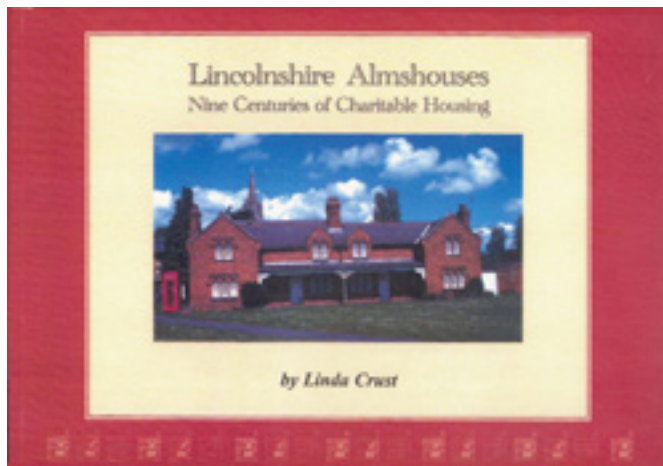




Bookshelf

LIFE'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

LINCOLNSHIRE ALMSHOUSES, by Linda Crust
Heritage Lincolnshire, Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington,
Sleaford, NG34 9RW; ISBN 0 948639 38 5; £12.95



THE PROVISION of almshouses from medieval times was a remarkable expression of piety and compassion. And the almshouse movement remains a very real and active element of social housing today. This book covers nine centuries of charitable housing, and the copious illustrations demonstrate that almshouse buildings have created a distinctive form of architecture.

Care of the poor, aged and sick was put on an institutional basis with the establishment of medieval hospitals from the eleventh century. They were concerned primarily with spiritual care, bodily needs being of secondary importance. After the Reformation, the emphasis of care shifted, but the founding of almshouses by wealthy and (usually) pious benefactors continued. The nineteenth century brought the

concept of neat, poor people (often in uniforms) in equally neat ranges of almshouses.

This book has gazetteer lists and gives a brief history of every medieval hospital and almshouse known in Lincolnshire – 188 of them ranging from twelfth-century leper houses to modern bungalows. The gazetteer is in three chronological sections: medieval hospitals (1100-1550), evolution of the almshouse (1550-1800), and from picturesque to plain (1800-2000). There is also a chapter on changing architectural styles.

There has been need for a book about almshouses, their history and their role in the social life of Lincolnshire towns and villages. This is now admirably met by Linda Crust's research and its attractive presentation in this book. (DNR) □

Lincolnshire's Top 10 Bestsellers

- 1 **Twisted Strands**
Margaret Dickinson, £5.99
- 2 **Tales of a Bomber Command WAAF (& her horse)**
Sylvia Pickering, £9.95
- 3 **The Curse of the Rocamadour**
Louise Dale, £5.99
- 4 **Grimsby – The Story of the World's Greatest Fishing Port**
Peter Chapman, £14.99
- 5 **Pub Walks in Lincolnshire**
Brett Collier, £6.95
- 6 **Ottakar's Local History Series – Lincolnshire**
Julianne Coggan, £3.99
- 7 **Into Thin Air**
Nigel Press, £12.00
- 8 **Lincolnshire Headlines**
Adrian Gray, £6.95
- 9 **Bygone Reepham**
Harold L Answer, £5.20
- 10 **Roman Lincoln – Conquest, Colony and Capital**
Michael J Jones, £16.99

*Compiled by Ottakar's Lincoln
and Ottakar's Grimsby*

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

NOW AND THEN by Norah Clarke;
Canonbury Publishing,
24 Canonbury Park South,
London, N1 2FN; ISBN 1 59196 156 4;
£5.99

Autobiography from 1914, growing up on the Easton Hall Estate and Bottesford, and school at Grantham. Marriage in Second World War in London; divorce and remarriage, to finally settle in Devon. Energetically written.

ELIZABETHAN LINCOLN by Clive Hardy;
Lincolnshire Echo, Brayford Wharf
East, Lincoln, LN5 7AF; ISBN 1 904038
05 0; £4.95

Evocative and historical pictorial record of fifty golden years – around the city (in all weathers) and across the rooftops, rock and roll and elephants in the High Street, trains and boats, around the outskirts, armed services connections, and a selection of colour memories.

SHIPPING IN THE HUMBER: THE SOUTH BANK by Mike Taylor; Tempus Publishing,
The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos,
GL5 2QG; ISBN 0 7524 2780 6; £19.99

First-class collection of photographs (more than 150 with some emphasis on sloops and barges) with extended, detailed and interesting captions. Covers Louth and Ancholme Navigations, Grimsby and Immingham Docks, Barton and Barrow Havens, New Holland and up river from Humber Bridge.