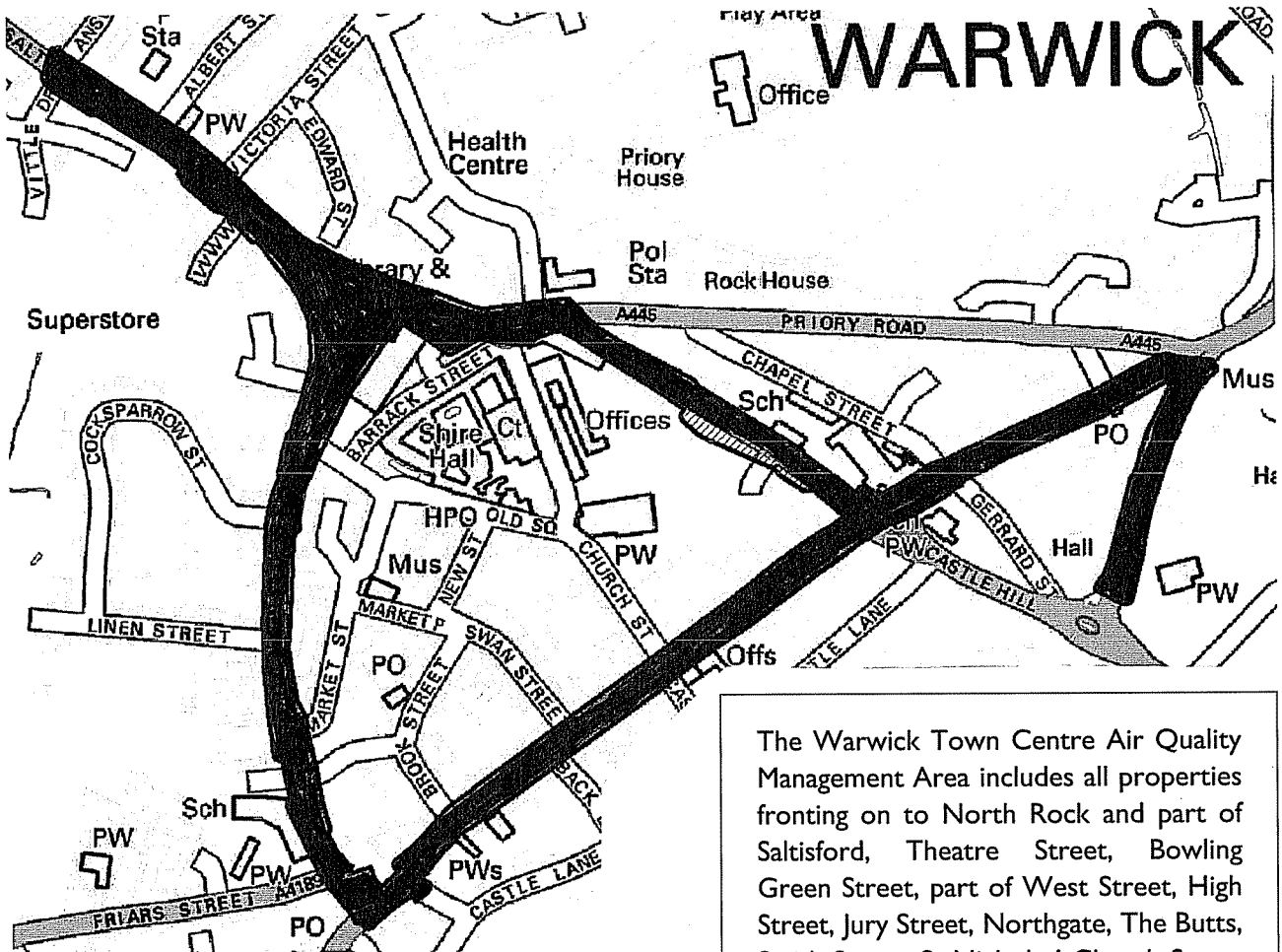


# THE WARWICK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015



## SUMMER EVENTS

**Tuesday 12 May**

*Great Hall of the Lord Leycester Hospital,  
starting at 19.30.*

### **Warwick: Air Quality, Traffic, the Local Plan and Health**

*Nicola Wright and Nadia Inglis,  
Public Health Warwickshire*

The air in all the main roads in Warwick town centre is polluted beyond the legal limits. These streets form, with some roads in the

The Warwick Town Centre Air Quality Management Area includes all properties fronting on to North Rock and part of Saltisford, Theatre Street, Bowling Green Street, part of West Street, High Street, Jury Street, Northgate, The Butts, Smith Street, St Nicholas' Church Street and part of St John's. The south end of Coventry Road is a separate AQMA; and so are streets at the centre of Old Town, Leamington.

south of Leamington town centre, *Air Quality Management Areas*. The District Council's Environmental Health Officer is required to measure pollutants in them and to apply an Action Plan to make air quality safe.

Implementing that Plan requires action by the County Council, which is responsible for highways and their traffic. And overseeing the whole issue is the County Council's

Director of Public Health, Dr John Linnane. We invited him to speak to us about air quality, and we are pleased that two members of his staff will join us to do so.

They will discuss the level and the effect of air pollution, the impact on it and on health of the traffic generated by the planned sprawling suburbs south of the Avon, and the Public Health response to all this.

Air pollution is clearly a matter of great concern for residents of both Warwick and Leamington, and it has long term implications for their economies and their fine buildings. We are sure that the meeting will be of interest to many, members of the Society and others. We do ask you to arrive in good time, as only the first 100 will fit into the hall.

### Friday 15 May

On this day, in the Market Place from 14.30 till 21.00, the County Council's *Heritage & Culture Warwickshire* has organised again

## THE GREAT WARWICKSHIRE SHOW & TELL

Over fifty market stalls curated by local organisations will display objects that tell the story of their part or aspect of Warwickshire, and give a many-dimensional insight into the county, its history and its culture.

Members of the Society will find much of interest on perambulating the stalls. One, we hope, will be of special interest: the Society's own. We thought about what objects we could display. Mere boards of photographs would not be the real artefacts that the organisers sought. Rather, we thought, the objects which are the Society's interest, and the qualities of the town that it cherishes, are the buildings around us.

So the Society's participation will be to lead short walks around parts of the town centre, taking a dozen or more people each time for 20 or 30 minute tours west, south or east from the Market Place.

We have two invitations for you: to join the walks, or, better, *to lead some of them*. A full briefing will be provided, and you can spend as long or short a time as you wish with us. Do please let us know if you would like to take this active part in demonstrating the Society's love for Warwick. Email [sec@warwicksociety.org.uk](mailto:sec@warwicksociety.org.uk) or phone James Mackay (498381) to enlist!

### Friday 26 June

## The Annual Warwick Society Gardens Evening

*starting at the Unitarian Chapel,  
High Street, from 18.00*

We are very grateful that owners of some of Warwick's most beautiful gardens will again open them for our evening promenade. While the weather cannot be guaranteed, we can be sure that the gardens will be delightful. We are privileged that the gardeners, some members of the Society, others not, will be giving us access to places which are usually private green havens in the built-up area.

When you arrive at the Unitarian Chapel, you will be given an itinerary, and you can make your way around the gardens at your own pace. They will close at 20.30, when you return to the Unitarian Chapel for a drink, to compare notes on what you have seen, and to catch up with other members on their news.

Book in advance, for £4, or pay £5 on the evening. Whenever you decide to join in, your first glass of wine, or as much fruit juice as you wish, is included in the price.

To book, return the form on the next page and your cheque to Hilary Holland by Thursday 25 June. Tickets will not be sent, but your name will be on the list for the evening. For any query, email [hilaryholland2@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryholland2@gmail.com) or phone her (401168).

**Sunday 5 July**

**Warwick Open Gardens**

If you can't make the Society's own Gardens Evening, there will be a second chance to admire more of Warwick's finest gardens during the third biennial Open Gardens event. 14 will be open from 11.00 to 17.00, spread throughout the town from Saltisford to Mill Street. Entry to all of them will cost £5, paid on the day, and the proceeds will go to charities: Hill Close Gardens, Guy's Cliffe Walled Garden, and the air ambulance. Full details are available at a brief but complicated website address: <http://goo.gl/C12JD>.

**The Warwick Society  
Gardens Evening  
Friday 26 June**

NAME in capitals of each person attending

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.....  
.....  
.....

Just in case we need to contact you about a change in the arrangements please give your EMAIL ADDRESS (or phone number)

.....

Please reserve ..... places for me / us (at £4 / person) at the Gardens Evening on Friday 26 June, starting from 18.00 at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street.

I enclose my cheque payable to

THE WARWICK SOCIETY for £ .....

Signature .....

Send to Hilary Holland, 55 West Street, WARWICK CV34 6AB, by 25 June.

**PLANNING NEWS**

WDC's Planning Committee took three important decisions at its 31 March meeting:

**Grove Farm 'phase 2'**

An application for 520 houses on farmland at the extreme south-eastern edge of the areas allocated for development in the draft Local Plan was refused – contrary to the planning officers' recommendations. Until we see the minutes we will not be sure of the reasons, on which any appeal will be based; but those argued included the loss of agricultural land, the encroachment of the built-up area into the gap which makes Bishop's Tachbrook a village, and the effect of more traffic on town centre streets in Leamington and Warwick.

**Gallows Hill**

Conversely, the application by the County Council for 425 houses on the land north of Gallows Hill, east of the Technology Park, and west of Europa Way was approved. The traffic that it generates will have a damaging impact, but this was not enough to sway the majority of the Committee. Its members were more aware than are the general public, from whom details are being kept confidential by the Council, of the possible use of part of this Warwick land for a new stadium for Leamington football club, with its existing pitch becoming a gypsy and traveller site.

**West Rock Car Park Housing**

The Committee partly redeemed itself by accepting the case put forcefully by the Town Council, the Chamber of Trade, residents, and the Society, that building housing on nearly half of the car park would damage the town centre economy and the amenity of residents. But an appeal may be lodged, as has been done for two sites mentioned in the *Annual Report 2014*, at 2/4 Gerrard Street and at 98 Bridge End.

**Other applications**

**13b Smith Street to become a 'micropub':**

Refused because it would break the rule that no more than a quarter of primary retail street frontages must be outside A1 (shopping) use.

### **Demolition of the former Police Station:**

Withdrawn ... for now.

### **Two worth looking at on the District Council website ... comments welcome!**

W/15/0377LB, internal alterations to a flat at the Lord Leycester Hospital to equip it for use by a disabled ex-soldier.

W/15/0422, replacing the old unimplemented approval for conversion and new residential construction at 62/64 West Street.

**Keep an eye on new applications**, either by deciphering the small print of the notice in each *Courier*, or by adding your name to those emailed WDC's weekly lists of applications in parish order, and of delegated decisions. You can do this by going to the webpage [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20004/planning](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20004/planning) Do draw to the attention of the Committee any that concern you.

And, last but not largest, an update on the two major planning issues of this spring:

### **Appeal against the Refusal of Planning Permission for 900 houses etc at The Asps**

The Inspector's hearing began on 14 April, and is going to occupy two full weeks.

### **Local Plan Examination in Public**

The 'Initial Hearings' have, perhaps by accident, been arranged to start on 6 May. The Inspector, responding to those who pointed out that the coincidence with elections makes councillors unavailable, has declined to change the date. We imagine that the following Friday's *Courier* will report only briefly the evidence to be presented that the Council's exaggerated housing demand projections are at the root of most of the problems with its Plan.

### **On The Mend**

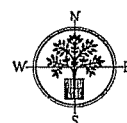
Members will know that Gerald Lesinski, Master of the Lord Leycester Hospital, sadly suffered severe injuries in a fall in January. We are pleased to learn that he is now able to resume some of his duties. We sent our best wishes when he was in hospital, and renew them now for his continuing recovery.

### **The Society's Committee**

At our first meeting after the AGM, Hilary Holland agreed to take on the responsibility for planning our programme of events, taking over gradually in the next few months from Liz Holroyde.

Steven Wallsgrove renews our expertise in Listed Buildings, and will take on a co-ordinating rôle in our response to planning applications within the Conservation Area.

Both are very welcome additions to our team.



## **THE WARWICK SOCIETY**

### **Keep in contact:**

**Postal Addresses and Phone Numbers** are given inside the rear cover of the *Annual Report* circulated in February.

### **Website and Blog:**

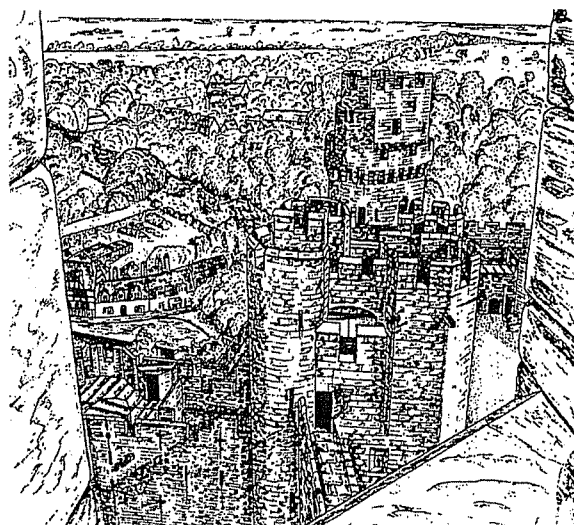
<https://warwicksociety.wordpress.com/>  
sign up there for email notifications on news, campaigns and events

### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/warwicksociety>  
'like' the Page and join the Group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/318190065985/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/318190065985/)

### **Email:**

[sec@warwicksociety.org.uk](mailto:sec@warwicksociety.org.uk)



*S T Rankin's drawing of the view from Guy's Tower over Warwick's south-eastern setting. The Asps Inspector has ascended the tower.*

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