

ANDREW CARNEGIE, LOCAL LIBRARIESAND A DINOSAUR!?

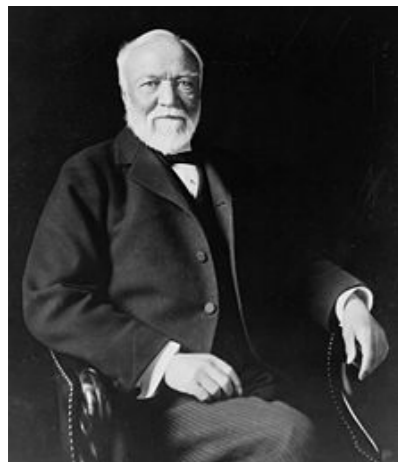
Chris Weir

I am often asked what I have been up to since retiring from Nottinghamshire Archives in December 2013! Well, I am still trying to walk the Offa's Dyke long-distance footpath and this year my brother and I managed to advance a few miles north of Llangollen - but there's at least 2 more 'sections' to go! Also, as vice-chairman of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association I have occasional duties and meetings for the Association. It has been great having more time to take up interests in heritage and I have had to re-create myself as a self-employed 'heritage consultant' with a website at heritagetalks.homestead.com

The work has been fairly varied. Last year I organised a youth heritage conference at Wollaton Hall, supported Belong, a community organisation based in Hyson Green that has been working with volunteers to discover more about the life of George Africanus, Nottingham's first known Black businessman, and I have been doing a variety of talks and leading several walks for TravelRight in Lenton/Basford, Carlton and Daybrook. TravelRight is a charity that has been established to encourage activities like walking and cycling and they currently operate in Gedling and Broxtowe boroughs and on the north side of Nottingham City.

The walks have all had a history theme and it has been a pleasure exploring local areas in more detail and sharing their heritage with other walkers. A few weeks before Christmas I led the 'Carlton Circular', a walk I devised around Carlton (Gedling). One of the 'stops' on the Carlton walk was the Library which was opened in 1906. It has a handsome frontage and before the walk I looked up something about its history. The cost was a substantial £1800 - but who paid for the library? The answer was that the money came from Andrew Carnegie, a remarkable man who set up Carnegie Trusts in Scotland, England and America.

Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland in 1835 but moved with his family when they emigrated to North America. He began his working life as a telegraph operator with the Ohio Telegraph Company then moved to a railroad company in Pittsburgh and slowly worked his way up to be a superintendent. He saved every penny and invested in railroads and ironworks, eventually owning the giant United States Steel Corporation. Carnegie was a fervent believer in education and especially reading and he began to donate huge sums of money to encourage the building of libraries, colleges and universities in Europe and America. Many libraries benefited from his donations, including Carlton Library and Carnegie's name is remembered on a plaque that you can see in the library entrance area (on the right). The building itself was designed by Mr J Haller who was surveyor and engineer to Carlton Urban District Council.



So, where does the dinosaur come into the story!? It seems that Carnegie was approached to sponsor an expedition to find a fossil dinosaur in Utah. The project was a success and a fine dinosaur was unearthed which has ever since been on display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And the dinosaur's name? In honour of the expedition sponsor it was named *Diplodocus Carnegiei*...and how many people get to have a dinosaur named after them!?

Chris is leading two further walks in Gedling District in March 2015. One round the lovely village of Lambley on the 7th March and another round Gedling village on 14th March. Details and dates (and how to book) to be confirmed later on the [TravelRight website](http://TravelRight.org.uk). See gedling.travelright.org.uk



TREASURER'S REPORT

We can look back on 2014 as an enjoyable year for Lambley Historical Society. Our aim of linking winter lectures with summer visits where possible has, again, proved popular so this will continue into 2015.

This year, in line with increasing demands on our finances, the membership fee will be £12 pa and there will be a slight increase in the cost of summer visits for non members. The latter was trialled in 2014 and accepted as being fair by visitors and members alike. Even with the increase in fees this is remarkable value for money including, as it does, a programme of lectures, summer visits and an opportunity to meet with others of similar interests and like minds where ideas can be discussed in the comfort of a warm, comfortable room with tea or coffee on hand. What could be better.

Financially the Society has maintained a healthy bank balance in 2014, allowing us to continue to attract excellent speakers and organise high quality venues for our summer visits.

Membership numbers have risen over the year, a trend which we aim to encourage in 2015 as Lambley Historical Society continues to thrive and grow.

Jackie Mansfield



Lambley Historical Society

www.lambleyheritage.co.uk

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Welcome to our 2015 News Review

Our talks and visits this year were a great success with members, with excellent attendance. Our talks were an enjoyable mix from the local history of Calverton to the World War 1 battlefields of Europe. Visits to Papplewick Pumping Station and Derby Round House gave us a fascinating insight into the Industrial Heritage of the East Midlands. Our guided tour of Doddington Hall, enlightened us on the construction of the Hall and its past and present owners.

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

Our major activity in 2014 was the participation at The Nottinghamshire Local History Fair at Mansfield Library in May. Many Local History Societies across Nottinghamshire participated. Societies used display boards, videos and leaflets to promote their work and activities. Your Society presented its picture catalogue, books and information about the Society to visitors and prospective members. This was a great opportunity to 'network' with other Societies. We came away from the event with ideas and contacts for our future programme of talks and visits.

Looking forward to 2015, we again have an excellent range of talks and visits planned. We start our programme with our President Chris Weir who will talk to us about Kill or Cure! - Bygone Medicines. Following on from Chris we have talks on the Southwell Work House, Nottingham textiles, The A1 Road - Kings and Highwaymen, Nottingham by the sea - Skegness and The development of the Music Hall. Our visits are to The Malt Cross Music Hall which has been re-furbished to include arts and crafts. To follow on from our talk on Nottingham Textiles, we have a visit to Hurts factory in Chilwell. We conclude our trips with a guided walk around Bingham with our old friend Val Henstock.

Please remember non- members are always welcome to attend our visits and meetings.



We are looking at two projects this year:

- Continuing with the cataloguing of our extensive collection of pictures and films.
- Adding to 'Our voices from the past library'. We are planning to record people's memories of Lambley.

Any member who wishes to help with these initiatives will be most welcome. Please speak to a committee member.

As ever, on behalf of the members, I would like to thank my friends on the committee for all their hard work in 2014. 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

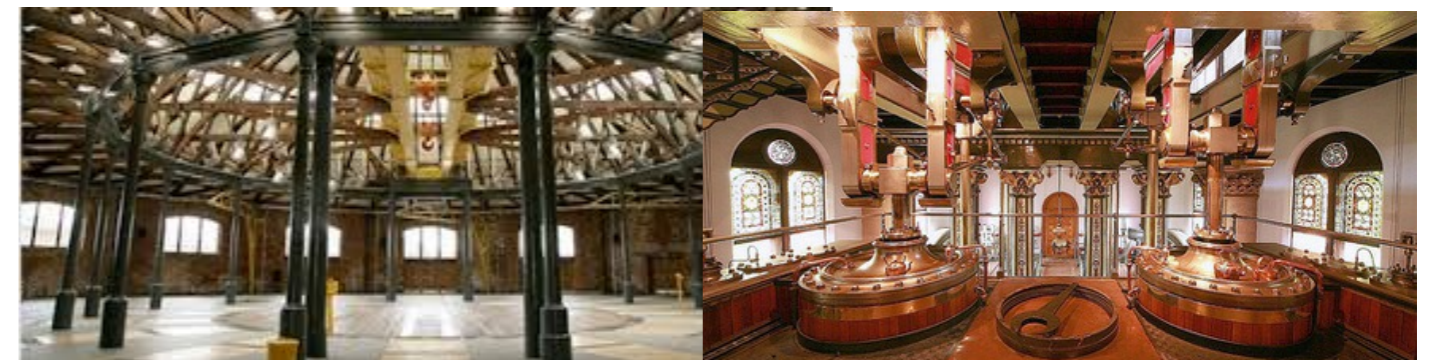
promote the Society and history of Lambley worldwide.

- The finances of the Society, so that we remain solvent.
- Driven our projects to completion.
- 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 2014. We look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

John Smith, Chairman



Our 2015 Programme

26th Jan
AGM & Social evening
 Buffet, film & quiz.

23rd Feb
Chris Weir - Kill or Cure!
Bygone Medicine
 Chris' father was a doctor in Glasgow. For this talk Chris brings along his father's medical bag, full of the original 'kit'. The history of medicine, while intriguing inevitably touches on the 'basics life & death'. It was sometimes a case of 'Kill or Cure!'



Saturday 9th May
Guided tour of the Malt Cross Music Hall
 A guided tour of the Malt Cross music hall and the old sandstone caves below. This tour will give a behind-the-scenes look at the vibrant heritage of the site and the people who helped make it one of Nottingham's most notorious music halls.



Monday 20th July
Guided walk around Bingham with Val Henstock
 As the ancient capital of the wapentake and the major market town in the Vale of Belvoir, Bingham repays closer attention. We shall chart its development from an agricultural community to its present dormitory status, looking at the stories in stone and brick left by its successive inhabitants. The walk will be at an easy pace along pavements and will last approx. 1 1/2 hours.

23rd Mar
Tales from Southwell Workhouse (National Trust)
 The Workhouse Storytellers are a group of National Trust volunteers with an enthusiasm for sharing the tales of the building's former occupants. These stories are told in a variety of ways - prepare to be surprised, entertained and moved by the Storytellers as they take us back to life in a Victorian Workhouse.



Tuesday 23rd June
Guided tour of G.H.Hurt and Son factory at Chilwell
 Hear about the history of lace-knitting, see how their shawls and scarves are made and also view some rare hand frames and other artefacts from 101 years as G.H. Hurt & Son Ltd.



28th Sept
Ian Morgan - Footpads, Kings and Highwaymen
 The A1 - renowned as being the route from London to Edinburgh has changed its path and even its name many times over the years, yet as the travellers pass on their way do they know just how fortunate they are? The journey covers just 34 miles as we take the route of the old Great North Road through Nottinghamshire and in that short distance we shall see the scenes of horrific battles, the haunts of highwaymen, the sites of murder and much, much more... Get ready for a rollercoaster ride of horror and humour as the stories of this ancient highway unfold.



27th Apr
Dr Rebekah Wood - The Knitter's Tale - a History of Framework Knitting
 Working in collaboration with The Framework Knitters Museum and G.H.Hurt and Son, shawl manufacturers, Dr. Rebekah Wood studied the origins of the knitwear industry in Nottingham exploring traditional knitting techniques, skills and stories. The talk will present the findings which included recording the experiences of the last few remaining framework knitters. This has helped to show how creative skills are passed from Master to Apprentice and how the skills of the past can be preserved for the future.



26th Oct
Bob Massey - Nottingham by the Sea
 Nottingham on sea; the history of Skegness tells the story of its growth from a small fishing village to the largest town in the area, its development by the coming of the railway and its fascination with the people of Nottingham.

23rd Nov
David Darby - Kindly leave the stage
 The talk looks at the development of Music Hall to Variety through the lives of the stars, their biographies and a feel for their 'turns'.

