

# ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### AUGUST 2017



Floods in  
School Road,  
Alcester  
c1950 (ADLHS  
Collection)

[www.alcesterhistory.org.uk](http://www.alcesterhistory.org.uk)

#### JULY VISIT TO AVONCROFT MUSEUM:

Our summer evening visit this year was to the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at Bromsgrove. We were lucky to have beautiful sunny evening to enjoy the more than 30 buildings on display. This was a conducted tour with two very knowledgeable guides to point out the important features. Two of the buildings which seemed to attract much attention were the prefab, with contents typical of 1950s, and the Anderson shelter, which as if it had just been left after an air raid (realistic sound effects of the air raid siren and all clear were provided!).

The wagon house stored a covered miller's wagon rescued from Arrow Mill with 'Adkins & Thomas' sign written on the sides and dating from 1920s. One of the more spectacular items was a showman's wagon, fully restored and fitted out inside for living and for use as an office. The ice house had been rebuilt above ground, as our guide told us, if it was underground, as ice houses were usually built, it would fill up with ground water in days.

The medieval town house provided an idea of how difficult life would have been (at least to us, used to all modern conveniences) with an open fire for cooking in the middle of the room, no glass in the windows and absolutely no privacy. After the tour we were provided with tea and cake in the Guesten Hall, which has a magnificent carved roof. Before leaving we had the chance to look round the National Telephone Kiosk Collection with phone boxes of all description, some working too. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening.



The Upton on  
Severn  
Tollhouse  
rebuilt at  
Avoncroft  
Museum of  
Buildings.

**LOCAL PAST MAGAZINE:** The May edition of our half-yearly magazine **Local Past** is still on sale and includes articles on 'Memories of National Service' by John Bunting; 'The original post-chaise book used at the Swan Hotel in the 19<sup>th</sup> century'; 'The Great Alne magistrate and the Zulu King'; 'Turnpike toll-gates in Great Alne, Kinwarton and Alcester'; and, 'When Buses carried more than just passengers'; These, plus photographs and letters to the editor make the £2 selling price a bargain!

Local Past can be obtained from **Classic Clutter** and **Venue Xpresso, PSW** in **Studley** and **Alcester**, **Alcester Library, Coffee @ 26** in the High Street, and **Hill's Retail** in Evesham Street, (previously Ross's Garage).

#### ALCESTER STREET MARKET

The Society took part in Alcester's annual street market on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The theme was "Superheroes & Supervillains" and we took the opportunity to put on a display on one of Alcester's 'superheroes', Frederick George Jackson. He was the polar explorer who rescued Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmar Johansen, who were stranded on Franz Josef Land in the Arctic in 1896. There was much interest in the display, and we sold quite a few copies of Local Past and some Occasional Papers. Thanks to everyone who helped on the stall.

#### FACEBOOK

ADLHS now has a Facebook page set up and operated by our vice-chairman and webmaster, Stephen Godfrey. We hope you will post pictures, questions and comments.

**AUGUST MEETING:** At the meeting on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August** our speaker will be one of our long standing members, Dr Maureen Harris of Rugby. Her subject will be "**Clergy & Parishioners in Conflict in Restoration Warwickshire: Alcester, Coughton & Wixford**". Meetings at St Benedict's RC High School Sixth Form Centre commence at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

Alan Godfrey`