



## Society Projects Making Good Progress

2006 turned out to be a year of interesting and entertaining visits and evening talks. It was also a year when much progress was made in the projects we are involved in along with The Dumbles Group:

- Survey of the Pingle Field
- The Lambley Book
- The LHI Website

Progress on the Pingle Field survey has been dictated somewhat by the weather and technical difficulties but with perseverance from the project leaders Alan and Celia, the end is in sight! (see below)

Likewise, the Archive team (Jo, Eric and Jackie) have been beavering away with the book project using photographs from our own archive and many garnered from the two Lambley Refocussed Days we have now held. If anything, the second Refocussed Day held in 2006, was even more successful than the first. There is a great deal of village interest in this growing collection of photographs and we were asked several times if the event

would be an annual one!

The Website project is also at a very exciting phase. The team (John Garton, John Smith, Eric and Roger along with Lee from the Dumbles Group) recently received 2 days Dreamweaver training to enable us to build our own website - [lambleyheritage.org](http://lambleyheritage.org)

We will notify you when you can log on!

There is still much to do in order to complete these projects but I think it fair to say that despite the daunting prospect of the extra work we have all enjoyed the challenge. If you would like to be more involved please talk to any of the team leaders or the committee.



*A core team from Lambley Historical Society and occasionally volunteers from the Lambley community have continued to carry out a resistivity survey of the Pingle field. Good progress has been made with 30 x 20 metre square grids surveyed to date.*

*Some interesting anomalies are appearing including what could be stone facing of the medieval fishponds. In addition there appears to be a substantial stone structure located between two of the ponds. It is unusual to find structures associated with this kind of earthwork and further investigation will be required.*

*It is hoped to complete the work in January 2007 and any one who may be interested in helping would be most welcome.*



# Programme for 2007

## 29th January

Annual General Meeting

## 26th February

Chris Weir talks about "Walking into History: the story of Jack Helyer, Organist and Rambler"

## 19th March

Gareth King will give us an insight into "The 13th Century Manor"

## 16th April

Jenny Alexander will talk on "Vernacular Architecture". Her talk will include Brook House, Lambley.

## 21st May

Visit to Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum.

## 18th June

Visit to Winkburn Hall

## 16th July

Guided walk of Elston Village.

The guided walk around Elston, just off the A46 before you get to East Stoke, should be interesting as it is being organised by the local history society. They have done a tremendous amount of research on the village and have produced an extremely interesting book, which was only for sale to the people of the village. The village had a leper hospital believed to be associated with their chapel, and I am sure it will be a fascinating evening. They too have just received funding so we also have something in common! Also there is a local pub which is quite an interesting building itself - and ought to be looked at from the inside! (Yes, we have tested it!).

## 24th September

Members Evening - a chance to chat - a quiz - a raffle - some food - who knows?...

## 15th October

Adrian Henstock will talk about "Turnpike Roads"

## 19th November

Michael Harrison will speak on "Business in Great Waters: A Voyage on the River Trent"

Winkburn Hall



Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum

I am pleased to report that for the second year running, Lambley Historical Society is in credit. The increase in the membership fee, additional income from the sale of LHS merchandise and visitor fees to our well attended meetings in 2006, have been vital in keeping the Society in credit.

Looking forward to 2007, we need to increase the membership and to continue to raise additional income from fund raising activities. So please, encourage relatives and friends to come along to our enjoyable meetings and join the Society. Also, your 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.

# BUT WHY ARE LAMBLEY ALMSHOUSES IN NOTTINGHAM?

Chris Weir

Have you ever noticed Lambley Almshouses? Strangely you won't find them in Lambley. Despite their name the almshouses are on the edge of Nottingham city centre. They sit on Woodborough Road, just before the junction with Hungerhill Road. So how did Lambley Almshouses come to be in Nottingham?

Well, the story begins back in March 1654 when a number of Nottingham aldermen visited Lambley 'to view a close' in the parish that had been offered for sale. On the 24 May Edward and Elizabeth Willoughby conveyed a 'close' of land 'within the manor' of Lambley to John Parker, then the Mayor of Nottingham, and other corporation worthies. These gentlemen included William Drury, Daniel Sulley and William Bayley. The 'close' was described as New Close and comprised 104 acres. The conveyance was in the sum of £600. In fact this was no ordinary conveyance as the 'rents and profits thereof' from the close was to be applied 'to such poor burgesses, tradesmen and townsmen of the town of Nottingham' as the mayor and aldermen of the Council 'should appoint'. This was the beginning of the Lambley Charity.

Up until 1811 the rents from New Close were applied by the Corporation in apprenticing the sons of poor burgesses of Nottingham. This involved a premium of £3 for each boy. However by the early 1800s the Corporation wanted to extend the remit of the Charity to caring for 'the support of decayed burgesses'. In effect they wanted to build an almshouse with the Charity's funds. These moves were evidently successful as at a Common Hall meeting on 6 February 1812 it was ordered that the town clerk make arrangements to lease land for an almshouse to be built on 'a parcel of land lying in the Sandhills'. This was not, though, the present site of the almshouses on Woodborough Road. The site was in Nottingham but was on a piece of land that fronted Derby Road - on the right hand-side of Derby Road on the hill just before Canning Circus. This was the site of the original set of Lambley Almshouses.

I have only managed to trace one picture of these almshouses and this is thanks to Nick Smith of Nottinghamshire Archives who discovered a faded blue negative photograph of them in a roll of plans for the current houses. Nevertheless the general shape of the almshouses is visible as is a pediment with the charity tablet set into the top. The original almshouses had 22 dwellings, each consisting of one main room and a small pantry and were intended for 'poor persons, being either poor burgesses or widows of poor burgesses'.

The houses were completed in 1814. The Lambley Almshouses duly opened but it seems they were administered under a heavy debt. A Charity Commission Report of 1839 states that 'this charity is still burthened with a heavy debt'. This difficult state of affairs probably continued until the Corporation decided to sell the property on Derby Road, sell the profitable site, and employ the resulting funds in erecting new almshouses at another site on Woodborough Road. A building plan of 1902, that survives in Nottinghamshire Archives shows detailed elevations and floor plans for the site at Woodborough Road. The plans were approved by the Corporation and the resulting building can be seen clearly from Woodborough Road as you pass in or out of Nottingham. Do have a look if you are passing by – you are looking at a bit of Lambley's history that goes right back to 1654!



# Lambley Refocussed 2006



*The pictures, I believe, speak for themselves...  
a very successful day.*

## LHS Contacts

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Chair     | Roger Crooks | Tel: 0115 847 8802   |
|           |              | email <a href="mailto:roger.crookst@ntlworld.com">roger.crookst@ntlworld.com</a> |
| Secretary | Celia Morris | Tel: 0115 931 2588   |
| Treasurer | John Smith   | Tel: 0115 931 3066   |

