

The resiting of the Serjeant Monument

On Saturday 7 September 2013 around 60 to 70 people gathered in Dinton Church to mark the occasion of the resiting of the Serjeant monument and the reopening of the church, which had been closed for 2 months as a result of the building work. Guests enjoyed a glass or two of wine and delicious light refreshments.

Andrew Wild explained that Phase 1 of the project (repairing the tower roof) was completed in 2011 and he thanked the Allchurches Trust, the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust and the Francis Coales Charitable Foundation for the grants that they had made towards the cost of the work. He then moved on to Phase 2, now complete, which comprised moving the large Serjeant monument and the smaller Ingoldsby and Griffin monuments from the gloom of the base of the tower to more easily visible (and much lighter) positions in the south aisle. He thanked the Leche Trust and the Society of Antiquaries (William and Jane Morris Fund) for their grants.

Andrew went on to explain that the church received no government funding, nor any from the Church of England, so the event was mainly designed as a big thank you to all those in the local community who had helped to make the project successful so far. The final stage (Phase 3) remains outstanding – toilets, kitchenette, meeting room and improved disabled access to the church, all designed to make the church more usable by the local community. About £80,000 to £90,000 still needs to be raised to fund this work, in addition to £40,000 that we have in hand.

Andrew concluded by mentioning the grave (normally covered by carpet) in the chancel to Mary Sedley, daughter of Henry Somner of Dinton, who was High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1673, making the point that Dinton church was a source of interesting insights into the history of the village.

George Lamb then gave a most interesting and informative talk about the differing circumstances of the three monuments. It seems likely that Jane Serjeant paid handsomely for the fine monument to her husband Richard (of Aston Mullins) as a result of a family disagreement over money. The wall monument to Richard Ingoldsby is to the son of Richard Ingoldsby the regicide who managed to prosper under Charles the second. The Griffin family were, by contrast, farmers.

We now move on to the final phase of the project. If any readers feel that they might be able to help in any way, by giving time, with ideas or donations, please contact any of the committee members – Andrew and Helen Wild, Valma Thompson, Rosemary Jackson, George Lamb.



Wording on Monument

The Serjeant Memorial

In Memory of
Richard Serjeant
Late of this place Esq

What doth this Monument (tho raised by love
To the honour of her dearest consort) prove
But deaths Triumphal Arch whereon he rides
And his poor captive underneath bestrides
The trophies here displayed do lively show
The spoyl He makes mongst Mortalls here below
Yet cease thy Braggs (proud friend) a little dust
His souls enthroned disdaining to be stopt
The long worn mantle of his flesh he dropt
To entertain thy rage whilst he took flight
To his inheritance with saints in light
Reader if yet, whither this stone speaks true
Thou doubtst, consult ye living who well know
His life, his love, his faith his bounty here
They'l tell thee his blest soul must needs dwell there

He first married Ann ye daughter of Sir Richard
Ingoldsby of Lenborow in this county Kt, after her
Death he married Jane, the daughter of Sir Edward
Harington of Ridlington in ye county of Rutland
Kt & Bart. He died ye 28th of August 1668.

Ao AEtatis Suce 79

Nere unto this place lyeth also
Interrd the body of Jane Serjeant
Relict of ye abovesaid Richard Serjeant
Who lived his wife twenty five years
and his widow years & left
this life for a better ye day
of

Ao 16
AEtatis Suae