



# Tickhill & District Local History Society Newsletter

Issue No. 41 Summer 2014

*10th Anniversary Edition*

[www.tickhillhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.tickhillhistorysociety.org.uk)

In May 2004 an inaugural meeting was held at the Tithes Lane Pavilion to see whether there would be support for a local history society. The general response was most supportive. By the autumn over 60 people had joined Tickhill & District Local History Society and a regular programme of meetings began. This issue of the Newsletter celebrates a decade in the life of the Society and looks forward to new ventures in the months ahead.

## Some of the landmarks in the past decade:

- ✚ Arranged many talks and Christmas socials
- ✚ Created an Archive
- ✚ Researched a great deal of Tickhill's past
- ✚ Recorded Living Memories
- ✚ Produced a variety of publications
- ✚ Organised summer visits and tours of historic Tickhill
- ✚ Worked with local schools and the Scouts
- ✚ Given illustrated talks to local groups about Tickhill's history
- ✚ Contributed funds to preserve the local historic environment
- ✚ Exhibited our material at Local History Fairs, Tickhill Library and the Gala
- ✚ Recruited over 160 members
- ✚ Been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding to digitise thousands of photographs and create a website which has made much of our work and resources available to a world-wide audience

## Our efforts continue with the following in the pipeline:

- ✚ The Society will have a stand at the Doncaster & District Heritage Association Local History Fair at Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, on 17 May from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is part of the Doncaster Heritage Festival. More details can be found on website <<http://library.doncaster.gov.uk/web/arena/local-history>>.
- ✚ A stand at Tickhill's Gala on 5 July.
- ✚ A summer visit on Thursday, 17 July, will leave from the Methodist Church at 10a.m. The first stop is the 15th Century **Bishop's House**, Norton Lees, the finest example of a black and white timbered building in the area. This is normally open only to school groups, but we have been fortunate enough to get the curator's permission to visit. While one group of 20 goes round, a second group will visit the **Cholera Monument** built to commemorate the 1832 cholera outbreak. The groups will then swop. The third stop is **Wincobank Iron Age Hill Fort** on a steep hill above the River Don. The fourth stop is the **Queen's Head**, Pond Street, a 15th Century pub which was once the summer house of the Castle and used by parties hunting ducks etc on the ponds. You can buy a late lunch, early tea, high tea or a full meal. The cost is £13 if we fill the 49 seater coach. Ring Dorothy Bradley on 752429 to reserve a place if you did not make a booking at the meetings.
- ✚ A World War 1 History Fair at Tickhill Library on Saturday, 26 July, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✚ The Society is to publish a new book on Tickhill's history *Tickhill - discover its past* which will be launched on 18 September, the first meeting of the new season of talks - please note the meeting will start at 7.15 p.m. (see page 4 of the Newsletter for details of the book and the 2014-15 programme).

**Souvenir of some of the Society's activities over the last 10 years**



Far left: first summer visit - to Loversall Church in 2005.

Left: visit to Gainsborough Old Hall in 2010

Below: Linda Mayes at KSM who has sold our publications since 2007



Far left: visit to Sheffield Manor Lodge in 2011

Left: launch of the HLF Project in 2006

Below: group meeting in the Parish Room in 2009 to give details of photographs on the website



Far left: Local History Fair at Tickhill Library in 2012

Left: our stand at the Local History Fair in Doncaster Museum in 2010

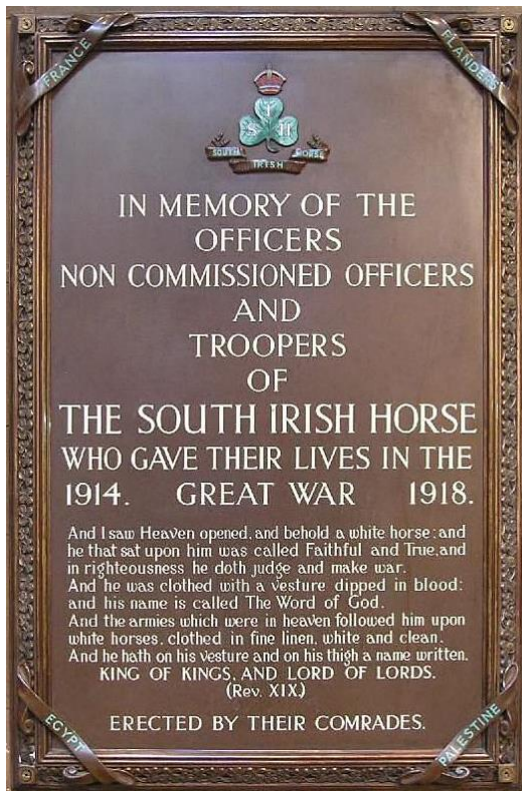
Below: most members of our Committee 2013-14



Above: the start of the walking tour of historic Tickhill in 2013

## The calm before the storm: troops in Sunderland Street during the First World War

Our Newsletters over the past decade have featured various illustrations of local buildings and people, some duplicating old photographs, others based on even older prints or paintings. As this is the centenary year of the outbreak of the First World War, this Newsletter has a photograph from that time. Troops probably either from the Scottish Horse or the South Irish Horse wait with their wagons in front of buildings in Sunderland Street from, on the left, the cottage next to what is now the Evangelical Church to what is now the Scandalo shop on the right.

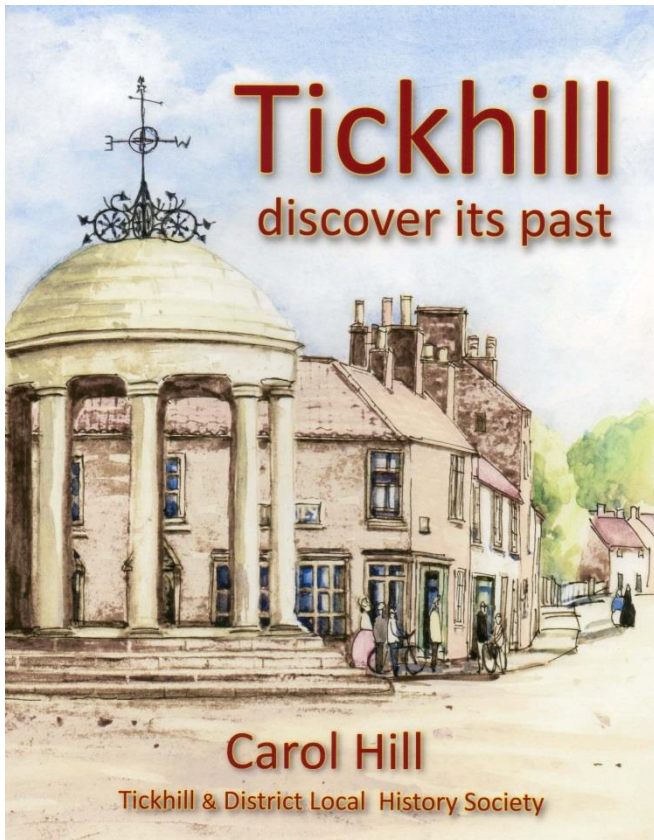


The Scottish Horse stayed in Tickhill briefly before moving out in November 1914. This detachment is likely to have been the 2/1st Scottish Horse on its way to Kettering before moving to Alford in Lincolnshire to defend the East Coast and then back to Scotland when in 1916 they became a cyclist unit.

The South Irish Horse, on the other hand, after staying in Tickhill over the 1914-15 winter, were deployed to France, where in 1917 they were retrained as infantry. Some 30 were killed in action or died of their wounds by the end of December 1917 and many more were killed or captured in the following spring during the German *Kaiserschlacht* offensive: 'not a man succeeded in escaping'. The South Irish Horse were disbanded in 1922 following the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Their colours, along with those of other disbanded regiments, were received by King George V then laid up in Windsor Castle.

Attitudes towards those Irish people who fought in the First World War have changed in the Republic of Ireland, where the first official commemoration for the Irish dead of the War did not take place until 2006, the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

The memorial plaque, left, was placed in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.



## Book Launch

The Society's book, *Tickhill - discover its past*, will be launched at the first meeting of the new session on Thursday, 18 September. The whole evening will be given over to the launch so the AGM has been postponed to October. As well as a talk by Carol Hill, the book's author, there will be a free buffet of tasty bits and soft drinks. Invited guests will include Lord and Lady Scarbrough and the many people who have sponsored the book to help offset the publication cost. Our grateful thanks go to all those members and non-members who have given their generous support.

It would help to streamline the event if members would **purchase copies and renew memberships before the launch evening. Lesley will be happy to take pre-payments and renew membership subscriptions in the Library but only up to 18 July** when the Library will become a Community Library run by volunteers. Please help us (and your queue hating selves!) by taking advantage of this opportunity.

Members are entitled to 2 copies each at £15 per copy and extra copies can then be bought at the non-members price of £20. To qualify existing members must renew their membership before 1 January 2015. New members must pay the £6 membership fee on or before the launch

night. All prepayments of the book (and where possible membership subscriptions) made through the Library must be by cheque payable to Tickhill & District Local History Society. Members will be able to collect their copies on the launch night.

We look forward to seeing you on 18 September!

## Contacts for the TDLHS Committee

	Tel.	Email
Sally Tyas (Chair and Archivist)	742847	sallyjtyas@icloud.com
Dorothy Bradley (Secretary and Speaker Finder)	752429	dorothy.bradley@btinternet.com
Graham Rolph (Treasurer)	539055	gvrolph@googlemail.com
John Millington (Presentations and Archivist)	744945	
Lesley Nicholson (Vice Chair and Archivist)	743528	lesley.nicholson@doncaster.gov.uk
Steve Payne (Website Maintenance)	750141	fotowalker-history@talktalk.net
Roger Ranson (Membership Secretary)	743528	
David Walters (Past Chair and Publicity)	742918	dgwalters@talktalk.net
Peter Welch (Equipment)	743140	pete@welchfamily.org

Newsletter compiled by Hazel Moffat  
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## 2014-2015 Programme

18 September 2014 Book Launch (7.15 p.m. start)

16 October 2014 AGM then Lloyd Powell  
*A Short History of Tickhill Castle*

20 November 2014 Valerie Oxley  
*Firbeck Hall: An 18th Century Journal*

11 December 2014 Christmas Social at  
The Millstone with Andrew Firth  
*Christmas in the Dales*

15 January 2015 Amy Downes, Finds Liaison Officer  
*Talk on local finds*

19 February 2015 Tony Barber  
*The History of the St Leger*

19 March 2015 Pat McLaughlin  
*The Castles of South Yorkshire*

16 April 2015 Albert Smith  
*The History of Mystery*

21 May 2015 Malcolm Oxley  
*How to be a Medieval Monk*