



President **Elizabeth, Lady Hamilton**
Chairman **Dr J Wilmot**
Hon. Secretary **Dr R Barbour**
Treasurer **Mrs S. Basi (acting)**

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
Dr R Barbour

FIFTY EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 16th April 2024, 7.15 pm at Aylesford School, Warwick

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Minutes of AGM held on 18thth April 2023. (Appendix 1)
- 3) Matters Arising.
- 4) To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023.
- 5) 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: Mrs Rowan Fisher (Outings) Dr Ruth Barbour (Lectures)

Membership: Secretary: Lesley Caine

Treasurer: Mrs Sophie Basi (acting). We are very grateful to her for her work on the society's finances and in the preparation of the Annual Accounts.

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

Dr Nat Alcock Mrs Rita Poulson
Dr John Bland Mr David Hodgkinson (co-opted 2023)
Mr Mark Booth Mrs Stella Thebridge (co-opted 2023)
Dr Christine Hodgetts Mrs Christine Woodland
Miss Mairi Macdonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin')

Two vacancies exist on the Committee.

- 7) Nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee, with the agreement of the person being nominated, should be sent to the secretary at secretary@warwickshirehistory.org.uk by **Monday 9th April 2023**.

Following the AGM Louise Essex will tell us about 'Using the Local Studies Department at Nuneaton Library for Research'.

Appendix 1

Minutes of the Fifty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire Local History Society held on 18th April 2023 at Aylesford School, Warwick commencing at 7.15pm. In the Chair:

Dr John Wilmot.

Thirty-seven WLHS members attended.

Apologies: Lady Hamilton, Gill Ashley-Smith, Lesley Caine, Christine Hodgetts, James Ranahan, Mairi Macdonald, Edward Royle, Stella Thebridge and Andrew Watkins.

Chairman's Introductory Remarks: Dr Wilmot welcomed the members. He noted that unfortunately Jim Ranahan, our retiring lecture organizer, was unable to attend due to illness. He would be sent a thank-you card and a book token, expressing our appreciation for his work.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Annual Accounts: Sophie Basi (acting Treasurer) explained that there would be additional income from Gift Aid for 2021 and 2022. Subject to this, the accounts were unanimously approved.

Election of officers and Executive Committee Members for 2023/2024.

During the year two new committee members were co-opted: Mark Booth and Stella Thebridge. It was proposed that all existing officers and committee members: [Chairman Dr Wilmot; Vice-Chairman Dr Bearman; Secretary Dr Barbour; Hon Editor Dr Watkins; Membership Secretary, Lesley Caine; Programme Secretary (Outings) Rowan Fisher; and Committee Members: Nat Alcock, John Bland, Mark Booth, Christine Hodgetts, Mairi MacDonald, Stella Thebridge, and Christine Woodland be re-elected. Unanimously agreed.

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 2022/2023 re-elected were:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| President: | Lady Hamilton | Vice-President | Mr Peter Gregory-Hood |
| Chairman: | Dr John Wilmot. | Vice-Chairman: | Dr Bob Bearman. |
| Secretary: | Dr Ruth Barbour. | Treasurer: | Mrs Sophie Basi (acting) |
| Hon Editor: | Dr Andrew Watkins. | Membership Secretary: | Mrs Lesley Caine. |

Programme Secretaries: Mrs Rowan Fisher (Outings); (Lectures) Vacant*

* Dr Barbour was later appointed by the committee to organize the lectures.

Executive Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dr Nat Alcock | Miss Mairi Macdonald (Editor of 'The Bulletin') |
| Dr John Bland | Mrs Rita Poulson |
| Mr Mark Booth | Mrs Stella Thebridge |
| Dr Christine Hodgetts | Mrs Christine Woodland |

Increase in Subscriptions

These had last been increased in 2017 since when there had been considerable inflation. The Executive Committee proposed that from 1 January 2024 the subscriptions should be as below: (Previous rates in brackets):

Individual Member £15 (£12); **Joint/ Family Member** £20 (£16); **Junior Member** no charge;

Local History Society £20 (£16); **Institutional Member** £20 (unchanged). **Unanimously agreed.**

Any Other Business: None.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm

Annual report 2023

As chairman, I am pleased to introduce our report on our activities during 2023. These were successful, largely down to the hard work of our officers and committee members. Ruth Barbour is due particular thanks for preparing and fine-tuning drafts of this report; more broadly, coordinating and preparing our meetings and other aspects of our work. Following the pandemic years, our activities have mostly returned to normal, although we still have many challenges.

Publications:

We have published two editions of our flagship journal, *Warwickshire History*, edited by Dr Andrew Watkins.

Volume XIX, Number 1

Summer 2023

Richard Dace, 'Two 'Lost' Charters from Twelfth-Century Warwickshire'; David Sheppard, 'Another Look at William Smith's c.1576 Sketch of Coventry'; Edward Reid-Smith, 'Who was Herbert Wilson? A personal memoir'; Accessions to Local Record Offices in 2022.

Volume XVIII, Number 6

Winter 2022/2023

Margaret Henley, 'The Shrine of Saint Edith of Polesworth, Warwickshire, and the Pilgrim Way'; Jane Croom, 'The Medieval Deer Parks of Warwickshire, c. 1120-1530: a gazetteer'; Marianne Pitts, 'From riches to rags: how did the Lord Leycester Hospital become poor?'; 'A List of the Publications on the History of Warwickshire Published 2021-2022'.

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

The *Warwickshire Bibliography*, begun by Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers in 1980, continues to be updated by Christine Woodland with generous help from many others and is freely available on the Society's website. The compilers welcome information about additions to the bibliography.

Our Warwickshire Christine Woodland continues to work with County Record Office staff to support the production of this online resource. [Our Warwickshire | Explore our county's history and landscape. https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/](https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/)

Lectures 2023

Saturday 14 January 1923 – Zoom only meeting. Dr Maureen Harris: 'Warwickshire Civil War Loss Accounts.' This meeting was held online, largely to help those experiencing difficulties travelling to meetings during the winter months.

Dr Harris outlined this major project, which drew on the Civil War loss accounts from the historic county of Warwickshire, in numbers unmatched elsewhere. Most are in the County Record Office (CRO), with others located in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the National Archives. Dr Harris led this major project, in 2018 awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £13,800 (with additional funding from the Friends of the Warwickshire CRO and the Dugdale Society). Twenty-six volunteers were trained to read, transcribe and tabulate the reports of losses by Warwickshire people, parish by parish, sustained due to Parliamentary action 1642-1646. The information, now available on an online database, reflects the sufferings of the civilian population during the English Civil War. <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/catalogues-databases/warwickshire-civil-war-loss-accounts>.

All other lectures took place at Aylesford School, Warwick. As we used the Primary School Hall, we were fortunate, given the later discovery of RAAC in the main school building which would have greatly limited access to our previous meeting space. Mr Ranahan organised the lectures until the AGM in April; Dr Barbour organised lectures from October.

Tuesday 21 February 2023: Our Vice Chair, Dr Robert Bearman, spoke on 'Stratford in 50 buildings' when the scheduled speaker had to drop out on account of serious illness. He kindly provided a talk,

at short notice, based on his recently published book of the same title. He provided a pictorial history of Stratford, exploring various changes, such as those following the four fires that ravaged Stratford between the 1590s and 1640s.

Tuesday 21 March 2023: Dr Stephen Wass: 'Farnborough Hall Park'. This talk prepared us for the outing to Farnborough Hall Park, led by Stephen later in the year, to explore some of the most remarkable garden features of the eighteenth century, especially related to the management of water.

Tuesday 18 April 2023: Professor Bernard Capp: 'The World Turned Upside Down. Radical ideas and movements in the English Revolution'. Our well-attended AGM was followed by this interesting lecture. Professor Capp, a Civil War expert, introduced us to the diggers, levellers, ranters, millennialists, and Fifth Monarchists of Warwickshire in the mid-17th century.

Tuesday 17 October 2023: Maggie Wood, 'Mr Gayden of Brailes & Other Stories - Adventures in Local History Research'. Maggie's talk focused on a collection of twenty 19th century agricultural labourers' smocks held at the County Museum. Maggie noted "Most came into the museum in the 1960s with limited snippets of information – for example '...said to have belonged to a cowman from Whitnash, gored to death by a bull.' However, using a variety of sources, many now digitised and available on-line, it was possible to track down some of the smock wearers, and to build fascinating narratives for local lives long forgotten – while meeting some surprises along the way. Maggie was Keeper of Social History for the Warwickshire Museum Service from 1988 to 2012, where her last project involved fund-raising for, and then supervising conservation of a unique Elizabethan textile - the Sheldon Tapestry Map of Warwickshire.

Tuesday 21 November 2023: Andrew Lound: 'Vulcan's Temple: The Story of Soho Foundry.' This entertaining talk, with Andrew in eighteenth-century dress, drew on films, and focused on Boulton and Watt's Soho foundry in Smethwick. This was one of the key sites in the development of the Industrial Revolution. He had previously overseen the museum located in the building which (after the Boulton and Watt concern closed) was taken over by the weighing scales manufacturers W. T Avery.

Outings 2023

Outings were again brilliantly organised by Rowan Fisher. They were so well supported by members, members of our associated societies and non-members, that extra tours had to be added to the programme. Most visits concluded with a tea which facilitated socialising and enhanced the enjoyment of the day.

Saturday 13 May 2023: Dr Stephen Wass led an exploration of **Farnborough Hall's park** and the nearby village and countryside. The park contains some of the most remarkable garden features of the eighteenth century. The walk examined the history of the site from earliest times, including excavations on the site of the medieval manor and village, the development of the park in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the Georgian great oval pool and the associated impressive waterworks. Also featured in the walk was the site of the previously undiscovered eighteenth century 'amphitheatre', together with an account of recent repairs and renovations.

Wednesday 21 June 2023: Stoneleigh Abbey: Sheila Woolf led us in viewing the majestic house and grounds. Nearly 30 of us enjoyed our tour led by Sheila, WLHS member and experienced Stoneleigh Abbey guide. Due to popular demand, a similar number visited on 5th July. With humble beginnings as a Cistercian Monastic house in 1154, Stoneleigh Abbey was converted following the dissolution into a comfortable family home. As a major seat of the Leigh Family, Stoneleigh has played host to several people of note, including King Charles I, Queen Victoria, and not least the novelist Jane Austen, a relative of the Leigh family. Our excellent guide helped us to understand the abbey's evolution from a

monastic site to a fine stately home, and to learn of the recent restoration campaigns required after a major fire. We learnt about the history of the house, the Leigh Family and their distinguished guests, and the connections with the local community.

Saturday 8 July 2023: Dr Mike Hodder, Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield. A small group joined a walk exploring some of this large park's 2000 acres (mainly forest and heathland). The area started as a royal deer park, the earls of Warwick were later mediaeval owners, and from 1528 the park became the property of the townspeople of Sutton Coldfield. Our guide was the distinguished Birmingham Archaeologist Society member, Dr Mike Hodder. We walked through sections of ancient woodland, predominantly made up of holly (an unusual feature). Mike demonstrated the remnants of dykes and ditches used to restrict the movements of both fallow deer and livestock. Other landscape features reflected the highly organised mediaeval hunts, when beaters would drive numbers of deer into predetermined lanes, to be brought down by groups of archers assembled on earthen banks. Nearer the park boundaries were traces of recent racecourses and golf links, reflecting uses for recreation by 19th and 20th century town dwellers. Today the principal visitors are local people enjoying various outdoor activities, although cattle and Exmoor ponies still graze some areas. Dr Hodder is President of the Friends of Sutton Park Association and author of *The Archaeology of Sutton Park* (published 2013, reprinted 2020).

Wednesday 13 September 2023: On two different days nearly 70 of us enjoyed a tour of **St Mary's Church, Warwick**, with church historian and WLHS member **Tim Clark**. Tim is the author of *Faire and goodly built: an incomplete history of St Mary's Warwick* published in 2023. Founded before the Norman Conquest, St Mary's Church is the premier parish church in Warwick. It was rebuilt in 1150 and saw extensive refurbishment in the 15th Century, when the famous Beauchamp Chapel was built for the Earls of Warwick, and then again following the Fire of Warwick in 1694. Tim guided us through a history of this magnificent church, exploring its relationship with the earls of Warwick, the town and the townspeople. We also enjoyed seeing St Mary's famous late medieval stained glass, which depicts musical instruments and musical notation, 15th century sculptures, a 12th century crypt and the splendid Dudley tombs.

Saturday 25 November 2023: St Mary's Guildhall and Coventry Cathedral: nearly 50 of us enjoyed an afternoon visiting these two iconic sites in Coventry. St Mary's Guildhall was the centre of power in England during the Wars of the Roses; later it housed the crown jewels, acted as the prison of Mary Queen of Scots and hosted George Eliot and other literary figures. We saw the recently rediscovered medieval kitchen, one of the best preserved in the country. The stunning Great Hall, boasting the famous Coventry Tapestry, reveals 500 years of history and reflects the medieval wool trade that created Coventry's wealth and power. We had a guided tour in small groups of the new twentieth century Cathedral. The original Cathedral of St Michael, built between the late 14th and 15th centuries, was destroyed in the blitz of November 1940. Our tour started in the ancient ruins before moving to Basil Spence's striking new Cathedral, consecrated in 1962. The interior is notable for Graham Sutherland's huge tapestry of Christ, the emotive sculpture of the Mater Dolorosa by John Bridgeman in the East end, and the Baptistry window in John Piper's intense colours.

Increase in Membership subscriptions: As agreed at last year's AGM the membership fees have been increased. The accounts show the effect of the very steep increase in our costs, especially as regards postage and printing costs, resulting in a deficit during 2023 of £813.

Officer and committee vacancies

Treasurer: We have not so far identified a member to act as honorary treasurer. Sophie Basi has used her book-keeping skills to support our chairman and committee. We are very grateful to Sophie for her work in improving and maintaining our financial records.

Chairman: We will need a new chairman in 2025. Our current chairman will then have served the two full three-year consecutive terms that he is allowed under our constitution.

Other officers and Committee Members: Our secretary has been in post for ten years and does not intend to continue in post beyond 2025 though she would be happy to continue organising the lectures. Rowan would also be glad of support in maintaining our social media presence (the website and Facebook). We have vacancies for possibly two additions to the committee.

Annual Subscriptions: As can be seen from the Accounts, we are beginning to make an annual loss albeit presently not large. Our subscriptions were last increased in 2017, so recent increases in expenses, and continuing inflation, necessitated a further rise (agreed at the 2023 AGM and implemented in 2024). Our membership has remained steady over the last couple of years, and we hope that this may continue.

Provision of support to member societies: We continue to support our affiliated societies. Their members can attend our evening lectures free of charge and our outings at a discounted rate. We also publicise their events in our *Bulletin*, circulated biannually with *Warwickshire History* as well as including them on our website and on our website and Facebook page. Mairi Macdonald, 23lochals@ gmail.com, compiles the Bulletin.

I am pleased to commend this report to the membership. Overall, we have had a good year, although the great challenges in finances and staffing continue to need our attention.

John Wilmot (Chairman)

See following pages for annual accounts.

Warwickshire Local History Society -- Annual accounts 2023

| | 2023 | | 2022 | | |
|---|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Opening funds: | | | | | |
| Barclays current account | 7.51 | | | 7.51 | |
| CAF cash account | 3834.72 | | | 1260.34 | |
| CAF gold account | 6455.65 | | | 10424.13 | |
| Total cash in hand | | 10297.88 | | | 11691.98 |
| Income | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 2967.00 | | | 3308.70 | |
| Postage on Publications/Subscription | 179.34 | | | 0.00 | |
| Tax repayment Gift Aid | | | | 0.00 | |
| Interest on CAF Gold account | 121.19 | | | 31.52 | |
| Meeting refreshments | 140.00 | | | 59.20 | Tea and Coffee |
| Outings, takings | 4567.50 | | | 1686.30 | See Note 4 |
| Outings refreshments | | | | 0.00 | |
| Sale of Publications | 330.93 | | | 122.01 | |
| Bank Interest Received | 8.01 | | | 6.89 | |
| Donations | 40.50 | | | 56.50 | |
| Sundry Income | 16.00 | | | | See Note 5 |
| | | 8370.47 | | 5271.12 | |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Speakers | 376.20 | | | 67.83 | |
| Room Hire | 235.00 | | | 125.00 | |
| Outing Expenses | 4081.69 | | | 1098.80 | |
| Member refunds | | | | 234.70 | |
| Deposits for future outings | | | | 0.00 | |
| Insurance | 75.00 | | | 0.00 | |
| Printing | 2546.93 | | | 3212.00 | |
| Packing & distribution | | | | 0.00 | |
| Bank charges | 60.00 | | | 81.00 | |
| Postage & secretarial | 957.99 | | | 1221.40 | See Note 8 |
| Sundries | 7.50 | | | 624.49 | See Note 2 |
| Accounting and Bookkeeping | 1287.50 | | | 0.00 | Including work on year end |
| Subscriptions | 143.88 | | | 0.00 | See Note 3 |
| Website costs incl security certificate | 215.49 | | | 0.00 | |
| | | 9987.18 | | 6665.22 | |
| Net surplus/deficit | | -1616.71 | | -1394.10 | |
| | | 8681.17 | -1616.71 | 10297.88 | -1394.10 |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| Barclays | 7.51 | | | 7.51 | |
| CAF Cash Account | 1870.14 | | | 3834.72 | |
| CAF Gold Account | 6576.84 | | | 6455.65 | |
| Cash Box | 21.00 | | | | |
| Adjustments from previous FY | 421.25 | | | | |
| Subs paid in Advance | -153.33 | | | | |
| Lesley 2023 Expenses paid Jan | -62.24 | | | | |
| Total cash in hand | | 8681.17 | -1616.71 | 10297.88 | -1394.10 |

| Notes: | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------|
| | | Three subscriptions paid Dec & Nov for 2023 | -40.00 |
| See separate sheet | | Insurance for 2022 paid Jan 23 | -75.00 |
| Accrued Income for Gift Aid 2021/22 received Feb 7 24 | 803.62 | Overdue print invoice paid Jan 22 | 1058.00 |
| | | Bookkeeping for 2022 paid Jan 23 | -306.25 |
| Making an actual deficit of | -813.09 | Makes an actual surplus of | |
| | | Makes an actual deficit of | -757.35 |

| Membership 2023 | No | Ann sub | Total Subs | Membership 2022 No | Ann sub | Total Subs |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Individual | 139 | 12.00 | 1668.00 | Individual | 12.00 | 1656.00 |
| Family | 42 | 16.00 | 672.00 | Family | 16.00 | 720.00 |
| Junior | - | 0.00 | 0.00 | Junior | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Local History Groups | 25 | 16.00 | 400.00 | Local History | 16.00 | 432.00 |
| Institutions | 10 | 20.00 | 200.00 | Institutions | 20.00 | 240.00 |
| Institutions | 1 | 15.00 | 15.00 | Institutions | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Honorary (LHG) | 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Honorary (LHG) | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Overseas | 1 | 12.00 | 12.00 | Overseas | 22.50 | 22.50 |
| Institutional (varying rates) | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Institutional (varying rates) | 16 | 235.20 |

2967.00

3320.70

3308.70 Per accounts

-40.00 Rec Dec 22 for 23 Membership

52.00 Rec Nov 21 for 22 Membership

3320.70

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2023 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1 Honorary Members:

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

2 Sundries

BALH Social Media Training for Rowan Fisher £5
£2.50 biscuits for meeting

3 Subscription:

Zoom Subscription

4 Outings Takings

4 4541.50 relates to takings from outings.
£26 payments from non-members at meetings

5 Sundry Income

Unidentified Payment

6 A final overall deficit was reached due to increased costs and decrease in membership compared to 2022. It was agreed at the AGM that subs would be increased as follows:

Family Membership from £16 to £20
Individual Membership from £12 to £15
LHG Membership from £16 to £20

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| 7 Gift Aid has been paid on 7 Feb 24 for 2021 | 385.56 | |
| Gift Aid has been paid on 7 Feb 24 for 2022 | | 418.06 |

This has been entered as Accrued Income at the bottom of the accounts
2023 Gift Aid has been claimed and will be included in 2024 accounts

8 The price of postage has increased considerably this year.
Christine and Lesley have made steps to distribute as much as possible by hand during
2023 so the actual cost is less, but it is clear this cost is likely to increase.

Sophie Basi

31st January 2024

I have examined the books and records of the society and find the above accounts to be correct
Sue Lodetti 22nd February 2024