

# **The Welford & Weston Local History Society**

## **‘Roman Alcester’**

*An illustrated talk by Laurence Thatcher  
in the Memorial Hall, Welford on Avon  
at 7:30 pm, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015*



Laurence will talk about the arrival of the Romans in Alcester and its development as an important economic centre but, more particularly, the two mysteries associated with the establishment and development of the town during the Roman period. More than 100 archaeological digs have taken place in and around Alcester over the past 80 years. There are no excavations as such to be seen in Alcester at present, but the speaker will show photographs taken by archaeologists during past 'digs' and will bring with him some examples of items which have been found.

Laurence is Chairman of Alcester Roman Heritage, and runs the Roman Museum in Alcester. Whilst the talk is not based on the Roman Museum, Laurence will refer to it regularly in his talk, so it would be more meaningful to anyone who has visited the Museum beforehand.

I'm sure that several of you will have already been to the Roman Museum, but I have to admit that I had never visited it until today (25<sup>th</sup> July). It's well worth a visit. There's a wealth of fascinating artefacts on show. It's very well organised, and there are helpful volunteers on hand to ensure you get the most out of your visit. I was very impressed by it, and would thoroughly recommend it to all our members.

It's not just aimed at our age group. There are plenty of hands on activities and a regular programme of events for all the family. It would certainly solve the challenge of what to do and where to take the grandchildren during the summer holidays. During the holidays it is open 6 days a week (not Sundays), from 10am to 4 pm. In addition, every Tuesday during August they have 'make & take' drop-in craft sessions aimed at the 6 – 10 years old. I now know where I'll be going on 18<sup>th</sup> August with our youngest grandchildren!

I hope by now you're convinced that it would be a great idea to pop in to the museum ahead of the September meeting. If you need more persuasion I'll whisper that admission is FREE. Just a word of caution – don't leave it too late. The Museum itself will be closed from the end of August for several weeks whilst the Alcester Library is relocated into part of the same building. So check your diary now and arrange a visit during August. (The closure of the Museum is the reason I'm sending this Newsletter out earlier than normal.) More information can be found at [www.romanalcester.org](http://www.romanalcester.org). I hope

you're enjoying the summer, and look forward to seeing you again at the September meeting. All the best, Brad.