

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Affiliated to The British Association for Local History
Registered Charity No. 511528

President	Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton	Vice-President	Mr Peter Gregory-Hood
Chairman	Dr John Bland	Vice-Chairman	Dr John Wilmot
Hon. Secretary	Dr Ruth Barbour	Hon. Editor	Mrs Sylvia Pinches
Treasurer & Programme Secretary	Mr Neville Usher		

FIFTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 20th March 2018, 7.45pm at
Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
(Tea and coffee available from 7pm)

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Chairman's introductory remarks
- 3) Minutes of AGM 20 March 2017
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017
- 6) To elect a President
- 7) To elect a Vice-President
- 8) To elect officers for the forthcoming year: Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Editor and Membership Secretary.
- 9) To elect an Executive Committee for the forthcoming year
- 10) Any other business

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

The remaining Officers as below are willing to continue in their positions.

President: Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton	Vice-President: Mr. Peter Gregory-Hood
Chairman: Dr. John Bland	Vice Chairman: Dr. John Wilmot
Hon Secretary: Dr. Ruth Barbour	Hon. Editor: Dr. Sylvia Pinches
Treasurer: Mr. Neville Usher	Programme Secretary: Mr. Neville Usher

The remaining committee members as below are willing to stand for re-election.

Dr. Nat Alcock	Dr. Christine Hodgetts
Dr. Bob Bearman	Prof. Beat Kümin
Mrs. Jane Beevers	Miss Monica Ory
Mrs. Jackie Bland	Mr. David Paterson
Dr. Maureen Harris	Mrs. Christine Woodland
Co-opted member: Miss Mairi MacDonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')	

Dr. John Bland has one more years of his three-year term as chairman to serve.

The Executive Committee may have up to twelve members. There are vacancies and nominations are welcomed. Nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee, with the agreement of the person being nominated, must be sent to info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk by **Tuesday 13th March 2018**.

Talk after the AGM – Dr. Elizabeth Goldring, 'Elizabeth's visits and Lord Leicester's associated building projects'.

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 21 March 2017 at 7.15 pm at the Friends Meeting House, Warwick

Chairman: Dr John Bland

Apologies received from: Mr Neville Usher (in hospital)

Elections of Officers

President: Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton

Chairman: Dr. John Bland

Hon Secretary: Dr. Ruth Barbour

Treasurer: Mr. Neville Usher

Vice-President: Mr. Peter Gregory-Hood

Vice Chairman: Dr. John Wilmot

Hon. Editor: Dr. Sylvia Pinches

Programme Secretary: Mr. Neville Usher

Committee Members.

Dr. Nat Alcock

Dr. Bob Bearman

Mrs. Jane Beevers

Mrs. Jackie Bland

Dr. Maureen Harris

Co-opted member:

Dr. Christine Hodgetts

Prof. Beat Kümin

Miss Monica Ory

Mr. David Paterson

Mrs. Christine Woodland

Miss Mairi MacDonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')

Dr John Bland was elected as Chairman for a three-year term in 2016.

Retirement of membership secretary

Mrs Gill Ashley-Smith had retired from the post of Membership Secretary after twelve years. The Chairman thanked her on behalf of the society for all her work and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Mrs Lesley Caine was elected as membership secretary.

Committee Co-option

It was noted that the committee wished to continue to co-opt Miss Mairi MacDonald to the Committee.

Accounts

The Accounts for 2016 were accepted.

Any Other Business

Retention of previous membership lists.

The membership secretary raised the issue of retention of membership lists. She said that the Data Protection Act specifies that personal information should not be kept after the relationship ends between a not-for-profit organisation (*WLHS*) and the data subject (*members*). So, when people leave or die we are meant to delete their record, unless we have their agreement otherwise. Additionally, we are only meant to keep the current membership list, unless the membership agrees otherwise.' The members present were asked whether they would agree that that a small number of sample lists should be kept for archival purposes. We will only keep the names and contact details. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017

2017 was a particularly successful year for the society both in its activities and financial outturn. The society visits proved very popular with 70 members and friends attending the Christmas social at Salford Hall. The evening lectures continued to be well-attended by between forty to fifty members and visitors. John Wilmot the web editor in conjunction with Fresh Webs (Dan Ruffle) redesigned the website and incorporated in it the new society logo and membership leaflet which was produced for the society by Nick Drew Design.

Meetings of the Society in 2016

- 21 February 2017** **Professor Mathew Thomson, University of Warwick** spoke on 'The history of the NHS in Warwickshire and the West Midlands'.
- 21 March 2017** **Dr. Andrew Hopper, University of Leicester**, 'Katherine Greville, Lady Brooke: A Radical Aristocratic Widow in the English Civil War'.
- 11 April 2017** **Julie Chamberlain**, 'Women in early modern Coventry'.
- 13 May 2017** Guided tour of Bidford on Avon by members of Bidford and District Local History Society. **Prof Christopher Dyer**, University of Leicester and **Dr. Nat Alcock** spoke on aspects of Bidford's history.
- 17 June 2017** Visit to St Nicolas Place and the Old Grammar School, Kings Norton, Birmingham. **Dr Denise Thomas** spoke on Rev Thomas Hall, a mid-17th century Puritan minister and headmaster of the School.
- 15 July 2017** **David Paterson** led a tour of St Nicolas Church, Nuneaton and the adjoin Grammar School.
- 9 September 2017** Visit to Wixford where **Bryan Knight** showed us the interior of St Milburga's church and Dr Maureen Harris guided us around the churchyard and then Dr Stephen Roberts was our guide at St Matthews, Salford Priors. This was followed by tea at Hillers Garden Centre, Dunnington Heath.
- 17 October 2017** **Adam Busiakiewicz, University of Warwick**, 'Sir Fulke Greville: Collector, Builder, Gardener and Warwickshire Man'.
- 21 November 2017** An innovation: our first Members' Evening; short presentations by members:
 Alec Ross – 'Visualising Local History: the 1910-15 Valuation Survey in Stretton-on-Dunsmore'
 Stewart Fergusson – 'The Factious Cite of Coventry': Crisis and Change in the 17th Century'
 Professor Ronnie Mulryne – 'The Stratford Guildhall and Shakespeare's Schoolroom'
- 25 November 2017** **Christmas Event - Salford Hall.** **Dr. Nat Alcock** discussed the exterior of the Hall (now a hotel) and hotel staff showed us the interior including a wall painting and a priest hole. This was followed by a re-enactment by *Guarderobe*, 'The Gunpowder Plot'.

The committee is aware of the problem that members experience on some evenings when there appear to be a number of other events taking place in Warwick and car parking can be difficult.

The entrance fee for non-members for the evening meetings was increased to £3.00 from the October 2017 meeting.

Data Protection

The society has responded to the requirements of the new Data Protection Act operative from May 2018. It is confirmed that only three officers (membership secretary, treasurer and secretary) have access to the membership list. All members will need to 'opt-in' to allow the society to make use of their data (e.g. email addresses). To facilitate this all members who have not completed our new style membership form will be contacted to give that permission.

Our Warwickshire

The Society continued to support the Our Warwickshire project, hosted by Warwickshire County Council. Dr Bland continued to attend the steering group, and Mrs Woodland continued to serve as an editor. The newly refurbished County Museum was opened to the public in February. The Our Warwickshire website (<http://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/>) has gone from strength to strength. A revised version was launched in November 2016 which has led to big increases in views and sessions. For the period April-December 2017 160 articles were published, 65 photos, and 331 comments. Historic Environment Record images were added to 122 pages. We would encourage members and member societies to use the site to publicise their meetings, publications and other events.

Cumulative Bibliography

Dr Bearman and Mrs Woodland continued their work on the cumulative bibliography of publications on Warwickshire history, based on the annual bibliographies compiled by Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers and published in Warwickshire History.

The cumulative bibliography covers 1994-2016 and is available on the Society's website:

<http://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk/perch/resources/bibliography19942016cwv3-4.pdf>.

It is hoped to extend the coverage both backwards and forward.

Future Events

Planning is underway for another umbrella conference for member local history societies to take place in 2019. Comments/suggestions from societies are invited. A further essay competition will take place with a closing date of September 2019. Another members' evening will take place in April 2019. It is hoped that one presentation will show case a local society's work in developing the concept of 'public history' (sharing their research / collections within their community). The committee would appreciate members' views on the desirability of a daytime lecture to enable those who have problems attending evening meetings (especially due to driving at night) to attend a society event. The views of those currently unable to attend our evening meetings would be particularly welcome – especially as to whether such a meeting should be on a week day or Saturday.

Publications

Two issues of *Warwickshire History* were published during the year.

Volume XVI, No. 6 Published February 2017

Sylvia Gill, Balancing Life and Faith: Chantry clergy, careers and the Dissolutions of 1548.

Robert Bearman, Stratford's fire of 1614.

Edward Reid-Smith, Thomas Hall's reminiscences of an old Farnborough boy from about 1822 to 1832

Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers, Warwickshire Publications

Volume XVII, No. 1 Published August 2017

David Fry, 'Building Estate Development in Mid-Victorian Coventry: The Role of the Freehold Land Societies'

David Paterson, 'Mr Newdegate and the Schools: Landed Influence and Elementary Education in the Victorian Period'

J.P. Lethbridge, 'Setting an Example: Marie Corelli and food hoarding in WW1'

The twice-yearly *Bulletin* produced by Mairi MacDonald continues to provide information about our and other societies events.

Outreach/co-operation with other organisations.

The society has taken a stall at the following events: Stratford upon Avon Book Fair (January and August), the Astley Castle open day in June and the Warwick Words event in October. Dr Val Brodie, a member of the society, kindly supervised the stand at the Southam History Fayre in May. Due to the clash with our Wixford / Salford Priors outing, we were not able to have the stand at one of our usual venues – Leamington History Day. Offers of help from members at such events would be very welcome, as would suggestions of other events where we might be able to have a stand and so raise the society's profile would be welcome.

The publicity sub-committee, set up in 2015, which has met twice this year, has developed a number of these outreach initiatives to heighten awareness of the society. These include the new logo (to increase 'brand recognition', the development of the website (it now has links to Facebook and to Twitter) and the presence of our stand at outside events. The stand is now set up at our evening meetings so that members can browse (and purchase) back issues of our publications more easily.

Thanks

The chairman would like to thank the officers and committee members for their work and support during the year.

Objectives of the Society

The Society exists to promote the advancement of public education in local history in Warwickshire. In furtherance of this objective, the Society shall:

- a. Co-operate with other bodies having similar interests.
- b. Encourage the preservation of local records, antiquities and objects of historical interest.
- c. Demonstrate ways of studying local history by sponsoring lectures, discussions and by arranging investigations and visits.
- d. Collect and make available information on local history projects and sources within the county.
- e. Undertake such publications as the resources of the society may permit from time to time.
- f. Take other steps which may be necessary in achieving the objects of the Society.

Membership of the Society is open to any person, society, organization, library, or corporate body interested in promoting its objects.

John Bland, Chairman

Warwickshire Local History Society

Receipts and payments account

for the year ended

31st December, 2017

	2017				2016			
Opening funds:								
Barclays current account			£8				£7	
CAF cash account			£649				£933	
CAF gold account			£6,738				£5,624	
Total cash in hand				£7,394				£6,565
Income								
Subscriptions			£3,420				£3,257	
Tax repayment			£468				£338	
Interest on CAF Gold account			£3				£13	
Meetings & refreshments			£169				£93	
Outings, takings		£2,710				£3,102		
Outings, expenses & refreshments		£1,732				£2,866		
Nett profit on outings			£978				£236	
Sale of Publications & carriage costs			£253				£289	
			£5,292					£4,226
Expenditure								
Speakers		£290					£270	
Room Hire		£198					£171	
Promotion expenditure, with new notepaper etc.		£416					£85	
Subscriptions including insurance		£75					£65	
Printing Journal		£1,683					£1,820	
Bank charges		£60					£30	
Postage & secretarial		£777					£872	
Website costs		£465					£85	
			£3,964					£3,397
Surplus (deficit) on the year's activities				£1,328				£829
				£8,722				£7,394
Represente by:								
Barclays			£8				£7	
CAF Cash Account			£1,073				£649	
CAF Gold Account			£7,641				£6,738	
Total cash in hand				£8,721				£7,394

Results of outings and celebrations			2016	
	Number booked	Profit	No. Attended	Profit
Bidford	45	£113	37	£113
Kings Norton	33	£4	22	£68
Nuneaton	34	£151	32	£10
Wixford	47	£178	48	£274
Christmas	70	£533	44	£143
		£979		£608
Total attendance	229		183	£272
3rd Unbrella conference at Warwick School				
Less deposit paid for Christmas in 2016		100		£336
n.b. Deposit paid for Christmas 2017				£100
Profit adjusted for deposit		£879		£236
Membership			2016	
	2017			
Individual	142			136
Family	40			44
Junior	2			1
Local History Groups	30			29
Institutional	14			14
Honorary	2			3
	230			227
Institutions via publications officer	22			20
	252			247

I have examined the books and vouchers of the society and find that the above accounts are correct

Signed D. E. Rickard