

# **Welford and Weston Local History Society**

**([www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk))**

## **Newsletter 65 – September 4th, 2020**

### **“Historic Warwickshire Gardens**

#### **– in the time of Sir Fulke Greville (1554-1628)”**

This virtual talk, via Zoom, will be given by Dr Christine Hodgetts – Conservation Lead at the Warwickshire Gardens Trust, [on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September](#).

You will receive an email inviting you to join this meeting a few days before the meeting itself. This email will only be sent to members who have renewed their membership, and new members who have joined recently.

At the time of writing this newsletter, I am delighted to let you know that 84 of our members have renewed their membership. Another 10 have yet to decide, and a further 12 have indicated that they will renew when we are able to resume our meetings in the Memorial Hall. This just leaves 10 who for a variety of reasons, including moving from Welford, have ceased to be members.

On the evening of the talk you will be able to join the meeting from 19:00. The talk itself will start at 19:30. If you are fairly new to Zoom I would encourage you to join the meeting early, so that if you experience a problem, you'll have time to call Karen Dickinson (on 07970 179821), and get it sorted out before the talk itself starts at 19:30.

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Back in September 2018 a Festival was held in Alcester to celebrate the history, poetry, music, life and legacy of Sir Fulke Greville (1554-1628), Alcester's most famous Elizabethan figure. Following the success of that Festival, the co-organiser, Adam Busiakiewicz, gave a marvellous talk to our Society in March 2019, on the Life and Times of Sir Fulke Greville. Sir Fulke was known for creating several gardens of outstanding beauty, and as such, Dr Christine Hodgetts, (Chair of the Warwickshire Gardens Trust) another speaker at that Festival, will be discussing the most significant gardens which were planted during his lifetime.

I listened to a Gardening Talk (via Zoom) the other day, and the speaker started off by saying that Gardening and the planning of where to put plants is like painting a picture, experimenting with colours and the variety of plants. Where plants will capture the light and where the sun is positioned during the day depicts the different colours of the plants. Having just a “green” garden with no additional colour was a sign of great wealth in the seventeenth century as depicted in the picture below from the time.



The reign of Elizabeth I, saw the creation of fantastical gardens by her principal courtiers, vying with each other to demonstrate their wealth and taste. Following the now-recreated garden at Kenilworth, many other local notables joined the rush to keep up with the Joneses by developing extravagant gardens to mark their local or national importance. As the seventeenth century proceeded, an increasing number of them created extensive garden layouts in the fashionable style. By the end of the seventeenth century there were a number of grand gardens in Warwickshire and the neighbourhood, most of which no longer survive. This talk will consider these lost landscapes and the extent to which they remain.



To renew your membership, or to become a new member just visit our website at [www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk) and click on the quick link to Membership.

I look forward to 'seeing' many of you at our talk on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards, Sue Hook