

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

Newsletter 55 – March 10th, 2019

The excellent January talk to the History Society by Tim Bridges may have whetted your appetite to explore church architecture further. The Society's summer outing on Wednesday 5th June will visit some spectacular and historic churches and also give an insight into medieval Tewkesbury. The trip also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Society as we follow the same route as its first outing in 1969.



Deerhurst Priory

We start at **Deerhurst Priory** much of it dating from the 8th century when it was part of the Kingdom of Mercia. A guided tour will show its incredible architecture. We shall learn how the priory church once came to own the manor of Welford-on-Avon and thus why Baldwin, Prior of Deerhurst is listed as its first rector in 1065 on the board by the main door of St Peter's church in the village. Refreshments will be taken at the adjacent Priory Farm

Nearby we can visit **Odda's Chapel** consecrated in the decade before the Norman Conquest and 'built by Earl Odda for the benefit of the soul of his brother Aelfric.' It was only in the 1850's that the chapel was rediscovered and disentangled from the adjacent farmhouse.

After a short coach ride to Tewkesbury we shall take a two course lunch at the Abbey Tea Rooms and visit the John Moore Museum which comprises three buildings. There is also a secret garden to explore - time permitting.

We shall start with a guided visit to the 15th century **Baptist Chapel**, possibly the earliest Baptist meeting house in the country. A notable feature is the pool in the floor for total immersion baptisms.

We will have a guided tour of the **Merchant's House**, a late medieval shop with workshop and living quarters.

The museum houses the **John Moore natural history collection** with wonderful wildlife, countryside, folklore and conservation exhibits. A short break allows time for light refreshment (at your expense) in the Abbey's 'Touching Souls' tea room or to explore the delights of the Abbey shop.



Tewkesbury Abbey

A highlight of the trip is sure to be the guided tour of the awe inspiring **Tewkesbury Abbey**. We shall be shown its architecture and fabric, and learn how it escaped the worst ravages of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries and became the spectacular parish church it is today.

Practicalities

The cost of the trip is £44 per head which includes coach transport, entry charges for 6 venues, guides where indicated, refreshments at Deerhurst and a two course lunch in Tewkesbury. At lunch, drinks and tea/coffee are available at your own expense. A menu will be sent out so that you can select your choice in advance and so help the restaurant to serve us efficiently.

The coach will leave the Memorial Hall at 09:00 and we plan to return at about 17:30

All walking is on the flat with good, solid surfacing. The longest walk between visits is no more than 100m.

Please register your interest in joining what should prove a most rewarding trip by emailing wwlhs1969@gmail.com with name and number of places required or by contacting any member of the committee.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday March 11th onwards.

*Mike Banning-Lover 750480, Sue Hook 751400, Mike Kearsey 751383,
Brad Plimmer 750716, John Read 750022, Jennifer Sewell 750747*