



Welcome to our News Review

In 2013 we had an enjoyable eclectic mix of talks from Byron in Venice to Nottinghamshire Folk Tales and Songs! Our summer outings were well supported by members, with visits to The Park in Nottingham, Bolsover Castle and Fulbeck Manor.

Reports on our past talks can be found on our website.

The committee have been busy cataloguing the large number of Lambley photographs that have been donated by LHS members and members of the public. These pictures have been digitally scanned and catalogued on a database to allow searches by various categories e.g. education, church etc. This work is on-going. We would welcome input from members and non- members with the cataloguing. Many of the photographs have limited or no record of the contents. Lambley residents past and present could help us bring these pictures to life with information. Please help!

Members will be able to view the catalogue of pictures at the AGM. Eventually we would like to offer public access to the catalogue via the website.

Looking forward to 2014, we again have an excellent range of talks and visits planned. We will be commemorating the centenary of The Great War with a talk by our LHS member Michael Harrison. This theme is continued with John Whitfield who will talk to us about Churchill's life - his ups and downs. Last year I visited Churchill's fascinating and beautiful home, Chartwell. Well worth a visit if you are in the area. Chartwell House and Gardens are maintained by the National Trust. Marion Wallwork, will give us a talk in March on Gardens through the ages. She will use National Trust Gardens to illustrate her talk.

We have fascinating visits planned to places near and a little further away in exotic Lincolnshire and Derby! A guided tour of Papplewick Pumping Station in May, Doddington Hall in June and Derby Round House in July. I hope to see members at these venues of historical interest in the East Midlands. Please remember non- members are always welcome to attend our visits and meetings.

Further details of our other exciting talks and visits can be found in the Programme insert included with this Newsletter.



Pictures from our brilliant day out at Bolsover Castle including our entertaining guide, the ceiling in the 'Star' chamber, horse control in the Riding School and the 'naughty boy' fountain.



Your committee think that it is appropriate to consult you with regard to the location of our meetings from **2015**. Committee members have been approached by members and non- member residents of Lambley, who have expressed an interest in joining the Society, if the meetings were held in Lambley. We will discuss this further at the AGM. Members unable to attend the AGM will be sent a questionnaire to enable them to register their views.

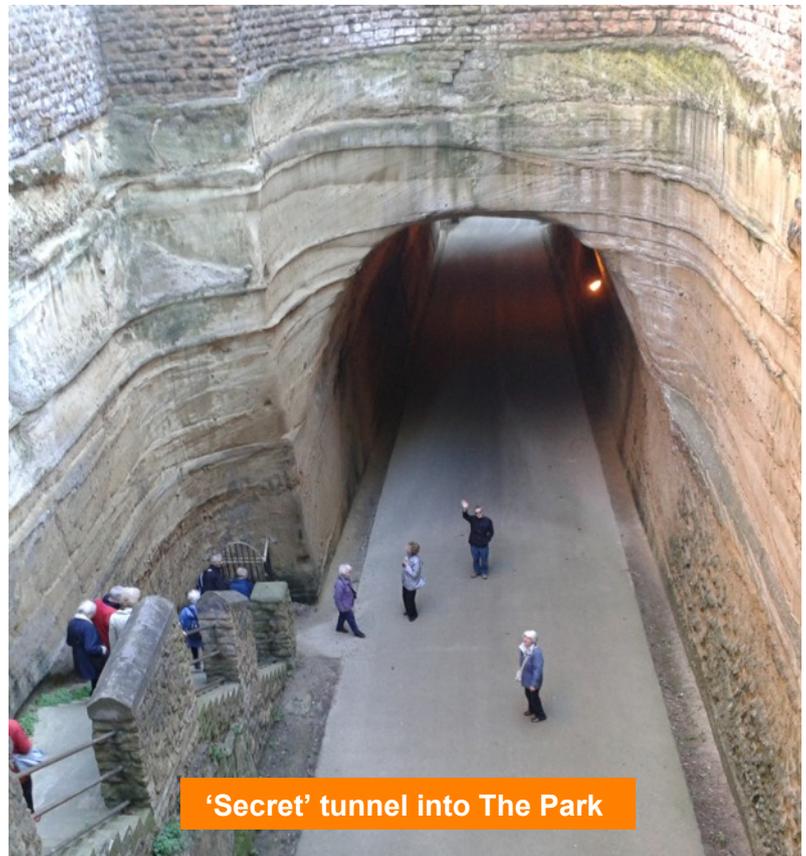
As ever, on behalf of the members, I would like to thank my friends on the committee for all their hard work in 2013. The Society continues to move forward because of their dedication and commitment.

They organise:

- **The talks and visits.**
- **The publishing of details of our events in the local media.**
- **The maintenance and development of 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.**
- **The work necessary to drive our projects to completion.**

Finally thank you, to you the members, for your support in 2013. We look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

John Smith, Chairman



'Secret' tunnel into The Park

LHS Projects for 2014

- Edit and re-print of the *Lambley – A village Study* book which was first published in 1982. It was from this project that the LHS was formed.
- Our Society has been invited to the great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair at Mansfield Library, on Sunday 14th May 2014. 'Local history societies and heritage groups from across the county will converge on Mansfield. They will be joined by storytellers, children's activities, and demonstrations of local crafts such as spinning and lace making. This is an important showcase for local history in Nottinghamshire. Local societies will find a forum to promote their work, attract new members, sell their publications, and share expertise and experiences with other groups.'

This is a great opportunity for the LHS to showcase our picture catalogue, website and raise money for the Society with the sale of our books and pictures. If you can help with the planning for the event and or help on the LHS stand on the day, then please contact a member of the committee. Without members' support we will not be able to take part in this exciting festival of Nottinghamshire History. Members who have attended this Fair in the past have told me that it is an excellent show and well worth a visit. So, come along and be part of the celebration on the LHS stand for as much time as you wish to give. The committee look forward to your help and support.



Fulbeck Manor...



...and Star of the Show at Bolsover

Chris Weir talks about his 40 years with the Archives service...



My interest in Archives really began with reading local history books and walking in the local countryside. I have always been interested in history, but especially local history. I remember being inspired by W.G.Hoskins. His 'Making of the English Landscape' revealed to me a whole new world of fields and farms, deserted mediaeval villages, hedgerow boundaries, enclosure patterns, place names and old maps. It was a world that was on the 'doorstep'. It didn't even mean a 30 mile hike through the mountains. It was all there on a stroll around Laxton, through the Leicestershire byways or cycling past Nottinghamshire's fields and farms. Then I read W. E. Tate's 'The Parish Chest' and began to discover the delights of overseers' accounts, vestry minutes, parish registers and other parish records that brought local communities to life. It led me into a life- long interest in archives and what they can

of microfiche and the appearance of computers both for office and personal use. However, the quill pen still remains a feature of the Archives for workshops, events and school sessions!

In 1976, myself and Freda Wilkins-Jones, the Nottingham City Archivist, transferred to the County Records Office, as it was then titled, on High Pavement. Myself and Jack Cupit were the two records assistants. We were up and down stairs all day getting out and returning archives into the basement storage areas. On High Pavement the service grew to meet the demands of growing interest in local and family history. At

its height visitor numbers grew to 17000 a year. Though the old judge's lodgings was a fine building, the space for storage became critical. After some years searching for premises to re-house the service it was eventually agreed that we would move into an entirely new building. This happened in 1993 when the service moved into purpose-built premises on Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham. Adrian Henstock was the County Archivist.

One of my key roles in the Archives service has been to develop outreach work. In the 1980s I introduced a series of resource packs for schools. The first title was The Victorian School. One of the packs, 'Rufford: From Abbey to Country House' won the Phillimore, prize for the best archive educational resource in the UK. Group visits, tours and a programme of workshops began to attract a wide range of visitors and a popular series

of lunchtime talks has run over many years and provided insights into everything from allotment gardens and heraldry to 'Gossip & Scandal' in Georgian Nottingham!

At this period of time I became a local history tutor for the University Adult Education Department and WEA. My first class, back in 1979, was at Lambley where, after 3 years, the group produced 'Lambley: A Village Study'. I still get asked if I have a spare copy of it today! At the end of the 3 years the class formed a local history society that still flourishes today and it is a privilege to still be associated with the village. I was elected President of the Society many years ago and still attend as many meetings and events as possible. I did classes at many other locations, including Lowdham, Gedling at Arnold, some again producing publications.

My first book was 'Village & Town Bands' published by Shire. At around that time, Philip Lyth, President of the Local History Council (now the Local History Association), encouraged me to submit a manuscript on the Nottinghamshire countryside to the Association for publication. This became 'A Prospect of Nottinghamshire' (1986) and with his support it was taken on



tell us about landscapes and people.

For more than 40 years I have been lucky enough to have worked in Archives. My first post was as a 'Miscellaneous Records Clerk' with Nottingham City Archives. The Archives service was on South Sherwood Street in the basement of the old Central Library. From those days I especially remember Stephen Best who worked in the City Library. He had a wonderful sense of humour and an amazing knowledge of Nottingham's history. One of my jobs in those days was to sort out and box-up thousands of City building control plans. I had to wear a 'boiler suit' and dust mask and did most of the work in one of the cells underneath the Guildhall. The search area for the Archives was in the basement of the Library. Occasionally Keith Train would pop in to do research for one of his Thoroton articles or research for a lecture, and Dick Illife & Wilf Baguley used to visit to find material for their 'Victorian Nottingham' books .

In those days I used to do the copying. Initially I did this on an old Roneo machine and since then I have seen the rise of the modern photocopier, the use of roll microfilm, the introduction

and published by the Council. The foreword was by Myles Thoroton Hildyard. Philip and I visited Flintham Hall to discuss the forward with Myles. This proved a daunting occasion and I was immediately in Myles' bad books when I parked my car in front of the Hall instead of round the back! For Nottinghamshire Archives I researched and wrote 'Women's History in The Nottinghamshire Archives, 1550-1950' that became a pioneer work and has been used as a key resource for women's history resource since its publication in 1989.



Chris with Councillor Smedley

Over the years I have written a number of commercial books, including *Bygone Nottingham* (Phillimore); *Nottingham: A History* (Phillimore); *The Nottinghamshire Heritage* (Phillimore); *Jesse Boot of Nottingham* (Boots Company); *Wilkinson: The Story of The People's Store, 1930-2005* (Wilkinson Company); *Village & Town Bands* (Shire); *As Poor As A Stockinger* (Nottinghamshire County Council); and *The Walker's A-Z* (self-published).

I am currently working on a publication, with a colleague, for the County Council in the *Turning Back The Pages* series on 'Nottinghamshire & World War 1'.

I have done countless appearances on local radio to promote events, publications and exhibitions. I remember on one occasion, a phone-in connected with an event called 'Ghost Night', the presenter asking the caller what the sloshing sound was in the background (it was mid-afternoon). The gentlemen replied that he was having a bath as he always did at that time in the afternoon. The caller wanted to complain that a ghost kept moving his cigarettes around the house and he could never find them! To promote some open days and to help with historical workshops I occasionally dressed as a Victorian gamekeeper. I was accompanied by 'Bob The Ferret' (a cloth creation with button-eyes), a rat trap and Roland Rat. 'Bob' had a variety of accessories, including a Santa hat, quill pen and his all-important mobile phone!

At national level I have given lectures and workshops on outreach and marketing at conferences around the UK and I wrote the module for 'outreach and marketing' for the Archives Administration postgraduate external diploma and was examiner for the course. Among my professional articles was 'Selling Yourself: Outreach & Promotion in the Nottinghamshire Archives Office' that was published in the *Journal of the Society of Archivists* in 1991. In 1997 I chaired the Society of Archivists' working party that organised a series of nationwide activities and events that celebrated the 50th

birthday of the Society and promoted the archives profession across the country.

In recent years I have become interested in community history and in working to create opportunities for young people to engage with archives and local history. I have organised two heritage competitions for young people and two youth heritage conferences, one at Lakeside (University of Nottingham) and last year's at Shire Hall. The next youth conference will be at Wollaton hall in July 2014. In 2011-12 I worked with a group of young people on an Olympiad

Journals Project to explore Nottingham's Parks & Gardens. I accompanied some of the young people to London when they were invited to show their work to Lady Walmsley at the House of Lords. This project won the 2012 Nottinghamshire Heritage Award for 'Work with Children & Young People'. I also secured, for Nottinghamshire Archives, a Heritage Lottery grant to fund a project for 17 young people to preserve a major collection of information on First World War memorials (the Wakefield Collection) that will become available next year. I am also on the steering group of the Hyson Green 'Belong' project that is working with local young people to explore the life and times of George Africanus Nottingham's first black businessman. This project also involves leading workshops and trails.

I retired from the Archives at the end of December and am now a freelance Heritage Consultant. I will look forward to supporting the Archives service and

its development into the future. Work on its new extension starts soon and heralds another exciting era in its development. I am also now vice-chairman of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association and will again look forward to exploring links between archives and the world of community and local history. And I very much hope, of course, to continue my association with Lambley village and the Historical Society.

Chris Weir

TREASURER'S REPORT 2013

This year we have been able to continue our tradition of offering a varied and interesting programme of lectures, with visits in the summer months to places of historic interest which complement the lectures where possible. This has proved popular with our members and has also attracted many visitors on an ad hoc basis, (Several visitors have then gone on to become members, a trend which we very much welcome)

Financially the Society has managed to maintain a healthy bank balance despite the increasing costs of most things! The annual membership fee of £10 will be retained for the coming year, with a charge of £3 per lecture for visitors but this may have to be reconsidered for 2015. Nevertheless, even with a possible increase in the membership fee in 2015, this must be the best bargain in the market place – where else can you find a monthly source of intellectual stimulation and interest in the company of like minded people, for such a small financial outlay?

Jackie Mansfield