



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO

welcome you to the twenty-first edition of the News Review!

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Member,

The Council are delighted that you have in your hands number 21 in our series of the *News Review*. I want to apologise for the delay since the last edition. As you'll be aware, the Lincoln Record Society's News Review has been running since 2012 and during that time it has established itself as a useful link between the Society, the various activities in which it is involved, and the membership. We hope that it has also provided some interest and entertainment to readers. The success of the publication has been largely due to the energy and ability of Dr Marianne Wilson, who worked on the Society's behalf for many years on this and other activities. Unfortunately, during the disturbed times that we have lived through recently, Marianne's responsibilities have become focused elsewhere, and we have had trouble maintaining regular publication of

the News Review. I want to use this opportunity to thank Dr Wilson, on behalf of LRS Council, for the years of excellent service she gave the Society, and to wish her all the very best as her career develops. We wish her success in her new role at the British Library. In Marianne's stead, we are now delighted to welcome Dr Hannah Boston to the team. Hannah is an early career scholar and new to Lincolnshire; she is currently a research fellow at the University of Lincoln and has picked up the baton of editor from Marianne. I think you'll agree that— from the evidence before us here— she will maintain the high standard that Marianne set for the Society's Newsletter, and we warmly welcome her to our Lincolnshire family of scholarship.

Yours sincerely,

David Stocker MA DLitt DUniv FSA MCifA
President, Lincoln Record Society

A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

I am delighted to be stepping into Marianne's shoes as editor of the LRS News Review, and I am pleased to be able to bring this edition to you.

To briefly introduce myself – I am a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the University of Lincoln, involved in a three-year study of the charters and legal and social structures of Lincolnshire and Shropshire, c.1000-1307. I have previously been Lecturer in Medieval History at Magdalen College and The Queen's College, Oxford, and have spent some time as a field archaeologist with Museum of London Archaeology. I'm delighted to be working in Lincolnshire, and have been particularly focused over the last year on the history of the fenlands – a really fascinating medieval society.

During the time of the News Review's hiatus, the Society's activities have continued apace, and we have reports about Society activities from the last two years, but also, sadly, some obituaries from members we have lost during that time, including, most recently, Lord Cormack in late



Patrick, Lord Cormack. Obituary below, p. 8. Photo: University of Lincoln IBCC Digital Archive



February (whose picture appears on the front cover). Nicholas Bennett's tribute to him below (p. 8) says much about how much of a towering figure he was in Lincolnshire and in promoting Lincolnshire's history, and how deeply he will be missed by many in the Society.

On happier news, there are a number of upcoming events supported by the Society, whose flyers are included below.

This is terrific work that attests to the vitality of the Society and the interest that Lincolnshire history commands in both nationally and internationally. I'm always happy to hear about work being done by Society members, or any news that you would like to include. Please don't hesitate to get in touch at hboston@lincoln.ac.uk. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Hannah Boston



LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2022 IN GRANTHAM

The 2022 AGM was held in Grantham at the Newton Room in Grantham's Guildhall, the first time in recent years that the Society had held its annual meeting outside of Lincoln. The meeting was attended by some twenty members plus friends. The day began with a tour of the town led by Council Member, Dr John Manterfield. This included the statue of Sir Isaac Newton sculpted by William Theed the younger in 1858 and blue plaques erected by the Grantham Civic Society to him, Charles Dickens, and Thomas Paine. The tour also included the 1869 new Guildhall and the 1598 Trigge Library at St Wulfram's Church, the latter the earliest public library in England.

John Manterfield gave the annual lecture following the Society's formal business. He thanked the Honorary Editor, Nicholas Bennett, who was standing down after some twenty years' service, for his advice and help. John thanked the Society for its support in publishing three volumes from the earliest Grantham Hall Book, which minute the Corporation meetings. Vol 83, covering 1641-49 (edited by Bill Couth in 1995), was followed by Vol 106 spanning 1649-62 (edited by John Manterfield in 2016) and the latest volume 110 in 2022 (covering 1662-1704). This volume covered 490 separate meetings and over two thousand items of business including royal charters as Parliament tried to exclude King Charles II's Catholic brother James, Duke of York, from the throne. James's reign (1685-88) was of course short-lived and the invitation to William of Orange led to the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and secured a Protestant succession.

In 1665, the borough was active in trying to prevent the Great Plague of London taking hold in Grantham. By appointing 'sufficient Watch and Ward' and introducing other measures, the town authorities were successful. The Hall Book also describes the periodic repairs to the St Wulfram's church as well as prescribing that members of the First and Second Twelves were required to attend on Sundays 'wearing their Gownes whether raine of any other foule weather happen upon paine to forfeite xijd. for every Offence'. The management of the Grammar School included the appointment of a schoolmaster. One such appointee was William Walker, Master from 1671-1684, and author of *A Treatise of English Particles*. His burial at Colsterworth Church was marked by a stone bearing the epitaph in Latin, 'here lie the particles of Walker'.

The election of Members of Parliament in 1678 led to allegations of bribery following the election of Sir Robert Markham although the House of Commons upheld the election. Markham, with the support of Alderman Michael Taylor, was nominated Alderman for the ensuing year, having been elected a Commoner, a Second Twelve member and then a First Twelve member all in one day on 26 July 1678. In the end, Markham relinquished the nomination in favour of taking his seat at Westminster. In concluding, John commented that the period from 1662 to 1688 has been as turbulent as that from 1642 to 1661 and he thanked the small team of transcribers who had undertaken the initial transcription of the Hall Book.

John Manterfield



LRS FPC 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 – CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Since Covid-19 lockdown imposed restrictions on in-person gatherings in 2020, the Finance and Publications Committee of the Society has met almost exclusively online. The ongoing affairs of the Society are managed in four online quarterly meetings, and from these make reports and recommendations to Council. However, on 21 September 2023, the officers and several other members of FPC (Dr Nicholas Bennett: editor of the Kathleen Major Series of Medieval Records; Dr Julian Haseldine: Large Grants scheme; Dr Andrew Walker: Outreach and

Engagement; Dr Rob Wheeler: editor of the Data Series and lead on Digitisation under the Nigel Burn Bequest; and Professor Louise Wilkinson) came together for the first time in over three years. At the invitation of the General Editor, Professor Philippa Hoskin, FPC met in the Parker Room at Corpus Christi College Cambridge, where she is the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Fellow Librarian, and Director of the Parker Library.

The meeting discussed a wide variety of business, including a review of the vibrant publishing programme across the



FPC members were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Parker Library.
Photo: Andrew Walker

three print series mentioned above, upcoming outreach initiatives (podcast, collaborative conferences – for more see p. 6), and detailed analysis and discussion of applications to the Small and Large Grants scheme. The meeting also heard from Dr Jack Newman, Fellow at the University of Antwerp Centre for Digital Humanities, who has applied digital technology (notably handwritten text recognition and natural language processing) to LRS editions of legal records. It is hoped that he will act in future as trustee and advisor to the Large Grants Committee on projects with a strong digital element. While the committee is not going to return to regular face-to-face meetings, a terrific amount of business was conducted and FPC plans to meet again in person in the spring of 2024.

Paul Dryburgh



STENTON LEGACY CONFERENCE, 11-12 NOVEMBER 2023

As most readers (and many tourists) will know, one of the most famous, beautiful buildings in Lincoln is the half-timbered delight, Stokes Café on High Bridge. Perhaps less well known is that in the autumn of 1923 a meeting took place there which played a significant role in record publishing in this country for the following century. Here, Canon Charles Wilmer Foster, General Editor and Honorary Secretary of the LRS, met two fellow Council members, Professor Sir Frank and Lady Doris Stenton. Perhaps over a sumptuous afternoon tea, they resolved to revive that other august but moribund record publishing organisation, the Pipe Roll Society, which largely publishes editions of financial and other central government records and of which the Stentons were officers. To commemorate this centenary, the trustees of both societies, which now thrive and continue to publish editions of medieval records essential to researching government, society, economy, law, and culture in England from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries to the highest standards, hosted The Stenton Legacy conference.

In a welcome return to Bishop Grosseteste University, a stellar line-up of speakers celebrated the enduring legacy of Sir Frank and Lady Doris Stenton over medieval studies in the UK and beyond. Introduced by the current chairs of both societies, Professors David Stocker and Louise Wilkinson, the conference kicked off with a fascinating session on the LRS and its links with the Stentons from Dr Nicholas Bennett, long-time General Editor of the Society, and a biographical lecture on the Stentons from the brains behind the conference, Dr David Crook, LRS trustee and former Chair and Secretary of the PRS. This provided deep insights into the early history of both societies and the vibrancy of scholarship in the region before the Second World War. Next, Dr David Roffe and Professor Dawn Hadley reviewed the huge contribution of Sir Frank to the study of Anglo-Saxon England and the lingering, if now revised influence, of his views on tenure in pre- and post-Domesday England, particularly in the Danelaw. This presaged a memorable session on the now much-disputed contribution of Sir Frank to the study of feudalism in the first century of Norman

rule in England from those titans of archival scholarship, Professors David Crouch and Nicholas Vincent. Sandwiched between these sessions, Dr Katy Dutton, who is editing the Kirkstead Cartulary for the LRS, discussed the lifeblood of scholarship – the edition – and of the influence of the Stentons and Canon Foster on the editing and publishing of charters and cartulary texts, placing her own impending edition within that longer context.

To round off the conference, three papers celebrated the often under-appreciated legacy of Lady Doris, perhaps the *grande dame* of record editing and publishing in this country. Dr Richard Cassidy first examined her immense contribution to the PRS, of which she was secretary and the guiding editorial force for about five decades. David Crook then examined her work on early assize records, whose publication owes much to her drive and skill at selecting competent transcribers, while Louise Wilkinson rounded off the conference in style with a lively look at Lady Stenton's classic *The English Woman in History*.

Enjoyed by around fifty delegates, including the oldest and longest-serving member of both societies, Dr Reg Brocklesby, himself now in his hundredth year, the conference served as a fitting tribute to these pioneering archival scholars and to their lasting influence on the success of record publishing societies in this country to this day. There may be a publication arising from the conference, so keep watching this space! →



Photo: Paul Dryburgh





Professors David Stocker and Louise Wilkinson at the refurbished Stenton grave.
Photo: Paul Dryburgh

Visit to Halloughton

As has become tradition with LRS conferences, the main lecture day was followed by a trip. On this occasion, around twenty hardy delegates joined a bus tour to Halloughton near Southwell, the home parish of the Stentons for several centuries. Here, a look around the small parish church was accompanied by an external survey of the neighbouring late-medieval Tower House with gardens and fishponds. The highlight, at least for the officers of the Lincoln Record Society and the Pipe Roll Society, was a chance to view up close the refurbishment

of the gravestone in the churchyard in memory of the Stentons; this had been paid for by a grant from the LRS Small Grants fund at the request of David Crook, with the work carried out to a superb standard by Gill of Newark. This refurbishment follows similar recent grants from the FPC to support the restoration of the graves of Canon Foster himself in Timberland and of our former President Kathleen Major in Lincoln.

That afternoon the delegates moved on to Southwell where they were joined by other LRS members for its Annual General Meeting at the Saracen's Head. There, following a lively busy meeting and an excellent tea, Professor Mark Gardiner delivered the annual lecture 'The Free Peasantry in Lincolnshire in the Twelfth Century', another examination of the importance of the published scholarship of Sir Frank Stenton and of its standing within modern debates of Lincolnshire society and economy in the central Middle Ages.

Paul Dryburgh

Writing the Air War and Lincolnshire
11 & 12 May 2024

A two-day conference convened by Bishop Grosseteste University and the University of Lincoln
The International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln, LN4 2HQ

Papers and presentations will ask how air war has been represented across a broad range of textual forms – biography, memoir, letters, newspapers and inscriptions, as well as in other media such as plays and films. 'Air war' includes both World Wars, as well as the interwar period and the Cold War. Lincolnshire's place in the narrative forms a key theme throughout, although several papers will take a wider view.

There will be exhibits, opportunities to tour the IBCC memorial, exhibitions and to attend the launch of new related book titles.

Contributions will include:

- Nicholas Bennett: Mass Observation in Boston
- Claudia Capanconi: Transnational Antifascism and Resistance in Italy 1920s–1940s through Women's Life Writing
- Kandace Chimbiri: Neglected narratives: writing *The Story of Britain's Black Airmen*
- Dan Ellin: *S Group News*
- Heather Hughes: The emergence of 'Bomber County'
- Melanie Jackson: 'From the sky': flight cadets writing about life in the air at the RAF Cadet College, Cranwell, Lincolnshire, 1921–1938
- Andrew Jackson: The Hedges letters: technological innovation, scientific secrets, and T-Force
- Richard Morris: The work and influences of the Air Ministry's wartime Directorate of Public Relations
- Richard Overy: Writing the bombing war
- Robert Owen: Memorials and memorialisation
- David Stocker: Dorothy May's Freiburg Letters
- Andrew Walker: Air power in two world wars: representations in Lincolnshire's press

The conference will cost £90 per head, which includes refreshments and lunch on both days. Bursaries will be available for students. A conference dinner, charged separately, will be £40. Delegates are asked to make their own accommodation arrangements.

To book, go to internationalbcc.co.uk/your-visit-events/events
Early registration is advised, as places are limited.



Filming the First of the Few (1942)



WRITING THE AIR WAR

'Writing the Air War and Lincolnshire' will be held at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) in Lincoln on 11 and 12 May 2024. Convened by Bishop Grosseteste University and the University of Lincoln and generously supported by the LRS, the IBCC has been chosen as the venue because of its close connection to the conference theme, as well as the values of recognition, remembrance, and reconciliation that it promotes. The conference represents a collaborative and interdisciplinary project, intended to disseminate original research on how air war has been represented and experienced across and through a range of textual forms. Given Lincolnshire's prominence in the history of aviation, there will be strong focus on the county's sources and perspectives. A session of the conference will be devoted to the wartime letters of Lincolnshire teacher Dorothy May, recently edited for publication by Richard Morris, David Stocker and Michael Bassett. Two LRS titles will feature in a special book launch session: P. & R. Malcolmson (eds), *A Parson in Wartime* (2017) and Ralph Ottey's *A Jamaican in Lincolnshire* (2024).

Leading authority on the air war, Prof Richard Overy, is our keynote speaker; he and several other eminent participants will combine their national and international

perspectives with Lincolnshire-specific ones to foster broader cultural and contextual understandings. In addition to academic papers, the conference will include guided tours, exhibitions of artefacts, and the aforementioned celebration/launch of books. It is an important ambition of the conference to engage younger scholars, which we will do by providing bursaries for attendance. In addition, we consider it an important legacy of the conference to produce materials from conference papers for use in schools, and have engaged the services of a senior educationist for this purpose.

There are a limited number of discounted places for Lincoln Record Society members, when booked at this link: <https://internationalbcc.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/55465?branches.branchID=1326>. After that, members are, of course, very welcome to apply for tickets at the normal price at <https://internationalbcc.co.uk/about-ibcc/news/events/writing-the-air-war-and-lincolnshire-conference/>.

For further information, please contact either Prof. Heather Hughes (hhughes@lincoln.ac.uk) or Prof. Claudia Capancioni (claudia.capancioni@bishopg.ac.uk).



New book (LRS Occasional Series): Ralph Ottey, A Jamaican in Lincolnshire: From the Wartime RAF to a Life in Boston

Ralph Ottey's memoir provides fascinating detail about his life, from his birth and childhood in Little London, Jamaica to his wartime years in the RAF and his post-war career in Lincolnshire. The first part of the book describes the details of his life, social activities, family networks and education in Little London in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1944, Ralph joined the RAF and the second section of this work describes his experience of training and serving in the forces in England during the war and the way in which he was prepared for 'civvy street' at the end of the war. The final section of the book describes his life and work in Boston Lincolnshire since 1948, including his family, his experience of working with businesses large and small over forty years, and his passion for cricket.



GENDER AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

University of Lincoln, 26th-28th June 2024

Thanks to support from the Lincoln Record Society, the University of Lincoln will host the annual conference on Gender and Medieval Studies from June 26-28, 2024. GMS is a long-standing and international gathering of researchers examining the role of gender in the medieval world which has met annually since 1987. The conference prides itself on a welcoming environment for exploring complex – and sometimes difficult – issues associated with gender in the Middle Ages.

Members of the Lincoln Record Society will be particularly interested to hear the plenary address by Linda E. Mitchell of the University of Kansas-Kansas City on 'Countesses, Connections and Lincoln's Bishops: Assessing the Relationships between Countess Margaret de Lacy and Bishop Robert Grosseteste and Lady Alice de Lacy and Bishop Oliver Sutton'. Professor Mitchell's participation in the conference has been kindly funded by the Lincoln Record Society. The other plenary lecture will be given by Laura Kalas of Swansea University 'A Reproductive Imaginary'. There will also be a play performance of *Yde and Olive* by Daisy Black of the University of Wolverhampton. Other presentations will include specialists from a wide range of disciplines, including history, literature, art history, archaeology, religious studies, and language. Funds provided by the Lincoln Record Society has ensured participation of early career researchers through support of three bursaries.

The city of Lincoln will provide the backdrop for the conference, as delegates will have the opportunity to explore medieval Lincoln through a tour of the cathedral due to the generosity of the Lincoln Record Society, as well as a walking tour and an opportunity to well as view selected manuscripts at the Exchequer Gate archives. The Lincoln Record Society has provided generous support to ensure wide participation and accessibility of the conference by providing a reduced conference fee for members of LRS, and limited online participation in the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Gender and Medieval Studies Conference.

For more information, please contact Amy Livingstone, ALivingstone@lincoln.ac.uk

Amy Livingstone

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As many LRS members will know already, the Society has embarked on an outreach programme. This work was initiated by Marianne Wilson, to whom we are most grateful for setting the wheels in motion. We are now looking to build upon this, and a number of initiatives

are already under way. These include the funding of a number of student-related activities, involving Lincoln and Bishop Grosseteste Universities. Activities for 2024 are already well advanced in their planning and we will include further details of these in future editions of the *News Review*.

As well as the conference outlined below, we are planning to arrange a series of online research seminars, building on the work previously undertaken by Marianne and Paul Dryburgh. This will be aimed especially at encouraging research degree students and early career scholars to present their findings and work in progress. Of course, such webinars will be open to all members of the society. If you are interested in presenting an online paper at a forthcoming webinar, or receiving details about them, please contact me at the email address below. A number of other outreach activities are being planned and further details will follow in future issues of the *News Review*.

Andrew Walker, Outreach Co-ordinator
andrewwalker1163@gmail.com

REVEALING PRIMARY SOURCES

*Underexplored documents and the city, county and historic diocese of Lincoln**
Call for papers*

A joint conference organised by the Lincoln Record Society, the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and the British Association for Local History. Saturday 21 September 2024, Lincoln College, Monks Road Lincoln

This wide-ranging day conference provides delegates with the opportunity to learn about recent research discoveries concerning primary source materials produced in or about any aspect of life in the extensive city, county and historic Diocese of Lincoln.

It is envisaged that the event will comprise a series of papers featuring records from the medieval period to the twentieth century, with a focus on previously unknown or underexplored documents, or providing new interpretations of already-known primary sources relating to or from the Diocese. The sources under consideration might encompass written documentary records, works of art, literature and oral testimonies.

Conference paper proposals are invited from all, but are particularly encouraged from research degree students and early-career academics. Proposals of up to 350 words should be submitted by Friday 12 April 2024 to Dr Andrew Walker, LRS Outreach Co-ordinator – at andrewwalker1163@gmail.com.

Some financial support relating to conference costs will be available for speakers.

***The historic Diocese of Lincoln extended over nine counties from the Thames to the Humber.*





DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

11-12 May Writing the Air War Conference, International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln

26-28 June Gender and Medieval Studies Conference, University of Lincoln

21 September Revealing Primary Sources: Underexplored documents and the city, county and historic diocese of Lincoln Conference, Lincoln College

9 November LRS AGM, location to be announced



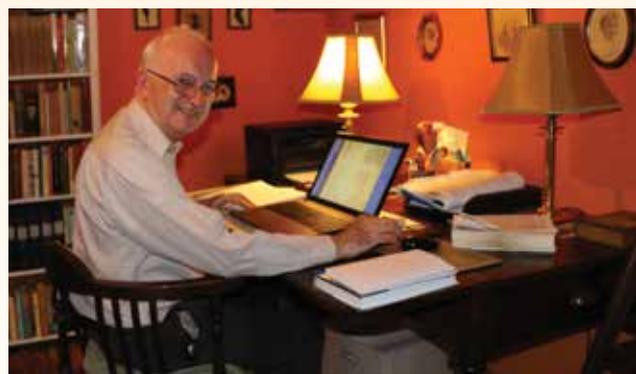
OBITUARIES

We will carry obituaries for Gordon Plumb and Nick Lyons in the October issue.

David Smith (d.2022)

I first met David in the early 1990s when I had the pleasure of attending one of the palaeography courses he regularly offered to all new PhD students studying medieval topics at the University of York. The Borthwick Institute was, at that time, housed in the original buildings of the old Bluecoat School, which seemed an appropriate setting to me in my early encounters with David – when making my way to those palaeography classes it did sometimes feel like I had been summoned to the headmaster's office. This early trepidation quickly dissipated when David's warmth and generosity became clear as he guided me and my fellow students through the difficult and sometimes indecipherable writing hands of medieval charters, wills and registers. I have very clear memories of David's unbridled amusement when he set us a palaeographical curve-ball - the text of a medieval menu, which included the entirely sensible if somewhat fatuous instruction to 'slei' the duck *after* it had been skinned. This was an early introduction to David's wonderful sense of fun.

I do not recall how David's invitation for me to visit him in his wonderful house on the market square in Masham came about, except that I certainly was not alone in receiving such an invitation; for it was a mark of his generosity that he loved having people to stay so that he could 'wine and dine' them in style. He was incredibly proud of the visitors' book he kept, and contributing an entry was made the only condition of stay. David was evidently extremely happy in Masham and was very much a pillar of its community, so it came as a surprise to me, as



David Smith. Photo: Gwilym Dodd

it did to many other of his friends and acquaintances, to hear of his decision to move to Cluj in Romania in 2010. It was an incredibly bold decision but, for David, it made absolute sense. He thought of retirement as an opportunity to do something new, and he was excited at the prospect of starting a new life in such a different place, with his close Romanian friends Dinu and Persi.

In 2017 I visited David with my family. David could get most things in Romania which he needed, but not Twinings tea bags. We were asked to take as many as we could. The final tally was 2,500, much to the bemusement of the Customs officials at Doncaster airport. We spent a wonderful week with David. Although his initial plans to build himself a house in Romania had fallen through, he was very happy in his three-storey town house, which placed him within walking distance of Cluj city centre, within easy access of the University (where he had made a number of very fruitful academic connections), the opera, the theatre, and the renowned second-hand books shops of the city.

Students of history will benefit from David's remarkable scholarship for many generations to come. Much of his output was devoted to creating what will be the essential building blocks of future research into late medieval ecclesiastical history— his *Heads of Religious Houses* being the most notable, but certainly not the only, of David's impressive scholarly achievements. But I shall remember David for his sense of humour, his loud and infectious laugh, the interest he took in others and the hospitality and warmth he showed to me and my family. He was the archetype English gentleman abroad, both in his gentle and unassuming demeanour and the polished shoes and trademark tweed jacket which he wore everywhere, no matter what the temperature. My memory of David, however, will be forever etched by the image captured in the photo below, taken on the last day of our stay with him in Cluj, of a man who was never happier than when he was chasing the details of the lives and careers of the clergy of late medieval England.

Gwilym Dodd



*Patrick, Lord Cormack (d. February 2024)*

When we were first introduced to Patrick and Mary Cormack at a lunch party in Minster Yard, soon after they moved to Lincoln, we were led to believe that they had ‘retired’ to Patrick’s home county. It quickly became clear that the word ‘retirement’ was simply not in Patrick’s vocabulary.

Lincoln Cathedral was, to Patrick, the finest cathedral in Britain, and he quickly became a committed supporter of work in the Cathedral Library. As a lifelong devotee of the Book of Common Prayer, he delighted particularly in the exhibition and events that we staged in 2012 to mark the 350th anniversary of the 1662 prayer book. He gave books from his own library to enrich the reference collection. And it was a delight to welcome his granddaughter Katie to the Library for work experience, the first steps on her way to a career in caring for our heritage.

Others have written about Patrick’s decades-long political career as MP and later as a member of the House of Lords. For us, what stands out above all is his great passion for the heritage of our country, and especially for Lincolnshire. Born in Grimsby, he was educated at St James’s Choir School and Havelock School, before going to Hull University to read English and History. A glimpse of the young Patrick is revealed in his account of the summer of 1955, spent as an assistant to his Geography teacher from Havelock, David Robinson, travelling in David’s motorcycle and sidecar as they compiled a detailed survey of the Lincolnshire coast. This is printed in his Foreword to *All Things Lincolnshire: A collection of papers and tributes to celebrate the 80th birthday of David N Robinson*, edited by Jean Howard and David Start (SLHA, 2007).

Patrick retained his deep love for Lincoln and Lincolnshire throughout his life. At our first meeting, I mentioned the work of the Lincoln Record Society and his immediate response was, ‘I must join that Society’. This was a typically generous reaction from one who supported and participated in the activities of so many local organisations that champion the county’s heritage. He was President of the Tennyson Society (which he joined as one of its first members, having attended in 1959 the 150th anniversary dinner at the White Hart, addressed by John Betjeman). He was a patron of

the International Bomber Command Centre, Deputy High Steward of the Cathedral, a member of the University of Lincoln Court, President of Heritage Lincolnshire, and Chairman of the Historic Lincoln Trust. In March 2022, at a memorable ceremony in the Guildhall, he was made an Honorary Freeman of the City of Lincoln; he declared that this was one of the proudest moments of his life.

I was fortunate to witness Patrick’s great enthusiasm for the heritage of Lincolnshire, and his wonderful talent for making things happen, through our work together for the Historic Lincoln Trust. He secured major funding for the Magna Carta Vault at Lincoln Castle and the Education Centre at Lincoln Cathedral. He masterminded exhibitions of international quality at the Lincoln Museum (formerly The Collection), such as *Lincolnshire’s Great Exhibition* (2015), *Battles and Dynasties* (2017) and *Treasures of a Royal Marriage* (2019). These brought to Lincoln outstanding treasures, among them the fourteenth-century Luttrell Psalter, Van Dyke’s triple portrait of King Charles I (borrowed from the Queen’s Drawing Room at Windsor), the twelfth-century Gloucester Candlestick from the V. & A., and, of course, the late eleventh-century Domesday Book itself. These and other achievements made history come alive in the city. And the re-establishment of a direct train service between London and Lincoln was entirely owing to his persistence (in our family, we still call them ‘the Cormack trains’).

Throughout his career, much of Patrick’s ability to get things done depended on the quiet support behind the scenes of his devoted wife Mary. His fund-raising efforts often came to fruition at their dinner table. Remaining in Lincoln, she accepted his absence in London for most of the week to attend the House of Lords with a good grace and a twinkle in her eye, knowing that her husband would want to keep working on behalf of the community for as long as he could.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. Patrick will be very much missed, but his great contribution to Lincoln and Lincolnshire will be fondly remembered.

Nicholas and Carol Bennett

