

## Autumn 2013 Newsletter

### Summer activities

We have enjoyed one of our busiest summers, and, apart from a rainy night for our June meeting, have been favoured with good weather. Thanks to the Committee for all their work behind and in front of the scenes. In the photograph, right, Dr Charles Kelham from Doncaster Archives shows a visitor to the Local History Fair at Tickhill Library some of the material about Tickhill held in the Archives.



### Our committee

Lorna Payne has stepped down from the Committee with our thanks for all her work. Fortunately Lorna will still be able to help with the Society's activities. See the AGM Agenda on page 4 of the Newsletter with a request for a volunteer to join the Committee. Also on page 4 is Sally Tyas's Chairman's Report.

### The next Occasional Paper



'*Horace Brown MM: A First World War Hero and a Lifelong Friendship*' will be published in October. Tickhill man, Corporal Brown, shown left, saved the life of his commanding officer, Lt C A Macartney, in 1917 when both were injured by shrapnel from a German shell in a trench east of Ypres. As a result Corporal Brown was awarded the Military Medal. This Paper explores the men's very different backgrounds, wartime experiences and subsequent careers as well as their reunions in Tickhill in 1957 and 1967 before including letters sent to Horace by Aylmer Macartney over nearly 50 years. The letters are a unique historical resource reflecting an unlikely friendship between an Oxford academic and a banks-man at Maltby pit. They also give insights into the challenges facing Europe after the War.

### 'Men from the Ministry: How Britain saved its heritage' (Yale University Press)

It is 100 years since an Act of Parliament set up the forerunner of the Ministry of Works to protect ancient monuments. In this book, published in 2013, Simon Thurley shows how ruined monasteries, castles and much earlier sites were saved from further deterioration by state intervention. The impetus for the Act was an outcry about the threatened destruction of Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire. Yorkshire monuments were among the earliest acquisitions such as Rievaulx Abbey which had 'long stood in a neglected state' and which was taken into guardianship in 1917. Soon after the First World War Whitby Abbey and Scarborough Castle, both damaged in the 1914 German bombardment, were transferred to the Ancient Monuments Department so that they could be repaired. The story stops in 1982 when English Heritage came into being by which time more than 880 buildings and monuments were in state care.

### British Association for Local History

The Society is a member of this organisation. One of the benefits is that we receive copies of its publications *The Local Historian* and *Local History News* which are placed in the Society's Archive. Information about these publications and the whole range of BALH's activities can be found on its website <<http://www.balh.co.uk>>.

Among the websites BALH mentioned this year is the following: <[www.englishimmigrants.com](http://www.englishimmigrants.com)>. This website looks at immigrants during 1330-1550. It is possible to see immigration patterns in counties; the West Riding, for example, became home to people from France, Scotland and, more unusually, Iceland. Another article, by WRVS Archivist Matthew McMurray, explains that the WVS/WRVS archives have some 450,000 reports from 1938-1996 written by organisers in over 2,000 centres. See <[archive@wrvs.org.uk](mailto:archive@wrvs.org.uk)>. BALH also publishes monographs, the latest being on researching war memorials. Thanks to John Cowie, Tickhill's War Memorial has been fully researched - see our website.

### Family and Local History Extravaganza

This will take place on Saturday, 21 September, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Doncaster College for the Deaf. There will be plenty of stalls run by family and local history societies and three talks including one on DNA for family history. Drop in if you would like a break from Tfest 2013. Admission £2, free parking, refreshments available all day.

## AGENDA FOR AGM, 19<sup>TH</sup> September, 2013.

1. Chairman's Report.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Officers and Committee 2013/14 – **No changes.**  
**Currently we have one vacancy on the Committee.**
4. Membership Subscriptions and Meeting Fees 2013/14 – **No changes.**
5. AOB: Members wishing to raise any other items to inform Dorothy Bradley (752429) by 31<sup>st</sup> September, for discussion at a future meeting.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The society has enjoyed another successful year, we continue to recruit members and hope they enjoy all the activities that are planned for the year ahead.

The meetings have been diverse, ranging from the frankly funny of Joanne Brunt's "Can we afford the Doctor?" to the erudite lecture of Dr.Phil Judkins on "Richard of York", and Malin Holst's dissertation on local bones.

Numbers of members have visited Limestone Hill Farm and Imelda and Duncan Dewar have kindly shown groups around the newly restored watermill.

The organised summer outing to Wentworth Woodhouse, on a beautiful summer day whetted appetites for another visit in the future – maybe after more restoration following the hoped for compensation monies. Also, a guided walk around Tickhill was well supported and enjoyed.

Hazel Moffat continues to produce excellent Occasional Papers, for which we are very appreciative, and the Dewars have written about their Mill restoration.

The Society Archive is available to members by request and additional material has been catalogued. The website grows and is frequently used, and we have had visitors to the village and our meetings as a result. Both these resources will increase in importance as more people become technology wise.

Financially the Society is sound and although lecture fees continue to increase – mainly because of transport costs – the Treasurer and Committee feel there is no need to increase the membership subscriptions.

However, there is a new book in the pipeline which will incur publishing costs. This is to be a high quality edition that we hope will educate and interest future generations.

The Society has a strong Committee and I would like to thank them for their support over the last year. Thank you to Carol Hill, Linda Mayes and Hazel Moffat, who continue to contribute and to you, the Members.

Without you, there would not be a History Society, so please keep coming!