

OAK LEAVES

Mid-Warwickshire Association
of the National Trust

Summer 2024



in support of **National
Trust**



MID WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

for places of historic interest or natural beauty

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

Email – ntmidwarks@gmail.com

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 fees – 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 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 – Revised Gift Aid forms will be sent out to everyone as a separate attachment, to be completed and returned to the Treasurer. We need any member who is prepared to gift aid their subscription to complete a new Gift Aid form – one per member. For us to claim gift aid your name should match the name on the bank account from which you are paying your membership subscription.

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 the 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.

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 in-



scribed 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="250 596 822 730">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="247 1139 827 1241">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

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
446322	 <p data-bbox="236 660 807 833">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 places with amazing fascinating stories.



Tony Robinson
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MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

Members of the Association are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 4th. November 2024 at Kingsley School, Beauchamp Avenue, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5RD to transact the business in the agenda below.

AGENDA

1. Opening address by the Acting President
2. Receipt of any apologies for absence
3. Consideration of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 7th November 2023
4. Consideration of any matters arising from the minutes
5. Correspondence and announcements
6. Reception of accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024
7. Reception of the Management Committee's Report for the year ended 31st August 2024
8. To elect Officials (Where candidates have already expressed interest at the time of going to print, they are indicated accordingly):
 - (a) President (Graham Cooper)
 - (c) Chairman
 - (d) Vice-Chairman
 - (e) Honorary Secretary (Pat Robinson)
 - (f) Honorary Treasurer and membership Secretary (Hilary Fittes)
 - (g) Honorary Programme Secretary (Tony Robinson)
 - (h) Press and Publicity Officer
 - (k) Newsletter Editor
 - (l) Up to six Committee Members (Andre Holmes, John Copping).
9. Election of Honorary Financial Examiner
10. Any other business

INTERVAL - Entertainment by The Wrinklies

Minutes of the AGM of Mid-Warwickshire Association of The National Trust, held at Kingsley School, Leamington Spa, on 6th November 2023

Opening Address – The Vice president Graham Cooper (GC) explained that this was the beginning of a new era for the club. The first meeting of the year was a little bit disappointing and one of the main problems was the sound system. Dale Fittes has replaced the current system and checked with the school that it works properly.

Several committee members are stepping down at the AGM: Val Grimmer, Julia Johnstone and Marianne Pitts (MP). GC thanked them for all their hard work and commitment over a considerable number of years. GC said that Tony Robinson had set out an interesting programme of speakers for the forth coming year. He also thanked the raffle ticket sellers.

Apologies for Absence – Hilary Fittes(HF), Dale Fittes(DF), John Levick.

Minutes of the AGM held on 7th November 2022 have been circulated. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence and Announcements- nil.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer Marianne Pitts (MP) submitted the annual accounts for the year ending August 2023. John Copping audited the accounts. MP explained that we had only made one donation last year to Hidcote and our funds remained healthy. There have been concerns about our current bank Barclays and MP secured £100 compensation from Barclay's for shortcomings in their service. Hilary Fittes the incoming Treasurer led on moving our account to Lloyds. MP explained that for the next membership year 2024/25 members will need to change their standing orders. Further information to follow.

MP also explained that if members agreed, membership fees will increase to £15 in 2024/5 which will include refreshments at the meetings. This was agreed by members. MP explained there was reduced income from outings as only 2 took place. This may be due to high transport costs. MP asked if anyone would like to organise the trips. The adoption of the Treasurer's Report was unanimously agreed.

Annual Report for 2022/3 - GC explained that since plans to wind up the association had been discussed, new committee members had come forward. Hilary Fittes as treasurer, Pat Robinson as Membership Secretary, Andre Homes as Honorary Secretary. Dale Fittes to also join the committee to help with I.T., the association website and electronic communication. TR has arranged an interesting speakers' programme. GC confirmed that he had been acting chairman during the last 2022/3.

GC also referred to financial matters covered by the Treasurer.

GC asked for members to send in any items for the newsletter. He also said in terms of membership it was incumbent on all of us to recruit new members and that he felt optimistic for the future of the association.

Report proposed by Paul Wilmot and seconded by Marianne Pitts.

Election of Officers

The Management Committee proposed the following officers:

President-vacant

Clive Nelson proposed Graham Cooper as Vice President – proposed by Richard Hammon, seconded by Tony Robinson.

At a recent committee meeting Graham Cooper also agreed to stand as Chairman. Proposed Barbara Flint, seconded Ruth Tressider.

The positions of Honorary Treasurer-Hilary Fittes, Honorary Secretary Andre Holmes , Programme Secretary Tony Robinson and Membership Secretary Pat Robinson were proposed en-block by Richard Munday and seconded by Christine Dunlop.

General committee members Dale Fittes and Clive Nelson were proposed en-bloc by Ruth Tressider and seconded by John Tressider.

John Copping was proposed as Honorary Financial Auditor by Marianne Pitts and seconded by Barbara Harvey.

Any Other Business

It was clarified that the new membership fees would come in to effect in 2024/5.

In recognition of their long service awards were presented by Tony Robinson on behalf of the National Trust. Members of the committee have served for a considerable length of time-128 years in total.

Graham Cooper 50 years

Julia Johnstone 40 years

Val Grimmer 25 Years

Marianne Pitts 13 years

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!.

2025

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!