

Letters to the editor

► *Bracebridge Branch library*

Having read Maureen Sutton's article about public libraries which appeared in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life', I am sure there will be several people who remember a library in Bracebridge, way before 1946.

It was a wooden structure in the corner of the playground of the old junior school, right opposite the old post office and Mr Pyle's field. I think I must have still been in the junior school when I was still a member and I think it was a Mr Townsend who was in charge.

We had green junior tickets as opposed to the red senior tickets and occasionally the aforesaid gentleman would let us get books out of the senior section.....not usually allowed.

I can't remember when it closed. I was still a member when the new one opened, but whether there was a time lapse in between escapes me. I have to say, I was also a member of Boots library, but that was much later.

I read your magazine with much interest and find many things to remind me of the Lincoln I grew up in.

Beryl Crack, via email.

► *Robert Broughton of Lincoln*

During the First World War my father's best friend was Robert Broughton (Bob). They were both bombardiers in the 86th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, which was at the siege of Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, now Iraq, which lasted five months from 7th December, 1915, to 28th April, 1916, when my father, Charles Arlet, was captured by the Turks and became a prisoner of war. Sadly Robert died there on 25th April, aged twenty-nine.

He was the son of Ann Broughton of 104 Mill Road, Lincoln, and the late William Binge Broughton (born in Chesterfield). I often wonder if any of the Broughton family are still alive but see from my research that William and Ann had already lost a son, Albert Sowter Broughton, aged nineteen, on 23rd October, 1915, so William, their father, had obviously died between that date and the date of Robert's death. This means that within six months Ann had lost two sons and her husband - how desolate she must have been and there must have been many others like her; I don't know if she had

other sons or daughters. I also see that a P Broughton of the 6th Battalion The Royal North Lancashire Regiment who died on 25th July, 1916 is buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, but as it does not mention the name of his parents, I don't know if he was any relation.

Robert's younger brother, Albert, who was in the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery in France and Robert in the Kut War Cemetery, Iraq.

If there are any descendants of this family I would like them to know that Robert's name lives on in our family - my younger brother was baptised Joseph Robert but was always called Bob and our eldest grandson, now fifteen, is named Daniel Robert.

Margaret Timms, daughter of Charles Alfred Arlet, Guernsey.

► *The Boots Library*

Further to Maureen Sutton's article on public libraries on the 'A century of memories' page in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life', the Boots library was indeed a joy to use and visit.

There were two grades of membership - 'A' and 'B'. 'B' entitled you to borrow a book from the shelves: 'A' enabled you to have any book ordered on your behalf. Membership was signified by a long pennant-like bookmark, inscribed in Copperplate script 'Boots Library' on a string that slotted into the cover of the book borrowed.

Maureen Sutton mentions 'the café'. Tut Tut, it was a restaurant with a three or four-piece live orchestra in 'tails' or long dresses almost 'palm court'.

All things have to pass. Down Brant Road our county mobile library has changed from three full days in 1990 to three hours, only, on a Friday.

David A Ashley Hall, Lincoln.

► *Letters from Betjeman*

I was interested to see mention in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' of the late Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, whose centenary we celebrate. I remember writing to him back in 1974, when he agreed to be President of the Independent Piers Society, an organisation that predated the National Piers Society (NPS),

founded in 1979. I'm pleased to still have Sir John's replies in my collection.

Then when taking over as NPS Editor for a short time in 1995, I conducted a postal interview with his daughter Candida Lycett-Green, which subsequently appeared in our journal.

A talented man, whose birth is certainly worth noting.

Tim Mickleburgh, Grimsby.

► *The Wagoners' memorial*

Further to the letter from H A Hooton which appeared in the August edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' I have no knowledge of a Lincolnshire Wagoners' memorial but was recently in Yorkshire where there is such a memorial alongside Sledmere House on the B1252. The present owner of the house is Sir Tatton Sykes, and the memorial was designed by Colonel Mark Sykes but built after his death to commemorate the contribution made by wagoners to the British army in the First World War. It signifies the importance of horses in that particular period when the development and application of the internal combustion engine was only at its threshold.

Alwyn Wardley,
New Waltham, Grimsby.

► *Discovering Lincolnshire*

We have just been introduced to your magazine while on a visit to Lincoln. We picked up a copy in our hotel and were delighted to find that it gave us so many ideas about places of interest and illustrated so well just how diverse the county of Lincolnshire is. We had a trip to beautiful Louth, visited the new museum and made sure that we found the Guildhall in Lincoln to see their treasures.

Keep up the good work because you produce a lovely magazine that is a credit to Lincolnshire.

Mrs Clarke, Guernsey

If you would like to contribute to this page please address your letters to: The Editor, Lincolnshire Life, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln, LN6 3PW or email us on editorial@lincolnshirelife.co.uk For more information about 'Lincolnshire Life' visit our website on www.lincolnshirelife.co.uk