

Anniversary Essay Competition

To demonstrate our commitment to the encouragement of local history research, we offered a prize of £250 for the best essay on some aspect of Warwickshire's past.

Seven essays were submitted, covering a wide range of subjects. The general standard was high, each essay making a contribution to our knowledge of Warwickshire's past. With the authors' agreement, all would merit publication in some form in *Warwickshire History* and the editor will be encouraging them to pursue this option.

Choosing a winner was no easy matter but the judges did consider two essays to be exceptional. One, by Angela Nichols, *A convenient habitation fit for Christians to dwell in* – and thought to have the edge – explores the interesting subject of the provision of parish housing for the poor in seventeenth-century rural Warwickshire to establish possible common standards in terms of location, size and material comfort. We have therefore decided to award the main prize of £250 for this very valuable piece of work. However, Maureen Harris, in her *The 'Captain of Oliver's Army' and the Wixford Catholics: ... 1640-1674*, has added considerably to our knowledge of the nature of religious conflict in the Commonwealth and post-Restoration period, centring on the career of Timothy Kirke, particular reference to his incumbency at Wixford. We were so struck by the quality of Maureen Harris's entry that we have decided that this should be recognised by an award of £50.