

Welford and Weston Local History Society
www.welfordandweston.org.uk

Newsletter 41 – August 11th 2017

Thank you for joining or re-joining the Local History Society. Our membership as we move into the 2017/2018 season now stands at 100, which is very encouraging. This level of interest should ensure that we are able to have an exciting and varied programme going forward.

Back on Wednesday, the 7th June, which seems a long time ago now, we had our visit to Tyntesfield, near Bristol. We were lucky with the weather, Wednesday being the only dry day that week. The venue was very interesting and the garden tour excellent. In the end we had a turn out of 40 on the outing. Thanks to Sue and Brad for arranging this visit.

We're currently looking at where we could visit in June 2018. One of the possibilities is an outing to the historic city of Leicester, following on from the talk we had last September on Richard III. This visit would once again include coach transport and we will be researching the content and cost for such a trip in the next couple of months.

*The first meeting of our new season will be on **29th September**, when we will focus on the topic of **Shakespeare's Money**. Our speaker on this occasion is Dr Robert Bearman. He has previously given talks to our Society back in 1996 and 2002 and is a most engaging speaker. When I met him at a Warwickshire History Society seminar in November 2016 and enquired whether he could talk to us for a third time, he offered almost twenty talks, half of them on Stratford and the other half on Shakespeare.*

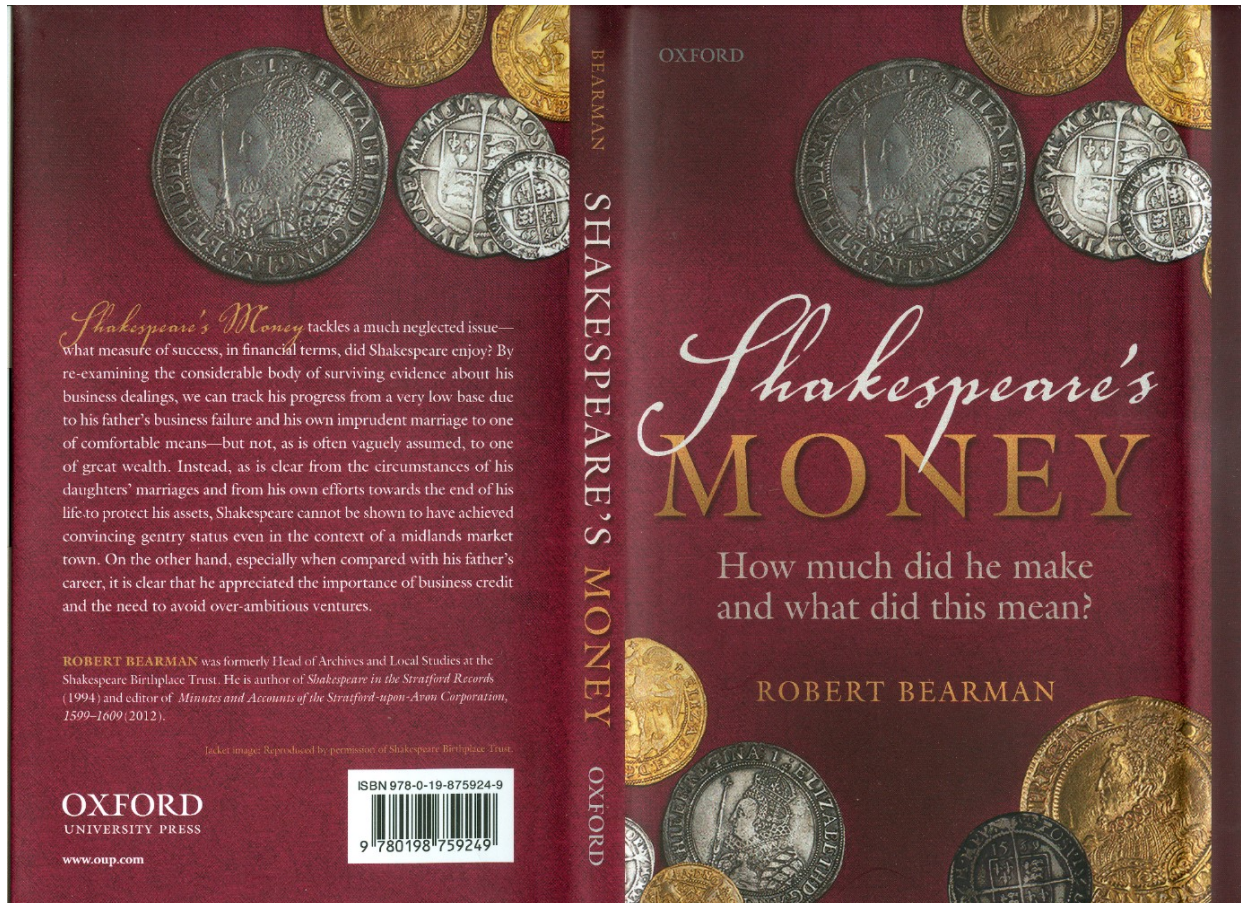
From 1970 he was the archivist at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, retiring in 2007 as Head of Archives and Local Studies. In this role he instigated major cataloguing projects and improved reader access and services, to the benefit of many users. Close involvement with the collections in his care, led to his becoming an internationally acknowledged expert on Stratford and Shakespeare, especially Shakespearean historical biography. It was partly in recognition of his work in these areas that he was awarded an MBE in 2008. Since retirement he has taken his knowledge and skills out into other areas of activity.

His most recent book entitled Shakespeare's Money was published in 2016.

Biographical data about William Shakespeare is very scarce. This hasn't prevented the appearance of an endless series of biographies, many of them based on assumptions and even 'make believe', so for a long time Dr. Bearman felt no need to join the fray.

But a thing that always puzzled him was why nobody had taken much trouble to work out exactly how much money Shakespeare actually made, what he did with it, what this brought him in as 'unearned income' and what effect this had on his social status. Here at least there is a good body of evidence, so often pushed aside by those with pre-conceived ideas of what Shakespeare was like just by reading his plays.

Those of you who are able to come to this talk will soon realise that nobody knows more about the history and records of Stratford-on-Avon in Shakespeare's time than Dr. Bearman.



I do hope you can make this, the first meeting of our 2017-2018 season.

Kind regards,

Brad

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