

THE WARWICK SOCIETY

A BRIEF NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

MEETINGS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

Wednesday 27 April 2016

The King Henry VIII
Endowed Trust, Warwick

John Edwards

The Leamington Society has taken its turn this year in organising our joint meeting. Conveniently for us, it has done so in Warwick, in our own usual venue.

John Edwards, the Chairman of the King Henry VIII Trust, is a resident of the town centre and a member of the Society. He will give us a brief history of the Trust and describe the important benefits that it provides to the town.

He will talk about how the Charity is managed by its twelve trustees, about the issues that they face in the conduct of its affairs, and consider what the future might bring for both the Trust and the Town.

It will be a pleasure to learn from John more about a body of great significance to Warwick.

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

Tuesday 10 May 2016
Annual General Meeting,
St Mary's Lands, and
Capability Brown

The formalities of the Society's Annual General Meeting will be followed by two special items:

Nigel Hamilton and Antony Butcher will outline the District Council's new proposals for the

enhancement of St Mary's Lands. They are the outcome of a fresh look, by a new Working Party, and have none of the negatives of the old plan. Members will be invited to respond accordingly to the Council's consultation.

Then Dr Christine Hodgetts will mark the 300th anniversary year of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown with a new lecture on the man, his work, his legacy, and his reputation – all highly visible both in Warwick Castle Park and in the numerous other landscapes that he replanned in the 18th century.

This will be a busy and a very interesting evening: do please join us.

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

Friday 24 June 2016

The Society's Gardens Evening

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

The walk will start from the Unitarian Chapel. When you arrive there, you will be given an itinerary, and with it you will be free to make your way around the gardens at your own pace. Afterwards, 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, send the form on this page and your cheque to Hilary Holland by Monday 20 June. Tickets will not be sent, but your name will be on the list for the evening. For any query, email hilaryholland2@gmail.com or phone her on 401168.

Whether you have booked or you just turn up on the day, please arrive at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street, from 18.00.

THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Society is in good financial shape, its members are a second great strength, and its small committee is devoted to making it run smoothly and effectively. Under its constitution, members at the AGM elect the committee and the committee appoints its chair. At its first meeting after the AGM on 10 May, it will be appointing a new chair: ten years are more than enough for this one! The formal notice of the AGM, which will follow in a separate mailing, will therefore contain an especially strong appeal to 'widen the gene pool' of the committee, to reinforce it under refreshed leadership to take the Society into the future.

Planning decisions taken over the past two years have already changed the prospects for and will dramatically change the prospect of Warwick. From the wooden holiday cabins in Foxes Study to the brick boxes of the Asps, Gallows Hill and many other developments, the historic town centre will be surrounded by a broad swathe of modern car-dependent sprawl.

There is nothing which can be done to maintain the ideal that Warwick is a small town surrounded by green countryside: its historic centre will merely be an enclave in suburbia. But plenty can still be done, by the Society, by society more widely, and by our politicians, to protect the buildings, the commerce and the life of the town centre and its people from some of the worst effects.

The Local Plan Examination in Public is expected to resume in the autumn. The Inspector will have to decide whether a 'transport strategy' which will route much of the traffic from the new developments through the

**The Warwick Society
Gardens Evening
Friday 24 June**

NAME in capitals of each person attending:
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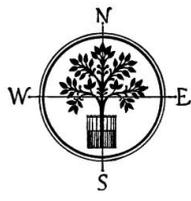
Just in case we need to contact you about a change in the arrangements please give your EMAIL ADDRESS (or phone number)
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Please reserve places for me / us (at £4 / person) at the Gardens Evening on Friday 24 June, starting from 18.00 at the Unitarian 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 Monday 20 June.

historic town centre invalidates the plan. I myself am quite sure that it is 'unsound', but also sure that, whatever the dubious planning process concludes, Warwick's buildings, their beauties, the town's distinctiveness, can still by some means be conserved. It's hard work, and I must rest: it's someone else's turn!



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