



## Warwickshire Local History Society

# BULLETIN

No 56

Spring 2021

### Editor's letter

Oh dear, what is there to say? I delayed starting this until after 4 January, when I was convinced we would be put into lockdown again, and sadly have been proved correct. The frustration everyone must be feeling who wants to continue their research, allied to the natural concerns about health, make for a somewhat depressing time. But, need it be? The vaccines are being rolled out nationally, and on a personal level I for one, have been keeping a fuller diary than previously and I feel sure that among the myriad publications which will emerge from this pandemic, will be many valuable articles and books relating to the impact on local communities. We had Pepys' Diary for London in 1665, and many readable wartime memoirs have proved fascinating, so perhaps now is the time to start gathering material, even if it's not yet the time to write with an historical perspective. I've written a couple of articles (almost entirely reliant on internet resources), but have also read Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror & The Light* and will now move on to Diarmaid MacCulloch's biography of Thomas Cromwell. Books have probably been our saviours this past year, and now is the time to start planning your own.

*Happy New Year – eventually!*

### Future Meetings of the Society

The recent online lectures have proved very popular and accessible, and current lockdown restrictions mean that this format will continue for the next several meetings. Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the time of each meeting

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| <b>16 January</b>  | 2pm: Jim Ranahan on <i>The Photographer's Gaze: Viewing Warwickshire since 1839</i> .  |
| <b>16 February</b> | 7.30pm: Adrian Walters on <i>Non-conformist Education and Outreach in Stratford-on-Avon and District 1860 – 1930</i> .   |
| <b>16 March</b>    | 7.30pm: Members' Evening:<br>Judith Ellis on <i>Fillongley – A Recusant Family traced through house history</i> .<br>Bill Cook on <i>Long Compton in World War Two</i> . |
| <b>20 April</b>    | AGM: time tbc: Professor Chris Dyer on <i>Immigrants in Warwickshire: a mobile population 1200-1525</i> .  |

### 2021 Outings

Our Outings Secretary, Rowan Fisher, has organized a provisional programme of outings for 2021. At this stage, it is difficult to predict exactly what restrictions will be in place by May but

they have been planned with social distancing and other safety measures in mind. However, final arrangements cannot be made until a couple of months prior to each outing because of the ever changing situation with the pandemic. Therefore, full details, including costs, cannot be published at this time. Please 'save the date' in your diaries and full details will be emailed to all members and will be available on our website a couple of months before each outing. For those of you who have payments on account from the postponed outings in 2020, the money you have paid will be transferred to the 2021 outings, should you still wish to attend. Alternatively, you can request a refund at any time by contacting Rowan on email ([rowanfisher367@gmail.com](mailto:rowanfisher367@gmail.com)) or by phoning her on 07507 293669. It is hoped that, if we unavoidably have to postpone any outings in 2021 due to the pandemic, they can be rebooked for later in 2021.

**Saturday 8th May** 2 pm: St John the Baptist Church, Lea Marston and St Leonard's Church, Over Whitacre:  
A visit to St John the Baptist Church, the Estate Church for the nearby Hams Hall Estate, belonging to the Adderley family, before moving onto St Leonard's. The present church, in the Baroque style, was built in 1765 although a chapel has existed in Over Whitacre from as early as 1203. Rita Poulson will give us the history of this beautiful chapel on a hill, and bring to life the many characters connected with the church during its history.

**Monday 7th June** 2 pm: Fire of Warwick walking tour:  
The Great Fire of Warwick was a major conflagration that swept through Warwick on 5 September 1694 and lasted for six hours. The fire started from a spark from a torch that was being carried up the High Street. Follow the route of the fire with WLHS member Sue Rigby and then visit the Warwick courthouse to view facsimiles of contemporary documents with WLHS member Steven Wallsgrove.

**Saturday 26th June** 2 pm: Henley in Arden Guildhall, Heritage Centre and town:  
Led by Dr Nat Alcock, visiting the 15th Century Guildhall building, and taking a walking tour along Henley's historic High Street, before a guided visit to the nearby Heritage Centre which charts the history of the town from the Norman Conquest to the present day. **NB:** provision has also been made to deliver this outing online, should Covid restrictions prevent us from visiting in person.

**Saturday 17th July** 2 pm: Napton on the Hill church and village  
Following a visit to St Lawrence's Church, built in the 13th Century, Bernard Alsop will lead us on a History Walk around the village, starting with the World War 2 Observer Post, from which Napton Windmill (now a private residence), the canal, and countryside as far as Coventry can clearly be seen. The walk will take in landmarks such as the old pound, pillory green, old bakery, pub and memorial trees.

**Saturday 4th September** 2 pm: Bagot's Castle, Baginton  
The Bagot's Castle archaeologist will take us on a tour of this 14th Century castle which now stands in ruins. The original building is believed to have been constructed on the site in the 11th century, at the time of King Henry

I. It was rebuilt as the current castle in the late 14th Century by Sir William Bagot.

In addition, keep a lookout for more details of an online talk organized by the County Record Office in Warwick entitled *Festivals, Feasting and Frolicking in Warwickshire's Past* which draws on their collections to tell tales about May Day, Advent, Christmas, Harvest and all sorts of other notable dates in the calendar. It will be a pre-recorded talk so we will be slotting it into our programme at a suitable time - once it becomes available.

### **Other dates for your diary**

Sadly the majority of Local History Societies who would normally hold monthly meetings, have had to cancel these, although many are hoping to have virtual meetings for their members

It would be counterproductive to list events which are 'members only', but if anyone is interested in a particular area or topic, I can do no better than recommend that a visit is paid to the Our Warwickshire site ([www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk)) which contains not only articles on many aspects of local history, but also a valuable section listing local groups and societies, with links contact details or links to their respective websites

Some societies have opened their meetings to non-members, subject to Zoom limits, and those who have notified me are listed below, together with societies who have planned face to face meetings later in the year. Circumstances may change, so please check with each society.

- 13 January Alcester & District LHS, 7.30pm: Simon Marsh on *The Battle of Stow* which was the last battle of the English Civil War. To join on Zoom, please contact Alan Godfrey on [alangodfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:alangodfrey@hotmail.com)
- 15 January Kineton & District LHG, 7.30pm: David Beaumont on *The Civil War Claims project*. Please contact the chairman David Freke on 01295 670516 or [frekedj@global.co.uk](mailto:frekedj@global.co.uk) for further information
- 10 February Alcester & District LHS, 7.30pm: Jim Ranahan on *The Photographer's Gaze: Viewing Warwickshire since 1839*. To join on Zoom, please contact Alan Godfrey on [alangodfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:alangodfrey@hotmail.com)
- 19 February Kineton & District LHG, 7.30pm: Professor John Hunter will talk on *The making of Tysoe Project : results so far*. Please contact the chairman David Freke on 01295 670516 or [frekedj@global.co.uk](mailto:frekedj@global.co.uk) for further information
- 10 March Alcester & District LHS, 7.30pm: Alan Bailey on *The history of Billesley*. To join on Zoom, please contact Alan Godfrey on [alangodfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:alangodfrey@hotmail.com)
- 12 April Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, The Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, Kenilworth, 7:30pm: Paul Thompson on *Draper's Hall - an Archaeological Journey*.
- 14 April Alcester & District LHS, 7.30pm: Dr Gillian White on *The Hugely Huggable History of the Teddy Bear*. To join on Zoom, please contact Alan Godfrey on [alangodfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:alangodfrey@hotmail.com)
- 10 May Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, The Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End,

Kenilworth,7:30pm: Gillian White on *Henry VIII and the Field of the Cloth of Gold*.

14 June Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, The Senior Citizens' Club, Abbey End, Kenilworth,7:30pm: Carole Preston on *The Early Ferrers Family 1010-1517*.

### **Work starts on new Dugdale Society volume**

Volunteers across Warwickshire have begun work on transcriptions for a new Dugdale Society publication with the working title: *Early Parish Accounts: A Window on Warwickshire Life, 1520 – 1689*.

A range of accounts from the parish chest will be included, those of the churchwardens, overseers of the poor and constables, as well as highway surveyors, parish charities and clerical accounts. It is hoped that the volume will bring to light the wealth of information in these underused primary source documents.

Most of the records being transcribed will come from Warwickshire County Record Office, who are also digitising the material for the volunteers to work with from home. Dr Bob Bearman is overseeing work on the transcriptions and Beat Kumin, Professor of History at the University of Warwick specialising in parish community research, is working with the team as an advisor.

### **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 isn't just about talks.

### **Recent publications**

**Doyle, Linda, *Chapel Ascote – A Deserted Village*** (Southam Heritage Collection, 2020) £7 plus £1.50 p&p, available from Southam Heritage Collection. Chapel Ascote is a small deserted parish on the edge of Ladbroke and Bishops Itchington, and when working on the farm, the author was intrigued by the unusual land marks, old pathways, pottery shards and strange shaped stones she found. She started to research the local history and found a 1653 document which said "*anciently an eminent parish*" and for many years past the estates being in "*great men's hands*" and she wanted to know – who were these Great Men? It is not written as an academic treatise, but as an introduction to the past history for visitors to the area and very accessible.

**Skillman, S.C, *Paranormal Warwickshire*** (Amberley, 2020), ISBN 978-1445-6982-67, £14.99. Not strictly history, but looking at long held local legends, *Paranormal Warwickshire* takes the reader into the world of ghosts and spirits in the county, following their footsteps into the unknown. These tales of haunted places, supernatural happenings and shadowy presences will delight the ghost hunters, and fascinate and intrigue everybody who knows Warwickshire. N

### **Next issue**

Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 July 2021

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