

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

Newsletter 74 – September 10th, 2021

“Lost villages of Warwickshire”

This 'virtual' talk will be given by Deborah Hayter
on Friday, 24th September

*How can you lose a village? Quite easily it seems. If you look at an Ordnance Survey Explorer series map you may see sites annotated in an Old English font signifying non-Roman archaeological features. For example, a mile or so south of Ilmington lies the **Medieval Village of Compton Scorpion (site of)**. Which of us can't be tempted to speculate on what happened to the people who once lived here and what caused them to abandon it?*

Everyone knows something about Deserted Medieval Villages - (the Plague or Sheep or Enclosure are generally the local explanations for their desertion) – but what really happened to them and why did they disappear? Many of them weren't completely deserted, many weren't medieval and some weren't really villages. Warwickshire is full of the relics of once flourishing settlements - some visible and some completely vanished.



The church of Wolfhampcote standing by itself in the middle of a field



The site of the village of Chelmscote

Our speaker for this talk is Deborah Hayter. Her first degree was in English Language and Literature, but she became fascinated by local history and did an MA at the Centre for English Local History at Leicester. This is the department where Chris Dyer, our Society's Honorary President, is Emeritus Professor of History. Since then Deborah has taught many courses at Oxford's Department of Continuing Education. She is first and foremost a landscape historian, looking to answer the question 'Why do places look like they do?' As chair of the Banbury Historical Society she is also in tune to the interests of a society such as ours.

Some admin for the talk.....

You will receive an email inviting you to join this meeting about a week before the meeting itself. This email is being sent to all members who have renewed their membership, and new members who have joined recently. At the time of writing this newsletter, we once more have a membership of 100. Thank you for joining the Society.

On the evening of the talk you will be able to join the meeting 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 itself starts at 19:30.

If this is your first Zoom meeting, and you would like the opportunity of going over the basic functions of Zoom ahead of the meeting, you should contact Karen Dickinson on the number given above or Brad Plimmer on 750716.

This is the first meeting of the new 2021-2022 season. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be another great talk.

Brad Plimmer 10 September, 2021.