



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO

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

As the blistering summer (hopefully!) cools to a milder autumn, we journey on to the year's end. While autumn is not always traditionally regarded as a time for reflection, nevertheless it is a time of transition as we shed our leaves and embark on a new voyage towards growth.

I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of the News Review and would like to thank the editor for asking me to introduce this issue. My PhD journey at the University of Lincoln, supported by an LRS Nigel Burn Memorial grant, has been one of growth, discovery, and joy. I still remember Nicholas Bennett introducing me to Bishop Thomas Bek of Lincoln (1342-1347) in Lincoln's Waterstones Café several years ago, beginning a project that would transform my life in many ways. I am ever grateful to Nicholas, as well as my supervisors Louise Wilkinson and Michele Vescovi for their support and guidance throughout. My thesis, 'Thomas Bek (d. 1347), Bishop of Lincoln: Familial Networks, Ecclesiastical Responsibilities, and Politics', explored the episcopate of one of Lincoln's lesser-known bishops, utilising the contents of his extensive unpublished registers. It argued that episcopal oversight was vital to prevent abuse and misconduct by the regular and secular clergy. Processes such as visitation allowed Thomas to intervene and improve standards within parishes. Investigations and inquisitions played a significant role in informing bishops and their chanceries of local practices, influencing processes from appointment procedure to clerical purgation. Episcopal power served as a tool to protect and foster pastoral care practices, as bishops monitored practices of the clergy under their jurisdiction.

Whilst my thesis is complete, my journey is far from over as I begin my postdoctoral project and start to produce two volumes containing the contents of Bek's registers. I am excited to further investigate the machinery of diocesan administration and interrogate the role of the episcopal register as a managerial aid. I hope scholars will



find these records as fascinating as I have, and that they will be used to discover more insight into fourteenth-century diocesan administration.

This News Review showcases the fantastic work of the Lincoln Record Society and its membership. Although the weather grows colder, we can all share in our love of history and continue our voyages of knowledge.

Dr Jessica Holt



NEWS



NIGEL BURN MEMORIAL RESEARCH GRANTS

The Nigel Burn Memorial Research Grants Scheme was launched in 2021 as one of several initiatives made possible by Nigel's generous bequest to the Society. Nigel was a distinguished lawyer and a prominent figure in Lincoln's history and heritage community and an enthusiastic member of Lincoln Record Society. Back in 2020, Council decided that a proportion of Nigel's bequest should be dedicated to a significant investment in a research effort that would produce visible and notable benefits for our members within a relatively short period of time, while reserving the rest of the bequest for other initiatives and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Society. In the event, the scheme proved far more successful than we had originally hoped, and, having reviewed the position regularly, Council took the decision, in 2026, to close the scheme to new applicants, in order to focus resources on other areas of the Society's activities. By 2029, when the latest recipients of these awards will have completed their projects, Lincoln Record Society will have invested a little over £1.3 million

in this scheme. This will result in 12 new LRS volumes (one with an accompanying website) and two PhD dissertations, as well as a range of talks, seminars and public engagements across the county. Just as important, the scheme will have supported many early-career researchers whose work will be vital to the future of societies like ours, as their careers progress. They will also have ensured that Nigel Burn will long be recalled as a great benefactor of research into our area's history, as well as enhancing Lincoln Record Society's reputation as a proponent of the highest standards of historical research and publication.

A more detailed report on the scheme will be published in a future edition of the News Review. In the meantime, you might like to read the earlier report in News Review no. 23 (Spring 2025). An obituary of Nigel Burn appears in News Review no. 15, (summer 2020).

Dr Julian Haseldine



LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY JOINT VENTURES

From time to time, we get approached to support projects that do not fit into either the small or large grant schemes. In Issue 25 of the News Review, I reported on the joint venture with Lincoln Cathedral to support the appointment of a new librarian following the retirement of the previous librarian. The agreement, signed in March 2026, is for a five-year period. Interviews were in April and Dr Aya Van Renterghem was appointed Cathedral Librarian. Aya started in her new post on July 1st.

Our first joint venture was with the Spalding Gentlemen's Society signed in July 2025. We made a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of producing a Victoria County History Partnership Volume of the history of Spalding. Representatives of the LRS sit on the Steering Group and the Management Board. Interviews for the position of Editor/Coordinator were held in January 2026 and

Dr Gabby Storey was appointed. The current plan is to publish the history in two volumes in 2028.

In May 2026 we signed our third joint venture with the Historic Towns Trust for the production of an historic map of Boston. The HTT originally published historic town maps in atlas format but more recently they have been publishing folded maps and have increased their range. In April 2025 we offered a small grant to Professor Stephen Rigby and Neil Wright towards the cost of publishing the map. This evolved into a joint venture with the HTT that was signed in May 2026. Society representatives sit on the management board. Our contribution to the production costs is £15,000. The plan is to launch the map in Boston in May 2027.

Ken Hollamby



INTRODUCING LINCOLN CATHEDRAL'S NEW LIBRARIAN

It is a great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Librarian at Lincoln Cathedral and to share a little about my background, my role, and some of the projects currently taking place in the Cathedral Library.

I began my career in Special Collections in 2020, following a PhD in Manuscript Studies at the University of Nottingham and a Leverhulme-funded postdoctoral

fellowship at Leiden University, where I researched alphabets in early medieval manuscripts. My first professional role in Special Collections was as a Rare Print Cataloguer at Durham University, before moving to the John Rylands Library in Manchester as a Special Collections Teaching and Learning Coordinator and later Curator. I subsequently joined Queens' College,

Cambridge, as Special Collections Librarian, before taking up my new role at Lincoln Cathedral earlier this summer.

My work brings together two things I have always found particularly rewarding: caring for historic collections and helping people discover what those collections can tell us about the past. The Cathedral Library holds an extraordinary range of material, from medieval manuscripts and early printed books to modern reference collections covering subjects such as church history, architecture, and stained glass, to name a few. My own research focuses primarily on medieval manuscripts, both from the perspective of their care and management, and through exploring their connections to one another and the wider medieval world.

As Cathedral Librarian, I am responsible for two major projects. The first is the reopening of the newly renovated Christopher Wren Library and making the Cathedral's collection of rare and early printed books available to readers once again. The second is the development of a Library and Archive Research Centre (LARC), both as a concept and, hopefully, eventually as a physical space.

My vision for the Library is a holistic one: to understand its collections as interconnected parts of the history of Lincoln Cathedral Library, while also developing a space that supports modern research, teaching, and learning. There is enormous potential to build on the Library's historic significance while making its collections accessible to new audiences.



Aya Van Renterghem, © Aya Van Renterghem

As I am discovering daily, there is always something new to find in the Cathedral Library. I hope this glimpse behind the scenes will give LRS members a sense of the work taking place here– and hopefully encourage you to come and explore the collections for yourselves. More information on the Library's developments can be found at <https://lincolncathedral.com/cathedral-libraries/>, and on its social media accounts (@lincolncathedral).

Dr Aya Van Renterghem



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH VCH SPALDING

The VCH Lincolnshire Spalding project, as overseen by Dr Gabby Storey, is comprised of a group of volunteers from a range of backgrounds who research and write on aspects of Spalding's social, economic, governmental, and religious history to be included in the final publications. They are the first Lincolnshire branch since the original Victorian initiative, and are creating a new parish history that covers Spalding's history from the prehistoric period to the current day, based on a range of material from local and national archives. But to make this happen we need more historians! If you are interested in learning more

about and contributing to VCH Spalding, please contact us to get involved. Volunteers must have some experience of historical research and writing, and ideally be able to join monthly meetings in Spalding. They will receive support and guidance from the editor on their individual projects. For further information, or to discuss, contact Dr Gabby Storey at gabrielle.f.storey@outlook.com. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dr Gabby Storey

PAST EVENTS



RECENT WEBINAR ON HISTORICAL RESEARCH ON THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

The work of two early-career scholars

The latest webinar in the Lincoln Record Society's outreach programme took place on Wednesday 20 May at 7.00pm.

The event allowed two early career scholars to share some of their recent research findings with a wide audience. The two scholars were:

- Dr Emma Nelson, (Chetham's Library Manchester), 'Book Owners and Donors in Twelfth-Century Lincoln'
- Thomas Brown-Warr, (Lincoln Bishop University) "All the counties round are in a flame": the 1688 Revolution, the Northern Uprising and the Lincolnshire perspective'



Dr Nelson's paper explored the twelfth-century catalogue of Lincoln Cathedral's library as evidence for the emergence of book donation as the dominant mode of library growth, and argued that this development was the result of broad trends and local factors. It also considered the donation of books to the library by the author Gerald of Wales, which revealed how practical concerns complicated the theoretical framework of donation. The paper offered new insights into the relationship between the cathedral community and their books, and illuminated a local moment in the twelfth-century renaissance.

Dr Brown-Warr's presentation explored Lincolnshire's connection to the planned Northern Uprising during the 1688 Revolution. Prior to William of Orange's landing at Torbay, the original intention was for his invasion force to land at Bridlington Bay in Yorkshire, combining forces with a makeshift army commanded by the Earl of Danby. However, adverse weather conditions forced William's

invasion fleet to land in the south-west, following a route from Torbay to London. If events had followed this anticipated course, Lincolnshire would have lain between the path of William's army and his route to London, potentially resulting in the county playing a far more prominent role in the Revolution than it ultimately did. This paper gave particular attention to the involvement of the Bertie family of Grimsthorpe Castle.

The two papers were well received by an audience of approximately thirty, including a number of international delegates. We are grateful to Emma and Thomas for sharing their research findings.

It is hoped to arrange another such event later in the year. If members have any suggestions regarding potential speakers, please do let me know.

Dr Andrew Walker
Outreach Co-ordinator



BRITISH LEGAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 2026

The History of Law and Governance Centre at the University of Nottingham was delighted to host the 2026 British Legal History Conference, the first time that this major international gathering has been held in Nottingham. We are extremely grateful to the Lincoln Record Society for its generous support of the conference and, in particular, for enabling us to support postgraduate and early career researchers in presenting their work.

The conference brought together 155 delegates, and its international reach was considerable, with delegates travelling from the UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Czechia, Canada, India, Poland, Estonia, Ireland, and Germany. The academic programme comprised four keynote lectures, a keynote panel, and 76 papers presented in parallel strands over the course of the conference. Delegates also participated in visits to Wollaton Hall and the Council House in Nottingham city centre, providing opportunities to engage with Nottingham's local history and built heritage.

The conference theme, 'Law and Governance', invited participants to explore the longstanding interplay between legal systems and structures of authority and power. Papers examined how legal norms, institutions, and practices have both shaped and been shaped by governance across a wide range of historical periods and geographical settings. The breadth of the programme demonstrated the value of this theme in bringing together scholars working in otherwise diverse areas of legal and institutional history.

A particularly important aim of the conference was to provide opportunities for the next generation of

legal historians. The Lincoln Record Society's funding contributed directly to this objective by subsidising the costs of early career scholars presenting their research. In total, 20 postgraduate researchers presented papers on subjects ranging from local history and bye-laws to international equity litigation. The quality of postgraduate research was also recognised through the award of two prizes for postgraduate papers. The strong representation of postgraduate speakers, and the breadth of their research, made a substantial contribution to the intellectual life of the conference and provided valuable opportunities for researchers at an early stage of their careers to present their work to an international specialist audience.

The conference benefited from the support of a number of legal history societies, and we are particularly grateful to the Lincoln Record Society for its role in making the event possible. Its support was acknowledged during the conference and in the conference materials, giving the Society visibility among a large international community of scholars whose interests closely intersect with its work.

We are now developing plans for an edited volume arising from the conference, centred on the theme of law and governance. The Lincoln Record Society will be acknowledged as a sponsor in the volume, providing a lasting record of its contribution to the conference and its support for legal-historical scholarship and early career researchers.

Dr Sarah White
University of Nottingham

ONGOING RESEARCH



THE KATHLEEN MAJOR SERIES OF MEDIEVAL RECORDS

In 2015 the Society launched a new series, devoted to the publication of editions of medieval records and named in honour of Kathleen Major, a former President of the Society. The first volume in the series was Professor Philippa Hoskin's edition of the *Episcopal Rolls of Robert Grosseteste, 1235-1253*; this was followed two years later by Dr Jill Redford's edition of *The Cartulary of Alvingham Priory*. The original ambition was to publish a Kathleen Major volume in alternate years and, with the lapse of time since 2017, members may be wondering what has happened to this series.

It is undeniable that the years of COVID and lockdown resulted in a setback to our publication plans. But it should not be assumed that work on the series ceased. On the contrary, a group of assiduous volume editors has all this time been working away behind the scenes, so that the next few years will see a cornucopia of medieval volumes coming off the production line.

First of these will be the long-awaited edition of the Goxhill Leiger. This family cartulary, discovered by our own Canon Foster one hundred years ago among the records of Peterborough Cathedral, has been a publication ambition of the Society for more than forty years. The magnificent completion of this project is due entirely to the considerable editorial skills and capacity for hard work of Professor Philippa Hoskin. This edition should be available next year.

Hard on the heels of the Goxhill Leiger will be a fascinating volume edited by Professor Nigel Saul. This will be an edition of two lists of Lincolnshire Oathholders, the principal list dating from 1388 and a shorter list from 1434. These lists will be greatly illuminated by a compendious biographical appendix. The volume, which should be published in 2027-28, will furnish an essential guide to the gentry of late medieval Lincolnshire.

And there is more! One of the Society's ambitions in launching the Kathleen Major Series was to embark on the publication of the great wealth of material in Lincolnshire's monastic cartularies. The editing of the Bardney Cartulary was a project of the late Professor David Smith, a former General Editor and President of the Society. His edition of the text of the cartulary was substantially complete at the time of his death, and an introduction is being written by Dr Katy Dutton. This, too, is expected to be complete later this year.

Beyond all this, editions of further monastic cartularies are in preparation, and work is progressing on the registers of three fourteenth-century bishops of Lincoln. The Lincoln Record Society has a proud tradition of publishing medieval records, and this is set to continue for some time to come.

Dr Nicholas Bennett



MAGNA CARTA BEYOND LONDON AT THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

In 2025, the Society of Antiquaries of London secured a lottery grant to deliver a project to mark the 800th anniversary of the 1225 Magna Carta. The project examined the historical and contemporary relevance of this important medieval document through educational workshops and a temporary exhibition, which took place at the Society last summer.

More than 5,500 visitors crowded into the building to view the Society's three rare copies of Magna Carta side by side, including a remarkable 1225 reissue by Henry III (the version later confirmed in English law). A team of volunteers provided front-of-house support during the exhibition run. They were regularly asked questions about authenticity, most usually 'is this the *actual* Magna Carta?'

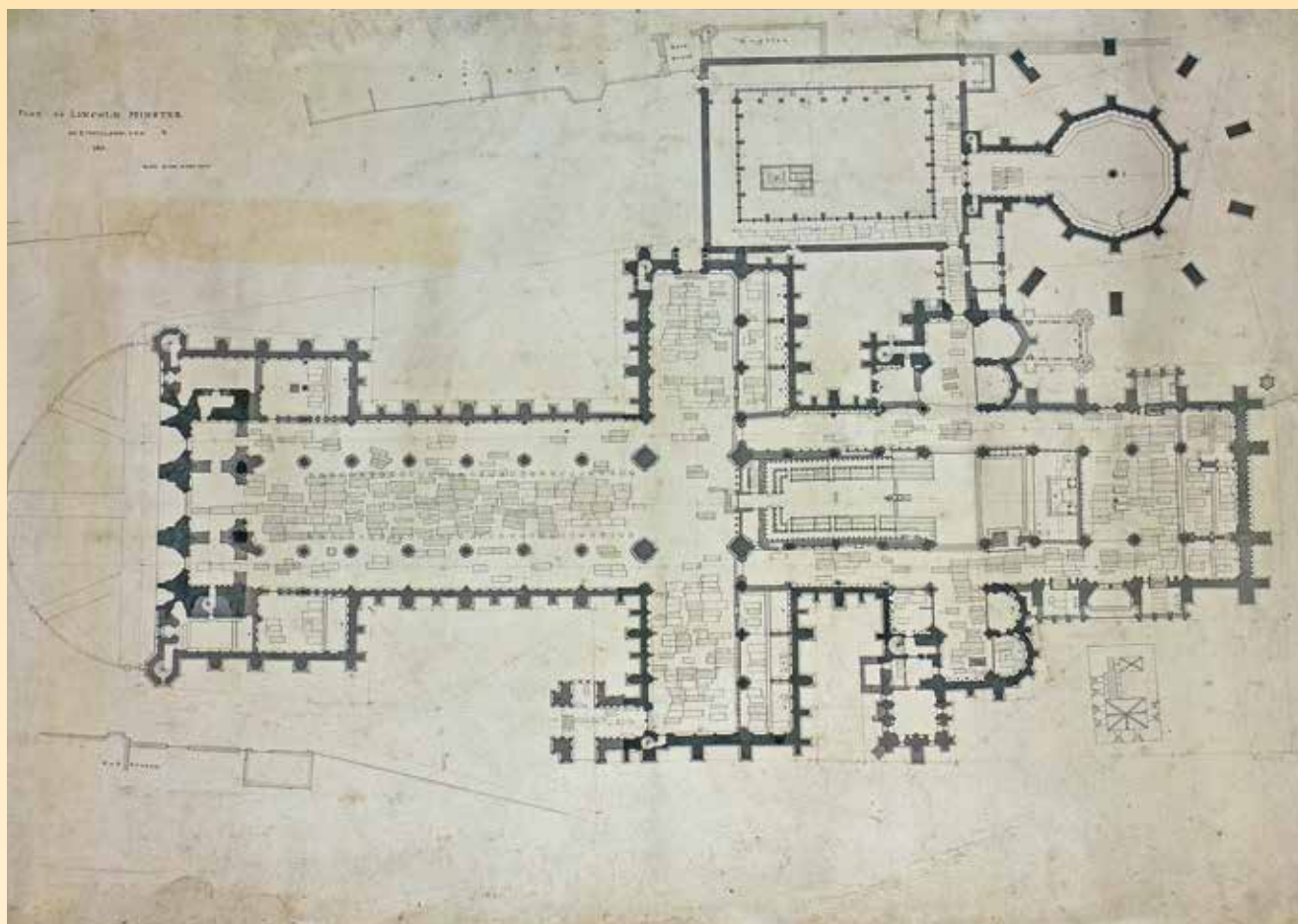
Conversations in the exhibition space would then turn towards Lincoln, as the repository for one of the four known surviving copies of the 1215 charter. Some visitors shared memories of visiting Lincoln Castle to see this version. A couple of Society volunteers even

went to Lincoln during the exhibition run, to familiarise themselves with the story of Magna Carta beyond London.

From the start, the project volunteers were enthusiastic researchers. Many attended regular study workshops ahead of the exhibition and contributed timelines for fact sheets or articles for a Magna Carta 1225 magazine that was distributed to visitors. Some delivered spotlight talks on relevant topics. For example, volunteer Sandra Brokman developed a talk on England's first female sheriff, the celebrated Lincolnshire figure, Lady Nicholaa de la Haye.

As the exhibition run ended, it became clear that there was still an appetite among the volunteer team to carry out research into medieval England. Staff at the Society decided to devise a follow-on project. The idea was to explore the history of Magna Carta beyond London, with Lincoln chosen as the primary research focus in part because of the city's 1215 charter and in part because the collections at Burlington House are rich in treasures documenting the region's medieval past.





Edward Willson, *Plan of Lincoln Cathedral*, c. 1834-1845, pen and wash, WIL/B, Society of Antiquaries of London. © Society of Antiquaries of London

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lincoln Record Society, the project launched in April 2026. Forty nineteenth-century photographs from the topographical collection at the Society of Antiquaries have already been digitised and made available online, including images of church buildings across the Lincolnshire region (Friskney, Boston, Frampton), an exterior shot of the Angel Inn at Grantham, and a curious nut mounted in silver which was used as a chalice at a Yarborough church, likely St Michael's.

An inter-generational team of volunteers, student placements, and home-educated children are now carrying

out research into medieval Lincoln. A key focus for their research is the Willson Collection on Lincolnshire, created and assembled by local architect and antiquary Edward James Willson, FSA (1787-1854). Their findings will be shared in the coming months through news stories, a project magazine, schools learning resources, and public open days. To find out more about Magna Carta Beyond London, please contact learning@sal.org.uk

Dr Michelle Johansen FSA
Learning and Outreach Manager



THE FORTHCOMING EDITIONS OF THE KIRKSTEAD AND BARDNEY CARTULARIES

Work has continued this summer on two of the Society's forthcoming editions of medieval charter material: first, the Kirkstead Abbey cartulary and charters, to be published in two volumes, and second, completion of the late David Smith's edition of the Bardney Abbey cartulary. Both texts are nearing completion. With the support of the LRS, Dr Charlotte Harrison (Liverpool) is providing assistance with the final stages of the Kirkstead edition and her particular expertise on late medieval palaeography is especially welcome.

The Kirkstead cartulary contains over 1,200 different texts dating from 1139 to 1310. These will be accompanied

in the edition by dozens of single-sheet originals not contained in the cartulary and a handlist of post-1310 material, as well as a detailed introduction exploring the manuscript's compilation and purpose along with the history and development of the abbey. This builds on a series of articles published in recent years in *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies* and *Anglo-Norman Studies*.

The Bardney volume was largely complete at the time of David Smith's death. The abbey's extensive cartulary manuscript was largely assembled in the second half of the thirteenth century and contains almost 900 entries. Work to complete the edition focuses on writing an introduction

outlining the history of Bardney's first and second incarnations, the nature of the cartulary and the reasons for its production. It was compiled at a time of declining fortunes for the abbey, almost entirely by a single scribe, and it presents a meticulously catalogued and detailed account of the abbey's holdings.

The opportunity to work so closely on these two manuscripts in tandem has yielded tangible benefits for the quality and accuracy of both editions, as well as the chance to consider how the two institutions interacted and how their communities of donors overlapped. The evidence from the mid-twelfth century is especially significant. At this time, both abbeys were consolidating their holdings and securing their status, in Kirkstead's case with the decisive phase of development of their permanent abbey site and adjoining home grange, while at Bardney the community secured their independence from the continental abbey of Charroux.

Numerous attestations in Kirkstead's charters show that there was a substantial relationship between the two abbeys in the time of Abbot Walter of Bardney (c.1155 to 1166 × 1177), who frequently appears alongside his chaplain, also named Walter, often presiding over affidavits. Indeed, the latter emerges as one of the most frequent participants in Kirkstead's charters. It was also under Abbot Walter that the two houses made an agreement sometime before 1166 concerning the collection of tithes in Scampton, where the Gant family and their entourage had granted both abbeys significant resources and where Kirkstead had established a grange. It was agreed that Kirkstead would make annual payments to Bardney of 60 measures each of wheat, barley and oats. To collect these tithes, Bardney was to send a boat and guides to Sheepwash, where the produce would be loaded with the assistance of lay brothers from Kirkstead.

Editing the cartularies concurrently means that it is possible to understand the subsequent stages of the treatment of this agreement by both parties and correct an omission in the Bardney manuscript. There, the agreement appears only in passing in papal confirmations of the twelfth century and in a significant later iteration: in 1228, the tithes in question were doubled, to 120

measures of each type of crop, suggesting a very significant intensification of land exploitation at Scampton. It is noteworthy that the Kirkstead cartulary includes both versions of the agreement, whereas Bardney only includes the latter, pointing towards differing principles of muniments organisation by the two institutions.

The appearance of Kirkstead's major grange at Sheepwash, southeast of Lincoln, in the agreement is noteworthy. Previously, the grange's establishment was traced by Joan and Dennis Mills only to sometime before the mid-1180s. The Bardney agreement securely indicates its existence much earlier. This is corroborated by another Kirkstead document entered as the seventh item in the Snelland section of the cartulary, a confirmation of Gregory of Swinethorpe's grants near Snelland, which has the place-date of March 1167 at Sheepwash (*Sepw*).

It is clear that, with Sheepwash, Kirkstead took into its control a very significant site and one which impacted other institutions throughout the county and city of Lincoln. Indeed, Walter the chaplain of Bardney was one of the witnesses to William Martel of Canwick's grant of the site to Kirkstead. Competition over access to the site as well as the proliferation of monastic holdings in nearby Canwick is well-attested in later sources, some of which were discussed in the Mills' study. This is borne out by recent archaeological work of part of the site, the reports from which are currently in production for a volume which will also include material from the cartulary.

This is just one dimension of the fruits of the editing work on these two manuscripts. The forthcoming editions will be major tools for understanding both houses and their interconnectedness. This work will also provide a vital foundation for forthcoming efforts, led by the present author and Professor Louise Wilkinson, to edit for publication the Stixwold Priory cartulary and to begin scoping work on the Barlings Abbey cartulary, both held in the British Library. It will also under Charlotte Harrison inform the teaching of palaeography to MA students at Liverpool.

Dr Katy Dutton
University of Liverpool



CALCEWAITH DEANERY CLERGY

If you take the road from Alford to Sutton-on-Sea, you will pass the beautiful Georgian church of St Andrew, Hannah, situated on a small rise overlooking the Lincolnshire marsh. Few of those who drive past, or even stop to visit, will know of the tragic story that links this building with one of the most celebrated and stirring tales of heroism of the Victorian era. Not far to the south lies the church of St Margaret, Huttoft, served in the middle years of the twentieth century by Revd Theophilus Caleb, the 'Indian Christian priest' of John Betjeman's celebrated Lincolnshire poem. Less well-known is the Victorian vicar of Mumby

who, having already been in trouble with the law for cruelty to chickens, was charged with the more serious offence of embezzlement of funds intended for the village school.

The rural church is currently under threat. The Lincolnshire deanery of Calcewaith, which covered this area of the marshland, had forty parish churches in 1500. The church of St Mary, Bilsby, is last mentioned in 1532, about the time when St Peter, Mablethorpe was 'swallowed up with the sea'. Aby church was pulled down by Sir Henry Vane 'in the time of the unhappy usurpation' of Oliver Cromwell, but overall, thirty of these churches





were still active one hundred years ago. But during the last fifty years, too many have been closed, demolished or, in one case, turned into a private house (the former churchyard is said to have become 'a productive vegetable garden').

Yet, while the physical remains of Christianity are being lost or placed under threat, there remains in the archives a rich and varied history, now brought to light in the third volume of *Lincolnshire Parish Clergy: A Biographical Register*, shortly to be published by the Lincoln Record Society. In its pages are to be found the lives of the clergy who served these parishes over a period of 750 years: the succession of incumbents, the patrons who presented them, the houses in which they lived. Brief biographies furnish details of birth, education, careers and families. Among these men were saints ('our zealous and faithful Mynister and preacher') and sinners ('being drunk on the highway at Alford'), some who gave devoted pastoral care and others who were determined to escape from the cold and damp of the marsh ('there is half an inch of ice all over the moat which



Both images: Hannah Church, © Nicholas Bennett

surrounds the house'). This volume will provide a valuable source of information for historians of Lincolnshire and the Church.

Dr Nicholas Bennett

Copies of this volume will be circulated to members once published.



MY FAVOURITE VOLUME

This series celebrates past editions of LRS volumes, available to all members of the Society on Pastview: <https://archive.lincoln-record-society.org.uk>.

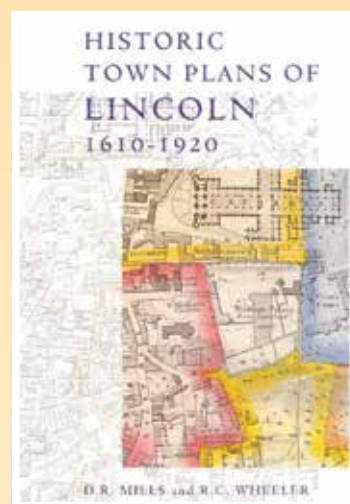
Volume 92, *Historic Town Plans of Lincoln, 1610-1920*, ed. D.R. Mills and R.C. Wheeler (2004)

When asked to produce a piece on my favourite LRS volume, several came to mind. As an historian with particular interests in later-modern Britain, mainly from the early nineteenth century onwards, perhaps naturally I have been particularly drawn to volumes which have covered this period. The Lincoln Record Society has been relatively unusual amongst such societies in publishing volumes fairly regularly in recent times relating to the past two hundred years or so. This has not always been the case, though. Of the first 57 volumes published in the main series between 1910 and 1963, only two volumes covered at least part of a period within two hundred years of the publication date, albeit marginally so. These were volume 4, *Speculum of the Diocese of Lincoln, 1705-1723*, edited by R.E.G. Cole, (published in 1913); and volume 45, *Letters and Papers of the Banks Family of Revesby Abbey, 1704-1760*, edited by J.W.F. Hill, (published in 1952). Of the 56 volumes published since volume 57, however some sixteen of these have dealt, at least in part, with subjects less than two hundred years old at the time of publication.

The volume I have selected as my favourite is number 92, *Historic Town Plans of Lincoln, 1610-1920* (2004), which was edited by D.R. Mills and R.C. Wheeler. At the outset, I should declare an interest here in that this is a work which was published in association with The Survey of Lincoln, an organisation with which I have been much involved for over 20 years.

Since taking historical geography as a subsidiary module on my undergraduate history degree, I've always been fascinated by maps and the tremendous amount of detailed information that can be conveyed about a place so succinctly in cartographic form.

By making these important plans of the city of Lincoln much more accessible than hitherto, the volume has enabled many researchers to plot the development of the city over time. In my own work on exploring nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Lincoln, the plans included in the volume by Marrat (1848), Padley (1851 and 1868), Padley and Thropp (1883), and the Ordnance Survey map of 1920 have been particularly helpful. Many of the contributors to the various publications produced by The Survey of Lincoln, exploring the city's neighbourhoods and various thematic aspects associated with the city have drawn heavily on the volume – and indeed various extracts from LRS volume 92 have regularly appeared in the pages of The Survey of Lincoln volumes to illustrate various points.



The volume was a significant one from a publishing perspective, too. Rob Wheeler is much better placed than I am to discuss the technical issues associated with the production of these plans in such a clear form, including a process of what was described in the introduction as a process of 'electronic cleaning'. The capturing of the Padley plans to the required publishing standard was a particular challenge. The high quality of the map reproduction within the volume, in addition to drawing attention to many of the past physical features of Lincoln urban life, has led to the creation of a book of significant aesthetic appeal. To my eyes at least, the maps are things of beauty – particularly Padley's revised plan of 1868, with its vibrant colours.

By nominating this volume as my favourite, I am also paying tribute to the work of a very significant twentieth-century and early twenty-first century historian and historical geographer – Dr Dennis Mills, whose insight and generous approach to the sharing of his knowledge benefitted so many who had interests in the history of the city and county. The collaborative nature of this volume epitomised Dennis's *modus operandi* and I think also revealed very effectively the benefits of such an approach to scholarship and publication. This volume is a triumph of co-editing, but collaboration extended well beyond the work of Dennis and Rob Wheeler themselves with many other organisations and individuals involved in order to enable the bringing together of such a diverse range of maps from different sources. The acknowledgement page of the volume reveals clearly the complexity of the production task. Excluding benefactors and grant-giving bodies, some ten different organisations and eight individuals besides the two editors played instrumental parts in ensuring the book's production.

The volume continues to provide me with much pleasure, and invaluable information about Lincoln's recent past, more than twenty years after its first publication.

Dr Andrew Walker

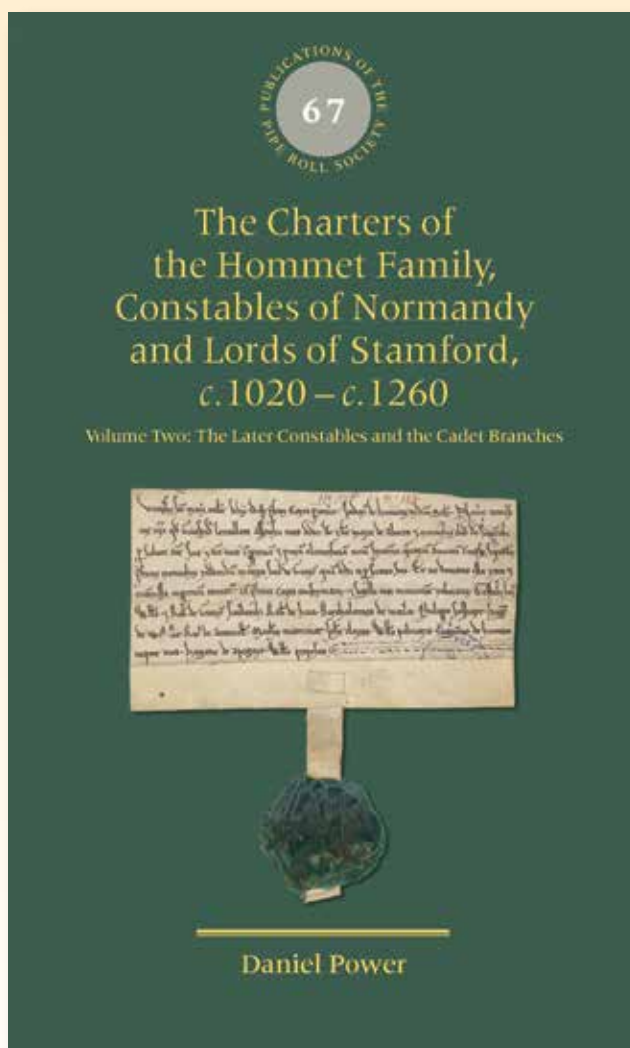
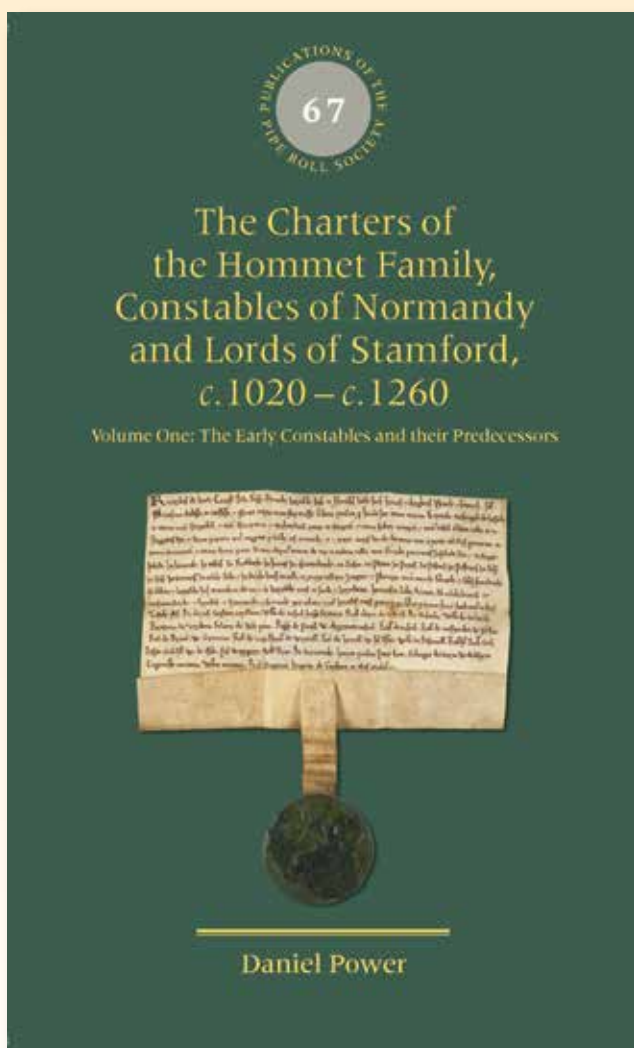


THE CHARTERS OF THE HOMMET FAMILY

The Charters of the Hommet Family, Constables of Normandy and Lords of Stamford, c.1020 – c.1260 will shortly be published by the Pipe Roll Society, with the support of the LRS.. The Hommet family originated from western Normandy, and the head of the family held the post of constable of Normandy under the first three Plantagenet kings of England, but in the 12th century the family also acquired substantial property in eastern and southern England, notably in Lincolnshire and in other parts of the medieval diocese of Lincoln. It was holding lands in northern Lindsey by the reign of King Henry I (1100–35), but its most spectacular gain in England was the town of Stamford, which Henry II gave to Richard du Hommet (d.1180) circa 1154. As lords of Stamford, Richard and his son William (d.1204) built up a substantial lordship on both the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire sides of the River Welland. William lost his English lands in 1204, when the king of France conquered Normandy and Anglo-Norman landowners were forced to choose between their English and Norman lands, but a junior branch of the family continued to hold lands in Lindsey until they passed by marriage to the Greys of Codnor in the 1260s.

This two-volume edition contains the details of over 450 deeds issued by the Hommets between the early 11th and mid-13th century, and three appendices contain other documents relating to the family. For each deed, the edition provides the Latin text (or, in some cases, what is known about a lost act) with a detailed English summary and a commentary. The charters are a mine of historical detail for the social, economic, political and religious history of the regions in England and Normandy where the Hommets held lands, and their deeds reveal much about twelfth-century Stamford. The edition also includes an extended introduction, which sets out the history of the Hommets and analyses the documents, together with 17 plates, 9 maps and 7 genealogical tables. The production of this edition has been assisted by a generous grant from the Lincoln Record Society, and LRS members will be entitled to purchase it at the same discounted price as members of the Pipe Roll Society (details for this will be circulated in due course).

Professor Daniel Power
University of Swansea



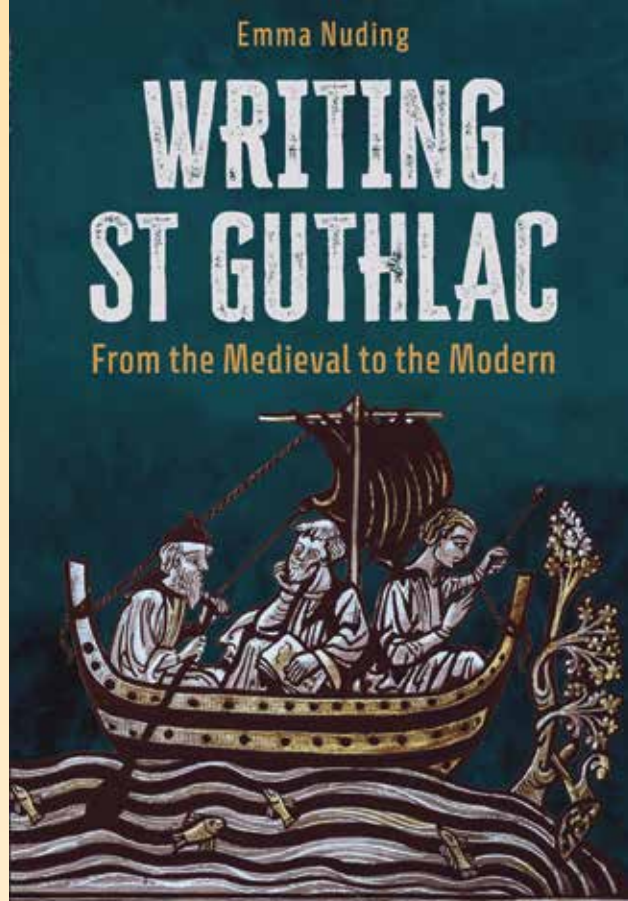


WRITING ST. GUTHLAC, FROM THE MEDIEVAL TO THE MODERN

This new book focuses on St Guthlac of Crowland, the eighth century hermit who settled in the Lincolnshire fens. *Writing St Guthlac, from the Medieval to the Modern* is a radically longitudinal reception study of the saint which analyses his varied *Lives*, his representation in other medieval sources, and his post-medieval legacy.

Chapter 2 of the book examines Guthlac's monastic reception in medieval Crowland, and analyses sources such as the Guthlac Roll (British Library, Harley Roll Y 6), an early thirteenth-century pictorial life, as well as a range of literary texts. The book puts these literary and artistic sources against documentary accounts referencing Guthlac in the Crowland cartulary, the single manuscript of which is held at the Gentlemen's Society in Spalding and is currently being edited by Dr Hannah Boston for the LRS. Documents in the cartulary show that Guthlac's watery legacy was used as a key rhetorical tool in articulating the monks' claims to the surrounding marshland. This documentary rhetoric is reflected in the thirteenth-century versified *Vita* the monks commissioned, which includes pastiches of institutional legalese regarding disputed marshes.

Guthlac's relevance to Lincolnshire however goes beyond Crowland itself. The Crowland monks' interest in the wider Lincoln diocese is clear from Guthlac's late twelfth-century miracle collection, which includes a particular focus on pilgrims hailing from the Humber estuary area which marked the diocese's northern reach. Fittingly, Guthlac's medieval parish church dedications indicate a spread north of Crowland and into the heart of the diocese. These sources suggest that the monks took a narrative about a solitary hermit and transformed him into a figurehead for a coenobitic community that was simultaneously proud of being a constitutional island and proud of being a node within external networks.



The LRS Small Grants fund helped specifically with *Writing St Guthlac's* production costs, including the reproduction of roundels from the Guthlac Roll depicting Guthlac leaving his secular life behind, arriving at Crowland and building his hermitage, as well as reproductions of roundels focusing on Guthlac's sister, Pega, a holy woman in her own right. The grant also funded the drawing of two maps by cartographer Cath D'Alton to help illustrate the geographical reasoning of the study: one shows sites local to Crowland, and the other shows the wider span of Guthlac's influence, from Bury St Edmunds in the south to Durham in the North. These visual aids will be of great help in communicating Guthlac's substantial cultural legacy.

LRS members can use the offer code LRS100 for 40% off the book.

Dr Emma Nuding



LINCOLN BOOK FESTIVAL AND LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY

Lincoln's annual book festival is taking place this year between Thursday 1 October and Sunday 4 October. The Society has agreed to act as a major sponsor of the event this year. As a society, we have been supportive of the festival over several years, previously providing some financial support and also participating directly in the event.

This year, the Lincoln Record Society is again taking part in the Festival. We will be contributing to a Local History afternoon on Sunday 4 October, alongside the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and The Survey

of Lincoln. Dr Nicholas Bennett will be speaking about his latest volume on the Lincolnshire clergy, which is to be published by the Society in the near future. The Local History session will take place between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at Southside, Colegrave Street, Lincoln, LN5 8DW.

For more details of the Lincoln Book Festival, please see: <https://lincolnbookfestival.org>.

Dr Andrew Walker
Outreach co-ordinator



THE REVOLT OF THE PROVINCES

Local Dimensions of the English Civil War

A one-day conference, organised by the Lincoln Record Society, (in association with the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology) to be held at the National Civil War Centre, Newark, on Saturday 17 October 2026, 9.30am to 4.30pm.

In 1976, John Morrill's seminal work *The Revolt of the Provinces* energised local studies of the English Civil War. Rather than focusing on constitutional clashes at Westminster, it shifted attention to the shires, boroughs and localities in which civil war allegiances were forged, negotiated and contested. For most people living in England at the time, the county rather than the country was their main frame of reference: when war came, the forces of localism and neutralism were often as strong as ideological attachment to parliamentarianism or royalism. Fifty years on, Morrill's view of a conflict defined by local perspectives remains vital, stimulating ongoing debates about the

dynamic and complex relationship between centre and locality in the early modern period. This conference pays tribute to Morrill's work by showcasing new and emerging research on the English Civil War that explores its local and regional dimensions.

Alongside keynote addresses by Professor Ann Hughes and Dr David J. Appleby, there will be panels of talks dedicated to local experiences of warfare, the relationship between centre and locality, and the contested legacies of the conflict.

Full more details, please see: <https://lincoln-record-society.org.uk/news-events/>.

Conference fees including lunch and refreshments: £30 for members of the Lincoln Record Society and SLHA; £38 for non-members. A discount code has been circulated to members by email.



LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held from 2pm at The Blue Room, The Lawn, Lincoln. Refreshments will be provided and all members are welcome. The event will include a paper from Professor Carenza Lewis, 'Medieval and modern? The value of recent *Time Team* investigations in Lincolnshire'. Lincolnshire's rich medieval history has attracted not one but two three-day investigations by Time Team since the revival of TV's iconic archaeology show on

YouTube. This talk by the University of Lincoln's Professor Carenza Lewis, *Time Team* presenter from its inception in 1994 and again since its return in 2021, will present new discoveries made by *Time Team* from the tiny rural village of Norton Disney and from a hospital in the vast medieval city of Lincoln, and consider the different ways in which these two investigations have advanced knowledge of the past and benefitted people today.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Revolt of the Provinces: Local Dimensions of the English Civil War
17 October, National Civil War Centre, Newark

Lincoln Record Society AGM, 2pm, 14 November, The Blue Room, The Lawn, Lincoln, LN1 3BU
A paper will be given by Professor Carenza Lewis, and refreshments will be provided from 3:30 pm

