

Welcome

We started off the New Year with a bang! Not only did we launch our new local history book "*Global Leamington*" in style in January, we also had a good turn-out for our AGM and an excellent presentation by Peter Coulls, on H.E. Cox, Coventry and Lillington Artist. We also recently welcomed back Tony Merrygold to tell us more about The Daimler Connection story and its links with Warwickshire.

New LHG Committee 2023

We are fortunate that volunteer members have come forward to help organise LHG activities over this year. Please contact your committee members and tell us your new ideas. Committee members are:

Stella Bolitho (Chair); David Morse (Vice Chair; Archivist); Margaret Rushton (Secretary); Ian McCutcheon (Treasurer); Terry Gardner (Membership Secretary); and Janet Ainley (Video).

Tuesdays 10 a.m.

Meet us at the Band Factory, Althorpe St. for coffee and history! Bring any historical items you would like to share with us! All welcome!

Future Monthly Meeting Dates:

Monday 27 March: Martin Green, *Glovers of Warwick*

Monday 24 April: Nigel Briggs: *Leamington Allotments: The Inside Story*

Monday 22 May: Monica Brown, *Gersham Brown and family+, - Growing up in Leamington in the 1960s and 1970s*

Monday 26 June: Sheila Woolf, *Care in the Community: The Leigh family*

All talks take place at Oddfellows Hall, New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP, starting at 7.30pm.

Connections March 2023

Global Leamington Book Launch

Our new local history book launch was attended by Leamington Spa Mayor, Nick Wilkins, Council representatives and over 60 volunteer contributors.



**Margaret Rushton and
Leamington Mayor Nick Wilkins**



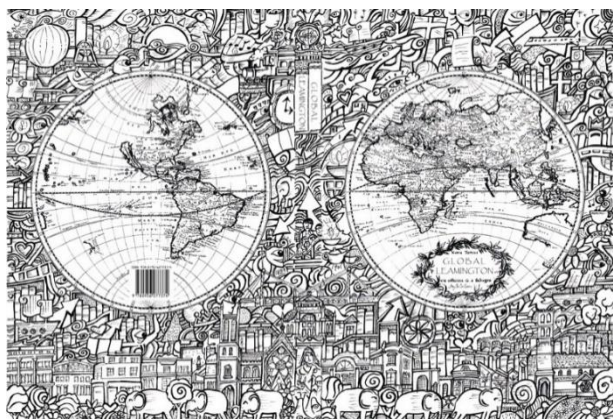
Many Leamington communities were represented - Caribbean, Italian, Czech and Slovak, Polish, Irish, Sikh, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Shree Krishna Mandir. The project was supported by the Royal Leamington Spa Town Council's Community Grant.

Global Leamington takes a fresh view of the history of the town. It looks beyond the familiar stories of the development of the Spa to highlight international connections and the emergence of the multi-cultural community that characterises the town today.

Edited by Stella Bolitho, Michael Jeffs and Ben Richardson, the book reflects on different periods of the town's history which were shaped by the people and ideas which came into the town, and those that left to travel across the globe.

In researching these stories, we engaged with community partners, schools and organisations, focusing on working with young people, through the University of Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa College (part of WCG) L3 Visual Communication students, Campion and Trinity Catholic Schools. We worked in partnership with the Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum, the Arts Trail – and the stunning cover artwork by Alan A. Art, below, shows many popular aspects of Leamington's

past in relation to the globe, whilst reaching out to the future.



Global Leamington Cover Design

An essential read to learn something new about Leamington Spa's history! The book is organised in eight chapters, each taking a different perspective on the town's history. Opening the book, *Cosmopolitan Leamington* explores how Leamington developed as a centre for tourism, drawing international visitors to the Spa and a range of other attractions. *Colonial Linkages* develops stories that formed the core of the 'Commonwealth Trail' created by LHG to contribute to celebrations of the Commonwealth Games.

Cultural Diversity and *New Lives in Leamington* tell the stories of those from Europe, the Caribbean and Asia who have made their homes in Leamington, adding to the richness of life in the town. Some ways in which people from Leamington made an impact across the world are explored in *Charity Connections* and *Emigration Stories*. *War and Peace* celebrates both the military contributions of Leamingtonians and initiatives to promote international peace.

The final chapter, *Made in Leamington*, describes the diversity of products originating in the town, from an innovative kitchen stove to a creative style of dance and performance. "Capturing new aspects of Leamington's diverse history and its global connections has turned this project into a true and inclusive community venture. Leamington History Group has unearthed new knowledge and interpretations about the town's past, whilst re-evaluating its significant historical and touristic merits in its own right.

Order your copy from:

secretary@leamingtonhistory.co.uk

Leamington Borough Police



During WW11 there were five parts of the Police: Regulars, Police War Reserve, Women's Auxiliary, First Police Reserve, and Specials. The Government directed people into several civilian occupations during the War and the Police War Reserve (PWR) was one of these – directed at men over 30 years of age.

They worked the same hours as regulars, wore the same uniform (see photo) and attended the Police Club. There were 14 Police War Reserves listed in Leamington. In 1945 their gross wage was £6-4-6 net £5-6-5

The PWRs were trained on Police procedure and given examples of how to fill in the various forms. They were involved in many various incidents to assist in upholding the law and supporting the public.

For example, traffic problems included summonses for failing to conform with halt signs, showing light, reports of stolen pedal cycles, motor car accidents, driver reported for speeding over the 30-mph limit.

Around town, they removed unattended cycles to the Police Station, dealt with cruelty to horses, investigated alien absence from place of residence, war damage to windows, and assaults at the NAAFI Canteen. Many more jobs were given to the Police and this is only a few.

In fact, one PWR was given the job of guarding the house in York Road after it was bombed. Another PWR was commended by the Watch Committee for arresting a man for not being responsible for his actions, with another constable.

Terry Gardner

LHG Video Project Post-War Leamington



Building on some of the research undertaken for the *Global Leamington* book, we have now begun work on a short film which will focus on Leamington in the post-war period. This will be the fourth in a series of films about the town's history. Once complete, it will be available through our website alongside the previous films.

In this latest film we are aiming to capture stories from some of the groups of people who came to Leamington from different parts of the world, creating the multi-cultural town we know today.



We have been fortunate to make contacts within the Irish, Indian and Polish communities with some of those who first came to Leamington in the 1950s and 1960s, and have begun collecting interviews.

We hope that these individual stories will help to bring to life the events that brought their communities to Britain and to the

town.

Janet Ainley

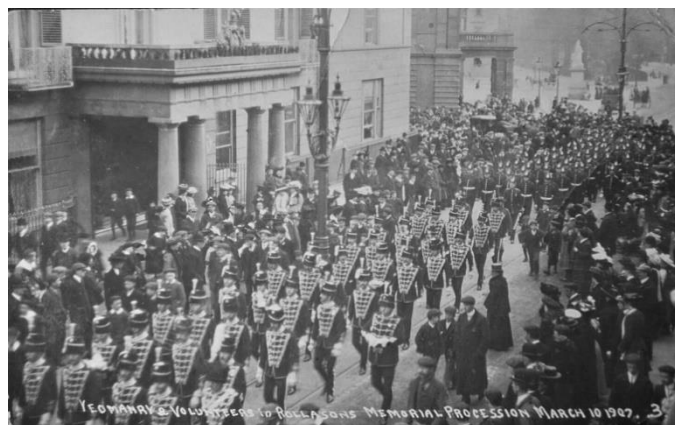
Times Quick Archive Quiz

Where was Beauchamp Square? If you don't know without using Google then the answer is on the back page!

Head first into the Archives!

Well! The call came, "Write something for the Newsletter, please", "When is it needed for?", said I, "Next week will be fine" came the reply. Next week? I don't know about you but time flies faster and faster as you get older but then I thought of the picture that I found in the Archive that might make a good story. If you already know it, then read on.

The picture below first grabbed my attention because of the Army contingents marching up the Parade. Closer inspection revealed that they were Yeomanry and Volunteers of the Warwickshire Regiment, I assumed. In fact in 1901, the regiment was reorganised as mounted infantry as the Warwickshire Imperial Yeomanry and the regiment was based at Northgate Street in Warwick at this time.



But the caption also reads that it's a memorial Procession for a certain Rollason on 10/03/1907. Mmmm. Well looking into it I found that Lillington History Group had previously written about it. John Francis Rollason was quite an up and coming jockey who had ridden the 20/1 winner, Merry Andrew, in the Ascot Stakes.



The family lived at Village Farm, Lillington, where the Tesco store is now located.

He and his father, Edwin, were travelling to Holland for an 8 month riding trip to the Low Countries

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when the boat they were on, the "Berlin", crashed heavily into the docks at the Hook of Holland on February 23st 1907. Both John and his father were flung into the water. John's body was found within a day or so, washed up, but his father's was never found.

The body was eventually returned to his home village and the funeral took place at Lillington Church on the 27/03/1907. Many hundreds of people were still making their way to the church as he was laid to rest.

In the picture below that was taken in Vicarage Road, just passing the old Vicarage, the first carriage is carrying, what appears to be, just flowers. Amazing to think of the esteem that this young man had, considering he was so young and relatively unknown. When he died he left £50, worth some £7700 in today's money, and so maybe he hadn't done so badly during his short life.

Sadly his headstone was cleared away in the 1980's and so is lost to us.



But to go back to the original photo. He must have been held in high esteem by some important people for there to have been organised a Memorial Procession including 2 sections of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment with whoever was at the head of the march.

Now, we also come to the second thing that caught my eye with the original photo and that was the name Rollason. A friend of mine is Peter Rollason could this be the same Rollason. Well Peter is looking into it but as his family is local with Rollason Fencing Contractors having been in the family there is a good chance he is connected. That's, as they say, work in progress.

David Morse

Henry Mulliner, Carriage builder



Henry followed his father, Francis, into the carriage-making business in 1859 and eventually had substantial premises in Bedford Street on the site of what is now St Peter's car park.

Just one episode from a long story is that he exhibited at the Paris Exposition in 1878. One of his carriages was bought by the French government and was then offered as a prize in the National Lottery.

Henry was the uncle of Henry Jervis Mulliner who went on to found a branch of the carriage-building business in Chiswick in London which went on to build bodies for prestigious cars such as Daimler and Bentley. Rolls-Royce bought this company in 1959.

Mick Jeffs

Local Leamington History Events

Sydenham Local History Society
11 April 2023 7.30 p.m.

Industrial Archaeology by Martin Green at the Sydni Centre

Leamington Society
13 April 2023 7.30 p.m.

Adrian Shooter, CBE, 1948-2022 Chiltern Railways and entrepreneurial public service by Ian Baxter. The Royal Pump Rooms

Times Quick Archive Quiz

Answer: - The bit of Beauchamp Avenue, the bit of Kenilworth Road and what is now Beauchamp Road that are three sides around Christchurch Gardens.

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