

Winter 2015 Newsletter

News

Activities October-December

With the simplest of visual aids - a diagram on a flip chart - Lloyd Powell gave a most knowledgeable and humorous talk on the history of Tickhill Castle which kept the large audience enthralled at the October meeting. In November we



welcomed Valerie Oxley and Julia Colver, left, for their fascinating presentation on Amelia Staniforth's Journal, a remarkable survival from the 18th Century with its insights into the Staniforth family's life at Firbeck Hall. The autumn programme ended when 77 members met at the Millstone for the annual Pies, Peas and Puds evening. Following the meal our guest speaker, Andrew Firth, took us on a 'Slide Show' amble through Yorkshire and Derbyshire in wintertime highlighting Christmas traditions which still survive in both towns and villages.



The evening concluded with a Christmas Draw raising over £100 which was donated to the Bluebell Wood Hospice via Molly at the Millstone. Our Society's tree, one of some 40 in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, had as its theme the first Christmas in the trenches in 1914 with, for example, a football, slab of chocolate and a replica of a card sent to all the troops with the message 'With best wishes for a victorious New Year from The Princess Mary and friends at home'.

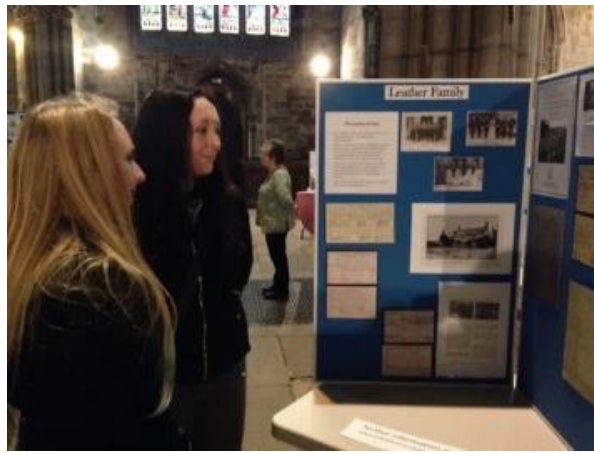


Also in December Clare Carr, left, presented a copy of *Tickhill - discover its past* to the children of Estfeld School on behalf of Ultimate Bathrooms. David Walters presented copies of *Treasures of Tickhill*. Diane Ridley, the Head, was delighted and said both publications would be very useful in helping children appreciate their local heritage. Our Society devised a Christmas Quiz about historic Tickhill sponsored by Ultimate Bathrooms - thanks to KSM for selling the quiz sheets, each winner receiving a copy of *Tickhill - discover its past*. The deadline for receiving quiz sheets has been extended to the end of January.

Website news

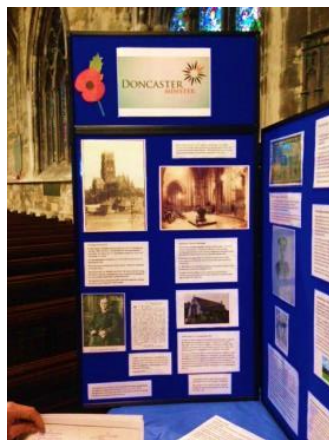
Our new website can be accessed directly at <www.tickhilldiscoveritspast.org.uk> or via The Book section on our main website. Material is being added to this new website under the chapter headings of *Tickhill - discover its past*. At present this is mainly research undertaken for the book. For example, under the Local Government heading you can read John Hoare's notes on the minutes of Tickhill Local Board and its successor body Tickhill Urban District Council. As John states, the Council's work was comprehensive and their duties performed conscientiously and with distinction. Related to the Education Chapter are many details compiled by Peter Welch and Dorothy Bradley from the local schools' log books - well worth browsing. As well as setting up the new website, Steve Payne has analysed the use of our main website: there were 123,261 individual visitors last year. Since the site was set up the photographs in the Gallery section have been viewed 748,447 times and all the other pages are being read regularly, including the War Memorial pages, photo topics, snippets, living memories and news.

Doncaster 1914-1918 project



Our Society was represented at the launch of the Doncaster 1914-18 project in Doncaster Minster on 8 November by Lesley Nicholson who took examples of material about Tickhill in WW1, both the men who fought and life on the Home Front. In spite of awful weather a good number of people attended the event. Lesley took the photographs, left, of visitors to the TDLHS stand and of two re-enactors who performed in the Minster.

Photographs below show some other stands and buglers playing the last post.



The Book of the Poppy

How was it that an American woman, Moina Michael, inspired by Canadian John McCrae's 1915 poem beginning 'In Flanders fields the poppies blow', instigated the idea of the Remembrance Poppy becoming a national commemorative symbol in many countries after WW1? Why did The British Legion launch the first Poppy Day appeal in 1921? Answers to these questions and much more information can be found in *The Book of the Poppy* by Chris McNab published by The History Press in 2014. McNab draws on a range of sources from eye witness accounts and poems to statistics covering conflicts from WW1 to recent times, all in a compact 160 pages.