

## Forging Ahead – a history of The Old Forge, Welford and the people who lived there



Our next meeting is entitled “Forging Ahead” and will be given by the History Society Chair, Karen Dickinson, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30 in the Memorial Hall Welford (also available via Zoom). Newsletter 96, giving information about this talk is now available. Please click [here](#) to access the complete newsletter on the Local History Society website or carry on reading below.

Karen has lived in the Old Forge on Chapel Street since 2017 where she gives piano and singing lessons. She is also very interested in history and has been researching the more than 400 year old history of her home.

What makes a house interesting? Is it the construction of what may be the oldest house in the village of Welford on Avon, that also housed the Forge. It was a three-bay, two floor dwelling with each bay consisting of a square of approximately 13 x 13 feet. The walls are wattle and daub and one panel has been left open for interest. The roof would have originally been thatch, but is now tiled and there was originally a brew house on the back with an orchard and a well.

Or is it the families who lived here, the Tribes and the Matthews, the descendants of whom are still in the village and still contributing to village life as their forebears did before them as members of the village band, actors in the local amateur dramatic society, serving on the Parish Council and entering their produce in the local show. And what of all those who came before them - are there any more stories to tell? We can go as far back as the 1600's thanks to the hearth tax and find that John Bomley had to pay tax on two hearths and arrears on the hearth in the Forge (I wonder if he thought that didn't count?)

And then there is the Forge itself - what role did it play in the village, and what was it producing for the local farmers and fruit trade? Were there other Blacksmiths in the vicinity in the past and why did this one survive? What happened when the services of a Forge were no longer required?

I will explore these three threads in my 50 minute presentation after which there will be the opportunity to ask questions. Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you in person or via Zoom on 28 March

Kind regards, Karen and the team

The programme for the new Season can be viewed on our website [www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk) The cost of membership remains the same as last year £8 for individuals and £15 for family membership. Guests may attend individual meetings for £5. To join the society please go to [www.welfordandweston.org.uk/membership](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk/membership) and complete the Application Form. If you experience any difficulties, please contact our Chair, Karen Dickinson on 07970 179821

Karen Dickinson

Chair, Welford and Weston Local History Society