

RAMBLINGS!



This year saw the completion of the Great Adventure!

My brother and I finally finished the Offa's Dyke Walk, a

walk that began a few years ago – well in fact 7 years ago on a hot, sunny day back on the 12th June 2007! We did a section at a time over the years. My brother unfortunately broke his leg in a fall at home half way through the project but fought back to health over a two-year period.

Officially the walk is 177 miles though with wrong turns and walking to 'the starts' of some sections we managed to notch up over 200 miles. The walk wanders along the England-Wales border, beginning near the Severn Estuary and concluding at Prestatyn on the North Wales coast. We started half-way along the route, at Kington and worked south, then later in the campaign walked north for reasons I can't remember. We got a lift to Knighton, where there is a great Walk Visitor Centre and walked back to Kington. The first section was up a really steep ascent and we had taken off all our wet-weather gear and stuffed it into our rucksacks which then weighed 'a ton'. The Walk passes through beautiful countryside, along meandering canals, the lovely Wye Valley and delightful market towns like Montgomery with its towering castle.



View over the Wye Valley

To celebrate the end of our walk I asked our very own Roger Crooks if he would do paintings for us –one each – and these were presented at our official end-of-walk event at the Queen's Head in Chester. For some years our parents lived in Chester and my mother was a Chester girl. The paintings are a wonderful memory of the walk (thanks so much Roger). I also applied for official certificates from the Offa's Dyke Association and badges. When I applied they asked how long it had taken to do the walk and at first they thought I meant 7 days! In fact I think I mean 7 years! I may have set a record for the slowest completion time in the history of the walk!

This year saw the start of a Hyson Green World War 1 project based at the Vine Community Centre next door to St Stephen's Church on Bobbers Mill Road. I am working with the Vine in partnership with young people with IntoUniversity, Home Education families and community volunteers. IntoUniversity meets at the Vine to undertake extra curriculum work for local children. The aim of the project is to preserve the Roll of Honour which has over 400 names, research some of the soldiers and their families and do a display for next Spring. The project was awarded a Heritage

Lottery Fund grant.

Over the past few months I was a project mentor for Backlit Gallery in Sneinton. The Gallery is in a former Morley building and the director Matthew Chesney was very keen to promote the heritage of the building and the Morley family connection. He discovered that Samuel Morley was one of a group of London business people who invited Josiah Henson, a slave who escaped to freedom via Canada, to visit London and to undertake a series of lectures about his life to further the cause of emancipation. My role included a walk around the Backlit area which is around the Victoria Baths and Victoria Park. The gallery organised a Morley Threads double-weekend last November. Come to think of it that might lead into a Morley connection with Lambley?!

Chris Weir

TREASURERS REPORT 2015

At the end of 2015 I am happy to report that the finances of the Lambley Historical Society are in an excellent state of health, thanks in no small part, to a very generous donation from the Friends of Lambley Dumbles.

As the Dumbles Project had come to an end it had been decided by the Dumbles Group to disband and to distribute their funds between groups who had attended meetings and taken part in events organised by them, of which Lambley Historical Society was one. The LHS are very grateful to receive this donation and are discussing ways in which this money can be used to enhance interest in the history of Lambley, concentrating especially on the children of Lambley School in the first instance.

This is very exciting news for the Society as a "one off" and outside our usual range of activities which, none the less, have continued apace. We have continued with our policy of following winter lectures with summer visits and this year we have concentrated on local places of interest such as the Malt Cross in Nottingham and Hurt and Son Factory in Chilwell, thus cutting down on the cost of travel for members.

We have also continued to levy a small surcharge to visitors who are not members of LHS.

Membership numbers have continued to rise, with most members attending all the meetings, a very encouraging sign of the popularity of the Society with the members and also of value for money!

Membership fees will remain at £12 for the year and £3.50 for visitors for an individual lecture.

We are looking forward to an interesting and busy year of talks and visits with the added bonus of the LHS Schools project.

Jackie Mansfield



Lambley Historical Society

www.lambleyheritage.co.uk

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Welcome to our 2016 News Review

The Society's main activities in 2015 have continued to be very successful with members and non-members. Our wide ranging talks and visits have again been well attended, with an emphasis on our Nottinghamshire heritage. The talks included a history of **Nottingham Framework Knitting**, Life at the **Southwell Workhouse** presented by the National Trust storytellers and a celebration of the **150th Anniversary of the Theatre Royal**, presented by David Longford of Lambley. Our outings included a visit to the lovely renovated **Malt Cross Public House** in the Nottingham City centre, a **guided walk around Bingham** and a visit to **G H Hurts and Sons** factory who are internationally renowned for their knitted lace.

Reports on our past talks can be found on our website www.lambleyheritage.co.uk

The Society has been active within the local community giving presentations of the Lambley picture archive, with attendees sharing their knowledge of the contents of the pictures – people's names etc. This has enabled the Society to improve its picture archive record.

Towards the end of 2015 the Society was gifted Lottery money from the now closed Lambley Dumbles Project.

For 2016, in addition to the Society's usual activities, we will look to use the Lottery money to promote Heritage within the community. The committee propose that we work with Lambley Primary School on three initiatives:

Development of Lambley heritage learning resources for the school to use on a regular basis with the children.

Voices from the Past – set up an event at the school and invite local people to share their experiences of life in Lambley with the children. The recordings of the conversations will be used to enhance the Society's archive records and help the school children's understanding of life in Lambley now and in the past.

Share with the school our archive records of Lambley books and an interactive presentation of our picture archive with the children.

We propose that we freeze membership fees for the foreseeable future to encourage existing members to stay and encourage new members to join; so that our work may continue to the benefit of our community.

These and any other proposals from the

membership will be discussed at the AGM.

Our programme for 2016 is an exciting eclectic mix of talks and visits. Whilst the focus is on our local area we have also included a virtual historical tour of Whitby, a talk on Derbyshire Castles and a visit to Harlaxton Manor, with a private tour of the house included and time after to explore the gardens.

As ever, on behalf of the members, I would like to thank my friends on the committee for all their hard work in 2015. Because of their dedication, commitment and hard work the Society continues to move forward and attracts new members and visitors to our meetings,

They have organised the following:

The talks and visits.

Published details of our events and activities in the local media.

Maintained and developed our website, which gives us a platform to promote the Society and history of Lambley worldwide.

The finances of the Society, so that we remain solvent.

Compiled and published the annual newsletter.

A special thank you to our President, Chris Weir. Chris regularly submits a stimulating article for our newsletter. I know that you will enjoy his latest offering.

Finally thank you, to you the members, for your excellent attendance at our meetings and visits in 2015. We look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

John Smith, Chairman



LHS in the Malt Cross cellars

Our 2016 Programme

25th Jan
AGM & Social evening
Buffet & quiz.

22nd Feb
Pete Smith – Nottingham Townhouses
Nottingham is not usually thought of today as an important eighteenth century metropolis, but before the Industrial Revolution it was considered by some visitors to be one of the finest towns in England. The talk will concentrate on the surprising number of elegant townhouses which survive from this period.



21st Mar
Peter Hammond - A historical tour of Whitby
This talk takes us for a walk through this picturesque seaside town. We will climb the steps up to the historic church and abbey and explore Whitby's fascinating history, finishing with fish and chips at the famous Magpie cafe!



18th May
Guided tour of William Booth Museum, Sneinton
Tour of the Museum and the Georgian house with kitchen, lounge etc plus a visit to the church.



26th Sep
Ann Featherstone - The Victorian Fair: freaks and fisticuffs
Think of freak shows and boxing booths, primitive roundabouts and gingerbread, noise, mayhem and crime – the Victorian statute fair, wakes or mop. This talk looks at the history of the fair and explores some of the fascinating shows and showmen that emerged from the 19th century fairground.



24th Oct
Robert Mee - Derbyshire Castles
This talk starts by looking at the history of castles in general, and then examines each known castle site within the county – and there are a surprising number of them! Some castles are dealt with in some detail, whilst others are covered briefly, as their history is itself sparse.



26th June
Guided tour of Harlaxton Manor, nr Grantham
Tour of the house plus free time in the gardens.

28th July
Backstage tour of the Theatre Royal
Join Ezekial Bone on a journey through the heart of Nottingham's theatre land. Stand on the hallowed stage, see behind the scenes and learn how the theatre works. Hear about the great architects who built this monument to the arts. Be transported from the boom of theatre in Victorian times and the Opening Night in 1865, to the contemporary world of entertainment of today in the Royal Concert Hall.



28th Nov
Tracey Akehurst - Once upon a Time at Christmas
Deck the halls with boughs of holly. Kiss your neighbours under the mistletoe. Keep the Yule log burning and decorate the Christmas Tree! Of all the seasonal celebrations Christmas has more traditional plants, with their accompanying legends and symbolism, than any other. Drawing on both pagan and Christian traditions this talk looks at why we still continue to use such an abundance of greenery today.

25th Apr
Rowena Edlin-White - The Suffragettes in Nottingham
"Votes for Women!"
Nottinghamshire suffragists and suffragettes were involved in the National campaign from at least the 1870s - these are some of their stories

