



SPILSBY + DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2008

MAY MEETING

With an early first Friday this month, on **2nd May** we welcome as our guest speaker distinguished local BBC broadcaster and writer Allan Stennett to give us an illustrated talk on *Mid-Lincolnshire Railways*. Allan is the author of "*Lost Railways of Lincolnshire*" and also "*Nobbut a Yellerbelly*" and lives in what was once Woodhall Spa railway station!

TABLETOP SALE

From 9.30 to 11.30am on the morning of **Monday 19th May** we are again having a Tabletop Sale in the Methodist Church Schoolroom: same format as the two similar events we held last year which provided such a useful boost to our funds. We again would appreciate any items you have to donate for sale and ask that these either be brought along before 9.30 that morning: if this is not possible please speak to a Committee Member to arrange to pass them on before the day.

JUNE and JULY MEETINGS

The high quality of our speakers this year continues. On 6th June Brenda Webster is coming to give us a talk on Wills, and on 4th July Linda Hotchkiss will talk on "A Paupers Life", which will include the Gables Workhouse and Parish Records. Two meetings not to be missed!

SPILSBY WALK

Following on from her very popular talk on Tennyson's Lincolnshire last month, Jean Howard has very kindly agreed to lead a Spilsby Walk for us on **Thursday 26th June**, starting from the Franklin statue at 10.30pm. Jean is a Blue Badge Guide (and former Curator of Louth Museum) and she will take a group of us at a gentle pace round the lesser-known parts of our town.

The number able to join in the walk - which will take about an hour and a half - has to be limited, and the cost will be £3 per person. This will therefore have to be pre-booked "ticket-only", and payable in advance. If you would like to join the Group please book your place with Janet Gordon as soon as quickly as possible.

OUR SEPTEMBER OPEN DAY

This will be on Saturday 13th September in the Franklin Hall from 10 am - 4p.m.

We are disappointed to have ascertained that the BBC Lincolnshire has indeed been withdrawn "for financial reasons" so we have to look to a new "star-turn". More details will be revealed nearer the time, but at this stage we will merely say "Book Launch (or Launches)"

Janet Gordon is busily finalising arrangement with participant groups and there seems to be a most promising and wide selection of historical displays and exhibitions coming together for the day, some new as well as return visits from some old friends, so please do ensure you all have the date firmly in your diary.

Please note we also do have a meeting earlier in September, on the 5th, when Kevin Harrison will be telling us all about Captain John Smith: another talk not to be missed.

MORE ON SPILSBY'S MILITARY PAST AND THE FRANKLIN HALL

- Before the Territorial Army was born on the 1st April 1908, it was preceded by Militias and Volunteer units.
- The Seventh Spilsby Rifle Volunteer Corps was formed in 1860, with about 100 members. In 1872, J. W. PRESTON was Captain, Geo. WALKER Lieutenant, Robert MacKINDER ensign and Sergeant Thomas WARD drill master.
- In 1889, F Company of the First Volunteer Battalion was here in Spilsby, complete with Drill Hall. Major G. WALKER was Commandant, G. B. WALKER and W. HOFF were lieutenants, Francis John WALKER was acting surgeon and the Rev. Pownoll KENDALL the acting chaplain.
- In 1899, a new Drill Hall was erected in Halton Road, built of red brick. It contained housing for sergeant-instructors.
- In 1912, C Company of the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, was based here. Captain H. S. SCORER was Commandant, Col. Francis John WALKER was medical officer and the drill instructor was Colour Sergeant Wallace COWLING.
- The Territorial Battalions were mobilised in August 1914 and formed part of the regular army throughout Great War.
- Spilby was one of the locations in Lincolnshire where men enlisting in the Great War: at least 58 men who signed up here were later killed in action or died of wounds.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.

Most members have already renewed their membership but anyone who has yet to do so please let Jean Woodward have your payment as soon as possible. £6 for Singles and £10 for Doubles!

WEBSITE

Our own Website, at www.spilsbyhistorysociety.org.uk, continues to grow under Peter Stephenson's guidance, and for those with internet access is well worth visiting periodically to see what is new. Our events programme, newsletters and other items are building up what will be a most useful and informative publicity and contact medium for the Society, so if you have any local history items to share, do pass them on to Peter.