

STAN BORRIE 1927 - 15th April 2010

Stan was a founder member of the Lemsford Local History Group and, until this last bitterly cold winter, he attended and contributed to every meeting. His main interest was, of course, the history of his beloved home 'Cress Cottage' and who had lived there. One puzzle to which he never got a satisfactory answer was where exactly was 'Rushy Park'. A name he had found in one of the documents in his Deeds relating, he thought, to the area on which his cottage stood.

At one of the early meetings of the Group he undertook to research the history of the pubs, old and new, in the Lemsford parish. He always said that it was at the vicar's request when Ron chaired the Group and had asked everyone to undertake some piece of research about the village. I think the necessary fieldwork appealed to him!. The result of this was the Lemsford LHG Booklet No. 3 entitled 'Lemsford Village History. Some notes about the village pubs, past and present'. I helped him to prepare his notes for publication. One tricky moment was when I had to shorten a paragraph by a few words to get it onto the page, so took some liberties with his text. I knew that his text was sacrosanct so it was with some fear and trepidation that I told him what I had done. Once he realised why I had done this heinous deed all was just about OK - although he did make a few alterations to my alterations of course.

He was deeply involved and a valued contributor to the Lemsford LHG exhibitions at the Lemsford Fête from the planning, research and setting up of the displays to selling our booklets on the day. Afterwards, when it was left on display in the Bocket Chapel for a week or two, he gave up his Sunday afternoons to explain what was what to the odd visitor who had found the church open and dropped in.

Stan was a complete Luddite where computers were concerned. Still it is thanks to him, or rather his son Richard, who instigated the Lemsford LHG web-site. Andy Chapman has taken it over brilliantly and it now gets, on average, over 1,000 hits per month. It has attracted enquiries from all over the world and enabled several distant relations of families who once lived in Lemsford to make contact. Stan himself was the beneficiary of a web-site enquiry - someone who had lived in Cress Cottage as a child in the 1940s. They made contact and were able to exchange happy memories of the cottage and the watercress beds only a few weeks ago.

Stan held the archives of the Lemsford LHG for many years and thought up a system for filing them which we still follow.

The Lemsford LHG will miss him enormously.