



WINTER 2013

2013 Programme

January gets off to a flying start with a talk by award-winning author Roger Rosewell on medieval wall paintings in local churches. This will be followed by a trip on Saturday April 13th to view fine examples of these fragile art works in the nearby area.

February will see a members' miscellany with talks on local artist William Matthison and two archaeology presentations with a difference; one on reverse engineering archaeology, the other looking at challenges faced by projects in Palestine. In March Ben Wallace from Warwickshire County Council will talk about the characteristics of the historic landscape; this can be a real eye-opener in helping to understand the way local communities have changed and developed over the centuries.

In May we will look at the history of the nearby Edgehill Mineral Railway with contributions from Andrew Baxter, Peter Hughes and Peter Walker. In June we will be holding our annual village walk and talk - this is still in the planning stage but we hope to visit Wellesbourne and Chedham's Yard. There is no meeting in July, instead we will continue our annual involvement with the Festival of British Archaeology, including an open day at the National Herb Centre. This will be on a Sunday - details to follow.

Following the success of last year's trip to Letocetum and Lichfield, this year's August outing on Saturday 10th will be to Evesham. This is an attractive market town with some beautiful buildings and a very enjoyable museum. September will see another member's miscellany with a speaker (to be confirmed) in October. The AGM and round-up of local archaeology projects is in November and the year will finish with a social event in December. Enjoy!

The Cross of Nails



When Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by incendiary bombs on the night of 14th November 1940, the decision to rebuild was taken the next morning. Two charred roof timbers were put in the shape of a cross on the ruined alter, and 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the Sanctuary wall. Three medieval nails were formed into another cross by local priest Rev AP Wales - later Rector of Warmington.

This international symbol of Coventry's ministry of reconciliation now has over 170 partners in 35 countries.

Warmington has its own nail cross made by a Ratley blacksmith and provided by former resident Marion Handscombe.

Love is in the air.....

The custom of Warmington children visiting homes round the village on February 14th, asking for gifts was an age-old custom still practised in the 1920s. The following is an extract from the children's song:

"Please to give us a Valentine.....Down with a stocking, off with a shoe, If you haven't a penny, a ha'penny will do."

If you're interested in folklore and old customs, Banbury Historical Society has a talk on 19th century customs and rituals on 14th February; Warmington Gardening Club's talk on folklore, customs and traditions is on 27th February.



Contact Details

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, or if you think there is something we've missed out please contact Liz and Harriet Newman by phone on 01295 690641 or by email on alecnewman@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

The next heritage group meeting is a members' miscellany on Monday February 11th in the village hall. All welcome, guests £2.

Warwickshire County Council is running a number of courses through the Record Office between January and April 2013. Full details are available on their website, and booking in advance is required on 01926 738959.

The annual Stars and Snowdrops event is at Hanwell Castle on Saturday 9th February (12-5pm) and Sunday 10th (10.30am-5:00pm). Adults £2.50, under-18s £1, under 5s free, teas £2. Come and support this worthwhile event; one of our members Stephen Wass will have a stall there with information about the Hanwell Castle archaeology and maybe some medieval music!

Finds processing of the most recent herb centre finds starts later this month - details will be posted on our website. For fuller details of forthcoming events visit www.warmingtonheritage.com