



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO

welcome you to the twentieth edition of the News Review!

Somewhat incredibly (to me at least), I have now had the honour and pleasure of acting as Honorary Secretary of the Lincoln Record Society for thirteen years, having been elected to succeed Lynn Godson in 2009. In thinking about what to write for this edition of the *News Review*, I went back to Nicholas Bennett's superb introduction to our centenary volume, *Wonderful to Behold: a Centenary History of the Lincoln Record Society, 1910–2010*. It transpires I am the thirteenth person to hold the role and follow in the formidable footsteps of such luminaries as Canon Charles Wilmer Foster, Kathleen Major, Mary Finch, Sir Francis Hill, Gershom Knight and Nicholas himself. Had I known that in 2009, I may not have responded to Dr McHardy's call for volunteers at the AGM! But I am extremely glad and grateful that I did. My tenure (even more incredibly) is now the third longest in the Society's history, only following Canon Foster and Miss Major, and has, in the past decade, witnessed significant changes for the Society while we have tried to remain true to its founding principles of creating access to records relating to the ancient city, county and diocese of Lincoln over a millennium, and retaining the quality and diversity of its publications and events.

Having grown up just outside Lincoln but having studied in Scotland and the West Country, it always struck me how peripheral my home county seemed, and indeed sometimes still seems. In my own research career as a medievalist and archivist, I came late to the richness and diversity of our history and to the importance of the Society's continued excellence in publication. My research on the wool trade and sheep farming in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, however, made use of the Society's publications, notably the magnificent series of editions of bishops' registers and visitation records, as well as Professor Steve Rigby's *The Overseas Trade of Boston in the Reign of Richard II*, volume 93 (2005), and, in recent years, Dr Jill Redford's edition of the *Alvingham Cartulary* (Kathleen Major Series 2) and *Petitions from Lincolnshire, c. 1200 – c. 1500*, ed. A. K. McHardy and G. Dodd, volume 108 (2020). More recently, as Co-Investigator (representing The National Archives) on the research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council – The Northern

Way: Archbishops of York and the North of England, 1304–1405 (<https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/>), run by the University of York – I came to appreciate the value of skilled, experienced and knowledgeable editors of the kind the Society is fortunate to have in Nicholas Bennett and Philippa Hoskin. The project has digitised and indexed the registers of the northern archbishops for the fourteenth century, providing new means of access to difficult (largely Latin) records which give new perspectives on the Church and society during one of its most turbulent periods and demonstrate the strong personnel links between the diocese of Lincoln and York. The team, which includes our own Communications Officer, Dr Marianne Wilson, lent heavily on the standards of our own Society's editions in creating an indexing schema. We also hope in indexing the hundreds of men who staffed the northern church that we might have assisted, even in a small way, the progress of Nicholas Bennett's monumental *Biographical Register of Lincolnshire Parish Clergy, 1214–1968*, the third volume of which (for the deanery of Calcewaith) is forthcoming in our LRS publication schedule. The officers are also now →



considering the possibility of how the Society can assist the digitisation of the Lincoln episcopal rolls and registers housed in Lincolnshire Archives among a variety of other projects we may now be able to take forward with the Nigel Burn Bequest.

It was when volunteering at Lincolnshire Archives in the late 2000s, though, that I encountered a more holistic view of the wealth of archival material surviving for our city, county and diocese over nine centuries, and of the consequent value record publishing societies have had over the past century and will continue to have into the future as they embrace more modern and diverse collections, such as those which document the county's industrial and military heritage and others that concern migrant communities. We have a really good glimpse of what is possible in the contribution of Victoria Araj to this issue concerning Reimagining Lincolnshire, a multi-disciplinary project which aims to bring to light hidden and neglected stories focusing on people of colour, unheard women's and gendered voices and objects of empire (<https://guides.library.lincoln.ac.uk/c.php?g=688178&p=4938756>). One of the aims of the Society is in future to better reflect in its publications and activities the wide range of personalities, communities and stories that make up the historic city, county and diocese of Lincoln.

Times are constantly changing, so they say. Largely, the secretarial role has moved with the changing times too. We now have greater responsibilities to our members and

all those individuals and institutions with whom we have a relationship. This has involved the development of new policies on Data Protection, Conflict of Interest, Risk and Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding, which I manage. We are discussing measures to ensure our records are properly created, kept and destroyed as the law requires. We also aim to host interesting conferences and talks, as well as create new content for our members in print and online. The Society is fortunate, as indeed am I, to have in David Stocker, Nicholas Bennett (and now Philippa Hoskin), Ken Hollamby and Marianne Wilson such skilled, experienced and professional officers who, lest we forget, give their time voluntarily to the furtherance of our objectives.

In this edition you can read about our new web portal, on which Ken is leading. This will give members free access to a digitally searchable back catalogue of most of the Society's volumes. Non-members will for the first time also have the capacity to explore our full publication programme either by subscribing or accessing our pay-per-view model. You can also find out more about the research showcased at an LRS-sponsored session at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds earlier this summer. And if you missed our second Lincoln Records Research Network meeting over the summer then you can find out about the work that Victoria Araj, Kathryn Bullen and Paul Ayris have been doing with communities. We hope that you enjoy it!

Paul Dryburgh

LINCOLN RECORDS RESEARCH NETWORK: WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

On a very hot evening back in June, the Lincoln Record Society hosted our second Lincoln Records Research Network meeting, a forum bringing together researchers at any level to discuss interests and develop connections and collaborations. We were joined by three excellent speakers, Dr Victoria Araj, a post-doctoral researcher on the Reimagining Lincolnshire public history project at the University of Lincoln, Kathryn Bullen, a PhD researcher

from the University of Nottingham working with North Lincolnshire museum, and Dr Paul Ayris, Pro Vice Provost (Library, Culture, Collections, Open Science) at UCL. In case you missed it, the speakers have all written a piece about their work with communities for the News Review. We hope that you will join us for more Lincoln Records Research Network events next year, more information will be coming soon.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES: ISLE OF AXHOLME

On 22 June 2022 I presented online for the Lincoln Records Research Network, focusing on my Midlands4Cities funded placement at North Lincolnshire Museum. The objective of the placement was to share research with the wider community at an exhibition about the Isle of Axholme running from March to October 2022.

My PhD research investigates the impact of language, history, and landscape on place-names on the Isle of Axholme in Lincolnshire, aiming to discover what place-names in the Isle of Axholme can tell us about the historical

change to society and culture in North Lincolnshire, which lies within the area historically known as the Danelaw. As part of the museum team I have showcased my place-name research alongside a celebration of the work of the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership, which aimed to reconnect the local community with their unique landscape and heritage.

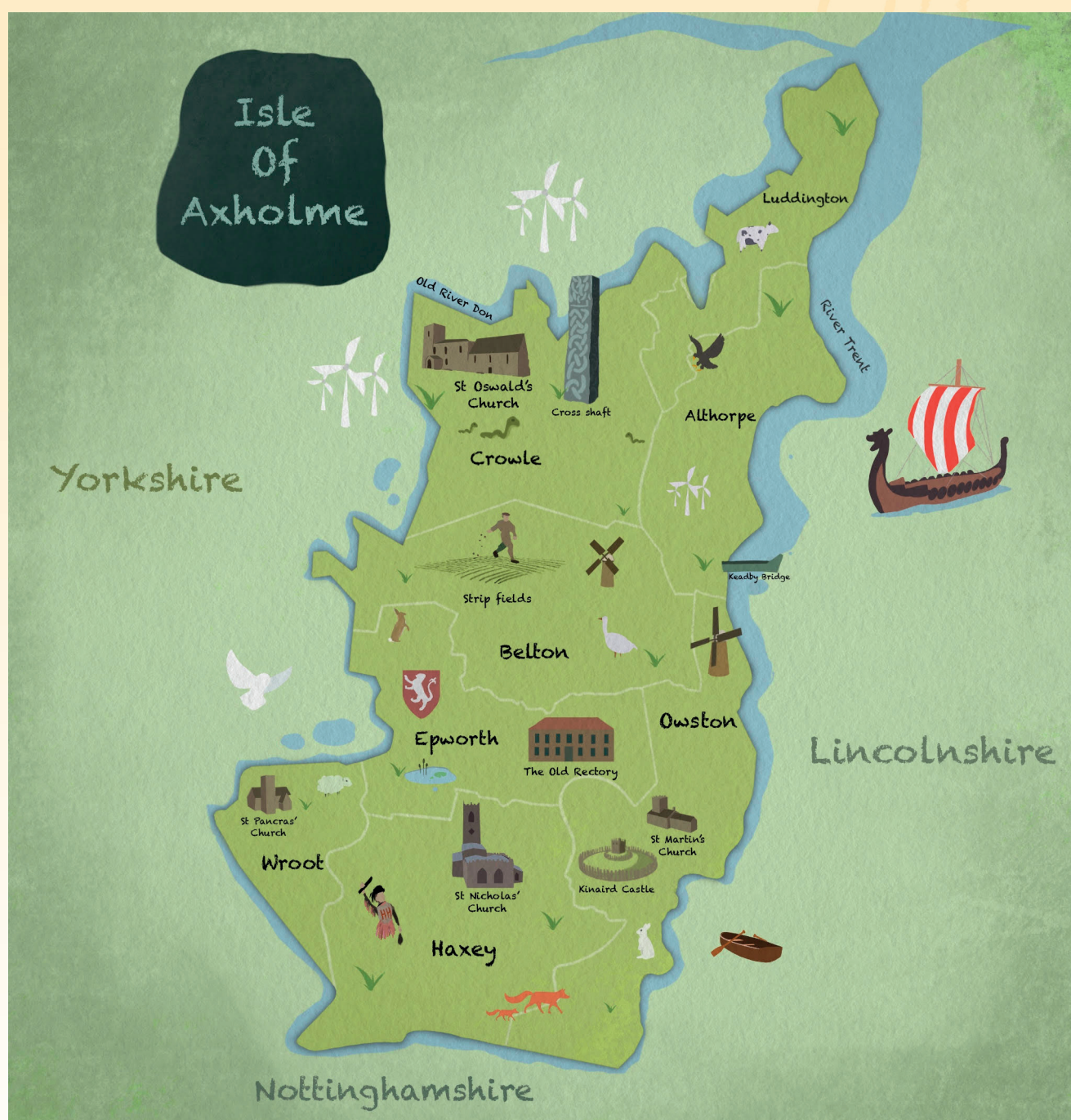
The Isle of Axholme is the only part of Lincolnshire west of the River Trent and measures about sixteen miles from north to south by just six miles east to west, with a land

area of about 38,000 acres. One major aspect to bear in mind is that drainage and land reclamation in the late 1620s, led by the Dutch drainage engineer Vermuyden, changed the landscape from a predominantly marshy area liable to flooding into productive agricultural land. Consequently, contemporary place-names may not now reflect their original meanings at the time of place-name coinage, but meanings may well become more relevant in the future following likely environmental changes.

So what are the benefits of sharing place-name research with the wider community? One of the most important benefits is that place-names are part of our cultural heritage - they tell us about the history of settlement and what was important to those who named the landscape. When collected, arranged, etymologised and analysed in their context, place-name evidence supports the historical

understanding of past watery landscape and how this landscape may change back in the future.

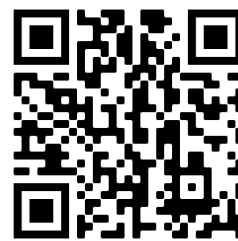
Some highlights from the placement include the successful installation of the exhibition together with panel designs, creation of a complementary website (1,175 visitors, with 259 downloads of educational material and 136 visitors to the YouTube presentation so far), design and organisation of talks on drainage, place-names, the Mowbray family, local industries, as well as creative writing workshops for adults and children. The organisation of Viking reenactment as part of the National Festival of Archaeology at the museum Fun Day on 29th July 2022 provided a link with the Old Norse (the Scandinavian language of the Vikings) place-names displayed inside the museum at the exhibition. The QR code overleaf links to the Isle of Axholme Exhibition website. →



Map of the Isle of Axholme © Alex Merrick

Overall, the museum placement has helped me to achieve my aim of making my research reach a wider audience in the local community and beyond, promoting a greater appreciation for the Axholme landscape and its place-names. It has provided excellent experience working within a local authority museum environment, as well as a valuable opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in exhibition design and project management. If you would like to get in touch then please email Kathryn Bullen: kathryn.bullen@nottingham.ac.uk

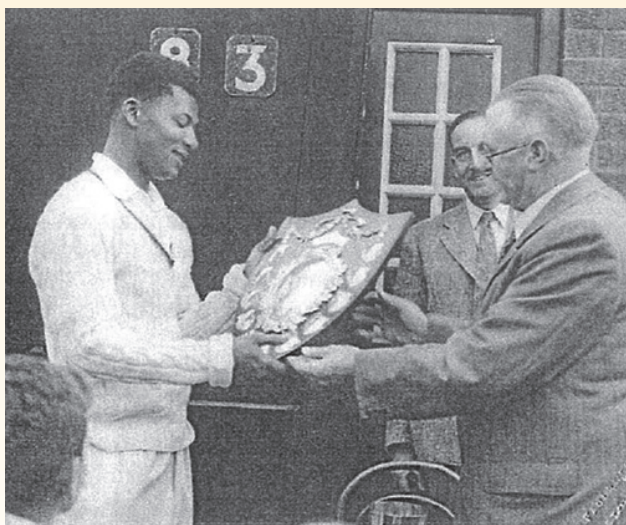
Kathryn Bullen



REIMAGINING LINCOLNSHIRE

Reimagining Lincolnshire is a public history project based at the University of Lincoln (UoL). Co-investigators include heritage professionals, teachers and researchers from a wide range of organisations in the region, as well as staff and students at the UoL and Bishop Grosseteste University. Reimagining Lincolnshire seeks to uncover hidden and neglected stories from Lincolnshire, of those whose contributions to the county, country and internationally have largely been forgotten.

Some of the most interesting stories have been about people with strong international connections but who still called Lincolnshire their home, like Louth born Albert West, editor of Mahatma Gandhi's Indian Opinion newspaper; Horncastle Jamaican resident Richard Hill who corresponded with Charles Darwin on Jamaica's natural history, and Mahomet Thomas Phillips, a half Congolese sculptor who sculpted Sleaford War Memorial. Another interesting Lincolnshire story is that of Boston resident and WWII RAF veteran Ralph Ottey, photographed here, originally from Jamaica who met his wife, Mavis, at the



Ralph Ottey receiving a cricket award © Ralph Ottey

Gliders and settled in Boston. Lincoln Record Society are currently supporting Reimagining Lincolnshire to publish his memoirs.

Other stories include those about Lincolnshire's LGBTQ+ community, such as the October 1971 conference of the Women's Liberation Movement, held at the Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Camp, Skegness. The conference was the occasion for a major split between women members of the Gay Liberation Front (who took to the stage and talked about being lesbians) and other tendencies of the movement. Some other stories about Lincolnshire women include that of Stickney born Mary Jane Lovell, who set up the first blind school for girls in Palestine in 1895, which is still running to this day.

This Black History Month (October 2022) we have some interesting events planned, we have an exhibition about the life and works of Mahomet Thomas Phillips at both the University of Lincoln Library and St. Chad's church in Dunholme throughout the month. We also have an exhibition planned at the University of Lincoln, 'Forgotten? Black and Brown RAF Service Personnel of the Second World War'. We have a Wikipedia edit-a-thon where we will try and add some of our stories to Wikipedia on the 20th of October which you can sign up to here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connected-heritage-reimagining-lincolnshire-black-history-month-wikithon-tickets-387430754817>. We will relaunch Lincoln's Black History Trail and there will also be a conference at Bishop Grosseteste University, 'Reimagining Lincolnshire: Theology and Education in Lincolnshire – The Hidden Black Presence' on October the 31st.

To read some of our stories please see our blog, <https://reimagininglincs.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk/>. If you would like to contribute to the project or attend any of the events mentioned please email Victoria Araj at varaj@lincoln.ac.uk. Our Twitter handle is [@ReimaginingLinc](https://twitter.com/ReimaginingLinc).

Victoria Araj

OPEN RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the 21st century, it is time to think again about how we make access to historical materials available to all. I write as a Church historian, who lived in Gainsborough (Lincolnshire) and attended Gainsborough Grammar School before university, and who now works at UCL (University College London) as Pro-Vice-Provost looking after libraries, collections and Open Research.

Open Access allows access to materials free at point of use, with costs being met by alternative business models. Material in Open Access is thus freely available to everyone any time, any place, anywhere. This is a huge advance on current models where paper copy in specialised libraries may not be available to everyone. In UCL, we co-ordinate all activity in Open Access and Open Research through a new Office which I have established, the UCL Open Science Office.

UCL has started the first fully Open Access University Press in the UK, UCL Press. By June 2022, we had published 246 research monographs and these had been downloaded over 6 million times in 246 countries and territories across the world. It is an astonishing achievement and is completely transformative in the publishing arena. Commercially-sold research monographs usually sell only 300 or so copies. Open Access means more people get access to insightful research.

My own research interests are in Tudor Church history. I curated the 1989 quincentenary exhibition on Archbishop Thomas Cranmer at the British Library and am preparing for publication an edition of Thomas Cranmer's register, his 'business diary'. With an international partner, I am

working to secure the digitisation of all of the episcopal registers in England and Wales up until the seventeenth century. For Canterbury province, we have worked out that this would comprise 118,550 pages of text plus 38 membranes; for York province, it would be 27,574 pages of text and 80 membranes. Not all of these registers are currently in print, and their digitisation will be a tremendous gift. It will mean that access to this historical material will be easier and quicker for more people across the globe, who currently have to rely on visiting archives in person, or have no access to these materials.

We will link digitised text to a catalogue record or description or, where possible, to one of the 99 published texts of the registers for this period. Where there is no transcript, we will investigate using crowdsourced transcriptions from interested individuals, as we have done in UCL in the Bentham project. As part of this project, private researchers contribute edited versions of Jeremy Bentham's manuscript writings for further editing and publication. It's a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community at large and to enable them to be part of historical research.

Open Access/Open Research is a real advance for the future, and it is exciting for me to be able to work both in Open Research and in Tudor Church history, to bring the two together, with impact for the community a goal driving this forward. If you would like to get in contact then please e-mail: p.ayris@ucl.ac.uk.

Paul Ayris

Plans for publication for all

- ▶ Working with Lambeth Palace Library and a commercial company to secure funding/partnerships for digitisation, with UCL Research Institute for Collections
- ▶ Publication of edited vols with the Church of England Record Society, Canterbury & York Society and UCL Press?
- ▶ Model is to see digitised images and transcription/calendar in linked views
- ▶ Establish transcription desk/or crowdsource transcription, modelled on Transcribe Bentham project at UCL
- ▶ <https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/>

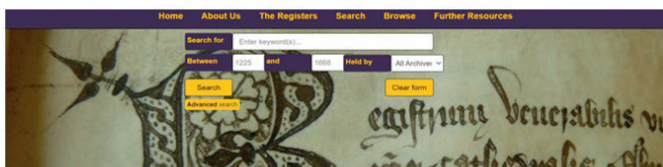


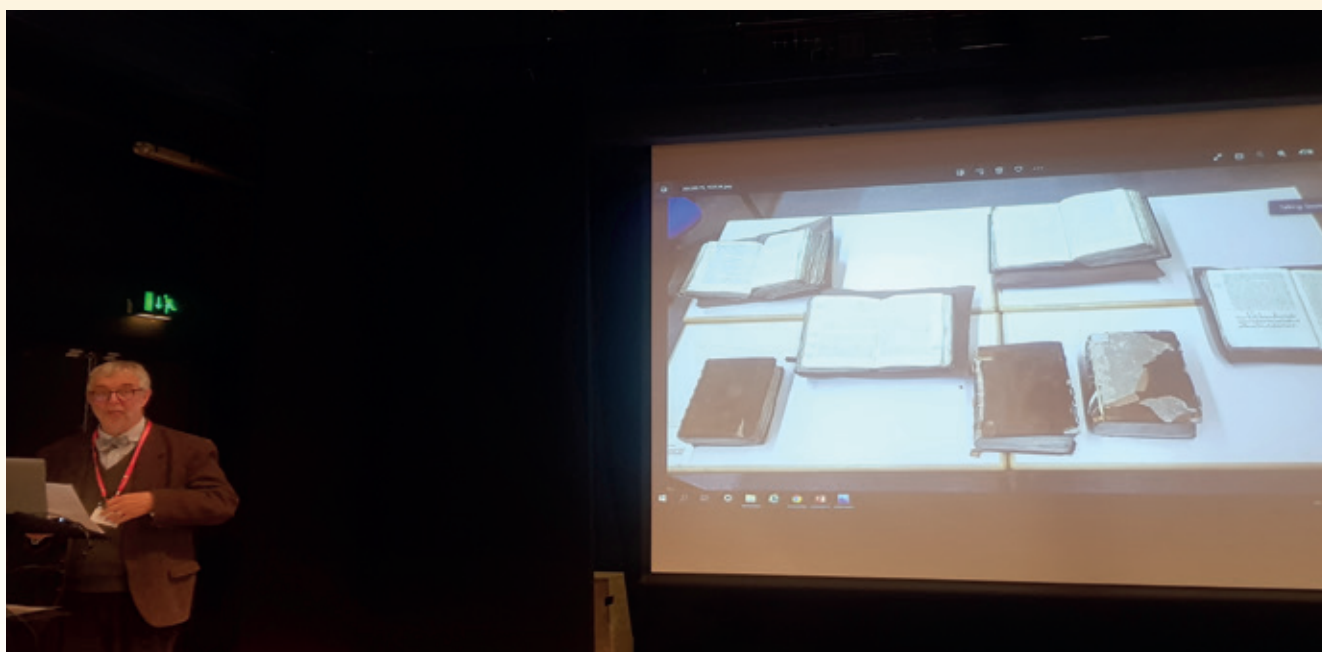
Image of a slide taken from Paul Ayris' Lincoln Records Research Network presentation © Paul Ayris

LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY AT THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

On 5th July 2022 three of our Lincoln Record Society members, Dr Alison McHardy, Professor Chris Woolgar and, our Honorary General Editor, Dr Nicholas Bennett, took part in a special session organised by the LRS at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds entitled: 'Church and Society in the Medieval Diocese of Lincoln'. Here the speakers discussed the challenges and joys of editing episcopal registers, and what we can learn from these registers about the lives of the bishops and the lives of their flock, with reference to those of Bishops Henry Burghersh (1320–42) and John Buckingham (1363–98), both of whom will be the focus of future LRS

editions in the next few years. Dr McHardy explored Bishop Buckingham's itinerary and travel to the capital city, Professor Woolgar shared his insights into the wills contained in Buckingham's register and Dr Nicholas Bennett offered some thoughts on the process of editing the fourteenth-century Lincoln episcopal register volumes. We thank all of our speakers for such a stimulating and thought-provoking exposition of the Lincoln bishops' registers which received such a favourable response from the conference attendees.

Marianne Wilson



Dr Nicholas Bennett and Dr Alison McHardy presenting for the Lincoln Record Society special session on Episcopal Registers at the International Medieval Congress
© Marianne Wilson

LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY VOLUMES ARE GOING ONLINE!

The Society is delighted to announce that our long-running project to make our volumes available and fully searchable online is now complete. To access please visit the new TownsWeb Archiving web portal (<https://lincoln-record-society.past-view.com/>). Here you will be presented with a number of options to access the content in over one hundred years of publications, although for copyright reasons some volumes will not be available.

Simple keyword searching and standard advanced search filters can be applied across the corpus, which has been scanned and made searchable using advanced Optical Character Recognition software. Search results are presented in snippet view, which can then be expanded through a member's password access. Volumes can also be browsed, either across the entire corpus by our three series

(Main Series, Kathleen Major Series of Medieval Records and Occasional Series) or by selecting discrete groups, such as the *Registrum Antiquissimum*, *The Rolls and Register of Oliver Sutton (1280–1299)* or *Lincoln Wills*.

This marks a step-change in global access to the publications of the Society and will enable the richness and diversity of the history of the city, county and diocese of Lincoln to be explored from the comfort of your home, wherever you are in the world. By the time you read this the website will be accessible, free, to individual members using a unique password. If you have not received your password by e-mail, please contact the treasurer at treasurer@lincoln-record-society.org.uk. Otherwise access charges will apply!

Ken Hollamby and Paul Dryburgh



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY AGM

The 111th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in-person on Saturday, 12 November at 2.00pm in the Newton Room (Ground Floor) of the Guildhall, Grantham. The Mayor's Parlour will be open from c. 1.15pm. Those wishing to attend should reply to: secretary@lincoln-record-society.org.uk by Wednesday 9 November. The timetable for the day is below, please feel free to attend which parts of the day you would like to:

Lincoln Record Society AGM and Annual Lecture Timetable (subject to change)

Saturday 12 November 2022

10.30 Meet on St Peter's Hill by the statue of Sir Isaac Newton

11.30 Tour of St Wulfram's church and Trigge chained library

12.30–14.00 Lunch (not provided). Grantham has several excellent pubs and cafes including the Angel & Royal and the Guildhall cafe.

13.15 Opening of the Mayor's Parlour, Grantham Guildhall (The parlour contains the Maces from 1769 and the regalia. Silverware includes a pottinger or cup from 1678 which is referred to in the Hall Book LRS volume).

14.00 Lincoln Record Society Annual General Meeting

14.30 Annual Lecture: Dr John Manterfield "Restoration Grantham" [This will be accompanied by a launch of LRS volume 110: *The Grantham Hall Book, III*, ed. John Manterfield]

15.30 Afternoon tea (provided)

16.30 Close

(All routes and buildings are accessible by wheelchair)
Grantham Guildhall

Access to the Guildhall for wheelchairs and anyone with mobility difficulties is on the south side of the building, in Edith Smith Way (you will pass by the Civic Society blue plaque to Edith). There is a short ramp to the lift, and you need the Ball Room exit. The Cafe is on the ground floor.

Parking

Free parking for attendees is available in the Grantham Estates car park in Elmer Street (one way heading north from St Peter's Hill, approximately 350m from the Guildhall). You should exit via the entrance and not via the lower car park which is opposite the Angel and Royal Hotel as this requires a code. The nearest public car park is in Welham St, Grantham NG31 6QQ. Charges are Up to 3 hours. £1.20. Up to 4 hours, £1.70. Up to 6 hours, £3.20. Please note that parking for disabled drivers is free. Payment can be made by cash or by the Phone and Pay App.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Save the Date!

Prof Dan Power will be delivering the annual joint lecture on behalf of the Lincoln Record Society and Medieval Studies Research Group at the University of Lincoln. This will take place online on Wednesday 16th November at 6pm – more details to follow in a future online mailing.

Are you receiving our mailings?

If you are not receiving email updates about Lincoln Record Society events in between issues of the News Review, and you would like to, please e-mail Lrscomms@gmail.com to ensure that you are added to our mailing list.



St Wulfram's Church, Grantham © Robert Cutts



Statue of Isaac Newton, St Peter's Hill, Grantham © Thorvaldsson