**Whilton Local History Society**

**Report to Annual Parish Meeting May 2022**

This is our first significant report since 2019. We did manage a January AGM in 2020, but after that lockdown put a stop to all our plans.

Last summer we tentatively began again with two woad walks round the village and in September we held our first Heritage Open Day, which involved the whole community, from Pre-School to Parish Council. The event was based around the 17th century Whilton Stone, now in Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, and the Victorian Harvest Festivals organised by Randolph Skipwith, who brought the stone to Whilton. We thank everyone who so wholeheartedly gave time and talents to this event.

The books about the stone have sold out, but we have literally a handful of second editions, if anyone is interested

2022 began with our AGM and a Regency meal, such as may have been served in Whilton Rectory in 1822, 200 years ago. One again this was a wonderful team effort by the committee and spouses, so we have much appreciation for this.

In March I talked about the lords and ladies of Whilton Manor, one of whom died in the Battle of Mortimers Cross in 1461, while his son died at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

We have just held an event remembering the four young men from Whilton who died in the Second World War. Representatives of all four families were able to attend, and we also included an art exhibition of the paintings of Eric Fleming, who grew up in Whilton Locks, and whose brother was killed in 1940. Once again this was a real team effort, shared with relatives of the families, who lent precious items and photos. Whilton parishioners helped in so many ways: enabling car parking, cutting the churchyard grass, lending and making display easels, designing display boards, making and serving refreshments, preparing music of the period, acting as stewards, setting out and clearing up. I am sure I have left some out, but thank you to all.

Our next event will be an outing to Weedon Barracks and Museum on 15th July. If you are interested in joining us, please let Brian or Marian know.

This may possibly be my last report to Whilton Annual Parish Meeting (although that is not certain), and I would like to record how very much I appreciate all the support given to the Society ever since it was formed. For such a little village, we have a lot of history! There are meetings planned for September and November, so please continue to support the Local History Society as the future is planned for.

Anthea Hiscock