



www.leamingtonsociety.org.uk

# The Leamington Society Newsletter

June 2008

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Station Area brief. An outline of how the 40 acres known as Station Area might be redeveloped will be put out for consultation (for 6 weeks) starting this month. This is a classic brown-field site and the ideas expressed in the document are encouraging – much more parking on the south side of the station, perhaps even a north side entrance to the station, and improvement of this route into town. The site could meet some of the increased housing required by central government. Tell WDC or the Society (or better, both) what you think of the ideas in the brief.

Chandos Street car park development. No new plans have been revealed since the last Newsletter and our scepticism over this development continues. Its impact on the residents in Clarendon Street and nearby will be enormous, as well as on the elderly residents in the sheltered housing in Chandos Street. Again tell us your views on the scheme. The developers assure us that the scheme would be nowhere big enough to appeal to John Lewis, or presumably similar stores.

Party. We held another successful joint party with CLARA in April, made enjoyable by the hard work of Alan & Marion Lyne (plying drinks) and Lyn Buckle and Margaret Watkins (serving snacks). Robin Taylor gave us a thoroughly enjoyable light-hearted look at his wide-ranging career.

Awards 2008. There has been an excellent set of nominations for possible Leamington Society award. The winners will be announced in the Town Hall on Thursday July 10th. *All members of the Society are invited.*

Refuse collection. The new system of refuse collection did not start well for WDC. In large areas there were no bins, or no men to empty them and, if there were, they were not on the days that WDC had specified, and so on. The lack of information, the enormously over-loaded help-lines (both phone and email) meant that most enquiries went unanswered. The almost aggressive

### *Dates for your Diary*

Meetings and events to  
September 2008

### **Garden visit to Doreen Whitehead**

**70, Northumberland Road**  
Saturday, June 21, 5.30 to 7.30

### **Awards 2008**

Presentation by the Mayor of  
Royal Leamington Spa  
Thursday, July 10, 7.15 for 7.30  
Town Hall

**Visit to Packington Hall**  
**Wednesday, August 6, evening**

**The future for All Saints**  
The Revd Christopher Wilson  
Thursday, September 11

### **Sir Frank Whittle**

By Ian Whittle

### **Spa Centre**

**Tuesday, September 16, 7.30.**

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

**Subscriptions. We remind all members who do not pay by standing order that this year's subscription became due on April 1st: £7 for a single person and £10 for a household. Please pay now, if you have not paid.**



**Executive Committee:**

Robin Adams, Margaret Begg, Ruth Bennion, Gordon Fyfe

As there were no other nominations, these were declared elected.

Past Chairman Margaret Watkins will continue to serve on the Executive committee in an ex officio capacity. Paul Edwards has agreed to continue to serve as our Planning Representative.

It was proposed that Malcolm Welsh be re-appointed as Independent Examiner. A unanimous vote of thanks was carried for his meticulous work in examining the accounts for 2007-08.

After a break for refreshments Jo Clark told us how he has built up his huge collection of printed matter relating to Leamington, and how he keeps this in order. He brought many examples of his material with him and allowed us to handle them which was a great treat.

XX

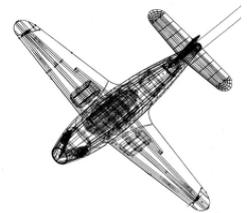
**Sir Frank Whittle**

The story of Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine and turbofan, will be told by his son Ian Whittle at the **Spa Centre on Tuesday, September 16 at 7.30 pm.**

Sir Frank Whittle, 1907-1996, has strong local ties. He grew up in Newcombe Road in Coventry and went to Earlsdon Primary School. He moved to Leamington at the age of nine when his father bought the Leamington Valve and Piston Ring Company in Clinton Street. He attended Milverton Primary School and went on to win a scholarship at Leamington Boys College, but when his father’s business faltered, there was not enough money to keep him at school. Instead he spent hours at Leamington library reading about astronomy, physiology and engineering and started to learn about steam and gas turbines. The family then moved to Bilton Road in Rugby. In 1944 Sir Frank was the youngest man ever to be made a Freeman of Leamington and in 2007 a statue in his honour was erected in Millennium Place, Coventry to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth. Rolls Royce is still building his engines today.

The Story of  
Aviation’s Greatest Engineer  
**SIR FRANK WHITTLE**  
Inventor of the jet engine and  
turbofan

Told by his son  
**Ian Whittle**



The invention of the Whittle jet engine is an heroic story of triumph in the face of Government indifference, lack of recognition and the dissipation of his patents overseas. Today his jet engines and turbofans are an integral part of all commercial and military aeroplanes.

Ian Whittle, who will be giving the talk, shares his father’s passion for flying. He spent his working life in aviation, flying first for the RAF and then for commercial airlines.

Tickets (£7.50 adults; £5 students and seniors) are available from The Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa (01926 334418) or on-line at [www.royal-spa-centre.co.uk](http://www.royal-spa-centre.co.uk)

**Janet Storie**

XX

**Chiltern Rail celebrates refurbishment of Leamington Station, 2007-08**

There was a celebration at the station on Friday 23rd May when Adrian Shooter and his senior management ceremonially opened the refurbished station and thanked national and local benefactors: Sir William McAlpine and Jim Cornell of the Railway Heritage Trust; Judy Falp, Chairman of Warwick









**Chairman**

Archie Pitts  
4 LeamTerrace  
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**Vice Chairmen**

W. Allan Jeffery  
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**Hon. Secretary**

Vacant

**Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

Marianne Pitts  
4 Leam Terrace  
CV31 1BB 885532

**Planning Representative**

Paul Edwards  
423725

**Other Committee Members**

Robin Adams 426616  
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.*

National Memorial, Cathays Park, Cardiff. Portraits were commissioned from him throughout his life, and he exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1885 to 1947.

Our "Mourning Tommy" is not unique; he has a twin, as another identical figure was cast for the war memorial in Streatham, London.

**Paul Edwards**

XX

**Summer events 2008**

**Gardens at 70 Northumberland Road, Saturday 21 June, 5.30 to 7.30pm**

Doreen Whitehead, a member of our Society, is opening her beautiful gardens to us again. These are in a series – herbaceous garden, fish pond with Koi carp, bamboo garden, Japanese garden and others.

There will be an entry charge of £4 each to include wine, soft drinks and light refreshments. All surplus will go to Doreen's choice of charity – Cancer Research UK.

**Awards Ceremony, Town Hall, 10 July, 7.30**

The winners of our biennial awards will be announced in the Town Hall, and certificates presented by the Mayor, Councillor Kailash Chander. Light refreshments will be provided. All members of the Society are invited.

**Packington Hall, evening of Wednesday, 6th August**

There will be a visit to Packington Hall (not normally open to the public) in the evening of Wednesday. This fine Palladian hall is NW of Coventry just off the A45. For more information see the enclosed flyer and call Allan Jeffery 02476 403797 to book a place.

**The future for All Saints, Thursday**

As the Revd Christopher Wilson, Priest in Charge of our Parish Church, explained in our February Newsletter, All Saints faces some very serious and troubling decisions. The church is crumbling and fast. With the ever tightening finances of UK churches, Christopher Wilson will discuss some of the options open to save this important building in Leamington.

XX

**New members:**

We welcome as new members.

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Steve Tebby and Mineko Nagasaki | Robert Goundry         |
| Richard and Birgitta Ashworth   | Derek Turpin           |
| Alan Griffin                    | Peter and June Stocker |
| Anthony and Anne Gilmore        | Nigel Briggs           |
| Robert and Helen Cunliffe       |                        |