

## Kings Bromley Historians' Christmas walk 29 December 2025

Members enjoyed the post-Christmas walk, organised by Dennis and Lynne O'Dea, which started in Beacon Park and had a watery theme. Dennis led the group to various access points to water tunnels, built by South Staffordshire Water in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century under Lichfield to convey drinking water from Cannock Chase to Sandfields Pumping Station. The water was then pumped to a reservoir in Brownhills for use in Walsall and the Black Country.

Dennis pointed out a number of interesting historical sites en route, including the martyrs' plaque in Beacon Park, the Museum Gardens and Remembrance Gardens, around the Cathedral and the Close and then into Dam Street and Quonian's Lane. It was fascinating to learn that the Museum Gardens were once part of Minster Pool until a causeway was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when it became known as Bishop's Pool; this silted up over time to become a boggy area and was eventually filled in forming the public Museum Gardens in 1859.

In 1943 Lieutenant-Colonel Swinfen Broun gave 11½ acres of land to increase the size of Beacon Park.

It was a most interesting walk, giving a different view of Lichfield. Afterwards, Val and Roger Price kindly provided refreshments.



### The Martyrs' Plaque in Beacon Park

This wall features remains of a sculpture on the 18<sup>th</sup> century Guildhall, taking its inspiration from the Lichfield's common seal. The sculpture shows three dismembered kings who (according to legend) led Christians into battle against the Romans around AD288. It also shows Lichfield Cathedral, weapons, a lion and Borrowcop Hill (thought to be the burial place of the kings).