



President	<b>Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton</b>	Vice-President	<b>Mr Peter Gregory-Hood</b>
Chairman	<b>Dr John Wilmot</b>	Vice-Chairman	<b>Dr Bob Bearman</b>
Hon. Secretary	<b>Dr Ruth Barbour</b>	Hon. Editor	<b>Dr Andrew Watkins</b>
Treasurer	<b>Vacant</b>	Programme Secretary (Outings)	<b>Mrs Rowan Fisher</b>
Membership Secretary	<b>Mrs Lesley Caine</b>	Programme Secretary (Lectures)	<b>Mr Jim Ranahan</b>

**FIFTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7.15 pm online via Zoom**

**Please note that this meeting is being held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, due to the date of Easter**

**AGENDA**

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Chairman's introductory remarks.
- 3) Minutes of AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021. (Appendix 1)
- 4) Matters Arising.
- 5) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021. (Appendix 2)
- 6) To elect officers for the forthcoming year.

The President, Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton and Vice-President, Peter Gregory-Hood remain in office.

The following are happy to continue in post:

Chairman:	Dr John Wilmot.	Vice-Chairman:	Dr Bob Bearman.
Secretary:	Dr Ruth Barbour.	Hon Editor:	Dr Andrew Watkins.
Programme Secretaries:	Rowan Fisher (Outings) and Jim Ranahan (Lectures).		
Membership Secretary:	Lesley Caine.		

Following the sad death of our long serving colleague Neville Usher, we urgently need a new treasurer. Our Chairman, Dr John Wilmot, will be pleased to provide more information- [info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk).

- 7) To elect an Executive Committee for the forthcoming year – the following are happy to continue as members:  
Dr Nat Alcock  
Dr John Bland  
Co-opted member:  
Dr. Christine Hodgetts  
Christine Woodland  
Miss Mairi MacDonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')

Therefore, four vacancies exist on the Committee. None of the present committee apart from Dr Bland and Dr Watkins live in the north of the county or in Rugby District, so we would particularly welcome candidates from these areas. A new committee member with IT expertise would also be welcome.

Nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee, with the agreement of the person being nominated, must be sent to the secretary at [info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk) by **Tuesday 19th April 2022**.

- 8) Any Other Business

**After the AGM, Maria Tauber will tell us about 'Sir Roger Newdigate of Arbury' commencing at 7.30 pm**

**WLHS Annual Report 2021**

While the society has, like everyone else, experienced a challenging year, we look forward to better times. The COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions have forced us to curtail our face-to-face activities. However, the society has continued to be very active, with stable membership numbers. We have conducted all our lecture meetings by Zoom, and in general, these arrangements have worked well.

We suffered a great loss when Neville Usher died in November after several years of declining health and repeated hospital admissions. He was a longstanding member, who over years as programme organiser arranged both the lecture programme and our lively series of visits, including the Christmas social. A few years ago, his limited mobility and inability to travel forced him to give up his roles as programme secretary, while he continued as treasurer until his last days. As a retired accountant, he controlled our finances skilfully. Like all good treasurers, he encouraged the society to spend its money prudently, but had a keen eye for a bargain. He was always interested in people, and members appreciated his friendly and welcoming manner. The good cream tea which rounded off many of our outings was an expression of his gregarious nature. While not an academic historian, he has left interesting material in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Archives. Working with Cyril Bennis in the 1990s, his oral history interviews with Stratfordians give a real flavour of the experience of living in the town in the second half of the twentieth century.

**Publications:** Two editions of our flagship journal, *Warwickshire History*, were published. Volume XVIII Number 2 contained articles on Coleshill Grammar School, speculative building in Victorian Leamington Spa and Primitive Methodism in Warwickshire together with the list of Warwickshire publications. Volume XVIII, Number 3 contained articles on Stratford's 'Bawdy Court', the Coventry Ribbon Industry and the programme of migration of Warwickshire Agricultural Labourers Brazil which was a failure. Our thanks go to our editor Andrew Watkins.

**Warwickshire Bibliography:** Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers has maintained this valuable resource since 1980. To mark his retirement from this role, he is being presented with a bound copy of the bibliography currently published on our website.

**Lectures:** All those in 2021 were held using Zoom. We are grateful to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for providing technical support and to Jim Ranahan for not only organising the programme but as well coping with the technicalities of the presentation on the night.

**Daytime meeting** on Saturday 16 January – Jim Ranahan reviewed the important place of Warwickshire in the early history of photography, showing us examples from various genres.

#### **Evening Lectures:**

16 February: Adrian Walters spoke on the modern history of nonconformist outreach and education in Stratford.

16 March (Members' Evening): Judith Ellis spoke on 'The Sadleirs of Fillongley' (a recusant family), while David Freke's talk 'Scratching the Surface' dealt with mediaeval graffiti in Warwickshire churches.

10 April: following our AGM, Professor Christopher Dyer of Leicester University spoke on 'Immigrants in Warwickshire: a mobile population 1200 – 1525'.

19 October: Professor Sarah Richardson presented a most informative talk on 'Warwickshire Women and the Fight for the Vote'.

16 November, Dr Paul Edmondson of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust spoke on 'John Hall, Master of Physicke'. This drew largely on research by the late Greg Wells, which appeared as the new edition of Hall's casebook. Seventy members and guests logged on for this talk.

**Visits:** Rowan Fisher managed to organise four outings, compliant with the Covid regulations. Attendance at each was limited to thirty members.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June the topic was the Great Fire of Warwick – we went on a highly instructive walk, guided by WLHS member Sue Rigby and Unlocking Warwick Treasurer Paula Fletcher. The late Steven Wallsgrove also presented relevant documents from WCRO. Following his premature death, those interested in the history of Warwick and its locality have lost a very supportive mentor who provided much help to researchers at WCRO.

17 July, at Napton on the Hill John and Monica Evans conducted us on a tour of the church and village. On a very hot day we realised the steepness of the hill on which this village is built, but members enjoyed the views and discovered much about this village with its hill top church.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September, at Baginton, Nicholas Palmer, the Bagot's Castle archaeologist, conducted members around this small, now ruined, fourteenth Century castle and the much more modern World War II testing track for tanks.

25<sup>th</sup> September –Rita Poulson, a WLHS member, led us to explore two very different churches: St Leonard's, Over Whitacre and St John the Baptist, Lea Marston.

We are very grateful to our two Programme organisers Rowan Fisher (Outings) and Jim Ranahan (lectures) for helping us to maintain the activities of the society during these difficult times.

There was minimal opportunity for external activities though WLHS did participate again in Leamington History Day.

The committee had much discussion about the possibility of hybrid lecture meetings, combining in-person and online attendance. Our lack of IT expertise on the committee has inhibited us from making firm plans.

This year, two committee members are standing down. Maureen Harris relocated to Devon in the summer. The database arising from her important project, the Warwickshire Civil War Loss accounts has just gone online and a Dugdale Society publication will follow. She has led a group of volunteers, WLHS members and others, in researching relevant seventeenth-century documents. The society has benefited greatly from her enthusiasm and fresh ideas over the last ten years. David Paterson has also been a very valuable member of our committee and, in particular has helped us develop new links with the north of the county, through helping organise society visits to different sites in and near Nuneaton, and with his attendance with our stand at Astley Castle open days. He is chairman of the active Nuneaton branch of the Historical Association and is becoming more involved at a national level.

Above all we need to appoint a treasurer, which for us and others is a difficult recruitment challenge. The workload is not as large as might be imagined, as others share the work. The Membership Secretary looks after subscriptions, Christine Woodland oversees publications sales, and both Programme secretaries deal with relevant day-to day finances. What we need from a treasurer is overall financial advice, maintenance of our financial records and monitoring, and the production of the annual accounts. Neville left behind good records. John Wilmot, Lesley Caine, and Christine Woodland, assisted by Sophie Basi, a book keeper, have worked hard to draw up this year's accounts. So far, no member has stepped forward to help. Perhaps we can find a non-member to help us. Neville was not a member when he was recruited to run our events programme. Please do consider taking up the role, or getting a friend to do it.

### **Provision of support to member societies**

The thirty local societies and groups affiliated to WLHS receive our journal, while their members can attend our evening lectures free of charge. We also provide support by publicising their events, for instance in the *Bulletin* circulated biannually with the journal (compiled by Mairi Macdonald, 23lochals@ gmail.com). Similar information is included on our website, on the recently enhanced 'other events' page, and in social media posts.

Our increased social media presence has helped us to convey news to members. Rowan Fisher (outings@warwickshirehistory.org.uk); manages our website and Facebook page FaceBook-- Warwickshire Local History Society @historysoc). Jim Ranahan manages our Twitter account; Twitter - @Warwickshistsoc.

### **John Wilmot (Chairman)**

## Appendix 1

### Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire Local History Society held on 20 April 2021 via Zoom commencing at 7.15pm

**In the Chair:** Dr John Wilmot.

Sixty- five WLHS members and members of member societies attended.

**Apologies:** Monica Ory (in hospital)

**Chairman's introductory remarks:** The chairman referred to the difficulties of the past year which meant no in-person events had taken place – all meetings had been online. This AGM was a month later than in the past due to the change to the constitution passed at last year's AGM which allowed more time for the accounts to be prepared.

**Minutes of the 2019 AGM** via email (due to the onset of the pandemic) were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Annual Accounts:** These were accepted.

### Election of officers and Executive Committee Members for 2021/2022

Two long serving members of the committee had retired. Jackie Bland, a former Secretary, had provided much appreciated IT support to the society. Monica Ory had always been a willing volunteer. She served as Vice-Chairman and especially helped with refreshments at meetings.

All the other officers and members were willing to stand for re-election. There were no new proposals and therefore, the officers and committee for 2021/2022 are:

President: Lady Hamilton	Vice-President	Peter Gregory-Hood
Chairman: Dr John Wilmot.	Vice-Chairman:	Dr Bob Bearman.
Secretary: Dr Ruth Barbour.	Treasurer:	Neville Usher.
Hon Editor: Dr Andrew Watkins.	Membership Secretary:	Lesley Caine.
Programme Secretaries:	Rowan Fisher (Visits) and Jim Ranahan (Lectures).	
<b>Executive Committee</b>		

Dr Nat Alcock	Dr. Christine Hodgetts
Dr John Bland	David Paterson
Dr. Maureen Harris	Christine Woodland
Co-opted member: Miss Mairi MacDonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')	

**Any Other Business:** None

The meeting closed at 7.29pm

Appendix 2 – Financial Report

**Warwickshire Local History Society -- Annual accounts 2021**  
**Receipts and payments account for the year to 31st December 2021**

	2021		2020		
<b>Opening funds:</b>					
Barclays current account		8			£8
CAF cash account		740			£187
CAF gold account		10,323			<u>£9,514</u>
Total cash in hand			<b>11,070.33</b>		
<b>Income</b>					
Subscriptions		£2,649			£3,351
Tax repayment Gift Aid	2 yrs paid 2020	0			£788
Interest on CAF Gold account		£1.14			£9
Meeting refreshments		0			£66
Outings, takings		£232.50		£609	
ICS		£849.90			
Outings refreshments		£0.00		£0	
Outings not held 2020					£609
Sale of Publications & carriage costs		£296.08			£61
			<b>4,028.68</b>		<u>£4,884</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Speakers		£120.00			£180
Room Hire		0			£127
Outing Expenses		£599.50			
Member refunds --outings not held		£174.50			
Deposits for future outings		£50.00			
Subscriptions including insurance (BALH)		£75.00			£75.00
Printing		£1,040.00			£2,080.00
Packing & distribution		£256.52			£0.00
Bank charges		£96.00			£60.00
Postage & secretarial		£551.96			£804.49
Sundries		£60.58			£15.00
Disbursements (committee expenses)		£116.86			
Zoom		£143.88			£143.88
Website costs incl security certificate		£122.23			<u>£37.50</u>
			<b>£3,407.03</b>		<u>£3,522.87</u>
Net surplus			<b>£621.65</b>		
			<b>£11,691.98</b>		
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Barclays		£7.51			£7.51
CAF Cash Account		£1,260.34			£739.63
CAF Gold Account		£10,424.13			<u>£10,322.99</u>
Total cash in hand			<b>£11,691.98</b>	<b>£621.65</b>	
<b>Notes:</b>					
Overdue print invoice paid Jan 2022		-£1,058.00			
Makes an actual deficit of		-£436.35			
<b>Membership --numbers &amp; total subs</b>	<b>2021 No</b>	<b>Ann sub</b>	<b>Total Subs</b>	<b>2020</b>	
Individual	141	£12	1692	136	
Family	41	£16	656	40	
Junior	3	0	0	2	
Local History Groups	28	£16	448	28	
Institutional	14	£20	280	14	
Honorary	3	0	0	3	
<b>NOTES to ACCOUNTS:</b>					
1. Prepared by Sophie Basi, bookkeeper, from WLHS bank statements and comments from officers					
2. Some figures represent a 'best guess', impossible to verify without much more information.					
3. The total subs of £2629 are £427 less than calculated from known membership totals. 'ICS' may account for this (see next).					
4. There is a total of £876.40 received in the year from ICS - probably mainly cheque payments.					
5. Members should be aware that certain sorts of income are less than previous years (outings, refreshments at meetings) Expenses are also slightly reduced					