



Lambley Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 4

JANUARY 2006

Lambley Refocused!

Our major project of the year 2005 was to organise and produce and put on a 'photographic roadshow' that would be called Lambley Refocused 2005. Together with members of the The Friends of the Dumbles Project (FDP), Lambley Historical Society staged an event that was not only interesting and informative, but hugely rewarding.

On the day we displayed 100s of photographs that were pored over and talked about. Often the subjects in the photos were recognised and named. Also on display was the model of the Manor House which attracted much interest especially as outside in the school field Alan and Celia Morris were giving demonstrations with resistivity equipment - used in the hunt for the site of the Manor House.

The main purpose of the event was to invite people to bring in photographs in the hope that we could add to our growing archive of Lambley photographs. The response was amazing and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and interest created. We had a team of people cataloguing and scanning photographs who worked hard all day to keep up with the demand. The team - Janet Bridgford, Eric Dove, Jo Ellis and Jackie Mansfield were assisted by John Garton, Sheila Mortimer, Richard Bridgford and Jackie Jones. At the end of the day over 150 images had been processed!

A Dumbles walk to compliment the event was organised by Lee Scudder (FDP) and John Osborne (FDP). John Smith was our media man on the day and also ran a stall selling £150's worth of merchandise for the LHS coffers!

Thanks also to Ann Gee (FDP) for organising and running the tombola and refreshments along with Sylvia Picher. Ann Crooks for professional assistance with design, publicity and general organisation of the event. Richard Hall and Paul Beresford (FDP) for all sorts of practical help including leaflet distribution. The day was an undoubted success due to the unstinting hard work and enthusiasm of the above mentioned and others and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contribution.

However, this is only the start of the project. The ultimate aim will be to make all the images and data available to all on a Lambley Historical Society website. The Friends of the Dumbles Project are working with us to help us achieve this aim by supplying equipment, training and expertise.

The Archive project and the Website are on-going challenges and my hope is that everyone in the society will become involved in this interesting work.

In the short term we are also organising a follow up display in the Spring to display the results of Lambley Refocused Day 2005. We are expecting to run this

event on Saturday 29th April and hope that you will all support the project. Our archive team will be in the thick of it again but we will also have lots of help from the Dumbles Group.

Roger Crooks



Felley Priory - see the 2006 programme on page 2.

Programme for 2006

30th January

Annual General Meeting

20th February

Mr Tavner will speak to us on the 'History of Gedling Colliery'

20th March

Jill Sparrow will give a presentation on 'Manor Cottage South Wingfield: the story of a Vanished Georgian House'



24th April

Ted White will speak on the subject of 'Slate Headstones of South Nottinghamshire'

15th May

Val Henstock, a Blue Badge Guide, will give a guided tour of Car Colston

19th June

A visit to Carnfield Hall, Nr Alfreton.

17th July

A visit to Felley Priory to view the house and gardens

25th September

Peter Hammond on 'Murder, Misfortune and Mystery' in the Nottinghamshire area

16th October

Eric Dove will give an illustrated presentation on 'Old Daybrook'

27th November

John Fletcher will talk to us on the 'History of the Dukes of Newcastle of Clumber Park'

The Future of Sherwood

by Jackie Mansfield

Day conference organised by the Sherwood Advisory Group and Nottinghamshire County Council

Jo Ellis and I attended the above conference as delegates of the Lambley Historical Society. Key players included members of the Forestry Commission, English Nature, East Midlands Regional Assembly and Nottinghamshire County Council. Other delegates represented the National Trust, CPRE, other local history groups and the Thoroton Society.

The future of Sherwood (Forest) has been under discussion for many years in a number of different fora. The purpose of this day was to build on these discussions and come to a consensus as to the way forward. However it soon became apparent that there was a huge area of conflict between commercialism and conservation. We assumed that Lambley and other historical societies were invited because of their interest in conserving the heritage of Sherwood.

The stark reality of the present was identified by Stella Smedley, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Sustainability, who indicated that poor government recognition of the needs of Nottinghamshire affected the distribution of government grants so we were running the risk of losing out unless something is done.

This theme was taken up by Paddy Tipping, MP for Sherwood, in his keynote address 'fit for the future' who emphasised the need to "sell" the image of Sherwood but also to be aware of the conflict between development and enhancement of the environment, thus stressing the need for planning and partnership. He posited the idea of Regional Park status: a Regional Park could include Sherwood and also the National Park in Leicestershire for example.

The ensuing speakers echoed the theme of partnership, emphasising the roles of their own particular organisations. I got the impression that some felt that collaboration was a good idea as long as theirs was the lead organisation. There is a long history of similar conferences coming to similar conclusions which appear to have filed away never to see the light of day again.

The dichotomy between development and conservation was very clear, even within organisations with similar aims. However, throughout the presentations and discussions I was very conscious of Paddy Tipping's opening question "what are we selling?" I feel that until consensus is reached on this very fundamental question there can be very little progress. Until all interested parties, including us, the consumers, can decide on what is wanted, be that a Sherwood that attracts tourists, part of the 'heritage industry' perhaps with a Robin Hood Theme Park for example, or a Sherwood devoted to conservation and development of wild life, the status quo will remain. It could be argued that Sherwood is big enough for both but evidence presented at the conference suggests that this is not as easy as it sounds. Partnership, collaboration and consensus may be fine in theory but are they so easy in practice?

I left the conference, having enjoyed the day, with an uneasy feeling that unless someone is prepared to take the bull by the horns and do something constructive, an opportunity to ensure that a unique aspect of our heritage is preserved for future generations to enjoy will be lost for ever.

Remember the Divi!

by Chris Weir

On the 21st November I gave a talk on the subject of Bygone Shopping in Nottingham to the Local History Society. To be honest I didn't really need to be there because it soon became apparent that there were enough memories of bygone Nottingham shops to fill any number of evenings!

There were those in the audience who remembered working at Pearsons, at Burtons, at Boots, at Jessops and the Co-op..... and who could even remember their Co-op Divi number!

Between us all we could recall the sights and smells of Burtons; the fish as it lay on marble slabs, the stacks of luxury biscuit, the endless varieties of cheese and the tempting Christmas hampers. We could recall the piles of saucepans, the shining displays of cutlery and the gleaming plates and saucers. We remembered a whole section devoted to gloves at the Co-op on Parliament Street and the grand central staircase. What a world it was!

I remember going into 'town' on the bus with my mother, on special occasions, all the way from Toton. It seemed a long, long way in those days and a day that always promised excitement. If I was the lucky the first stop was Skills where I would spend my pocket money on toy soldiers or farm animals. Usually there was a visit to Jessops, Boots, Burtons and Pearsons with a drink at Croshaws. Christmas trips always seemed extra special with all the shops competing with their Xmas displays.

At that time I wasn't aware of the history of some of these shops but many of them go back many years.

Burtons was founded by Joseph Burton who started out as an apprentice grocer at Winsters in the Peak District. Eventually he moved to Nottingham where his shop soon began to flourish on Smithy Row. By 1893 Joseph and his family were living at the elegant Malvern House on Mapperley Road. The business, under Joseph's guidance, had done well. Sadly the Burton's era came to an end when the Burtons empire (there were branches in many parts of the country) sold out to Fine Fare and then finally closed in 1983. Griffin & Spalding dates back as early as 1846. It was begun by Mr Griffin himself, a shop manager and Mr J.T. Spalding, a lace buyer. They rebuilt the original premises several times until it became one of the finest in Nottingham. The shop's kaleidoscopic displays became the 'talk of the town' and their customer service was renowned. As recently as 1960 (is that recent!?) a customer service manual for the shop insisted



that staff always gave directions 'graciously' and no member of staff was to ever appear 'impatient'. And what about Pearsons? It was established in 1889 by Frederick Pearson who took over an existing shop on Long Row. By 1898 Pearsons was selling everything from patent egg boilers to croquet lawn mowers. Pearson in 'modern times' owed much to the drive and inventiveness of Bert Masterman. Among his innovations was a highly successful curved fireback that was patented as the

'masterback'. In 1933 the shop was entirely re-created as an Indian village where shoppers were treated to baffling magical tricks and live village scenes. In 1956 the shop's turnover exceeded £1 million and its soft furnishings sold in mind-boggling quantity.

Of course there were lots of different shops, large and small, each with its own character. What about Bonser & Parkes with its 'choicest' blend of teas? And what about Johnsons, the hat manufacturers of 17 Long Row and Hockley? They made hats for every occasion and to suit every head. They claimed they could make a hat to fit even 'peculiar shaped heads'.

So will we, or the current generation of heavy-duty shopper, have fond memories of today's shops in Nottingham, or elsewhere? Its hard to say but it would be interesting to know if there are any memories of Bygone Shopping in Lambley. I guess there must have been quite a few shops in the village not so long ago and I heard that there used to be a Co-op on the Main Street.

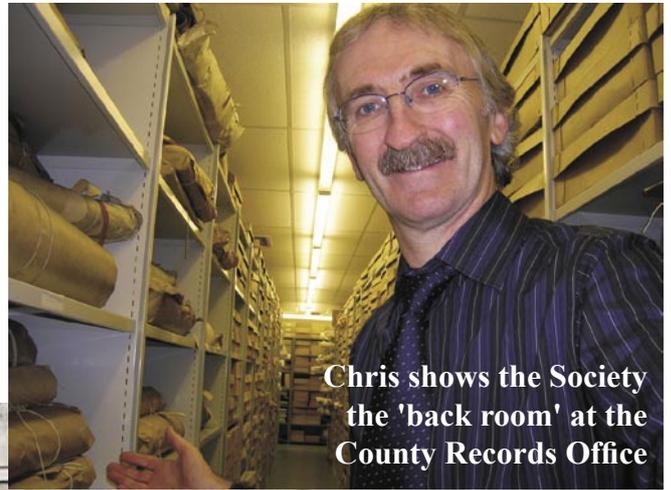


2005 Album

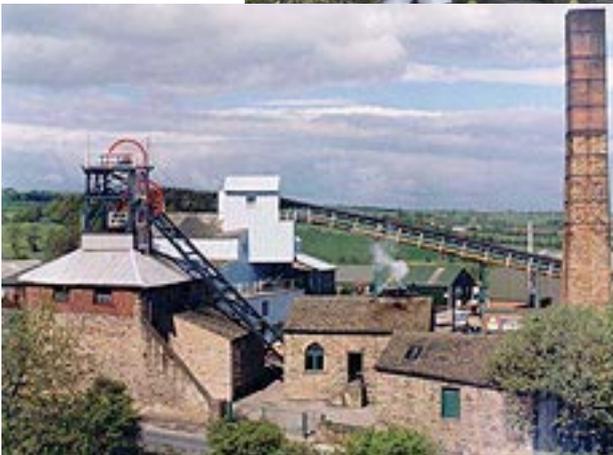


Woolsthorpe Hall, the home of Isaac Newton

Society members outside Isaacs front door on a perfect evening in July



Chris shows the Society the 'back room' at the County Records Office



National Mining Museum in June and Chris's bag of coal!



Treasurer's Overview Report

I am pleased to report that the LHS accounts are in profit for 2005. This can, in the main, be attributed to the Lambley Refocussed day in April. At the event, LHS merchandise was

sold, which raised £155 for the society. Without this contribution the society would only have made a small profit.

Looking forward, there is a need to raise income by the membership fee, to meet ever rising costs eg speaker fees. Member's suggestions are welcome as to how we could supplement our income.

Accounts and Treasurers report will be presented at the AGM.

John Smith. LHS Treasurer.

LHS Contacts

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