Lincolnshire Past & Present

Tealby’s annus horribilis

How ‘medieval’ are St Anne’s almshouses
Speed limits on the River Witham
Ambitions of a Louth solicitor
Engineering of a waterfall

Lincolnshire Lads On the Veldt
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Welcome

Water is a prominent theme in this issue. Waterfalls are an unusual feature in our county and Eric Newton explains that the one at Stoke Rochford is much dependent on the weather. The theme is continued with Rob Wheeler’s article on the enforcement of speed limits on the River Witham after widening and deepening works were carried out between Lincoln and Horsey Deeps in the 1820s. These works incidentally produced an important archaeological find, which became known as the Witham Shield. As this beautiful object is on loan to The Collection from the British Museum until 9 June it is the subject of Antony Lee’s regular museum article, on page 16. There is also a Witham quiz – one of three Diversions to keep the brain in gear.

The Rector of Washingborough, the Rev Humphrey Waldo Sibthorp, initially took charge of the Witham Shield and another clergyman of that family, the Rev Richard Waldo Sibthorp, established St Anne’s almshouses in Lincoln in 1847-8. Helen Caffrey discusses the question of how ‘medieval’ this early Victorian establishment was. Turn to page 17 for that. Unlike the Sibthropes, William Haddon Owen is not well-known, but when Stephen Roberts found an election handbill with ‘that creep Haddon Owen’ written in pencil on it he decided to find out about this Louth solicitor who aspired to local politics (see page 23).

The Wolds village of Tealby was described as ‘romantic’ by an estate agent in 1836, but Jean Fanthorpe discovered that a constable’s log, like that of many of the villagers, was far from a happy one in that year. Find the story of Tealby’s ‘terrible year’ on page 12.

As next year is 2014 and therefore 100 years since the start of the First World War we are inviting readers to contribute short articles about Lincolnshire people, either military personnel or civilians, during the conflict. Please see the inserted Bulletin for details.

Ros Beever, Joint Editor

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Contributions to the next Bulletin and the summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome as soon as possible. Material may be sent by post to the Joint Editors 67 Jew’s Court, Lincoln LN2 1JS, either as paper copy or on compact disc, or alternatively as an email attachment to info@sha.org.uk or lindumcolonia@hotmail.com or access the online enquiry form via www.sha.org.uk to submit a query. To place an advertisement email lindumcolonia@hotmail.com
Cover: Tealby All Saints’ Church from the south gate of the churchyard.
A Lincolnshire Waterfall?

'There is something therapeutic about the sight and sound of cascading water' writes Eric Newton but explains how the waterfall at Stoke Rochford has been given some encouragement to perform.

There has been some talk of the existence of a waterfall in Lincolnshire albeit the county's topography and geology do not lend themselves to the presence of such a feature. At Stoke Rochford, south of Grantham and immediately west of the A1 trunk road, there exists a large spring emanating from an outcrop of the local Jurassic limestone.

Water from the spring is collected in a manmade pond sited at the same level, from which the spring water flows over a masonry sill, cascading some 3.0 to 3.5 metres down a near vertical slope to a much larger pond below. The flow then enters the Cringle Brook and Stoke Lakes complex immediately upstream of the road bridge that provides access to the main hall at Stoke Rochford. When in full spate, the water cascading down over the masonry sill from the upper pond is a pleasing sight with the noise of the falling water being heard some distance off.

The flow of the water from the limestone spring, shown on the OS Map at Spring Head (grid reference SK 918276) is much dependent upon the time of year and the amount of rainfall over recent months, which in turn influences the ground water levels within the local limestone aquifer.

During a normal year, recharge of the aquifer from rainfall or melting snow occurs within the period of October to March. Outside this period most of the rainfall is taken up by vegetation and evaporation. However, the past two winter periods [2010/11 and 2011/12] have been exceptionally dry with minimal recharge of the aquifers, resulting in much lower ground water levels than would be the case in normal years.

This resulted in a drought being declared in April 2012 for the Lincolnshire area by the Environment Agency and a hosepipe ban being implemented by the water company (these being rescinded after three months of exceptionally heavy summer rainfall).

When the writer visited in November 2011, there was no flow of water from Spring Head, with the upper pond and waterfall dry. With little rainfall during the preceding twelve-month period, the water table in the limestone was too low to allow even a trickle from the spring. However, a small flow of water was seen to be emanating from a lower spring at the base of the dry waterfall, this giving some indication of the ground water levels in the limestone at that time.

When visited again in August 2012, after the exceptional heavy rainfall during April to July, the noise of falling water could be heard from some distance away. On approaching, the waterfall was seen to be in full spate with water from Spring Head cascading over the masonry sill down the near vertical slope to the lower pond. Although not usually the norm for the time of year, the exceptional quantity of rainfall during the four-month summer period had recharged the limestone sufficiently to allow the outpour of a copious flow of water from the upper spring.

There is something therapeutic about the sight and sound of cascading water. The operational frequency of the waterfall is much dependent upon rainfall and, as a consequence, water levels
in the limestone aquifer. During the past two years rainfall has been unseasonal with dry winters and wet summers, especially that of 2012, with monthly summer levels of precipitation exceeding previous records. In talking to a local resident, it seems that during the past twenty years or more, the waterfall at Stoke Rochford has seldom dried up due, no doubt, to the normally expected levels of winter rainfall and melting snows resulting in average (or above) water levels within the limestone aquifer. Certainly when first seen by the writer, during the 1980s, the waterfall was in full spate.

The construction of the top pond was probably undertaken to create an impounded water supply to feed a hydraulic ram pump sited close by. Although overgrown with vegetation there is evidence of a brick chamber alongside the upper pond that might have housed the ram pump. Leading away from the brick chamber is a 75mm diameter iron pipe that projects from the bankside to discharge above the lower pond. This may have been the waste pipe from the hydraulic ram. A small flow of water was seen discharging from this pipe when visited in August, which would seem to be coming from the flooded brick chamber.

It is possible that there were at one time other chambers or structures in the immediate vicinity as there is some evidence of building debris nearby. The date of construction was probably around the late 1800s as a hydraulic ram and tank are shown on the 1905 OS Map at Spring Head but not on the 1889 OS Map.

Sited in the field immediately above Spring Head at a higher elevation are the remains of an open storage tank. This is now overgrown and is hidden by a small copse of trees around which there is a fence. It is estimated that the tank would have had a capacity of approximately 30,000 litres. It would seem that water from Spring Head was pumped up to the open tank from where the fresh water gravitated.

The flow of water from the spring would have been sufficient to operate the hydraulic ram. Prior to the provision of a mains water supply it is probable that the village of South Stoke, sited immediately below the storage tank, received its water supply from this source. Latterly it is known that the gardens at Stoke Hall were served immediately prior to the ram pump being removed. Although it is possible that fresh water from Spring Head could also at one time have supplied the main Hall at Stoke Rochford, it is probable that the Hall's supply came from water being pumped from the upper lake and/or spring immediately to the north of the Hall.

It will be seen from the sketch [above, left] that the main spring is at the head of the upper pond, which has an area of approximately 60 square metres and a maximum depth of approximately 1.0 metre. The masonry sill that feeds water to the waterfall below is 4.75 metres in length. Immediately below the masonry sill is a sloping area of exposed rock some 2.0 metres in width before the near vertical drop down a rocky gully to the lower pond. At the top the exposed rock strewn face of the gully behind the waterfall is 4.0 metres wide, narrowing to 1.5 metres at its base. All dimensions given are approximate. Either side of the gully is fairly dense vegetation. An estimate of the verticality of the gully itself is approximately 70 degrees to the horizontal.

On the 6 inch OS Map there are three other waterfalls shown within the grounds of Stoke Rochford Park. These are cascades created artificially by the construction of dams across the Cringle Brook to create the three lakes in the park. The most spectacular is
the lower of the three at Thunder Bridge by the golf course, where the flow of water cascades some 2.5 metres down a 6.0 metres wide concrete spillway.

It may well be considered that the waterfall at Spring Head described above does not necessarily qualify as a genuine natural waterfall as found in other, more hilly, areas of the country where the geology consists of harder, more durable, rock formations. With the relatively soft sandstone, limestone and chalk formations that exist throughout Lincolnshire it is difficult to envisage a naturally occurring waterfall of any significance within the county.

There has been some mention of a waterfall in the Lincolnshire Wolds but with the relatively soft chalk it is difficult to envisage a naturally occurring fall of water of any significant height. Before the construction of the upper pond water from the upper spring at Spring Head would most likely have cascaded down a rocky incline to the lower pond before flowing into the Cringle Brook.

Access to the waterfall is from the road leading to the Hall at Stoke Rochford. The Hall is owned by the National Union of Teachers and is presently used as a hotel and conference centre. Access to the site itself is via a metal field gate near to the road bridge but at the time of writing the surrounding area is much overgrown and there is no clear pathway leading to the waterfall. Care is required especially if descending to the base of the waterfall. Ownership of the land around the site of the waterfall is under the control of the Stoke Rochford Estates and although there are no notices of restricted entry it would nevertheless be advisable to obtain permission in advance if visiting the site via the Estate’s agents, Shouler and Son. [The Estate Office, Cringle Road, Stoke Rochford Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5ER. Tel 01476 530216]

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**Peaceful Farm Yard**

Some readers have asked for a larger image of the reverse of our mystery postcard depicting 'a peaceful farm yard' that was printed in *Lincolnshire Past & Present* 90, winter 2012/13 (N&Q 90:1). We hope the writing in the image below will be easier to read, but we have also attempted a transcription (below right).

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'Was this on the Road to Nettleham & thinking it would interest you I took it. Do the Wagons & Cambridge Roll (?) make it wear an atmosphere of Bicker. I was with Mr Canner (?) on Tuesday morning & had an interesting chat, he told me my prospects look rather rosy.'
Enforcing speed limits on the Witham, 1828–9

Widening and deepening of the river southeast of Lincoln in the 1820s caused temporary difficulties for steam packet owners, especially when a 'superior' newcomer tried to muscle in on their trade. Meanwhile, once the works were complete, the Navigation Company decided to impose speed limits on shipping, as Rob Wheeler explains.

At the start of 1826 there were three steam packets operating between Boston and Lincoln: the Favourite (master John Temperton), the Witham (Richard Swain) and the Countess of Warwick (Nathaniel Clayton).

White’s Directory of Lincolnshire usefully gives the times: a boat left Boston 9.30am, reaching Lincoln at 5pm; one left Lincoln at 10am, reaching Boston at 4pm. Since the distance was a little over 32 miles, the average speeds were 4.1 mph upstream, 5.3 mph downstream. At this date there was no attempt to fit in a round trip within one day.

The Boston Directory entry tells us that the service was operated by the three boats ‘alternately’. The pedant may object to the word, but the important point is that the three owners were pooling their boats to provide an integrated service. That service required a minimum of two boats to run it, but steam packets needed maintenance from time to time, so three boats were really needed. What this loose consortium did not want was a fourth boat-owner trying to enter the business.

But in 1826 the steam packet owners had a bigger problem to worry about. The Witham Navigation Company drained the river between Horsley Deeps (a little above Bardney) and Lincoln, in order to widen and deepen it. Presumably the steam packets continued to operate below Horsley Deeps, but trade must have been badly affected.

The owners must therefore have been overjoyed when on 5 February 1828 the Navigation Company’s General Committee agreed that the new works were in a fit state for use, under strict conditions. Specifically, steam packets on the new section were to be hauled by horses in order to limit the damage to the banks from the turbulence generated by the paddle wheels. Furthermore, on this section the engine was to be disconnected from the paddle wheels by removing the coupling rods so that the paddle wheels could turn freely in the water.
The last condition may not have been quite as troublesome as it sounds. It was usual for the cranks in a paddle steamer to be easily accessible; if the end of the connecting rod was bolted together in two halves to give access to the bearing, this might have been quite a common operation when a boat was to be moved a short distance without having to raise steam.

The navigation company also required boat owners to enter into a bond that they would forfeit the very large sum of £100 as liquidated damages for every occasion they failed to remove the connecting rods on the new section. The owners seem to have been so relieved that they could operate to Lincoln once again that all three duly accepted this draconian condition. By now Nathaniel Clayton had died so it was his widow, Mary, who placed her mark on the agreement.

Things progressed smoothly until 4 July, when an advertisement appeared in the Stamford Mercury, headed ‘THE DUKE OF SUSSEX STEAM PACKET, trading between Boston and Lincoln’.

‘The boat, “fitted up in a superior style” had “one of the best wrought-iron boilers and safety valve in the sight of passengers, and no more pressure than 4 pounds to the inch, whilst many other packets carry from 10 to 12 lbs to an inch, with inferior boilers”.

This was clearly playing on public fears of boiler explosions, often caused by operators tampering with the safety valve. It was unhelpful to the trade as a whole and must have particularly incensed the established Witham operators.

The new packet was to start on Monday 7 July, leaving Boston at nine. At Horsley Deepes lock it would meet a horse-drawn packet from Lincoln at the section where they “are at present prevented from going by Order of the Commissioners” and would return to Boston the same day. In other words, passengers had the inconvenience of changing boats at Horsley Deepes, but the steam packet would be making a round trip, so would presumably offer this service every day. It was proudly announced that ‘their packet (the horse-drawn connecting one) will arrive at Lincoln an hour earlier than any other packet’.

Assuming that the other steam packets were still leaving Boston at 9:30, the new service still had to gain half an hour by an increased speed. Assuming the existing packets were still averaging 4.1 mph upstream, this would only require an extra half mile per hour, quite achievable in summer conditions. It might not be achievable in winter, but no doubt this would be blamed on the weather. It would also require a smart transhipment at Horsley Deepes, easier for passengers than for freight. But perhaps they were not expecting to win much of the freight business.

The expected time of return to Boston was not stated but is unlikely to have been much before 9pm; that too was liable to cause difficulties once the nights started to draw in. If the boat was to offer a daily service, when would maintenance be done?

And was the new steam packet actually prevented from operating above Horsley Deepes, or had the proprietor (Mr Smith) declined to enter into a bond for £100, or did it actually suit him to run no further than Horsley Deepes - making a daily return journey to Lincoln was perhaps something he was not yet prepared to contemplate. Clearly, there were a lot of unanswered questions concerning this new service.

Less than a month later we read in the Navigation Company minutes for 5 August that ‘Mr Smith has been working the engine of his packet above Horsley deeps contrary to the Order’.

There is no mention of a bond. Perhaps he had challenged the Company's right to require one. It may be about this time that the Company took the view that it was being unnecessarily restrictive: a draft agreement with the packet operators set out a speed limit of 3 mph on the new section. It adds that ‘to avoid any Competition between the several packet owners there was to be no overtaking on this section. The penalty for violation was now to be just £5. Another draft (possibly put forward by the packet owners) applied the penalty only to boats that exceeded 3 mph ‘for the purpose of passing each other’, an even less restrictive line.

Competition over speed there certainly was. On the morning of Tuesday 9 September it appears that two steam packets left Lincoln ‘at the normal time’; by the time they reached Dogdyke, the Duke of Sussex had fallen back a mile behind the other. The safety valve had a weight in excess of 17lb on it, apparently in an attempt to catch up – so much for the 4fps promised in the advertisement.

The boat stopped at Dogdyke where passengers were waiting for it. On leaving, an unusual sound was heard from the boiler. Smith’s son, who had charge of the engine, lay on the top of the boiler in order better to trace the source of the sound, whereupon the boiler exploded. According to the Lincoln Date Book, six persons were seriously scalced, but there were no fatalities.

From the expression ‘the normal time’ we may perhaps deduce that Smith had abandoned any attempt to offer a different schedule but was simply turning up at the departure of the established packets in the hope of poaching some of their passengers by his ‘superior style’ – although the passengers waiting at Dogdyke had presumably booked tickets in advance, or they would surely have taken the earlier boat. This is the last we hear of the Duke of Sussex.

The Navigation Company was at this time in difficulty, having exhausted its borrowing powers. Once the works to Lincoln were certified as complete by the Commissioners for Drainage it would be entitled to receive additional drainage rates from the parishes benefiting. Once that happened the Commissioners for Drainage would bear the cost of maintenance, so they were not disposed to relax their standards. An
estimate of the cost of completion was obtained from John Rennie, Junior, in February 1829. It came to £41,283, which was more than the Company could afford. Furthermore, this sum would only render it suitable for horse-hauled navigation.

If steam boats were to be used the cost would be 'considerably more', how much more Rennie considered very uncertain, but he did think that the additional measures needed would require a 12-month stoppage while the work was carried out. The Company was seeking a new Act to increase its borrowing powers and also sought a clause allowing it to continue the restrictions on steam packets on the new section, even after the works were declared complete. However, this last clause faced serious opposition.

To make their troubles worse the Company learned in July that Smith was about to return with a new packet, this one having a 11 hp engine and 11-foot paddle wheels – the existing boats had wheels nine feet in diameter. He was said to be planning to run this 'at the greatest possible speed' without regard to damage to the banks.

Happily, the problem that technology had created, technology could alleviate. The Favourite as an experiment had been fitted with new feathered paddles – in other words, so shaped that the water flowed smoothly as it left the blades. These avoided the turbulence caused by the old paddles. One presumes also that the improved efficiency of the new paddles improved fuel consumption sufficiently to justify the extra cost.

This may explain why in September the Company decided it did 'not now apprehend the mischief from the new packet which they first expected'.

Nevertheless, the new packet stimulated them to improve their measures to control speed on the new section. The by-laws already specified a minimum time a boat must take in passing between Horsley Deep Lock and Stamp End, or vice-versa. Henceforth the keepers of these locks were to issue boats with a timed ticket stating when they had left the lock; any boat arriving at a lock before the minimum elapsed time had passed was not to be allowed to enter the lock until its proper time. It's not quite average speed cameras but it seems to have had the same effect.

NOTES
1 LAO BS 4/13/8
2 Copy at TNA RAIL 885/2
3 LAO BS 4/6/C
4 LAO BS 4/13/8
5 Newry Commercial Telegraph, 16 Sept 1828.

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1 Lincolnshire Names courtesy of Ken Redmore

Not surprisingly, given their origin, several Lincolnshire place names are also common surnames. The answers to the following clues are famous individuals whose surnames are Lincolnshire place names:

1. Sixteenth in the USA
2. Born Richard Walter Jenkins
3. Lincolnshire-born primate
4. Jazz pianist, bandleader and composer
5. Record Wigan try scorer
6. Disraeli's nephew and a novel
7. US entertainer born Dino Paul Crocetti
8. Second name of Singapore's founder
9. Her books were banned on BBC radio 1930s-1950s
10. Founding member of the Royal Academy

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DIVERSIONS 1 AND 2

Solutions may be found on Page 22

2 Picture Puzzle

Where and when?

Eric Hail sent in the image on the left thinking it would be easy to identify, so we are asking for the date as well as the exact location. It is not the usual view of this embarrassing incident!
War Ags in Lincolnshire

Ken Redmore describes the draconian powers of the War Agricultural Executive Committees and asks if readers have their own stories of the impact of 'War Ags' in the county.

War Agricultural Executive Committees were established in every English county during the two world wars with legal powers to control the use of all agricultural land. In a national drive to increase food production they vigorously promoted technical efficiency and inter alia were given the power to direct farmers to plough and crop their land. They were also able to control the supply of labour (through the Land Army for instance) and farm machinery. Their power to requisition land for defence purposes had a significant impact on the countryside in Lincolnshire and elsewhere.

After the Second World War, with food supply still a problem, the Committees operated until the establishment of County Agricultural Executive Committees in 1947. These had very similar powers to the War Ags and continued to exercise a tight control over the management and husbandry of farmland until the 1958 Agriculture Act reduced their powers.

The impact of the War Ags and the punitive fines levied for disregarding their instructions are indicated by the following examples reported in The Estate Magazine, March 1946:

A farmer was summoned before the Spalding magistrates for failing to grow 15 acres of sugar beet between 12 April and 27 August [1945]. The case for the Ministry of Agriculture was that the defendant had grown only four acres on ground unsuitable for beet. The defendant's case was that his land was three parts clay. Thinking he would lose on beet he grew potatoes, extra wheat, and oats. A fine of £30 was imposed, with three pounds three shillings costs.

A Boston farmer was summoned for that, having been given consent to grow one acre of canary seed, he, without consent, sowed 1,444 acres. The case for the prosecution was that even half an acre in excess was a serious matter, in view of the quantity produced. The defendant's case was that he had neither time nor labour to measure an acre out of a large field. He therefore took 20lb of canary seed (the average for one acre) and drilled it in. A fine of £10 was imposed, with £1 - 15 advocate's fee.

Another farmer was summoned for failing to grow seven acres of main-crop potatoes and four acres of beet. The case for the prosecution was that the defendant was directed to grow 13 acres of early potatoes, seven acres of main-crop potatoes and four acres of beet. Instead he grew 18.08 acres of early potatoes, no main-crop potatoes, and only 2.08 acres of beet. The defendant's case was that, had he grown more beet, he would have had to plough up two acres of three-quarter-matured cabbage. His programme increased the supply of foodstuffs. A fine of £10 was imposed, with £1 - 15 advocate's fee and 10s - 6d surveyor's fee.
My home in the centre of Saxilby dates from the mid 18th century, and stands on the site of a medieval hall. Previous owners were obviously heavy smokers, as I keep digging up a considerable amount of clay pipe shards. Most are pieces of stem; I have found only two bowls. Recently I found a stem with the maker's mark, 'D G'. I have unsuccessfully trawled the internet, and wondered if any of our readers can shed light on who the maker is and where he was based.

Chris Hewis, Saxilby

Notes & Queries
91:2
Mystery Picture
Where is this dragline working?

Whilst working on the Bucyrus archive I came across this photo of a 10RB at work. Can anyone put a name to the location?
Derek Broughton

Military nursing sister and royal midwife
(N&Q 78:6 and N&Q 88:5)

Do not give up hope of receiving a reply to your query. Sometimes it can be several years before it happens.

David Cowell was pleased to hear from the great-niece of Pte Wallace Gordon Hewison who died on 27 July 1917 while serving with the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment in Belgium. David's grandmother was a nursing sister at Benfleet Hall Red Cross military hospital and had kept an album in which patients had made entries. One of these was a poem written by Pte Hewison, then in the 1st Battalion, after being wounded in 1915. Over three years ago this poem and another, written by a Pte H. Wray, appeared in LPe-P (Winter 2009/10 N&Q 78:6) with an appeal for further information about either of the two men.

Colin and Ros Bevers are grateful to Dennis Mills and David Brammer of Branston for information from the 1891 census in answer to their query in LPe-P Summer 2012 (N&Q 88:5) about Edwin and Annie Bevers of Branston. The census returns record that Annie was then a widowed teacher, aged 28, with one surviving two-year-old son, Harold. Annie later trained as a midwife and ended up working for the royal family. Any information about Edwin's death after a rugby accident would be very welcome.

Lincolnshire People and World War I

We would like more stories from readers about Lincolnshire people during the 1914-18 War, to feature in every issue of LPe-P through 2014-18. Please see the Bulletin inserted in this issue of the magazine for details.
The Wolds village of Tealby is still, as it was described in 1836, one of the most picturesque in the county, but the village residents had more than their share of tragedy in that year, as Jean Fanthorpe has discovered:

### 1836: A TERRIBLE YEAR FOR TEALBY

The new year of 1836 had started much as usual for the residents of the Wolds village of Tealby, but by 23 January there was drama when the chimney of Mr Broughton the glazier caught fire, with the sparks settling on the thatched roof of the home of Mr Kennington, a wheelwright. Although friends immediately tried to offer assistance the strong wind swept the fire across the entire roof, which onlookers reported as appearing as one sheet of flames. Just a few tables and chairs from the lower rooms were all that could be salvaged, and the terrified inhabitants could merely look on as the progress of the fire eventually devoured the building. A clergyman, entering the village as the fire struck, had come to preach there the following day and was forcibly struck by the words of his text already selected: 'Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth'.

Richard Kennington, a man in his later years, had recently laid in a fresh stock of half-wrought timber valued at £150 for use in his trade and had commented that this would be sufficient to last him for his lifetime. His workshop was destroyed along with the contents. This friendly and peaceable man, who was highly esteemed by his neighbours, occupied a property belonging to the Rt Hon Charles Tennyson D’Eyncourt, which, together with Mr Kennington’s furniture and stock in trade, was uninsured.

In the midst of the fire, a butcher’s shop nearby was left unlocked while the owner tried to help his stricken neighbour, and one of those present took this opportunity to pilfer a few items from there and from the few belongings saved from the fire.

A committee formed in Tealby to attempt to alleviate the loss of Richard Kennington, and this was headed by the vicar, the Rev Field Flowers, with Mr S. Burklinshaw (Church Warden), Messrs D. Drakes, W. Brookes and George Potts, a stonemason. By early March they were reporting that, due to friends liberally coming forward to offer assistance, the grand total of a hundred and two pounds and eighteen shillings had been raised for Richard Kennington and a further three pounds, five shillings and sixpence contributed for his housekeeper.

As spring arrived in the village, April saw the former residence of the late Christopher Dinsdale advertised for letting. Christopher had died the previous August, aged 78, and was buried in the churchyard just three weeks after 85-year-old George Tennyson of Bayon’s Manor.

The advertisement for the house advised: ‘A most agreeable residence for a small family, lately occupied by Mr Chr. Dinsdale, deceased, situated in the romantic village of Tealby, near Market Rasen, in the County of Lincoln: comprising two sitting rooms, kitchen and back kitchen, five very airy bed-rooms, pantry and dairy, store-room, and other convenient domestic offices together with a spacious Yard, Barn, Sheds, Stables, and Granary. The house is situated in one of the most picturesque villages in the county of Lincoln, nearly in the centre of, and at convenient distances from, three packs of fox-hounds. The tenant may be accommodated with Grass Land.’
Regarding Peter Stevenson's article on the Jodrell Bank telescope in *LPQ* P. 89, Autumn 2012, Lincolnshire has another important connection with this magnificent instrument. [See also *LPQ* P. 90, *N&Q* 90:5]. The Steelwork for the supporting structure came from Scunthorpe.

The steel was made at the Appleby-Frodingham Steel Company, and rolled into the structural sections in its Heavy Section Mill. The steel sections were then fabricated at its sister company, the United Steel Structural Company, on the same site in Scunthorpe, and this company supervised the site erection of the structure.

I am not sure if the steel plate used to form the ‘dish’ of the telescope was rolled in the Appleby-Frodingham Plate Mill and shaped in the United Steel Structural Company's workshops. It seems a reasonable possibility. Perhaps another reader can clarify this.

There used to be an excellent scale model of the whole structure on display in the offices of the structural company. Is it still there?

Wallace Collyer, Scunthorpe

I am doing some research on a lost antiquity found in 1786 that was sold to a Mr Samuel Samuels of this city who, according to one source, had a handsome collection. I am surprised I can find nothing else about this gentleman; normally when I do any historical research the same antiquarians crop up again and again, but Mr Samuels seems to be an enigma. The trouble with doing a web search is everyone with Samuel as a first name appears. I was wondering if any reader has any information on him.

Erik Grigg, Lincoln

On the upper storey of the High Bridge Cafe, carved into the wood are, on the south side, Edward VII and, on the north side, Alexandra, with the coronation year 1902. On the upper storey area of the building opposite are two plaques, one with 1907 and one with EVII and what I think reads 8 years.

A post box beautifully scrolled ERVII had been sited on the corner of Lindum Hill and added to the picture of Edwardian Lincoln. This has been moved just around the corner on to Clasketgate and placed outside the SPAR shop. The distance to walk to post a letter from its present site to the original is possibly twenty yards.

Joan Smith, Lincoln

Above: Carvings of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra can also be seen below the eaves of the High Bridge Cafe. Few bridges with buildings on survive in the UK, High Bridge being the oldest. The 16th century building on the bridge was restored in 1902. Right: Edward VII pillar box on Clasketgate, originally sited on the corner of Lindum Hill.
adjoining the premises.

The land agent was Mr W. Cooper, to whom prospective tenants were invited to apply. Mr Cooper was the land agent of Charles Tennyson D'Eyncourt, which confirms the ownership of this property. Note the description of Tealby, much as it could be described today.

Crime was still prevalent in the village as, a week later, at the Lindsey Quarter Sessions, Joseph Thornhill received one month's hard labour at Louth for assaulting the Tealby Constable, Mr Thomas Burkinshaw. His post of Parish Constable was evidently not an easy one as the same Quarter Sessions saw a group of men (George Dawson, Joseph Melburn, Edward Titley, Robert Whatton, Edward Scott and Joseph Surkey) charged with a riot and assault at Tealby, and a second count of assaulting Thomas Burkinshaw, and a third count of common assault.

It transpired that Burkinshaw had been called in to the King's Head at Tealby on 23 January (the same evening the house of Richard Kennington was destroyed by fire) to assist in quelling a disturbance. He succeeded in turning the defendants out of the house but in doing so was struck by Dawson. The other men pulled up the palings in front of the public house, broke windows and generally behaved in a riotous manner. Dawson, in consequence of previous good character, received six weeks imprisonment with hard labour but the others, as a result of their, probably drunken, misdemeanours, were each sentenced to six months hard labour.

Tragedy struck one family in the village as on 16 April an inquest was held at the house of Thomas Dixon, a Tealby resident, on view the body of Thomas Dixon aged about 3 years who was accidentally burnt to death. He was buried the following day, with his age on burial noted as two. Sadly such happenings were a regular occurrence in the county, and understandably so with open fires for warmth and cooking in homes, where either sparks alighted on a child's clothing or children stood too close to the fire, perhaps for warmth.

Village life continued, and in May an advertisement appeared in the Stamford Mercury addressing 'Millers & Others' and advising as follows: 'Tealby, near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. To be sold at auction by Mr John Thorpe at the White Hart Inn, Market Rasen, on Tuesday the 10th day of May, 1836, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon [unless sooner disposed of by private contract] A newly-erected Post Wind Mill, two Closes of excellent land, and five cottages with gardens adjoining, situate at Tealby, in the county of Lincoln, containing together two acres and a half or thereabouts. Immediate possession may be had. For a view apply to Mr. Connington, schoolmaster, Tealby; and for further particulars and to treat for the purchase, application may be made to Mr. Joseph Moore, solicitor, Lincoln.'

That same month a newspaper carried the story that Samuel Brown, a grocer of Tealby, had filed for bankruptcy.

Some six months later, in November, the Stamford Mercury expanded a death notice for a Tealby resident, in view of the high number of deaths in that village within the previous six months.

'At Tealby, on the 8th inst., of smallpox, aged 47, Rebecca wife of John Fanthorpe, leaving 10 children, 5 of whom have had and are suffering under this same dreadful disease. This is the 26th death in the parish since May-day: such a strange mortality attended with such awful circumstances was never known: 13 have died of smallpox, 1 of disease, 1 drowned, 1 run over by a wagon, and 1 burnt.'

'The Stamford Mercury, a week previously, had again singled out the dreadful disease in this village and the effect it was having on the population:

'At Tealby near Market Rasen, on the 1st inst., of smallpox, Mr. Thos. Fieldsend, aged 38. This is the twelfth death out of 150 cases of that awful malady within five months.'

'The Rev Field Flowers', who had arrived in the village only the previous year to take the post
Basic details from the Tealby Burial Register showing the deaths from smallpox in 1836.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Leaning Jollands</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Todd</td>
<td>Aug 21</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Hodgson</td>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Kneave</td>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Thirkill</td>
<td>Sep 24</td>
<td>infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Frith</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Button</td>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrop Newbold</td>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Frith</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Wilkinson</td>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>infant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Friston</td>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Fanthorpe</td>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliza Wilkinson</td>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Formerly occupied by Charles Tennyson, was obviously moved by this awful scourge to the village, as he annotated the left hand margin of his Burial Register as either 'S.P.' or 'Smallpox'. Such was the ferocity with which this disease claimed lives in this village within such a short period, that presumably he felt it was worth recording for posterity. The basic details from the Tealby Burial Register are given above.

All of the above resided in Tealby itself, with the exception of Rebecca Fanthorpe, whose abode was in Tealby Thorpe, and research has revealed that her five children who also contracted Smallpox did survive.

What must be noted from the above is that five of the burials were of infants, one a child aged one year, another aged two years and one aged three. There was a ten-year-old and a thirteen-year-old, then a jump to adulthood, when we have adults aged 39, 43 and 47 years of age.

In all, in the nine months from April 1836 until the last burial of the year two days before Christmas, there were 31 burials, including the 13 who lost their lives to the smallpox. The other deaths and burials, not already mentioned, include 21-year-old John Burks, a servant to Mr Burkinshaw of Tealby, whose inquest held at Market Rasen on 25 June revealed that he was accidentally killed by the two near wheels of a wagon running over his body.

Others who died from causes other than smallpox were Mrs Mary Shepherd (80), Ann Dunn (59, the wife of John Dunn), Ann Betts of Walsby, 65-year-old Mary Petch, Chettle Marston (53, and the wife of Mr John Marston, Surgeon, late of Tattershall), William Hanson (51), Mary Porter (39, the wife of James Porter), six-year-old Matilda Lingard, three-year-old Ann Smith, two-year-old Thomas Smith, one-year-old Eleanor Sarah Hurton and Ann Burks, infants Ann Brice of Risby, William Starkey, George Fish and Edward Stephenson.

Gravestones are extant in Tealby churchyard for Mary Porter, Astrop Newbold, Rebecca Frith and her seven-week-old son John (both victims of smallpox) and Ann Dunn.

The next burial was 8 January, 1837, and no more deaths were recorded in the Tealby Burial Register that New Year from smallpox.

On 25 June Field Flowers buried John Tomlin of Tealby, an infant, and in the margin of the register recorded 'Victoria Regina' to mark the start of what was to become the long reign of Queen Victoria. The next entry was for the burial of Thomas Dean, aged 80, of Tealby Moor, on 8 July, and Field Flowers recorded beneath this entry: 'During the funeral the Minute Guns from Hull were distinctly audible, announcing the funeral of King Wm IV'.

The Burial Register of North Willingham, a much smaller parish situated just down the hill from Tealby, showed only six burials in 1836, but not having Field Flowers as their curate, there were no annotations as to cause of death by the entries, and civil registration, which brought with it death certificates giving cause of death, did not begin until the following year.

Did the disease not spread such a short distance, or if it did, then perhaps it claimed no lives? The Burial Register of Walsby parish, which lies above Tealby, has not been inspected to ascertain whether there was an unusually large number of burials there in 1836. The Walsby Register of 1771 had, however, advised the burial of 'Thomas Blanchard, a parish apprentice, aged 10', and below the entry, the Rector, John Whitcombe, had remarked: 'He died by inoculation for the Small-pox under the hands of the celebrated Mr. Sutton.' Although major developments in inoculation against smallpox had been made by 1836, the disease would not be eradicated until the 20th century and it would continue to bring appalling suffering to residents of other Lincolnshire parishes too.

Tealby residents were to be faced with a different epidemic five years later when scarlet fever swept through the village.
NOTES
1. Stamford Mercury, Friday 29 January 1836.
2. Stamford Mercury, Friday 11 March 1836.
3. Christopher Dinsdale had been a paper maker in Tealby.
4. Lincolnshire Archives, Tealby Burial Register, Tealby Par/1/7. Christopher Dinsdale buried 8 August 1835.
5. Lincolnshire Archives, Tealby Par/1/7. George Tennyson was buried 13 July 1835 aged 85 years.
6. For details of where this house is situated and further information about Christopher Dinsdale see Tealby Gleanings – Tales of a Lincolnshire Village, Jim Murray, Bayons Books (1995), pages 99-100.
7. Stamford Mercury, Friday 8 April 1836.
13. Stamford Mercury, Friday 18 November 1836.
15. Articles by Jim Murray and Jean Panther have been published in previous editions of Lincolnshire Past & Present in regard to the Rev Field Flowers and his family.
16. Lincolnshire Archives, Tealby Par/1/7. The Tealby Baptism Register records her baptism as 21 June 1835, the daughter of Christopher and Sarah Thistlethwaite, Labourer, but the Burial Register entry gives the surname as Thirlill.
17. The daughter of Labourer James Button & wife Eliza, who had been baptised at Tealby on 21 August 1836.
18. The death announcement in the Stamford Mercury, Friday 4 November 1836. Also names a Rebecca as the wife of Mr William Frith, Farmer, but the gravestone October 1836 at Tealby church has been transcribed (see Tealby MI at Lincolnshire Archives) as Margaret.
20. The Tealby Burial Register gives the surname as Friston.
21. Baptised at Tealby on 18 May 1834, the daughter of Tealby Shoemaker Daniel and his wife Michal Wilkinson. The 1841 Census shows this family living on Queen Street, with four children and a 15 year old shoemaker's apprentice. HO107/646/22.
22. The tealby Burial Register gives his surname as Burks, aged 21, but the Inquest report gives it as Binks, aged about 28.
23. Lincolnshire Archives, LQS/1/570/8/1.
24. There is a monument to this Marston family inside Tealby church.
25. The death notice in the Stamford Mercury, 23 December 1836. names him as Mr W. Handsen, aged 50.
26. Edward Stephenson was baptised at Tealby on 1 May 1836, the son of Brazier Samuel and Frances Stephenson of that parish.
27. The gravestone transcription at Lincolnshire Archives states age as 14, whereas the Burial Register has 13, and the former also gives the year of his death as 1837.
28. As already noted, transcribed as Margaret from the gravestone.
29. LAO North Witham Par/1/7.

DIVERSION 3
Witham Quiz — choose the right answers

1. In 1826 dredging the river to the southeast of Lincoln revealed the Witham Shield. This remarkable object, normally in the British Museum and currently on loan to The Collection, dates to: a) 400-300 BC b) 200-100 BC c) 500-600 AD d) 700-800 AD
2. The faint shape of an animal can be discerned on the shield. Is it a) a dinosaur b) a bull c) a dragon or d) a boar?
3. A find from the River Witham in 1816 was the Witham Bowl. This Anglo-Saxon object has been lost for many years. What is/ was the size of its diameter? a) 15cm b) 16cm c) 30cm d) 55cm
4. Was the bowl made of a) silver b) bronze c) copper or d) gold?
5. A drawing of the bowl shows an animal in the centre. Is it a) a dinosaur b) a bull c) a dragon or d) a boar?
6. In 1537 Abbott Mackerel and four of his canons were hanged for their alleged part in the Lincolnshire Rising. Which Witham Valley religious house were they from? a) Bardney Abbey b) Barlings Abbey c) Kirkstead Abbey d) Topholme Abbey.
7. Bardney Abbey housed the bones of which saint? a) St Cuthbert b) St Oswald c) St Wilfred d) St Chad
8. Early in the 10th century these relics were translated to a) Winchester b) Gloucester c) Durham d) Chester-le-Street?
9. At which of these villages can the River Witham not be seen? a) Aubourn b) Saxby c) Washington d) Fiskerton
10. Was the Grand Staircase at Boston first built in a) 1668 b) 1706 c) 1866 d) 1966?
11. High Bridge, which spans the Witham at Lincoln, is a) 11th-century b) 12th-century c) 13th-century d) 14th-century
12. The buildings on the west side of the bridge date to a) 14th century b) 15th century c) 16th century d) 20th century.
13. A chapel on the bridge, demolished in the 18th century, was dedicated to which saint? a) St Thomas the Apostle b) St Thomas Aquinas c) St Thomas Becket d) St Thomas More.
15. Stainfield Priory owned a grange known as Barleyouth Grange, which was later let to which family? a) Corre b) Heneage c) Hussey d) Tyrwhitt.

Solution on Page 22
The Witham Shield
– an icon returns to Lincoln

In 2010 the British Museum embarked upon a groundbreaking project called 'A History of the World in 100 Objects'. The core of the project was a Radio 4 series narrated by the museum’s Director Neil MacGregor taking 100 key objects from the worldwide collections in an attempt to discuss the entire scope of human experience. Allied to this was a local BBC led project to find objects in regional museums and in private ownership which told the stories of Britain’s cities, towns and villages through time.

The success of the project led to the British Museum being awarded the prestigious Art Fund Prize and an accompanying award of £100,000. The museum decided to use this award to continue to work with museums across Britain by instigating a series of Spotlight Loans, taking important objects from the national collections to venues across the country. This programme now sees one of the most iconic objects from British Prehistory returning temporarily to Lincolnshire – the Witham Shield.

The Witham Shield was discovered during dredging of the River Witham in 1826. The exact findspot is unknown, but the shield was passed to the Rector of Washington, Humphrey Waldo Sibthorp. Washingborough has always therefore been cited as the traditional findspot, though David Stocker has more recently postulated that a location closer to Lincoln’s Stamp End may be more accurate. Sibthorp was persuaded by Lord Brownlow to allow the shield to pass to Samuel Meyrick, a collector of arms and armour in London, and when he died it was purchased by Sir Augustus Wallaston Franks. In 1782 Franks donated the shield to the British Museum, where he was the Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities.

The shield was crafted in the 3rd Century BC, most likely in Britain though its exact origins are unknown. Rather than being a complete shield it is actually just the bronze facing of a shield, having lost its original wooden backing. It was probably made for ceremony or display rather than combat, though given the highly ritualised nature of Iron Age warfare, the two may be closely connected and the Witham Shield may have been intended for battlefield displays of wealth and status.

The shield is decorated with intricate patterns focussed along a central spine with a boss and two roundels. The central boss is inset with corals imported from the Mediterranean. Most intriguingly, the shield was once adorned with the striking image of a spindly-legged boar, now only visible through rivet holes and areas of discoloration.

The shield was deposited into the waters of the River Witham, presumably as a votive offering in a similar manner to the spectacular assemblage of finds discovered in association with the timber causeway at Fiskerton.

The shield will be on display at The Collection in Lincoln until 9th June 2013. A free series of lectures about the shield and the archaeology of the Witham Valley will complement the display.

Antony Lee is Collections Access Officer for Archaeology at The Collection, Danesgate, Lincoln
St Anne's: medieval bedehouse or contemporary almshouse?

A discussion by Helen Caffrey

St Anne's Bedehouses, Lincoln, have already attracted attention in *Lincolnshire Past and Present* (Linda Crust) and in the *Survey of Lincoln* (Michael Trott). They cannot claim to be ancient, either in terms of building or foundation, nor on a scale to have made a significant contribution to social housing. Yet they are 'well-connected' having Richard Waldo Sibthorp, of local family, as founder, and AWN Pugin and subsequently William Butterfield as architects. Foundation is adequately documented and buildings relatively unaltered, so what remains to be said of St Anne's?

I should now explain my interest. I have written extensively on almshouses, seeking answers to questions arising from my original county survey in the West Riding of Yorkshire. One question was on possible models for almshouse buildings, considering not only architectural style but also siting, accommodation and facilities, the resulting experience for residents and their image within the community, and the ideals, beliefs and assumptions that might underlie particular choices within the genre.

As few almshouses were architect designed, let alone by architects as well known and articulate as Pugin, I was drawn to St Anne's. I have written elsewhere about my investigations into the Pugin connection, but here I intend addressing two questions. Firstly, given certain medivialising features and the architect's association with neo-gothic, how 'medieval' was life in St Anne's? Secondly, was St Anne's divergent or influential, or within the range of what might be considered 'typical' for its time?

**Origins**

St Anne's Bedehouses were built in 1847-48 by George Myers to Pugin's drawings. The founder Sibthorp was a Church of England clergyman with Lincolnshire connections, currently unemployed due to a brief period as a Roman Catholic, and subject of much gossip. The project was not completed until at least 1854 with the consecration of the chapel, erected by a local contractor, with William Butterfield as architect. The founder lived next door and was the first to hold the position of chaplain-warden as designated in the foundation.

This established a residential charity for thirteen poor and elderly women plus a male porter. Eight beneficiaries
were to be from Lincoln, the others from the neighbouring parishes. They were expected to be members of the Anglican Church, widowed or spinster.

Almshouse context
Many medieval almshouses or 'hospitals' had fallen foul of Henry VIII's legislation in the 1540s affecting religious institutions such as chantries and colleges of priests, though others survived or were refounded. The later 16th to 17th century was a great period for charitable foundation, supported by enabling legislation.

Founders were men or women, often gentry in status, who recognised need and endowed their almshouses to alleviate it, in perpetuity. After a lull in the 18th century, the 1840s saw the beginning of a wave of new almshouses, continuing into the early 20th century when it slackened with the coming of the welfare state.

So what provoked this growth in the 19th century? Apart from individual motivation, a number of factors may have converged. After the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act's requirement for local 'Unions' to contain paupers in workhouses instead of offering out-relief, a disproportionate number of elderly people were so constrained. Unlike the able-bodied unemployed and children, the elderly only left the workhouse for the grave. Care in the community or moving in with the younger generation were not options open to all once age and infirmity prevented the ability to earn a living, while widows of workers in tied cottages were among the most vulnerable.

The growth of industrial cities and visible large-scale poverty were studied by observers such as Charles Booth (The Aged Poor in England and Wales, 1894). At the same time it became recognised that statistics should be gathered and that national government should be closely involved in finding solutions to social problems. Alongside this official response, and sometimes in contradiction to it, went a growth in philanthropy. Successful and paternalistic industrialists whose attitude to their workforce might be seen in model housing, might also provide for the young and old, though few went as far as the Crosley family or Titus Salt in Yorkshire. Such founders were often non-conformists; their charities frequently non-denominational.

Within the established church the rise in evangelicalism not only drew attention to the evils of slavery abroad but also distress at home. Social conscience went alongside social consciousness; those deserving of help were less often from the bottom of the heap than the respectable, deemed to have fallen on hard times.

While the workhouse proved insufficient in solving the problem of poverty, individual almshouses, erratically distributed, could only offer a sticking plaster. In the long term they provided a model of dignified care for the elderly, whose needs had to wait far longer than those of the young before receiving official attention in the form of the state pension and local authority housing.

St Anne's
In the 1840s Lincoln had relatively few almshouses. Although of local family, Sibthorp had worked and travelled elsewhere in England, living in London, Ryde and Tattershall. While he acknowledged the influence of his mother in directing his attention to poor elderly women, his ideas may have had various sources including those of his ecclesiastical contacts. As this must be a short discussion and at the risk of oversimplification, two tables are now used for almshouse features so that St Anne's position as 'medieval recreation' or 'within contemporary norms' may be discerned. Some features appear in both columns indicating the extent of continuity within almshouse practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>'Medieval'</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a Founder</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Local, gentry, cleric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b Time and motive for foundation</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>During lifetime, personal involvement. Commemoration. 'Penitence'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trustees plus chaplain-warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d Name of institution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bedenhouses; dedicated to St Anne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e Number of beneficiaries</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>13+1; religious symbolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Female (and male porter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g Selection criteria</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor, elderly, local, C of E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h Supervision/staff</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Chaplain-warden, initially founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i Benefits</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pension, fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j Uniform</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Blue cloak (no badge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k Customs</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Founder's Day (from 1880)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l Religious observance</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Attendance at onsite chapel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Buildings both reflect and direct the life style of their inhabitants. Pugin and many other architects have seen them as a potential moral influence.

**Table 2. Building characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>&quot;Medieval&quot;</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i Location, site</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii Layout/plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii Materials, style</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Local brick and tile, 'cottagery'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv Ornament</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Some patterned surfaces, finials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v Extra items</td>
<td></td>
<td>Well-house, 'cloisters'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi Plaques, inscriptions</td>
<td>* *</td>
<td>Foundation and dedication detail. Interior: fireplaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii Size of unit</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Two and a half rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii Facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fairly generous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix Furniture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chalice cupboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Communal provision</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Gardens and orchard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xi Enclave</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discreet, perimeter wall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xii Own chapel</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Also for public; private graveyard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

See Table 1. First in the potentially 'medieval' category in the institution's name (d). 'Bedehouse' was a minority term in comparison with either 'almshouse' or 'hospital'. It is suggested that the choice here may be due to religious connotations - bedesmen passing their lives in prayer for their benefactors - though even by the late 16th century the term had acquired literary and metaphorical usage. Whilst documentation from other almshouses indicates that the term continued in occasional use, both for residents and premises, a later reference by his successor to prayers being said for the founder on his deathbed reinforces the older meaning.

The dedication to St Anne also requires explanation. The simplest form of name would have been Sibthorpe Almshouses/Hospital, or a locative, or even an echo of older post-Reformation practice might have suggested 'St Richard's'. Anne is perhaps a more individual choice: female for a female institution, an association with the caring image of the mother of Mary, and perhaps a compliment to the founder's own mother, since deceased. Sibthorpe's correspondence shows he was concerned with getting the theology correct.

Criteria for admission to the almshouse (g) were of their period; neither corrodians nor family retainers were included (although the latter tradition persisted in some cases where management was integrated with that of estates). The beneficiaries were female (f), less common in those medieval foundations where gender was specified than in the 19th century when women came to outnumber men even in almshouses not originally so designated.

The number of thirteen plus one (e) does, however, suggest a deliberate echo of medieval religious symbolism, found at Tattershall in Lincolnshire, Ewelme in Oxfordshire, and elsewhere. While this was by no means universal, as almshouses tended to reflect resources available, a foundation for six residents was probably the most common after the Reformation, employing a new symbolism in the form of symmetry and good order.

Among the benefits (i) that almspeople might receive in addition to the accommodation were food, fuel and clothing, either in kind, as an allowance or subsumed into a pension. There was no universal rule, and at St Anne's a weekly pension of five shillings, with a useful sum of two pounds on arrival and annual delivery of coal was accompanied by the issue of uniform blue cloaks (j). Various opinions have been expressed on this topic due to a later perception of the stigma of receiving charity.

In practical terms it was an expense avoided for the almspeople, whilst in origin it reflected retainers' livery with identifying insignia. Uniform was not yet anachronistic in an 1840s almshouse, though the founder as chaplain-warden may have relished the picturesque appearance of his flock.

A number of almshouses, at any period, have celebrated their own individual customs (k), most often taking the form of a slap-up meal and perhaps an outing. Examples include the Gaudy Lunch in the hall of St Cross, Winchester, and the Parker birthday sermon and dinner at the local inn held by Waddington Hospital, Lancashire. At St Anne's, Founder's Day was a relatively low-key event and was instituted by the trustees in 1880 to fall on the day of the founder's death. The official opening date on the Feast of St Anne was not commemorated, nor the more usual choice of the founder's birthday.

In return for benefits, some almshouse charities required religious
observance (I), and this might be expected where there was an onsite chapel. At St Anne's services were held on Wednesdays, Fridays, and twice on Sundays, though attendance was only required for the evening. Communion was taken once a month to keep down the 'burden on the consciences of the old people' and to be in accordance with their previous practice, as Sibthorpe's biographer noted. Again, social attitudes have changed, but the demands of this comforting and sociable routine are unlikely to have seemed unduly onerous to St Anne's almshomen.

More problematic are the founder's intentions (II). In terms of his age, a recent inheritance and no direct heir, the timing is not uncommon, with the additional factors of a return home and a wish both to benefit and make a statement in the locality. An earlier homecoming, in 1825, may have been recalled, following employment at Tattershall and coinciding with his mother's death. Sibthorpe's reference to his project as 'penitence' (for his changes in denominational affiliation) is individual. It does recall the medieval foundation of chantries and almshouses where prayers would benefit the soul of the deceased and reduce the time spent in purgatory. No clear statements on similar lines have been found after the Reformation, although two examples indicate philanthropy as expiation (at Wimborne St Giles, Dorset, in the 1580s, and at West Retford, Nottinghamshire, as late as the 1660s).

See Table 2.

Moving on to the buildings, location (I) is first for consideration. Selection of a suburban rather than central site is undeniably 'modern,' allowing for availability of land. The subsequent layout of the buildings (II) corresponds neither to a row, winged row, courtyard, townhouse, nor paired semi. Indeed, it does not fit any classification or broader architectural label.

Surviving medieval alms house buildings show two popular forms: the hall with side wards later adapted to form individual units, as still exists at St Mary's Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, and the courtyard, which had continued to be an option and was to be resurrected for larger institutions in tune with the romantic medievalism of the later 19th century. However – and allowing for the nature of the site itself – the all-period favourite of a simple row with central feature or plaque was not chosen either.

The two-phase building programme, due both to piecemeal land purchase and cash flow, may be relevant, but while the plan is not a medieval re-creation, there is one feature that might make that claim. Linking the main row to the rest and at right angles to both is a covered passage, windowed to the garden side and with a distinct roof line: the cloisters. The chaplain-warden reached the bedehouses and chapel by a garden path from his house next door leading directly into the cloisters. Functionally these have no specific historical association with alms houses. But overall the single storey, cottage style of building (described on the Listed Buildings Register as Tudor revival) in vernacular materials (III) is not uncommon, allowing for some exaggeration in the overhanging eaves.

Some features merit more comment. The gable ends of the three returns have buttresses, finials and diapered brickwork (IV). On a smaller scale these are reminiscent of Pugin's convent designs of the preceding decade and some of the detail in
his other, much altered, almshouse project, at Cadogan Street in Chelsea, London. Should St Anne's be seen as an experiment, which did not mature to become an influence within its own genre? Plaques (vi), on the other hand, are a regular almshouse feature, recording founder, date and any additions chosen, such as mottos or biblical quotation. The use of scrolls is characteristic of the neo-gothic reuse of medieval details from sepulchral sculpture and is decorative as much as dedicatory.

A different application of inscription appears inside each individual almshouse where the lintel above the fireplace advises the resident to 'Rest and Watch'. So far as is known, this feature is unique, but the admonition to watch had particular religious overtones for the founder in his own subsequent old age, and so perhaps it should be interpreted here.

Also exceptional is the identification of the wall cabinets as 'chalice cupboards' (ix). These handsome and useful pieces of fitted furniture were apparently the only ones provided, although evidence for this aspect of almshouse provision in general is slight. Again the name implies a religious rather than medieval significance, whilst in terms of function the almshouse owners use them for crockery and personal possessions.

Continuing the assessment of internal features and facilities (vii, viii), St Anne's might be classified as middle of the range for its time. Individual units are self-contained, composed of two small rooms with a scullery behind opening onto an 'extra' in the form of a small private yard. Shared pathways and communal gardens (formerly including an orchard) (x) are all contained within the solid perimeter wall, defining the enclave and enhancing the sense of security and quietude, an essential for almshouse life (xi). This has been an important feature in many periods, and was needed here to demarcate the property boundary of this new community.

Another essential is indicated by the well-house (v). However, while a water supply was a necessity, and hand pumps and wells may still be seen at many almshouses, this decorative enhancement appears also to be unknown elsewhere. It would not have been seen as 'historic' in this pre-mains period, and being too small to afford shelter seems to be ornamental rather than practical: an eye-catcher in an irregular landscape. In miniature it encapsulates the foundation coat of arms, gothic traceried openings, and a cross finial. It does not echo medieval and monastic conduits, still to be seen in some secular settings in the 1840s.

Across the main driveway lies the second phase: Butterfield's chapel (xii). Some internal features here are worth note in this 'medievalising' audit, including the choice of the ecclesiologists' favoured architect. The chapel was for the use of the residents and chaplain-warden, but with seating optimistically available for a congregation of over a hundred.

Almshouses had their own individually allocated places in the choir, numbered as for their houses. This does imply an element of regulation and a ready check on presence, though also avoiding any disputes over precedence. Originally the interior (now largely plain) glowed with colourful tiles and painting, setting off the brass wall plaques commemorating former members of the founder's family; assorted Sibthorps, all buried elsewhere.

Other post-Reformation almshouses may include a bust or portrait of the founder, placed visibly in
the garden, common kitchen or entrance (1b, 2vi). As discussed elsewhere, almshouses may well embody a mnemonic function, both personal and within the community. However, the spiritual presence of the founder’s ancestors and relatives approaches much more closely the ethos of the medieval chantry chapel where resident priests were established to pray in perpetuity for the souls of those commemorated. This ceased at the Reformation in line with Protestant beliefs on purgatory, though the association of ideas may have lingered on in the subconscious of later almshouse founders. Perhaps it was fortunate that the chapel came in the second phase of Sibthorpe’s foundation, by which time the installation of the almshouses should have alleviated local speculation over a possible ‘college of priests’ with its Roman Catholic overtones, mentioned in the local press (and refuted by the Mercury on 21 May, 1847). Alongside the chapel and forming an extension of the view for the almshouses in the main range is their future location, the private graveyard (xii). This was unusual at a time when environmental health concerns were leading to closure of burials in urban areas and removal to separate cemeteries. By way of comparison, the rebuild envisaged at Archbishop Holgate’s Hospital, Hensworth, Yorkshire, in the 1850s initially included a burial area, but this was never used and the mortuary house became a garden shed.

The final feature (x), which has ramifications both in architecture and lifestyle, may represent a clincher in this evaluation of effective mediaevalisation. Medieval almshouse charities, into the 15th century, might take various forms (as indicated by Nicholas Orme) but what came to be regarded as the archetypal medieval model was the collegiate lifestyle epitomised by Trollope (The Warden, 1855) and Thackeray (The Newcomes, 1853-5). This was essentially a communal way of life, requiring separate rooms or sleeping chambers for each resident, but with dining — sometimes with some ceremony — in a designated hall, and possibly also passing much of the daytime there or in a common space.

One survival may be seen at the 17th century Hospital for the veteran Chelsea Pensioners. Perhaps, ironically, this pattern also became the norm for 20th century ‘old people’s homes’ in a form designed for care rather than independence. The deliberate creation of a miniature community and the lifestyle entailed still underpinned some 19th century almshouse foundations, though notions of independence and privacy as well as spatial limitations often led to its abandonment in older foundations on rebuilding or with the Charity Commissioners’ new schemes from the mid-century onwards.

No integrated warden’s house was built (although considered) but Sibthorpe himself undertook a gothicisation of the exterior of the house next door, allocating it to the foundation but as a separate property. Sibthorpe had clearly eschewed the communal approach both in architecture and in way of life in favour of contemporary ideas — and perhaps his mother may have spoken of such things — while incorporating the well-lead as visual focus and the chapel as common ground for his small community.

All in all, St Anne’s was a traditional sort of institution, unusual in some architectural detail, but neither unduly old-fashioned nor eccentric (as some charitable foundations undeniably were). The medieval, in its particular religious manifestation, was perhaps more important to the imagination and mindset of founder and architect than to the beneficiaries, to whom indeed such ideas might have seemed alien.

Romantic mediaevalism does appear as a strand in subsequent almshouse building as do both commemorative and religious elements, though not necessarily combined, and among a wide range of alternatives. No specific imitations of Pugin’s sole surviving unaltered almshouses have been found. On these grounds St Anne’s claim to be a mediaeval re-creation nor to have influenced succeeding architects and founders. It may continue to fascinate the historian, charm the visitor, and above all to benefit the inhabitants, but it does so as part of a long, diverse and continuing tradition.

Further Reading


Goodall, J., 2001, God’s House at Ewelme, Ashgate.


Orme, N. and Webster, M., 1995, The English Hospital, 1070-1570, Yale.


FIRST WORLD WAR

Next year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and we would like to hear your family stories. Please see the Bulletin inserted in this magazine for details.
THE AMBITIONS OF WILLIAM HADDON OWEN (1854-1924) OF LOUTH

A chance discovery in a shop on Steep Hill, Lincoln, led Stephen Roberts to find out about a little known solicitor and would-be politician of late 19th century Louth.

During the past thirty years I have been a frequent visitor to Lincoln. Though once I was able, like one of my subjects, Thomas Cooper the Chartist, to climb Steep Hill several times a day, now I find it hard work and am glad to find shops in which to browse on my way up.

Several years ago in one of these shops I found an intriguing election handbill from 1881. In pencil on the back was the price (£5) and the unflattering observation, 'That Creep Haddon Owen.' The handbill was blu-tacked, amid a plethora of other political memorabilia, to my study wall. One day I knew I would have to discover exactly who this man was who had attracted such a disparaging description.

The story of William Haddon Owen (1854-1924) did not take long to piece together. The second son of an Irish-born rector of Trusthorpe and educated at Felsted public school in Essex, he established, at the age of 22, what became a successful solicitor's business in Louth. His business was so successful in fact that he was able to rent, from 1894 until 1914, Little Grimsby Hall, a red brick country house set in nine acres.

Here he entertained shooting parties, one visitor being the cricketer W. G. Grace. But Owen wanted more. He sought to make money in a series of unsuccessful enterprises, among them a short lived wallpaper company. Perhaps most of all he craved the respectability of public office. Owen resented his apparent exclusion from the inner circle of businessmen who ran Louth council.

And so, in October 1881, an ambitious 27-year-old launched his bid to become an elected councillor in south ward. In his election handbill Owen presented himself as an 'Independent Conservative... impressed with the importance of an economical administration of the public finances at all times.' As a solicitor he was 'mixed up every day in ordinary business,' and this, he argued during his canvass and at a crowded Conservative meeting at the town hall, was a very good reason to vote for him.

Polling in the town gymnasium between 9am and 5pm on 1 November passed off quietly, but by the evening a large crowd had gathered outside the town hall. Had Owen's audacious attempt to become one of the chosen few been successful? The crowd sang 'God Save The Queen' and 'God Bless the Prince of Wales' as they waited for three hours for the outcome. It did not go Owen's way. With 461 votes, he found himself behind the three Liberals - but only just. The outsider had come within a whisker - 38 votes in actuality - of being elected.

Owen remained a mainstay of Louth Conservative Club but does not appear to have contested another election. He confined his public speaking instead to local courts, where he did a lot of prosecution on behalf of the police. It is possible that it was his championing of the Conservative interest in a Liberal town or his prosecution work, or a combination of both, that led to the scornful description referred to earlier.

Owen was the father of four children, his eldest son, Ernest, being killed in action in Givenchy in France in December 1914 and his daughter Mary becoming a writer of children's stories (and a family memoir which presented Owen as a rather distant parent). Incapacitated by a stroke, Owen died in January 1924. This man of great ambition merited only a short obituary in the local newspaper. But he is not quite forgotten, thanks to the chance discovery of an election handbill in a shop on Steep Hill, Lincoln.

References
Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 5 November 1881, 24 January 1924.
Kelly's Trade Directory, 1882, 1892, 1901.
Bennett's Business Directory, 1901.
Acknowledgement
I am grateful to Cath Gaunt of Louth Library and Paul Halfyard for their help.


The manor of Frampton in Holland was one of the properties with which William Waynreflete endowed Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1458. The archives of the estate were passed to the college and survive there as the basis for this study of the development of the gentry class. The book focuses on the Multon family who built up their estates centred on Frampton, from around 1240, until they passed through marriage into the hands of the York merchant family, the Graa, in the late fourteenth century. As a map of their Lincolnshire interests shows, the Multons had manors and properties in many parts of the county from Somercotes and Saltfleetby in the north and east to the cluster in Holland, of which Bicker was the most southerly by a small margin, and in the west, Bransby, Stow, Stanton, and Ingletby.

While the Multon archive is relatively full, providing material on most aspects of gentry life in the period of the study, Professor Coss also uses evidence from other families to broaden and deepen his discussion. In addition to Lincolnshire families that were neighbours of the Multons, such as the Cobeldykes and the Huntingfolds, as well as the Luttrells of Iham, and the Willoughbys of Evesby, there is, for example, Hamo Le Strange, of Hunstanton. His household accounts exemplifies the type of material that is used to enrich a study that reaches behind the properties that gave these families their wealth and status and is concerned with the social and cultural life that characterised gentry life in the period.

(A longer review will appear in the annual Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, 2012 – Reviews editor.)

Dr Rod Ambler, Grimsby


The heading above tells it all. Although printed in the county and put together by a local author the book deals with the memoirs of a Hull man whose WW1 story is set in East Africa. For a 'warts and all' eye witness account of warfare away from the western front this is a valuable record.


The author is well known for his books centred on the history of the RAF and flying. Here he retells the stories of six airmen and their varied exploits in WW2. Very little is related to Lincolnshire – the one link is that all six were born within a 10 mile radius of Spalding. Three men flew fighter aircraft and three were in Bomber Command; three survived the war. For an insight into what made young men leave school and go straight into battle mode these biographies are rewarding reading.


Although called a new edition this is really a paperback re-issue of a book first published in 1990 and often reprinted. There is a wide variety of stories; these include the lives of Havelock, William the Giant of Axholme and John Smith (of Virginia fame), an account of the railway disaster at Grantham in 1906, the Louth flood and Byards Leap. Plenty of interesting reading.


This A4 size booklet is ideal for visitors to the site of Bardney Abbey and to exhibitions in the Church of St Lawrence and Bardney Heritage Centre. Colourful throughout, its front cover offers a striking bird's eye reconstruction by David Vale of the whole of the Abbey as it might have appeared on the eve of the Reformation. On the inside front cover is a comprehensive colour plan of all the Abbey buildings as published by Sir Harold Brakspear in a 1922 archaeological journal.

The booklet opens with an historical overview of the Abbey from its Anglo-Saxon origins and Norman refounding to its dissolution in 1538 and eventual loss beneath open fields. The story of the site's excavation (1909-1914) and what was discovered by the Rev Charles Laing and his village team of amateur archaeologists is fascinating, as are the old photographs that illustrate it.

Stuart's booklet then brings the story of Bardney Abbey up to date with a lucid account of community excavations in 2011 and the skilfully designed exhibition created in 2012 in Bardney St Lawrence's Church. It serves as a welcome guide book for the abbey site and for the exhibition (and the display in Bardney Heritage Centre). Above all it reveals the varying fortunes over centuries of a large and initially wealthy abbey evidenced by many
high quality carved stones and architectural remains retrieved by the archaeologists. Stuart is in his element when comparing architectural fragments found on the site with still visible features in comparable monastic houses, churches and cathedrals. This has enabled him to tentatively visualise, describe and reconstruct something of the style and grandeur that was Bardney Abbey. Many parallels are cited in places ranging from Lincoln, Peterborough and Ripon Cathedrals to standing remains in monastic houses like St Mary’s Abbey, York, Roche Abbey and Bingham Priory. One impressive association is the choir in Bardney Abbey with the choir still to be seen in the only slightly larger Peterborough Abbey.

The author has provided ample colour photographs of retrieved carved stones, and reconstructions drawings to show precisely where in the abbey they may have come from. Selected architectural stones can be seen in the display in Bardney church. These are numbered and cross-referenced in the booklet, with explanations and illustrations. Perhaps the most ambitious reconstruction is an architectural drawing of the whole west front of the abbey church. It is a tentative proposal, but the evidence is well set out and illustrated, well argued, and impressively drawn. Towards the end of his booklet, attention turns to important carved stones that cannot be displayed in the church. Some of these may be seen in the Bardney Heritage Centre. Among them are unusual stone table legs from the monks’ refectory with the delicate carved head of a mitred abbot or bishop. The booklet ends with a bibliography for those wishing to learn more, and a glossary of architectural terms. This is a ‘must buy’ for all interested in the Abbey, and especially for visitors to the site and residents in and around Bardney.

The Rev John Wilford, Lincoln

KIRTON-IN-LINDSEY SOCIETY.

This book is a treasure. ‘Unique Life Experiences’ as cited on the very first page (is entitled ‘What is Oral History?’) have brought the past of a self-contained country town, of wide ranging interests, into the light of community knowledge. It is the second Oral History Book created by the Kirton Lindsey Local History Society and there is ample good material. This was a town which was self sufficient in all things from Gas Works to hairdressers, butchers to shoe shops with churches, chapels and the Town Hall in the Market Place. Interviews are interspaced with single page accounts of wartime rations, the cinema, utility clothing and the cafe.

The experience of the farm worker’s daughter who left school at 14 years old and went on to do the daily inspections of Spitfires and Hurricane, who ‘got the planes going’ and then stepped out onto the wing so the pilot got in and took control’ – but only had ‘a little go at the controls in a straight line’ herself could never have been expected. Likewise the life of the boy who went potato picking from school ‘but never went back’ yet ended up owning three petrol stations and a fleet of coaches.

The practicality of running a Co-op shop and its rounds, why the school children had chips and cocoa for lunch in the Baptist Chapel, how the windmill came to be mended – these details are safely recorded.

A map would have been most useful for readers who do not know the village (and for Kirtonians to come) for the detailed remembrances of changed names of streets, shops and residents which are given by many interviewees mean very little when there is no basic plan into which to fit them.

Brenda Webster, Heighington


This little booklet was prepared to mark the centenary in 2009 of the opening of the school. In the first part Mr Mickleburgh records in a workmanlike manner the basic details of the school’s story culled from the minute books. From very poor conditions (flooded playground, water pipes needing fixing) with 70 pupils the school has developed on a greatly improved site. The longer second part is taken up with accounts by a variety of former pupils whose memories go back as far as the war years. In the final section are pages of group photographs and a sample of a typical school report form. Altogether here is a useful record of a still thriving school. It is only marred by a number of errors that better proof-reading should have picked up.

PARKER, Charles. The Royal Observer Corps in Lincolnshire & Humberside: Lincolnshire Aviation Society, 2012. [3], 80, xxxii pp. ISBN 978 0 9518365 1 6. Unpriced pbk. This volume is much more than merely a re-write of Charles’s earlier work on the subject. It offers a greater width both chronologically, dealing with the historical dimension of looking out for trouble, and geographically, widening the area covered to include Humberside and with references to other neighbouring counties. The development of the Royal Observer Corps (ROC) is described in sufficient detail to inform the reader of what sort of organisation it represented, this particular thread being well illustrated by anecdote alongside a more official record. Observers were always volunteers, maintaining standards and an esprit de corps which made close supervision and imposed discipline largely unnecessary. Recruitment was often based on the principle of who knows whom, evidenced by the ‘I think this looks like a job for you, Stanley’ story, but based on an awareness of individuals’ skills and character, rather than on nepotism. The main text, organised into twelve chapters
spanning the Corps' sixty-five years of effective operation, and topped and tailed for completeness, carries the information to explain the context and the evolution, with ample additional data in appendices to ensure an in-depth coverage.

The ROC's story is riddled with contradictions and anomalies. One of the successes of the First War, the London Air Defence Area [LADA], was translated between the wars into Air Defence Great Britain, and it was recognised that the institutionalised use of Special Constables as observers, reporting to a centralised clearing-house, had been instrumental in the system's success. However, although this network came largely free of major expense, it was not until the mid-1930s that it was finally fully resurrected, taking its place with the fighter squadrons of the RAF and the AA divisions of the Territorial Army, with all three command and co-ordination functions co-located at both national and regional level. By this time, the marvels of RDF [later RADAR] were apparent but observers were located in the most exposed positions, housed in flimsy timber sheds if they were lucky, but sometimes with only a canvas sheet as wind-break. They used the most rudimentary of instruments [even referred to by observers themselves as the 'Heath Robinson'], and one of these early aids to plotting remained in service into the 1950s. Even at the height of the Cold War, an era characterised, we may remember, as heralding the 'white heat of technology', observers were handling radio-active materials and servicing instruments in the open air which, in a real war scenario, could have been very close to Ground Zero. Perhaps the resultant warm glow was meant to compensate for the lack of heating, insulation and warm-weather clothing, matters which were only tackled in the latter years of operation.

Whilst the aircraft spotting activities of the Battle of Britain and the various blitzes will doubtless be familiar to readers, there were other activities during the Second World War which may be less so. British aircrew became understandably frustrated at becoming the targets for the increasingly competent AA gunners on Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships [DEMS], so seaborne observers were recruited to distinguish between friend and foe, a particularly vital task in the D-Day landings. As enemy air raids decreased at home there evolved a role for observers in guiding down to safe landings returning allied bomber aircraft, which might have become crippled or disorientated.

By the 1950s, aircraft spotting had become non-viable. This was less to do with the ability of observers to identify fast-moving aircraft, than the time it took to report and to initiate a response. However the ROC was soon awarded a new role, that of recording the location of atomic bomb-bursts, and then of monitoring the levels and movement of nuclear fallout after such a nuclear strike. This activity was conducted, again using pretty crude instruments, from a network of tiny underground bunkers, built to a standard design. With over 1500 of these covering the land, no-one could ever have been far from one, but they never became part of the public's general consciousness. Right up to the end of the Cold War, ROC exercises were held, and deemed to be effective in aiding an appreciation of the notional situation. When the Corps was stood down in 1991, many observers were genuinely sad to be losing such a large part of their lives, despite the sacrifices they had made to serve in it.

It is sad that so little remains on the ground to memorialise the work and bravery of the observers. One or two of the underground posts survive and open up to the public intermittently such as that at Holbeach. The Fiskerton control is in commercial use but there are few traces of other above-ground structures in the county. Preservation is a problem because there were originally so many examples, but these have suddenly become so few, a common story for all types of twentieth-century military sites.

Charles, with decades of service following his enlistment as a fifteen-year-old, is well-equipped to tell this story, which is as much human as it is technical. His book is a good read as well as a useful reference work. If I have any criticisms they are only minor ones; an index would have been helpful, and the proof-reader must have registered high on his Dysleximeter in a few places, notably p27. Otherwise the book is well-presented and well-illustrated and I can recommend it both to those familiar with this story and those who wish to find out about the essential work of the ROC from scratch.

Dr Mike Osborne, Market Deeping


TheLincolnshire lads in this fascinating account are the author's grandfather and his brother. Their letters home to their family inBillingborough form the main focus but there are also other important strands. Another Lincolnshire man on the same progress through South Africa sent accounts back to theLincolnshire Echo and judicious use has been allowed to provide a further view of proceedings. A modern updating is partly provided by the author's own visits as part of a holiday in 2000 to many of the sites mentioned in the letters.

We start with the recruitment at Grantham in January 1900 and time in Lincoln's Drill Hall before their embarkation at Southampton for the long sea voyage to Cape Town. This section is marked by a graphic description of crossing the Bay of Biscay in atrocious weather, slow progress and nearly everyone sick all the time. After their arrival in Cape Town in March the brothers and
their company moved to Tulbaugh Road, only 65 miles north, remaining for some weeks while guarding the railway line and bridges. Already the tedium of army life shows up in their letters with endless marching and guard duty. Then the volunteers began the move up-country towards Bloemfontein and further on to arrive in Pretoria in June.

In July the volunteers, who were originally intended to support the regulars but not to fight, although they were issued with rifles and ammunition, came under fire. At Nitra's Nek the Boers, placed on hills overlooking the British, were able to cause much more damage to the Lincolns and other regiments. The letters and newspaper accounts reveal how they were attacked with bullets flying around like hail stones.

Luckily, Arthur missed out on this excitement; he had been recruited as a hospital orderly back in Pretoria, but Herbert's letters set out in graphic detail how lucky he was to escape injury when there were heavy losses. By the end of July they were all back in the garrison in Pretoria. Thereafter the letters tell of endless days and nights of marches, outpost guard duties, and reports of skirmishes with the enemy, the scorched earth policy, and concentration camps. From September onwards there are talks of mobilising for their return to Britain but well into 1901 they were still in transit camps and the volunteers only arrived back in the UK in May.

The last pages record how Herbert stayed on in Intelligence and later in what is now Zimbabwe. There he was running a farm belonging to Cecil Rhodes at the same time being well paid and fed. Only in 1905 did he return home and settle down again in Billingborough.

We learn much of the boring nature of army life, what being under fire is like, and what food and clothing deprivation they suffered in the wet and cold of an inhospitable land. We meet two young boys, brought up strictly in their local chapel and refusing to play cards or football on Sundays but gaining due respect from their fellows for their stand, often homesick but growing up and making the best of their opportunities. Their fitness is shown in the hundreds of miles they marched in often awful conditions. History, it is said, is written by the victors and, until the 19th century, largely by the literate officer class or professional historian. What war was like at ground level is revealed here after the author's hard work in making these letters presentable to a wider audience. The interweaving of letters and other sources together with many pictures and maps makes for a fascinating account of a war that now tends to be forgotten.


This series proceeds at an excellent pace and has now arrived at what might be justly termed the centre of the city. Again we have a series of pieces by many of the most eminent local specialists, writing on aspects of their expertise. Michael Jones, the City Archaeologist, sets the early scene by discussing the archaeological evidence of the city's origins, which are now set in the region of 6,000 BC. I was intrigued by his suggestion that the Fossdyke canal might date from the Anglo-Scandinavian period rather than, as is popular belief, that its origins are Roman.

Several papers are devoted to the water itself; Chris Johnson provides a detailed account of fishing activities; two of the editor's contributions deal with trade and industry on the water and also boats in the 19th century. Of the works and other buildings on the waterfront we read of Lincoln Corporation Electricity Works (Chris Lesier), Harrison's Malleable Iron Works (Ann Yeates-Langley) and Thomas Sawdon and Sawdon's Yard (Chris Page) and between them they form a valuable series of case-studies.

Stewart Squires' account of the various bridges crossing the Pool fills out the picture of the way operations were facilitated.

A brief note by Dennis Mills refers to Lincoln's use of the Pool for lack of proper sanitation and the proposals George Giles made to provide a model sewerage system. Turned down by the ratepayers in 1849 it was another 32 years before sewers were put in place.

Two papers deal with the proposed theatre complex in the 1970s that failed to materialise and the new architecture on the north side (mainly the work of Sam Scorer) that did, including the listed hyperbolic paraboloid, that used to be the reviewer's office.

The major development on Brayford in recent years has, of course, been the establishment of the University. The Vice-Chancellor provides a foreword and Lesley Clarke presents a well illustrated account of the development and the range of new buildings that fill the south bank now. As a piece of useful historical background to what we now see Maurice Hudson relates the story of The Holme, its draining, later use by the railway and now the University's site. Heather Hughes' article considers the use of the Pool as a leisure space for the city.

An enjoyable read with lots of colour pictures, which, if the format had allowed, could have been larger, a useful list of resources for readers who want to take matters further, a good map and a reasonable price.

**BAD NEWS and GOOD NEWS**

I owe apologies for a misunderstanding in the piece I wrote in the last issue of Lp&P. Market Rasen's station and staff did not end in 1981; the MR Group have let me know that the MR Station Adoption Group now maintain the visitor areas and trains do stop. Those who watch the Michael Portillo train journey programmes will have seen him alight at the station. When I saw the programme I thought 'Good old BBC - they have paid for the train to stop!' but Hazel Barnard who chairs the Group has kindly confirmed it was not a one-off while gently correcting me.