



President	Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton	Vice-President	Mr Peter Gregory-Hood
Chairman	Dr J Wilmot	Vice-Chairman	Dr R Bearman
Hon. Secretary	Dr R Barbour	Hon. Editor	Dr A W Watkins
Hon. Treasurer	Miss A Rajagopal	Programme Secretary (Outings)	Mrs R Fisher
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs L Caine	Programme Secretary (Lectures)	Dr R Barbour

28 February 2025

FIFTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 15th April 2026, 7.15 pm in the Primary Hall, Aylesford
School, Tapping Way, Warwick. CV34 6XR

Please note the earlier than usual starting– Refreshments available from 6.45pm.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Minutes of AGM held on 16thth April 2024. (Appendix 1)
- 3) Matters Arising.
- 4) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025.
- 5) To elect officers for the forthcoming year.

The President, Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton and Vice-President, Mr Peter Gregory-Hood are proposed for re-election (elected annually).

Chairman: Dr John Wilmot has completed his term of office and is required to stand down. (Dr Nat Alcock and Mrs Christine Woodland have been nominated by the committee to serve as Joint Chairmen).

Vice-Chairman: Dr Robert Bearman wishes to stand down from the office after many years' service to the society. (Dr John Wilmot has been nominated).

Treasurer: Ms Aarthi was co-opted to this position by the committee in November. She has been nominated as Treasurer.

The following are happy to continue in post:

Hon. Secretary: Dr Ruth Barbour.

Hon Editor: Dr Andrew Watkins.

Programme Secretaries: Mrs Rowan Fisher (Outings), Dr Ruth Barbour (Lectures)

Hon. Membership Secretary: Mrs Lesley Caine

- 6) To elect an Executive Committee for the forthcoming year – the following are happy to continue as members:

Mr Mark Booth

Mrs Rita Poulson

Miss Mairi Macdonald

Mrs Stella Thebridge

There are three committee vacancies due to death (Dr Christine Hodgetts and Dr John

Bland) and resignation (Mr David Hodgkinson)

7) Review of the constitution of the society - see below for proposed changes

8) Any Other Business

Nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee, with the agreement of the person being nominated, should be sent to the Secretary at rb193@btinternet.com by **Monday 7th April 2025**

The Annual Meeting will be followed at approximately 7.40pm by a talk by Sheila Woolf – *Caring for the Community*. (This will focus on the Stoneleigh Estate of the Leighs).

Appendix 1 Minutes of the Fifty Eighth Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire Local History Society held on 16th April 2024 at The Primary Hall, Aylesford School, Warwick commencing at 7.15pm

In the Chair: Dr John Wilmot.

Thirty-one members attended.

Apologies: Lady Hamilton, Nat Alcock, Mark Booth, Tim Clark, Judith Ellis, Gill Ashley-Smith, Christine Hodgetts, Evie & Mike Miles, Margaret Rushton, Mr & Mrs Spinks, Andrew Watkins.

Chairman's Introductory Remarks: Dr Wilmot welcomed the members.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Mr Lethbridge; Seconded Mr Paterson.

Annual Report: The Chairman presented the Annual Report. He remembered our late Treasurer, Neville Usher, who had long service in that capacity, while also organising our lecture programme and outings. So far, his substantive position as treasurer had not been filled. Mrs Sophie Basi, fulfilling many of the treasurer's duties for about two years, had used her bookkeeping skills to get our record keeping in order and prepare financial reports. We were very grateful for her help.

Annual Accounts: Sophie Basi was present to answer questions, but there were none. Mr Lethbridge proposed and Mr Gregory-Hood seconded that they were a true record. Unanimously agreed.

Election of officers and Executive Committee Members for 2024/2025.

Our President, Lady Hamilton, and Vice President, Mr Gregory-Hood, remain in office. Mrs Rita Richardson proposed and Dr Bland seconded the proposal that all other current officers be re-elected en bloc: Chairman, Dr Wilmot; Vice-Chairman, Dr Bearman; Secretary, Dr Barbour; Hon Editor, Dr Watkins; Membership Secretary, Mrs Caine; Programme Secretary (Outings), Mrs Fisher and as Programme Secretary for Lectures, Dr Barbour who had been co-opted to this role in 2023. Unanimously agreed.

The Chair noted that this would be the last year he could serve as chairman, as our constitution required him to stand down in 2025. He would then have completed the two consecutive three-year terms allowed under our constitution for holders of that office. Dr Bearman proposed and Mr Lethbridge seconded that all the Executive Committee members be re-elected en-bloc: Dr Alcock, Dr Bland, Mr Booth, Dr Hodgetts, Miss Macdonald, Mrs Poulson, Mrs Thebridge and Mrs Woodland. Agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business: The desirability of increasing the society's social media capabilities and developing hybrid meetings was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Local History Society -- Annual accounts 2024

[illegible]

Membership 2024	No	Ann sub	Total Subs	Members	No	Ann sub	Total Subs
Individual	122	15.00	1830.00	Individual	139	12.00	1668.00
Individual (Old Rate)	16	12.00	192.00				
Family	31	20.00	620.00	Family	42	16.00	672.00
Family (Old Rate)	0	0.00	0.00				
Junior	3	0.00	0.00	Junior		0.00	0.00
Local History Groups	26	20.00	520.00	Local Hist	25	16.00	400.00
Institutions	12	20.00	240.00	Institutions	10	20.00	200.00
Institutions		15.00	0.00	Institutions	1	15.00	15.00
Honorary	3	0.00	0.00				
Honorary (LHG)	1	0.00	0.00	Honorary	4	0.00	0.00
Overseas		15.00	0.00	Overseas	1	12.00	12.00
Institutional (varvino rates)	0	0.00	0.00	Institutiona	1	0.00	0.00

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2024 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1 Honorary Members:

Aylesford School
British Association for Local
History Local History Magazine
Coleshill LHG

2 Sundries

Biscuits and Coffees for meetings	17.80
Leamington History Group	15 Stand at History Day
Petty cash	5
	<u>37.80</u>

3 The price of postage has increased considerably this year.

- 2024 so the actual cost is less, but you will see there is expenditure of £860.68 for 2023-2024 - this does include £150 on stamps purchased in advance pending a further increase in cost.

4 Gift Aid claims are up to date to the end of 2023. £422.39 was claimed for 2023-2024. Gift Aid had not been received as at 11th Feb 2025.

5 There are still some members who have paid at the old rate have not updated their subscription amounts for 2024. They have all been contacted by email or letter.

6 £19 Payments for lectures by non-members.

£2539.30 takings for outings
£7 member entry to Harbury talk - to be refunded (see workings)

7 Between 2021 and 2024 the Barclays account balance had increased from £7.51 to £31.51.

No statements have been made available so the difference of £24 was recorded as a donation in the 2024 accounts. Barclays account was closed and £31.51 transferred to the CAF account on 19th December 2024.

Aarthi Amman Krishnaveni Rajagopal 11th February 2025

I have examined the books and records of the society and find the above accounts to be

correct:

Sophie Basi

25th February 2025

Annual Report 2024

For me as your chairman, this is a significant time as I prepare to stand down from the chair after six years in the role. For the society, the year has been a period of consolidation as our lives have returned to a sort of normality following the pandemic. While we have lost two long-serving members of our committee we have been able to recruit a treasurer. Outings are successful, attracting so many that limits have had to be imposed on numbers. Attendance at in-person lectures has generally around thirty, but perhaps significantly, over sixty attended our Zoom-only lecture in January this year.

Obituaries.

We need to note the passing of two of our longest serving committee members.

Dr Christine Hodgetts was previously our treasurer. On coming to Warwickshire with a PhD in Byzantine studies, she soon became an expert in the history of Warwickshire and of gardening. She spoke widely on both subjects as well as teaching palaeography in local classes. She contributed extensively to life in Warwick and Warwickshire; in particular, serving a term as town mayor of Warwick.

Dr John Bland was for over twenty years a key member of the committee, rescuing the society when it had reached a very low point. He was elected chairman several times. A general practitioner in Arley, North Warwickshire, he showed his enthusiasm and determination in that field and in county affairs. He drew on personal photographs, mainly of North Warwickshire, used in talks, in several publications, and for his MA dissertation at Leicester. This last, a study of coal mining in North Warwickshire, drew on sources that included the recollections of local people.

Committee

David Hodgkinson was elected at the AGM last year. In November, the committee co-opted Miss Aarthi Rajagopal to fill the position of treasurer.

Membership

This has remained relatively stable in 2024

Type of membership	Number
Individual	138
Family	31
Junior	3
Local History Group	26
Institution	12
Honorary	4

Warwickshire History.

Two issues of our journal have been published in 2024 - contents as below:

Volume XIX, Number 2, Winter 2023/2024

- *A process of inference: Boudica at Mancetter*, Margaret Hughes
- *A plot partitioned: a glimpse of Henley-in-Arden in the early thirteenth century*, Sarah Wager
- *Weston Pallace, the Sheldon family's house at Weston in Long Compton, Warwickshire: an attempted reconstruction*, Hilary Turner.

Volume XIX, Number 3, Summer 2024

- *Three Warwickshire Parish Churches: reflections on some recent work*, John Hunt
- *Stratford-upon-Avon in the Coaching Days* by F.G. Savage, edited by Philip Spinks
- *The Impact of any influx of Irish into Coleshill from the mid- nineteenth century until 1920*, Elizabeth Waters
- *A list of publications on the history of Warwickshire published 2020-2023.*

Lecture meetings.

Our first meeting in 2024 was held online only; all the others were in-person meetings held on Tuesdays in the Primary Hall at Aylesford School. On 13 January, Professor Christopher Dyer (University of Leicester) spoke to sixty-two listeners on 'Revealing Warwickshire's past – the Importance of Burton Dassett Southend'. Now a small village, in the later Middle Ages, it held an active and prosperous market. The presentation accompanied the much-delayed publication of excavation findings from the site, all stimulated by M40 construction.

In February Peter Coulls spoke on 'Umberslade Baptist Chapel and the Muntz Family'. This was an unusual non-conformist place of worship, being founded and owned by a family. The Muntz family, originators of an important marine alloy, were Birmingham industrialists and prominent local politicians.

At our members' evening in March, our two speakers were Robert Howe, with a historical review of the antiquarian research and publications of Harvey Bloom, Rector of Whitchurch. Colin Clay, of the Lighthorne LHS, explored some of the possibilities of a new technology, LIDAR. His talk on the of 'Use of LIDAR in investigating Warwickshire landscape' considered changes in local landscapes over the centuries. He used Wappenbury and its Iron Age as a case study. In April, following the AGM, Louise Essex, senior Warwickshire County librarian, introduced us to the wealth of material available at Nuneaton Library, the main local history site, and in smaller collections elsewhere in the county.

When our lectures restarted in September, David Paterson's talk on 'Two Newdigate Ladies' explored the contribution of two widows who ran the Arbury estate a century apart and their contribution to the education of local children, both boys and girls. In October Dr Mike Hodder spoke on 'Sutton Park: the origins, composition and afterlife of a medieval deer park' recalling his earlier guided walk in the park. Our final lecture, in November, was Mairi Macdonald's clear exposition of 'The Gunpowder Plot in the West Midlands'. As she emphasized, the majority of the sixteen plotters had strong Warwickshire or Worcestershire connections.

Outings

The first of these (June 29th) was to the Roman visitor centre at St Peter's Church, Mancetter, North Warwickshire. We heard about the case for the village being the site of Boudica's last battle. A week later (July 6th) we went further north to Sutton Coldfield to visit Holy Trinity Church. Committee member Stella Thebridge informed us about the history and architecture of this significant Grade 1 listed church. Nearly sixty people joined an outing in September to All Saints' Church, Burton Dassett. Its size reflected the later medieval population, when Chipping Bassett in the valley below was in its heyday. Dr Stephen Wass was as usual an excellent guide; he finished the day by taking the more energetic of us visitors over the nearby hilly terrain. Another sixty people joined us on our popular final outing to the newly renovated Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick. We admired the recent lottery-funded renovation that cost £1.2 million.

Outreach

We attended events reaching out to the public. We had our usual stall at the Leamington History Day. Several of us on the committee enjoyed meeting people from varied local organisations inside the large and impressive Leamington Parish Church. For the first time, we and others attended a North Warwickshire Heritage event at Merevale Hall, by the kind invitation of Sir William Dugdale. This was initiated by Dr Colin Hayfield, the current Mayor of North Warwickshire; he is a distinguished archaeologist who had worked on Wharram Percy, the well-known deserted medieval village in Yorkshire. Among various presentations there was one from our Chairman about our society. A

highlight of the day was an opportunity to see the draft manuscript of Dugdale's *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*.

The Future

Among our challenges is the need to work on our presently rather tired website, to make it more attractive and user-friendly; Rowan is meeting with an expert, and we hope that will bear fruit. This is the sixtieth year since our foundation, and this milestone is to be marked in the journal. We are thinking actively about another 'umbrella' event for all the more localised societies within Warwickshire, perhaps next year.

Other changes: Ruth Barbour has given notice that she will stand down as hon. secretary at the 2026 AGM, after more than ten years. She will, however, be willing to continue to organise the lectures. The main requirement for a secretary is the preparation of paperwork for meetings. Work is shared out between the membership secretary and the event organisers. If you feel you could undertake this work, please speak to the current secretary (email rb193@btinternet.com / telephone 01926 842178).

My sincerest thanks are due to Ruth Barbour for her indefatigable efficiency and organisation; to Bob Bearman as Vice-Chairman; to Sophie Basi, acting treasurer during recent years, who recently handed over to Aarthi. Lesley Caine deals patiently with membership issues, and Rowan Fisher organizes excellent visits. All the officers and committee do a splendid job, well worthy of appreciation.

John Wilmot (Chairman)

Item 7 Review of the Constitution

During the year the committee has reviewed the constitution (last reviewed in 2009) and is proposing the following revised constitution, following changes to conform with current charity legislation.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Proposed for adoption at the AGM April 2025. Where relevant, the present wording is shown, struck-through. Changed wording is noted in italics. See at the end for notes on the proposed changes.

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be the Warwickshire Local History Society.

2. Affiliation

The Society shall hold membership of the British Association of Local History

3. Object

The object of the Society shall be to promote the advancement of public education in the local history of Warwickshire. In furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise

the Society may:

- (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 and 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 *or desirable* in achieving the objects of the Society.

4. Membership

- (a) Membership of the Society shall be open to any person, society, organization, library or corporate body interested in promoting its objects.
- (b) Members shall pay such annual subscriptions as may be decided at a General Meeting.

5. Meetings

- (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. The meeting shall also consider the accounts of the previous financial year, which will have been examined by a competent person.
- (b) Twenty-one clear days' notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given in writing to each member of the Society.
- (c) Nominations (with the approval of the person nominated) for the officers and Executive Committee must be submitted in writing and be received by the Secretary not less than seven days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (d) *The Secretary shall convene a Special General meeting upon receipt of a written request from the Chairman or from any six individual members or from any three member institutions. Fourteen clear days' notice shall be given in writing to each member of the Society of such a meeting.*

~~The Secretary shall at seven clear days' notice convene a Special General meeting upon receipt of a written request from the Chairman or from any six individual members or from any three member institutions.~~

- (e) Each member institution may send two representatives to meetings of the Society. Each such representative and each individual member shall be entitled to one vote *at a General*

Meeting.

6. Officers

- (a) The officers of the Society shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, Programme Secretary and Membership Secretary. Any of these offices may be held jointly.
- (b) Members of the Society and representatives of member institutions shall be eligible for election as officers.
- (c) The Chairman of the Society shall *hold office for a three-year term and shall be* eligible for re-election after an interval of one year. Other officers shall be elected annually.
- (d) ~~The Society may elect~~ A President and up to three Vice Presidents (who shall *be Honorary members and will not be members of the Executive Committee*) *may be elected* annually at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Executive Committee

- (a) The business of the Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the Society and not less than four nor more than twelve other persons, who shall be individual members of the Society or representatives of member institutions. *The members of the Executive Committee shall be the trustees of the Society.*
- (b) In addition, the Committee may co-opt up to three persons, whether members of the Society or not, for the purpose of giving expert or professional advice.
- (c) Five members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.
- (d) The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees as appear necessary and define their terms of reference.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall meet at the times and places that they may themselves appoint.
- (f) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in their number and also vacancies in the officers of the Society between the Annual General Meetings of the members.

8. Finance

- (a) The Society's financial year shall run from the 1st January to the 31st December next following and membership subscriptions shall be payable on 1st January each year.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall be empowered to invest on behalf of the Society all money received from subscriptions and other sources.
- (c) *No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging*

to the Society (otherwise than as a trustee for the society) or receive remuneration other than in accordance with section 185 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Committee) in any contract entered into by the Committee.

9. Profits

The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society and no portion shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to members of the Society.

10. Amendment of the Constitution

(a) No alteration of this Constitution may be made except by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the representatives and members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society, provided that no alteration shall be made which would cause the Charity to cease to be charitable at law. *The Committee shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.*

[Note for information: If a General Meeting were to be held remotely, those taking part would be considered to be present.]

(b) Notice of any motion for such amendment or addition must be given in writing to the Secretary of the Society not less than twenty-one clear days before the meeting, and a copy of any such proposed alteration shall be sent to each institution and person in membership of the Society at the time of the sending out of the agenda for the General Meeting.

(c) *No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of charity clause), clause 3 (the objects clause), clause 8(c) (Trustees not to be personally interested clause), clause 10 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commission.*

11. Dissolution

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall call a Special General Meeting of the Society, of which not less than 14 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive Committee shall have power to realize any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. If, after the dissolution of the Society, and the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, there remains any property whatsoever, the same shall be given or transferred to some other Society, Institution, or Organisation having objects similar to the objects of the Society and which is established for charitable purposes only, subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Approved at AGM on 15th April 2025 (7th version of the Society's Constitution).

Notes: We consider that 'Writing' includes electronic communications by e-mail, so this doesn't need to be stated explicitly.

3.f. Combines previous 3f and 3g.

5.b. small amendment to conform with normal practice.

5.d Small amendments for clarity

5.e Added for clarity.

6.c Reworded for clarity: previous wording was '~~not more than three years consecutively, but~~']

7.a Added for clarity.

8.c Added to clarify our ability to make payments to trustees (officers or committee members) providing services to the Society. The section of the Act provides that the amount must be reasonable; the trustees must decide that the remuneration is in the best interests of the charity; those receiving remuneration must not be a majority of the trustees; that the charity constitution does not explicitly exclude remuneration of trustees.

10.a Altered order of clauses and minor amendment.

10.c Added for clarity and to conform with current practice.

11. First sentences added for clarity, and the clause expanded to conform with current practice.