



Warwickshire
Local History Society

BULLETIN

No 62

Spring 2024

Editor's letter: 2024 looks as though it will turn out to be memorable, if not always for the right reasons. We started with excess rain, flooding, and the forecast that it will be the hottest year on record, with further associated natural disasters. If you are someone who always keeps daily details of the local weather, it will be interesting to compare with other 'peak years' like 1976, and if you haven't hitherto noted what's happening outside, now might be the time to start. On the plus side, there are the 2024 Olympic Games to look forward to, in a time zone only a couple of hours ahead of our own, and the opportunity to marvel at both the talent of the athletes, and the sight of so many nations coming together to compete, while many of their countrymen are fighting each other. Everything generates a memory, and knowing how fascinating the diarist of earlier centuries are to read, perhaps we should all consider recording our thoughts and comments of local, national and international events, and not just 'very cold', 'dentist' &c. Happy 2024

Future Meetings of the Society

Meetings are held at the Primary School Hall, Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick, CV34 6XR, 7.30pm; coffee available from 7pm

- 20 February Peter Coulls on *Umberslade Baptist Chapel and the Muntz family*.
- 19 March Members' Evening: Speakers include Robert Howe on *Reverend J Harvey Bloom*.
- 16 April AGM: 7.15 start followed by Louise Essex on *Using the Local Studies Department at Nuneaton Library for Research*.

2024 Outings

Rowan Fisher has again arranged a variety of outings for this year, which are listed below. The website will be updated as details become available, and members will be emailed about two months before each event. In the mean time, [save the dates](#).

- 29 June St Peter's Church, and the North Warwickshire Heritage Centre, Mancetter.
- 6 July Holy Trinity Church, Sutton Coldfield.
- 20 July Tours of Harbury Village and Heritage Centre.
- 30 November Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick

Other dates for your diary

Details may change, so please check with each society. There is a wonderful resource for local history and research groups on the Our Warwickshire website. If you want to find out about a local group (or indeed

if there is one) use this link <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk> and follow the menu link to Local groups, where you can also add your own organization.

- 2 February Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: Chris Rhodes on *Schools under pressure: Lillington and Telford Schools 1955-1990*.
- 12 February Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Sue Tall on *Kenilworth and the Great War Tanks*.
- 14 February Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Andrew Reekes on *Reporting Birmingham – 250 years of a Provincial Press*.
- 15 February Chipping Campden History Society, Upper Town Hall, 7.30pm: Tony Roberts on *An update on excavations of mediaeval manor at Guiting Power*.
- 16 February Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: David Ella on *On the way to London; Vale of Evesham Roads from 1250-1850*.
- 16 February Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Stephen Barker on *The Battle of Edgehill, 1642*.
- 20 February Harbury Society, Tom Hauley Room, 7.30pm: Michael Luntley on *Migration to Brazil – Warwickshire agricultural workers, 1872*.
- 27 February Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Stephen Wass on *New Archaeology at Baddesley Clinton*.
- 27 February Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Sheila Woolf on *Who's ever heard of Hamstall? The Staffordshire link with Stoneleigh*.
- 1 March Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: R. J. Price on *Warwickshire in nineteenth century Stereo photographs*.
- 8 March Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Dr John Hunt on *Why look at Churches?*
- 11 March Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: David Freke on *Mediaeval Graffiti in Warwickshire*.
- 13 March Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Stephen Godfrey on *The Alcester Railway Company: the story of the "Coffee Pot" line*.
- 15 March Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: David G. P. Morse on *The Home Guard; Defence of the country during its darkest days*.
- 15 March Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Vanessa Morgan on *Local Rogues and Villains of the nineteenth century*.
- 26 March Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Michael Luntley on *Migration of Warwick Labourers* (musical version)
- 26 March Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Richard Churchley on *From Eadburga to Elvis: unusual saints and their churches*.
- 29 March Welford & Weston LHS, Welford Memorial Hal, 7.30pm: Simon Pipe on *A leap from the past – anecdotes from the Morris Dance traditions of South West Warwickshire*.
- 5 April Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: Alan Bailey on *This history of Billesley – a Warwickshire deserted village*.
- 8 April Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a

prompt 7:45pm start: Roger Warren on *Walter Scott and "Kenilworth"*.

- 10 April Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: David Ella on *On the Way to London: Local roads from Anglo-Saxon tracks to Turnpikes*.
- 19 April Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Mike Jenkins on *History of Placenames in Worcestershire*.
- 23 April Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Rick Thompson on *The Warwick Bank Crash*.
- 30 April Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Vanessa Morgan on *Coventry Murders*.
- 3 May Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: Margaret Rushton on *Five Formidable Local Ladies*.
- 8 May Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Nick Daffern on *The Paleolithic and Ice Age environments of the West Midlands*.
- 10 May Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: Ginny Davis on *From the Pillory to the Prison Cell*.
- 13 May Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Mairi Macdonald on *Mediaeval Women*.
- 17 May Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Stephen Barker on *Six Warrior Women of the English Civil Wars, 1642-51*.
- 21 May Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Tim Clark on *The building of St Mary's, Warwick, in six people*.
- 7 June Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: David Fry on *Bourton Hall – A Victorian Family Album*.
- 10 June Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Max Keen on *King John – the worst or most useful king?*
- 12 June Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: John Reid on *Warwick the Kingmaker: Richard Neville, 16th earl of Warwick, 1428-71: the ultimate over-mighty subject*.
- 21 June Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Gillian White on *The Most Dissolute Man in London; William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Devonshire*.
- 25 June Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Margaret Rushton on *Five formidable Local Females*.
- 5 July Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4pm for 4.30pm: Patrick Fitzgerald on *In praise of Turbo Props – an appraisal of the Lockheed C10K in RAF service*.
- 12 July Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: Lis Mann on *Threads though Time (a refugee's tale in images, objects and words)*.
- 14 August Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Mike Sharpe on *The history of Feckenham Forest*.
- 11 September Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Ned Williams on *History with a Dividend: the story of the Co-op*.
- 9 September Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Julian Davey on *1,000 years of Arrow*.

- 13 September Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: A talk from a representative of the Gaydon Motor Museum
- 17 September Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Andrew Reekes on *Transforming a City: the work of the Civil Gospel in Birmingham*.
- 24 September Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: A presentation by Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club on *Local History unearthed: finds from the local area*.
- 22 October Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: AGM, from 7pm, then Richard Churchley on *Needle making in Worcestershire & Warwickshire, 1640-1940*.

Societies' news

Not all of our member societies have a regular programme of speakers, focusing rather on research projects connected with their area. I would be pleased to learn of any such group's research projects. We all know that local history isn't just about talks, but also about active participation in projects.

Research news

StratFire project: This is a four-year collaboration between the Stratford Society and Historic England to establish the chronology and extent of reconstruction of buildings in the mediaeval town centre, following the disastrous fires of 1594, 1595 and 1614. Using building analysis, dendrochronology and archival research it is hoped to establish exactly which parts of High and Chapel Streets were affected, the detailed chronology of reconstruction, similarities (or not) in building design and layout, and the status of the families who were faced with the work and costs. Fuller details, together with those reports already completed, can be found at <https://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/stratfire>

Recent publications

Mike Kingman, *Brickmaking and Brick Building in The Midlands, 1437-1780* (Brewin Books, 2023), £14.95, ISBN 978-1-85858-758-5. Brick building came to the Midlands in the fifteenth century, its use reflecting prestige among aristocracy and higher clergy. This study explores its wider acceptance, and describes the pattern and volume of a locally distinctive material.

Michael Layton & Androulla Christou-Layton, *Top Secret Warwickshire* (Brewin Books, 2023) £15.95, ISBN 978-1-85858-765-3. This book seeks to uncover the role played by Warwickshire, and those serving and living in Warwickshire, during World War II and the Cold War. Packed with photographs and personal recollections, it is a valuable source of information.

Maggie Payne, *Buntings: Tales from the Till* (Brewin Books, 2023) £7.95, ISBN 978-1-85858-766-0. This book is a recollection of memories from 30 years of service at the well-known family shop, Buntings, in Alcester, and provides the reality of everyday life behind the counter in a busy local store.

Next issue

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 July 2024

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