

Unlocking Warwick

The Unlocking Warwick Volunteers Newsletter Summer 2022

Bringing people together
in the heart of Warwick



A picnic in the Market Place began the Jubilee celebrations

This quarterly newsletter brings you up to date with the recent work of the Town Council's Court House Volunteers. Events have been getting back to normal following the lifting of all Covid restrictions, and the summer started with the four-day holiday to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Jubilee Celebrations

Unlocking Warwick secured a small grant to help the Town Council pay for tables and chairs in the Market Place, where there was live music, vintage cars and a small steam railway to entertain the children.



The June edition of our monthly social 'In The Ballroom' marked the Jubilee with a cream tea and traditional tabletop games - vintage bingo, a beetle-drive and a right royal quiz.



In March we resumed these monthly Tea, Talk and Quiz afternoons. They have proved extremely popular with local people who say they are enjoying getting together and meeting old friends after the lifting of all Covid restrictions.

To avoid overcrowding, guests are required to **reserve a place in advance** by dropping-in to the Visitor Information Centre, or calling the team on 01926 492212. Or you can send an email to Trudy Ashmore on enquiries@visitwarwick.co.uk In The Ballroom, from 2pm to 4pm, costs just £3 per person to include the tea and cake – cash only on the door please!

Here's the line-up of speakers for the rest of this year:

July 13th Christine Ramsey: 'Everlasting Flowers'.

Tips on drying and arranging flowers from gardens and the wild.

August 10th Steven Bruce: 'Antiques Collecting'.

Tips on collecting. Bring small items for Steve to tell you about.

September 14th Anthony Paulton-Smith: 'Origins of Pub Names'. The history of pub names and the signs that go with them.

October 12th Steve Garrison: 'Warwick Ghost Stories' Stories behind the doors of Warwick.

November 9th Roger Butler: 'Scottish Treasure Islands' A look at Scotland's islands and the treasures they hold.

December 14th Christmas Celebrations.

For further information or any changes, keep an eye on 'News and Events' on the home page of our website: www.unlockingwarwick.org or contact George Palmer at the Town Council on 01926 411694

Ballroom Dancing Lessons

The other social events that have returned to the Court House ballroom each month are our 'Tea and Dance Lessons', when professional dance teacher, Chris Clarke, leads guests through the steps of ballroom classic such as the waltz and social foxtrot. It's good exercise and good fun.

As with 'In The Ballroom', we are asking people to reserve their places in advance in the Visitor Information Centre to control numbers, though so far, since the lifting of restrictions, numbers have been lower than last year. So why not book a spot on the *fourth Tuesday* of the month at 2pm. Contact the team in the Visitor Information Centre to reserve your place. 01926 492212



Tea and Dance Lessons during the coming months will be on *June 24th - July 26th - August 23rd - September 27th - and October 25th*. The sessions cost just £3 per person to include the refreshments. (Cash only on the door, please.)

Regency Ball Sold Out

Unlocking Warwick's Regency Ball held before Christmas remains as popular as ever, with all the tickets sold out within a few days of them going on sale in May.

We look forward to dancers coming to Warwick from all over the country, to dress up in splendid costumes, and enjoy a full evening of dancing, with dance-caller Frances Richardson and live period music from Mr. Sayer's Players.

This year the ball will be on November 26th, two days after the town's Christmas lights have been switched on during the Victorian evening.



(Note: the ballroom is available for hire. Contact Fiona or Stacy on 01926 830808, or via www.thecourthousewarwick.co.uk)

Court House Tours

Our free Court House Tours show off the building as a venue for private functions, as well as telling guests some of the history of Warwick, from its founding by the Anglo-Saxon Lady of the Mercians in 914. The volunteer guides tell of the construction of the building in 1725 by Francis Smith, the local builder and self-made architect who built many of the fine stone buildings erected after the Great Fire of Warwick had devastated the town in 1694.

So far this summer, most of the guests have been local people who want to know more about their home town. As Covid rates fall, it's hoped many more visitors from overseas will be arriving in Warwick this summer.



Our free tours around the building last about 45 minutes, and happen at 11am on the first Saturday of each month and on Bank Holiday Saturdays. There's no need to book; just turn up at the Visitor Centre.

These are the dates of Court House Tours for the rest of this season. *July 2nd, August 6th and 27th, and September 3rd and 18th (Heritage Open Days Sunday, with tours at 11am and 2pm).* All are welcome to come along.



The manager of the Visitor Information Centre, Liz Healey, marked Volunteer Week in early June with a message of warm thanks to the members of Unlocking Warwick who have been helping out in the Visitor Centre in the Court House. Thank you for the appreciative message, Liz! It's always a pleasure.

If you would like to join the volunteer group, email info@unlockingwarwick.org and we'll get in touch. You can do as much or as little you like, to help us make the Grade-1 listed Court House a centre of community activity, as well as the historic building being the Town Hall, the Information Centre, the Yeomanry Museum and an attractive central venue for hire.

Lots Happening in Warwick

Our 'What's On in Warwick' looks ahead to at least three months, and there's plenty to look forward to this summer in Warwick. In June there's Pub in the Park, Open Studios, The Two Castles Run and lots of concerts.

In July there's Warwick Vintage Carnival, (a new town centre event from CJ Events), the Court Leet Beer Cider and Music Festival, and the famous Warwick Folk Festival at its new location in the castle grounds, with the Smith Street Fair on the Saturday of the festival.

In August, the Commonwealth Games comes to Warwick with the men's and women's cycling road races. Thousands of spectators are expected on August 7th, and there will be road closures for a few days in advance while grandstands are erected.

So if you want to know what's happening, keep your eyes on the 'What's On in Warwick' on our website: www.unlockingwarwick.org

Contacts

The Unlocking Warwick Volunteer Group

Chair: Karen Parker

Secretary: Rick Thompson
Email: info@unlockingwarwick.org

Treasurer: Tricia Scott

Website: www.unlockingwarwick.org

The Warwick Visitor Information Centre

01926 492212
www.visitwarwick.co.uk