



Warwickshire
Local History Society

2019 Annual Report

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	Dr. Sylvia Pinches
Treasurer & Programme Secretary	Mr Neville Usher		

FIFTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 19th March 2019, 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 2018.
- 4) Matters Arising.
- 5) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018.
- 6) To elect a President.
- 7) To elect a Vice-President.
- 8) To elect officers for the forthcoming year.

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

Dr. John Bland has completed his second, consecutive three-year term as chairman and therefore is ineligible to continue as Chairman. He is willing to serve on the committee. During the year, Neville Usher retired from the post of Programme Secretary and has been replaced by two people: Rowan Fisher as Programme Secretary (Visits) and Jim Ranahan as Programme Secretary (Lectures).

Sylvia Pinches has moved back to North Wales, she is happy to continue in the role of editor in 2019.

Chairman: Dr. John Wilmot has been nominated. Vice-Chairman: Dr. Bob Bearman has been nominated.

The following are happy to continue in post:

Secretary:	Dr. Ruth Barbour	Treasurer:	Neville Usher
Hon Editor:	Sylvia Pinches	Membership Secretary:	Lesley Caine
Programme Secretaries:	Rowan Fisher (Visits) and Jim Ranahan (Lectures)		

- 9) To elect an Executive Committee for the forthcoming year.

Dr. Angela Nicholls was co-opted to the committee during 2018. Jane Beevers, Prof. Beat Kümin and Dr. Angela Nicholls wish to stand down from the committee. The remaining committee members are happy to continue to serve:

Dr. Nat Alcock	Monica Ory
Jackie Bland	David Paterson
Dr. Maureen Harris	Christine Woodland
Dr. Christine Hodgetts	

Dr. John Bland has been nominated to serve on the Committee.

Co-opted member: Miss Mairi MacDonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')

- 10) Any other business.

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 12th March 2019**.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire Local History Society held on 20 March 2018 at 7.35 pm at the Friends Meeting House, Warwick.

Chairman: Dr. John Bland

Apologies received had been received from: Lady Hamilton, Mrs Ashley-Smith, Mr. K Clayton and Mr N. Usher. The latter was unfortunately again in Warwick Hospital. The best wishes of the meeting were to be conveyed to him.

Minutes of the AGM held on 21 March 2017. These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Elections of Officers

Mr Usher, in view of his health problems which limited his mobility, wished to stand down from the position of Programme Secretary. He was happy to continue as Treasurer. The meeting was appreciative of the work he had done for the society in this post. Members were invited to express an interest in filling the vacancy by contacting the secretary.

The following were re-elected.

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	Membership Secretary:	Mrs Lesley Caine

Committee Members:

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

Committee Co-option Co-opted member: **Miss Mairi MacDonald** (Editor of 'The Bulletin')

Anyone else willing to be co-opted to the committee was invited to contact the secretary

The **Accounts** for 2017 were accepted.

Any Other Business

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that there had been a good response to the request for completion of the data protection forms.

Meeting closed at 19.50.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2018

2018 has seen a period of change. The concerns of a number of members about the increasing difficulty of parking in Warwick Town Centre was noted and the momentous decision taken to change our venue for the evening meetings starting in September 2019. The new venue, Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick CV34 6XR is easily accessible from the Stratford and Henley Roads in Warwick. It has extensive space for car parking, is close to a bus route and is easily accessible without going through the town from the Warwick Bypass and the M40. The timing of meetings will need to change because we will need to vacate the building by 9pm. Therefore, lectures will need to start at 7.30pm. We are sorry to leave the Friends Meeting House which has hosted our meetings for about twenty years. It is, itself, a historic building built just after the Fire of Warwick. And, of course as we enter it, we can see Lord Leycester's Hospital across the road. Our new venue is built on the site of a Second World War aerodrome. As well as solving the parking problem, it will provide more space.

Personnel are also changing. During the year, three members were co-opted to serve on the committee. Dr. Angela Nichols as a member and Rowan Fisher and Jim Ranahan as job-sharing Programme Secretaries. Neville Usher stood down from the post of Programme Secretary due to his increasing lack of mobility. For over ten years he has produced a wide-ranging programme of visits (often followed by excellent teas) and lectures. Immobility does not preclude him from managing our financial affairs with an accountant's meticulous attention to detail. Therefore, he is continuing as treasurer. Jane Beevers and Professor Beat Kümin have decided to retire from the committee. Jane was Programme Secretary 1990-9 and has served on the committee since then. Professor Beat Kümin has provided an important link with the University of Warwick since 2013.

Meetings of the Society in 2018

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|--------------------------|---|
| 20 February, 2018 | Dr. Richard Churchley spoke to a packed audience on 'Old pubs and lost hostelries of Warwickshire – their history, names and stories'. |
| 20 March, 2018 | Dr. Elizabeth Goldring told us about Queen Elizabeth's visits to Kenilworth Castle and Lord Leycester's associated building projects. |
| 17 April 2018 | Dr. Polly Ha highlighted the career of Thomas Cartwright, Master of Lord Leycester's Hospital, a leading Puritan. |
| 5 May, 2018 | Visit to Bedworth led by John and Lynda Burton during which we saw the Parish Church, the Nicholas Chamberlaine Alms Houses and the Old Meeting Church. Soft drinks provided en-route were much appreciated on a hot day. |
| 16 June, 2018 | Susan Moore showed us around Fillongley. We saw the Parish Church, the pioneer Retirement Homes for Methodist Clergy and the remains of one of the two medieval Castles. |
| 7 July, 2018 | We spent the whole day visiting these two properties on another extremely hot day. Guys Cliffe House, built in the nineteenth century, and associated buildings are now owned jointly by several Masonic lodges. Of particular interest was the medieval chapel of St. Mary Magdalene and various caves cut in the rock. Lunch was taken in the Mason's dining room. We then crossed the main road to look at the Guys Cliff Gardens – formerly the kitchen garden of the big house which, over the last, few years have been restored. |

- 22 September 2018** Another two- centre visit. First of all, we had a tour of Yardley Parish Church, a historic church formerly in Worcestershire which had links to Catherine of Aragon. Afterwards, we travelled a few hundred yards to Blakesley Hall, a Tudor Building now in the care of the City of Birmingham.
- 16 October 2018** John Wilmot told us about 'Dr. John Conolly in Warwickshire, physician, reformer and enigma'. Conolly, regarded as a pioneer in the care of mentally ill people, worked in both Stratford and Warwick before moving south.
- 20 November 2018** Jacqui Geater posed the question; 'Why Birmingham? Why not Coventry, Lichfield or Worcester?' Some answers from the wills and inventories of Tudor Birmingham. This was based on the recent Dugdale Volume she edited.
- 1 December 2018** **Christmas Social:** The curator, Stephen Laing, of the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, spoke on 'Women and Motor Cars'. He provided a history of both the British car industry from its earliest days in Coventry in 1896 and the role which women had played in it, especially during wartime. Afterwards we enjoyed a splendid Christmas tea and continued to view the collection of motor vehicles.

Our Warwickshire

The Society supports the Our Warwickshire project, hosted by Warwickshire County Council. The Our Warwickshire website (<http://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/>) continues to thrive. A new project is being developed called Warwickshire Bytes. It will give a history of Warwickshire in 100 stories / objects. As part of this project a 'flat' catalogue will be added to OW, so that the catalogue will be able to house the record of these objects. In the future, this may be of use to local groups with collections in their care. 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 now starts in 1980, when the first annual bibliography was published. It goes up to 2017 and is available on the Society's website: <http://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk/perch/resources>. It is hoped to extend the coverage forward.

Website

A page, *Across the County* has been included, managed by Mairi, to provide an online opportunity for local societies to provide details of their events. Also, *Our Warwickshire* provides a similar opportunity. As well, on our page, *Other Societies*, we provide links to the websites of member societies. It would be appreciated if, in turn, a link to our website could be listed on the websites of these societies.

Future Events

A full programme of events has been organised for 2019. This includes a members' evening in April when two members will make presentations on their research. In view of the Dugdale Society organising an essay competition this year, plans for us to run one have been postponed. Work is

proceeding in organising a daytime meeting (possibly at Budbrooke Church Centre in September) and another Umbrella Conference for local societies. Suggestion from these organisations of themes for such an event would be appreciated.

Publications

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

Volume XVII, Number 2

Winter 2017/18

Steven Wallsgrove, 'The Origins of Warwick: Town and Settlement.'

Richard Dace, 'The Archdeacon and his Staff at Work: An Example from Twelfth-Century Warwickshire.'

Stewart Fergusson, "'By a True Account of Things to Undeceive the Abused": Ralph Hope, Coventry's Government Correspondent, 1666 to 1672.'

Warwickshire Bibliography

Issue Vol XII no 3: Summer 2018

F. Keith Geary, 'A socio-economic profile of Anglican clergy in mid-nineteenth century Warwickshire'

Philip Spinks, 'Frederick George Savage, postman, botanist and socialist'

Robert Caldicott, 'The Stratford-on-Avon to Long Compton Turnpike Trust and its cast-iron mileposts'

Accessions to Local Record Offices

Bulletin

The twice-yearly *Bulletin* produced by Mairi MacDonald continues to provide information about our and other societies' events. A page has been added to the website to list 'News' relating to both local societies and national events.

Outreach/co-operation with other organisations.

The society has taken a stall at the following events: Stratford upon Avon Book Fair (January), the Astley Castle open day in June, the Heritage Day at Astley in September and the Warwick Words event in October.

Thanks

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

John Bland, Chairman

Warwickshire Local History Society
Receipts and payment account for the year ended 31st December 2018

	2018				2017			
Opening funds:								
Barclays current account			£8				£8	
CAF cash account			£1,073				£649	
CAF gold account			£7,641				£6,739	
Total cash in hand				£8,721				£7,395
Income								
Subscriptions		£3,374				£3,420		
Tax repayment		£413				£468		
Interest on CAF Gold account		£8				£3		
Meetings & refreshments		£216				£169		
Outings, takings	£2,154				£2,710			
Outings, expenses & refreshments	£1,903				£1,732			
Nett profit on outings		£252				£978		
Sale of Publications & carriage costs		£210				£253		
			£4,472				£5,291	
Expenditure								
Speakers		£360				£290		
Room Hire		£213				£198		
Promotion expenditure, with new notepaper						£416		
Subscriptions including insurance		£75				£75		
Printing Journal		£2,033				£1,683		
Bank charges		£60				£60		
Postage & secretarial		£1,044				£777		
Sundries		£76						
Deposits on 2019 outings		£65						
Website costs		£150				£465		
			£4,075				£3,964	
Surplus (deficit) on the year's activities				£397				£1,327
				£9,118				£8,722
Represented by:								
Barclays			£8				£8	
CAF Cash Account			£462				£1,073	
CAF Gold Account			£8,649				£7,641	
Total cash in hand				£9,118				£8,721
Results of outings and celebrations								
	Number booked	Profit	2017					
			No. Attended	Profit				
Bedworth	28	-£8	45	£113				
Fillongley	24	£41	33	£4				
Guys Cliffe House & Garden	24	£38	34	£151				
Yardley	26	£71	47	£178				
Christmas	37	£110	70	£533				
		£252		£979				
Total attendance	139		229					
Less deposit paid for Christmas in 2016				£100				
Profit adjusted for deposit				£879				
Membership								
	2018				2017			
Individual	137				142			
Family	41				40			
Junior	2				2			
Local History Groups	27				30			
Institutional	12				14			
Honorary	2				2			
	221				230			
Institutions via publications officer	18				22			
	239				252			

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

Signed D. E. Rickard

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.

www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk

Contact us: info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk