



Warwickshire  
Local History Society

# BULLETIN

No. 51

Summer 2018

## Editor's letter

All societies, such as ours, rely on the dedication of a few, hardworking volunteers who give up their time and energy to keep them running smoothly. One of the most important is the Programme Secretary, and we have been blessed for many years with the services of Neville Usher. Sadly, he now feels that he must step down from this role, and the decision was taken to split the task into two: lectures and visits. Again, we have been extremely fortunate that two volunteers offered their services (with minimal arm twisting), and we welcome Jim Ranahan, archivist at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, who will be responsible for lectures, and Rowan Fisher, who many will know from WCRO & Warwick heritage events, who will organize visits. Do you enjoy your own village history society? Does it need willing volunteers to continue? How might you help to keep our county's heritage alive?

## Future Meetings of the Society

All meetings start at 8 pm, preceded by coffee at 7.30 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Warwick, unless otherwise indicated. Members of Local History Societies who are affiliated to WLHS are welcome to attend lectures at no cost. Please note that the meetings are on different days of the week. Details can also be found online at [www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk).

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| 22 September | 1.30 pm. Visit to the ancient parish of Yardley, Birmingham. We explore two important historic buildings; St. Edburgha's parish church and Blakesley Hall, before finishing with a cream tea. |
| 16 October   | Dr John Wilmot on <i>Dr John Conolly: physician, reformer and enigma</i> .  |
| 20 November  | Dr Jacqui Geater on <i>Pre-industrial Birmingham 'with a flavour of wills'</i> .  |
| 1 December   | Dr Stephen Laing on <i>Women and Cars at Motor Museum, Gaydon</i>   |
| 19 February  | Dr Lucy Underwood on <i>The Catholic experience, and aspects of childhood – with a Warwickshire Connexion</i> .   |
| 19 March     | AGM followed by David Paterson on <i>George Eliot and Warwickshire</i> .  |
| 16 April     | Members Evening. Details to follow  |

## Other dates for your diary

This listing is based primarily on information received from societies which are members of The Warwickshire Local History Society. If you wish your events to appear in the *Bulletin*, please send details to the editor at the email address at the end, or as hard copy by post.

- 7 September Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 8 pm: A talk by Lady Hamilton, historical biographer and author of *The Warwickshire Scandal*.
- 10 September Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Dr Gillian White on *The most dissolute man in London: 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth*.
- 12 September Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Graham Sutherland on *Warwickshire Crime & Criminals*.
- 20 September Warmington Heritage Group, Warmington Village Hall, 7.30pm: Ian Brodie on *An Aliment for my child*.
- 21 September Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Stephen Barker on *The Battle of Edgehill, October 1642'*
- 21 September Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Andrew Baker on *Edgehill Tea Rooms*.
- 24 September Leamington History Group, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, 7.30pm: Tara Morton on *Mapping Womens' Suffrage*.
- 25 September Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Anne Langley on *Warwick County Asylum*.
- 28 September Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Local bell ringers on *The Bells of St Peter's, Welford*.
- 8 October Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Lt. Col. John Rice on *The history of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment*.
- 10 October Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Tim Bridges on *Warwickshire Churches*.
- 19 October Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Bob Marshall on *Bidford Survivors: the lives of WWI Bidford armed forces survivors*.
- 19 October Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: John Berkeley on *The Czechs in Warwickshire in WWII*.
- 22 October Leamington History Group, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, 7.30pm: Helen & Paul Eldridge on *The story of Doreen Wright's Diary, May 1940 – December 1942*.
- 23 October Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Richard Postlethwaite on *A walk round 'Old Wolston'*.

- 3 November Bidford History Society: Crawford Hall, Salford Road, Bidford on Avon, 2.30pm: "Have you forgotten yet" a centenary commemoration of the end of WW1. This will be a performance in words and music. At the end of the event we will be launching publication of our recent three year research programme, into the subsequent lives of the 340 service people from Bidford who returned from the war.
- 9 November Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 8 pm: John Mayell on *Past, present and future of Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway*.
- 12 November Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Laurence Ince on *Warwickshire and the Holbeche family*.
- 14 November Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Sir Andrew Hamilton on *Stolen Lives*.
- 16 November Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Professor Christopher Mick on *WWI the final German perspective*.
- 18 November Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Brian Morgan on *The history of Moreton Hall, Moreton Morrell*.
- 26 November Leamington History Group, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, 7.30pm: John Wilmot on *The history of Rock Mill, Leamington*.
- 27 November Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Roy Smart on *Another Icarus*.
- 30 November Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Peter Howarth on *Training for War – World War Two airfields in the Stratford area*.
- 12 December Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Robin Hill on *My Collection of Collections: personal choices from 30 years in museums*.
- 14 December Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Dr Gillian White on *Huggable Teddy Bears: early 20<sup>th</sup> century toys*.
- 14 January Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Sheila Woolf on *Here Come the Girls! A Very "Special" Relationship*.
- 18 January Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Andrew Reeks on *Two Titans, One City: Joseph Chamberlain, George Cadbury & Birmingham*.
- 18 January Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: David Beaumont on *Admiral Cowan: Soldier and Sailor*.
- 29 January Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Tim Bridges on *Warwickshire Churches*.

- 11 February Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: AGM followed by Helen & Peter Viola on *The nineteenth century Baronets of Leamington Hastings and their medals: from Waterloo to Kenilworth*.
- 15 February Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Alan Godfrey on *Postman's Knock: postal services in the Alcester area from the 18<sup>th</sup> century*.
- 18 February Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Ilona Sekacz on *The Pit and the Metronome: my musical journey through Shakespeare*.
- 15 March Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Professor Richard Cust on *Discovering Charles I*.
- 29 March Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Adam Busiakiewicz on *Sir Fulke Greville: Collector, Builder, Gardener and Warwickshire Man*.

### **'LIVING THROUGH THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS' IN WARWICKSHIRE**

A unique Civil-Wars project which will benefit Warwickshire historians began in June. The project, led by Dr Maureen Harris of the University of Leicester through the 'Friends of Warwickshire County Record Office', and supported by the Dugdale Society, has been made possible by means of a grant of £13,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Volunteers from 22 societies and parish and civic groups from across 'old' Warwickshire (including Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Sutton Coldfield) are being trained to transcribe more than 200 parliamentarian 'Accounts' covering three-quarters of Warwickshire's parishes. The 'Accounts' reveal the traumatic effects of four years of continuous civil warfare (1642 to 1646) in a 'frontier' county like Warwickshire and the losses sustained by thousands of named individuals in the county's towns and villages through onerous taxation, the free billeting of dozens, sometimes hundreds, of cavalry and infantry, the constant demands for horses and provisions and the plunder of personal belongings by passing troops. The project, which continues till the end of 2019 looks beyond the major battles like Edgehill to raise awareness of the human suffering of ordinary people in a 'war without an enemy'. In 2020 the completed transcriptions will be made publicly available on a searchable Warwickshire County Record Office website and the Dugdale Society will publish an accompanying volume of selected examples, with an introductory chapter and a full index. For further information contact Maureen Harris on [meharris362@gmail.com](mailto:meharris362@gmail.com) or check out the 'Friends' Facebook page on [www.facebook.com/Friends-Of-The-Warwickshire-County-Record-Office](http://www.facebook.com/Friends-Of-The-Warwickshire-County-Record-Office).

### **Next issue**

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 December 2018 if you wish items to be included.

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**Editor: Mairi Macdonald, 15 Kendall Avenue, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6SG**

**(tel: 07702 862042 email: [23lochals@gmail.com](mailto:23lochals@gmail.com))**