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The Leamington Society

Newsletter

February 2010

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ford foundry site. This has now been purchased by Trilogy Developments who have offered to make a presentation to the Society so we can hear their plans. More information on page 3.

Meet your 2010 parliamentary candidates. The Warwick Society has arranged an opportunity for members of both their society and ours to question our three main parliamentary candidates. Venue: Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick; Friday, March 19th, 7.30.

Pump Room Gardens. We have pledges for about half of the funds needed to restore the Linden arches to their full glory. Most of this funding has come from Warwick District Council. We are now preparing bids to grant making bodies for the remainder. These bodies expect us to raise a significant amount locally. Soon we shall be inviting members to contribute.

Awards 2010. Our biennial award event takes place again this summer. The event recognises any good building (new or renovation), sculpture or other development in Leamington Spa that has been completed in the last two years and which is visible to the public. There will be a week-long display of past awards in the Library starting March 7th. More information on page 4.

Willes archive. Members will be pleased to know that Warwickshire County Record Office has received over £30,000 funding to catalogue the Willes archive. In 2008 our members gave almost £4,000 towards saving the archive from being broken up and to keep it locally.

AGM May. The formal notice of our AGM is included with this Newsletter. This year the formal business will be followed by a talk by Antony Flint, the new manager of the Spa Centre, telling us how he plans to make it successful.

Chiltern rail service. Chiltern Railways have just announced a substantially faster journey time to Marylebone, which is very good news for all rail travellers in the area. These journey time improvements of 20% are part of Chiltern's Evergreen 3 programme and should be in place by next year, but there will have to be weekend rail work in the coming year.

Dates for your Diary

Extra talk

Redeveloping the Ford foundry site

Trilogy Developments
Tuesday, March 2nd, 7.30
Conference Centre, Dormer Place

de Normanville turbines at the Mill bridge

Bernard Perkins and
Matthew Rhodes
Pyne Room at Warwick School
Thursday, March 11th, 7.30

The Courier and its history

Martin Lawson
Tuesday, April 20th, 7.30
Conference Centre, Dormer Place

AGM

Thursday, May 13th, 7.30
Pump Room Annexe
followed by

The future for the Spa Centre

Antony Flint

Visit to Churchill College Archives

Wednesday, May 19th
All day trip, by coach

Archie Pitts

The Society's Constitution

The Society is a Registered Charity and this brings considerable benefits. First, we receive gift aid each year on any donations out of income that has paid income tax; annual subscriptions qualify as donations. Over the last five years this has averaged about £500 a year.

Second, because we must have our accounts checked by an Independent Inspector and lodged with the Charity Commission, we have "respectability". This is important to the Society when we are applying for grants as we have done for capital work at Leamington Station. It has also helped in applications for the Pump Room Gardens project.

Our Constitution must therefore conform to best practice for registered charities. The Charity Commission provides a model constitution, and we will bring amendments to our AGM in May to ensure we conform to this. These amendments will be considered at the AGM; the changes are stated on the AGM Agenda (with this Newsletter). Your Executive Committee believes that none of the changes are major.

Archie Pitts

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Upgrading the drains of central Leamington, 2010-2012

Floods, sewers and drains are not everyone's first choice (I almost said "cup of tea") on a cold January evening but a good number of members braved the weather, snow and slush, to come and enjoy the talk.

Adam Boucher of Severn Trent Water explained the planned rebuilding of the sewers of Leamington, which also take the rainfall. They were built more than a century ago and have become inadequate for the usual reasons: more people, more buildings, greater water use, built up flood plains, more extreme weather conditions. The frequency of floods in homes from overfull sewer pipes has become unacceptable – it is the most distressing domestic event short of a fire. He showed a picture of an attractive kitchen knee-deep in sewage – imagine! Severn Trent, despite its name, is *not* responsible for floods caused by the overflow of the rivers Leam and Avon; those "belong" to the Environment Agency.

The cost of the work will be £7½ million. It involves laying bigger drains, for more than double the rate of flow, along Clarendon Street, Regent Grove, The Parade, Newbold Terrace, Dormer Place (with a spur into the Pump Room Gardens), all converging on new large pipes tunnelling under the Leam to end up at the Princes Drive sewage works. Severn Trent will start at the lowest point and work backwards. The work is due to start later this year and take about two years to complete. We will therefore have major road problems – look at Union Road as an example – and maybe have a chance to experience the pedestrianisation of The Parade after all.

All this work is located north of the river. This summer planning work is starting on upgrading the drains south of the river, in the Leam Terrace area and the adjacent streets.

Adam stayed behind to answer even more questions. He was fully informed and very helpful; we are grateful to him for coming at such short notice.

Marianne Pitts

We are arranging the talk on the Town Hall later. We apologise for its unavoidable postponement.

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Chairman

Archie Pitts
4 LeamTerrace
CV31 1BB 885532

Vice Chairmen

Paul Edwards
55 Leam Terrace
CV31 1DG 423725

Robin Richmond
38 Leam Terrace
CV31 1BQ 335952

Hon. Secretary

Robin Adams
21 St Marks Road
CV32 6DL 426616

Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Marianne Pitts
4 Leam Terrace
CV31 1BB 885532

Planning Representative

Paul Edwards
423725

Other Committee Members

Richard Ashworth 316703
Margaret Begg 423822
Ruth Bennion 421862
Gordon Fyfe 312150
Margaret Watkins 425733

Newsletter Distribution

Jo Clark

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 May 2010

Joint meeting with Warwickshire Industrial Archaeological Society

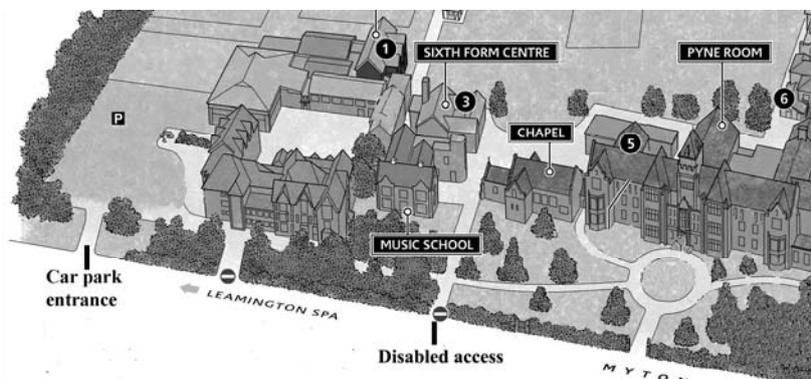
de Normanville turbines at Mill bridge

Thursday, March 11th, 7.30, Pyne Room, Warwick School

There have been watermills on the Leam near the Mill Bridge site since before the Domesday Survey in 1086. The last use of water power from the site was a water pumping turbine in the bridge abutment planned and constructed by our Victorian borough engineer, William Louis de Normanville in 1903. A new proposal to generate power from the Leam at the Mill Bridge by a consortium of local groups has been prepared by engineering consultancy Encraft.

Matthew Rhodes (MD Encraft) and Bernard Perkins (Project Manager) will discuss the history of energy generation at the Mill Bridge and describe how their plan could revive this.

To find the venue:



Joint meeting with Warwick Society

The Courier and its history

Tuesday, April 20th, 7.30, Conference Centre, St Peter's Church, Dormer Place

Some say that 'news' in all its forms and by whatever method it is delivered (and these grow apace) – is the first draft of history. Others will give thanks that history gives a much more considered account of events and the people who shape them.

With this in mind, Martin Lawson will outline the history of the Leamington Spa Courier and talk not only about the past, but also the present and the future for the local press and its readers.

AGM

Thursday, May 13th, 7.30, Pump Rooms Annexe,

After the formal business of the AGM and a short break for refreshments, we will learn about

The future for the Spa Centre

The Spa Centre is in danger of closure as it is costing WDC too much to run. The new manager, Antony Flint, from a successful time as Director at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, has been appointed to turn its fortunes. We look forward to hearing his ideas for the Spa Centre.



The Leamington Society

February 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Fifty-fifth **Annual General Meeting** of the Leamington Society will be held on **Thursday 13th of May 2010**, starting at 7.30, in the **Pump Room Annexe, Leamington Spa.**

Archie Pitts, Chairman

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14th of May 2009
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 2009 – 2010
6. Amendments to our Constitution. See over
7. Election of Officers:
Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
8. Election of four Committee Members
9. Election of Independent Examiner
10. Any other Business.

PLEASE NOTE: **Nominations** of candidates for Officers and Committee must be forwarded to the Secretary **not later than Thursday 22nd of April 2010**. 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.

After the conclusion of formal business of the AGM we will break for refreshments after which Mr Antony Flint, the new manager of the Spa Centre will tell of his plans for it.

Prospects for the Spa Centre
Antony Flint, Manager, Spa Centre

Amendments to Constitution of the Leamington Society

1. Cover page: Delete “and registered with the Civic Trust”
2. In Clause **2. OBJECTS**, delete 3), 7) and 8). [These are now incorporated in the new Clause **POWERS OF TRUSTEES** (below)]
3. Page 2. At end of Clause 3: Insert
“The Trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.”
4. Page 3. Insert “No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.” immediately before the sentence “Twenty members shall constitute a quorum for general meetings.”
5. Change title of Clause 6 to **6. OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:**
6. Delete the title (only) **7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
7. Page 3. At end of Clause 6: add
“The Officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall be the Trustees of the Society and in this constitution are together called “the Trustees”.”
8. Add new clause, to be Clause 7:
7. POWERS OF TRUSTEES: The Trustees must manage the business of the Society and have the following powers in order to further the Objects (but not for any other purpose):
 - i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever, by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; in doing so, the Trustees must not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations
 - ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
 - iii) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the Society. In exercising this power, the Trustees must comply as appropriate with sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006;
 - iv) to act as a co-ordinating body, to co-operate with and to exchange information and advice with the local authorities, planning committees, and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society
 - v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;
 - vi) to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity formed for any of the Objects;
 - vii) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
 - viii) to obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Society;
 - ix) to open and operate such bank and other accounts as the Trustees consider necessary and to invest funds and to delegate the management of funds in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the Trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;
 - x) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

9. Add new clause, to be clause 8, before current clause entitled **AUDITOR/INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

8. DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES: A Trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

- i) is disqualified for acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- ii) ceases to be a member of the Society;
- iii) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
- iv) resigns as a Trustee by notice to the Charity (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
- v) is absent without the permission of the Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the Trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.

10. Add a new clause, to be Clause 11, after existing clause **AUDITOR/INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

11. APPLICATION OF THE INCOME AND PROPERTY: The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

A Trustee may pay out of, or be reimbursed from, the property of the Society reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Society.

None of the income or property of the Society may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Society. This does not prevent:

- i) a member who is not also a Trustee from receiving reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Society;
- ii) buying goods or services from the Society upon the same terms as other members or members of the public.

No Trustee may be paid or receive any other benefit for being a Trustee.

11. Interchange order of last two clauses, to become **12. DISSOLUTION** and **13. AMENDMENTS**

12. In 12. DISSOLUTION

- i) After the words "... is confirmed." insert "In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Society be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society (except to a member that is itself a Charity)."
- ii) On dissolution the Charity Commission shall be notified and the minute books and other records of the Society shall be offered to the Warwickshire County Record Office.