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It was good after the extraordinary summer that we finally had some pleasant weather for Heritage Open Days. Good weather does make a considerable contribution to enjoyment of events, not least to the alfresco enjoyment of numerous cups of tea and cakes.

This year Lincolnshire's explorers and pioneers had pride of place, and some excellent events and displays were available around the county. It is a great opportunity to refresh oneself at parts and places that one otherwise cannot reach, even if there is occasional frustration at not being able to get to everything one would like. It is, after all, quite likely that a popular event will decide to open again another year.

Perhaps readers who have organised events or researched local pioneers for any reason would like to write to us about their experiences, especially what events or activities came out of this.

It is often difficult to tell what will go down well, not least with children. This year I have heard of three incidents that remind us of changing times and experiences. At Heritage Lincolnshire's display at Heckington Show this year it was discovered that some children taking part in a 'dig' did not recognise a thimble!

I have also heard of school groups coming to the countryside who have never previously walked on a path that is neither paving nor tarmac. In another case children were so excited about finding sticks that they wanted to take them home. I have not named the source of this last observation as I realise that carrying sticks of any kind or size must be a huge issue with the politically correct health and safety 'police'! Has anyone come across any similar signs of the times?

We continue to receive a varied postbag of contributions and queries, including new research on Henry Stone of Skellingthorpe and Harmston church. Many Thanks to all our contributors.

*Hilary Healey*
There are several ways in which Henry Stone made his small mark on local affairs. His name is commemorated in the Stone Arms public house in Skellingthorpe village, and in Stones Place Farm, where, on the site of the farmstead, was built the house now known as Stones Place Methodist Home for the Aged, a project of which Stone would approve.

Henry Stone was born about 1631, the son of John Stone of High Holborn in Middlesex and his wife Katherine (Moody) and he died at Skellingthorpe in 1693.

John Stone had purchased the estate of Skellingthorpe in 1630 from Sir Henry Ferrars, a Royalist involved in the Garrison at Newark, resulting in his lands being sequestered. John Stone's widow and son had problems from 1650 to 1656 in saving the Skellingthorpe estate from the sequestration.

Henry had one brother, Thomas, who died at the age of 25 and there was a slab in Skellingthorpe church in his memory.

Henry, his wife Mary, and their two sons who died young, are commemorated on a tomb in Skellingthorpe churchyard, erected by the Governors of Christ's Hospital.

It is said that he asked that his dog, who saved him from being struck by lightning by dragging him away from a tree under which he was sheltering, should be buried close to his grave on the other side of the fence. There is a picture of the dog and the blasted tree in Doddington Hall.

He made his will in July 1688, giving instructions for his burial without undue expense, in the Parish Church of Skellingthorpe near his wife. He stated that God had blessed him far beyond his merit or expectation, and having no legal heir and no living family, he wished to dispose of his estate for the benefit of others.

He made generous provision for Elizabeth Goodrick 'now living with me' out of land he owned at Fiskerton, and made substantial bequests to John Harwood of Skellingthorpe and John Harvey of South Witham, 'my servant'. He ordered the money he held in trust for widow Mary Atkins to be paid to her. About 40 named people were left legacies of varying small amounts, some living in Skellingthorpe and others being 'cousins', plus all his servants and...
land was very susceptible to flooding.

In 1681 Henry Stone began a suit against the Mayor of Lincoln and others for hindering the water passing to the Trent thereby flooding his lands. The Spital Charity (as it became known) administered the estate and retained ownership of some of the land into the 20th century.

He left to Henry MONSON of Burton, S Edward HUSSEY of Fulbeck, Wm. ELLIS of Norton and Wm. YORK of the City of Lincoln, S Xpher NEVILLE of Auber, Christopher BERRISFORD of Long Leadenham Esq., Thomas BOOTH, Samuel LODINGTON of Braceybridge, John HARWOOD of Skel-

The Stone family tomb in Skellingthorpe churchyard from the north east

Stone Arms in Skellingthorpe village

within eight miles of the same and should also be perpetual Visitors and Supervisors that his gifts may not be converted to other uses.

There was already a Jersey School in Lincoln, held in the lower part of Greyfriars, which benefited from Stone’s bequest. The poor were taught to knit so that they could earn. There is a record of the City Council in 1661 providing stock for the Master.

The Stone family tomb in Skellingthorpe churchyard from above

The commemoration on the south side of the tomb

the Birchwood estate area, and had a boundary with the Fosdyke and with Swanpool, where the

Fraudulent use of the money he stipulated that Trustees were to be by nomination (not being Freemen or living within the limits of London, Lincoln and Newark or

Sir Isaac Newton designed a medal or badge for the boys of the Royal Mathematical School within Christ’s Hospital i.e. the Henry Stone Foundation, which prepared boys for apprenticeship at sea. The badge bears the name ‘Henry Stone’ ‘Numere, pondore et Mensis’ and three boys round a table, one with a scroll with figures, one holding a balance and one using a pair of compasses.

The manor of Skellingthorpe was a large acreage, with several farms. It included most of what became the RAF base and is now

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and regulating the rates of pay for the spinners and knitters.

In 1741 the common council planned to turn the school into a general workhouse. The Woolcombers said this was not in accordance with the will of the benefactor, and sought the intervention of the Secretary of State, citing Henry Stone's will, resulting in the school being reinstated.  

In 1826 an investigation found that Jersey spinning had virtually been abandoned and in 1828 the master was paid off. By that time the school was closed and was not reopened. The council agreed to repay to the trustees of Stone's will the capital sum with which it had been endowed.  

The bequest in Newark was invested in lands at Bingham and Girtin. A report for the year 1875 shows the school in good order. The rents from the land had amounted to £206; £212 had been paid for worsted; a weekly allowance of thirteen shillings was paid to a reading mistress, and eight shillings to a spinning mistress; 940 pairs of stockings had been knitted at 1s. 3d. per pair.

The school continued until 1901 when, with the consent of Christ's Hospital (without which the funds would have reverted), the endowment was amalgamated with John Lilley's bequest for the founding of a new school for girls—Newark High School, Lilley and Stone Foundation, which opened in 1910.  

Some of the new spinning wheels provided by Stone's bequest were displayed in the library of the school, on London Road, Newark, and were also incorporated into the school badge. The school no longer bears the names of Lilley and Stone.

NOTES
2 Ibid. 'A flat slab now under the West tower' giving the biographical details. Not visible 2006.
3 Lincolnshire Archives ref. I.D. 71/1. Certified copy.
5 Sir Francis Hill, Tudor & Stuart Lincoln p. 209.
6 Sir Francis Hill, Georgian Lincoln p. 158.
7 Ibid. p. 249.
8 Newark & Sherwood DC/ Museums.
9 Cornelius Brown, A History of Newark upon Trent, 1907 (Reprinted 1995).

Skellingthorpe churchyard, showing the Stone tomb in the centre of the picture. Picture from the editors' collection.
Beryl Jackson looks at some effects of the 1733 Bastardy Act as described in John Peck’s diaries (1818-1851) and the poetry of George Crabbe (1758-1851).

In the 18th century, a law was passed, the Bastardy Act of 1733. Under this Act a woman could, on oath before a justice, charge any man with making her pregnant. The justice could then imprison the man charged unless he paid a sum of money to the parish. Alternatively he could marry the woman. The poet George Crabbe in 1807 graphically described this situation:

Next at our altar stood a luckless pair,
Brought by strong passions and a warrant there;
By long rent cloak, hung loosely, strove the bride,
From every eye, what all perceived, to hide,
While the boy-bridegroom, shuffling in his place,
Now hid awhile and then exposed his face,
As shame alternately with anger strove,
The brain confused with muddy ale to move;
In haste and stammering he performed his part,
And looked the rage that rankled in his heart;
(To will each other only curse his fate,
Too soon made happy and made wise too late).

The following account is from the diary of John Peck of Parson Drove. As well as a farmer, John Peck was also the village constable. The extract shows what lengths were taken to relieve the parish from the burden of supporting a child:

January 20th 1819 Started with J. Bradley, Overseer after Francis Ward (bastardy). To Wisbech took gig, and arrived at Boston at 4 o’clock. Evening at the White Hart Inn.
January 21st Took horses and rode to Wildmore Fen. Apprehended Ward in the barn, threshing, took him to Boston. At the White Hart all night.
January 22nd Started Mr Ward and Bradley in the gig, walked myself to Fosdyke Wash. Rode from there to Holbeach, Mr Bradley walking, dined at the Chequers. Drove to Wisbech, Bradley on the post horse. Arrived by 4, placed Ward in gaol, and then home to Parson Drove by 8 o’clock.
January 23rd Rode down Wisbech Fen. Told Sarah Brown to be in readiness, had her and her child at Wisbech by 1 o’clock. Took Ward from prison. Got licence; post chaise to Wisbech St Mary’s there married them. Back to Wisbech, swore Ward to his settlement (Tydd St Giles). Dined with the new-married couple at the White Hart, wished them happy and home to Parson Drove by 7 o’clock.
PREVIOUS YEAR, 1818
October 8th Rode with Mr Edwards on search for Francis Ward, went to Gedney Drove End, and back to Long Sutton to dine—heard that the man was in Holland Fen.

IT HAD TAKEN OVER THREE MONTHS TO TRACK FRANCIS WARD DOWN.
I would like to thank Wisbech and Fenland Museum for the use of the John Peck diaries (1818-1851).
Spiral staircases, otherwise known as vice, do not receive much attention. Visitors are normally too concerned about their footing, or minding their heads, or wondering how much further they have to climb.

The tower of Harnston church, built about 1100, had such a stair inserted in its north west corner at a later date [Fig 1—Plan]. One can tell that it is later, because the walls of the turret, seen from inside the tower, are of coursed rubble, as are the walls of the tower, but the courses of the two do not line up.

As can be seen from the plan, it will have been necessary to remove much of the corner of the tower in order to insert this staircase, a surprisingly bold move. What is more surprising is that the staircase seems to have been assembled as it were, from a kit.

In order to clarify what I mean by this, I should explain that rubble and ashlar masonry have normally been constructed in quite different ways.

Ashlar consists of blocks with carefully prepared bearing surfaces, so that they can be laid with only a thin layer of mortar. Other faces of the stone, especially any that will be visible after it is laid, are also carefully shaped.

This work was normally done by what are called ‘banker masons’ working on a site in a temporary lodge or workshop. They were more highly skilled and superior to the ‘layer masons’ who actually applied the mortar and set the stones in place.

In contrast, ‘rubble’ consists of stones more or less as they come from the quarry, perhaps roughly squared, and taken and used directly by the layer masons. Now for a project where only a small amount of ashlar was needed, it would have been inefficient to have banker masons on site. The turret at Harnston seems to provide such an example.

Thus it seems that the master mason will have ordered:

- 65 steps—Fig 2
- 65 lengths of newel, each with tuskings for a step—Fig 3
- About 400 concave ashlars, 21cm high, 28–42cm long
- 60 ditto, but with the top left corner sliced off—Fig 4
- Flat ashlars of variable height, to a total height of 12 metres
- A couple of dozen flat ashlars of height 21cm

All except the newels have a
distinctive manner of tooling and seem to come from a common source; the newels appear to come from a different source (Fig 5—photos).

One assumes that the lowest newel was laid on a particularly large block to provide stability. Whatever was done is below the current floor level and cannot be seen. But it is noticeable (Fig 1) that the newel is on the inside corner of the former wall so would be able to make use of the old foundations.

Moving the vice further out would have left more of the original wall but would have required the vice to stand on its own foundation, which might sink relative to that of the rest of the tower, and differential movement could wreak the new vice.

For the first three-quarters of a spiral, the steps could be laid on solid walling. Normally the tusk of the newel formed the innermost part of the step. However, it was done rather than cutting a newel with two tusks is evidence that the newels were not being produced on site.

From this height upwards, the steps are carried on a tunnel vault, formed in short sections by pieces of limestone rubble, laid radially. This would have been formed on simple wooden centring supported on laths running from newel to outer wall. The bearing surface for the lath on the outer wall was formed by cutting short the diagonal on the ashlar immediately below the vault (Fig 4). The bearing surface at the centre was produced by cutting a mortise in the underside of the next newel, so that the lath could rest on the one below. This is visible in Fig 5: note how crudely the mortise is cut.

The vault is initially almost 1.5cm thick, measured vertically. Of course its steepness means that the thickness measured perpendicular to its surface is much less. The thickness of the vault decreases as the vice ascends, giving additional headroom, something that is inconveniently deficient for the lowest part.

It may be that the builders mis-
judged the point at which they needed to start the vault or it may be that the vault is actually intended to strengthen the corner of the vice that projects into the internal space of the tower, in order to guard against the inadequacy of those internal foundations. Subsequent work suggests that those foundations were indeed inadequate and the thickness of the vault did not make it a substitute in carrying the weight of that inner quarter of the vice.

The vice is lit by four simple windows. These are of such a width that one of the larger ashlars can serve as a lintel. The openings are exactly two courses high, a gap being left in the ashlars for these two courses; except for the lowest window, the course below also has a gap left, so that a sloping sill of rubble and mortar, can be provided. The stone used for the ashlars is not really strong enough to use as a lintel, and some have cracked. This could have been avoided had a simple rear-arch been formed, but of course there would have required banker masons on site.

Beyond this skin of ashlar, the openings are simply hacked through the rubble wall, being provided sometimes with roughly formed lintels in this middle section. In the outer surface a single slab of stone has been pierced to form what can only be described as a 'window frame'. David Stocker noted the assumption that the Anglo-Saxon stone was previously at Harmston can only be speculative.

The vice will have been provided with doorways at ground level and at first floor level. Enough of the latter can be seen to show that the opening was lined with ashlar that coursed with rest of the lining of the vice. Unfortunately the doorway seems to have been refashioned in the 14th century and then moved a little higher in 1867.

The ground floor doorway with the surrounding outer wall was wholly rebuilt about 1800. This may well have been occasioned by cracking brought about by inadequate foundations of the part projecting into the internal space of the tower.

The top of the vice where it emerges into the bell chamber was rebuilt in or about 1914. It is impossible to say how closely the present arrangement corresponds to the original one.

One last feature should be noted. In a couple of places, stones of square section, two courses high, appear in the ashlar lining. Their depth is unknown, but they appear to tie the vice into the surrounding walling.

Dated examples of vices with tusked newels and the steps carried on a spiral vault can be
found from the mid 12th century. The use of oval frames for the small windows suggests a date no later than 1200. To produce a more precise date it may be helpful to ask why such a major and risky alteration was undertaken. After all, the tower had been built without a vice; indeed, how many church towers to this day can only be ascended by ladders?

It is worth noting that the vice ascends, not to the top of the tower but to the floor of the bell chamber. At the present day, that means to the level of the bells. However, in the 12th century, the bells would have been hung high in the bell stage, just under the roof. So a ladder would still be needed for jobs like greasing the bell bearings.

What is so special about the bell chamber floor? I suggest that it is the view that it provides—or rather provided, since now the louvers overlap too much to allow one to look out horizontally. Of course, the view from the roof is slightly better, but the vantage provided by the bell chamber is dry, if draughty. This would be important if anyone was maintaining a watch for any length of time.

Now we know that the Battle of Lincoln in 1141 was accompanied by much pillage in the southern part of the city. It is at least plausible that a continuous watch was instituted for approaching armed bands, a watch that would require watchers of discretion and experience, qualities that are often associated with age—and unwillingness to climb 50ft of ladders. The bell ropes passing through the floor would provide a quick and convenient means of ringing alarms.

Was that why the vice was inserted? We shall never know. But it seems a hypothesis worth entertaining.

1 D. Stocker and P. Everson, Summoning St Michael, 2006.
Quite by chance, in the middle of the Heritage Open Days weekend, I heard on BBC Radio Lincolnshire about a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of Langrick Bridge over the Witham.

So on Sunday 9 September off I went after lunch to find the bridge decorated with bunting, a band playing in front of the Ferry Boat Inn, and festive crowds everywhere!

Soon a man with a red flag appeared, heading a small procession of steam engines, cars and a wonderfully basic road roller. These rumbled across the bridge to the bemusement (and no doubt some irritation) of the regular traffic, which built up quickly in both directions on the B1192, and even along the New York road. Everything shook and a neighbour opined that the bridge would probably not last another hundred years.

The café in the former Station Yard seemed to be doing good business, there was a fairground organ not quite competing with the band, boats were moored and passing and everyone appeared to be having a great time.

Parking was free and there was a very lively and relaxed atmosphere.

I was not able to stay and find out whether any history or photographs etc were on display anywhere, perhaps someone can tell us. I have seen pictures of the old ferry boat—can a reader lend us a copy?
THE HIGH BRIDGE spans the Witham, and will be recognised by the Obelisk on the left side, erected in 1763. The obelisk occupies the site of an ancient chapel to St Thomas the Martyr, in which the Corporation founded a Chantry in the reign of Edward I. Probably priests might pray for the redemption of the souls of the ancient officials.

Through numerous villages enters the Brayford basin, and flows through the High-bridge to the ocean past Boston, between which place and Lincoln, steam packets ply daily; and perhaps one of the most beautiful views of the City is the one greeting the eyes of the stranger as he approaches it by the steam packet from Boston.

Whatever may be said in praise of the bridge as regards the road over it, the water way under is a great impediment to navigation and drainage, and a crying evil, though it may possess peculiar interest for the antiquary.

The governing charter of the City mentions that it is graced with eight several stone arches. These are supposed to have crossed as many streams of the river, but only one remains, which is supported by groined ribs, springing from a base, and uniting in the centre; all parts of the architecture are of very massive work, in a style of Gothic magnificence uncommonly fine.

It furnished the late Mr Dewint, the Artist, a very effective subject for his pencil. Lincoln, in 1352, was made one of the six towns on which was conferred the staple of wool; a privilege which proved highly beneficial to the City, by the trade which it promoted.

Whilst it continued one of the Staple towns there was an officer called the Mayor of the Staple.

The fine sheet of water called Brayford may be approached from the High Bridge by a flight of steps, or by any of the narrow streets or passages leading from the High Street.

NOTES AND QUERIES 69:1

BUILT ON WOOL
At the end of 2006, during works on the Grantham canal locks, engineers discovered that Axminster carpet had been used in the past to create a watertight seal at Willis's Lock, near Woolsthorpe by Belvoir. The lock dates to the 18th century and original wood and brickwork were also found. It is not thought that the use of carpet was normal practice, but it clearly helped to create a watertight seal, and was apparently in good condition.

On the wider issue of lock restoration, a good deal of restoration work has been done over the years on the Sleaford Navigation, but it is not known what discoveries of original structures have been made there. This type of restoration work does not appear to come under the aegis of any of the local or regional archaeological contractors, so no news ever appears. Hilary Healey
Catastrophic weather conditions in early 19th century Lincolnshire (original document)

10 November 1810
REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES

Extracts taken from a handwritten account found in Historical Notes on Spalding, vol. 1, by A. J. K. Maples
Spalding Gentlemen's Society Library
Kindly contributed by Rose Clark of Spalding

This is an account of the events on Saturday 10 November 1810 when the locality of Spalding suffered a battering from hurricane strength S:SE winds, heavy rain and high tides, for about 15 hours.

The sea walls were breached in many places, seawater surged up the River Welland smashing the Vernatts Drain Sluice three miles from Spalding, and the Welland overflowed flooding parts of the town and the lands around.

A breach was made in the bank at that place by which all Pinchbeck and Surfleet Marshes were covered with seawater to the depth of several feet, houses and barns were washed away, many sheep and cattle drowned and trees blown down.

It was truly distressing to behold all manner of implements of husbandry, corn, hay, household goods floating on the water; indeed numerous stacks of corn and hay were seen floating like litter on the water's surface.

But these were not the only losses sustained by the farmers and graziers of this part of the country, their winter stocks of cole (?) and turnips were not only destroyed by the seawater but the new sown wheat lands were considerably injured, if not totally destroyed for that season.

It was estimated that about 20,000 acres of the richest, most valuable land in the county were inundated, with the loss of some 15,000 sheep, as well as horses and cattle. Some inhabitants were drowned or whilst many lost their homes. But according to the account, human and animal distress was prolonged and worsened by a total lack of fresh water, since all wells, rivers, pools and ditches were polluted by seawater,

In fact there was hardly a sea bank left along the coast from Spalding to Wainfleet, a distance of 30 miles, but was gulled* by the amazing wind and holed or else the surge ran clear over them. The water ran over the road between Spalding and Boston in several places and in some was a foot in depth. The wind gave the vast expanse of water an undulating motion, which in every aspect gave it the resemblance of a sea.

*OED definition of gull (of water): to make channels or ruts in; to hollow out; to sweep away; to wear down.

NOTES AND QUERIES 69:2/3

GEORGE ELIOT AND GAINSBOROUGH
The passing query about George Eliot elicited some responses. Ian Jebbott drew my attention to some brief published references, based on the journals of her partner, George H. Lewes, though none of them quote his actual words! An article by Margaret Crompton will appear in the next issue. Hilary Healey

POSTCARD COLLECTABLES
In LP&P 66, page 9, the faded letters on the front wall of the Jew's House must surely be from the street sign, STEEP HILL? Hilary Healey
We have not had much luck with information about our recent Mystery Pictures, apart from Kirkby on Bain watermill. Perhaps in some cases they are not actually of Lincolnshire! Here are two more that are not necessarily in our county, but allegedly so. The church is quite unusual in not having a battlemented tower, and I have already ruled out Benington (near Boston), Dorrington and Osbournby.

The second picture, a country lane, was sent to a Mrs A. M. Blakey of Florence Villa, Hamilton Place, Alford, in September 1908. It was posted in Cambridge so it may be a Cambridgeshire scene.

_Hilary Healey_
WOODLANDS
Members of the Lincolnshire based Woodland Trust will, we hope, have noted the item on the Lincolnshire Lime-woods Project in the Spring number (68) of Broadleaf, the magazine of that organisation. I have to admit that I was alerted to it by the splendid photograph of Goltbo church before I even read the headline!

Although it is true that Lincolnshire as a whole has a low percentage of woodland, one ought to separate the facts from the rest of the county, due to their having a rather different sort of history, though one not necessarily, as many would have us believe, devoid of woods.

The woodland that is part of the lime-woods area, mostly East and West Lindsey, and in the old Kesteven division, makes more green on the OS maps than one might expect.

Cogglesford Mill
SLHA Member Simon Pawley has pointed out that after all the upheaval over the revamp of this venue, the mill has not opened with a café on the ground floor as was announced. Simon has also been able to help correct errors on the new information boards, produced by outside consultants. Several local concerns have caused me to lose faith increasingly in outside consultants, but perhaps more of this on another occasion.

RESOUNDING ECHOES
In late July the Lincolnshire Echo published a feature on LCC art and heritage sites that cost the taxpayers a good deal of money. Our Chairman’s reply (9 August) is worth quoting in full:

PROFIT NOT THE ISSUE: With reference to the misleading front page article ‘Your £2.6m entry fee’ (July 31) I would like to point out that my members over the years have campaigned for free entry to Lincolnshire Archives and the county museums as well as free access to all county libraries.

The cost-effectiveness does not lie with the profit but with the amount of usage such services receive. There is an obligation on local authorities to provide these services for the community. They have never been, nor can they ever be, self-supporting let alone profit-making. They are, like roads, street lighting and refuse collection, the services we expect from our annual community rate.

If rate-payers study the details delivered with their annual [council tax] bill it is clear how much the County Council budgets for the Archives, libraries and museums. What does concern my members is that the percentage awarded to these heritage and community services is not high enough. PEARL WHEATLEY, chairman, The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

The unknown county
It is a little while since we found items for this feature, but they are still out there. I recently watched a film in the "Anglian Skies" series on Anglia Television which purported to be on the fens region. It started in Welney Wash area, then on to Sutton Bridge and then westwards into Lincolnshire. Fair enough, it seemed, as their TV coverage does not extend very far into our county. But to my surprise the journey continued on to Grimsthorpe, Woolsthorpe, Belvoir, Stamford, Wittering—not exactly fenland sites—finally getting back to Wisbech. Normally they concentrate on Cambridgeshire fens so I suppose it is a change. But what about Crowland and Spalding? It's not the first time I have seen Grimsthorpe considered as fen edge, but the others, no way!

Hilary Healey

Usher Gallery, Lincoln—not for profit?
This section aims to include as many short reviews of recently published books as possible; unsigned reviews have been provided by the Reviews Editor. In the bulletin will be found a list of titles newly notified and for which, it is hoped, reviews will be provided later. Many of these titles will be found in the Society's Book Shop, Steep Hill, Lincoln.

BOSTON PARISH CHURCH LIBRARY PROJECT. *Boston Parish Church library catalogue*, 2006. Boston, St Botolph's Church, [2007], [10], 437pp. ISBNs 978 0 9553958 0 1 hbk, 978 0 9553958 1 X pbk; 978 0 9553958 2 8 CD. £27.50 hbk: £17.50 pbk; £5.99 CD (add £5 for postage for the volumes and £60 for the CD from St Botolph's Parish Shop, 1 Wormgate, Boston PE21 8EY - special arrangements for delivery may be possible by contacting the Reviews Editor on 01775 820542).

Ten years of work by the project group led to the raising of over £30,000 locally and £80,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. These funds meant that all the books in the library, founded in 1634 on the orders of Archbishop Laud, could be properly bound and conserved (a very labour intensive task), a full-time cataloguer could be employed and, finally, a catalogue of the library's treasures could be published. The library is, of course, very strong in its religious holdings but there are ancient classical texts, early histories and works by humanists like Erasmus. The catalogue can be bought in all the above formats and can also be consulted on the Boston Parish Church web-site.

BRIGHTON, Harold. *Changes in my lifetime*. The author, 2007, 12pp. No ISBN. £2.50 pbk (or £3 by post from Mrs Janet Izatt, Sunset View, Black Hole Drove, West Pinchbeck, Spalding PE11 3QL - all proceeds go to St Bartholomew's Church, West Pinchbeck). The fourth of the author's little booklets on the changes he has observed during a lifetime of farming in the Fens around Spalding. He describes earlier days when housing, amenities, farm machinery and methods were primitive in comparison; it's all readable and evocative.


The title is a bit of a misnomer - really. While it was true that Grimsby was the world's greatest fishing port, the book is not about fishing but the men (and occasionally women) who helped to make Grimsby the place it became. Its development started seriously when the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MSLR) arrived in 1848. To start with we read of the lives and deeds of men who ran the MSLR and that leads naturally into the biographies of the men who helped to build up the fishing industry that enlised the MSLR in the first place. Sections on the fleets and the town's enormous growth take us on to the professional men who provided a variety of services (medical, financial and in government). Final chapters cover the town's contribution in the wars and the way in which those who had become rich in the town and, initially, built fine houses locally, then moved upwards and outwards into the neighbouring country houses. It is all told with great gusto, has a fine range of photographs of the men and the places and is well indexed.

Two qibbles: the Armstrong plan of the town was first issued in 1779 (p. 14) and I must protest, as a native of Cheshire, that, if Edward Watkin was born in Manchester (p. 16) he could not be Sheriff of his native Cheshire in 1874 (p. 17). But these aside it is a very interesting account of the people who made Grimsby the place it was.


Here is a treasure trove for all interested in ghostly tales, the supernatural and folk-tales. The author has for a long time collected all sorts of stories of inexplicable events associated with the county. Though it should be said that very similar anecdotes are to be found in other counties. In 160 closely printed pages there must be the same number of unexplained goings-on. The chapter headings do not give clear clues to the contents: Saints and Miracles; Fairy and goblin lore; Por-
In 1988 the authors produced a landscape format book Alford Town; a second Alford 2 followed in 1990. Both were well received but have been long out of print. Now the authors have returned to the project and, while retaining the format, have greatly updated the contents, refashioning the various chapters, but adding a (largely) new range of illustrations with many photographs now in colour. Most of the original sections have remained as headings for sub-
jects but with texts greatly altered; the new pictures are cleverly integrated. Where there is an overlap in pictures between this and the earlier volumes the new versions are generally enlarged now, greatly improving definition and clarity.

New sections, compared to the first issue, include a section on the Alford & Sutton Tramway, which includes photographs that even Andrew Dow in his 1984 monograph did not have. Then and now; and, of use of diaries from 1866 onward from Francis Cooke and Fred Cooke. Interesting appendices record special diary entries, mainly concentrating on those for 1866 and 1867. One nice misreading deserves to be pointed out — that for Aug 14, 1867: “Hottest day of the year – 900 in the shade” — those were the days, before global warming. Some of the pictures are of places outside Alford and include Well, Rigsby and a nicely nostalgic 1890s vignette of a train in Aby station.

This is a thoroughly well prepared and printed book and can only give pleasure to all its readers.


Mr Dobbs will be 86 this year. In this book he tells of the life he has spent in farming beginning on his father’s 100 acre farm when he was a young boy in West Pinchbeck. Now, in his retirement, he relates how the farm he inherited grew to be several times as large and all the changes he has witnessed in that time. The book is enlivened with many good pictures from the family albums and can be thoroughly recommended for all who have an interest in Fenland farming. (A full review will appear in the Society’s annual volume.)

**EVANS, Ian. Discovering Donington: a Lincolnshire village through the ages. Stamford, KT Publications, 2007. 120pp. ISBN 0 907759 89 0. £4.95 pbk (or £5.70 by post from the author, 21 Chestnut Avenue, Donington PE11 4XH).**

Mr Evans has been writing nostalgic pieces for the local parish magazine for a few years now. He has gathered here a collection of items that cover a trip round the village, work and prayer, pubs that have now disappeared (10 of them!), notable local characters (“the good, the bad and the generous”) and, finally, the wars. There are a good number of pictures (not all of which have come out too well).


(available from the publisher, Town Hall, North Square, Skegness PE24 1DA — postage extra).

Who better than Mr Kime to produce a notebook in chronological order of events in the development of Skegness?
He has been writing extensively on the subject for nearly 40 years and his own Town Council have encouraged a further effort. It does what it says in the title in a very nicely printed handy-sized book with good pictures and a comprehensive index to all the events and people recorded here. If I had any serious quibble it would be that the dates are not always precisely given and, in his preface, Mr Kime seems to believe what the Stamford Mercury continues to claim - that it was founded in 1695. Quibbles apart this is a very useful and interesting compilation.


Albert Glover was born in Salt House Lane, Lincoln, on 29 July 1917. What follows is the autobiography of a man, who, after leaving school at St Peter at Gowts when he was 13, got a job with the Lincoln Co-op. He gives a detailed and fully illustrated account of his work in various departments and branches, the first being at Billinghay, then Swanpool, Lincoln followed by Heavorth where he was when the war broke out and the story ends. And, story is right. Only in the last two pages does Mr Middleton tell us its all fiction. I don’t believe it entirely, it’s too true to life and what could be the facts. It’s a good read and many will enjoy its ‘memories’ of working life before the war.

**ROYLE, Freda and PEARSON, Richard.** *Ower the Fens: a brief history of old Boston, Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, Stickney, New Balingbrooke, Stickford, and Revesby.* [The authors, 2007]. 52pp. No ISBN. £7.99 pbk (postage extra from the authors, 4 Roman Bank, Chapel St Leicesters, Skegness PE24 5 QR). The mixture that Mrs Royle has so assiduously served before lots of pictures from the past days of the villages named and useful captions. The authors again perform a valuable service in rescuing so many images and making them available for the public.

**SAUNDERS, David.** *The story of Caistor Grammar School, Lincolnshire from 1831 to 1945.* [The author, 2007]. 55pp. No ISBN. £2.50 pbk (or £3.50 by post from the author, 2 Oundle Close, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1DR).

Mr Saunders continues his historical studies of his former parish. In his introduction to this excellent little book, David Saunders refers to a previous history of the school, published in 1932, “Caistor Grammar School Records” by T.G. Dixon and H.F.J. Coxon and notes that although it was a fitting tribute to the school in its day, he believes “it is time to present a fresh analysis of the School’s history, to a certain extent, with ‘warts and all’.” Building on the earlier work, he has recounted the school’s chequered history up to 1945 in meticulous detail, adding further information and making pertinent comments on the more general subject of the provision of schools in Caistor.

David Saunders is a very worthy successor to Dixon and Coxon; his book is of great interest and relevance, not only to all of us “Old Caistorians”, but to the wider world as well.

Ros Boyce, Lincoln.


Not sent in for review but clearly a return to print of an important historical text.


The author has had the interesting idea of writing accounts of a variety of businesses that have been in the same family for long periods and which have, thereby, earned reputations for quality provisions and good service. The Fens are defined for Mr Sly’s purpose as comprising towns as far apart as Boston and Elly and Wisbech and Bourne, with one excursion further afield in order to discuss the history of Bateman’s Brewery in Wainfleet. The widest possible range of trades and services is covered here – from agricultural implement makers (3 firms), butchers (also 3) to a coach proprietor, a garage, Forderin (the Spalding gunsmith’s) and even an ice-cream maker (‘Ladies’ of Holbeck). The present owners have been interviewed, the family story recorded and larded with well-produced photographs. It makes for a varied series of histories and reveals much of the nature of trade in the south of the county over the last 150 years or so.
One should never criticise a book for what the author has not written but, I am sure, many readers will wonder "if so-and-so is included why not such-and-such?". The welcome answer would be another volume of the same very readable nature. I found one tiny error - ARP stood for Air Raid Precautions (p. 53). An index to all the passing references to other businesses would have helped enormously - it is tantalizing to see names on the map which are only found later under discussion of a different family.

**STEVENSOn, Peter. Grantham: an industrial heritage trail, maps by Ken Redmore. SLHA, 2007. 28pp. ISBN 978 0 903582 29 2. £3.50 pbk (or £4.25 by post from the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, Jews' Court, Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1LS).**

A very worthwhile idea carried out in a very usable format. Starting opposite Grantham Guildhall one is lead, book in hand and maps clearly showing the way, for 6 miles of walking to inspect the sites relating to the town's industrial past. Good small photographs, reproductions from old adverts and maps occupy the left hand side of each opening with the necessary text on the facing page. I know Ken Redmore is keen to see other similar booklets and one can only hope that if this pocket-sized booklet sells as well as it deserves that will encourage trails around other county towns.


John Henry Loft was born in 1767 in Granthorpe. In his army career he served with the 15th Foot in the West Indies; in 1813 he became a Lieutenant-general and seems to have retired by 1817. Meanwhile he had married Elizabeth Fart, daughter of a wealthy farmer from South Wellingham, who bore him numerous children, 13 surviving to adulthood. Parallel to his army career were his political endeavours, which culminated in his becoming MP for Grimsby in 1802.

However, on leaving the army he became a debtor serving time in Lincoln Gaol. From the 1820s he toured his native county making copious notes on the places he visited, especially making detailed records of the churches and chapels he encountered, including sizes and copies of the wording of the monuments inside the churches and the graveyard inscriptions outside. It is these notes that Miss Tinley has transcribed on this CD.

She has obviously worked very hard and, short of checking against the originals in the Lincoln Archives and Central library, one must assume with great accuracy. She hoped in vain that the results might be issued as a book. All her material is here with a variety of introductory sections though the same lists and notes are repeated, as many as three times, under different access routes. The main problem is that although the places visited are listed, often in several subdivisions it is not easy to access any particular name; the same applies to the surnames of people who figure in the various descriptive notes (for instance, persons named on church monuments). Only the CD's liner notes give hints on the methods for usage. The villages visited are divided into seven sections and it is only by scanning each section separately that one can find if a particular village was visited by Loft's; the list of hundreds gives all villages within that hundred but their inclusion in such lists does not imply that Loft's visited a particular village.

This is a very important record, especially so when one considers how many churches were 'improved' in later years of the Victorian period. Here we have a clear account with measurements of what the churches were like before such 'Victorianisation' took place. They are, therefore, of great value and interest. It is a pity that finding what one hopes is included can sometimes be a tedious task, especially with a slow computer! A friend who tried out the disk found problems printing copies of the pages, which were quite distorted, but the reviewer's new machine coped successfully.


Although the hardback version was not sent in for review, this title was noticed in *Lincoln Past & Present*, no 66 (Winter, 2006/7) since it dealt with the sons of a family who lived in Pinchbeck, Lincoln and Fristhorpe. Of the eight sons of the Beechey family who served in the First World War five were killed - only one other British family lost so many boys.


Yet another potted life of Newton.
the second from this publisher in only a few months. Professor Westfall, Professor of History in Indiana University, has long been recognised as an authority on Newton. His *Never at rest: a biography of Newton* (1980) received many critical plaudits when it appeared and has remained an authoritative study. Here he distils the basics of the life and works, reproducing the long biography of Newton he wrote for the new edition of the Dictionary of National Biography. Some of the headings for the sub-sections have been changed and three short sections omitted that appear in *DNB* - the archival records, likenesses of the philosopher/mathematician and details of his wealth when he died. It is a very readable account but does not go into any in-depth discussion of scientific topics. Nevertheless, it is a useful pocket-sized introduction to a complicated man.

**Not really a review** -- more a *jeu d'esprit*. A friend has been passing to me a series of CDs given away by *The Daily Telegraph*. They deal with historical characters; one of them is about Isaac Newton and was originally published in 1999 as 'Dead famous; Isaac Newton and his apple'. The CD is read by the well-known actor Geoffrey Palmer and has a few comical inserted extras. But the text is first-rate. It deals with all the important features of Newton's life and covers very clearly his major interests, explaining simply but lucidly for the non-scientist his work on mathematics, astronomy, optics and, of course, gravity. Divided into 14 tracks it lasts over an hour and, used by teachers or students, it provides much to stimulate and can be warmly recommended to anyone who can beg or borrow a copy.

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**Eleanor Nannestad**

The Library Association (now the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals) has a number of groups amongst its 25,000 plus members. One of these is the Local Studies Group, which has many hundreds of members working in this specialist field in the UK. Every year an award is made to one among their number for their contribution to work in the field.

The recipient for 2006 has been named and on September 19 Eleanor was present at a meeting in Nottingham to receive the Dorothy McCulla Award (named in memory of the late Reference librarian of Birmingham Central Library). None of those whose work or study takes them to Lincoln's Central Library in search of local history study material will have failed to meet Eleanor and been greatly helped in their researches through the exercise of her own great store of knowledge concerning Lincoln and county history.

We offer her the Society's congratulations on her nomination for this prize, a well-deserved reward for her service of over more than twenty years in Lincoln's local studies arena.

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**Rose Clark**

Our congratulations go to Rose Clark, Chairman of the South Holland Group of the Society, on being the subject of a Personality Profile in the Spalding Guardian on 9 August.