

# ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### MAY 2017



Alcester High Street 1950s, showing the houses removed when the post office was built in 1962 (ADLHS Collection)

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

#### APRIL MEETING:

The speaker at our April meeting, Derek Clarke, entertained us with a fascinating talk which explained "***The Major Repairs to Tyntesfield***".

Tyntesfield (pronounced 'Tintsfield') is just a few miles south of Bristol. This Victorian Gothic Revival house was built by the Gibbs family, who made their fortune from shipping guano from South America. The original house was built by William Cubitt for £70,000 and was completed, taking two years to build, in 1865.

This remarkable house came into the hands of the National Trust in 2002. At this time it was falling into disrepair and urgently in need of restoration. Derek Clarke led this complicated and challenging project, which took two and a half years to complete. The first problem identified was that there was only a single access road to the house along which was used by all contractors and to bring all materials on to the site. Then it was discovered that several species of bat lived in the house (It is an offence to disturb these creatures). Despite these issues, the first task was to erect scaffolding to hold an enormous plastic cover over the entire building. This made a feature for visitors by providing stairs up to a platform at roof level for viewing the work. On the ground seats were made available for visitors to watch the restoration of the belfry, which had been lowered to ground by an enormous crane.

Derek Clarke has spoken to us before about his work on National Trust properties and this talk was up to his previous high standard demonstrating his wealth of knowledge and experience and delivered in his own laconic style.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** If you have not yet paid your annual subscription for 2017, it would be appreciated if you would put your subscription (still £5 per person) into a **sealed envelope marked with your name and address** and hand it in at the next meeting. Alternatively, you can post your subscription to Sue Fisher at 37 Corinthian Court, Alcester B49 5AY. Your membership card will then be available for collection at the following meeting.

**SUMMER OUTING:** This year our full day outing is to Sudeley Castle and Winchcombe on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. We are running a coach from Alcester and the cost is £20 each (Including the entrance ticket to Sudeley Castle and the coach fare), with an additional £5 if you choose to take escorted garden tour. Book your place at the next meeting or call Sue Fisher on 01789-763121.

**JULY EVENING VISIT:** Our traditional evening visit on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July is to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at Bromsgrove. If you would like to come, add your name to the list at the next meeting or call Sue Fisher on 01789 763121. We are running a coach from Alcester and the total cost is £12 per head.

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May and our talk will be: "***King Henry V and Agincourt: England's Greatest Three Hours?***" presented by Max Keen.

Meetings are held at St. Benedict's Sixth Form Centre, Kinwarton Road, Alcester and commence at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

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