



Book of the month

BALLOONS, BLÉRIOTS AND BARNSTORMERS

by *Alastair Goodrum*

*The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port,
Stroud, Glos GL5 2QG*

ISBN 978 0 7524 4516 8 £17.99

LINCOLNSHIRE'S TOP TEN

1. Pitkin City Guide to Lincoln - John McIlwain
2. Hauntings in Lincolnshire - Stephen Wade
3. Lost Railways of Lincolnshire - Alan Stennett
4. Pathfinder Walking Guide: Lincolnshire and the Wolds - Brian Conduit
5. Portrait of Lincoln - Janet Roworth
6. Lincoln: Pictorial History - Anne Yeates-Langley
7. Nobbut a Yellerbelly - Alan Stennett
8. Bomber County - T.N. Hancock
9. Oldest Young Farmer - Reg Dobbs
10. Mysterious Lincolnshire - Daniel Codd

Compiled by Waterstone's Lincoln

This book covers 200 years of flying for fun in the East Midlands, starting with coal gas filled balloons where often ascents were made to celebrate the opening of a new gas works. That at Louth in August 1826 was written up with other examples of ballooning in Lincolnshire in a double feature in this magazine in 1971. The aeronaut then and for other Lincolnshire ascents was Charles Green, followed by Richard Gypson and Auguste Gaudron. Here are accounts of ascents from south Lincolnshire towns and descents in Lincolnshire from other venues. Also parachuting from balloons (dangerous), the Gordon Bennett balloon race from Paris in 1906 when one reached New Holland on the Humber: the days of showmen, doing it for money.

Similarly when it came to

heavier than air flight, starting with William Ewen's tour of eastern England in 1912 in a distinctly flimsy looking biplane. On then to B C Hucks at Stamford, Spalding, Boston, Skegness, Sleaford and Lincoln. After the Great War came the barnstormers, pleasure flights from the beach at Skegness and Cleethorpes, and aerobatics (stunt flying) by Alan Cobham. A dated list of air shows in the 1930s includes Empire Air Days at Cranwell and Digby. There is also a chapter covering post-war activities, including autogiros and the Flying Flea.

This contains many detailed and fascinating accounts and a splendid collection of illustrations, adding up to a history of recreational flying in eastern England and a must for aviation enthusiasts. (DNR)

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

• *The Spalding Bird Museum* by Rex Merchant
Available from author, 89 West Rd, Oakham LE15 6LT
ISBN 978 1 9024 7420 5 £15
Story of Ashley Maples, Spalding solicitor and keen naturalist and President of Spalding Gentleman's Society until his death in 1950. His collection of over 2000 British and foreign birds was presented to the Society in 1934. Also personal recollections of Ben Waltham taxidermist to the collection from 1923 to 1969. Full lists of birds. Illustrated.

• *Raithby Old Church Yard* by Dennis Armstrong
Published privately, available in local bookshops
ISBN 978 0 9551 2943 1 £10
A remarkable and dedicated act of research, modestly described as a collection of facts, impressions, information and probabilities. What emerges is an illustrated history trail leading down a green lane south from Raithby by Spilsby to a little triangle of family land known from the seventeenth century as the Old Church Yard (and more recently as the Quaker Burial Ground) which takes one back to the Norman Taillebois or Tailboys family. And the site has been cleared and restored.