

ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017



Priory Road,
Alcester,
c1910
(ADG
Collection)

www.alcesterhistory.org.uk

JUNE VISIT TO SUDELEY:

A group of our members and their companions enjoyed the delights of Sudeley Castle and Winchcombe on Saturday 17th June. A sunny, summer day together with the beautiful castle and gardens set the scene for a successful visit. The castle offered no less than eight exhibitions offering everything from King Richard III, who owned Sudeley on two separate occasions, the Six Wives of King Henry VIII costumes from the BBC TV series, and the collection of the Victorian Chatelaine of Sudeley, Emma Dent. The castle is still a family home to Lady Ashcombe and the Dent-Brocklehurst family, and their private rooms were open to the public. The extensive gardens provided much needed shade among the trees and a chance to see a collection of rare breeds of pheasant. Although the church was holding a wedding during the day, most of us got the opportunity to see the tomb of Queen Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife. To round off the day an ice cream at the café was much appreciated!



LOCAL PAST MAGAZINE: The May edition of our half-yearly magazine **Local Past** is now 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 19th 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).

'HAVING A DRINK ROUND ALCESTER': Our committee member, Richard Churchley, has just published a new book on the pubs of Alcester, Arrow, Great Alne, Haselor, Kinwarton, Oversley and Weethley before 1940. This 44 page book has a wealth of detail, on not only current pubs, but also many long forgotten inns, public houses and beerhouses. The comprehensive listing in alphabetic order is fully illustrated in black and white, and colour. My favourite quote is a police inspector, who in 1906 stated there was "one pub to every 105 inhabitants of Alcester and one pub to every 23 ordinary houses". An amazing ratio! The book is available from the bookstall at meetings for £7.

JULY OUTING: We still have some seats available on our evening coach trip to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Bromsgrove on the evening of Wednesday 12th July, leaving Priory Road at 7.00pm and returning at 9.30pm.

The trip to Avoncroft costs £12 per person. This includes the cost of coach travel and a guided tour of the buildings. For an extra £3.50 homemade cake, tea and coffee will be available at the end of this tour.

If you would like to book for this trip please phone **Sue Fisher** on **01789 763121** as soon as possible.

AUGUST MEETING: At the meeting on **Wednesday 9th 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