



Book of the month

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN KESTEVEN

by Dennis Mills, Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire,
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ISBN 978 0 948639 47 0 £4.99

LINCOLNSHIRE'S TOP TEN

1. *History of Lincoln* - Richard Gurnham
ISBN 9781860775512
2. *Bygone Lincoln 3* (dvd)
3. *Uphill Lincoln 1* - Andrew Walker
ISBN 9780953865048
4. *Aspects of Lincoln* - Andrew Walker
ISBN 9781903425046
5. *Bygone Lincoln 2* (dvd)
6. *Lincoln's Allotments* - Geoff Tann
ISBN 9780953865024
7. *Big Skies Over Lincolnshire* -
Peter Washbourn
ISBN 9781859832240
8. *Monk's Road* - Andrew Walker (ed)
ISBN 9780953865017
9. *Bygone Lincoln 1* (dvd)
10. *Hanged at Lincoln* - Stephen Wade
ISBN 9780750951104

Compiled by Waterstone's Lincoln

Who were they? The Knights Templar were formed after the First Crusade and capture of Jerusalem (1096-1099) to protect pilgrims from Saracen attacks, with three classes: chaplains, knights who fought in armour and serving brothers or sergeants. There were five preceptories or estate headquarters in Lincolnshire: Temple Bruer, South Witham, Aslackby and Eagle in Kesteven, and Willoughton (in Lindsey).

Bruer derives from the French for heath, and by the fourteenth century Temple Bruer was the second most wealthy preceptory in England, with more than 4,000 acres donated by local lords. The surviving tower there was built about 1200 and is open to the public.

This new edition about the Templars includes descriptions of buildings, how the estates were run and what happened to them at the Dissolution by Henry VIII. There are also accounts of the sites at East Mere and South Witham (excavated in 1967-68) and Eagle Hall, and discussion of their sheep farming and the routes they travelled, noting that most sites were near the Roman Ermine Street.

Of particular interest are the maps, engravings, photographs and artists' reconstructions of the layout of preceptories and farms. The whole publication is clear evidence of the status of Lincolnshire, and Kesteven in particular, in the life and activities of the Knights Templar.

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

- *Lincoln's Allotments: A History* by Geoff Tann
ISBN 978 0 95328650 2 4; £5.99

Allotment gardens were an important source of food for those living in terrace houses. They date from about 1884 (although no mention of the 1887 Allotments Act), some eighty sites identified and nineteen still in use. Story of their development, the role of the Corporation and importance in two world wars and depression between, collecting horse dung from streets, allotment holders' associations, annual shows and prizes, evening classes by Workers' Educational Association, losses to building and new sites, and changing styles with flowers and shrubberies and wildlife friendly plots. Still active and with waiting lists. Illustrated.

- *Lincoln's West End: A History* by Andrew Walker
ISBN 978 0 8650 3 2; £5.95

Survey of Lincoln, City of Lincoln Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1DF
Lincoln's West End is fourth in the Survey series, with aspects covered by fourteen authors: archaeology, Anglo-Saxon and medieval, spread of suburbia and churches and chapels, industries including brewing, brickmaking, timber and modern high-tec (e.g. microwave), animal houses (horse stables), the Depot (military storehouse), the racecourse and golf on the Common, the 1907 Royal Show and WW1 Number Four Aircraft Acceptance Park. Plus chapter on contemporary change and challenge. Much new information. Illustrated with maps and photographs.