

MID WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

for places of historic interest or natural beauty

Website - <http://nationaltrustmidwarks.org.uk/>

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NEWS SHEET Summer 2024

Oak Leaves is going to email on account of lack of capacity of the editor!

We had a good year with a great speaker programme and two brilliant excursions. Please find below our speaker programme for next year and reports from the excursions from earlier in the year. You will find our programme as an attachment so it can be printed out. We will also have printed cards for your friends and kitchen notice board.

We also need your help!

Membership Renewal – Please update your bank details. As advised at the last AGM we have changed our bank from Barclays to Lloyds. Therefore anyone who pays their subscription annually on 1st September by standing order or by BACS should cancel their Barclays standing order and set up a new Lloyds standing order. The details are as follows:

This is a Lloyds Bank business account

Account Name: Mid Warwickshire Association of the National Trust

Account No: 79927268 Sort Code 30-99-50

Amount £15 per person

Please use your postcode and surname as the payment reference.

Gift Aid Declaration form – We have revised this form to bring it up to date with HMRC requirements and need any member who is prepared to gift aid their subscription to complete the new form – one per member, even if you have completed one in the past, and return it to the Treasurer. The new form will be sent out to everyone as a separate attachment. For us to claim gift aid your name should match the name on the bank account from which you are paying your membership subscription.

PROGRAMME -

EVENING MEETINGS 2024 – 2025

Our meetings are held on Monday evenings, normally the first Monday of the month, in the Kingsley School Hall, Beauchamp Rd, Leamington and start at 7.30 pm

Guests are welcome. The admission price for non-members of the Association is £5

2024

7th October

Jan Cooper

War and Worship – Castle and Church

A detailed history of Kenilworth's Castle and Priory/Abbey from foundation to destruction and beyond, demonstrating how inextricably linked the two were, and still are, and featuring key events and personalities..

4th November

AGM and The Wrinklies

The Wrinklies are a midlands band of musicians and entertainers who will bring our pre- Christmas party to life! We will be serving alcoholic refreshments and snacks!

2nd December

Paul Davision

The Shetland Bus

The Shetland Bus was the term used for the voyages of Norwegian fishing boats between Shetland and the Norwegian Coast during World War 2. These boats brought refugees to the Shetlands and returned with arms, radios and agents in support of the Norwegian resistance. It helped the Germans to decide to keep 250,000 troops in Norway throughout the war.

2025

6th January

Sandy Robertson and David Bray

Webster & Horsfall

The story of an enterprise that spans 3 centuries, Helped invent the piano, underseas cables laid by Brunel's Leviathan ship – The Great Eastern, Spitfire valve springs. Family intrigue , gangsters, Peaky Blinders -- you could not make it up!.

3rd February

Ann O'Flanagan

The Wallace Collection and Warwickshire

The Wallace Collection is home to one of the most significant collections of fine and decorative arts in the world. They have everything. Ann is going to talk to us about her time with the collection and the connections to Warwickshire.

3rd March

Jane Barnes

Tales of a farmers wife!

Tales from a Dairy Farmers' Wife'. A family run dairy farm near Melton Mowbray, amusing anecdotes, charming tales and real life stories about the herd, farm and family life . *'We produce milk for Stilton Cheese so I usually bring some along to meetings to sell after my talk, which is always welcome.'*

7th April

Trevor Langley

Oh! Those Earls of Warwick

"Oh, Those Earls of Warwick!" looks at the owners of the castle and the title since 1066. It poses some questions, e.g. if the Earls of Warwick was a TV Soap Series, what would it be called and what themes would it explore? Trevor looks at the lighter side of the Earldom, and the family connections down the years. He also explains the hierarchy of the nobility, and shares some recollections of Lord Brooke at Warwick Castle while he still lived there, before it was sold to Madam Tussauds.

12th May

Lesley Smith

Elizabeth I Lesley Smith is a historian, known for her dramatic

portrayals of historical characters in full costume, and has been Curator of Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire from 2000 to 2024. She is a specialist in Tudor history, and will be presenting Elizabeth I in her full glory!

Graham who is our Chairman as well as Vice President has kindly put together the heart of Oak Leaves below.

Vice President's Thoughts

The Mid Warwickshire Association has recovered marvellously since Covid, our attendances have increased – with very welcome new members this year.

The Management Committee

The Committee remains small following the changes which took place at the AGM and it is essential that we take steps to build it up again so that requirements can be shared out so as to avoid putting too many commitments on too few shoulders. Please consider how you might be able to help and that you might well enjoy your participation in the long run.

Oak Leaves

Oak Leaves is another area where we need help. There might be among our number some one who would like to have ago at this or perhaps just take on either the editorship or the computer element. Will you consider? It would be a great asset to the Association.

Excursions

This is another area where help is need in organising trips

In conclusion

We have much to celebrate as long as you all continue to support the Association by remaining members and encouraging others, together with attending our monthly meetings. And to lend your help and expertise to the committee to ensure our continued existence.

GRAHAM E. COOPER

Vice President.

CHARLECOTE'S TUMBLE STILE

How many Members have noticed the tumble stile at Charlecote? It is in the roadside fence, somewhat disguised by greenery, just to the left of the entrance to Charlecote Garden Centre. It is also known as a clapper stile and according to Country Life is the last word in ingenious craftsmanship. Each length of timber fence-rails is loosely held horizontal by a weight attached to one end. The other end is unattached, finishing just short of the adjacent vertical post. The rails can be readily pushed down at the unattached end, enabling the walker to step over them. When released, the rails spring back up to their permanent position. A little mental preparation is called for, otherwise the rails will spring back up when the walker is halfway across. Those who are unaware of the stile because it looks like part of the fence have been know to lean on it and to find themselves flat on the ground ! (*With acknowledgement to a Country Life website article*).

Donations to The National Trust

Last year we cemented our relationship with Hidcote Gardens by the donation of two quite considerable bespoke plant pots from Wychwood Pottery. These pots were £750 each, so you would not want too many for your garden. They are inscribed with - *Gifted by NT Mid Warks Assoc.2023*

Lottie Allen, Head gardener has sent us some photos of the pots now they are planted up and they can be seen in Mrs Winthrop's Garden.



This year we are donating £1,600 to Charlecote for 2 bespoke pots. They will send an original down to Wychwood Pottery to be faithfully copied and are scheduled later this year.

We are also donating £630 to Upton House for restoration of Sèvres pottery

Please see below

Inventory number	Image and description	Estimated cost of conservation
446315	 <p data-bbox="352 719 1040 815">Sevres jug (broc ordinaire) painted with birds on a bleu celeste ground painted with shaped panels of exotic birds and flowering trees within gilt borders, with gilt handle.</p>	£315
446323.7	 <p data-bbox="352 1189 1040 1285">Sevres green ground tray (plateau corbeille ovale a jours), part of a tea service. Painted with panels of children in garden landscape with gilt foliage borders.</p>	£90
446322	 <p data-bbox="352 1749 1040 1877">Sevres green-ground ewer (broc Roussel) with entwined handle, painted with a shaped panel of fruit and flowers with foliage and scroll border. Maker's mark - E date letter for 1757, painter's mark for Thevenet pere.</p>	£225

Excursions

Our two excursions this year were very successful.

John Copping organised a programme of tours to Lord Leycester Hospital. The visits were spread over 4 sessions and very well attended by 52 people.



Witley Court and Church was visited following an excellent talk by two English Heritage volunteers. We spent all day around the garden, church and ruins being guided by Linda, one of the speakers. The history, wonderful gardens and majestic ruins could have entertained us for many more hours.



We are on the lookout for more brilliant excursions - our thoughts have drifted to Bletchley Park , Hughenden Manor and Cosford Air Museum - all places with amazing fascinating stories.

Tony Robinson

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