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Sleaford Museum Trust

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Contributions, in the form of short articles of no more than 150 words, or ideas for features, for future newsletters should be sent to editor Jonathan Smith at 71 North Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9BT, or e-mailed to jpsmithpix@yahoo.co.uk

Betjeman's Lincolnshire Churches

OUR next speaker on Thursday, September 1, will be the Rev Clifford Knowles, who will talk on Betjeman's Lincolnshire Churches.

Described as the archetypal English poet, John Betjeman had an affection for Lincolnshire and some of its buildings. His maternal family originated in Spalding and that no doubt initially brought Betjeman to the county.

But he made many visit to the county in later life. Between 1926 and 1928 Betjeman was invited to stay at the rectory at Kirkby-on-Bain, from where he started to visit the wide wealth of churches around the Horncastle area.

Betjeman wrote three poems about Lincolnshire, including 'A Lincolnshire Church' in which he describes a visit to St Margaret's Church, Huttoft, where he met the Indian priest the Revd Theophilus Caleb.

But this church was not the only Lincolnshire building Betjeman loved. His favourites include Gunby Hall and the Vanburgh front of Grimsthorpe Castle, near Bourne – plus the small, unregarded churches and chapels he also visited.

Do come along and learn more about Bentjeman's Lincolnshire Churches - and bring a friend.

The meeting at St Denys' Church Room, Market Place, Sleaford, starts at 7.30pm.

Admission: members free, non-members £2. All welcome.

Changes at the top

RECENTLY Sue Titmuss notified the committee that, due to her increasing health problems, she has decided to resign from her position as secretary.

At the same time we also received a letter from our chairman Wendy Atkin that she too has resigned her post, as increasing professional duties now prevent her in giving sufficient energies to the Trust.

The committee expressed their thanks to both Sue and Wendy for all their work. It then co-opted David Marriage as acting chairman and Jonathan Smith as acting secretary to continue work of the Trust. Jonathan will continue in his role as treasurer.

In accordance with our constitution these acting officers will offer themselves for election at the next AGM.

We are already engaged in recruiting new members of the committee, and have been delighted to welcome Ron Williams back as a mentor/advisor.

If you feel you can help then do please call or e mail either David or Jonathan.

Your new contacts are:

David Marriage on 01529 305398,
david@daztec.f9.co.uk

or

Jonathan Smith on 07753 409720,
jpsmithpix@yahoo.co.uk

Great time at show

A SELECTION of artefacts from the Trust's collection were on display at the record breaking Heckington Show.

Chairman David Marriage selected a range of objects including bottles, gas masks, a crystal radio set and copies of Morton's Sleaford Almanac which caused a lot of interest.

Other items on display included photograph albums relating to the company of Charles Sharpe and Co, featuring some of the varieties of peas, beans, potatoes and other vegetables bred and marketed by the company around 1900 and various aspects of the company's business including sorting and packing seeds.



Jonathan Smith, Valerie Keal and William Watret at Sleaford Museum Trust's stall at Heckington Show.

Photo courtesy: Sleaford Standard

David was joined by Jonathan Smith, Valerie Keal and William Watret.

Jonathan said: "We were happy to be able to talk to many visitors about the artefacts on display and the urgent need for a museum in Sleaford. We were also delighted to welcome three new members."

The show proved a success for the organisers too – with 30,000 attending.

Meeting nights - your views are needed please

YOUR committee is considering changing the Trust's meeting evening from a Thursday to either a Monday or Tuesday.

But before we do anything we would like to hear members' views on the change.

We would be grateful if members would contact chairman David Marriage, either by post at 53 London Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7LQ or e-mail david@daztec.f9.co.uk to give their views on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evening meetings.

A decision needs to be made soon in order that speakers can be arranged, so please contact David by Monday, September 12.

Heritage lecture

THE Trust's Annual Heritage Lecture will be held at St Denys' Church Room, Market Place, Sleaford, on Saturday, October 8, at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be David Stocker of English Heritage whose research interests are mostly within medieval archaeology, especially buildings, settlements and landscape.

Final details, including topic and ticket price, are still to be finalised. For the latest information please contact David Marriage on 01529 305398 or david@daztec.f9.co.uk

• The coffee morning planned for Saturday, October 1, has been cancelled.

Cup winners

PICTURED right are members of Rauceby Mental Hospital Sports Club - winners of the Bourne Hospital Cup - Season 1934-35.

They are: Back row: S A Costa, F Blankley, G Brewster, C Bristow, D Rudkin, J E Tindale (honorary secretary); middle row: E Bembridge, J Woodcock (captain), W Marshall; front row: J Simpson, F Bristow, F Blow, S Bristow and F Simpson.

Source: Morton's Almanac 1936



The Bass Maltings - one of Sleaford's most imposing industrial complexes

New lease of life for old maltings

ONE of Sleaford's most imposing industrial complexes must be the former Bass Maltings in Mareham Lane.

One of the largest and most spectacular buildings of its type in the country, the maltings is a Grade II* listed complex of nine parallel ranges.

Built between 1901 and 1906 on 13.3 acres, the whole complex was designed by H A Couchman, an architect and engineer working for Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton Ltd.

The central block with its engine house and water tower is flanked by six-storey malthouses, malting – the production of malt for beer brewing from barley – commenced in 1907.

The production of malt continued until 1959, since when the buildings have stood largely empty, although for 20 years parts were used for chicken rearing and vegetable processing and freezing.

There have been three major fires at the maltings, in 1969, 1976 and 1999,

leaving several of the ranges roofless, although the buildings retain their structural integrity.

An application to demolish the maltings was refused in 1985 and now the landmark is to be renovated after a £50m development plan was agreed.

The complex will be turned into shops, office space and more than 220 apartments and houses by developers Gladedale estates.

The proposals include the sympathetic restoration of the buildings.

Spokesman Simon Cocks said: "We are not altering the external elevations at all. There will be some internal demolition but that is mostly taking down the fire damaged sections.

North Kesteven District Council economic development manager Alan Gray said the scheme was an integral part of the wider Sleaford South East Regeneration project.

It is expected work will start in the autumn.

