

BLHS President's Report 2025 - Barbara Cast

We are now in our 45th year and still going strong. We endeavour to keep up the standard of lectures we have come to expect and I am pleased to say that we are very rarely disappointed.

Over the past year we have had some great lectures - from a London apprentice to the Portable Antiquity Scheme with Mediaeval Chantries midway. A great variety this year such as the two members of the Lincoln Waites and their superb array of mediaeval instruments and their playing and singing! We welcomed the Chair of the Norton Disney archaeology society who brought along the discovery of the year - the dodecahedron. We were pleased to hear from our local lecturer friend Roger Blaney, plus, stepping in at the last moment, Ken Ogilvie with the Wartime Airs over Bleasby.

I am, as ever, very grateful to Jenny, our Secretary, and many thanks to Brenda who keeps the books and does a lot else. Also to Marilyn and Annie as very able committee members, especially helpful technically.

Lecture fees are rising - some on this year's programme quite markedly - and next year is likely to be the same, so membership subscriptions will almost certainly have to increase in 2026. But it will still be good value for money. We also remain very pleased to welcome non-members to our meetings for a donation of £5. We are very grateful to those speakers who give their very valuable time and expertise for free!

This year our programme is again full of interest and quality, with excellent speakers - starting last night with timber-framed buildings of Nottinghamshire from Jason Mordan, the County Council's Senior Conservation Officer. Included later on in the year will be a lecture on Arbella Stuart, the Queen that never was, last but not least, Ogle Tarncliffe and the history of sewage disposal. Another must hear.