

## My Year ...

### Early in the year I undertook research into a Heritage Initiative Zone, near the centre of Derby. It provided information that varied

from architectural photographs to census returns to feed into a series of creative workshops and an exhibition at a local church. It was a great opportunity to discover more about the history of Derby, a city that I occasionally visited with my Mum when I was 'a lad'. The city had certainly changed a lot from those days but many heritage features had been preserved and refurbished, including the wonderful Derby Cathedral with Bess of Hardwick's monument; and the delightful Arboretum, created on land given by Joseph Strutt, close to the central area. The land was once Joseph's summer retreat. The Arboretum dates back to 1840 and is said to be the first public park in England.

Over the summer I worked at Broomfield Museum, compiling a survey of some of its social history collections, and assessing storage conditions at the Museum. It was fascinating to look at museum objects that reflected the development of Nottingham after so many years of working with archives. The collections are very diverse, with objects from local industries, leisure activities, shopping, sport and transport to name but a few. I was especially delighted to find some items that related to Jack Helyer, the celebrated Nottingham cinema organist who also wrote several books on 'Rambling'. His signature tune at concerts was 'Im Happy When I'm Hiking'.

Throughout the year I have been managing a World War One project at Hyson Green in partnership with The Vine Community Centre, St Stephen's Church and IntoUniversity. The project has been based on a collection of over 50 letters written during WW1 from Harold Priestley, a Nottingham soldier, back to his wife Eva in Hyson Green.

The whole project was filmed by Richard Swainson productions and the film along with digital copies of the letters will be deposited with Local Studies at the City Library on Angel Row. All the letters have been conserved and drama volunteers led by theatre producer, Sarah Stephenson, used them to create performances for the local church and Djanogly Academy, Gregory Boulevard. The letters are owned by David Priestley, who lived in Hyson Green and is Harold's grandson.

This year I am leading a Nottingham WEA event on 'Nottingham: The Growing City'. This begins with an introductory talk on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 6.30-8.30pm, at Think Café! Cobden Chambers, Pelham Street, Nottingham, and is followed by two guided historical walks. One, on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, takes a route from Hyson Green to Basford, and the other, on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, goes from The Arboretum to Canning Circus. (To book telephone 01949 837566). And on Saturday 10th June I will be leading a historical walk for our own Society around the Forest (meet 2.30pm at the Forest pavilion). Hope to see you then!

**Chris Weir**



### TREASURER'S REPORT 2018

For my first year as treasurer I am pleased to report that 2017 was another successful year for the society. Membership has risen to 40, with 6 new members joining us this year. We also welcomed visitors to all our meetings. Speaker and room hire fees stayed virtually the same as last year, and our three outings were well attended. There was one event for the Lambley School Project which was funded from the Business Account. Overall we made a profit on the year and with membership support this can hopefully be maintained in 2018.

**Joyce Harrison - Treasurer**



# Lambley Historical Society

[www.lambleyheritage.co.uk](http://www.lambleyheritage.co.uk)

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## Welcome to our 2018 Newsletter

The Society's main activities in 2017 have continued to be very successful with members and non-members. Our wide ranging talks and visits have again been well attended. The talks included Rufford Abbey, Listed Buildings and Conservation, Nottingham Arboretum, 'Cycling' Through Local History, The Pentrich Rising and The Victorian Circus. Our outings included a visit to Kelham Hall, Nottingham Arboretum and a Tour of Nottingham with our President Chris Weir – wearing his Robin Hood hat!

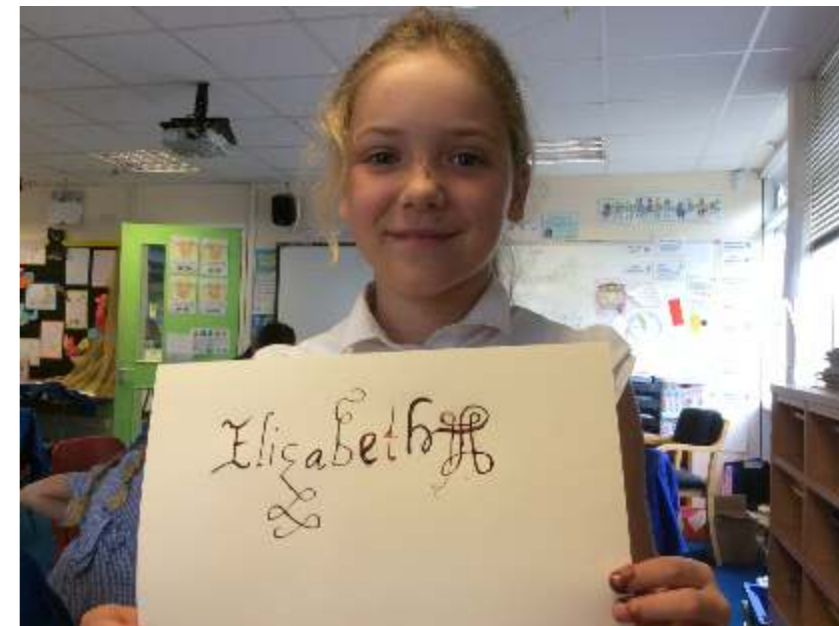
Reports on our past talks and visits can be found on our website.

The Society has been active within the local community working with Lambley School children to produce a Lambley Visitors Trail for Children. Chris Weir and I visited the school and worked with

the children to develop the Trail. We took the children on a guided walk of the village, pointing out places of interest that they may wish to incorporate into the Trail. At the end of the summer term the children's drafts were complete. At an enjoyable end of year class review, the children presented their ideas to an appreciative audience of parents and other relations. We have published some of the children's work on our website. In addition to the Trail, Chris introduced the children to manuscripts on parchment and calligraphy. The children

enjoyed a session of writing with a quill and getting ink on and off their hands! During the summer the Society had a stall at the Lambley 'Family Fun' Day. The event was well attended, with many people visiting our display of photographs. They were very interested in our pictures, asking questions and also discussing with us their memories of Lambley. We also distributed copies of our Heritage books. A rewarding and enjoyable day!

Our programme for 2018 is an exciting eclectic mix of talks and visits. Details are to be found in this newsletter.



As ever, on behalf of the members, I would like to thank my friends on the committee for all their hard work in 2017. The Society continues to move forward and attracts new members and visitors to our meetings, because of their dedication, commitment and hard work. 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, for his work this year with Lambley School and his regular 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 2017. We look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

**John Smith, Chairman**



# Our 2018 Programme - meetings and outings



## 26th Feb Judith Wright – A History of Boots Booklovers Library

This talk, illustrated with images from the Boots Archive, will explore the history of the Boots Booklovers Library and discover why it was so well-loved and successful. It will look at the role it played in the early years of the 20th century when books were not as common a feature of everyday life as they are today, as well as give a fascinating insight into the behind-the-scenes working of Boots Library Department, the libraries' architecture, advertising, staff training and the books themselves available on the shelves.

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## 26th Mar Michael Eaton – Charlie Peace, his Amazing Life and Astounding Legend

Charlie Peace was the most celebrated criminal of the late nineteenth century – a burglar and murderer whose true-life exploits were transformed into legend. He had a strange after-life as an anti-hero of penny dreadfuls, portable theatre productions, music hall songs, early cinema and even children's comics. This talk will concentrate on the time Charlie Peace spent in Narrow Marsh, Nottingham when on the run after murdering the husband of his mistress.



## 23rd April James Wright – The Newly Built Personality of Ralph Lord Cromwell

Rising from a Lincolnshire family of limited political influence, Ralph Cromwell became one of the most significant figures of the mid-fifteenth century. The personality of a man on the rise from Lord of the Manor to Lord Treasurer of England is reflected in his castles, great houses and ecclesiastical buildings. Those structures which he commissioned then went on to have an extraordinarily powerful legacy which lasted for over 150 years of English architecture.

**Note - This talk will be held in Lambley Church.**

## Summer outings

### 23rd May Afternoon visit to Holme Pierrepont Hall

Guided tour of the Hall and Church and time to wander in the gardens after tea and biscuits.



### 10th June Afternoon Tour of the Forest with Chris Weir

Chris will guide us round the Forest and surrounding area telling us about the history.

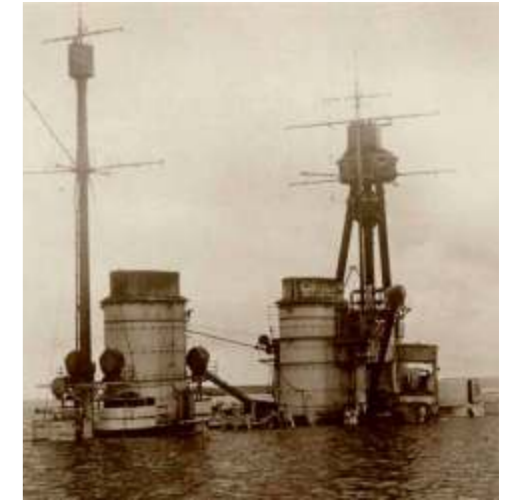


### 3rd July Visit to the John Taylor & Co Bell Foundry at Loughborough

A guided tour of the works and the Bellfoundry museum

### 24th Sept Michael Harrison – The Wrecks of Scapa Flow

The story Of Ernest Cox, the only private individual in recorded history who owned a navy. 'The navy' in question lay on the bottom of Scapa Flow-this is the story of Cox's efforts to raise the ships and dispose of them for scrap. Self-educated and with no knowledge of salvage Cox triumphed where others had feared to go.



### 22nd Oct Jeremy Lodge – Lowdham Grange - Borstal! History in the Making



This talk looks at the fate of young people in the English penal system in the 1800s and then explores some of the challenges, developments and people who created this innovative institution in the Nottinghamshire countryside. It describes what it was like to live and

work at Lowdham Grange Borstal until its closure in 1982 and its demolition in the following decade.

### 26th Nov Ken Moulds – The Duke of Wellington

An insight into the life of the 1st Duke of Wellington, with a brief mention of his ancestry, his parents and his birth in 1769 until his death in 1852. First and foremost, he was an accomplished



soldier and some of his battles will be mentioned, including a brief summary of Waterloo. The main endeavour is to present a look at the life of the whole man, including his marriage, his dalliances, the houses he lived in and his political background.

*All talks take place at Lowdham WI Hall, with the exception of the talk on 23rd April which is in Lambley Church. They start at 7.30 and are followed by tea or coffee afterwards. New members and guests always welcome.*