



THE WARWICK SOCIETY

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Winter 2011



WINTER EVENTS INCLUDE FESTIVE SUPPER

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2011

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN WARWICK

With Bryn Gethin

County Council Archaeologist Bryn Gethin will discuss archaeological work in Warwick in recent years and the latest findings from the work at Kenilworth Castle. The sites will include the 2008 excavations on the new bus station site on Market Street, Warwick, the excavations on the site of the 'lost' medieval church of St Lawrence, on Stratford Road, Warwick.

Bryn Gethin will also explore the evidence of the English Civil War that can be seen in the fabric of Warwick Castle and the excavation work carried out at Kenilworth Castle over the past 10 years.

Location: The Lord Leycester Hospital

Time: 7.45pm start.

THURS 24TH NOVEMBER 2011

VICTORIAN EVENING

Warwick's celebrated Victorian Christmas Evening takes place on **Thursday 24th November** from 5pm-9pm.

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2011



This year's **Christmas Musical Supper** will be held on **Friday 2nd December**. Celebrate the festive season with friends and Society members at this year's Christmas Supper, which will be held in the splendour of the Court House Ballroom, Jury Street, Warwick.

Begin with a complimentary glass of wine on arrival and then, over a delightful buffet meal, there will be musical entertainment by The Oken Singers at 7.30pm. The festivities will end at 10.00pm.

Please arrive at the Court House from 7.00pm onwards. The ticket price of £12.50 per person includes a three-course buffet supper and that first drink.

We hope that you will join us to share an enjoyable

start to the Christmas season. For ticket applications, see the back page. Closing date for ticket applications, to be sent with a cheque, is 26th November 2011.

THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY 2012

BADDESLEY CLINTON – THE HOUSE AND ITS PEOPLE

With Richard Lloyd, National Trust Researcher and Guide

Baddesley Clinton dates from the 15th century and was the home of the Ferrers family for 500 years. The house and interiors reflect its heyday in the Elizabethan era, when it was a haven for persecuted Catholics – there are three priests' holes. There is a delightful garden with stewponds and a romantic lake and nature walk.

Richard Lloyd is a guide and researcher at Baddesley Clinton, an occupation which he took up on retiring from his work as teacher and educational consultant in Birmingham. His talk will cover the history of the house, especially the mediaeval house, the priests' holes, the Nicholas Broome period, the Victorian ménage a quatre and the 20th C house and final sale to the National Trust.

Location: The Lord Leycester Hospital

Time: 7.45pm start

WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

WARWICK CASTLE

With Tim Harrison-Jones, Castle Manager

Tim Harrison-Jones, who took up the post of General Manager of the Castle a year ago, has invited members to a special evening at the Castle. He will talk about the Castle, its business, its future, and hopes to show us some of the areas not normally open to the public.

While the Castle will make no charge for the visit, we would like to be able to make a contribution to its long-term maintenance costs at £5 per person, all of which will be donated to the Castle.

Spaces are limited and we request advanced bookings are made by 1st December – the ticket form is on the back page.

Location: Town entrance to the castle

Time: 6.00pm



THE CHAIRMAN'S DIARY...

Warwick Society Chairman James Mackay writes on current thoughts, issues and topics.

Planning Policy

The national debate on whether planning policy needs reforming, and whether the proposed National Planning Policy Framework would meet the nation's needs, continued unabated until the deadline for consultation responses in mid-October. The Society sent a brief note highlighting its main areas of concern, a copy of which is posted on the website

Just after that, Chris White MP invited us to attend, along with representatives of the Leamington Society, the CPRE, and the District Council, a meeting with John Howell, the PPS to the Minister responsible for planning. He has been described as the architect of the proposed planning policy framework, so it was a privilege to have the opportunity to discuss with him some of our doubts.

These included the absence of a satisfactory definition of *sustainable development*, confusion between *Green Belt* - protected - and *greenfield* - up for grabs - land, and the abolition of priority for brownfield sites. We probed the real meaning of *localism*, and what opportunity *neighbourhoods* will have to affect the level of development. We explored the whole planning system, and whether it is efficient and effective - to which the answer of course depends on whether one is a small town faced with a decade-long fight to protect town centre shops, or the applicant, say, Tesco.

At this stage in the process of consultation, our discussion was of course inconclusive. We shall have to wait until the new year to learn how the government will respond to the very widespread concern, expressed above all by the National Trust.

After the piece in the last Newsletter, I was pleased to receive two substantial reactions from members. It was perhaps unsurprising that one strongly agreed with what I had, in apparent despair, written, while the other put forward the opposite view. This is that the only priority for planning policy must be to increase house

building, so that young people can own their homes, and that other policy objectives are secondary. So Warwick is a microcosm of the national discussion.

The Society's committee remains firmly of the view that the level of house building in the District should be that necessary to meet local needs - especially to house those aspiring young people affordably. Most or all of this could use brownfield sites, minimising car use and traffic growth, and preserving the green surroundings which are essential for Warwick's identity as the county town.

It should not be the number, probably three times as high, which was imposed by the Regional Spatial Strategy, enabling an outflow of people from the West Midlands conurbation to Warwickshire. The higher level of development, opposed by Chris White before he was our MP, would inevitably lead to sprawl on greenfield sites, and to the town centre and the quality of life of existing residents being badly damaged by the traffic generated. My first correspondent urged the Society to resist fiercely *any* development until the level of traffic in the town centre is reduced to acceptable levels. My second suggested that reducing CO₂ emissions should not, as I had suggested, be the top policy goal, and that economic growth is more important.

We expect before the end of November news from the District Council on the amount of greenfield land which it will allocate for homebuilding - and it will be more, not less.

High Street and Jury Street

The leaflet enclosed with this newsletter outlines the long-awaited improvements in High Street and Jury Street which many Society members, and many other people, have helped to prepare. The proposals have now reached the stage of formal consultation on the necessary changes to Traffic Regulation Orders.

They will be on show in the Lord Leycester Hospital on Thu 3, Fri 4 and Sat 5 November - the times are in the leaflet. Do go and look at the

proposals in more detail, and discuss them with the County Council staff and other members of the Town Centre Forum who will be present. What is proposed may be criticised by some for not going far enough, by others for being too radical. I am quite sure that, starting from where we are, and with the available funding from the South West Warwick housing development, they are the right thing to do now.

Warwick, its main streets dominated by the car, is not yet ready for 'Shared Space' - cars and people on foot sharing the whole roadway, with drivers encouraged by its design to give priority to everyone else. But it needs to move on from the 1970s philosophy that cars have absolute priority and that people on foot are regimented to narrow pavements, and may only cross the road under strict control where it's convenient for the traffic.

The proposals will replace one formal crossing with six less formal ones. Each will have an 'island' in the middle, so that we have to cross only one stream of traffic at a time. The traffic will be moving more slowly over the raised crossing places and between parking on alternate sides of the street. And the design of the surfaces will emphasise that this is somewhere special, not just a highway from Longbridge to Leamington. So will the closure to vehicles of the end of Brook Street, making a tiny 'plaza' in front of the Lord Leycester Hospital; and the Cross in front of the Court House will also become a more distinctive public space.

Experience in other towns suggests that, with through traffic deterred from using streets which so clearly have many other users, the volume of traffic will fall by between 10% and 20%.

In the long term, this is not enough. A transport study group has begun work on reviewing the more drastic options necessary for a greater reduction. Our experience over eight years of developing these proposals makes it very clear that Warwick is not ready for them either. Whatever the economic advantages, road user charging is politically very unlikely, as

are other more traditional control systems which try to prevent vehicles from reaching the town centre at all - and that would have severe economic disadvantages.

The proposals will still allow all the local vehicle movements which are important for residents and for businesses and will, with a little re-allocation, maintain the number of on-street parking spaces.

They are the result of a lot of discussion between those directly affected, who reached a consensus that this is the right thing to do. If you share this view, do please write to Philippa Young, the Project Manager - again, the details are in the leaflet - and tell her so. A decision will be taken by County Councillors in January, and the more of us who give our support, the likelier it is that the decision will be Yes. I am quite sure that this will be a step forward for Warwick.

Town Centre Plan

This, as readers of the *Courier* are all too aware, has made no progress. But I am optimistic that a series of meetings of a smaller 'Core Team' will change this. In those discussions, we have begun to answer the question, 'What kind of town can Warwick be'.

From that, we shall be able to put possible changes in their economic as well as their environmental context, and begin to develop some real options for future policies. We've agreed for now not to 'jump the gun' and publicise what are only the kernels of ideas, but I'm very happy to talk informally about them with any member who wishes.

The Society's Meetings

By the time you read this, we shall have had the third of a very strong series of meetings this autumn, and the details of the future ones are, as usual, on the front page of this Newsletter.

Both Jeff Downes and Nigel Hamilton captivated their audiences with their presentations, and we are very pleased that we have such good local speakers. We know that those are the subjects which members most want to learn more about, and feel most strongly about.

Very soon, we shall be planning the programme for 2012/13, and we need your suggestions. Elizabeth Holroyde would be delighted to hear from you if you can recommend someone for her to contact - or put yourself forward, on the subject that you're bursting to share!

We've also used five minutes at each meeting to give a brief update on what the Society and its committee members have been doing, to keep members more up to date, and to get your views. Do raise whatever you wish - if not in front of the whole audience, then with John Fletcher at his membership desk, or Elizabeth, or any of the other members of the committee; or email!

And we do look forward to seeing the usual full house at the Christmas Musical Supper, for the last time before work starts on the lottery-funded renovation of this beautiful building. Do remember that it's on Friday 2nd December (not the 9th), and apply for your tickets now. See you there. *James Mackay*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society thanks the many members who have sent amended Standing Orders. We're still working on the republication of *Old Warwick*, and it should be published early in December. If you want to receive a copy as part of your subscription for 2012, do please renew now. We kindly remind all members who do not pay by standing order that their subscriptions for next year will be due by 1 January 2012. *Thank you.*



'LOVE WARWICK' - PUTTING WARWICK FIRMLY ON THE BRIDAL MAP



Liz Drake, a Warwick business woman and professional photographer, is seeking to promote the beautiful County town of Warwick as THE one-stop-town for all things wedding. Liz has the full support of the Warwick Chamber of Trade, the Warwick Tourist Information Centre and Chris White MP for Warwick and Leamington.

Warwick, the beautiful County town of Warwickshire, is ideally located to be THE wedding town of the Midlands. Just five minutes from Junction 15 of the M40, and with a train station in the town, Warwick plays host to over 100 wedding related businesses, the majority of which are within easy walking distance of each other.

Warwick is the one stop town for all things wedding. With three fabulous independent wedding dress shops, five florists, seventeen hairdressers, four fabulous jewellers, two party shops, many glorious home and interior lifestyle shops for your unique wedding list and gifts, a wedding stationers, nail bars, two travel agents to book your honeymoon, a formal hire wear shop, many 'mother of the bride' shops, a fabulous specialist lingerie shop, five brilliant beauticians, fabulous venues ranging from the stunning Warwick Castle, to the intimate historic and cosy 'Thomas Oken Tea Rooms',

a Racecourse for your ceremony and reception, the beautiful St.Mary's church, the wonderfully historic Lord Leycester 'Hospital' (recently used as a film set for 'Dr.Who'), the truly stunning Mill Gardens nestling between Warwick Castle and the River Avon, a wealth of trendy, boutique B+B's, relaxing cosy cafes for a coffee and muffin between appointments, a fabulous wine emporium, independent breweries and hog roast companies, Warwick really does have it all.

To locate all these brilliant businesses a 'Love Warwick' pocket guide will be distributed throughout the town. The guide, which is a fold-out map locating all participating wedding related businesses in Warwick around an easy to read map, will be the perfect guide around the town. An indispensable guide for the bride-to-be to everything wedding in Warwick! The compact guide will be available free of charge from any of the participating shops and businesses, and the Warwick Tourist Information Centre situated within the Court House, Jury Street.

Come to Warwick to plan, prepare for and source everything for your wedding or civil partnership. Warwick offers a fabulous County town bursting with wedding related shops and businesses. Warwick - the one-stop-town for all things wedding! Love Warwick. I do! *Liz Drake*



THE WARWICK SOCIETY

To preserve the heritage and improve the town environment of Warwick by encouraging high standards of design, architecture and planning.

MEMBERSHIP & CONTACTS

The society is proud to have almost 400 members. If you know someone who would like to become a member please contact John Fletcher on the number below who will be pleased to send a membership form.

Chairman	James Mackay	498381
Treasurer	Antony Butcher	492975
Membership	John Fletcher	493066
Programme	Liz Holroyde	492329
Newsletter	Mark Robertson	496643
Website	Richard Eddy	496643

Treasurer: Antony Butcher, 49 West Street, Warwick, CV34 6AB, 492975.

Email: sec@warwicksociety.org.uk

Web: www.warwicksociety.wordpress.com

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THE WARWICK SOCIETY'S

Christmas Supper



Apply for tickets to join Society members for a festive evening supper, complete with musical entertainment.

FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER 2011 – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

To be held in the splendour of the Court House Ballroom, Warwick

An informal buffet meal will give the chance to meet lots of friends and other members during the evening.

- ❖ Arrive at the Court House from 7.00pm onwards
- ❖ Celebrate with a complimentary glass of wine.
- ❖ Music by The Oken Singers from 7.30pm
- ❖ The festivities will end at 10.00pm

~ Tickets ~

The ticket price of **£12.50** per person will include a three-course buffet supper, and that first drink. We hope that you will join us to share an enjoyable start to the Christmas season.



WARWICK CASTLE

VISIT TICKET FORM

Wednesday 22nd February 2012 - 6pm

Tickets £5 donation which will go towards the Castle Restoration Fund

I (NAME).....

would like tickets. For myself and for

(NAME/S)

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I enclose a cheque payable to the Warwick Society for £5.00 per ticket, total £.....

My telephone number, for use in case of a late change to the plan, is

.....

Please send this application by 1st December 2011 to:

**Liz Holroyde, 38 Coten End,
Warwick CV34 4NP**
Please note tickets are limited.



CHRISTMAS SUPPER TICKET FORM

Friday 2nd December 2011

The Ballroom, The Court House, Jury Street – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

I (NAME).....

would like tickets. For myself and for

(NAME/S)

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.....
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I enclose a cheque payable to the Warwick Society for £12.50 per ticket, total £.....

My telephone number, for use in case of a late change to the plan, is

.....

Please hold my ticket/s for me to collect on arrival

Please send this application with your cheque by 26th November 2011 to:

**Antony Butcher, 49 West St,
Warwick CV34 6AB**

