

Issue 52: March 2018

# Newsletter



*Worcester Shrub Hill Station by John Mason*

**WORCESTERSHIRE  
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
& LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairman's Report	2
Membership report	4
Treasurers Report	4
Presidents Snippets	6
Summer Programme	7
Leicester Visit Report	9
Devizes IA Symposium	10
Winter Programme Reports	12
Winter Programme Preview	14
Northwick Hall/Manor	16
Book Reviews	30

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to welcome the following new members

- Michael Bellamy Knightwick
- Neil Bromley Malvern
- Jane Evans Worcester
- Angela Harper Bromyard
- Ivan Rickards Worcester

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Peter Day and Richard Arrowsmith, two of our longstanding members passed away last year. Peter in July and Richard in December. Our thoughts are with their families.

*Sue McCurdy*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we near the end of an interesting Winter Programme put together by Christine Silvester, we can reflect on another good year for WIALHS. We enjoyed a great Summer Programme organized by Mike Hayzelden including several memorable visits. Generally, the society is in good heart with our membership numbers remaining steady and another varied series of summer visits in prospect and Christine already has speakers for next year.

We were delighted when Eileen Porteous agreed to be co-opted onto the committee as Press Officer. Recently, our long-serving Secretary, David Attwood reluctantly decided to retire from

his post and currently is unable to continue as a committee member. I would like to thank Eileen for taking over from David whilst he was indisposed. David is sorely missed for he has not only been a very efficient Secretary for over 10 years but is also one of the committee members who is actively engaged in scholarly research in the industrial archaeology field. I am pleased that David has accepted the Committee's offer of Honorary Life Membership of the society. Following the departure last year of our Treasurer this means that the society has lost the wisdom of two very experienced and knowledgeable committee members; we hope they can be persuaded to return at some point.

Fortunately, you still have a very hard-working, enthusiastic committee and we look forward to nominations for new committee members in due course.

The problem of maintaining a vibrant society with a wider age profile is one of the general difficulties currently being experienced by this and other similar societies and referred to in the article by Geoff Wallis that was reprinted in our October 2017 Newsletter: "An Uncertain Future". Members who read this somewhat pessimistic article may be interested to know about the follow-up forum that was held last November at the Museum of Bath at Work called "Running out of steam? Voluntary Organisations and a Future for Industrial Archaeology". (Some of you will recall visiting this fascinating museum during our Summer Program a few years back). Many of the delegates present were from the Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society (BIAS) and the discussions centred round the future of that particular organization. However, BIAS is comparable with WIALHS in size and current activities so it was interesting to hear their views on the future.

The first two presentations were by salaried Museum Curators (Stuart Burroughs, Museum of Bath at Work) and Andy King (MSHed, Bristol). Both speakers talked about the origins of industrial archaeology. In the early days there had been an important need to identify and document industrial sites and bring these into the public awareness. Both talked about the classical model for a learned society - meetings at which members and others present

research by means of lectures and occasional publications to bring matters to a wider audience.

There was then a presentation from another professional, Shane Kelleher (Ironbridge Gorge Trust and member of the Association for Industrial Archaeology board) about the growing importance of social media, websites and the like. Shane emphasized the efforts he and others are making to attract young people into the field.

During the "open" session, several of the BIAS committee members made very personal presentations about the successes of BIAS and their current activities. The final talk from Geoff Wallis rehearsed the main points of his article and the possible changes that may be required in the future to keep BIAS viable.

On reflection following these talks and discussions at the forum my main conclusions are:

- 1). The word 'Archaeology' is somewhat confusing and many people felt that it is not fit for purpose for the BIAS society name. Should WIALHS be thinking along the same lines?
- 2). We should continue to strive for more cooperation between the WIALHS and local museums and institutions.
- 3). We need WIALHS to engage with modern, local cutting-edge industries as a way to get younger people interested and involved. Furthermore, modern industries can quickly, and sometimes unexpectedly, disappear to become tomorrow's industrial history. Perhaps we should include more about current

industry in our summer and winter programs?

This then is the background to the AGM agenda item: "Looking to the Future". I hope this will be an opportunity for WIALHS members to start discussing the pros and cons of a possible change to the Society name and other thoughts on how our society should continue to evolve. I would also welcome feed-back or suggestions during the coming weeks from anyone reading this report.

Some useful websites mentioned during

the forum included:

Graces Guide is the leading source of historical information on industry and manufacturing in the UK. A useful list of Societies and Associations connected with industrial history that are currently active can be found here.

[www.gracesguide.co.uk](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk)

GooseyGoo Industrial Heritage Exploration Guide is the UK & Ireland's collaborative industrial heritage database.

[www.gooseygoo.co.uk](http://www.gooseygoo.co.uk)

*Hugh J Field, Chairman, March 2018*

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

We began 2017 with 222 members including 7 Honorary Life Members.

3 members did not renew their subscriptions as they had moved away from the area. 5 resigned due to ill health. 2 resigned when the parking restriction at RGS was introduced. A further 14 did not renew, but no reason was given.

During the year sadly 3 members died.

2 members accepted the offer of Honorary Life Membership, and Honorary Membership was given to the spouses of HLMs.

We were very pleased to welcome 13 new members.

The year ended with 207 members.

*Sue McCurdy*

*Now that we have access to online banking, we encourage members who renew by cheque or cash to consider a bank transfer instead. The Treasurer will supply the Society's bank details on request, the payment reference should include surname and initial. However standing orders are preferred as they save us having to send reminders out. (John Beale, Treas.)*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I have just completed my first full year as your Treasurer, and I need to thank David Sharman for keeping such good records and providing useful advice during the year. I am also grateful to Mike Hayzelden for undertaking some

of the banking activities related to the Summer Programme, which has relieved my burden considerably.

To summarise the year:

- Over 82% Of our members now pay by Standing Order.

- A considerable cost saving continues to be made by using E mail to communicate with members
- Membership Numbers (paying) stand at 197 (down from 216) and Membership income was slightly down as a result to £1852 (from £1994)
- Receipts from Day Visitors was significantly down at £19 compared to £34.
- There were no Occasional Publications issued during this year
- Expenses were lower mainly due to reduced newsletter printing costs

The Winter and Summer Programme

Events have been well supported. The Treasurer thanks our Summer Programme Secretary, Mike Hayzelden and Winter Programme Secretary Christine Silvester for providing all the information that is needed for accurate accounts to be prepared.

A donation of £300 was made to the Royal Grammar School. We thank them for allowing us to continue using their Lecture Hall. A donation of £100 was made to Macmillan Nurses to thank John Merrick for Examining the accounts.

No increase in Membership Fees are needed – we still made a small surplus in the year of £696

*John Beale*

## EDITORIAL NOTE

I am increasingly concerned that the content of this newsletter leans very heavily on committee members who are already very busy organising activities. I refer, mainly to Christine Silvester, Mike Hayzelden and my collaborators on the Newsletter production. It would be much appreciated if members would volunteer to write up events and visits and would contribute their own articles and snippets that would entertain members.

You don't have to be good with a computer—we will even accept handwritten material—so no excuses! You can send your articles to Michael, Roger or myself or hand to any committee mem-

ber. Copy deadlines are typically end of February and end of September each year.

*John Beale*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Content:	Michael McCurdy Roger Tapping
Artwork:	John Mason
Layout:	John Beale
Printing:	Pace Print & Design Worcester

## PRESIDENT'S SNIPPETS

### SOCIAL EVENTS:

As mentioned in the Autumn Newsletter, Christine is intending to organise a Spring Lunch if a suitable venue can be found. More details will be circulated soon if this goes ahead. (JB pp CS)

### AIA SOUTH WALES AND WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018:

There may still be time to register for this event to be held at the Village Hall West Coker, Nr. Yeovil on April 14 2018. We will be hosted by the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society. Further details are on the SIAS website, [www.sias.me.uk](http://www.sias.me.uk)

Some of us have already registered and will be staying over Friday and Saturday nights in Bridport. Please call Christine if you are interested in joining us. (JB pp CS)

### WINTER PROGRAMME:

The draft Winter Programme for 2018/19 is already organised and previewed in this Newsletter. I am always looking for speakers for our Winter Programme - If you hear one and think they would be suitable for next year, please let me know?

**ADDITIONAL EVENTS:** These additional events have separate booking instructions to the rest of the Summer programme:

#### **Saturday 22 April – Walled Gardens and Fort Royal:**

Meet at Christine Silvester's house - 12, Upper Park Street, Worcester - 2pm for a short walk to the Walled Garden, open for NGS. Then visit Fort Royal Park, see views and remains of Civil War Fort and return for tea and cakes at Christine's house. If you are interested phone Christine Silvester 01905 354679.

**Saturday 12 May** - South Worcestershire Archaeology Group have invited WIALHS members to join them on their day trip to **Newport, South Wales (Medieval Ship, the Transporter Bridge and Tredegar House)**. The cost will be £20 per person, but this does not include admission to Tredegar House (about £10 if you are not a member of the National Trust). Provisional timings are that the coach leaves Worcester 9am and Ashchurch 9.40am and returns Ashchurch 5.45pm. and Worcester 6.30pm. For more information (including pickup location), please phone Lynda Evans 01242 678657. Cheque (payable to SWAG) to Wendy Gillespie, 8 Gainsborough Close, Welland, Worcs. WR13 6SH with statement of where you will be boarding the coach. The deadline for payment is 30th April. The following websites provide more information on the locations being visited:

<http://www.newportship.org/>

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/heritage/Transporter-Bridge/Visit.aspx>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house>

### **Sunday 27 May - VISIT TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE:**

Paul Barnett, Maritime Historian, will take us for a guided walk around the wrecks at Purton. Many more ships have now been recognized and named. Purton is a hidden gem, the largest ships graveyard in mainland Britain. We will meet Paul at the church at 2p.m and will have tea there after the walk. Purton is South of Gloucester and upriver from Sharpness, where we could also visit either before or after the walk. This is a visit by car and I hope that we will share cars. The cost of the walk is £3.50. We could also meet for lunch nearby. If you are interested, please phone Christine Silvester 01905 354679.

*Christine Silvester*

## **SUMMER PROGRAMME 2018**

Full details of this years Summer Programme were still being finalised at the time of going to press. But the following provisional details are known:

### **Walled Gardens and Fort Royal**

**Saturday 22 April**

Christine Silvester is organising this visit with tea at her house, please see "Presidents Snippets" above for more details.

### **Kidderminster Carpet Museum**

**Wednesday 25th April**

Late afternoon (3/4pm) private visit for a couple of hours or so, to this newish museum in Kidderminster, well extolled by Melvyn Thompson, in his past lecture to the society. The volunteers will give demonstrations of hand and power looms plus a brief introductory tour with time to wander around ourselves. They can provide tea/coffee & biscuits, but have no catering facility, thus they would not object if some of us brought cakes to share

### **SWAG Visit to Newport (by coach)**

**Saturday 12th May**

Visiting the Medieval Ship, the Transporter Bridge and Tredegar House. Book through SWAG by 30th April. see "Presidents Snippets" above for more details.

### **Purton Hulks and Sharpness Docks**

**Sunday 27th May**

Christine Silvester is running this visit to the Purton hulks and Sharpness dock, please see "Presidents Snippets" for more details.

### **Devizes (and brewery, by coach)**

**Thursday 7th June**

We travel via Swindon to the Crofton pumping engines for morning coffee and a

short tour/visit. We then move into Devizes, (market day) for lunch and you might take the opportunity of a visit to the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum. After lunch we meet at the brewery for an optional 2hr guided tour and tasting (others can shop or take in the other museums – Stonehenge gold hoard display?). We will return (weather permitting) via a view of the famous Devizes lock flight, best seen from the bottom, about 1 mile out of the town.

### **Bromsgrove (walk)**

**Monday 18th June**

Morning visit with Julian Hunt (as Belbroughton, last year, but this time as a member of the Bromsgrove Society), who will lead a walk (possibly with a colleague) taking us to former industrial sites and concerns, principally, I believe, along the Spadesbourne Brook, but, no doubt, excursions into the town and possibly the parish church of St. John.

### **Churchill Forge Mill (visit)**

**Tuesday 31st July**

TWO exclusive visits and possibly a picnic!

The morning for the first group will last a couple of hours, with coffee. For those who wish to have a picnic lunch they will provide, for a small supplement, sandwiches (we may provide cake!) and tea at 1pm. The afternoon tour visit will be at 2pm again for a couple of hours finishing with a cup of tea.

### **Kelmscott (coach visit)**

**Thursday 30th August**

This is the home of William Morris and the founding site of his Arts & Crafts Movement that was the progenitor of many of the Cotswold Arts or Crafts groups and societies. A small 35-seater coach is required for the tight access road. Our visit is timed for 2pm, so we will find a 'small' venue in the morning and lunch at a Cotswold town, nearby.

### **Shrewsbury (coach visit)**

**Monday 17th September**

Probably the last visit of the year, in the morning we will visit Coleham Steam Pumping Engines. Usually only occasionally in steam at the weekends, they are maintaining steam from their open steam day on the preceding Sunday to keep it in steam for us! After lunch time in Shrewsbury we will meet at the Welsh Quay for a Sabrina river boat trip around the River Severn loop around Shrewsbury.

### **Other**

Other dates soon expecting to be confirmed are:

- Harris Brush Works
- Bromsgrove School (you see the partly Bromsgrove theme this year)
- Carl Jukes with another tour around parts of Worcester.

*Mike Hayzelden*



## LEICESTER VISIT 2017

*This report from Roger was omitted in error from the report that was published in the last Newsletter, with apologies (ed.)*

### **Leicester - Guided walk around the Castle Gardens and West Bridge.**

*Tuesday 15th August 2017*

This report was missed from the last Newsletter, but the area is of great interest to me as it was my playground as a boy living in Leicester.

The walk was conducted by members of the Leicestershire Industrial History Society and started adjacent to the coach drop-off point near the Cathedral. Our guide was to be David Lyne, secretary of the Society.

We met our guide by the Cathedral where we parted company with other members of our group who went off to the Richard III exhibition. I was immediately able to see that a nostalgic gateway from the former Midland Red bus depot had been saved from demolition like the rest of the site. The words MIDLAND RED are still proudly displayed at the top of the gateway.

From our meeting point we walked a few yards past the site of the former Everards' Brewery, to look at the church of St Mary de Castro. De Castro can be translated to The Castle and signifies that this church, which is some 900 years old lies within the former bailey of Leicester Castle. When I lived in Leicester this Grade I listed church had a spire, however in 2011 large cracks appeared in each of the 4 sides of the spire and it had to be demolished. The church

was closed for a number of years. It was in this church that I was confirmed when I was about 13 years old.

We continued past the old castle buildings which was used as court buildings in my day and then climbed up to the mound of the castle to admire the views of the canal below. In my 29 years at Leicester I did not know this mound existed and it great to see the whole area now open to the public.

We made our way down to the canal which is now called the 'Leicester Line'. It comprised two canals which were bought by the Grand Junction Canal in 1894: the Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal and the 'old' Grand Union Canal.

The River Soar had been made navigable up to Loughborough by 1780, and the route was extended to Leicester in 1794. It is known as the "straight mile" and runs parallel to the River Soar. Alongside both sides were the premises of numerous factories associated with the knitting industry in the City. One notable factory built in the 1840s was that of Pex who made socks & stockings. My wife's father was head mechanic there. The factory after adaptation is now the home of the local Land Registry.

Across the road bridge, now a dual carriageway, we now paused to look at the canal and the remains of the former Great Central Railway viaduct which used to stride majestically across the road, river and canal. All sadly now demolished and you would be hard pressed

to visualise what was here. Just a short distance away lie the remains of the wharf and station associated with the Leicester & Swannington Railway. When this railway was built in the 1830s it was all brand new. There were no other steam locomotive lines with which to establish links. The next nearest railway in the world was the Liverpool to Manchester Railway. The line was built to bring coal from the north west of Leicestershire to the canal wharf. All this built just a mile from the city centre.

Again the nostalgia kicked in. I used to walk along the towpath northwards and look at the spectacular lift bridge, built to get the tracks across to the other side of the canal. Some of you may remember we saw the lift bridge at the site of the industrial museum which was established at Coalville, Snibston Industrial Museum, now sadly closed. I would look at the huge weir which controlled the canal water levels by putting the surplus back into the River Soar. Always a good place for fishing. Later on we to

took groups of Cub Scouts through the abandoned Glenfield Tunnel. Just about 1 mile long, the tunnel was built between 1829-32 by George and Robert Stephenson and at the time was one of the longest tunnels in the world.

I would have loved to have more time to mooch around this area but we moved on back towards the city centre. Our next stop was the very old St Nicholas Church, parts dating from AD 880. The site is adjacent to the Roman ruins of Jewry wall and the church is believed to sit on Roman foundations. Whilst in the church we were treated to a short organ recital. Just to complete the picture, this is the church where I was christened in the early 1940s.

Back now up the High Street, a pub for lunch and then a reunion with the rest of our group before we boarded the coach to visit the knitting museum at Wigston. All-in-all a great visit; thanks Mike for a big dose of nostalgia.

*Roger Tapping*

## **WILTSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2017**

Saturday 28 October, 2017.

One morning last October, a small number of WIALHS members made their way to Devizes Town Hall for an Industrial Archaeology Symposium hosted by the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS). Our journeys were rewarded as, in contrast to the rather cold and dull weather, we were given a warm welcome followed by a brilliant series of lectures.

The pattern of recent years is for WANHS to hold a symposium on a specific theme every other year. With 2017 being an alternate year, the subjects covered were various without a linking thread apart from all being related to the locality. No matter - we were treated to a most interesting variety.

The Symposium was chaired by Mike Stone and he gave us an entertaining and informative introductory talk on

food production in Somerset starting from the Seventeenth Century right up to the 1960s with some detail on the development of cheese and butter-making equipment. We will now be on the look out for 'Hathaway's butter churns' that, in their hey-day, were sold World-wide in large numbers.

After coffee the next lecture was a complete contrast with an account by Geoff Hobbs of bus services in North Wiltshire when these were at their peak in the 1950s up to their relative demise by 1985. We learned about the importance of the "Cheltenham Hub" in former times and the entire talk was accompanied by some striking photographs of the buses sporting their splendidly colorful liveries. Towards the end of his lecture, Geoff drew attention to efforts by the West of England Historic Transport (WHOT) to establish a museum to house the West of England Transport Collection currently located at Winkeigh[1]. As a post script he also mentioned the Airfield and Hangers at Wroughton. In 1979 the Science Museum took ownership of the 545-acre former RAF Wroughton airfield to be used as a storage facility for some of the largest objects of the Science Museum - now a collection of approximately 26,000 objects[2]!

Changing direction again, Stuart Burroughs lectured on the social stresses caused by the introduction of mechanization into the wool industry in the South West during the period 1704-1802. We learned that the most highly paid of all the processors were the finishers (shearmen) who had to combine a steady hand with strength and concentration in order to trim off the raised

nap. With the development of very early forms of trade union, we were shown how the mechanization of spinning and weaving and even the shearers' work, inevitably led to opposition and eventually trouble.

After lunch, Roger Clark described an ambitious project involving a huge machine for rolling rubber into thin sheets known as 'the Iron Duke'. This rolling mill, built in 1849, was assembled at Kingston Mill in Bradford-on-Avon and was driven initially by steam. The machine comprised three rollers each weighing 3 tons and heat was supplied inside the rollers by means of hot water in order to keep the rubber soft. It eventually fell into disuse and, when the machine was taken apart in 1972, no plans were kept to show how it was put together. The restoration team was therefore faced with a 16-ton 3D jigsaw puzzle! Roger explained how, with great difficulty, the reassembly was eventually successful and all can now admire this monster machine in a display protected from the elements outside the old mill in the Kingston Road, Bradford-on-Avon [3].

Last, but certainly not least, Bob Clarke rounded off the Symposium with a very lively talk about the experimental aircraft establishment at Boscombe Down where he was formerly Site Archaeologist. The history of the airfield dates back to 1916/17 but it became particularly important during and after WW2. Of several extraordinary pieces of equipment, Bob gave a graphic account of the external wind tunnel (dismantled as recently as October, 2017). This was effectively a giant blower driven by a jet engine. The workings of this powerful

equipment was illustrated by means of some wonderful archive film showing volunteer pilots trying to escape from cockpits placed in the path of the wind stream to simulate attempts to bale out during flight; by all accounts an extremely hazardous procedure!

So ended a fascinating day and eclectic mixture of excellent talks. We are already looking forward to the Devizes meeting scheduled for next autumn. This should be a themed symposium

and, hopefully, WIALHS will be well represented in the audience. Those who decide to travel from Worcester are unlikely to be disappointed.

[1] <http://wetc.uk.com/index.html>

[2] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science\\_Museum\\_at\\_Wroughton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_Museum_at_Wroughton)

[3] <http://www.bradfordonavonmuseum.co.uk/iron-duke>

*Hugh Field*

## WINTER PROGRAMME REPORTS 2017-2018

15 September 2017: Dr Naylor Firth was our first lecturer on the subject of **SHIP BUILDING IN THE LOWER WYE**. I heard this excellent lecture at the AIA Conference organized by the Oxford House Society at Llanhilleth on 29 April 2017. I had originally thought that the shipbuilding would have been small wooden ships using the local oak but was very surprised to discover how large the ships were and how many were built. The first ships were made of wood but as soon as iron ships were built and iron was mined in the Wye Valley a more modern industry began.

Ships were built as far up the river Wye as Hereford. This caused many problems as the river needed to have enough water for the ship to travel to sea. Dr Firth spoke mainly of the Industry in Chepstow and ships were made even for the Second World War, when the Navy was desperate for as many ships as possible. The shipbuilding was finished by the 1950's and the docks are now hardly recognizable as a trading

estate and Supermarket is built on the site which is only accessible by going under a railway bridge. Chepstow is well worth a visit and you may search out what is left of the Industry.

20 OCTOBER 2017: Paul Barnett. Marine Historian gave us a very interesting evening speaking to us on the **SEVERN RAIL DISASTER**. On 25 OCTOBER 1960 two tankers *Southdale H* and *Arkendale II* both owned by John Harker Ltd travelling up the river crashed into one another and into the rail bridge over the Severn near Sharpness, caused a great explosion and totally wrecked the bridge. Each boat had four crew and only three men survived. For several years the children who attended the Grammar School in Gloucester and other schools on the East side of the river travelled to school by coach making their day much Longer.

The bridge was never re-built, and it is still possible to see the ruins of the Bridge Piers. This was at a time when railways were being closed and that may

be part of the reason for not rebuilding the bridge. The tankers also stopped travelling the River when a pipeline was built.

17 NOVEMBER 2017: Rob Hedge, an archaeologist from Worcs. Archive and Archaeology Service, gave us an interesting and informative talk on **THE HISTORY OF URBAN GARDENS, ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOTMENT FINDS**. Almost any place in a town where people have been living for Centuries will have interesting finds not far under the soil. Until the 20th century most townspeople would have either burned or buried rubbish in the garden. Houses had cesspits - usually four walls - where rubbish was placed, collected by council workers and dumped on Pitchcroft. This eventually broke down and was bought and collected by farmers to spread on their land. This probably accounts for many of the pieces of pottery found on field walks.

It is also possible to find evidence of much earlier occupation on many sites. pieces of Roman pottery and tiles made locally, Slag from iron manufacturing, various animal bones and in many areas Oyster shells that were much more commonly eaten in the past than nowadays.

The 15 December meeting was cancelled as the school was closed. I have booked 7 December 2019 for the next December Meeting to ensure that the school will be open!

12 January 2018: Justin Hughes, an Archaeologist with Worcs. Archive and Archaeology Service, spoke to us on **THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

**OF THE LOWESMOOR VINEGAR WORKS SITE**. The site is important as it housed many pottery kilns as well as the vinegar works and was not easy to interpret. Hill Evans started the vinegar works which was one of the largest in Europe. There was even a Branch Line from the factory to Shrub Hill station. The vat house, now the TA Centre housed the largest vat in the world. The works also made English wines and sauces and supplied the many local sauce factories with vinegar.

The Evans family made enough to buy the Whitbourne Hall Estate, which they still own.

In the early 18C there were several porcelain factories in Worcester, Chamberlain's was on the Lowesmoor site and was eventually absorbed into the Worcester Porcelain site which was on the riverside by the fountains, the site of the Maws Tile works. I believe there were 7 kilns on the Lowesmoor site. Used for various processes. One of our members, Dr Malcolm Nixon, was involved in identifying the various kilns for the archaeologists.

16 February 2018: Mike Napthan gave us an absolutely fascinating lecture on the **INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF SHRUB HILL STATION**. We have all visited the station at one time or another and realized that it is a rather grand building, but I am sure that none of us had any idea of just how large it really is.

Mike had access to the original drawings and plans - the area was originally called Primrose Hill - and possibly was unable to use that name as there is one in London. There was a house on the

plan called Shrub House — thence the name. Below the station as we look at it are enormous undercroft and a tunnel under the railway that comes out in the goods yard in Sherriff Street. Mike had photographed dozens of rooms, warehouses and staircases — no longer used and looking very creepy. Platform 1 is on the side you look at from the road the entrance to Platform 2 was originally from below the carriageway and through the tunnel arriving on the other side of the lines. At that time any workers crossed the lines on a walkway towards Foregate Street station.

You will remember a bridge over the tracks to the left as you enter platform 1. This was for the post trucks and there was a lift on either side. The plans are for this bridge to be repaired and

for a lift to be installed for disabled access. The bridge has a roof- originally the station was roofed over, when this was removed the roof was erected on the footbridge and a very thick concrete floor was laid on the bridge platform to 'strengthen' it, the structure is now very unstable.

At one time there was a 'Railway Institute' in the semi underground rooms - this was eventually stopped because the citizens of Worcester used it more than the railway workers. The evening was really amazing; I could have listened for hours or again the next week, it was a really good talk.

*Christine Silvester*

*John Mason's painting of Shrub Hill Station was chosen for its relevance to this talk! ed*

## **WINTER PROGRAMME PREVIEW 2018-19**

SEPTEMBER 14 - JUSTIN HUGHES - Worcestershire Archaeology Dept

**Project Foresters Forest — LIDAR and Archaeology in the Forest of Dean.**

We could probably follow this up with a visit.

OCTOBER 19 - DR TERRY DANIELS

**Made in Oldbury**

Oldbury, originally in Worcestershire, had many interesting manufacturers. The lecture will show us many of the products and where they were made. This could also be followed up with a walk.

NOVEMBER 23 - ROD HEDGE - Worcestershire Archaeology Dept

**Worcestershire in the Ice Age.**

You will remember that Rob gave us an interesting talk on The history of Urban gardens.

## DECEMBER 7 - PAUL BARNETT

### **Port to Port - a journey down the Gloucester Ship Canal.**

You will remember that Paul spoke to us about the Severn Rail disaster. We have a visit to Purton, guided by Paul on 27 May 2018. We will have Mulled wine, mince pies etc on that night and it will be in the ELD Hall.

## JANUARY 18 (2019) - PETER GOGGS

### **Worcestershire Coalfields.**

Did you know we had any? You will remember the very interesting talk Peter gave us on Worcester Trams and Dickie Fairbairn.

## FEBRUARY 15 (2019) - MARTIN HUDSON

### **The Leominster Canal**

One of the canals that were planned when Canal Mania was raging. We could also have a site visit.

## MARCH 22 (2019) - A.G.M. Followed by speaker CHARLES BRECKNELL

### **How to Survive the Great War**

An illustrated Lecture about the travels of a Motorcycle Dispatch Rider Charles' Great Uncle in WWI. Salonika. Egypt and the Western Front.

## APRIL 12 (2019) — MIKE NAPTHAN

### **Worcester Castle**

Mike is an independent Archaeologist and this talk on Worcester Castle was cancelled in December 2017 because the School was closed.

As usual, all meetings are held at RGS Worcester. All will be held in the lecture theatre, except for the December 7th meeting which will be in the Eld Hall. All meetings start at 7.30pm. For any queries or information phone Christine Silvester 01905 354679.

*Christine Silvester*

# **NORTHWICK HALL/MANOR - CLAINES - WORCESTER by Roger Tapping**

## **Introduction**

My objective was to learn more about the area in which I live, i.e. Northwick - Worcester. In particular the actual site on which the house is built, which I had been told was built in the area of the stable block belonging to the former Northwick Hall.

I had no idea where to begin my quest and so joined a night school course based at the Worcester Record Office under the direction of Mrs Pat Hughes.

Here I was to receive plenty of help and guidance of understanding and using public records.

I started by looking at a card index which had many references to Northwick Hall, Northwick Manor, Northwick Grange and Northwick House. My confusion had started early. Which one did I want?

It became clear that Northwick Manor and Northwick Hall had interchanged their titles throughout history and that I would have to be very careful to differentiate between the two as I examined the documents. Northwick Grange and Northwick House were not in the immediate vicinity and so were to be ignored.

My first lesson was to make sure that I noted the cross-references to be found on the index cards and then to complete a request form for the Record Office assistant who would then fetch the relevant box of information. These

boxes could contain a variety of information, most of it unconnected with my specific research, but very interesting nevertheless. I soon found that I was easily distracted.

From the index cards I could see that the earliest reference to Northwick was about 1323 and the latest about 1965/66. Where should I start and what should I include? The bulk of the information appeared to cover the period between 1751 and 1951.

*Roger Tapping (Updated March 2018)*

## **Northwick**

Northwick lies in the parish of Claines (also known as North Claines) and is roughly 2 miles to the north of the city, lying between the River Severn and the Worcester to Kidderminster road (A449). The main road through the area is called Northwick Road and it is on this road that my house lies.

The parish of Claines was very large, butting up to the parish of St Martins in Worcester to the south and almost to Droitwich in the north.

## **1444 - 1476**

From the records of the Bishop of Worcester it can be seen that in 1444 the Bishop Carpenter bought land and built a Palace which was moated and surrounded by a park which he called Northwick Manor. This is believed to be on high ground in the area which is



now called Colin Road/Leslie Avenue.

### 1468

William Carnynge was ordained a Deacon on April 2nd. (Carnynge subsequently had a house called Carnynge House built near the river. That was later demolished and houses built in a road called Carnynge Road which later became the present Chasewater Avenue)

### 1563

Sir John Bourne charged Bishop Sandys that "The Manor House of Northwick was a ruin, had been sold to Gilbert Littleton, pulled down and replaced with a pretty little building which he called his nursery".

### 1648

Northwick Manor was sold to Richard Vernon and Anthony Ferne for £228.13. 4 pence. This is when the property passed from church hands, the See of Worcester, into private hands. The dovecote stood until 1687.

**1751** - Fig 1 Map 1 (overleaf) - drawn by Dougherty (Ref S009:1, BA 5403 Sheet 2 Parcel 10. HWRO)

This map shows the area with the junction of Northwick Rd, Old Northwick Lane and Beckett Lane (now Road).

The property known as Northwick Manor can be seen on the high ground complete with the fish ponds that filled the valley between the New Inn and Northwick Road.

The land marked "H" belonged to Mr Wheeler.

The land marked "I.1" - The Homestal,

(a house with its dependent buildings and offices), "I.2" - The Rick Yards and Little Field and "I.3" - The Orchard and Close, all belonged to Mr Wheeler, but were rented by Joseph Hughes of Northwick. It is on the site of "The Homestal" that my house stands.

"I.31" was an Orchard.

"F.52" was called Hayward's Farm and belonged to James Cocks.

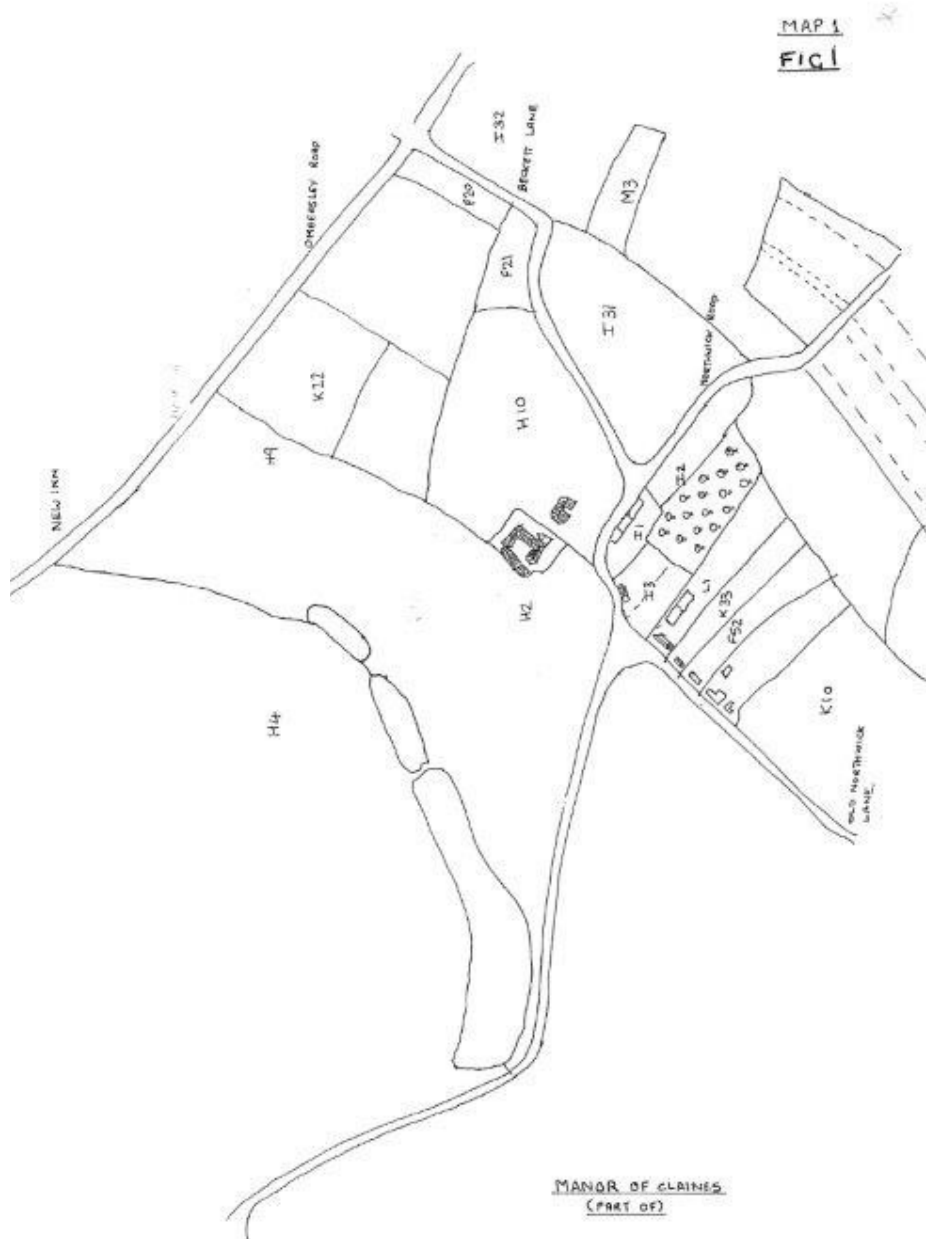
"F.48" shows the strip farming pattern in Northwick Field, now the Recreation Ground and the "head strip" is the portion of land adjacent to Northwick Road where the fir trees now stand.

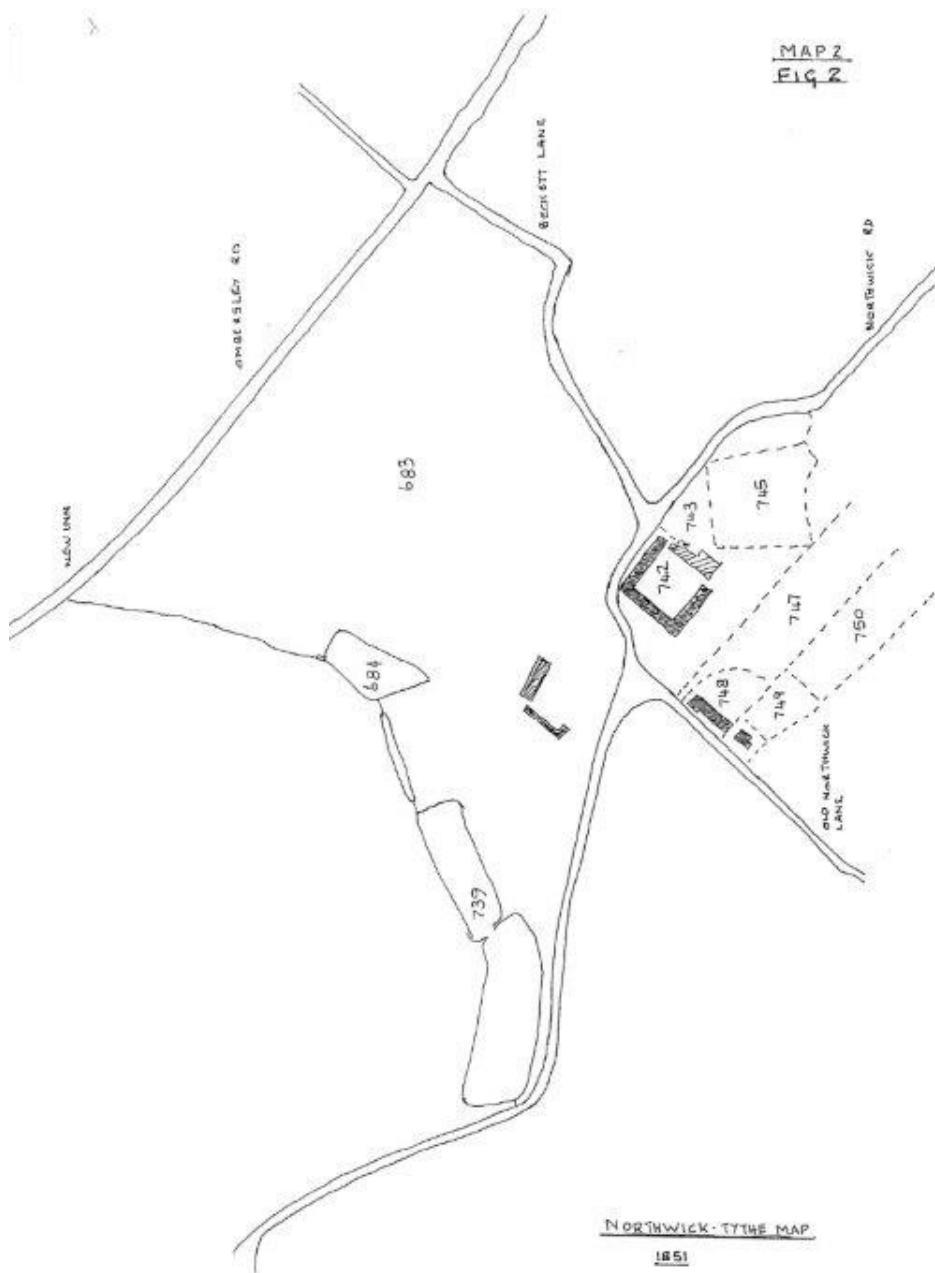
**1851** - Fig 2, Map 2 (overleaf) - Tithe Map, Area 742 - (Ref 760:183)

This now shows that the former Northwick Manor has gone, save for some outbuildings. A new building, Northwick Hall, has been erected lower down the hill.

The areas marked 741 - 745 were all owned by William Tolley.

- 741 - Orchard,
- 742 - House, building, fold, rick yard and garden.
- 743 - Shrubbery and plantation.
- 744 - Plantation.
- 745 - The lawn.
- 745 was known as "Down's Orchard".
- 748 was five houses belonged to Susan Knapp.
- 749 was house and garden occupied by John Taylor.





## 1869

William Tolley died on August 16th 1869.

His daughter, Emily Elizabeth married Martin Mence and they had a total of 9 children. Martin was a veterinary surgeon in the 15th Hussars.

Upon the death of William, the estate passed to his daughter, Emily, and on her death it would pass to the eldest son.

On October 5th and 6th a sale of some of the goods within the house were sold by auction at the Star Hotel, Worcester. - Fig 3.

**1884** Fig 4, Map 3 - The first Ordnance Survey map of the district.

This shows Northwick Hall with formal gardens and only the outbuildings left of the former Bishop's Palace. The fish ponds are clearly shown.

## 1886

On September 18th 1886, Emily had to sign an affidavit to say that her third son, Oscar James Tolley Mence, was the surviving eldest son. The first born, Martin died on the day he was born and the second, Arthur, died "when quite a baby". Of the six girls only two survived.

On the 20th November 1886, Emily died and the estate passed to her husband Martin.

## 1905

Martin Mence died on 1st August 1905 and the estate passed to Oscar. It would seem that Oscar wished to dispose of the house as on the 6th December 1905 it was sold to Mrs Whee-

ley Lea for £9,700.

## 1922

The estate was sold again by auction at the Star Hotel, Worcester on October 23rd. Details of the sale can be found in HWRO Ref BA 5240.

A plan of the estate is shown in Fig. 5, Map 4

Lot 1 Northwick Hall and Land - described as:-

- 631 House and Buildings
- 640 Grounds
- 641 Grounds
- 642 Orchard
- 643 Garden and Orchard
- 644 Orchard

Lot 2 659 was leased to Mr Brewer (now forms part of "The Lodge")

Lot 3 659 was leased to Mr Brewer (now forms part of "The Lodge")

Lot 4 674 was leased to Mr Topham.

Lot 13 was called "The Nook", Northwick.

Lot 14 was called the "White Lodge" and was thatched.

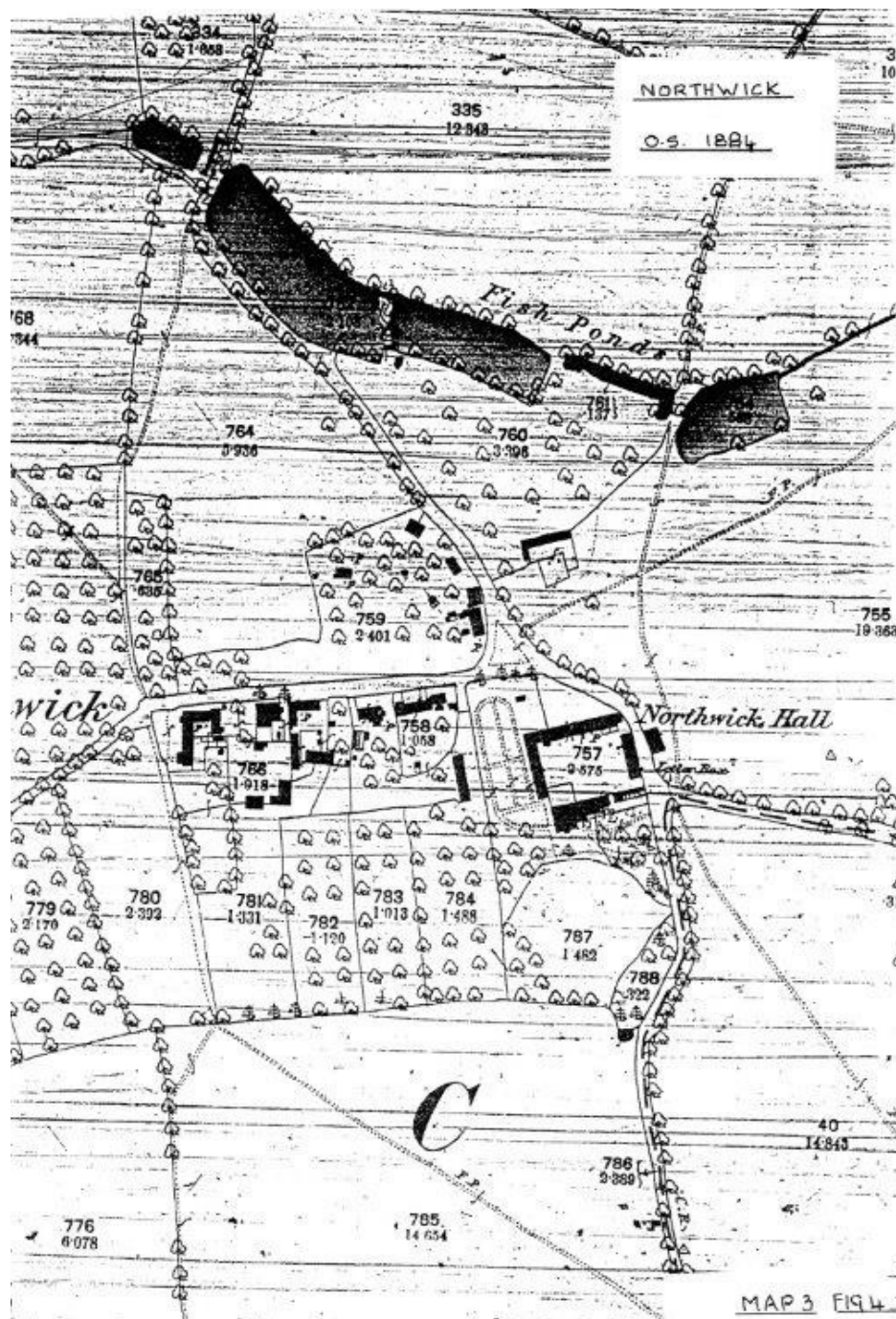
The sale makes reference to the electric cable, which was laid to the Hall, under Lots 4, 21, 23 and 25.

**1927** Fig 6, Map 5 - Ordnance Survey 1927

This map shows some linear development on Ombersley Road. Nothing on the site of the Hall or the Colin Road area. The route of the electric cable

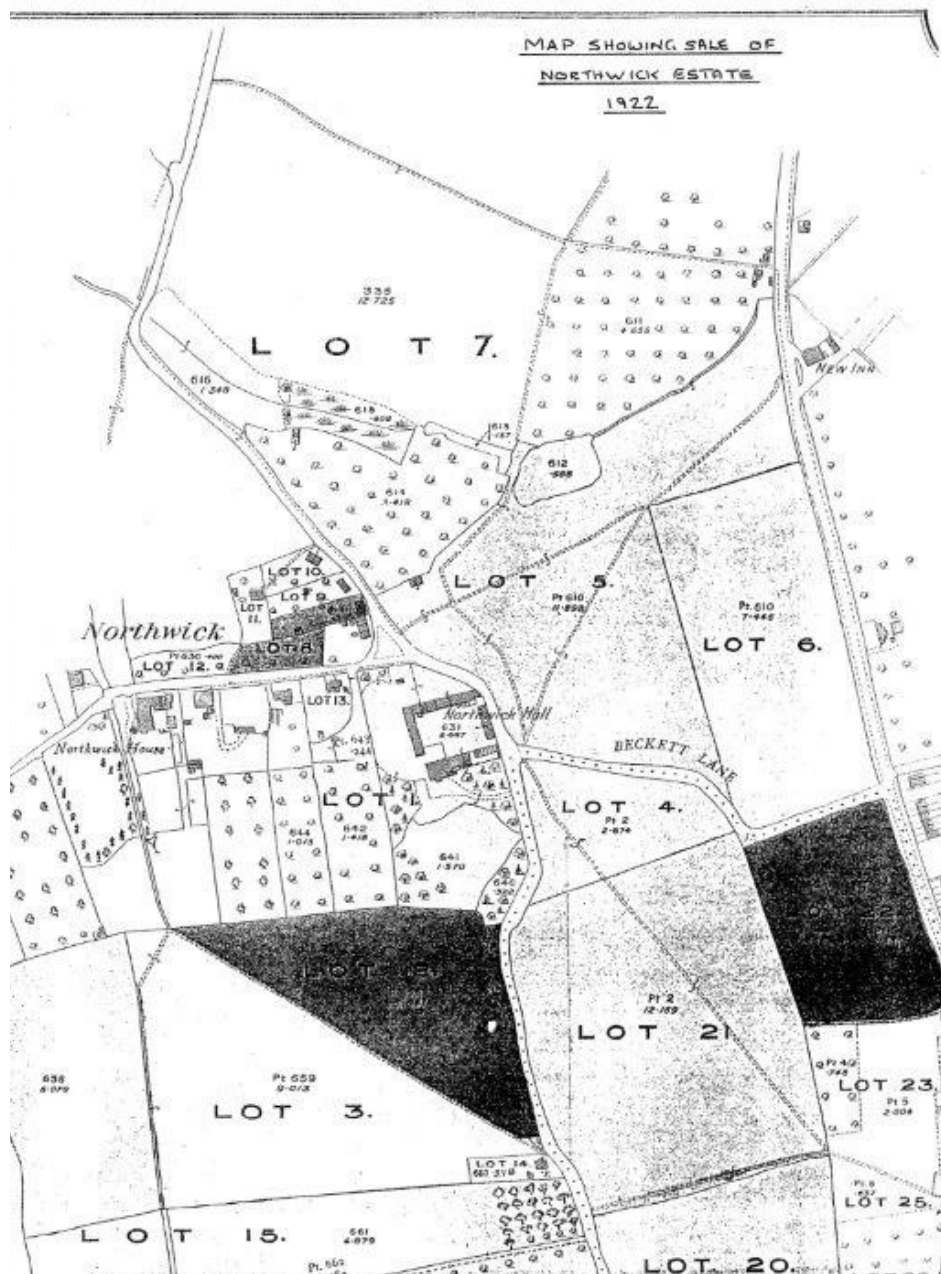
# ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th and 6th, 1869, at 11 a.m. each day.

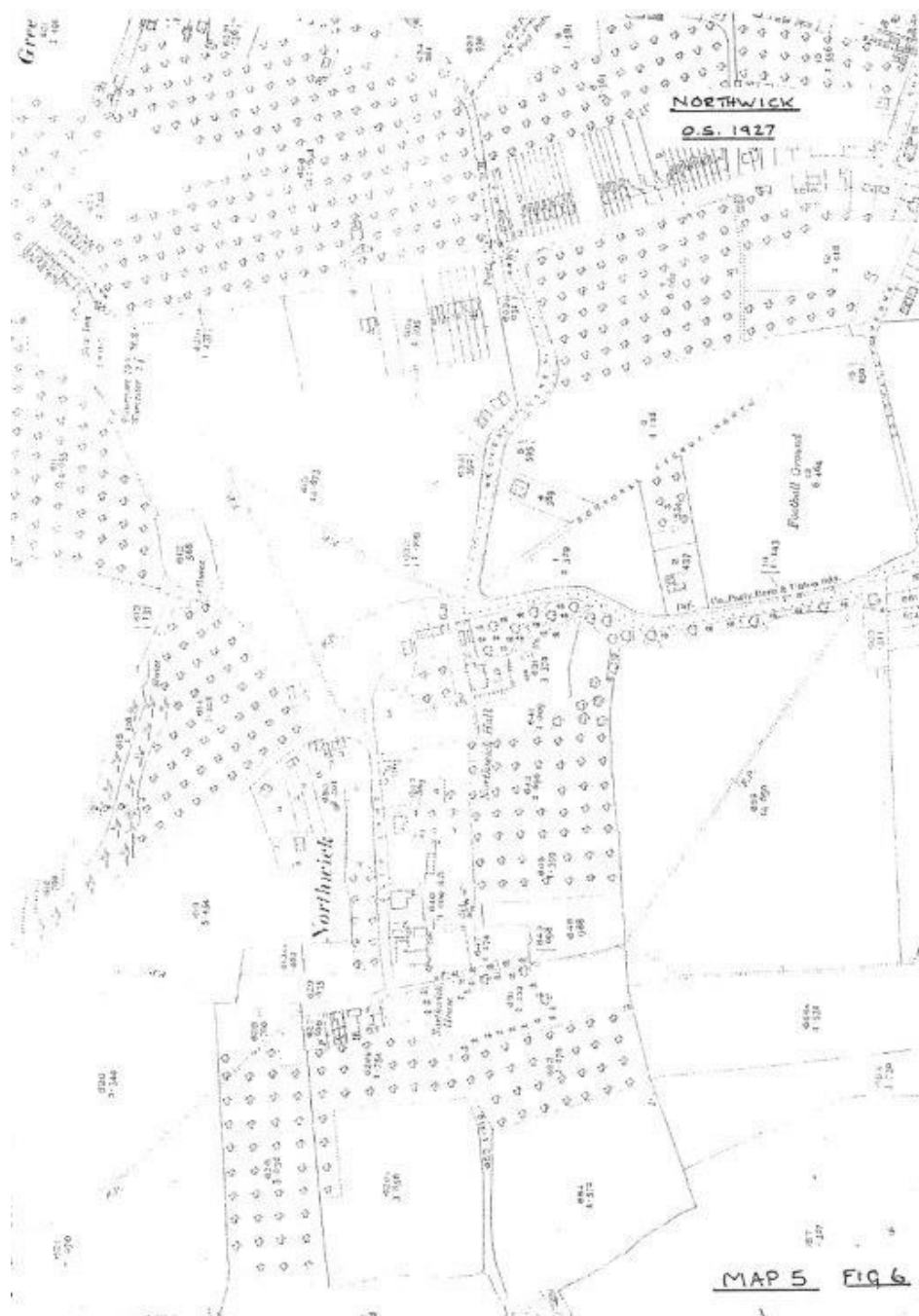
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MAP L

FIG 5







mentioned above has become Southall Road North and a football pitch is shown opposite to The Lodge. All traces of the earlier Bishop's Palace (Northwick Manor) have gone, but the pools are still shown alongside extensive orchards.

**1931** Fig 7, Map 6 – Ordnance Survey 1931

This map shows the City Boundary Extension. No development has taken place on the site of Northwick Hall. A few houses are now built on Ombersley Road and Beckett Road (re-named from Lane). The boundary was extended outwards from Beckett Road to Grange Avenue.

**1940** Fig 8, Map 7 - Ordnance Survey 1940

This map shows the site of Northwick Hall now fully developed, as is the Colin Road area. The north-west side of Colin Road has filled in one of the former fishponds. The football pitch shown on the 1927 map (Fig 6, Map 5) has now transferred to the other side of Northwick Road into "The Lodge" area. At the rear of Nos. 147 - 153 can be seen the raised area which formed the lawn of the Hall.

**1947** Fig 9 - Aerial photograph. October 1947 (32/85) f251.2 6502 Parcel 2

This shows the area taken from the air.

**1994** Fig 10, Map 8 - Ordnance Survey 1994

This map shows the creation of Geneva Close and the shortening of the garden belonging to 159 Northwick Road, which allowed the development behind. All the properties on the east side of

Northwick Road have been completed. The public footpath which dissected "The Lodge" and was shown on Fig 5, Map 4 still remains.

165 Northwick Road, now called the Old Cottage, has been shown since the earliest plans and maps. The building at the rear was formerly an electric substation supplying the Hall. The north wall contains a large brick arch as though it may formerly have been a barn.

The boundary wall is brick built with many mis-shaped hand fired bricks, possibly from the brickworks which existed down Old Northwick Lane by the river.

The gardens of Nos. 155 and 157 contain several dressed stones which may have come from demolished buildings.

A Planning Application dated 1934 shows a six inch sewer going from the Hall to a new sewage works which was sited at the southern edge of the lower fish - pond. It can be seen marked 'tanks' on Fig 8, Map 7.

## **Conclusion**

I have only scratched at the surface of this project. Many questions are left to answer.

When was the original Bishop's Palace (Northwick Manor) pulled down?

Are there any plans of its layout?

Who built the later Northwick Hall?

When was it substantially altered and by who? It seems to have been between 1922 and 1927.

Why was the Hall sold and demolished? Possibly housing development.

Are there any photographs/plans of it?

The first sale of No.155, where I live, was made by the builder, Ernest James Harper (Builder) to George Raymond

Acton on 25th February 1939. I have been told that development of the row of houses was put on hold until the end of World War 2.





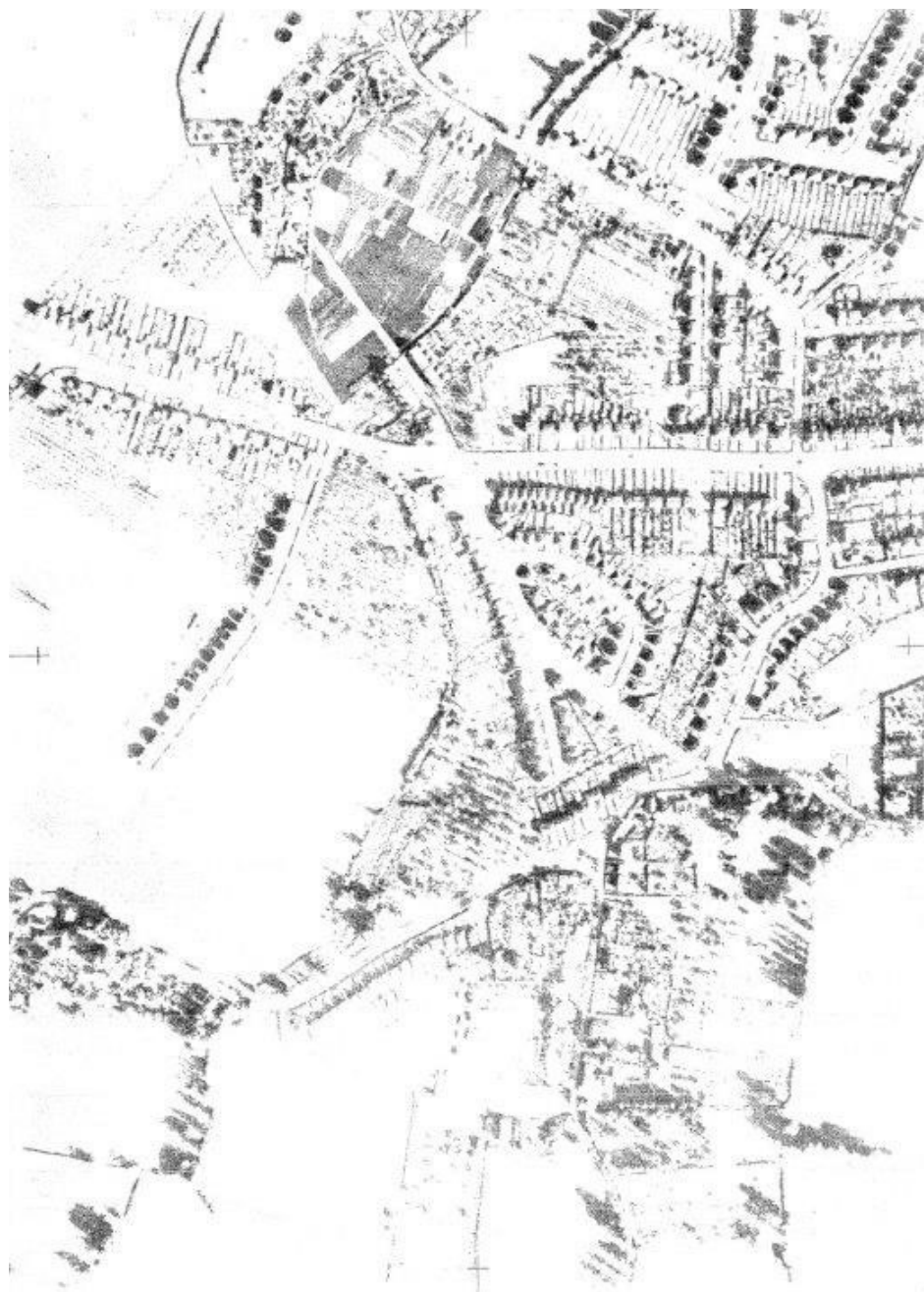


Figure 9



## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Of Sons and Skies - Flying through World War Two**

Robert Arley

Published by Splash TV

Publication Date: 12/01/2018

ISBN: 978-1-9998944-0-5

Price: RRP £8.99

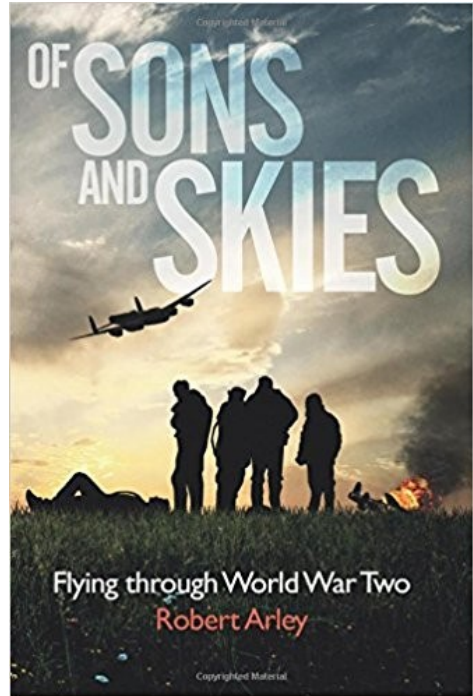
This book is amazingly well researched and gives a clearer vision of what really happened than any of the propaganda films we have all seen.

*If you are unfamiliar with the trajectory of military flying from 1939 to 1945, you will be astounded to discover the extraordinary activity that took place in the skies before you were born - the challenges of handling relatively primitive machines in difficult conditions; every aerial journey being a matter of life or death for those aboard, and frequently also for those underneath.*

*Thousands of courageous young men learned to fly the troublesome craft, to take them across land and sea to face their enemies. Often at the core of our story is the flight path of RAF Bomber Command, Britain's biggest organisation devoted to military flying; with the most airfields, planes and pilots. But we will visit also Other air forces and consider their strengths and weaknesses in different arenas around the globe as the aggression spread.*

*And we will occasionally skim through the headlines of the major newspapers to see how they presented the problems and solutions to an anxious readership.*

*We will dip in and out of a cross-section of the formidable endeavours pursued by*



*intelligent people to impose dismay on others. At the end of all that conflict, the world became relatively peaceful. Europe especially has mostly flourished since the termination of hostilities.*

*This book is designed to encourage people to appreciate how lucky they are; to never have suffered the fears, dangers and drastic violence of those years.*

*This is a serious history of WW2 Flying and not difficult to either read or understand I heartily recommend it as a good read.*

Christine Silvester

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Bob Backenforth's Worcester Pubs Then and Now. Vol III: The late Victorian years 1873-1901**

Bob Blandford

Published by The Whole Picture Publishing Company

Publication Date: 17/11/2017

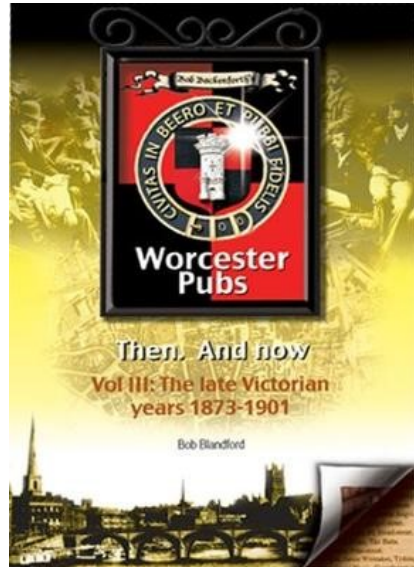
ISBN: 978-0-9927418-3-9

Price: RRP £17.99

This new book is more than a continuation of the other two volumes. This book outlines the rich variety of Inns Taverns and Public Houses at the time 1873 - 1901 that the pub was probably a social centre for many. At this time many houses were overcrowded, families were larger, and the average family possibly only entertained their closest relatives - the pub was possibly a welcome refuge for many.

The book is very well illustrated and shows the pubs as they were and as they are now, with plenty of interesting information and history of both landlords and some of the regulars. If you live near the town centre you cannot avoid the evidence that there was once a pub on every street corner and possibly several with a hundred yards.

We have lost many fascinating pub names - 'The Leather Dressers Arms, Mouth of the Nile, Hole in the Wall, Elephant and Castle, Druids Head, Beehive, Black Boy, Peep o' Day, Plumbers Arms,



Perseverance and Hero. Probably more interesting than the modern names.

The book is a good one to dip into or to wander round the streets looking for evidence of the old pubs.

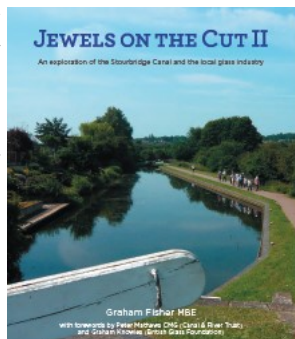
*Christine Silvester*

Also out now is **"JEWELS ON THE CUT II"** an updated exploration of the Stourbridge Canal and the local glass industry, by Graham Fisher:

ISBN 978-0-9548781-8-4, £12.50

If anyone has read this book, a review for the next Newsletter would be very welcome!

*JB*





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