

## History In Our lifetime

On Thursday 5 March five members gave mini-talks on the theme 'History in Our Lifetime' (aptly entitled for third-agers) to produce what turned out to be a most original and interesting meeting.

Ron Parker started off with his experience in 1957 as a young radio operator on the 140-foot trawler 'Red Crest' (small enough to fit into the transept of Ely Cathedral, see photo) which operated out of Fleetwood. Ron joined the Merchant Navy to see the world, in fact he saw only the sea, trawling up and down the edge of the continental shelf and kept busy boiling up cod livers to make the infamous oil!



Talks by Pat Brandon and David Grey gave us ideas for further interesting recollections to use in future. For Pat it was the 'Introduction of new Technologies', in his case the tape recorder and the unwelcome shock to Pat's great-grandfather when hearing his own voice. David introduced the question 'How did they do that?' with a practical demonstration of how iconic decoration was added to Wedgwood pottery.

Roger Painter was a young police officer when he was on duty in the West End in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He related how for critical hours he was part of a thin blue line separating the protesters in Grosvenor Square from the armed US marines protecting the American Embassy. Among the wealth of other policing stories Roger told an amazing tale about a parrot thief secured in the bear's cage in Linton Zoo. More in keeping with modern times, the thief sued for unlawful imprisonment (but eventually lost the case).

The meeting ended with the touching story of Clint Tweed's seaman father who befriended an injured American after landing up in hospital in the Virgin Islands during World War II. They became great friends. The American's name was Clinton . . .

Peter Lee