

ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

www.alcesterhistory.org.uk



Benjamin Bowen's china and glass shop in High Street which had closed by 1919 (ADLHS Collection)

OCTOBER MEETING:

At our last meeting the well-known Alcester figure, Rev Dr Julian Davey, made a return visit and spoke to us on "Royal Arrow and the Ragley Connection". The talk followed the history of the manor of Arrow from its mention in the Domesday Book, through the various families which owned the manor, to founding of Ragley Hall by the Conway family and then to the present Marquess (who was also present).

The first recorded owner of the manor of Arrow was Bishop Odo, brother of William the Conqueror, who appears on the Bayeux Tapestry – described by our speaker as the first selfie!

The manor passed to the de Conville family and then by marriage to the Burdetts (a family name which is still found in Alcester). Gerard Burdett fought for Edward III and Edward IV was a regular visitor to Arrow. The manor passed to the Conway family, originally from North Wales. Sir John Conway (born 1535) married Eleanor Greville, daughter of Fulke Greville (3rd); he is buried in Arrow Church. His grandson, Edward Conway, the 1st Earl Conway embarked on the building of Ragley Hall to replace the old manor house, but the building was not finished until 1680. During the Twentieth Century the hall was not really occupied after 1912, until Hugh Seymour, 8th Marquess of Hertford (father of the present Marquess) inherited Ragley and worked to refurbish the hall and successfully open its doors to the public in 1958.

Julian Davey gave us a fascinating talk and we were pleased to have the 9th Marquess in the audience to add extra detail and answer questions.

ADLHS CALENDAR 2018

As announced at the September meeting, we have produced a calendar of 13 photographs from the Society's archives. The images include many of Alcester and several of the local villages and provide a glimpse across our area of times gone by. The price is £6 and calendars can be purchased at our meetings or Classic Clutter, Alcester Heritage Centre, PSW or from our website (postage will be £1.30 extra).



2018

CALENDAR

£6



£6

A PICTURE OF ALCESTER OR VILLAGE FOR EACH MONTH



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NOVEMBER MEETING: At the meeting on **Wednesday 8th November** the speakers will be our members, John Bunting & John Ruffell. Their subject will be **"The Burma Railway and the Alcester Connection"**. It promises to be a thought provoking talk. Meetings at St Benedict's RC High School Sixth Form Centre commence at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

Alan Godfrey