

BULLETIN

Warwickshire Local History Society

No. 49

Summer 2017

Editor's letter

In place of a rambling paragraph from me, I am instead publishing a note from Sylvia Pinches which, for me, reinforces everything that local history is about, and why it is so rewarding.

'An historical coincidence

It is now over twenty years since I moved into my Victorian terrace house in Milverton, Leamington. We were given the deeds, so I set about putting together a little 'house history'. It had been built by speculative developer Thomas Bailey and the first occupier was Charles Henry Jenkins, whose widow bought the property in 1919. Their son, Herbert Mansfield Jenkins, lived here until 1959. I recorded the other four owners between Jenkins and us, then thought no more about it.

That is, until in 2007 I began to read Jean Field's biography of Mary Dormer Harris, the historian of Coventry, who happened to have lived further down the Rugby Road, and was startled to read the following:

Herbert M. Jenkins who lived with his mother at 46 Rugby Road, Leamington first met MDH after the First World War when he admired her work and found that she lived nearby. They went on long walks together in the 1920s and later MDH often visited his home, jokingly referring to him once as "*a walking encyclopaedia of the Warwickshire families*". Sharing a great interest in the Dugdale Society, Herbert Jenkins gave a lecture in Leamington in 1931 on "Dr Thomas's edition of Sir William Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*" and this was reprinted by the Dugdale Society as "Occasional Paper Number 3".

As I was at the time preparing *my* lecture for the Dugdale Society, which was published as Occasional Paper Number 47, I found this particularly spooky. I could almost feel the pair of them standing behind my shoulder, encouraging me!

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.

- 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.
- 17 October Adam Busiakiewick on *Fulke Greville*.
- 21 November Members' Evening

- 25 November Visit to Salford Hall, with talk followed by tea. This is an early Christmas event as there is usually too much going on in December.
- 20 February Richard Churchley on *Old pubs and lost hostelries of Warwickshire-their history, names and stories*.
- 20 March Dr Elizabeth Goldring on *Kenilworth Castle, with emphasis on Elizabeth I's visit and Leicester's building works*.

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.

- 9 October Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Robin Leach on *The complete history of the Abbey Fields*.
- 11 October Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Rev Dr Julian Davey on *Royal Arrow and the Ragley Connection*.
- 11 October Berkswell & District Historical Society, Berkswell Reading Room, Meriden Road, 7.45pm: Sheila Woolf on *Sons of the Empire*.
- 11 October Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: *Five Hundred Years of Innovation – the British Postal System*.
- 20 October Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Richard Churchley on *Folklore and Folksongs of Warwickshire and Worcestershire*.
- 20 October Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Roy Smart on *The Rise and Fall of Percy Pilcher and the Art of Flying*.
- 23 October Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Richard Postlethwaite on *A walk round "Old Wolston"*.
- 23 October Leamington History Group, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, 7.30pm: John Berkeley on *On homemade wings: 1920s & 1930s Pioneers of Aviation*.
- 25 October Wellesbourne Local History Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Dr Nick Humphris on *The Archaeology on the Chedworth Roman Villa site*.
- 31 October Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7pm: AGM, followed by Paul Baker on *The Lost Railway*.
- 8 November Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: John Bunting & John Ruffell on *The Burma Railway & the Alcester Connection*.

- 8 November Berkswell & District Historical Society, Berkswell Reading Room, Meriden Road, 7.45pm: Andrew Hamilton on *The Christmas Truce, 1914*.
- 8 November Kenilworth Family History Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.30pm: *A brief history of the Warwickshire Constabulary*.
- 10 November Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 8 pm: Anne Langley on *Warwickshire Almshouses*.
- 13 November Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Dr John Hunt on *Warriors, Warlords and Saints: themes in Mercian history*.
- 17 November Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Ray Aspeden on *Ancient Troy – a three-way look*.
- 17 November Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Sarah Richardson on *A year in the life of Avon Dassett, 1914-1915*.
- 24 November Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Jackie Checketts on *The Stratford & Moreton Tramway*.
- 27 November Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Roy Smart on *Another Icarus*.
- 27 November Leamington History Group, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, 7.30pm: Dorothy Entwistle on *Re-enacting the Civil War with The Sealed Knot*.
- 13 December Alcester & District Local History Society, Sixth Form Centre, St. Benedict's RC High School, 8pm: Alan Benjamin on *Constabulary Tales: my early years in the Police (1980s)*.
- 15 December Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Society Research Group on *The Way We Were: the history of Bidford*.
- 15 December Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Richard Churchley on *Folklore and Folksongs of Warwickshire and Worcestershire*.
- 8 January Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, 7.45pm: Margaret Kane on *Cahokia Mounds, Ancient Metropolis*.
- 19 January Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Roy Smart on *The last naval hero*.
- 19 January Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Stephen Wass on *Hanwell Castle and the Jacobean Water Gardens*.

- 24 January Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch, King Edward VI College, 7.15pm: Dr Sarah Richardson on *Warwickshire Women and the fight for the vote 100 years ago*.
- 26 January Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: David Fry on *Victorian & Edwardian Photographers in Warwickshire*.
- 16 February Kineton & District Local History Group, Kineton Village Hall, 7.30pm: Anne Langley on *Down the River Avon in 1900 revisited*.
- 18 February Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Cora Weaver on *Curing with water*.
- 16 March Bidford & District History Society, Church Hall, Church Street, Bidford, 7.30pm: Clive Katz on *Birmingham Back to Back Housing*.
- 24 March Welford & Weston Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Welford, 7.30pm: Brad Plimmer on *Education & Schooling in Welford*.

Peter Ashley-Smith

I was very pleased to be asked to speak at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Ashley-Smith, held in Kineton church on 30 June. Peter, whom I had known for at least twenty years, was a local historian par excellence, sending me immaculately-researched articles to publish in *Warwickshire History*, retrieving from his equally immaculate files the answer to any query about the history of Kineton, and serving his own local history society in Kineton with generous enthusiasm. He and his wife Gill master-minded the excellent *Kineton: the Village and its History* and their efforts in championing the cause of local history were later recognised by a joint British Association of Local History award in 2012. In tribute I thought I could do no better than read that great passage about local historians from the W.G. Hoskins' ground-breaking book, *Local History in England*, first published way back in 1959. We have to make allowances, of course, for the fact that he was writing before the age of the computer but his fond picture of the local historian at work has always struck me as as relevant now as it was fifty years ago, and affectionately captures the working methods and motivation which were so well reflected in Peter's dedicated labours in the same field.

Robert Bearman

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

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