

**Autumn programme**



Our autumn programme had a wonderful start when the Doncaster Waites, (Norma Sharp, Lynn & Ray Harvey and Andrea & Roger Offord) shown here with just a small selection of their instruments, entertained us with many pieces of early music. In all, a delightful evocation of our musical past. Roger Offord's research into the history of the Doncaster Waites can be found at website: <[townwaits.org.uk/history\\_doncaster.shtml](http://townwaits.org.uk/history_doncaster.shtml)>



Thanks to Lesley Nicholson for the photographs of some of the memorials seen on the Society's visit to the National Memorial Arboretum on the morning of 11 October, and the photograph of Lesley Smith as Nell Gwyn at Tutbury Castle visited in the afternoon. Thanks to Rosemary Lea for arranging a most successful visit.

At our October meeting Jane Price recounted her amusing experiences as a funeral celebrant, while in November Matthew Morris, lead archaeologist, enlightened us about the discovery and identification of Richard III's remains in Leicester. Analysis of the skeleton even revealed Richard III's diet and the way this changed in the two years that he was king with access to a wide range of wild fowl, fish and imported wine. Matthew also mentioned a free online course provided by the University of Leicester about the discovery of Richard III's grave and background to 15<sup>th</sup> Century England. See website <[www.futurelearn.com/courses/england-of-richard-third](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/england-of-richard-third)>. The year finished with members enjoying a most pleasant social occasion in December – good food from Eatons and the Deli and David Bostwick explaining how Christmas customs derive from or are similar to older rituals some going as far back as antiquity.

**Committee news**

At the brief AGM in October Lesley Nicholson distributed her Chair's report along with the Treasurer's report. The Society is in good heart with 176 members joining over the past year. There are no changes to the Committee. The Committee has decided to make £500 grants from the Society towards the cost of the new History Information Board, right, and the Tower Appeal.



**Website news**

Steve Payne writes that the website has continued to attract interest and people have sent in materials and photographs and contribute to our archives. Our Gallery of photographs has been viewed 1.5 million times; many

helpful annotations and photographs have been added. A major project is underway to develop a new website which will have a more up to date look, will be much easier to navigate and more easily searched. We hope to have it operational by the middle of 2019.

### **New Occasional Paper**

Thanks to Denis Heeley, a resident of Tickhill since the 1980s, we have a most interesting new Occasional Paper based on Denis's memories of life as a teenager in WW2 when he lived in Harthill before becoming a student at the University of Sheffield. The Paper also includes details of visits Denis made with his late wife, Joan, to WW2 sites from the north of Norway to Malaysia and Thailand. Denis's vivid recollections are accompanied by a good selection of illustrations. The Paper is on sale at our meetings and at Castlegate Cards price £2.

The snippets section has the following items from the Newsletter:

- History in a hedgerow at Apy Hill Lane
- A curious will
- Tickhill Castle motte
- Local dialects

