

Welford and Weston Local History Society

www.welfordandweston.org.uk

Newsletter 88 – September 2023

History of Witches (in Welford & beyond)

An illustrated talk given by Candida Watson & Brad Plimmer

27 October 2023, at 7:30 pm in Welford Memorial Hall

(also available via Zoom)

Our meeting in October takes place a few days before Halloween and is on the subject of witches. A tricky subject for a local history society. We'll start with a short history of witches in this country. Then we'll look nearer home - examples in North Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. Finally, we'll delve into our own archives and share the tales written about Welford 'witches' in the early 1900's.



“Witches are masters of illusion and deception, and they can easily mislead the unwary.” This is a quote from the Malleus Maleficarum, a book first published

in Germany in 1486, which became the basis for some of the European views on witches and witchcraft.

This special extra meeting, held just before Halloween, will explore the myths surrounding witches and witchcraft. Who were these witches, what did they do, and were they really living among us? We will examine local folklore and instances of `witchery` here in the Parish, and in the context of the wider national picture.

The presentation will last for around 50 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

This talk will be available to people attending in person in the village Memorial Hall, as well as available remotely via Zoom. The choice is yours.

You will receive an email from Karen Dickinson, inviting you to join this meeting, about a week before the meeting itself. This email is being sent to all members, whether or not you will be going to the Memorial Hall or viewing remotely via Zoom. Please check in your junk folder if you don't receive it.

On the evening of the talk, you will be able to join the meeting by Zoom 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 starts at 19:30. If you are going to attend in person, the doors of the Memorial Hall, are open from 19:10. We look forward to warmly welcoming you to the second talk of our new Season on 27th October.

Kind regards, Brad Plimmer 29 September, 2023.