

News

Talks in January and February

Overcoming several challenges at the January meeting, Amy Downes was able to give her talk thanks to the help of her husband, Ian Downes, and a borrowed computer. Among the interesting range of local finds is a cloisonné brooch, right, 25.9mm in diameter dating from the 10th or 11th Century and found in the Dadesley area. Its design with blue, turquoise, yellow and cream enamel can be appreciated today. Amy's records of small finds can be seen at website <http://finds.org.uk/contacts/staff/profile/id/68>. Tony Barber's detailed knowledge of the history of the St Leger and his dry sense of humour were highlights at our February meeting. Tony received plenty of feedback from the audience about local connections with the St Leger, not least the 1826 winner, Tarrare, bred at the Stud Farm here; an inn in the Market Place was even named in honour of the horse.



The Fitzwilliam Tomb in St Mary's Church



An Occasional Paper on the Fitzwilliam Tomb, written by Hazel Horrigan, is now published. Here is an extraordinary story of detective work, conservation and the skills of a master mason as this fine example of an alabaster tomb chest was dismantled then moved to its third location in St Mary's Church. The Paper outlines, for example, who the Fitzwilliams were, their close links with the Court of Henry VIII, what the condition of the bones inside the tomb revealed, and how missing sections of the cornice were replaced. The Paper is on sale at KSM Card Gallery, price £2. All profits from the Paper's sale will go to the upkeep of the historic fabric at St Mary's. The carving on this magnificent memorial can be compared with a much simpler memorial slab in St Luke's Chapel.

Examples of anniversaries in 2015

This year sees significant anniversaries of several historic events. In January the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill (part of the State Funeral procession shown, right, which many watched on TV) and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau were commemorated. Other anniversaries recall the following events:

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| Viking invasion of England by Cnut in 1015 | Battle of Waterloo 18 June 1815 |
| Magna Carta 1215                           | VE Day 8 May 1945               |
| Battle of Agincourt 15 October 1415        | VJ Day 15 August 1945           |



## **A new website**

Launched in February 2015, website [www.englishimmigrants.com](http://www.englishimmigrants.com) is the result of a collaboration between the Universities of Sheffield and York and the National Archives to make available data on immigration from 1330 to 1550. It draws on oaths of loyalty to the English Crown and on tax accounts after parliament decided in 1440 to tax all aliens living in the realm. Two men living in Tickhill in 1440 were immigrants, both from France: Peter Francheman, a servant to Richard Smyth and John Dowe, a labourer. Another French labourer, John Gerarde, lived in Wadworth at the same time. In England as a whole an estimated one person in every hundred was a foreigner, coming mainly from France and Scotland.

## **A cautionary note**

Occasionally even reliable databases can have the wrong information. This has happened in the case of the Revd T F Twigge, Vicar of Tickhill 1784-1821 who featured in an endnote 'Nepotism in action' in Newsletter No. 29 in 2011. A database for Church of England clergy had the Revd Twigge as Vicar of St Stephen's, Coleman Street, London, in addition to his Tickhill post and so this was interpreted as a case of pluralism. It now seems that the database confused two clergymen: the Revd T F Twigge and the Revd T Twigg, the latter being Vicar of St Stephen's and not our Revd T F Twigge. This confusion was discovered by Carol Lloyd, a descendant of the latter's half-brother Nicholas Twigg, who took up the investigation after reading the Society's website. Even though the Revd T F Twigge was not a pluralist he still managed to be absent from services in his later years in Tickhill relying on others to conduct many marriages and burials. His tenure was secure because the living was held by his uncle Francis Ferand Foljambe.