

# LOCAL HISTORY

## *June-July 2022 Newsletter*

April's group meeting was a long postponed visit. Our original date was two weeks before the first Covid lockdown came two years ago. We had arranged our meeting at the Yorkshire Aircraft Museum at Lakeside. It came about from an article in the Doncaster Free Press about the first air show held in the UK which took place at the Doncaster Racecourse in October 1909.

The talk and tour was given by Ian Kingsnorth, a longstanding volunteer at the museum. It included an original poster for the show which listed the various aeroplanes taking part, newspaper accounts of the events and photographs taken at the time. The theme of the show was a competition to fly the full circuit of the St. Leger for a prize of £1,000. Though the event was held over a few days the flight was never achieved.

The organiser of the event was an American one Samuel Cody, a relative of `Buffalo` Bill Cody. Despite attendances of up to 50,000 the show was a financial loss to Doncaster Council of £2,000.

The second part of the talk was a history of RAF Doncaster. Ian recounted many stories of events at the airfield in the first and second world wars when it was home to Spitfires for a short spell.

Some RAF and civilian activities continued after the war, including a glider Club, until it officially closed in 1992.

A short tour of the planes and artifacts followed the talk which was interesting and far too short and several members were planning to revisit the site for a proper tour.

*Mike Bowser*





### December 2019 – January 2020 Newsletter

The Local History group at a very interesting talk by Jim, one of the group, on his life on the buses.

Allen Whittaker

