

COMMONWEALTH GRAVES VISIT

Judith Goodall is a local Commonwealth Graves Guide, who with her husband, has carefully researched the official war graves from WW1 and WW2, which are to be found in Retford Cemetery. She is also responsible for more of these “scattered” graves in a total of ten graveyards in the area. “Scattered” in that they are to be found individually among civilian graves, unlike the large war cemeteries elsewhere.



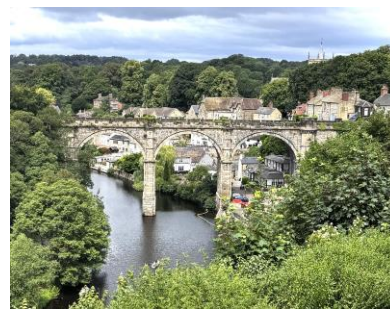
We heard that the headstones can be recognised by the regulation type of stone and the distinctive curved shape of the top. The people, mainly young men buried in Retford, died from their wounds received in battle, sometimes six years later. Some are not from Retford, but were in hospitals nearby.

These are fascinating, moving stories and Judith recounts each one with sincerity and compassion. She led seven appreciative RCS members on a one-hour tour. If you missed out, or you know anyone who would like to join a tour, she will again lead a group on Heritage Open Day, Saturday 12th September at 10.30am. Booking is available on the Commonwealth War Graves website.

KNARESBOROUGH VISIT

Welcomed by coffee, delicious cakes and warm smiles, we were divided into 2 groups to be guided around Knaresborough by pairs of entertaining and very knowledgeable blue badge guides.

The cool breeze - remember that feeling? - in the castle grounds overlooking the River Nidd far below, was a real bonus.



The afternoon was spent exploring the town and we visited the beautiful 12th century Grade 1 listed St John the Baptist Church. Others wandered along the riverside, though I'm not sure any of the members availed themselves of the opportunity to take to the water in a rowing boat! Altogether an excellent day, thank you Joan for your impeccable planning as always; the renowned raffle raised £125.30 for RCS funds.

Lesley Sumner

SUCCESSFUL LITTER PICK AND WEED

There was a great atmosphere as more than 20 members set out to litter pick in Retford on Sunday 20 July. The sun was shining and the light breeze made it ideal conditions for tidying up the town.



A separate group, led by Pam Barnsdale, got together to weed the new planters on Carolgate and Spa Lane. Afterwards, a large number had coffee together at The Bay Tree, sitting out next to the canal. RCS volunteers made a big difference! Thanks to all who took part.