

Chairman's Ramblings

by Barry Franklin

Well, I am delighted to say that we have been able to get the Leamington History Group fully operating again. Our Leamington Global Project and Commonwealth Trail are progressing well. I would like to thank all committee members for their contributions, particularly those who are standing down this year. We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on 28 March.

LHG Monthly Meetings

In December, we had an excellent quiz evening (with tea and cake) which was based on old Leamington photos at Victoria House. Thank you for joining us! Barry's tribute presentation of Derek Billings Photo Collection was well received at our January monthly meeting. Whilst, in February, we relocated to New Street for Sheila Woolf's fascinating talk about Henry Parkes, 'father' of Australia.

We're Back! Monthly Talks

28 March: AGM and Nigel Bishop: the History of Jephson Gardens

25 April: Kevin Hunt: William Gascoyne, The Ambitious Stonemason

23 May: Helen Pendery and Darlene Odenwalders: The Toone Family in USA

27 Jun: Mike Bunn: "Fetch the Engine!" - A history of firefighting in Warwickshire

25 Jul: Norman Hyde: Tennis the Leamington Way

Connections

March 2022

Global Leamington Book

The story of how Leamington has made its mark on the world - and the people from around the globe who have made it their home.

Following our successful grant from the Leamington Town Council, we are now starting to plan our research for our Global Leamington Book and also a Commonwealth Trail. These will explore our connections in Leamington with people and groups around the world.

Sir Frank Whittle



The Global book project will tell the story of the town's global connections (history, culture,

politics, social, environment and economic aspects) mainly throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

It will look at the development of Leamington town, with a particular focus on the emerging diversity of the communities who settled in our town; and the people from these communities who made Leamington the town it is today.

We will also be engaging with partners and schools to involve young people and community groups.

But we do need **your** help! Do you have any contacts with community groups who might be interested? Are you able to research or write short articles on a Global Theme? Do you have any resources or anecdotes which could support the project? Why not email/ring and find out more! Please use the contacts below.

Leamington Blue Plaques

Everyone is invited to the unveilings of the next two Blue Plaques, to take place on Wednesday 23rd March.

One, in Bath Street will be for the legendary Mrs Fowler, O.B.E., who worked all her life for the Red Cross and many other charities.



The second, on a house in St Mary's Crescent will be for Miss Eleanor Doorly, a distinguished scholar and author, former pupil of Leamington High School (now Kingsley), and for

twenty years, Head Mistress of King's High School.

Later in the year, there will be a Special Interest Plaque at the Regent Hotel, and possibly a further Blue Plaque, for the chief designer of Jaguar cars, William Munger Heynes. LHG regularly contributes to the town's Blue Plaques.

Commonwealth Games and New Leamington Town Walk

As many of you are aware, we celebrate the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in the summer. We are currently designing a new town walk based on our Commonwealth links around Central Leamington. We are working in partnership with students from the University of Warwick. This new trail will be available to the public during CultureFest 2022.

Our Commonwealth Project

Send your stories and pictures about your Commonwealth connections to Heritage and Culture who are exploring more about people's diverse backgrounds and cultures. Send in bullet points, memories, stories, quotes, facts, figures or videos.
<https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/?p=89221>

Researchers/Contributors needed: LHG Video 4

Delighted that our WDC Arts Grant application has been successful. We can now start research and production of our 4th LHG Video, based on Multicultural Leamington. This follows our previous hits: *Birth of a Spa Town*, *Victoria's Legacy* and *Life after Victoria*. We invite researchers and contributors across the community to get involved, and further donations for matched funding too!

Queen Victoria's Leamington Visit 1858

by Mick Jeffs



In 1858 Royal Leamington Spa was graced with a visit by Queen Victoria on 16th June. I came across an unexpected aspect of this visit whilst looking into the history of the builders of the town.

Two of the builders had built stands for the local people to have an optimum view of the monarch and her entourage. William Ballard built a stand for 1,500 people in Kenilworth Road and T Mason built another for 1,200 people near Trinity Church. It was reassuring to read that these structures were independently inspected to ensure that they were safe.

On a similar theme, seven builders, William Brown, Buddle & Son, Edward Clarke, John Barnwell, John Toone, Edward Treadgold and William Watkin provided tables for a celebration of Princess Victoria's birthday in 1837.

Contact: connections@leamingtonhistory.co.uk or phone Stella: 07587 022366