

Spring 2016 Newsletter

News

Meetings in January and February

Members were enthralled at the January meeting by Adrian Eccleston's talk on 'The Tsar's bones'. One detail in particular astonished the audience: Tsar Nicholas II's children had an English tutor, Charles Sydney Gibbes, who was born on 19 January 1876 in Rotherham where his father was a bank manager. (Gibbes accompanied the Romanov children to Yekaterinburg where they were murdered with their parents.) February's meeting was as entertaining as the title suggested: 'Knickers - a brief history' was presented with much humour by Janet Stain who brought along her collection of historic underwear.

Wadworth Hall: New Occasional Paper



This is the second time Wadworth has featured in our publications, the first being Dennis Walker's memories of growing up in Wadworth, which can be read on our main website. After looking briefly at the architecture of the Hall, described as 'on a small scale but of the greatest elegance', the Paper outlines the main families who have lived in the Hall up to the 1950s including the Wordsworth family, Leeds merchant Robert Coulman, and Sir Ronald and Lady Vera Matthews. Links with polar explorer Rear Admiral Sir James Clark Ross are explained. The Paper ends with accounts of some indoor and outdoor servants employed by the Hall's families. The Paper is on sale at KSM price £2, thanks to Linda Mayes and colleagues.

Summer visit

Lloyd Powell will lead a day visit to Lincoln on Friday, 10 June. The coach will drop us off at the Cathedral and pick us up at the bottom of the hill in the late afternoon. Places likely to be visited as well as the Cathedral include the Castle where some of the poppies from the Tower of London are on display, and where there is a new walk round the walls. Other attractions include the Victorian Prison and the Archaeology Museum, not to mention 200 independent shops. Please pay £10 to Dorothy Bradley who can provide other details.

Committee News

We are sad to report that Peter Welch has resigned from the committee. Peter was a key founder member of the Society, its first chairman and has been most supportive in a wide range of the Society's work. We are grateful to him for all that he has done.

Animal sculptures

In January Steve Payne was invited to photograph an extraordinary collection of animal sculptures in a Tickhill garden. Two are shown here. It is very likely that the sculptures are the work of Thomas Milnes. Baptised in Tickhill in 1813, Milnes studied at the Royal Academy and became known for his animal sculptures, several being shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Milnes was invited to carve statues of lions for Trafalgar Square. In the end his lions were not accepted and instead were acquired by Sir Titus Salt and installed at Saltaire in 1869. The lions were named Vigilance, Determination, War and Peace.



Digitising old cine films

Steve now has the means of converting old cine films into digital format, and has done so with a cine film about farming with traction engines. It shows a man using a bow to scatter seeds and the use of a traction engine to drive threshing. If you have old cine films showing historic aspects of Tickhill do liaise with Steve about the possibility of digitising them.

Media Archive for Central England

Based at the University of Lincoln, details of this Archive service can be found at <<http://www.macearchive.org>>. The archive holds films, video and digital moving images documenting the culture and history of the Midlands. An advanced search facility enables the 50,000 holdings to be searched for films about nearby places such as Workson and Gainsborough. It is also possible to buy downloads of various compilations, for example, about The Peak District's customs, industries and people in the 20th Century and holidays on the Lincolnshire coast from the 1920s - 1980s.