



www.leamingtonsociety.org.uk

The Leamington Society

Newsletter

February 2009

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

New retail study for Leamington. WDC have recently decided to commission a new study of the retail requirements for Leamington with particular regard to the rise of internet shopping and implications for the proposed Chandos Street car park retail development.

This society welcomes the new study, and has been arguing for one for some time. The last study, by consultants DTZ, was published in 2004 when the retail scene was very different from that today.

Programme. We need to ensure that our Programme reflects what members want so we are canvassing your views – more on this below.

Licensing. Andrew Cave, a member of this society and Chairman of CLARA, recently attended a high level meeting in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit on tackling alcohol fuelled rowdiness in town centres.

Andrew also explains below how much Gordon Goddard-Pickett is doing for both us and the people of Leamington in monitoring town centre licensing applications.

Open spaces. New proposals (in the form of a SPD or Supplementary Planning Document) by WDC on Open Spaces seek to protect our open areas including sports grounds like tennis clubs and cricket grounds. The aims are good; the question is whether they will be tight enough to prevent developers and owners building on our remaining open spaces to the loss of the wider community.

Loss of members. In the last few months a number of prominent members who have played major roles in the society over the years have died – Jack Watkins, David Hayes and his wife Daphne, Nicki Hall and Beryl Mullin.

AGM May. The formal notice of our AGM is included with this Newsletter. This year the formal business will be followed by an informal wine and cheese party.

Subscriptions. We remind all members who do not pay by standing order that next year's subscription becomes due on April 1st. It is £7 for a single person and £10 for a household.

The Treasurer encourages all members who do not pay by SO to do so. This saves hassle for members, and saves your Treasurer from chasing late payers.

Archie Pitts

Dates for your Diary

Meetings and events to July 2009

Basil Spence and Coventry Cathedral

Dr Louise Campbell

Tuesday February 10th,
7.30 for 7.45

Pump Room Annexe

Regency Leamington: Preserve or Conserve?

Dr Tony Forward

Thursday March 12th, 7.45
Clarence Suite, Oddfellows Hall

Joint meeting with the Warwick Society:

The Archives of the Willes family of Newbold Comyn

Mark Booth

Tuesday, April 21st, 7.30 for 7.45

Lord Leicester Hospital, Warwick

AGM,

Thursday May 14th, 7.30

Followed by wine & cheese party

Clarence Suite, Oddfellows Hall

**Visit by coach to
Blakesley Hall and Soho House**
Saturday, June 20

**For more information see
the back page of this Newsletter**

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Newsletter Distribution

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The Leamington Society is a registered charity. It is affiliated to the Civic Trust and to the West Midlands Amenity Societies Association. It exists to preserve the heritage and improve the character of Royal Leamington Spa and to encourage high standards of planning and architecture

Charity No. 516078

Unless otherwise indicated, views expressed in these newsletters are the contributors' own and not necessarily the corporate view of the Society.

EVENTS TO JULY 2009

Basil Spence and Coventry Cathedral, Dr Louise Campbell

Tuesday, 10 February, 7.30, Pump Room Annexe

Coventry Cathedral, designed and rebuilt 1951-1962, is one of the most important and controversial works of post-war British architecture. The designer, Basil Spence, had to reconcile the ideas of the Provost and Chapter, Coventry City Council and the array of outstanding modern artists (Epstein, Sutherland, Piper ...) whom he commissioned, while respecting the ruins of the old Cathedral.

Louise Campbell, a Reader in the History of Art at Warwick University, spent four years leading a research project on the life and work of Basil Spence.

Regency Leamington: Preserve or Conserve? Dr Tony Forward

Thursday 12 March 7.45, Oddfellows Hall

How significant is the legacy left to Leamington Spa by the architects who worked here in the 18th and 19th centuries? What makes the town special? What are the threats to it in the 21st century? How can we best safeguard it?

Dr Forward will discuss the importance of planned development during building boom of early 19th century and point out the contrasts between natural and man-made structures, solids and voids, enclosure and openness. How were the streets, squares, crescents, facades etc composed? What of the future? How might Leamington look ten or twenty years hence?

Joint meeting with Warwick Society

The Archives of the Willes family of Newbold Comyn, Mark Booth

Tuesday, 21 April 7.30 for 7.45, Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick

Mr Booth, Senior Archivist of Warwick Record Office, will give an illustrated lecture on the archives for which the Leamington Society and its members gave £4,000 last year. He will discuss both the documents in the collection and the wealth of information about the Willes family and its local estates over the last 800 years, with particular emphasis on their part in the development of Leamington Spa.

AGM, followed by Wine & Cheese Party

Thursday, 14 May, 7.30, Oddfellows Hall

Visit to Blakesley Hall and Soho House: Saturday, June 20, leaving Newbold Comyn by coach at 9.00; return at about 17.00

There will be a charge of £16 per person, to include transport, entry fees and tips. Further details on enclosed flyer.

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Correction: The date of Professor Mallet's death was incorrectly given in the last issue of the Newsletter; it should have been 2008.

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Formed in 1956 and a founder member of the Civic Trust Reg
Charity No 516078



The Leamington Society

February 2009

Notice is hereby given that the Fifty-fourth **Annual General Meeting** of the Leamington Society will be held on **Thursday 14th of May 2009**, starting at 7.30, in the **Oddfellows Hall, Leamington Spa**. **Please note the start-time for the AGM.**

Archie Pitts, Chairman

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 8th of May 2008
3. Matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere
4. To receive reports from the Chairman and Sub Committees
5. To receive the independently examined Accounts of the Society for 2008 – 2009
6. Election of Officers:
Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
7. Election of four Committee Members
8. Election of Independent Examiner
9. Any other Business.

PLEASE NOTE: **Nominations** of candidates for Officers and Committee must be forwarded to the Chairman **not later than Thursday 23rd of April 2009**. Any voting will be by Secret Ballot at the Meeting. Any motions for consideration at the meeting should also be received by this date. Nominations or motions will **not** be accepted at the Meeting. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Chairman.

If there is to be an election or if any motion is received, notice will be sent to members seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

**We will celebrate with wine and cheese
after the formal business
Please come**



Visit to Blakesley Hall and Soho House on Saturday, June 20th, 2009



Blakesley Hall



Soho House

A visit to both these Birmingham houses has been arranged.
Soho house was where the Lunar Society met on the night of the full moon.

Lunch/tea can be purchased at Blakesley Hall, or bring your own

A coach will leave Newbold Comyn at 9.00 and pick-up a few
minutes later at the Spa Centre

Cost £16 per person, to include entry fees and tips

✂.....

I (Name) request tickets

Telephone number

Will you board the coach at Newbold Comyn or Spa Centre?

**Please send SAE and cheque (payable to Leamington Society) to
Marianne Pitts, 4 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 1BB**

49 seats only, available on first come basis

Any tickets unsold at end of March will be offered to non-members