating plan and divided the congregation into three, the farmers and yeomen occupying the front pews, the tradesmen in the middle, and the labourers who sat at the back. The most stable group occupied the middle pews and provided most of the parish officers. The most mobile group were the labourers who were often hired annually, but seldom had opportunity to move far.

Dr Philip Dixon, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Nottingham University, spoke on 'fashion and change in vernacular housing'. He set out to demonstrate that housing at the beginning of the period was still recognisably 'medieval' with marked regional variations in materials, styles and designs. These traditions persisted until the mid 18th century when changes began in towns and estate villages, spreading throughout society until by the beginning of the 19th century the shape and nature of houses had changed completely.

The earlier period was illustrated with slides of houses from various regions, showing their characteristic styles. Regional differences were apparent in techniques of jointing and construction, even where the materials were similar. Later illustrations showed how styles became mixed, with the addition of newly fashionable features, e.g. styles of windows, doors or extra floors.

After discussing the survival of buildings, Dr Dixon considered the possible reasons for change, including fashion, travel and transport. His conclusions were that the regions have always shown differences in style and design and continue to do so. These differences cannot be explained by the availability of raw materials alone. Differences in social structure, individual choices, fashion and wealth must account for a significant number of changes in building.

After lunch Dr Mary Laces used evidence from wills to look at the changes that sprang from the Reformation. She reminded us of the severe penalties imposed in Tudor England on those challenging the established religion. Fear of purgatory was the reason for many bequests, and quite large sums were left to ensure that prayers would be said for the departed soul. This meant that very little remained for the surviving family leading to wills being contested before the Church Courts. From the 1530s the idea of purgatory was largely abandoned and lavish funerals became less common. Wealth was distributed with more thought for the survivors than before.

Brenda Webster used inventories to provide an insight into society, social customs and domestic arrangements in the fen edge villages close to Lincoln. Inventories detail 'both the quick and the dead'. Animals and grain make up 80% of the recorded value, domestic possessions the remaining 20%. Land is seldom included, but inventories can give information about house interiors, often beginning in the hall and then continuing into the parlour with its beds, bolsters and pillows. The importance of brewing and bread making is evident from the frequent mention of equipment.

Domestic wills indicate that 75% of men left their wife or son to deal with their wishes. By 1700 there is more mention of apparel - 'my suit of working clothes' or 'my second best coat'.

Mrs Webster concluded by suggesting that these inventories show that farmers lived with their wealth and gentlemen lived by their wealth.

After the tea break Chris Medley described the difficulties of living in an old house. His home, a brick-built 17th century yeoman's house, has been much altered over the years. He has traced its history but his talk concentrated on the practical problems caused by wind and water, inadequate foundations, unexpected cellars, an old well, and the ravages of dry rot and death watch beetle. After a particularly severe storm during the winter of 1998/9 the gable end wall cracked and was declared unsafe. It had to be shored up, necessitating closure of the adjacent road. Mr Medley
gave a good-humoured account of the rescue and reconstruction of his house, while attempting to satisfy the local planning authority, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Victorian Society, the Georgian Society etc at the same time.

The final speaker, Rodney Cousins, is also well used to the difficulties presented by old buildings, having been instrumental in arranging the transfer of Withern Cottage to Church Farm Museum at Skegness. He set out to show that presumptions about the low status of earth-built houses were misconceived and that mud and stud was successfully used in buildings of all types. However, he admitted that owners tended to respond more positively to questions about ‘timber framed’ buildings than ‘mud and stud’ and that their image might be better if, like in Devon, they were referred to as ‘cob’ walled buildings.

Surviving mud and stud buildings are concentrated in the eastern half of Lincolnshire, 75% of them within the Lindsey area. Mr Cousins’ slides showed that they can still make attractive and practical homes, as long as essential maintenance is not neglected. Accurate dating can be difficult. In the future the use of dendrochronology to date the framework timbers could greatly increase knowledge of these buildings.

Thanks to all who made the day a success, particularly Dr Dennis Mills, Dr Simon Pawley and Mrs Sheila Stevens who introduced and chaired the sessions.

Rubbish and the pinfold

A study of Branston Parish Council minutes 1908-1936

Jennifer Johnson

The problem of litter and the disposal of rubbish is not just a modern dilemma; rather, as the minutes of Branston Parish Council in the early 20th century record, there was a continual discussion on how Branston could be kept tidy and its household waste sensibly disposed of, before the introduction of regular refuse collections and appointed council tips.

Until the implementation of such schemes, the Parish Council’s approach to refuse was ad hoc and dependent to a great extent on the support of the local elite, such as the Leslie-Melvilles. The will, in 1908, of Mr Chas. Leslie Melville for example left provision for the appointment of a street sweeper: “to pay wages to some old parishioner whose duty shall be to look after the streets of Branston and see that they are clean and tidy to keep them so and free from all weeds, loose paper, straw and other like rubbish.”

By 20 April 1909 however, the Clerk reported that no applications had been made for the office of street cleaner. Mr Marshall thought applicants were probably backward for want of more information as to the time and work expected from them, as well as the want of necessary implements, which they (the applicants) could not afford to buy. He thought more definite information should be given on the matter. Mr Pickett proposed and Mr Harvey seconded that the subcommittee purchase a barrow, brush and shovel for the use of any suitable applicant.

On 8 July 1909 there was hence a more favourable report on the street sweeping situation, with the appointment of a street cleaner, “The Clerk reported that the sub-committee had appointed Mr George Dawson as street cleaner to commence duty from July 1, in accordance with late Mr C. Leslie Melville’s will, that the necessary tools had been purchased as per minute of April 20th.”

The level of litter and rubbish around the village nevertheless continued to be an issue and on 3 October 1912 it was proposed that the unused pinfold in Silver Street, which had long ceased to hold stray animals of the village, be used to help eradicate the problem. Mr Burchall urged the necessity of the provision of a suitable place for the deposit of rubbish in the village, seeing that
most of it was thrown along the roadside or upon private property thereby causing annoyance to occupiers and owners. He proposed that the unoccupied pinfold be used for the purpose, that a notice be put up that old tins, broken crockery and such like material might be deposited, but that light material such as paper which could be blown about by the wind, or decaying vegetable and animal refuse, which might prove an insanitary nuisance, would not be allowed.

The pinfold, however, far from solving Branston’s refuse problem, itself became the subject of numerous defamatory reports in the Parish Council minutes despite the appointment of Mr Dawson, already the street cleaner, to keep the pinfold in order at a salary of 10 shillings per annum. By 1927 the Council had come to the conclusion that the pinfold was: ‘an eyesore, the contents a danger to health and a nuisance when tins are strewn about the road and neighbouring property.’

They therefore recommended the ‘clearing out’ and selling of the pinfold, its land being eventually bought by the Oddfellows in 1932 for ten pounds. The Council finally had to become reconciled to the need for a comprehensive, if ‘periodic’, collection of village household waste. In April 1928 they consequently agreed on a new refuse system that would involve three collections of rubbish in the summer and two in the winter and that the subcommittee would further ‘define the size of the container and the nature of the contents’.

On 13 July 1928 the Clerk was therefore happy to report that the ‘Scavenging scheme has been put into operation’ and that the first collection had been carried out satisfactorily. By 1933, finding their refuse duties somewhat onerous the Parish Council asked ‘North Kesteven District Council as the proper authority to carry out the work of scavenging as previously done by the PC and be responsible for house to house collection of tins and dry refuse, together with raising money for payment of the same.’

The Rural District Council agreed to take on the scavenging role in June 1933, although arrangements for the actual collection were still made by the Parish Council.

Complaints concerning refuse collection nevertheless show that problems changed rather than being solved. On 20 April 1936 – ‘The Clerk reported that Messrs. Foreman Bros. had given a quotation for scavenging at 30 shillings per collection which was the same as the previous figure. The Clerk also pointed out that collections had been somewhat irregular and suggested date periods.’ On 24 September 1936 – ‘The Clerk pointed out that 3 houses on Lincoln Road beyond Ashfield Lodge were constantly missed on refuse-collecting days and promised to see Messrs. Foreman about the matter.’

Another complaint on 5 February 1926 shows that some of the problems of communal life never change: ‘Mr Ward made a complaint respecting the paper and litter in the streets and it was left to the Clerk to mention the matter to the Scavenger (Hunt) and also to the fried fish merchants, requesting them to ask their customers to abate the nuisance especially on Saturday nights.’

Site of Branston Pinfold today
This section aims to list all new titles with as many short reviews as space permits. All reviews are by the Reviews Editor unless otherwise stated. The majority of these titles are obtainable from Jews’ Court bookshop, Steep Hill, Lincoln.

Meanwhile all involved in this project deserve recognition for an excellent idea so well carried out.


A very well produced work that has a number of unusual features. The sub-divisions are: history, properties, a modern directory of available services, family history; within them are also a copy of the current electoral roll, a good coloured map, a list of census returns, a page on the cost of living in the village in 1999 and the back cover shows Dick Read’s bull! The historical notes cover many topics with good early pictures, extracts from the relevant pages of earlier directories, Rex Russell’s map and notes on enclosure, a feature on the Green Dragon pub and an account of Oscar Wilde’s visit in 1876 (his uncle was then the vicar). There is a large amount of detail under properties, not only about the prominent houses but much on the families who have lived in them, the other large section concerns the present villagers and their families - all illustrated with excellent colour pictures of the places and people. For the family historian this is a goldmine and, for the future student, a full picture of West Ashby and its present population.


An authoritative introduction to archaeology for children (and their teachers!) and intended, as the title makes clear, for intensive school use for practical visits to the many excavated sites in Lincoln. Plenty of maps and lively illustrations help to ensure that previously untapped interest in how the city developed in the way it did should be aroused in receptive children.

The clear text uses the city as a background to wider studies of the changing life-styles of our ancestors and their Roman and Viking invaders, ideas for class visits and suggested activities appear throughout. It deserves to be a successful tool in the kindling of interest in our local historical heritage, how the Romans lived, the arrival of Christianity and the Vikings, and the legacy of these events on our own lives.


There can be few aviation historians without a set of the Action Station series by various authors, published by Patrick Stephens during the 1980s, which gave brief histories of all the UK’s WW2 airfields. These were updated in the 1990s by adding an extra section. This volume covers a much larger area than the original books and the author has taken the opportunity to rewrite completely the various entries. He gives Eastern England, in this...
case, as east of the A1 and M11 from 20 miles north of London to the City of Lincoln (be aware the map on the back cover makes it appear that all of Lincolnshire is covered). Thus airfields to the north of Lincoln will presumably appear in the volumes on Northern England or, even, the Midlands. One minor quibble is the phrase in the title, 'The complete history...when, in fact, many WW1 airfields are not mentioned, but, in a book of already 400 pages, this is perhaps understandable.

The airfields are listed alphabetically; each entry gives latitude and longitude, OS map reference and position relative to local towns, villages, etc. These data are then followed by a brief history (but sometimes running to four or five pages) brought up to 1999, thus incorporating the many recent changes at Cramwell and Waddington, for example. The entries end with the runway layout, numbers of hangars and the number of personnel as at December, 1944. Some, but by no means all, have a map and there are numerous photographs. Michael Bowyer, a respected aviation historian, has written a worthy successor to the original series and it is to be hoped that the publishers will produce further volumes in the series.

Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham.


The approach here is an obvious one but not one to be found in many of the other village histories that have recently appeared. The bulk of the book records events year by year from 1900 on; the earlier pages adopt a similar approach but for obvious reasons (some sources are usefully quoted) can only pick out years for which there is good evidence of activity associated with the two villages. Much research has gone into assembling all these details; there are good pictures reproduced on good art paper, including two colour sections devoted to present inhabitants and their working environments. An appendix lists the incumbents while another provides a six page survey carried out in November last year of the present scene with analyses of occupations, the length of time various villagers have dwelt there and other useful sociological data. 35 items are listed finally in the bibliography - evidence, if it were needed - of the research undertaken here. Very worthwhile.


This might well be described as the story of a Lincolnshire resident during travels at home and abroad - wars and all. Not an uncommon theme except that this 'resident' was an Avro Vulcan which often left Waddington for far flung places. The difference adds spice and not a little interest.

The author was a Crew Chief with total responsibility for preparing and maintaining his Vulcan in flying condition. It was not always the same aircraft, especially in the days of centralised servicing, but eventually aircraft were allocated to a particular squadron and the feeling of an aircraft 'belonging' became the norm.

Undoubtedly Barry took great pride in his task though, at times, leaking fuel or dubious electrical circuits could be cause of frustration. The Vulcan spent most of its life standing on cold, wintry dispersal points and numbed fingers and icy toes must have been commonplace - on one occasion a fire at start-up might have provided too much warmth as the plane had a full bomb load.

There was the odd chance of flights to Cyprus and Malta as welcome locations, but remote places brought their own problems for servicing arrangements. While the RAF had specialised kit for dealing with most problems initiative was often called for. A heavy fall of snow on the Vulcan's large delta wing could tip the plane on its tilt; the accepted tool for clearing this was a length of rope thrown over the wing and pulled back and forth. Not many people know that!

The book is as much the story of Barry's life as that of the Vulcan. There were long spells away from home, practice scrambles at any time, sadness when aircraft crashed and lives lost, problems of poor management and government cuts that often led to low morale. FOB’S KID? Nowadays often called 'mushroom management' - the book explains.

The publishers are to be congratulated for producing this entertaining book, well written and with good quality colour photographs, not a spelling mistake in sight or an apostrophe misplaced. Even if you don’t like noisy aircraft this is an enjoyable read of one man's pride in his contribution to the defence of Britain and humour in facing difficulties.

There is now only one Vulcan left in the world capable of flying. Friends of the Vulcan are working so that it may one day grace county skies. Sadly the author died last year and will not see it.

Owen Northwood, Donington.


A successor to the already out-of-print 'Fotherby down the years' this new volume has a very strong emphasis on the present-day people of the village; lots of photographs of groups and individuals ensure that no recent activity has
gone unrecorded. Older pictures also appear showing workers on the local farms, houses now gone or radically altered (e.g. the Fotherby Hall station house), people or trades now in the past (the village policeman, for instance) and an interesting section centring on those who served in the two wars. There is little text beyond the captions to the pictures which have come out beautifully on excellent quality paper. Another success for all involved is certain.

Another village gets the millennium treatment! Frequently such volumes are the first serious attempt at setting down from archival and other researches, personal memories and the gathering of a wide range of illustrative material for the place concerned; it is vital that, if what may well be the first and only such effort, it should be as well done as possible. Here we have such a volume. The incumbent writes a nicely illustrated account of St. Hugh's mission church and others add their memories of a variety of church events. This is followed by similarly organised sections on the chapels, the schools, the village institute, the WI and a good range of other aspects of village life - the browmies and guides, memories of the war including a section on the home guard and the ways the villagers attempted to entertain themselves. There are good pictures too. Research on the village's older history has still to be undertaken but as a record of recent life this is a very good effort.

HILL, P. R. editor. Wigford; historic Lincoln south of the river. Survey of Lincoln Project, c/o City Hall, Lincoln LN1 1DF. 2000. 32pp. ISBN 0 9538650 0 2. £3 pbk.
The Survey of Lincoln was established to research the history and development of the city. Wigford, the suburb south of the River Witham is the subject of this first excellent booklet and gives a concise and comprehensive outline of its history under several headings concerned with population, housing and architecture, churches, industry and transport from pre-Roman times up to 2000. There is also a useful section on how and where such historical evidence is found, plus important suggestions for further reading. The reader is invited to join the Survey of Lincoln too, with postal address, web site and telephone number to contact.

Peter de Wint's 'View over South Lincoln' on the front cover, showing Little Bargate, is inviting enough to get you into the book, while the illustrations inside are numerous and well chosen, though the Waterside development on page 30 is actually not in Wigford! There is at least one photograph, drawing or diagram on all but two pages including the back cover, and the centre pages have Marr's map of Lincoln (1817 corrected to 1848). The final section, on conservation and development, deals objectively with the recent past, the present and the future, bringing the book to a close on a positive note.

This is a professionally written and attractively produced booklet that can be enjoyed on its own or as an introduction to an in-depth study of any aspect of 'historic Lincoln south of the river'. A jolly readable little book.

Ros Beavers, Lincoln


MUFC is seen daubed among other graffiti all over the place but here is a different version of these initials. The Lincolnshire League was set up in 1947-8 and three years later Mablethorpe had their most successful season, finally ending up fourth - above local rivals at Skegness, Louth and Alford. Most matches are described and the pulsating ups and downs are well conveyed. In a 'friendly' against Scunthorpe United (now in the Football League), there was a crowd of 1100 - happy days!

A fully illustrated account of the development of the town, the building of its pier (it opened in 1873) and the central role it has played in the popularity of the seaside town. Well researched and produced.

I had the pleasure of reviewing two of John's previous books (L & P, no. 30, Summer, 2000). This edition follows exactly the same format, i.e. snippets from the Grantham Journal of those years, snippets of news that caught John's eye as he turned the pages. However, there is one subtle difference between this volume and the earlier ones. As not so much water has flowed under the proverbial bridge as in the earlier booklets many of the people mentioned stand a good chance of still being with us; so as to save possible unpleasantness not all names are stated when someone has been up before the beak! Good thinking, John. There is an unfortunate error in
that the photograph on the front cover is not as stated, but is of the top of Watergate as it was being widened in 1951.

Malcolm Knapp, Grantham.


The author has, in recent years, done much to ensure that the earlier records of life in the village are preserved and made available for others. While some of the illustrations have appeared before in his earlier works (and an excellent video, all reviewed in L&P, 33/34) new items have come to light and are very faithfully reproduced on good quality art paper. There is an extensive text covering each topic as the evolution of the village, how the local scenes and a strong section on farming reflect fundamental changes in life-styles over the last century. Mr. Rand has focussed on specific events for more detailed treatment, usually exploiting particular memories supported by contemporary photographic records; these include a trip to Cleethorpes in 1925, the brass band, the Sunday school anniversary in 1930 and the second world war. The WEA and the author have produced a fine collaborative book to supplement their earlier work and, as the foreword has it, “thanks to Eric it [the life of the community] is not forgotten”.


This brief booklet usefully records the history of the Society from its origins in a meeting in October, 1949 to the present day. Written by a founder-member it could hardly be more authoritative. Lists show what a range of artistic activity has been brought to Lincoln and include such internationally regarded artists (in the first decade) as Tyrone Guthrie, C. Day Lewis, Leon Geoffscn, Gerald Moore, Basil Spence, Sir Mortimer Wheeler plus trips to Nottingham and Sheffield for opera and ballet. In 1955-6 eight such trips each of two bus loads!


Decades of mild winters have deprived the Fenland skaters of their sport. Only rarely now can they get out their blades or ‘patens’ to contest the King Edward VII Cup or the Linclonshire championship. To ensure that the skating achievements of the past are not forgotten John Slater (himself a former speed skater) and Allan Bunch of Peterborough Library have rendered an admirable service by compiling this well-researched and splendidly illustrated account of speed skating in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.

Beginning with William Fitzstephen’s 1180 account of young men propelling themselves on bone skates over the ice of the Great Fen or Moore, the authors relate how the Fens were drained in 1630 by the Dutchman Cornelius Vermuyden, whose workmen brought their ‘schaus’ or skates and showed the fen folk how to race on ice. Much of the book consists of vivid word pictures of some of the best-known Fen skaters, with plenty of anecdotes and photographs from family albums. Most prominent were the Smart and See families of Welney, related by marriage but sturdy rivals over forty years of skating. Probably best of them was James Smart (1865-1928), three times professional champion of Great Britain.

The writers give scant attention to the beginnings of organised skating in this country. The founder is named only in a reproduced poster: “Official time taken by Mr. J D Digby”. In fact, as I showed in my book ‘Our skating heritage’, the official history of the National Skating Association (1979), it was the far-sighted James Drake Digby who was so impressed by the performances of James Smart’s brother George that he decided that official recognition should be given. The result was the formation in 1879 of the NSA, the sport’s governing body, which runs championships, arranges proficiency tests and selects teams for European, World and Olympic events.

The book contains valuable statistics, particularly of the Linclonshire amateur championship from 1891 to 1980. Curiously, later results are not shown. For instance, our Olympic bronze medallist in 1994 Nicky Gooch won the King Edward VII Cup three years later but is not listed. Nevertheless, this is a delightful and indispensable book for anyone interested in Lincolnshire sport.

Dennis L. Bird, Shoreham-on-Sea, NSA historian and Times skating correspondent for twenty years.


Three more villages are covered in the upsurge of millennium studies with a couple of pages on the priory that once existed at Greenfield. A general historical introduction, preceded by a good large map of the area c.1900, is followed by a list of dates of local and national events from 1894, chapters on the two places with final essays on farming and the
railway history of Aby. Within the text are histories of certain trades or accounts of certain families; while they are of interest (sometimes more than that) one wonders why there could not have been a wider coverage of other villagers and their lives. The Aby section has pieces on what life was like in 1900, church and chapel, the school, local sports, how both wars affected the villagers, the post office and the village blacksmith; the latter includes diagrams and pictures on ‘shoeing a cartwheel’.

The items for Belcote deal with: watercress production, the manor, the dovecote (a listed 16th century building), the church; Claythorpe is represented by pieces on Claythorpe Mill, the manor and the Millson family. The farming and railway essays are both detailed and well researched. All the writing is well supported by many good pictures and the layout and design show how much thought went into the whole production. Good value.


In 1996 a Welton group produced Welton: I remember... (still available, as above), an A4 glossy production with hundreds of illustrations well produced on art paper. The group has, using the same high quality production values, now issued (in landscape A4 format) a survey decade by decade of the village. Much hard work has gone into scanning newspapers and studying the records of village institutions (parish council and church minutes, school log, etc.). The result is a very detailed record of every form of village activity and, as a reference, it will prove very useful.

The earlier work, one suspects, has slightly limited the choice of pictures this time and, in some cases, cross reference to an appropriate picture would have enhanced the usefulness of both volumes. For instance, in 1902 the new village hall was opened and there is a picture on page 82; however, on p. 30 of the earlier work there are two more, including the opening ceremony. I was personally disappointed that the picture in the earlier volume of the opening of the new library is not mirrored by any reference at all under 1973 in the new book. These points should not detract from the value the new study will provide not only for present villagers but for future historians.


This account of Wrawby in the last two centuries claims to be a snapshot rather than a comprehensive history; however, it is the nearest thing to a full history that has ever been published. It consists of five chapters, each on a different theme: education, the church, farming, windmills, and dwellers and dwellings. The longest and most detailed chapter is on education, giving an account of schooling in Wrawby against a background of national developments in education and is enhanced by personal reminiscences from the early 20th century. The authors are to be congratulated on finding illustrations of all the properties (including some that have been demolished) described in the chapter on dwellers and dwellings. Whilst the thematic approach is useful, the book would have benefited from a short general introduction to put Wrawby in its geographical and historical context, with some explanation for readers unfamiliar with the area; for instance, there are references to Ketton, but we are not told that it is a hamlet of the neighbouring parish of Bigby, nor is it shown on the maps. The book is well laid out, with a good selection of pictures and document reproductions; helpful reference to sources is given at the end of each chapter. At £6.99 it is good value and informative.

Eleanor Nunnestad, Lincoln

New titles recently published or received


ATKINSON, Rosetta and COTTAM, Pat. Ripraple village. The authors. 2001. 300pp. (including over 400 illus). £15 hbk, plus £4 p & p. from Mrs. Cottam, 3 Doctors Close, Ripraple, Bourne, Lincoln PE10 9ST.


ix. 102pp. (East Anglian Archaeology. report, no. 94). ISBN 1 874150 32 9. £11.50. From the series distributor, P. McMichael, Essex County Council Archaeology Section, Fairfield Road, Braintree CM7 3YQ.

CLARK, David H. and CLARK, Stephen P. H. Newton's tyranny: the suppressed scientific discoveries of John Flamsteed and Stephen Gray. W. H. Frcmen, 2000. 192pp. ISBN 0 7176 4215 2. There are no UK rights for this in hardback though it is listed at $19.16 through Amazon.com. I am told that UK rights will be sold this summer but the book will only appear then in paperback.


Rodger, David and Cooper, Patrick, editors. Lincolnshire women at war: the vital role they played in the county during World War II. A compilation of entries from the 1997 Women at War competition organised by Heritage Lincolnshire, Heritage Lincolnshire, 2001. 52pp. ISBN 0 948639 31 4. £3.95 pbk.


Stanley, Simon. A history of the Roman Catholic community of Stamford. No publisher given. 2000. iii, 100pp. No ISBN. £5 pbk. from Walker's Bookshop, High St, Stamford or Father Flanagan, RC Church, Broad Street, Stamford.

