

Members were welcomed to the Christmas meeting which was complemented by table full of delicious nibbles!

Mike's 'What happened on this day in Newcastle'

Our meeting began with another interesting story from Mike's 'What happened on this day in Newcastle'. It was another gem.

The York History Weekend

Jackie told us about the fascinating York history weekend she attended, once more. It is always a great weekend with excellent speakers.

Earthrise led by Neil

Neil began the ppt by focusing on the Apollo 8, the first manned mission to orbit the moon. On December 24th 1968, the famous 'Earthrise' picture was taken showing the earth and moon from the space craft.



The Coronation of William I led by Janet

In 1066, Edward the Confessor died then the following king, Harold, died at the Battle of Hastings. William, Duke of Normandy, was to be crowned king in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066. There were shouts of acclaim during the ceremony which the guards mistook for calls of alarm from their colleagues. Following orders, if there was seditious action, the guards set fire to Saxon buildings close to the abbey. Despite rising smoke and the threat of fire in the abbey, William refused to leave until the end of the ceremony.



A Blue Grass Christmas! a slightly different version led by David

A You Tube video was played of 4 teenage brothers who played Christmas music as a combination of C&W and ragtime. Really talented band and set feet tapping. What players they are.

A personal memory led by Prue

My lovely mother's Christmas legacy:

In 1950 my father died leaving my mother with 4 children and little money..

My brother, the eldest, in 1958 he crossed the Atlantic to find "fame and fortune "in the USA. He did achieve this!

Mother crossed the Atlantic to visit 25 times! During her longer stays she worked with my sister in law at their church making the most beautiful and unusual hand sewn decorations for sale at the church Christmas Sale.

I have 3 of the pieces mother made and they are so precious to me and so beautiful.

- The Twelve Days of Christmas large table cover.
- A wall hanging wishing Happy Christmas
- A re usable advent calendar in the form of a picture of a felt Christmas tree

On Christmas Day in the year..... led by Alan

Christmas Day 1683: The Duke of Monmouth fled to Holland having been implicated in a plot to depose King James.

1950: A group of Scottish students removed the stone of Scone from under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey. In April the stone, which had been broken during its removal, was eventually recovered in Scotland. It was repaired and replaced in Westminster abbey until 1996 when, as a reconciliation gesture.

1818: Oberndorf had just finished setting to music a poem by a young priest , Joseph Mohr. It was called, "Stille Nacht".



We thanked all members who contributed, today, for such interest and moving Christmases in history.

Thank you to all our GH members for a memorable year in General History

**Our next meeting is:
January 16th at 2p.m in R2**