

## Chairman's Clipboard

By Barry Franklin



Spring is in the air – and new hope that the Covid-19 Vaccine distribution will help us get back to some sort of normality! We have been busy planning our

2021 events and started off with our first successful Zoom AGM – thanks to all who participated.

We have recently donated £100 for the Parish Church Roof Repair Fund.



We are also connecting up with the new WDC Waymarking Project - driven by the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. This will include local history and directions to places for the public. Hope you can all make our monthly speaker meetings.

### Leamington History Events

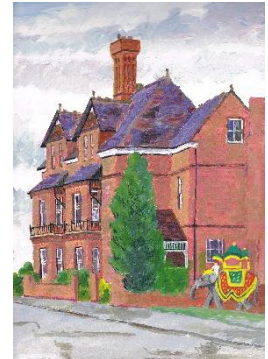
Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual AGM was chaired by Mark Ellis (film maker) and 29 members attended online. Committee officers were appointed as follows: Barry Franklin (Chair), Michael Pearson (Vice Chair), Margaret Rushton (Secretary); and Ian McCutcheon. Committee members are: Mick Jeffs, Tessa Whitehouse, Joyce Plumb, Maureen Thornton, Bobby Baulch and Stella Bolitho.

### Towards Video 3

As you will know, your LHG has produced two videos about Leamington's history Leamington - achieved with the assistance of a talented filmmaker, Mark Ellis. These have proved so successful and popular that we are now planning video 3. The topic will be the history of Leamington as a Town Borough.

### 'Mr Locke's New House' (Feb 2021)

Janet Ainley presented a fascinating account to members about the story of Mr Locke's residence in Leamington Spa.



### Joseph Bateman (1787-1857) architect by Mick Jeffs

This is an excerpt from a new webpage about architects to be added to our website soon. Bateman designed the first building for Warneford Hospital which opened in 1832 when John Russell declined to be the architect. In contrast, he designed the triumphal arches for the visit of Queen Adelaide to the town in 1839.

Around the same time, he designed the bank which took over part of the site of the Bedford Hotel on the Parade (HSBC Bank in 2021); the stonework façade was built by local builder William Gascoyne who had started his career as a stonemason.

An unexpected event was when Bateman published a book of 33 designs for agricultural buildings. In 1835 he moved his home from Clarendon Square to Victoria Place, a large house in Church Street which he designed; it became for many years the home of the Commonwealth Club but is now known simply as No 3.

About 1837 he designed Eastnor Terrace which was off Old Warwick Road and it was never completed because it was replaced by the station for the Great Western Railway about 10 years later.

## **A Modern Census: 21st March 2021**

As local historians we rely heavily on the rich historical census sources, preserved for over 200 years, to help solve complex puzzles about ordinary people's lives. We now encourage everyone to participate with completing the 2021 Census Return. Sally Bannister (The Office of National Statistics) is reaching out to Warwickshire historical societies to champion the forthcoming Census. Do you have historical census snippets which demonstrate how local society has changed? Or showing the census value to ensure that future generations can glimpse our society today?

The 2021 Census will provide a snapshot, just as it did in the 1939 Register pre-WW2, of life - but under lockdown in England and Wales for future historians. It will also pinpoint current community funding needs. Look out for your census questionnaires (February) with your Unique Access Codes for completion online in March (paper questionnaires can be requested).

## **LHG Research: Lockdown Intergenerational Living History Challenge: Jan. -Apr. 2021**

Write your own personal account of this unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone's experience of this is different. Certainly, children and adults might have different perspectives living through this difficult time.

We want to capture how we feel about what life is like for us all (how we shop, new digital skills, school, entertainment). Much has changed but many positives have emerged to support people in our community. Let's hear your thoughts on this to inform future historians and tell the real story of how this was, for us, in Leamington Spa!

(i) Write 200 words about your experience or create a 10-minute video to share; or

(ii) Pair up with a member of the younger generation (e.g. grandchild, neighbour) to write about your experience.

Email: [connections@leamingtonhistory.co.uk](mailto:connections@leamingtonhistory.co.uk)

## **The 'Leamington Scrubbers' by Janet Ainley (need permission)**



When the Covid pandemic took hold, Ashleigh Linsdell, a nurse from Cambridge, started a grass-roots movement *For the Love of*

*Scrubs* to encourage volunteers to get to work: hospitals needed large quantities of well-made, washable scrubs for all front-line workers.

Across the country regional groups were quickly formed. Funds were raised to buy fabric, and companies made their patterns for scrubs freely available. The 'Warwickshire Scrubbers' organised themselves into smaller hubs, with co-ordinators who distributed materials and the collected finished items.

In Leamington around fifty 'scrubbers' set to work. People were incredibly generous with the time and energy. Patterns were printed, rolls of fabric were cut up and sewing machines buzzed. Airing cupboards were raided for bedding that could be repurposed, and kilometres of thread and elastic were bought. We produced hundreds of sets of scrubs, all made with care and respect for NHS staff, and went on to supply paramedics, care homes, GP surgeries, and many others who needed them.

We also made laundry bags, scrub caps, headbands and thousand washable fabric masks, distributed to families through charities and foodbanks.

And we had fun and made new friends. It gave us a focus and kept us sane!

## **Upcoming Monthly Meetings**

Currently all Zoom meetings 7.30 p.m.

**22 March 2021: Origins of Warwick District Council Houses (Barry Franklin)**

**26 April: Being a Local historian (David Fry)**

**24 May, Larry Connor, Topic tba**