

BULLETIN

Warwickshire Local History Society

No. 48

Spring 2017

Editor's letter

At the beginning of January, I attended the funeral of Donald Graham, a local historian, who had spent his retirement from teaching researching the history of the parish in which he lived. His work resulted in both printed publication (including several articles in *Warwickshire History*) and permanent exhibition in Wootton Wawen Church, and it was clear from both the eulogies and talking to people afterwards, just what an impact his work had on the community. His books and articles, lectures and guided walks had inspired those who had no previous interest in the place of their birth or habitation to look at it in a different light, and take up their own lines of research. Much use is made nowadays of the word 'legacy', usually in terms of achievement, and for the local historian, there can be no better one than to leave behind a parish or other area/organization with a renewed sense of engagement with the place they live or work.

Umbrella 3

Twenty-three local history societies across the historic county gathered for a one-day workshop on 12 November, one of the occasional conferences held by Warwickshire Local History Society for its affiliated groups. This meeting aimed to discuss both the Internet's potential for local history research and its use by societies for publicizing their interests and activities. Many useful websites were recommended for both research and publication, and it is hoped that the information and inspiration will be disseminated among their members.

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.

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| 21 February | A talk on <i>The history of the NHS in Warwickshire and the West Midlands</i> . The speaker is yet to be confirmed. |
| 21 March | Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm followed by Dr Andrew Hopper on <i>Bereavement and loss in the civil wars in Warwickshire</i> . |
| 11 April | Julie Chamberlain on <i>Women in early modern Coventry</i> . |
| 13 May | A tour of Bidford on Avon led by Professor Christopher Dyer and Bidford Local History Society, followed by tea. |
| 17 June | Visit to the complex of mediaeval buildings at Kings Norton, including Grammar School and Merchant's House; a talk by Dr Denise Thomas on <i>Thomas Hall</i> , followed by tea. |

- 15 July Visit to Nuneaton with tour of King Edward VI School and St Nicholas Parish Church, followed by tea.
- 16 September Visit to St Milburga's Church, Wixford, together with the famous yew tree and 'horse house'; a guided tour of St Matthew, Salford Priors, followed by tea.

Other dates for your diary

This listing is based on information received from societies which are members of The Warwickshire Local History Society and can also be found on the website under 'Events', together with details of other events of which we have been informed.

If you wish your events to appear in the *Bulletin* or on the Society's website, please send details to the editor at the email address at the end, or as hard copy by post.

- 27 January Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: John Harris on *With the Best Will in the World*.
- 31 January Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Richard Williams from The Iron Bridge Gorge Trust on *How a cooking pot changed the World!*
- 8 February Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: Dr Sarah Richardson on *Crime and Punishment in the nineteenth century*.
- 17 February Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Robin Hill on *Land Army memories of WWII*.
- 17 February Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Anne Langley on *Joseph Ashby's Victorian Warwickshire*.
- 8 March Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Prof. Rebecca Probert on *The Runaway Wife, the Bigamous Earl and the Farmer's Daughter*.
- 8 March Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: Jan Cooper on *War and Worship: the relationship between Kenilworth Castle and Abbey*.
- 17 March Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Deborah Hayter on *The 17th century village – who was in charge?*
- 17 March Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 8 pm: A.G.M. followed by Michael Jeffs on *Warwickshire Landscapes: The Story So Far*.
- 28 March Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.30pm: Andrew Lound on *When the Lights Went Out - When Birmingham Went to War*.
- 12 April Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Derek Clarke on *The major repairs to Tyntesfield*.

- 21 April Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Stephen Laing on *Women and Motor Cars*.
- 22 April Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Spring Fayre, 10am – 4pm: Exhibitions, WWI trench, Victorian Schoolroom
- 25 April Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.30pm: Lizzie Miller on *The Staffordshire Hoard*.
- 8 May Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Guild Room, Aston Cantlow Village Hall, 7.30pm: David Walker on *Harry Ferguson*.
- 10 May Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Max Keen on *Henry V and Agincourt: England's greatest three hours?*
- 10 May Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: Jacqui Kirk on *Thomas Lodge, an Elizabethan Mayor of London*.
- 19 May Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Tim Bridges on *Churches of Warwickshire*.
- 9 June Bidford & District History Society, Crawford Hall, Bidford, 7.30pm: Professor Gary Sheffield on *Passchendaele 1917 Revisited*.
- 14 June Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Christine Cluley on *The History of Compton Verney*.
- 10 July Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Guild Room, Aston Cantlow Village Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Gillian White on *The Elizabethan Country House*.
- 12 July Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: Maureen Harris on 'The "debauched" parson and the "wit-already-expired-rogue": Warwickshire Parish Politics, 1660 – 1720'.
- 9 August Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Maureen Harris on *Clergy and parishioners in Restoration Warwickshire: Alcester, Coughton and Wixford*.
- 11 September Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Guild Room, Aston Cantlow Village Hall, 7.30pm: Roger Butler on *A luxury cruise in Southern Latitudes – exploring the Coventry & Oxford Canals in 1966*.
- 13 September Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Dr Gillian White on *The most dissolute man in London: 1st Duke of Devonshire and the building of Chatsworth*.
- 13 September Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: Derek Clarke on *The Birmingham Back-to-Backs*.

- 16 September Leamington History Fair, organized by the Leamington History Group: Parish Church, 10am – 4pm. <http://www.leamingtonhistory.co.uk/>
- 26 September Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Gillian White on *The Great Fire of Warwick*.
- 31 October Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7pm: AGM, followed by Paul Baker on *The Lost Railway*.

Our Warwickshire

The website, www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk has recently been relaunched, and must be saved as a favourite by any Warwickshire historian. Searchable by Subject, Location, Time period, Events, it contains photographs, articles, maps and, especially useful to me, details of, and links to, the websites of 101 local history organizations.

Recent Publications

Susan Brock & Sylvia Morris, *The Story of the Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon, 1824-2016*, (Stratford, 2016) £12.99, ISBN 971-1-78280-875-6. Don't be misled by the title: While the Club was responsible for organizing the first local festivities for Shakespeare's Birthday in 1827, and played an important part in saving Shakespeare's Birthplace and setting up the Birthplace Trust, this book is important for local historians in the way it deals with the role of the tradesmen of the town in promoting Shakespeare, the social and political tensions in the town during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reflected in the membership and activities and, with an illustration on almost every page and fascinating 'extras' is, genuinely a 'page-turner'. Copies available via the website <http://www.stratfordshakespeareclub.com>

Jacqueline Geater, ed., *Birmingham Wills and Inventories 1512-1603* (Dugdale Society, Vol. 49, 2016), £30, ISBN 978-0-85220-101-5. This book contains the text of 156 fascinating wills and inventories from Birmingham in the Tudor period. Many Birmingham people made wills to dispose of their goods amongst relatives, friends and good causes. Their goods were also listed in some detail in inventories to help with probate procedures. Birmingham in this period was a lively market town serving north Warwickshire and places further afield, but the number of wills and inventories containing references to industry show that it was also becoming an important centre for manufactures. The documents throw much valuable light on the material culture of sixteenth-century England, and allow insight into household arrangements and family relationships, including the status and business activities of women.

For further details contact, dugdale-society@hotmail.co.uk

Next issue

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 July 2017 if you wish items to be included.

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