

Spring 2014 Newsletter

News

Recent talks

One of our largest audiences ever turned out in January for David Templeman's welcome return when he gave a first-rate presentation on Mary Queen of Scots' final journey to her execution. Another large audience found Peter Young's auctioneer's tales thoroughly entertaining. Peter drew on his work at a Retford-based auctioneers, which included selling goods for local farmers, one of whom was very surprised at the money made by ceramic models of cattle, far more profitable than the real thing. See the Snippets section of the website for other accounts of auctions . see under Libraries and Property Market early 20thC.

Summer visit

Dorothy Bradley will give details of the summer visit at the April meeting.

Occasional Papers

Thank you to all who have bought copies of our Occasional Papers and who have helped in their production and sale. Sales have now passed 2,000. Your support for this venture is greatly appreciated, as is the help given by Linda Mayes and colleagues who sell the Papers at KSM Card Gallery, Castlegate. Let us know if there are any topics you would like covered in future Papers and if you would like to help in their research. The next Paper will be on 'Tickhill in the Second World War' written by Carol Hill and due for publication in early 2015.

Websites dealing with the First World War

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww1>

Among the interactive themes on this website are 'How many survived the trenches', 'How 12 million letters a week reached the front', 'How the war changed life for women' and 'How the war nearly bankrupted Britain'. The themes include video commentaries (also available as transcripts), statistics and diagrams, photographs and multiple choice options (for example, to select which messages from the front were not allowed). Stories can also be searched by location. Overall, a wide range of topics is covered in this informative and well-presented website.

<http://www.1914.org/>

The Imperial War Museum is leading the First World War Centenary partnership and through this website provides details of global events as well as online resources. The 'research resources' section has links to museums around the world with World War One archive material. The 'family history section' is being developed and invites people to share their family memories of wartime.

<http://www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk>

Another new website where the Council for British Archaeology hopes to record the physical remains of the home front, from practice trenches used for training troops to surviving buildings. The site offers a recording toolkit to help in the sharing of the home front legacy.

The weather 200 years ago



January to March 1814 was the third coldest winter ever recorded (after 1684 and 1740). It was in 1814 that the last Frost Fair was held on the frozen Thames, between Blackfriars and London Bridge. From 1-4 February the Fair had stalls, children's swings, dancing and gambling dens while a sheep was roasted and sold as 'Lapland mutton'.

In Yorkshire, the severity of the frost prevented travelling on rivers and canals connected with the Humber. Many roads were blocked by snow. However, coaches carrying mails were able to reach their destinations. All postmasters were sent instructions to apply to parish overseers and surveyors of highways 'to employ all means in their power to make the roads passable for carriages with as little delay as

possible'. The cold weather lasted well into March.

DDHA History Fair

This is advance notice that Doncaster & District Heritage Association will hold a History Fair on Saturday, 17 May, at Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry is free. Our Society will have a stand along with many other local history societies. There is always plenty of material to interest you at these Fairs.