



Lambley Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2

JANUARY 2004

A Happy New Year to all members

A recent casual chat with our President, Chris Weir, revealed that when the Society was first formed back in 1980, it had published a newsletter. I thought it was time for number 2!

Easier said than done but I thought that the AGM would be a suitable publishing date for the next issue and maybe we could make it a regular feature of the Society's life. It could also be a useful form of communication between members. We hope to produce at least one issue per year but with support, may increase the number of issues. If anyone has any ideas for the newsletter or would like to contribute, please

contact me or any committee member. This is your newsletter and we welcome your input.

Renishaw Hall on LHS 2004 programme
- see inside



The year started on a sad note with the death of Rose Todd, who was one of the founding members of LHS and our Chair for a number of years. She guided the activities of the Society with skill and humour and will be greatly missed.

During 2003 our excursions were to **Newark Castle, Staunton Hall and Colonel Hutchinson's Gardens and Fish Farm** at Owthorpe. All were well attended and very interesting.

We had talks on **Albert Ball, Bess of Hardwick and Boudica** amongst others.

Overleaf, you will find details of projects that we hope to be involved with this year.

Thanks to all for your support. **RC**

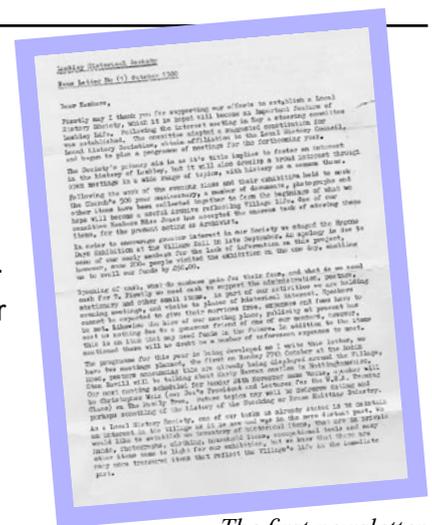


FROM THE ARCHIVES

Chris Weir - President

When Roger asked if I had any thoughts about articles for the newsletter, I should have guessed I would somehow end up writing one! And I was happy (honestly!) to write something because it gives me an opportunity to dip into my own archives to search out how the Local History society began.

It all goes back to 1979! During the Spring I had a phone call from Professor Alan Rogers, of the Adult Education Department of Nottingham University, asking if I would be interested in meeting several people in Lambley to discuss a history project. Professor Rogers asked me if I was interested, at least potentially, in acting as a tutor for a local history course in the village. I was certainly interested, although I had never done anything like that before! The Reverend Bill Gull, of Lambley, felt there was great interest in the village for a group to get together to explore Lambley's history and he had spoken about the idea to Professor Rogers. A meeting was set up at the Primary School to discuss the idea, though Professor Rogers was unable to attend. I went along to the meeting and found everyone very . . . enthusiastic and supportive and the wheels were set in motion for a one-year course, starting in autumn 1979, on local history, with myself as tutor. It was a 'full-house'. Being an archivist, I still (of course!) have the original publicity and other paperwork from that first course. We covered everything from field names and parish organisation to education and leisure. I looked at themes from a national point of view but used



The first newsletter

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Projects - Current and Future

Members of the Society have been active in several projects, notable amongst them being the hunt for the Manor House site on the Pingle field and the Lambley Dumbles Project.

The Manor House project involves resistivity testing on the Pingle Field. The readings are input into a computer and hopefully the results will be helpful in locating the original site of the Manor House and ancillary buildings. Early indications are very encouraging. (See 'Resistivity Survey') The owners of the land have been very helpful and co-operative to the project but are understandably keen to avoid encouraging people wandering into the field uninvited. The horses are fairly keen too!

A project we have been discussing for some time and one in which I am very keen is the cataloguing, preservation and accessioning of the documents and photographs held by the society. This project coincides with one of the proposals of the Lambley Dumbles Project Team (See Lambley, Past and Present) and so may be accomplished with financial help from that group.

Another project we may want to progress is the creation of a website for the Society. While there are not, as yet, very many websites for History Societies, the sites that have been created are very interesting and a good source of information. The Woodborough site, in particular, is excellent. (www.woodborough-heritage.org.uk)

If anyone would like to be more involved in any of the projects or would like to contribute to future editions of the Newsletter please talk to one of the committee members after the AGM or contact the Chair or Secretary by phone or email. (See back page) **Roger Crooks.**

Lambley, Past, Present and Future

You may have heard about The Lambley Dumbles Project, which has been running for over a year. But did you know that some aims of the project coincide with those of Lambley Historical Society?

The Project divides into three parts, each with its own funding - as yet applied for but not confirmed.

Part one is concerned with raising the profile of the Dumbles and Dumbles habitats.

Part two is aimed at researching local varieties of fruit and fruit trees in village gardens and local traditional orchards, including training, restoration and celebration.

Part three, which will be of particular interest to L.H.S.~ will focus upon the heritage and history of Lambley.

Topics could include:

Ancient boundaries and lanes,

Identifying ancient ponds, springs and other water supplies which may link with field patterns

- ◆ Patterns of settlement
- ◆ The Lambley mills
- ◆ Framework knitting
- ◆ A geophysical study of The Pingle
- ◆ Establishing a register of important buildings to encourage conservation.
- ◆ Detailed study of village architecture through the ages - making a record of old farm buildings before they are demolished or converted

Programme for 2004 - a year of variety

Monday 26th January

Annual General Meeting followed by a buffet & wine.

Monday 16th February

Mr Bernard Beilby returns to talk to us about "Nottingham Past and Present".

Monday 15th March

Richard Sheppard of Trent & Peak Archaeology Unit joins us again to talk on "Bolsover Castle".

Monday 19th April

Dr David Marcombe will be speaking to us about "Leprosy in the Middle Ages".

Monday 17th May

Val Henstock, Blue Badge Guide, will give us a guided tour of Shelford.

SUNDAY 20th June

Visit to Wingfield Manor

SUNDAY 18th July

Visit to Renishaw Hall.

Monday 20th September

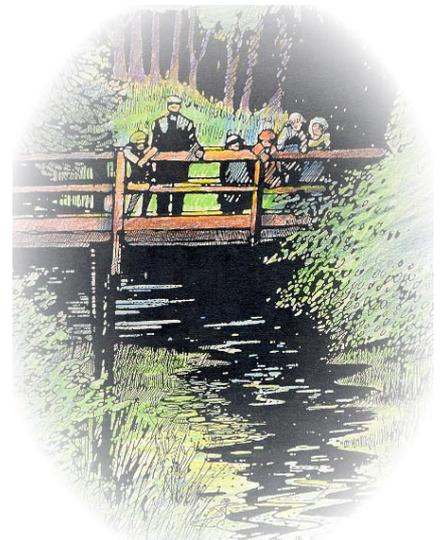
Mr T Leafe will be talking to us about the "Pit Boys of Nottinghamshire".

Monday 25th October

Colin Groves returns to speak to us on "The Bayeux Tapestry".

Monday 15th November

Mr Paul Swift of the City Hospital will tell us about "100 Years of the City Hospital"



- ◆ Recording features which date back to World War Two

Although Lambley Historical Society has carried out a great deal of commendable work into the history of Lambley, I am sure that you will agree that there is still plenty of scope for fruitful study. The above list is really only a taster of what is possible.

One project, which will immediately spring to mind, is the cataloguing and preservation of the rich seam of photographs which exist in the village. Betty Jones, who, as you know, has stored a considerable quantity of interesting Lambley archive material, has discussed this with Lee Scudder, who is the Notts. Countryside Officer, with a view to creating an easily accessible computer data base.

Other possible outcomes:

- ◆ a virtual I.T. program explaining the history of Lambley from the first settlements to the present day – explaining the effects of historical events, improvements in farming, industry, etc. – ie. a Lambley Timeline
- ◆ the production of a village video
- ◆ compilation of a time-capsule for the future
- ◆ provision of Lambley history heritage workshops.

The Dumbles Project Group, which is now to be called *The Friends of Lambley Dumbles*, has, until now, been concerned with formalising the structure of the group so that we can apply for funding.

Events, all well-attended, have included a Bluebell Walk, a Dawn Chorus Experience and a Fungi Foray

Each event has been a wonderful mixture of fascination and fun!

So there is a lot to be done. It may be that you have knowledge or expertise, or even particular interests that would help our work. Roger and Ann Crooks, Alan and Celia Morris, Richard and Janet Bridgford are all members of both groups. They would very much like to have your input.

Janet Bridgford

Next meeting of The Friends of Lambley Dumbles will be the A.G.M. which will be held at 7.00pm in the Village School on April

Resistivity Survey

In the 1980's Betty Jones and Emma Simmonds translated a 1459 Rental which describes in some depth the manorial complex situated in the Pingle Field on Main Street in Lambley, including details of the structure of the Manor House and outbuildings etc., i.e. Brewhouse, Slaughterhouse, Dovecote, Gate House etc.

The opportunity arose in the Summer of 2003 to carry out a geophysical survey of the Pingle Field, with the kind permission of the owner.

(Geophysical surveying is a means of seeing what is under the surface of the ground without having an excavation. The process we have used is Resistivity*). A core team of the Lambley Historical Society helped with this surveying, namely Roger Crooks, John Smith, John Garton, Janet Bridgford, Ann Crooks, Alan Morris and Celia Morris.

Currently we have surveyed a little over half of the field. This has shown up some interesting results including

linear features, possibly a wall, and also an outline of what we think is the Gate House to the manorial site.

We hope to complete the surveying during 2004.

Alan Morris

** Resistivity is a technique which employs a device rather like a 'Zimmer frame' with two metal probes on the*

bottom. The probes are pushed into the ground at 1 metre intervals and a small electric current is sent through the soil from one probe to the other. If the current hits a buried wall or something similar that doesn't conduct electricity well, the machine will indicate a high resistance. Conversely features such as pits and ditches will normally register a much lower resistance.

When the measurements are completed in the field, the data obtained is typed into a computer; the computer program processes the information and hopefully produces an interpretative plot of archaeological features below the ground.



Continued from front page

Lambley documents whenever possible. After that first year the group decided to stay together and formulated the aim of producing a 'Village Study'. The group, with myself as tutor and editor, stayed together for another 2 years researching the history of Lambley. The following year the group decided there was so much interest in local history, in Lambley, that it would be a good idea to establish a Local History Society in the village. To promote local history in the village and in the idea of a Society the group organised a 'Bygone Days' exhibition in the village hall. It was visited by more than 200 people and attracted a lot of interest in the local press.

In its first year the Society published a newsletter (Newsletter No.1) that summarized the aims of the Society and talked about its early activities. The first officers of the committee were Tony Burroughes (chairman), Celia Morris (hon.secretary), Ken Preston (hon.treasurer), Betty Jones (hon.archivist) and myself president. The total income of the Society in that first year added up to £177 49 and a half penny. That half penny cropped up for years afterwards and was always highlighted, with great humour, by Ken, the treasurer. Oh yes. I do also have a copy of that first newsletter!

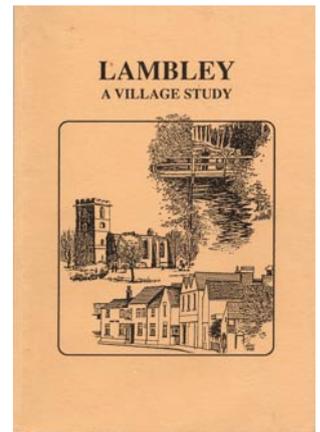
I also have a copy of the specially printed invitation card for the society's very first AGM, on 29 January 1981. It was held at the house of Ken and Daphne Preston and was followed by a 'Cheese and Wine Social Gathering'.

After meeting for 3 years the adult education group put together their work in the form of a book that was published by Nottingham University... 'Lambley –A Village Study.' It was a tremendous achievement for the group and was viewed as quite a pioneering work at that time, as it was the community itself that had

both undertaken all the original research and written the sections of the book.

Well, the rest, as they say, 'was history'. The Society has met for many years and has been contributed, in many different ways, to the life of the village. It can also be very proud of its achievements over the years in producing and supporting history publications and various local and county events. I know I have always enjoyed being involved with the Society and enjoyed watching it grow and develop over the years. Yet all this work is entirely owing to the hard work and dedication of the society's members. A lot of this work also rests on the shoulders of a small number of committee members who give up a lot of their own time and energy. So please do give your support to the committee and to the Society. There's all kinds of activities going on involving local history and 'heritage'. These are interesting times. And how they are changing! When I was writing up local history in 1979 I was using an Imperial typewriter. Today I am using a word processor. When I first visited Lambley I had never heard of Ralph Cromwell. I have now!

Chris Weir



Members Program Suggestions for 2005

Suggestions for visits or evening talks are always welcomed by the committee and are vetted for practicality, expense and availability of dates. If you have a venue in mind or an idea for a talk, please use the form below and send to **Celia Morris, 11 Steeles Way, Lambley, Nottingham NG4.** Include any details which may help Celia



Submitted by

Date

Suggestion for Evening Talk

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Contact Details

Suggestion for Visit

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Contact Details

Contacts

Chair	Roger Crooks	Tel: 847 8802
Secretary	Celia Morris	Tel: 931 2588
Treasurer	John Smith	Tel: 931 3066