



railings and these are now well established. The area has also been planted with original miniature daffodil bulbs, *Crocus tommasinianus*, single *Nivalis simplex* snowdrops and *Chionodoxa forbesii* to form an interesting spring show. Bulb planting has also continued at St Leonard's Priory and special thanks to all helpers in achieving our bulb planting programme.

The Bastion, which is one of the principal features of the town's walls, is described on page 4 of the 1977 Royal Commission on Historical Monuments - "*The Town of Stamford*" - as consisting of two stages one of which is a parapet with a single loop, the antiquity of which has not been ascertained.



*Historic England assess the Bastion interior.*

The coursed rubble walls have, over the years, been heavily repaired which has included some unsightly concrete infilling. Currently the Civic Society is working with Dr Helen Woodward of Historic England and SKDC to bring the maintenance of the Bastion up to an acceptable standard.

Although the West Street Bastion is the only above-ground evidence of towers in strategic points along the town walls, others were known to exist – possibly five in all. An excavation in 2006 on land to the rear of 4-8 St

Mary's Hill, close to the town bridge, revealed evidence of an East-West orientated, rectangular-shaped bastion, along with part of the medieval town walls fronting southwards onto the river. This excavation was commissioned by Croft Commercial Developments Ltd in advance of site clearance and associated demolition and carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The results of the

excavation revealed a substantial and robust construction and were a significant find in terms of the archaeology of Stamford.

The Stamford Civic Society and the Urban Group would like to thank Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council for their assistance and Dr Helen Woodward of Historic England. The Society owes a special debt to Civic Society committee member Peter Stevens who has been the driving force behind this project working enthusiastically and tirelessly. We also thank the Skells Trust for their generous donation of £2,000, the individual private donors and the St Peter's Community Group for their much appreciated support and assistance.



*l to r: Peter Heyes Urban Group, Andrew Drake Precision Landscapes and Peter Stevens.*

Watch out for next year as this project is ongoing since it would be a disaster to lose the only remaining bastion in the town – Stamford's 'Timestone of History'.



*Spring blossom- a welcome sign.*