



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

Welcome to the eighth edition of the News Review



The President (and friend) relaxing at Broadheath, Worcestershire.

As your recently elected President, I would like to welcome you to the eighth edition of the *News Review* with a more personally focused piece.

My connections with the Lincoln Record Society go back as far as my association with Lincoln itself. When I first arrived in 1980, I was asked to tea with Kathleen Major (then still Society President) in her stylish house at 21 Queensway (designed by Sir Charles Nicholson) for an

afternoon's induction into personalities and issues affecting the city's material heritage (not that Miss Major would have used such words; she would have talked of 'history' and 'archaeology'). We got on famously, particularly when conversation turned to crime-fiction, of which she was such a devotee (she knew authors such as PD James personally, after all). I don't recall what she said about LRS on that first occasion but, having completed *Registrum Antiquissimum X* (LRS 67) some years earlier, her attention was now focussed on the *Survey of Ancient Houses*, which she, Stanley Jones and Joan Varley were pursuing, with practical assistance in the Lincolnshire Archives from a youthful Chris Johnson; 'that Mr Johnson', as Miss Major would expostulate regularly, when administration was required. When it became clear that buildings were my principal academic interest (the topic of my recently completed MA thesis and – then still registered – PhD), she told me we would be meeting again. And indeed we did. For the next ten years or more, one Saturday each month would be occupied with a memorable combination of practical building-recording, hard-working seminar, and a delicious lunch ... at Miss Major's 'usual table' at the White Hart. A quarter of a century later, in 2006, my collaborator, co-author and friend, Paul Everson and I were honoured to dedicate one of our books to her.

As an impoverished early-career archaeologist/architectural historian, Miss Major offered me a glimpse of a style of academic research with which I was keen to become more familiar. The first four volumes of the *Survey* were published inexpensively through Lincoln Civic Trust and have become classics of the genre in the subsequent twenty years. They are enormously important, not just for the architectural history of the city, but for all aspects of its development from the twelfth century to the present. Consequently, I was delighted when LRS Council decided to 'complete' the *Survey* by publishing the last of Stanley Jones' drawings and buildings surveys in *The Steep, The Strait and High Street*, with an accompanying discussion of documents by 'that Mr Johnson' (now available in the →



LRS Occasional Series). The Society's debt to Miss Major is enormous, as we all know, and completing this series is one small gesture we can make to express our gratitude.

Another step, a larger one in every respect, has been the inauguration of the *Kathleen Major Series* of editions last year, with the fine new edition of Bishop Grosseteste's Rolls (edited by the series' general editor, Professor Hoskins of the University of Lincoln). This series, as it builds, will become a very fitting tribute to Miss Major, and will mark – in a suitably permanent manner – her self-effacing, but most profound, influence on English medieval studies. Alongside those in LRS 20 and LRS 48, I have already found its Itinerary useful myself in recent work on Lincoln bishops' palaces.

I joined our sister body, the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in 1981, a year or so before I joined LRS. By way of excuse, I can only say that my Latin was – and remains – poor, and in those days LRS did little by way of 'outreach'. However, there was always a stall at the Lincolnshire Show and I signed-up there during the third week of June in 1983 (and not in 1988 as reported in LRS 100!). I remember the occasion well – it was 'that (irresistible) Mr Johnson' again! He offered me *Tattershall Building Accounts* (LRS 55) for free, in return for my banker's order for £10.00, payable in 1984. This seemed like a great deal and 'that Mr Johnson' was so persuasive! In 2010 we reprinted LRS 55, and I had this additional reason to be pleased when asked to add a short bibliographic introduction, to bring the discussion up to date.

After 1983, I was so pleased with the volume that dropped through my letterbox every year for twenty years, that I gave that banker's order no further thought. Eventually, I began to notice what excellent value my £10.00 p.a. represented, but no one seemed to want more. And then, in 2003, I received a very understanding letter from a new LRS Treasurer, Ken Hollamby. A new regime was evidently at the helm. The letter confirmed that I had indeed been receiving excellent benefit for my £10.00, but that, sadly, it was no longer possible to supply me with LRS volumes for such a modest price. Furthermore, the letter implied, as my membership had been subsidised by LRS for some time, and if I felt generous, I might wish to pay back some of the subsidy as a one-off donation. After all, scholarship costs! Thoroughly ashamed of myself, but also impressed with the new purposefulness on display at LRS HQ, I made a rapid cash donation.

In 1999 I had been asked by my employers to design and implement a programme pulling together the considerable state investment in Lincoln archaeology and architectural history in a series of databases and publications. Working with City Archaeologist Mick Jones, Alan Vince and John Herridge, we were able to establish the City Heritage Database (a city-wide Historic Environment Record), and the innovative analytical GIS database called Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA), which aimed to pull this information together to provide a summary of research results to-date, and a 'research agenda' for future work in the city. We also published a

sizeable study of the city's archaeology in printed form – *The City by the Pool* (Oxford, 2003) – the first of its type in England. I was then working on Lincoln remotely, in Oxford (and was helped enormously by former LRS President Sir Francis Hill's four great books, of course), but I was frustrated by the absence of editions of two major sources for Lincoln's history and archaeology: 'The Collection' made by Edward Willson in the early nineteenth century, and now housed largely in the Society of Antiquaries of London; and the *Adversaria*, a similar 'Collection' made a century earlier by the cathedral Clerk of Works, Thomas Sympson, and now safe amongst the Gough Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library. Complaining one evening to Paul Everson, that neither of these important collections were easily accessible, he suggested that we should do something about it. Although probably the more significant source, the Willson Collection is so large and disparate that a published edition would be a forbidding undertaking. But Paul and I visited the Bodleian and decided that the Sympson manuscript would make a good LRS volume. That was a decade ago, and subsequently we have achieved a complete transcript; we hope to offer that volume to our membership in the next five years.

Finally, I thought it might be revealing to look across my desk and report which LRS volumes are open at the moment. First to catch my eye is Foster and Longley's *Lincolnshire Domesday...* (LRS 19). The first 'back-number' I ever bought, it is still my first resort; currently for a piece in progress on tenth- and eleventh-century Louth. In terms of editorial quality it was supplanted by the *Alecto* edition (ed. Williams, 1992), but LRS19 is so attractively laid out, and with such useful (if dated) introductions. Arthur Owen's miscellany volume on the Lindsey Marsh (LRS 85) lies adjacent for the same project, as it links our Louth work with current projects by Duncan Wright and Adam Daubney at the Carltons nearby. Bill Couth's edition of the Grantham Hall Book (LRS 83) is here as well. Since the LRS generously grant-aided the volume edited by Dave Start and myself in 2011, I find myself constantly discussing the town, and now John Manterfield and his team of dedicated volunteers have produced a second volume, due to be with LRS members very soon. Unexpectedly perhaps, Rob Wheeler's very fine volume on the Witham Fens (LRS 96) is also to hand. That has informed a recent correspondence on the remarkable chapels of Jephtha Pacey. Bishop Hicks' diaries are always close-by (LRS 82), and his waspish comments spiced-up a recent lecture on the Heneage family with their irreverent colour. Hicks is a good Christmas present, but even more warmly received, I find, is the box-set of LRS 1 & LRS 100. In itself, it is a clever way to mark the Society's anniversary, but our editor's well-controlled style in LRS 100, *Wonderful to Behold*, reporting the singular goings-on as the Society has developed, is a captivating read. Nicholas Bennett is now making an even more significant contribution to LRS than he has so far, of course: his systematic accounts of the diocesan clergy (LRS 103 & 105 are already published) will become, when complete, the foundation for almost every



aspect of Lincolnshire history. We can only applaud his ambition, energy, and scholarship. Thank you Nicholas.

I'm afraid this very personal Newsletter introduction contributes little of substance, but it suggests – at least – that work on most Lincolnshire matters must necessitate close acquaintance with our magnificent LRS series. We are so fortunate, not only to have such a superb series of records, but to have had a succession of great scholars to prepare

them for our use, through the LRS. I am enormously proud to have been elected your President, and I will be aiming to support Council colleagues in maintaining this series of invaluable publications into the future.

David Stocker

MA (Cantab. & York), DLitt, FSA, MIfA Hon.

Visiting Professor in the Institute for Medieval Studies,
University of Leeds.



LRS SPRING EVENTS

The LRS calendar has been full this Spring, with two book launches and a conference to keep us busy! First up was the launch, by Lady Willoughby d'Eresby, of the second in Nicholas Bennett's series of Lincolnshire Parish Clergy, *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy c.1214–1968: A Biographical Register, II. The Deaneries of Beltisloe and Bolingbroke*. This was launched on a beautifully sunny but incredibly cold Friday at the beginning of March, in Edenham. Originally the launch was going to be in the parish church of St Michael and All Angels, but it so cold that we decided to retire instead to the warmth of the Stable chapel for an insightful lecture by Dr Bennett! You can read highlights of this on pages 4 and 5. Thank you also to the parishioners for providing us with such a lovely tea.

This was followed up on the 8th April by the launch of the first in our new Occasional series of publications, *Steep, Strait and High: Ancient Houses of Central Lincoln* by Chris Johnson and Stanley Jones. This completes the formidable *Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln* series, put together by Kathleen Major, Stanley Jones, Joan Varley and latterly Chris Johnson. Chris provided us with an interesting overview of how the latest book was developed, and you can read more about this in his piece on pages 6 and 7.

Once again, we were very well provided for in terms of tea and cake by the Cathedral Centre.

The highlight of our events calendar was the Spring conference at the end of April, where we were welcomed once again by the University of Lincoln. The theme of our 2016 conference was *Lincolnshire Agriculture, Rural Life and Labour* and it encompassed a wide range of topics and periods, from the medieval to the modern. Strands included trade and finance, agricultural innovation and rural and suburban Lincolnshire life. Andrew Walker's paper highlighted some interesting prizes which were given to labourers by the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society in 1844, which included a £5 prize for the waggoner who had lived the longest time with one family and who had never returned home intoxicated with his horses! And we were treated to a Lincolnshire dialect poetry reading as part of Andrew Jackson's paper on farming life in Lincolnshire before the first world war through the poetry of Bernard Samuel Gilbert, by Maureen Sutton, local poet and folklorist. Many thanks to all who contributed a paper, to all delegates who attended and to the organisers, Andrew Walker and Julian Haseldine. We look forward now to the 2017 conference, more details of this coming soon...

Marianne Wilson



Tea after the launch of *Steep, Strait and High: Ancient Houses of Central Lincoln* at Lincoln Cathedral Centre



Left to right:
Nicholas Bennett,
Chris Johnson,
Stanley Jones and
The Lord Cormack



Delegates at the
LRS Spring
conference,
University of
Lincoln





LINCOLNSHIRE PARISH CLERGY II

The Deaneries of Beltisloe and Bolingbroke

For me, one of the unexpected treats of the Lincolnshire landscape is the sight, on rounding a corner in the rolling Kesteven countryside, of the church of St Thomas Becket at Bassingthorpe, nestling beside the remarkable manor house built in 1568 by Sir Thomas Cony. This juxtaposition sums up the historic connection between the incumbent of a parish and the patron of the living, and it comes as little surprise to find, in the pages of *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy II*, Sir Thomas Cony himself presenting three successive vicars to Bassingthorpe between 1582 and 1608.

In the middle ages the patrons of many parishes were religious houses. The church of North Witham was in the gift of the abbey of Owston, nearly twenty miles distant over the county boundary in Leicestershire. In 1295 the abbey presented a local man, Master Thomas de Craunho, to the rectory, but within three years it became necessary for the Bishop of Lincoln to appoint the Vicar of Corby as coadjutor or assistant to Master Thomas, who had become insane. One year later it was recorded that Master Thomas had recovered but by 1306 it became clear that he was in trouble once more and Bishop Dalderby ordered the Rural Dean of Beltisloe to investigate.



Little Steeping, Church of St Andrew: detail of monument of Thomas de Redyng, Rector 1318-1353, re-using an effigy of c.1230-50.

Not finding Master Thomas at North Witham, the rural dean pursued his search more widely, arriving eventually at Owston Abbey where he found the Rector lying in bed, forcibly restrained, his hands and feet bound with cords, and so mentally disordered that he was quite unfit to exercise his cure. Once more, the Bishop appointed a coadjutor. The further history of Master Thomas is uncertain and depends on the possible – perhaps probable – identification of this Master Thomas de Craunho with one Master Thomas de Dyngle, who was in office as Rector of North Witham by 1314. Although Dingley is only some six miles from Cranoe, there would be no strong evidence for such an identification were it not for the distressing circumstance that on three occasions between 1314 and 1322, this second Master Thomas was also judged to be insane. Perhaps the two men were indeed one and the same, or perhaps it was simply that Owston Abbey was singularly unfortunate in its choice of candidates for the rectory of North Witham.

This volume of the registers certainly features some colourful characters, such as Ralph William Lionel Tollemache, presented by his kinsman the Earl of Dysart to the rectory of South Witham. Ralph was himself a son of the parsonage, his father holding a living in Northamptonshire, and after education at Uppingham School and Peterhouse, Cambridge, he was ordained priest in 1850. Arriving in South Witham the following year, he found the rectory house 'a poor, tumble-down old thatched farm-house'. Taking up temporary accommodation at the Blue Bull Inn on the Great North Road, he set about building a new parsonage. This was ready for occupation in 1854 and he moved in with his new bride, his cousin Caroline Tollemache.

It would appear that he then embarked upon a serious programme of spending his wife's money – easy enough in the days before the Married Women's Property Act. As early as 1857 he had to apply for a non-residence licence, living in increasingly obscure parts of the London area in the hope of avoiding his many creditors, one of whom was a wines and spirits merchant in Grantham. He was eventually imprisoned for debt in Whitecross Street prison and in 1863 he was declared bankrupt.

His wife died in 1867 and two years later he remarried. While this may have improved his financial situation, one wonders whether he found it so easy to gain access to his second wife's money, for she was the magnificently named Dora Cleopatra Maria Lorenza, daughter of Ignacio Antonio de Orellana y Revest, a Colonel in the Spanish Army. He was now able to move back to South Witham where he took up a new occupation, one which has earned him a place in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography as a 'bestower of eccentric names'. Altering his surname in 1876 to Tollemache-Tollemache, he endowed his children, of whom his wife presented him with a large number, with



Stickney, Church of St Luke:
detail of window commemorating
George Henry Hales, Rector
1883-1922.



increasingly lengthy and obscure forenames, to the extent that the student of the South Witham baptism register has to marvel at the sheer determination with which he filled every inch of the limited space at his disposal. To give just one example, his sixth son, born in 1884, was christened 'Leone Sextus Denys Oswolf Fraudatifilius Tollemache-Tollemache de Orellana Plantagenet'.

'Muscular Christianity' was a popular theme in Victorian England and there were of course some Lincolnshire clergy who excelled in athletic sports. Beaumont Griffith Jarrett, Vicar of Swinstead from 1883, won a Football Blue at Cambridge and played for England against Scotland from 1876 to 1878. He played as goalkeeper for Grantham Town FC in the year when that club won the Lincolnshire Cup. Charles Hudson, instituted to the vicarage of Skillington in 1859, was a mountaineer of exceptional strength and experience, celebrated for being the first to climb Mont Blanc without guides. In July 1865 he was one of the team led by Edward Whymper to achieve the first ascent of the Matterhorn; tragically he was killed during the descent. Another remarkable athlete among the Lincolnshire parish clergy was George Henry Hales, Rector of Stickney from 1883 until 1922. An athletics blue at Cambridge and President of the University Athletics Club, he was universally known as 'Hammer Hales', holding for twenty years the world record for throwing the hammer.

The parish churches of these two deaneries bear ample testimony in furnishings, stained glass and memorials to their incumbents of past generations. In Little Steeping church there is a beautiful effigy commemorating Thomas Redyng, Rector from 1318 until 1353. It survived the iconoclasm of the Reformation by being turned upside down

and serving as the chancel step, until its rediscovery during the Victorian period. More recently, Miss Sally Badham has shown that it is not an effigy of Thomas Redyng at all, but belonged to an incumbent of the mid-thirteenth century before being recycled by the thrifty Thomas who had his own inscription added around the base.

The memorial to John Cholmeley (Burton Coggles 1811) reflects the Evangelical beliefs which sustained his ministry. Its message is stark: 'His ministry was short, like a warning voice it was heard, it is gone, be ye also ready!'. More cheerful is the east window at Stickney church, dedicated in 1923 in memory of George 'Hammer' Hales. Among the panels, one bears crossed hammers, commemorating his world record; another has tulips of the 'Hammer Hales' variety, named after him; a third shows daffodils, in tribute to his presidency of the Lincolnshire Daffodil Society, while in the upper lights are two owls, which inhabited the church tower and for which, when the tower was rebuilt in 1900, Mr Hales provided special entrances so that they might continue to nest there.

Finally, should you visit the church of St Andrew at Witham-on-the-Hill, do not fail to look into the chancel where you will see a remarkable medieval-style brass in memory of Canon Leonard Henry Cooley, vicar of the parish from 1900 until 1945, a founder member and sometime Vice-President of the Monumental Brass Society, and in many ways the epitome of the faithful Lincolnshire parish priest, caring for his people in good times and in bad.

Nicholas Bennett





THE JOURNEY TOWARDS 'STEEP, STRAIT AND HIGH'

This book, in essence, is the final output of a project which began in 1969. As co-author of the new book and former contributor to others in the series, I owe a great deal to Stanley Jones, who has been involved right from the beginning of the Survey. From the documentary point of view, the historical research underpinning the Survey had been going on seemingly for ever. Each generation of local historians, from Thomas Sympson in the mid-18th century to Sir Francis Hill 200 years later, had added new knowledge of the city's history, but there was and, is still, plenty to uncover, collate and interpret. In the late 1950s, Miss Major published the first of a series of three volumes in the '*Registrum Antiquissimum*' series, volumes viii-x. The first one included sections on the parishes of St Michael on the Mount, St Cuthbert and St Martin, which proved invaluable to me in the studies undertaken for this volume.

Kathleen Major's work was followed by Joan Varley, who was County Archivist until 1971. In her long and active retirement, she tackled the post-Reformation records of the Dean and Chapter. These records tell us so much about the uphill properties, in particular those in the Close and Bail, text and drawings for which were published in the four Fascicules of the *Survey of Ancient Houses* series. I have been able to build on this archive of information from other documentary sources at the Archives, not just the Chapter records but a whole range of other local material. It is good to have most of the sources you need on hand in one place.

It was decided to continue the work of the Survey of Ancient Houses, but to take it in a number of new directions, agreed to at a series of meetings in 1995. With the blessing of Miss Major and Mrs Varley we formed the '*Survey of Lincoln Project*', which was to continue the historical study of the city and the cooperation with the City Planning Office and the archaeologists. Stanley meanwhile, although keenly interested in our work and an attender of our meetings when he was able, was engaged largely on other projects.

The Survey of Lincoln Executive was invited to send in a publication proposal to the Lincoln Record Society. As luck would have it, Miss Major's bequest to the Society enabled the launch of two new series of publications, the Major Series of medieval monographs and the other quaintly entitled 'Occasional Publications'. This is the first in the latter series. The Record Society have been most supportive all the way through, as have Boydell and Brewer, and this volume stands hopefully as a masterpiece of collaborative effort, alongside the earlier Lincoln Town Maps volume.

The name '*Steep, Strait and High*' was originally a working title, but it stuck in the imagination, and will help local sales. We wanted it to follow the original publications, by way of homage, but also to update the look and feel of it by taking advantage of new methods. The Lincoln Record Society, the Survey of Lincoln and Boydell and Brewer share the honours



47 Steep Hill, an example of twelfth century domestic architecture, "The Norman House"

for the superb result. The A4 plus size, although of 'coffee table' proportions, is the right size and format to reproduce Stanley's delightful and informative drawings.

I have attempted in the book to draw out some of the checkerboard history of the area, building in some stories relative to the owners and occupiers of the various properties, and I have become really interested in the medieval Jewish community in Lincoln, who are strongly represented throughout the volume. *'Steep, Strait and High'* is a building by building survey, taking the form of a travelogue or gradual progress down the hill and part of the way into the city centre. We tend to be rather blasé about the award-winning quality of Steep Hill, but when, as is now possible, we can add some historical context and architectural detective work to the picturesque physical townscape, we surely have a unique combination.

The records consulted in the preparation of the volume include many classes of the Public Records newly available on the internet. I ought to cite in particular the Jewish records preserved in class E101, scanned onto the AALT website hosted by the University of Houston, and the *'Fine Rolls of Henry III'* project, for which we owe a debt of thanks to Dr David Crook among others. The availability of these sources has tremendously helped my work.



27-28 The Strait, an example of late eighteenth century architecture with mid nineteenth century alterations

'Steep, Strait and High' is a lasting tribute not only to Kathleen Major and Joan Varley, but also to the brilliant surveying skills and draughtsmanship of Stanley Jones, with whom it has been a privilege and a delight to work on this multi-faceted project for more than 40 years.

Chris Johnson



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND NOTICES

Dulcie Duke Award

The Lincoln Record Society supported the Dulcie Duke award once again, at Bishop Grosseteste University. Aiden Bagley won this award and he was presented with a cheque for £100 and membership of the Society for three years.

University of Lincoln Award

This year's Lincoln Record Society student prize for the best dissertation on the MA (Historical Studies) course at the University of Lincoln was awarded to Marian Brebner, for her dissertation on the topic of Lincoln Wills 1500–1514. Claire Milburn was awarded the LRS prize for the best dissertation on the MA (Themes in Regional and Local History), for her dissertation *Scotter: Living-in Servants in a Rural Village*. The prize for both of these awards is a cheque for £100 and three years' membership of the Society.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Lincoln Record Society and

Professor David Carpenter lecture

The 106th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held from 2pm on Saturday 29 October 2016 at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. All members are welcome. Please forward this notice to other interested parties. On the same evening, at BGU, there will be a lecture by Professor David Carpenter (KCL) on the topic of King John. Keep an eye out for updates via e-mail and social media!

Launch of Volume 106

This year's volume, *Borough Government in Newton's Grantham: The Hall Book of Grantham, 1649–1662*, edited by Dr John Manterfield, brings us into the early modern period and explores the social and economic life of Grantham through the proceedings of the Alderman's Court. News of the launch will follow via e-mail and social media.

Lincoln Record Society Website

The website is being revamped! Exciting new features will soon be available, you will hear more in due course...

Mailing list

We now have a mailing list, so that we can keep you up to date about book launches and other key information in-between News Reviews.

If you are not already on the mailing list, and would like to be added, please e-mail Marianne Wilson at: communications@lincoln-record-society.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter!

The Lincoln Record Society are now on Twitter! Follow us @LincolnRecSoc for up-to-date news and interesting features!

A note from the editor

Do you enjoy receiving your bi-annual copy of the News Review? The Lincoln Record Society are looking to receive feedback from Society members about the News Review – if you have any comments, suggestions for articles or submissions, then please contact the editor, Marianne Wilson, at: communications@lincoln-record-society.org.uk





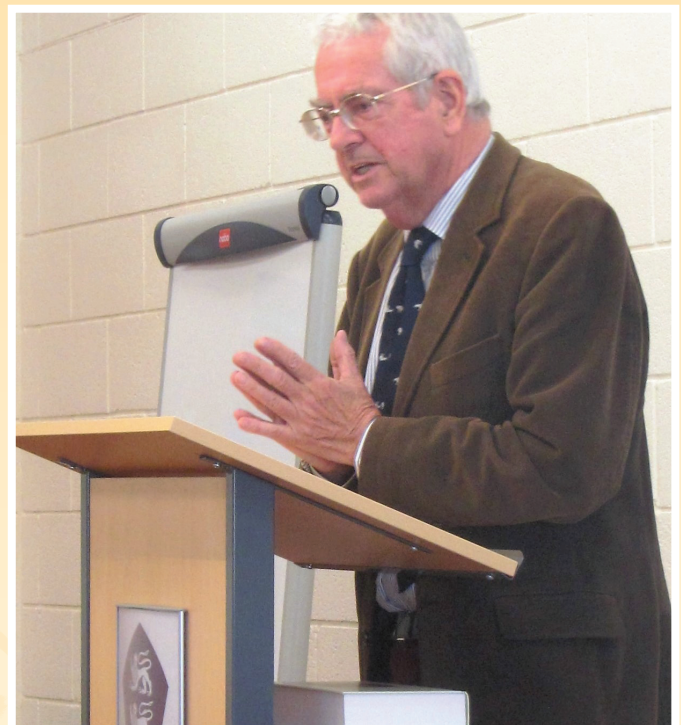
MICHAEL JONES

President of the Lincoln Record Society 2007-2015

Professor Michael Jones, who held the Society's presidency for the years 2007 to 2015, brought welcome stability to the post after several tenures were curtailed by illness or relocation. He took over at the point when the Society was finally able to access the large legacies of Kathleen Major, and others, which imposed a higher level of organisation and accountability than charitable law had previously required. Michael brought to the post a unique combination of qualities and interests. He was a 'local' who spent almost his entire working life at Nottingham, the university which was, until recently, the closest one to Lincolnshire. In retirement, he has continued to live close to the county boundary, and to develop his interests in the history of his area. His doctoral thesis, published as *Ducal Brittany 1364-1399: Relations with England and France during the reign of Duke John IV* (OUP, 1976) introduced him to Lincolnshire history because the dukes of Brittany were also lords of the manor of Boston. Brittany and the English east midlands have remained his academic interests ever since.

A feature of Michael 'Brittany' Jones's career has been his commitment to the editing of records. For example, he has edited the acts of Duke John IV (in three volumes, 1980-2001), of Duke John's rivals Charles de Blois and Jeanne de Penthievre (1996), of his hero the soldier Bertrand du Guesclin (2004), and with Judith Everard he co-edited the acts of Constance, duchess of Brittany, 1171-1221 (1999). A stream of articles and books in both English and French have brought his scholarship to a wider public. Nor has he neglected material remains, but with Gwyn Meirion-Jones undertook a survey of the manor houses and smaller chateaux of Brittany. This necessitated much fieldwork and tactful meetings with the properties' current owners, in the course of which Michael and Gwyn, with noble self-sacrifice, were forced to consume many delicious multi-course lunches in the cause of scholarship.

Equally notable has been Michael's encouragement of the work of others. As editor of *Nottingham Medieval Studies* from 1989 to 2008, he especially liked to help young contributors and to publish articles concerning, and often including,



Michael Jones, in his role as LRS president.

documents. He turned it from a house journal into a periodical of international stature. His time as literary director of the Royal Historical Society, 1990-1997, brought him into contact with the editors of sources of every period, while he himself prepared a new edition of that society's *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History* (2008).

Michael thus brought to the presidency of the Society an impressive combination of experience, enthusiasm, and skills, plus qualities as a brisk, shrewd and businesslike chairman. To these were added his warm appreciation for the work of his predecessors, as witness his moving tribute to a former president, Sir James Holt. Michael Jones would be the first to admit that his presidency was ably supported by the Society's office-bearers, to whom he would wish to pay tribute. With *The Southwell White Book* now going into production, Michael may have resigned as our president, but he has by no means retired as a scholar.

Alison McHardy

