



President
Chairman
Hon. Secretary
Treasurer

Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton
Dr John Wilmot
Dr Ruth Barbour
Mr Neville Usher

Vice-President
Vice-Chairman
Hon. Editor
Programme Secretary (Outings)
Programme Secretary (Lectures)

Mr Peter Gregory-Hood
Dr R Bearman
Dr A W Watkins
Mrs R Fisher
Mr J Ranahan

FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 17th March 2020, 7.15 pm at

**Stoneleigh Room, Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick. CV34 6XR
(Tea and coffee available from 6.45pm)**

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Chairman's introductory remarks.
- 3) Minutes of AGM 19 March 2019.
- 4) Matters Arising.
- 5) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019.
- 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. Andrew Watkins was co-opted as editor when Dr. Sylvia Pinches retired following her move to North Wales

The following are happy to continue in post:

Chairman: Dr John Wilmot.

Secretary: Dr Ruth Barbour.

Hon Editor: Dr Andrew Watkins.

Programme Secretaries:

Vice-Chairman: Dr Bob Bearman.

Treasurer: Neville Usher.

Membership Secretary: Lesley Caine.

Rowan Fisher (Visits) and Jim Ranahan (Lectures).

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

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 10th March 2020**.

10) **Alteration to the constitution.** On behalf of the committee, it will be proposed that Rule 5a will be altered as follows:

‘(a) A General Meeting shall be held annually within five months of the end of the Financial Year at which the Society shall elect its officers, and appoint an Executive Committee.’... Applicable from 1 January 2021. [The rationale for this change is to allow more time for the production of the Financial Report]

- 11) Any Other Business

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire Local History Society held on 19 March 2019 at the Friends Meeting House, Warwick commencing at 19.45.

In the Chair: Until the election of the Chairman Dr John Bland, from then on Dr John Wilmot.

Apologies: Lady Hamilton, Mrs. G. Ashley Smith, Mrs. L. Caine, Dr. C Hodgetts, Mr. & Mrs. Spinks, Dr. C Wiskin.

Minutes of the AGM held on 20 March 2018 were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Election of Officers and Committee

During the year, Mr. J. Ranahan was co-opted as Programme Secretary (Lectures) and Mrs. R. Fisher was co-opted as Programme Secretary (Visits).

Dr. Bland had reached the limit of his allowed six- year term as Chairman. Dr. Pinches had retired as Editor on account of her move to North Wales. Mrs. Beevers, after twenty -years' service on the committee, was retiring. Professor Kümin after six years, during which he provided a valuable link with the University of Warwick, was also retiring. Dr. Nicholls, after being co-opted during 2018 had had to stand aside for family reasons.

The following were elected:

President:	Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton	Vice-President:	Mr. Peter Gregory-Hood
Chairman:	Dr John Wilmot	Vice Chairman:	Dr. Bob Bearman
Hon Secretary:	Dr Ruth Barbour	Hon Editor:	Dr A Watkins
Treasurer:	Mr. Neville Usher	Membership Secretary:	Mrs Lesley Caine
Programme Secretaries:	(Lectures) Mr. J Ranahan	(Visits) Mrs Rowan Fisher	

Committee Members:

Dr Nat Alcock	Dr Christine Hodgetts
Mrs Jackie Bland	Miss Monica Ory
Dr John Bland	Mr David Paterson
Dr Maureen Harris	Mrs Christine Woodland

Committee Co-option: Miss Mairi MacDonald was again co-opted as editor of the *Bulletin*.

The **Accounts** for 2018 were accepted

Any Other Business: None

At the end of the meeting the new Chairman made a presentation to Dr. Bland and thanked him for his many years of service (over three separate terms) as chairman of the society.

The Meeting closed at 19.57.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2019

The Society has had an eventful year, not least as a result of changing the venue for lectures and committee meetings. Following two decades in the historic surroundings of the Friends Meeting House in Warwick, from May we changed to Aylesford School to the west of Warwick town centre. This lies fairly close to the A46/M40 interchange, and has ample car parking. While this has eased parking difficulties for members and visitors, congestion on the major routes can cause difficulties. This occurred at our October lecture meeting, when an accident on the bypass caused severe traffic delays in the Warwick area and led to the postponement of the meeting's start by fifteen minutes. The new venue is also more spacious than our previous one; this was shown at the November meeting when our recently retired chairman, John Bland, spoke to an audience of over seventy on the local history of mental health care.

Our programme of events and publications continues to reflect the historic county of Warwickshire as originally defined by Dugdale. Our outreach activities have continued, mounting a stand and banner at several local history events. These have enabled us to recruit a number of new members – both individual and society.

We were represented at the Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Conference held on 26 July 2019, intended to map out policies for future years for the county.

Our membership has remained static over the year which is encouraging as so many societies have been losing membership.

Meetings of the Society in 2019

Lectures

19 February 2019: Dr Lucy Underwood (Warwick University) *The Catholic experience and aspects of childhood in Warwickshire and beyond*. About fifty people heard this lively presentation about Catholic life and identity during and after the Reformation

19 March 2019: David Paterson *George Eliot: How a North Warwickshire upbringing helped to produce one of our greatest novelists*. David explained to the audience of about sixty how the author's early experiences in Warwickshire were reflected in her later writing in which she referred to the local socio-economic themes. His major book, *Fair Seed-Time: Robert Evans, Francis Newdigate and the Making of George Eliot* has since been published.

16 April 2019 Members' Evening: Just over forty members and visitors attended our second evening set aside for short presentations on their current research. **Stephen Moore** gave an enthralling talk on *An early nineteenth century murder: A socio-economic study of victim and murderer in Nuneaton*. His book, *The Undoing of Polly Button: The Tragic Life and Bloody Murder of Mary Green* was published shortly afterwards. **Robert Howe** spoke on 'A Chapel at Crimscote? Or the Crimscote Chapel' in which he disproved the existence of the site. As a suitable end to our final meeting at the Friends' Meeting House, **Mark Booth** outlined the history of the building.

15 October 2019: Alan Godfrey (Chairman of Alcester Local History Society) spoke at our first meeting, attended by about 40 members and visitors, at Aylesford School on *Postman's Knock: A History of the Post Office*.

19 November 2019: Dr John Bland spoke in his typical lively manner about *Madness in Warwickshire*, in which he outlined changes in the care of mentally ill patients, with particular reference to Hatton Hospital at Warwick. The audience of 74 included a number of former staff and their relatives, some of whom were able to provide reminiscences triggered by some of the many pictures shown.

Outings 2019

11th May: George Eliot outing to Chilvers Coton: Griff House, Church and Heritage Centre, led by John Burton (Chairman of the George Eliot Fellowship) and David Paterson.

This outing had a George Eliot theme to tie in with the bi-centenary celebrations of George Eliot's birth and finished with tea at the Heritage Centre. We had 21 members and 1 guest.

15th June: Shakespeare's Schoolroom, Stratford.

The outing was led by Shakespeare's Schoolroom guides and followed with a tea at nearby Stratford Methodist Church. We had 24 members and 2 guests.

6th July: The Churches of St Lawrence's, Ansley, and St John the Baptist, Berkswell, led by Dr John Hunt.

This outing was longer than our usual outings because of the time spent at both churches and the long distance that had to be travelled between them. We provided lunch and tea at the Berkswell Church. We had 27 members and 1 guest.

7th September: Coffin Works Museum and Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

This outing included lunch at the Shakespeare Inn at the beginning of the outing. The tour guides at the Coffin Works and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter led our tours. We had 17 members and 4 guests.

7th December: Christmas Songs through the Ages, led by Dr Richard Churchley, at St John's House, Warwick.

Christmas songs in the historic settings of St John's House were followed by an afternoon tea. We had 29 members and 15 guests.

Our Warwickshire

Our Warwickshire continues to grow, and contributions are comparable with last year. Outreach for Warwickshire Bytes has also focussed on the website, and publicity for *Warwickshire Museum's Top 10 objects* starts in January. Warwickshire Bytes concludes with a digital festival in March, where the website will play a role. As ever, more contributions are always welcome!

Provision of support to member societies

We now have thirty society members, who receive a number of benefits of membership. As well as encouraging individual members of these societies to attend our events, we try to help such societies by publicising their events. Mairi Macdonald (23lochash@gmail.com) prepares a bulletin listing events organised by member societies, circulated twice a year with the journal. The relevant information in it is also posted on our website in the recently enhanced 'other events' page, as well as through our society's social media posts. The Society has developed its social media presence (Facebook -- Warwickshire Local History Society @historysoc; twitter - @Warwickshistsoc. Rowan Fisher (outings@warwickshirehistory.org.uk) manages our website and Facebook page. Jim Ranahan manages our twitter account. We are also planning our fourth 'umbrella meeting' specifically for our member societies, which we hope will take place in November 2020.

Future Events

A full programme of events (lectures and outings) has been organised for 2020. This includes a members' evening in April when two members will make presentations on their research. In January 2020, we will have our first daytime lecture at Budbrooke Community Centre. The impetus for this was the realisation that a number of our members, formerly regular attenders at our lectures, now find driving at night difficult. The committee will decide whether to organise another daytime meeting when it has considered the feedback from the first one.

Publications

Two issues of *Warwickshire History* were published during the year. Sylvia Pinches retired as editor after the 2019 AGM following her to North Wales. Our new editor, Alan Watkins, supervised the summer edition.

Outreach/co-operation with other organisations.

The society had a stall at the following events: the Heritage Day at Astley Castle, Leamington History Day both in September and the Warwick Words event in October.

Thanks

The chairman would like to thank the officers, committee, and members of the society for their work and support during the year. Ruth Barbour deserves especial recognition for marshalling daunting masses of documents, including earlier versions of this report.

John Wilmot, Chairman

Warwickshire Local History Society -Receipts and Payment Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

	2019				2018			
Opening funds:								
Barclays current account			£8				£8	
CAF cash account			£462				£1,073	
CAF gold account			£8,649				£7,641	
Total cash in hand				£9,118				£8,721
Income								
Subscriptions		£3,380				£3,374		
Tax repayment		£414				£413		
Interest on CAF Gold account		£16				£8		
Meetings & refreshments		£197				£216		
Outings, takings	£2,751				£2,154			
Outings, expenses & refreshments	£2,160				£1,903			
Nett profit on outings		£591				£252		
Sale of Publications & carriage costs		£148				£210		
			£4,746				£4,472	
Expenditure								
Speakers		£300				£360		
Room Hire		£299				£213		
Subscriptions including insurance		£75				£75		
Printing Journal		£2,080				£2,033		
Banner		£156						
Bank charges		£66				£60		
Postage & secretarial		£812				£1,044		
Sundries		£210				£76		
Deposits for 2020 & 2019 outings		£17				£65		
Website costs		£139				£150		
			£4,154				£4,075	
				£592				£397
				£9,710				£9,118
Represented by:								
Barclays			£8				£8	
CAF Cash Account			£187				£462	
CAF Gold Account			£9,515				£8,649	
Total cash in hand				£9,710				£9,118
Results of outings and celebrations	2019				2018			
	Number booked		Profit		No. Attended		Profit	
	23		£85		28		-£8	
	26		£145		24		£41	
	26		£77		24		£38	
	21		£41		26		£71	
	44		£157		37		£110	
			£505				£252	
	140				139			
	Membership				2018			
	Individual				137			
	Family				41			
	Junior				2			
Local History Groups				27				
Institutional				12				
Honorary				2				
				221				
Institutions via publications officer				18				
				9				
I have examined the books and vouchers of the society and find that the above accounts are correct								
Signed D E Rickard								