

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The life, loves and poetry of Alfred, Lord Tennyson are being brought to life as his home county Lincolnshire celebrates the Poet Laureate's 200th birthday in 2009.

Poetry lovers can explore the life and work of Tennyson – one of the most famous poetic voices of the 19th century, and follow in his footsteps in a series of calendar events and venue visits based around his bicentenary.

Tennyson remains one of the most popular English poets of all time and is the second most frequently quoted writer after Shakespeare. His influence on English language remains strong with many of his phrases like 'better to have loved and lost' still being used today.

Britain's current Poet Laureate Andrew Motion said "Tennyson is one of my best-loved poets and in my view, also the best Laureate there's ever been".

The Tennyson Trail – A new Tennyson Trail, which weaves visitors in and around Lincolnshire's rolling landscape and highlights hidden gems the beaten track, has been created.

The trails aim is to share Tennyson's landscape with everyone. The trail is over 130 miles long but visitors can pick and chose which sections they want to do and which areas they wish to explore. Important locations on the route like Tennyson school, home village, family church and places that inspired his poetry are on the route and highlighted by information boards. www.visitlincolnshire.com

Somersby Village – Tennyson's family village of Somersby is picturesque and can be found in the stunning surrounds of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

St Margaret's Church at Somersby – Tennyson's father was Rector of Somersby village and his tomb can still be seen and visited in the church graveyard. Tennyson was born in the Old Rectory which is now a private residence. Tennyson spent many happy years in Somersby and the village church.

The Tennyson Research Centre – The Tennyson Research Centre, in Lincoln Central Library, is the most significant collection on Alfred Tennyson in the world. Included in the collection is the letter of sympathy from Queen Victoria to Tennyson on the death of his son; the copy of Through the Looking

Glass that Lewis Carroll gave to Tennyson; Prince Albert's letter to Tennyson asking for his autograph; the altered drafts of The Charge of The Light Brigade; Cameron's photographs of 'King Arthur' Hand-illustrated editions by enthusiastic amateurs www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/tennyson

Waterway sculptures – Lincolnshire’s network of Waterways have had a series of Tennyson inspired sculptures erected between Lincoln and Boston. They include a 4.5m sculpture of sheaves of Barley from the Lady of Shalott.

Louth – Where Tennyson went to school, a plaque in the town quotes Tennyson’s memories of his days there. www.visitlincolnshire.com

Lincolnshire’s Coast – Skegness and Mablethorpe were a regular holiday destination for Tennyson and was the inspiration behind much of his work. After writing the Poem by two brothers” Tennyson and his brother travelled to Mablethorpe to shout their joy at the sea.

Other locations connected to Tennyson include Halton Holegate, Spilsby, The southern Wolds, Horncastle, Tealby, Caistor and Grasby.

Tennyson’s statue at Lincoln Cathedral – to signify Tennyson’s connections to Lincolnshire a statue can be found in the grounds of Lincoln Cathedral.

For more information in Lincolnshire’s film locations or to arrange a visit to the county please contact the Media Team on 01522 561670 or 561677