

News

Autumn programme

A popular folk hero with local connections gave our autumn programme of talks a fine start thanks to Janet Niepokojczycka's presentation on Robin Hood. Robin Hood's merry men were not the only outlaws to roam around these parts - see the back page of the Newsletter for reference to the Coterel gang. At the October meeting Michael Davidson regaled us with what he saw as a butler working at Buckingham Palace and Clarence House before heading to the USA and most luxurious working conditions. The shocking details of the Jack the Ripper murders along with the difficulties the police then faced in solving the crimes were the focus of the November meeting which ended with Alan Hancock pointing to another likely suspect. Our Christmas gathering at the Millstone was as convivial as ever with the added bonus of a presentation from Lloyd Powell about a pagan Christmas.

Committee News

At the AGM, one of the speediest we have had, Lesley Nicholson paid particular tribute to David Walters, who has resigned from the Committee after sterling service on it since the Society was formed, and to Steve Payne and Peter Welch who have helped the Society to flourish in many ways. All three have been made honorary members of the Society. Lesley's Chair's report is now on our main website. Three new members have joined the Committee and are warmly welcomed: Rosemary Lea, Peter Moody and Bridget O'Malley.

Website news

Steve Payne writes: The main website continues to attract a great deal of attention. The photos in the Gallery have now been viewed a total just short of 936,000 times. Lots of people have added helpful annotations to the photos identifying individuals, places and events. Several people have contacted the Society in response to material on the website and in our book 'Tickhill - discover its past' which has led to our acquiring some old photos we have not seen before as well as some additional information about aspects of Tickhill's history some of which will be added to the book's website.



My War: from Tickhill to Westphalia

Cynthia Coll née Hill grew up in Roland House by the Mill Dam and was 16 when WW2 began. Her account of the war years has now been published as Occasional Paper No. 23. Cynthia describes her first job working in the local Food Office, the impact of the war on her family and the community including good times and great sadness as news of war casualties arrived. She surprised her family and friends by deciding to work for the NAAFI as a clerk and being posted to France where she celebrated VE Day, then to Brussels and finally to Germany. Her account is written with great style and illustrated with her photographs - a most welcome addition to our knowledge of the war years. The Paper is on sale at our meetings and at KSM, price £2.

Great medieval bake off

The British Library has posted a series of blogs based on its collection of medieval manuscripts. One of the blogs, prepared by Becky Lawton, focuses on the preparation of food, in particular baking. Bakers are shown putting loaves in communal bread ovens, even suffering punishment for selling loaves of poor quality or underweight (being dragged through streets on a horse drawn hurdle with the offending loaf hanging round the baker's neck in one picture, being hanged in another). Some of the illustrations are in the margins of manuscripts, like those in the Luttrell Psalter. A charming 14th Century illustration has a rabbit baking its bread in a miniature oven. A cookbook recently discovered in the British Library has recipes for cooking hedgehogs, blackbirds and, curiously, unicorns. See [bl.uk/.../2016/08/the-great-medieval-bake-off.html](https://www.bl.uk/.../2016/08/the-great-medieval-bake-off.html)

Destructive December weather in 1825

On 14 December 1825 at 9 p.m. a severe thunderstorm with much lightning and torrential rain hit Tickhill. Lightning tore away one of the pinnacles on the church tower which fell to the roof forcing large stones to fall which in turn carried away one of the doors and broke many windows. No people were injured but 14 sheep at Spittal Hill were killed by lightning. This dramatic storm was not only reported in the *Yorkshire Gazette* but in newspapers as far away as Inverness, Chester and London.

We are so sorry to note the death of our long-standing committee member John Millington who did so much for the Society including working as archivist and most recently liaising with Dennis Walker to produce the Occasional Paper 'A Wadworth Childhood'. On behalf of the Society we send our sincere condolences to Margaret and family.