



Warwickshire
Local History Society

BULLETIN

No 65

Spring 2026

Editor's letter:

As I write this, the geo-political world is in turmoil, and many people wonder where we are going, and what will happen next. The history of these times will be written from official documents, diaries and reports in the national press, but for a true picture of what people's concerns and activities were, researchers must go to local newspapers (sadly a dying medium). Now, as 150 years ago, they will read of weather events, local political issues and the everyday activities of clubs and societies, together with the achievements of local individuals in their spheres. Local newspapers are a wonderful source of information on almost every activity in a particular area, and using them deepens our understanding of life in the past. Judging by my most recent local paper, housing, education, roads, vie for space with gardening clubs, art societies, charity fund-raisers and sport. These are the bricks and mortar of daily life, and without them, history is just dates!

Future Meetings of the Society

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

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| 17 February 2026 | Researches and Resources in Kineton Local History, by David Freke and Colin Such |
| 17 March 2026 | The Bracebridges in Warwickshire by Yvonne Stone. |
| 21 April 2026 | Charles Jennens and his family of Nether Whitacre by Rita Poulson.
This meeting will be preceded by the AGM at 7.15 pm |

2026 Outings

Rowan Fisher has again arranged a variety of outings for this year, listed below. The website will be updated as details become available, and members will be emailed about two months before each event. In the meantime, save the dates.

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| 14 May | Charterhouse and London Road Cemetery, Coventry, 11am. |
| 20 June | Ladbroke Church and Village, 2pm. |
| 8 July | Packington House, 2.30pm |
| 5 September | Police Museum, Birmingham, 1pm |
| 26 November | Guided tour of Warwick Castle (inside), 2pm |

Other dates for your diary

Details may change, so please check with each society.

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| 6 February | Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: David Morse on <i>What we can learn from the Leamington Archive – Then and Now</i> . |
| 9 February | Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, 7.45pm: AGM followed by Suzanne Phillips on <i>In the orbit of the Lunar Circle: glass painter Francis Eginton of Soho</i> . |
| 11 February | Alcester & District LHS, Greig Hall, Alcester, 7.30pm: James Ranahan on <i>Alcester & District reflected in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Collections</i> , |
| 11 February | Long Itchington History Group, Community Centre, 7.30pm: Anthony Hitchcox on <i>A History of Radford Semele in pictures</i> . |
| 17 February | Stretton on Dunsmore History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: David Morse on <i>A dive into the photo archive of Leamington History Society</i> . |
| 20 February | Kineton & District LHG, Kineton Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm: Bob Booth on <i>The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville Story from 1878</i> . |
| 24 February | Lapworth LHG, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: <i>Two Newdigate Ladies</i> . |
| 26 February | Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch, Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, 7.30pm: Prof. Matt Taylor on <i>Sport and the Home Front: Wartime Britain at play, 1939-45</i> . |
| 6 March | Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: Colin Baldwin on <i>Cartophily – Cigarette and Trade cards</i> . |
| 11 March | Alcester & District LHS, Greig Hall, Alcester, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Paul Wilkins on <i>"Deeds not Words" – remembering Warwickshire's Suffragettes</i> . |
| 11 March | Long Itchington History Group, Community Centre, 7.30pm: A speaker from the Midland Air Museum on <i>Sir Frank Whittle</i> . |
| 13 March | Lighthorne History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Dr Paul Grigsby on <i>Prehistoric and Roman Warwickshire</i> . |
| 17 March | Stretton on Dunsmore History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Anne Langley on 'Treasures from the Village Archives'. |
| 20 March | Kineton & District LHG, Kineton Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm: AGM followed by John Parnell on <i>A History of the Circus</i> . |
| 21 March | Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Martin Sinot-Smith on <i>Daily Life in Tudor Times</i> . |
| 24 March | Lapworth LHG, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: <i>The State Visit of Henry VIII to Warwick</i> . |
| 24 March | Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Richard Churchley on <i>Songs the Victorians sang</i> . |
| 25 March | Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch, King Edward VI College, 7.30pm: Dr Colin Storer on <i>Germany 1918-1939</i> . |
| 25 March | Lapworth LHG, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Charlie Plain-Jones on <i>Erasmus Darwin</i> . |
| 25 March | Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Jill Kashi & Pete James on <i>Mary Dormer Harris, Warwickshire historian from Stoneleigh</i> . |

- 27 March Welford & Weston LHS, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Ruth Larsen on *Gardens for Romance*.
- 8 April Alcester & District LHS, Greig Hall, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, 7.30pm: Andrew Reekes on *Oswald Mosley and Birmingham*.
- 8 April Long Itchington History Group, Community Centre, 7.30pm: AGM followed by Alan Benjamin on *Some History and music of Morris Dancing*.
- 10 April Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: Martin Harrison on *When Passions Collide – the story of some Leamington men and their medals*.
- 17 April Bidford & District History Society, Crawford Hall, Salford Road, 7.15pm: Richard Churchley on *Songs of the Music Hall*.
- 21 April Stretton on Dunsmore History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Rev Phil Price on *The history of All Saints and other churches in the benefice*.
- 23 April Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch, Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, 7.30pm: Prof. Roey Sweet on *The Recovery of the Anglo-Saxon Past*.
- 28 April Lapworth LHG, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: *Mary Dormer Harris, 1867-1936: Historian, writer, pacifist, feminist & local icon*.
- 28 April Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: David Fry on *The Marton Museum of Bygones – with a 'Guess the object'*.
- 1 May Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: Aidan McRae Thomson on *Strained glass in Leamington and beyond*.
- 8 May Lighthorne History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Tony Mawbey on *Upton House Treasures*.
- 15 May Bidford & District History Society, Crawford Hall, Salford Road, 7.15pm: Paul Baker on *The Lost Railway*.
- 26 May Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Sheila Woolf on *The tragic baron – Genius or Madman: Edward 6th Lord Leigh*.
- 5 June Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: Carol Sleight on *Lights of Leamington*.
- 19 June Bidford & District History Society, Crawford Hall, Salford Road, 7.15pm: Aaron Manning on *God's Anointed: raising aristocratic children in Puritan England*
- 23 June Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Lisa Reay and Sheila Woolf on *Tales from the Churchyard – Part Two*.
- 3 July Lillington Local History Society, Parish Church, 4.30pm: Peter Coulls on *Let's return to Lillington*.
- 17 July Bidford & District History Society, Crawford Hall, Salford Road, 7.15pm: Mairi Macdonald on *Mediaeval Children*.
- 11 September Lighthorne History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Maggie Wood on *Ralph Sheldon and his Wonderful Tapestry*.
- 15 September Stretton on Dunsmore History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Kate Mawer on *Uncovering the history of a Northamptonshire farmhouse*.

22 September Lapworth LHG, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: *The Peasants' Revolt 1381*.

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 is not just about talks, but also about active participation in projects.

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire Showcase 2026

From the **4th –28th March 2026**, enjoy a **brand-new programme** of **local history** talks, tours and hands-on workshops, offering unique insights into Warwickshire's rich heritage. Highlights include:

- Learn what the **Archaeology Warwickshire** team uncovered during a dig in South Warwickshire
- Take a fascinating journey through **medical history**
- Discover the story of **Warwick Priory**
- Enjoy a guided tour of the **paintings at Judges House, Old Shire Hall**
- Go behind the scenes at our **museum stores**, including costume and fossil collections
- Plus much more

New tour dates for February, March and April for the ever-popular Old Shire Hall courts, cells and dungeon tours have also been released. For more information, and to book, go to

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritageboxoffice>

StratFire

This project which has been running since 2022, and is a collaboration between English Heritage and the Stratford Society has been seeking to establish the chronology and extent of the reconstruction of buildings in the medieval town centre, following the disastrous town fires of 1594, 1595 and 1614. Post-fire documentary sources record damage to certain buildings, especially in High Street and Chapel Street, and architectural appraisal indicates that several timber-framed buildings surviving today date from the post-fire period. However, more needs to be established concerning the scale, nature and speed of this rebuilding, and the impact of the fires, both on the economic well-being of the town and the fortunes of the families most seriously affected. It has involved both volunteers and specialists, and further details and the results to date can be found at <https://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/stratfire>

Warwick Network for Parish Research

Founded in 2003 the network supports a wide range of initiatives in parish history, art, heritage and culture from the Middle Ages. Co-ordinated by Beat Kumin it offers numerous resources for local historians on its My-Parish platform https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/myparish/

Next issue: Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 July 2026

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