
Lillington Local History Society



Our first on-line “meeting” May 2020

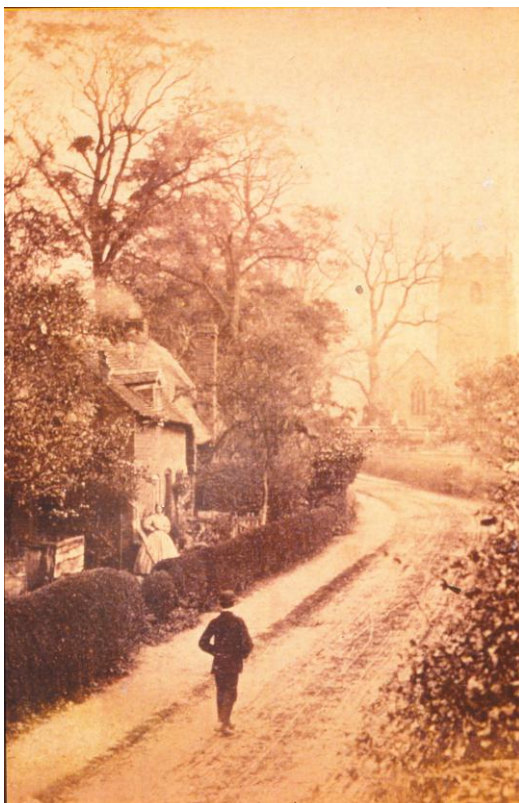
Our plan is to send out a “meeting” newsletter every two months.

It will contain

- New articles about Lillington’s history
- Articles from past editions that you may have missed
- Questions asked by members- and hopefully, the answers
- Personal memories of Lillington’s past
- Updates on Society activities like the road signs project

We hope that you will

- Enjoy the contents with a cup of tea
- Print off a copy for a neighbour’s letterbox



Social distancing in Church Lane 1880

The church can just be seen on the far right..

CROWN WAY POLICE STATION



The building standing at the north east end of Crown Way almost opposite to the car park entrance for Tesco is now the dental practice of Andrew Lee established in 1992. However, it had a former life as a police station when completed in 1963 to a design from the Architects Department of Warwickshire County Council. Whilst the main use was to provide a point of contact for community policing the area, another little know function was being carried out to the rear of the premises.

The Government of the day in the 1960's set up through the Home Office Directorate of Communications, an Outstation for Warwickshire then based in Crown Way. What purpose did this serve you may ask? In order to understand this, we need to go back to 1946 when Police Forces across the country started to use VHF radios. The piecemeal use of radio frequencies created challenges when attempting radio communication between forces in different counties and indeed services such as police, fire and ambulance within the same county. Across the country there were 10 wireless depots with some 60 supporting outstations of which Lillington was one, opened in 1969.

At an outstation in this case Lillington vehicles were brought from Warwickshire Police and Fire Services, also Morton-in-Marsh Fire Training College to have radio receivers, aerials etc. installed and tested in their vehicles by skilled technicians. The facility closed in 1975 following local government and emergency services reorganization. A new purpose-built workshop was constructed in the grounds of Warwickshire Police Headquarters, Woodcote, Leek Wootton.

Each of the services were assigned a call-sign (Home Office Radio Code) this would be used at the beginning and end of each transmission to identify the caller to the Control Room. In my father's day the call sign for Warwickshire Police was 'YJ' and for 'his' Mark V Jaguar KWD 313 'YJ 17'. I am indebted to my friend Peter Riley, a member of the Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society for drawing this to my attention. Peter Coulls



PC Coulls, on the right, paying his respects at the time of the funeral of George VI.
Police station image CRO CR 3379/16... Police car and officers: Peter Coulls

HERBERT COX : LILLINGTON'S FIRST BLUE PLAQUE

Herbert Edward Cox [1870-1941] was a well-known local artist, who produced mainly water colours, especially of Coventry between the Wars. Many of his works are displayed in Coventry's Council House. He lived at **7 Manor Road** from 1913 until he died in 1941. The rear of the property has a modest extension, constructed by the original builder Mr Pratt, so that the newer brickwork appears seamless. Herbert Cox used the upper storey as his studio as it provided a space with a good 'north light'.

Herbert Cox taught painting at the Coventry Institute, now City College Coventry. Leamington Museum and Art Gallery has a particularly fine example of his work in a water colour painting of Lillington Church, with cows in Church Lane.

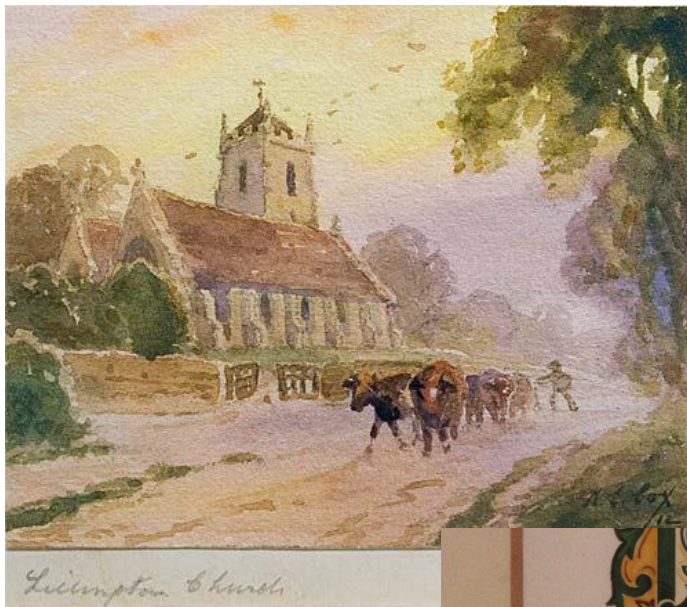


Image reproduced by kind permission of Leamington Museum & Art Gallery, Warwick District Council

Herbert Cox also produced ornamental scrolls including, in 1927, a signed illuminated list of past Vicars of Lillington Church. In one of the corners there is a small sketch showing the church interior.



On Saturday, 3rd. September 2011, the Mayor of Leamington unveiled a Blue Plaque on the front of his house: 7 Manor Road

THE LILLINGTON ESTATE THAT WAS NEVER BUILT



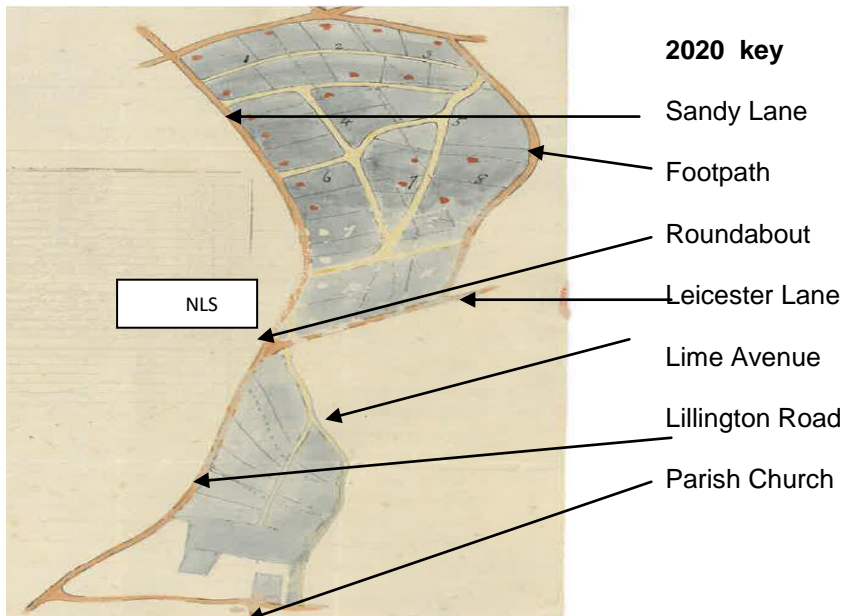
This sketch map from 1838 outlined how some of the land in north Lillington might be developed. It was a time of expansion, and big houses with substantial gardens [2 to 3 acres] were an attractive proposition for speculative builders. This estate was never built but you can see the proposed roads and [red] houses, set amidst their mini-estates.

Image reproduced by kind permission of Warwickshire County Record Office CR4141-Q5-E2-58 p3

The idea for the estate is set out in a letter to Edward Willes from his agent J.G.Jackson. Jackson played a very significant role in the development of Leamington and was an architect as well as a

planner. In his letter about the proposed estate in Lillington he notes that times are not really propitious for such a project because several local speculators had recently over-reached themselves and had gone bankrupt. "It would almost seem the determination of the legal gentlemen to ruin all the builders for, instead of giving them time and thereby enabling them to uphold the value of their property, all is forced to sale and consequently depreciated for very far below its actual cost."

170 years later the Humber Farm estate remains largely green belt land, and the Manor Farm estate is principally a post-war development. The only 'villa' built on this land was Elm Bank, demolished in 1960.



MANOR FARM : THE 1876 INVENTORY



There has been a farmhouse in Lime Avenue for at least 300 hundred years. In 1876 the then farmer, the widow Mary Beamish, died and all her personal property was listed for probate. In addition to her 147 sheep and lambs, which must have grazed the fields between where Lime Avenue and Telford Avenue are now, she had six horses and a number of cattle. We know four of the horses' names: Captain, Prince, Poppet and Bonney. Mary Beamish had also grown crops of winter beans, wheat, barley, oats, peas and hay.

The inventory for Mary Beamish's house details every one of her possessions down [literally] to the final teaspoon, of which she had 12. She also had 6 salt spoons and 18 dessert spoons. She had an extensive range of pots and pans for making cheese and butter. The cheese room was separate from the dairy. Mary Beamish had a lot of linen, including 35 pairs of sheets, 24 chamber napkins and 12 toilette covers. She kept three decanters, 12 wine glasses and 28 tumblers in the dressing room, but the total wine stock was seven bottles of homemade wine, two bottles of port or sherry and a liqueur.

The inventory, which can be seen in the County Record Office [Reference CR2433/31/179], is written in pencil over several pages of a small red covered notebook. Each item is given a value for probate purposes, but these are in a letter code and hard to work out. Mary Beamish was buried in the Lillington churchyard alongside her husband, roughly in the area of the present Octagon. Her property was worth £1,877, 4 shillings and 6d., roughly £132,000 in today's money.

Lillington Local History Society Website



The website address is: www.lillingtonhistory.org

This Newsletter is published by the Lillington Local History Society, c/o Lillington Free Church, Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 7AL The views expressed in the Newsletter are personal to the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Society.