

presented. The Chairman warmly thanked the executive committee and sub-committees members for their support and hard work during the year, as well as numerous other members, such as our newsletter deliverers.

The Treasurer reported a continuing healthy financial position. The Chairman's Report and Committee Reports were adopted. Copies are available from the Chairman.

Nominations for Leamington Society

Rodney King was not standing for re-election; the committee was delighted to welcome the candidature of Mrs Sidney Syson.

Officers for 2016-17:

Chairman: Richard Ashworth	Vice-Chairmen: Barbara Lynn, Richard Ward
Hon. Secretary: Margaret Begg	Hon. Treasurer: Clive Engwell

Executive Committee members for 2016-2017:

Marianne Pitts, Geoffrey Renshaw, Sidney Syson, Jef Tuyn

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

Paul Edwards agreed to continue to serve as our Planning Representative on the Conservation Area Forum (CAF). Richard Ward and Archie Pitts are also members of CAF. Archie Pitts agreed to remain on the committee in the ex-officio role as immediate past chairman. It was proposed that Ian Salvin be re-appointed as Independent Examiner. A unanimous vote of thanks was carried for his meticulous work in examining the accounts for 2015-16.

At the conclusion of the AGM, Richard Ashworth was enthusiastically thanked for all his work.

There was discussion of various matters. These included the issues arising from the large number of students living in the town during term time; the concept of a Creative Quarter including digital enterprises surrounding Spencer's Yard. This would be dependent on LEP (local enterprise funding) becoming available. Other matters discussed were the new WD HQ on the Covent Garden site. Members were reminded of our biennial awards event with the winners being announced at the usual ceremony on Thursday July 14th.

There was a break to enjoy the excellent sandwiches and snacks organized by Barbara Lynn and Alan and Marian Lyne again catered for our liquid needs.

After the break Cynthia Stanton entertained us with the story of Spa Water toffee, made and sold in the town by the local confectioner in Church Walk, Mr. Moore. Cynthia revived the making and found she could not sell the sweets in Leamington Spa while Harrods and Liberty's of London were keen to buy it in its elegant packaging. She stopped producing it commercially some time ago as production was increasingly difficult in small quantities. She brought some for us to try, leaving us sticky and speechless.

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A new HQ for WDC at Covent Garden.

Warwick District Council has recently published its proposals to build a new HQ on the Covent Garden car park site, with a replacement multi-storey 650 space car park and a residential block of 30,000 sq. ft. for sale, with the Council retaining the freehold of the whole site. Riverside House site

would be sold for housing, with the first phase of development on the upper car park and the remainder of the site being developed once the new HQ is occupied.

The full report can be read at

http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news/article/96/warwick_district_council_to_relocate_headquarters

The Council, like others, is faced with falling Government grants and the need to find very substantial savings in both the short and medium term. In 2014, in the light of this, the Council decided it needed to replace its offices because of considerable running and future maintenance costs and relocate using the money from the sale of Riverside House to fund the project. It examined a number of sites of which the then favoured proposal was to build adjacent to the Spa Centre; this proposal, however, was dropped following a public outcry.

The new proposal to locate the offices at Covent Garden has been further prompted by the recently discovered need to either replace this car park or undertake expensive (and unfunded) temporary repairs.

The project is being managed by Council officers working with the Warwick Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), established by the Council in 2013 as a joint venture vehicle with Public Sector Partnerships (PSP). In respect of this project the Council has agreed with PSP that the individual pieces of work commissioned with appropriate external experts would be reviewed by CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Having examined the independently commissioned appraisals the first of CIPFA's conclusions was that, of the options presented, the LLP option would provide the highest financial return to the Council.

Critics of the project argue that the money would be better spent elsewhere and that it is not a sensible use of funds with the possibility of a unitary authority looming.

The question is "What money?" Any reserves the Council has are already earmarked; but in any case surely it would be foolish to spend these propping up revenue deficits if they can be used to save money in the longer term. The current WDC offices will shortly be a huge drain maintenance wise as will Covent Garden car park. Renting replacement offices still leaves the problem of a deteriorating car park.

Whilst not everyone may like the proposals they appear to offer a capital cost neutral solution to more than one problem. The result should be a carbon neutral high spec adaptable office owned by the Council, in the town centre with adjacent parking and close to bus stops. Any visitors or staff are well placed to spend their money there. In addition the Council will own a new larger town centre car park. The site will also provide additional residential accommodation, plus additional housing on the Riverside House site, helping to relieve pressure on greenfield sites to the south of the town.

It is true that a unitary authority is on the cards but what the Council is proposing is an office, plus car park plus housing on land that they will continue to own. The good quality assets will still be there to be used, or sold off.

What does remain to be seen are what the revenue savings turn out to be; hopefully officers are not being too optimistic.

Sidney Syson

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Leamington Society at 60

**The Diamond Jubilee of the Leamington Society
will be celebrated with a buffet dinner at
Victoria House, 59 Willes Road, Leamington Spa,
Friday, 10 June, 6.30pm**

The booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

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Air Pollution and Health

Air pollution is present when the air contains gases, dust, fumes or odours in sufficient amounts to harm health. In the UK air pollution is responsible for 40,000 deaths each year, and improving air quality is a major government responsibility, driven by EU legislation in the form of a directive (2008/50/ambient air quality EC) with legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants.

Air pollutants

Air pollution has solid and liquid particles suspended in the air (particulate matter (PM)), and various gases such as ground level ozone, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide. Particles vary in number, size, shape, surface area and chemical composition, and both particles and gases may vary in solubility and toxicity. The important sources of pollutants are fossil fuel combustion (transport, home heating and power plants); industry, particularly chemical manufacturing; animal farming (chiefly ammonia); and natural phenomena (e.g. volcanic eruptions, dust storms, wildfires). Due to the proximity of people to their emissions, cars and trucks are the most important source of outdoor air pollution in urban environments. In the UK between 1949 and 2012 the distance travelled by road vehicles has increased 10 fold. Nitrogen dioxide and particulates from diesel engines are a growing problem: in 2000 14% of new cars bought in Britain were diesel and by 2014 this figure was 50%. Air quality worsens at times when there is little/no wind and when it is dry. Vehicle related air pollution is worse in areas with high traffic density, particularly if streets are bordered by high buildings (the 'canyon effect') and where traffic accelerates markedly e.g. after stopping at traffic lights. The worst affected area in Leamington is at the Bath Street / Clemens Street junction.

Adverse effects on Health

These can be divided into 'acute' problems which develop within hours, days or weeks from exposure, and 'chronic': long term over months and years.

Acute problems largely affect those with chronic heart or lung conditions and the elderly; studies show increased heart attacks, strokes and exacerbation of chronic respiratory disease such as cystic fibrosis, asthma, lung fibrosis and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) at times of poor air quality. Days with higher pollution levels are associated with an increase in emergency medication use (e.g. inhalers), doctor consultations, hospital admissions and death rates.

Chronic effects include reduced life expectancy in those exposed long-term to higher levels of air

pollution (mainly from increased rates of heart attack, stroke, lung cancer and other respiratory illness). Children growing up in polluted areas are more likely to develop wheezing and asthma, and their lung development is retarded. Chronic cardiorespiratory illnesses in the older adult are commoner in those exposed to higher levels of air pollution.

Reducing risk

- Government should
 - Promote lower polluting transport – walking, cycling, electric and hybrid buses taxis and cars.
 - Decrease reliance on polluting vehicles: congestion charging, vehicle and fuel tax increases
 - Tackle the school run problem
 - Raise awareness of the health issues caused by transport choices in particular
- Drivers should
 - Consider walking, public transport or car sharing
 - Drive considerately
 - Inform local government, your employer or school that you would travel to work or would send your child to school by walking, cycling or public transport if this was made possible. Be specific about the changes needed
 - Consider buying a less polluting vehicle e.g. electric or hybrid car

Further reading/listening:

- Costing the earth BBC: 'Lungs, Lies and Automobiles', October 2015
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06flmf1>
- Air Quality Action Plan. Warwick District Council, June 2015
http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20505/air_pollution
- Every breath we take: the lifelong impact of air pollution RCP/RCPCH, February 2016
<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/every-breath-we-take-lifelong-impact-air-pollution>

Dr SW Crooks, Respiratory Physician, Warwick Hospital

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The Old Vicarage, Grantchester

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Stands the Church clock at ten to three?

And is there honey still for tea?

Rupert Brooke, 1912



All Saint's Church clock

Current work at All Saints' Parish Church

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in what is going on at present, especially to those who have contributed towards the repair of the clock. This is very much appreciated as we are responsible for raising all the funds required for what is an extremely costly building. Here's a rundown of the current projects:

The clock: This has been stopped on safety grounds, because the steel cables holding and guiding the clock weights need replacement at a cost of around £2000. However, the cables will become obsolete if we install an auto-winder, which is highly desirable; the mechanism also needs overhauling. We need roughly £8000 to carry out this work, which is all internal. Thanks to Marianne Pitts for taking this project forwards.

The South Aisle roof: This major and urgent project is supported to the tune of £110,000 by the Government's one-off Roof Repair Fund. The balance of the £130k (plus refundable VAT) needed is made up of grants from various sources, plus several thousand pounds from the congregation. The entire roof is being re-slatted, some of the timber is being replaced, and some stonework is being repaired. The rainwater disposal system, which has caused significant problems over many decades, has been redesigned to work more effectively and to cope with the heavier downpours which we now experience regularly.

Embroidery: Minor repairs are being carried out to some of the richly embroidered items. We also plan to commission a new set of altar rail kneelers for the Lady Chapel, to the same design as the old ones. We're exploring possibilities for more significant embroidery repairs.

Lady Chapel: The walls have recently been re-plastered and decorated, thanks to a generous grant from the RLS Conservation Trust. Plans are well in hand to glaze in the archways to the North Transept. We would also like to restore and repaint the ceilings, replace the lighting, re-carpet, and install doors between the chapel and the Chancel, as funds can be found.



Crumbling stonework, inside and out

Future work: A great deal remains to be done. The South wall of the Sanctuary remains very wet and needs to be the focus of the next repair project. Re-leading of the Clerestory, Clock Tower and North Apse windows, restoration of the South Apse window, and the rebuilding of the South Aisle flying buttress are all high up the list - which is lengthy. A major bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund seems our best option; it will take time, and several repair phases will be needed.

We are most grateful to those who are supporting us, including our new Friends group, as we

He then contrasted the delight of the ‘predictable’ – the comforting Regency terraces with the ‘unpredictable’, more quirky buildings like the house on Church Street with a cantilevered Portico at first floor.

Finally to ‘impact’. From the grandeur of the neo-classical façade of the Victoria House on Willes Road to the imposing new Police Headquarters and Courts on Newbold Terrace.



Victoria House, Willes Road

Alan’s slides showed us that there is so much more to appreciate here than just ‘Regency Leamington’. We hope he will write a book soon.

Richard Ward

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Ricardo Midlands Technical Centre (MTC)

“How many women engineers do you employ?” was one of the questions put to our speakers. “About 10%” was the reply. Well, the audience in the Dormer conference had a better gender balance to hear two interesting engineering based presentations.

Our first speaker was Mr Howard Marshall, Senior Programme Manager at MTC, who described his career before Ricardo and gave a brief history of the company that celebrated its centenary in 2015.

Founded by Henry (later Sir Henry) Ricardo and based on his inventiveness and a particular interest in the internal combustion engine, he became a renowned expert on what happened inside the combustion spaces of these devices. His inventiveness was not restricted to engines and another ground breaking innovation was the viscous coupling, which made four wheel drive systems practical

for passenger cars. The evolution of transmission systems, designing and consulting for various manufacturers and in particular Ferguson has led to the growth of the company, including the acquisition of the Ferguson transmission business, to today’s global consultancy with expertise in rail, environmental projects and vehicle technology including hybrid systems. One vehicle in particular being the bomb proof Ocelot for the Ministry of Defence.



MTC site, Radford Road

The MTC unobtrusively occupies the site of the old Thornley brewery off the Radford Road and is not yet 20 years old but it is impressively equipped with both talent and equipment. As well as consultancy work for worldwide motor and other industries, the MTC designs and builds gearboxes

www.leamingtonsociety.org.uk

Formed in 1956,
Reg Charity No 516078



The Leamington Society

To celebrate our 60th anniversary we have booked a buffet dinner at

**Victoria House, 59 Willes Road, CV32 4PT
on Friday June 10th, from 06:30 pm**

MENU

Home Cooked Cold Meat Platter
Cheese Platter (v)
Homemade Mediterranean Vegetable Quiche (v)
Homemade Ham and Cheese Quiche
Pork Pies
Homemade Sausage Rolls
Mixed Salad with Tomatoes and Cucumber (v)
Baby Potato Salad (v)
Crunchy Homemade Coleslaw (v)
Freshly baked Bread, Butter and Chutneys
Followed by
Tarte au citron
Eton mess
Coffee and mints

Cost £22.50 per person with the first glass of wine or soft drink. Bring your friends

Names of diners:

Address (email or postal):

Telephone:

Any special dietary requirements:

Cheque (payable to the **Leamington Society**) enclosed for £ and sent to Marianne Pitts,
4 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 1BB **by June 3rd please**

Marianne.Pitts@gmail.com