

West Deeping Heritage Annual Review 2022 – 2023

- The organising Committee gained a new member after last year's AGM. Paul Bragg joined Allan Crowson (Treasurer), Liz Noble, Linda Upson and Maggie Ashcroft (Chairman). We met frequently during the year, amply satisfying the requirement in our constitution to meet at least twice a year! As elections need to take place only every third year, the last one being 2022, we are not due to have another one until 2025. There is still room for a 6th member of the committee, if anyone would like to step forward. Many thanks to all the committee members for their contribution to the running of the group, both behind the scenes and for helping with refreshments and setting up for events.
- A big "thank you" too to Iain and Jean Stowe, who although they are not members of the committee, most often serve refreshments and wash up!
- A review of the group's equipment and the need to update the 12 year-old laptop led to a decision to increase the admission for talks from £2.50 to £3. Our finances are looking in reasonable shape, although there is a considerable amount of saving to do before we can afford a new laptop!
- We continue to vary the times of talks between afternoon and evening events, but due to the availability of the Village Hall we stick to Tuesdays, which we are aware sometimes conflicts with other local groups' arrangements.
- A promotion banner for use at our events was designed by Paul Bragg. Featuring the King Street section of the 1887 Ordnance Survey map for West Deeping and the drawing of a Roman soldier, it was used for the first time in February 2023 for Jim Irvine's talk about the Roman villa discoveries at Ketton. A QR code links directly to the group's website.



- A visit to Collyweston in June 2022 was hosted by Sandra Johnson of Collyweston Historical and Preservation Society. It was so popular that two walks took place, and many of the visitors took the opportunity to have lunch at the Collyweston Slater.



- A programme of Outreach events, by courtesy of Breedon Quarries, involved visits by groups of children from Uffington Church of England Primary School and the youth group from Deeping St James during June, to see the archaeological excavations at the Rectory Farm site in West Deeping. During the summer there were also “Look and Listen” and “Have a go” sessions for families – led by Ian Meadows, Consultant Archaeologist and Simon Savage from PCAS Archaeology.



- West Deeping Heritage has been given a collection of account books by the Baxter family, descendants of William Ackland (the village wheelwright, blacksmith and carpenter between 1904 and the 1960s.) This has inspired an archiving project which started last November and is still going on. A handful of people have gathered in the pub, the Red Lion, for an afternoon of reading through the books, cataloguing and indexing them and picking out the most interesting historical information.



- Members of the committee hosted a visit to St Andrew’s Church in February by a U3A History group, which has prompted another project for the Heritage Group – compiling a new visitors’ guide to the church. As well as a leaflet to take away, a series of information boards is being planned, provided we can get a grant.

We started the season of talks in September with a topic to pay tribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – "Village Celebrations", using our own archives



1950s (?) Parade along King Street, West Deeping



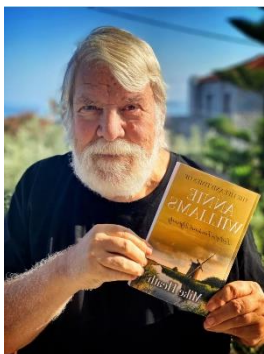
In October – to celebrate Lincolnshire Day – an evening of Lincolnshire Dialect with Far Welter'd - ... and we bought a Lincolnshire flag to display at our talks

In November 2022, "Lords of Misrule and boy bishops" – Medieval Christmas traditions was presented by Chris Carr



In **January** Derek Harris's presentation "A cruise on the cut" was about the architecture and engineering of the British canal system. Derek added some songs about bridges, locks, aqueducts, canal engineers (with plenty of audience participation) and it became a very informative and entertaining show.

February's talk was Jim Irvine's return visit to West Deeping to update us on the most recent discoveries at his father's farm near Ketton following the excavation of a Roman mosaic. This was by far the most popular talk of the season – with every seat taken!



The last talk of the season, in March, was given by author Mike Heath, author of the biography "Last of a fenland dynasty – the life and times of Annie Williams."