

ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

www.alcesterhistory.org.uk



Arrow's former
tollhouse
c1900 (ADLHS
Collection)

AUGUST MEETING:

At our last meeting Dr Maureen Harris spoke to us on "Clergy & Parishioners in Conflict in Restoration Warwickshire: Alcester Coughton & Wixford". This explored the upheaval following the restoration of Charles II in 1660 through the cases which came before the church courts. Many of the clergy from the Commonwealth period had Puritan and non-conformist beliefs and were replaced by those who accepted the new laws brought in by the Church of England. In addition the Alcester area had a high percentage of Catholic adherents and as well as an established Baptist, Presbyterian and Quaker population. The result was conflict between congregations and clergy. Clergymen were often accused (sometimes unjustly) of drunkenness, wife-beating, lewdness or conducting clandestine marriages. Where the vicar did not share the beliefs of his parish, malicious charges were often brought. In Wixford the vicar, Timothy Kirk, wanted to cut down the yew tree in the churchyard, which his parishioners opposed. Four years of conflict ensued!

This was a fascinating talk by one of our members with lots of local content.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

The Society has been invited by Church House management to once again participate in the national Heritage Open Days Scheme. We intend to put on a display of photographs from our archive and everyone is invited to come along and see the display and also learn about the history of Church House. The building is open from 12.00 to 4.30pm.

NATIONAL SERVICE OCCASIONAL PAPER

We are hoping to publish a new ADLHS Occasional Paper, which would consist of a collection of articles about post-war National Service. Would any of you be prepared to write something? About 2,000 words; a bit longer is fine, but shorter items would also be really useful.

Perhaps you could provide some notes we can edit together as an article? Would you prefer to talk to somebody who can take it down and ghost-write it? Any photos you have, or souvenirs like leave passes, forces currency etc that we could illustrate would be

especially welcome. Or do you know someone who is not connected to the Society, but might be interesting in doing something? If you are willing to write or help with an article please let me know - email address below, phone and postal address in Local Past. No need to wait until you have actually written something - it would be useful to know if you are thinking of it, so we can see whether we're likely to generate enough material to make it worth going ahead. We cannot guarantee to use everything, but we would love to see what you have got. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Ian Greig - Editor, Local Past (editor@alcesterhistory.org.uk)

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Most of our members now receive this newsletter by email. If you change your email address, please remember to let Sue Fisher know your new details. (sue_fisher@hotmail.com)

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ADLHS is a member of Warwickshire Local Society and as such we receive the semi-annual journal "Warwickshire History". This is full of interesting articles on county subjects and back numbers are available on loan to members on the entrance table at every meeting.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: At the meeting on **Wednesday 13th August** our speaker will be Dr Gillian White. Her subject will be "**The Most Dissolute Man in London: 1st Duke of Devonshire & the Building of Chatsworth**". William Cavendish was one of those who overthrew James II and invited William of Orange to take the throne of England, but was also known for gambling, womanising, duelling and the building of Chatsworth House. It promises to be a most interesting talk. Meetings at St Benedict's RC High School Sixth Form Centre commence at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

Alan Godfrey