

## Welcome to our latest LHG Newsletter

We have been remarkably busy recently. In September, we re-launched our annual Leamington Local History Heritage Day. This was swiftly followed with Leamington's "Their Finest Hour" project in October at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Association.

We continue to build partnerships with other local societies for joint history projects. This culminated in LHG hosting an evening for various Leamington community groups and societies to show off our recent video, *Many Cultures, One Town*. To watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtQCaysujM> Numbers who have watched the film, to date, are over 2,600 and growing daily!

Currently, we are getting creative for the town's LeamTreeFest, to display a tree in All Saints' Church (9-17 December) as part of the festival. Please do go and have a look! Our AGM will be on 22 January 2024 – and we do need more committee members and helpers for our many projects!

Wishing all our members a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

## AGM 22 January 2023 7.30 p.m.

### Oddfellows Hall

We really do need your support at our AGM when we vote our committee members in and set out our exciting plans for next year. We will also hear some findings from "Their Finest Hour" project.

The agenda/documents will be sent out soon by email. If for any reason you do not receive these, or know anyone who would like a paper copy, please contact [secretary@leamingtonhistory.co.uk](mailto:secretary@leamingtonhistory.co.uk)

Further information on all LHG events, follow Leamington History Group on our Facebook Page or website: [www.leamingtonhistory.co.uk](http://www.leamingtonhistory.co.uk)

## Leamington Local History

### Heritage Day



#### *View from All Saints' Parish Church Tower Tour*

We showcased a wide range of local history community exhibitions in All Saints' Parish Church for the public to learn more about Leamington and LHG's latest history research. The day also featured new local history town walks, tours of the church tower and displays by young people, including Trinity Catholic School and Warwickshire College.

Other local societies shared their History of the local police, Lillington, Christchurch Gardens and Leamington Sky Garden. The Leamington Society, Arts Society, and Leamington Art Gallery and Museum and Ahmadiyya Muslim Centre were also represented.

Warwickshire Local History, Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology, London North Western Railway and Heart England Community Rail were also present. Local history authors, Graham Sutherland, Anthony Hitchcox and Adam's Crime Through Time talked about their work. We also launched a new walk "Secret Leamington" and "Bloodier Leamington" based in the Old Town.

During the Heritage Open Week, we led 3 local history walks, in partnership with the Royal Leamington Spa Town Council. Imperial Leamington, From Village to Spa, and Imperial Leamington. As this event was extremely popular, we have already booked for next year – **Saturday 14 September 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.** at All Saints' Parish Church. Please save the date!

## **"Their Finest Hour" Leamington History Project 7 October 2023**



A huge thanks to all the LHG members, the public - and especially to David Morse and Janet Ainley who organised an excellent digital

collection day of memories, stories, and artefacts from the Second World War. There was a great turn out and we were able to capture many interesting stories about evacuees, and family life during the war. Further information:

<https://theirfinesthour.english.ox.ac.uk/home>



## **Dates for your diary Spring 2024**

**Leamington History Café at Band Factory, 13 Althorpe Street (9.30 – 11 a.m.)**

- 9 Jan Exploring Leamington History's Archive**
- 16 Jan Leamington's Street Art**
- 23 Jan Leamington International Twinning Society**
- 30 Jan Polish Community Centre**
- 6 Feb Action 21 in Leamington**
- 13 Feb Friends of Christchurch**
- 20 Feb The Fusilier Museum, Warwick**
- 27 Feb A Local Lancaster Pilot**
- 5 Mar Women Philanthropists in Leamington**
- 12 Mar Leamington Music Festival**
- 19 Mar Leamington History Digital Photo Archive**

## **Local History Speaker Programme 2023: Mondays 7.30 p.m.**

Oddfellows Hall, New St. Leamington CV31 1HP

**11 December:** Leamington History Film Evening: Birth of a Spa Town and Leamington's Victoria Legacy

**22 January** AGM + Their Finest Hour WW2 Memories

**26 February** Antarctic Exploration- An Unsung Hero

**25 March** Adam Wood: Bloody Leamington: Tales of 'orrible murder ...



**22 April** Mike Haynes: The Vote

## **Christmas Present Ideas for the Local Historian**

### **Global Leamington Book, £20**

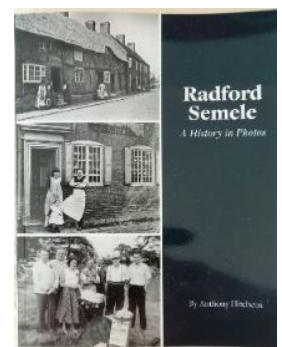


We have some copies left of our "Global Leamington" local history book, published in 2023 by the Leamington History Group.

An ideal present for the local historians in your family. It explores Leamington's fascinating connections with the rest of the world.

### **Radford Semele Local History Book, £15**

The local history of Radford Semele in photographs. Purchase from the Village Store in Radford Semele, or author, Anthony Hitchcox on 07811 893473.





## Remembering our Leamington Civilians



This year, on Sunday 12 November, our annual wreath was laid by Leamington History Group members David Brown and Patrick Fitzgerald, both of whom served in the RAF.

David, now our oldest member of LHG membership, served for two and a half years at the end of the Second World War.

For twenty-four years, Patrick was flying the Lockheed Hercules Tactical Transport aircraft world-wide, culminating with 5 years flying the Lockheed Tristar during Gulf War 1.

We commemorated the 13 citizens who lost their lives, alongside the 39 casualties who suffered when 7 air raids hit the town between 1940 and 1942.

In 2015, our Group raised funds for a plaque (dedicated in 2017) at Leamington's War Memorial.



## Volunteers wanted for our Enterprising Leamington Book:

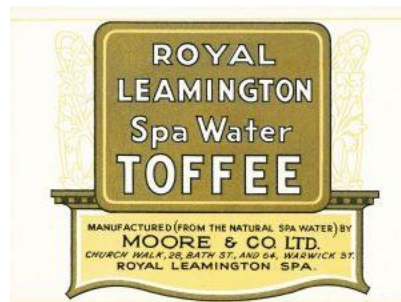
We are excited to announce our new local community history book - and we need your help! There are already several LHG and Leamington Society members involved so it would be wonderful for others to join us – there are roles for everyone!

### What skills do we need?

Do you like to research or write? Maybe take local photographs or draw? Are you good at marketing or desktop publishing? Can you proofread and edit? Or perhaps you could help find us some sponsorship (funds or in-kind support) for our project?

**“Enterprising Leamington”** aims to track 200 years of industry, creativity, and enterprise in the town.

*“Enterprising Leamington will celebrate the people, skills, and communities whose enterprise and ingenuity have shaped 200 years of Royal Leamington Spa’s history.*



*From straw hats and award-winning toffee to market-leading engineering and world-beating technology, Leamington’s industries have*

*helped the town to prosper and cemented its reputation as a centre of creativity and innovation.”*

We will be looking particularly at manufacturing, the motor industry, food and drink, architects and builders and the Silicon Spa.



**Photo Credit: Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum**

If so, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.  
[chair@leamingtonhistory.co.uk](mailto:chair@leamingtonhistory.co.uk)

## A New Blue Plaque: Baron Mulley (1918-1995)



The Royal Leamington Spa Town Council Blue Plaque Committee unveiled the town's recent plaque on 30 November 2023 in Clemens Street at the Spar Supermarket to remember local Leamington Baron Fred Mulley of Sheffield Park. His two daughters, Corinne and Deirdre Mulley, still live in Leamington and were present at the ceremony.

Baron Mulley was a senior labour politician and, eventually, a member of the House of Lords. Born in Clemens Street to a local family, he later became a Warwick Schoolboy from 1929-1936.

During the Second World War, he joined the Worcestershire Regiment and became a prisoner of war in Germany for five years from 1940. He studied economics at the University of London, Oxford, and Cambridge, and later became a barrister.

As a Labour Party member since 1936, he was elected as the MP for Sheffield Park (1950-1983). He had many notable positions, including Minister for Aviation and Transport. As a cabinet member, he became Secretary of State for Education and Science, and then for Defence. After falling asleep during the Queen's Jubilee RAF Review in 1977, from then on napping during exercises in the RAF became *"having a Fred Mulley!"*



## Special Christmas Invite: LHG Films

We would particularly like to invite you all to our Christmas Leamington History Film Event. Dress up in your festive finery on Monday 11 December 2023 – 7.30 p.m. at Oddfellows. We will show our first two, short films: 'Birth of Spa Town', and 'Leamington's Victorian Legacy', made in collaboration with local film-maker Mark Ellis (Postmaster Media).

### "Birth of a Spa Town"



This tells the story of Leamington's transformation from a small village to a thriving spa town in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the origins of Leamington's spa industry, the creation of the Pump Rooms and the demise of the original baths in Old Town.

### "Leamington's Victorian' Legacy"



In 1837, when 18-year-old Princess Victoria came to the throne, this was the start of an unprecedented period of industrial, social, and political change. This film looks at how these seismic forces affected the town of Royal Leamington Spa, and the people responsible for transforming Leamington from a minor Regency pleasure resort into the town today.

All our local history films are proving popular with approximately 25,000 views on our LHG You Tube Channel – please keep sharing and watching! And, if you can't make our film evening, please watch on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfXBLfsVw4fZ7XAi hAPz2xA>