

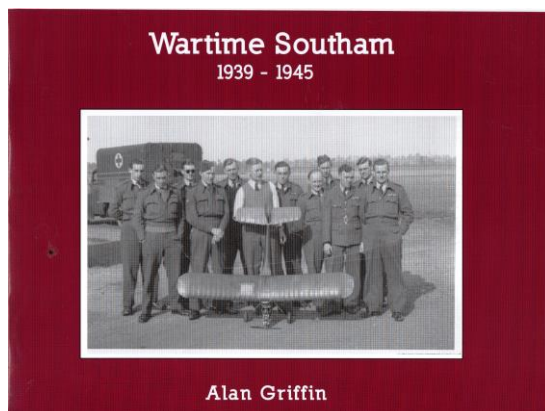
# The Leamington Omnibus

Newsletter of the Leamington History Group

Summer 2017

## Update: New publications

### Alan Griffin: Wartime Southam



Founder member of Leamington History Group, former Secretary and Chairman, Alan Griffin still contributes substantially to the history society of his birthplace, Southam Heritage ([www.southamheritage.org](http://www.southamheritage.org)). His latest publication, in memory of his grandfather Ralph, killed in action in January 1915, was launched at Southam History Day on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

'Wartime Southam,' traces the lives of the Southam men who gave their lives in WW2, through the stories behind the photographs. Alan's book gives an insider's view of contemporary life in the old market town at a very dark time. It is a 'must' for any local historian, and is on sale at Southam Heritage Collection, priced £6.99

### Allan Jennings: A view from the Home Front

Allan Jennings has followed his 'Bombing of Royal Leamington Spa' book with the second part of the story - 'Royal Leamington Spa 1939-1945 - A View from the Home Front'.

He originally thought that the Leamington story would make a small book of around 100 pages. How wrong he was, - it currently stands at over 400 pages, thanks to the many contributors who have added in their stories. Allan was hoping to publish in time for Leamington History Day in September, but unfortunately, this will not be possible. However, he is on course to publish later in the year, - so put it on your Christmas list now!

The retail price is likely to be £19.95. To make sure of your copy (and enjoy a subscriber's discount), why not order in advance, direct from Allan by text or email, on 07505978416 or [allan.jennings1@ntlworld.com](mailto:allan.jennings1@ntlworld.com)



### The History of Leamington in 100 Buildings

Under the leadership of Mick Jeffs, five LHG members are currently engaged in a fascinating research project on the 100 or so significant buildings which tell the story of Royal Leamington Spa. It may eventually be published in book form or on the internet. We have compiled a list of about 100 buildings which you can see by clicking on the website, but are more than happy to accept input from the wider LHG community, especially snippets of history about these buildings and anyone connected with them. We would also consider ideas about buildings which are not yet on our list. We are grateful to members who have offered support. Please contact us through the website if you can help.

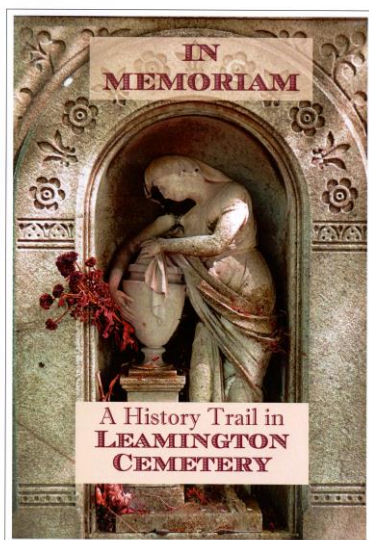
## Ironfounders of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Leamington Spa

A joint project between Warwickshire Industrial Society (WIAS) and LHG is gradually piecing together the history of ironfounding in Leamington and Warwick, and the huge contribution of a number of notable entrepreneurs to the development of iron working in the area. This too, may result in a publication later in the year. Please get in touch with Margaret Rushton ([rushtonmm1860@gmail.com](mailto:rushtonmm1860@gmail.com)) or Mick Jeffs ([mick263@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mick263@hotmail.co.uk)) if you can help in any way.

### Heritage Open Days, September 7- 10 2017

Leamington History Group will be partaking fully in Heritage Open days, 2017, as we have since we were first formed at Bath Place, when a number of unsuspecting members and visitors were subjected to a Victorian School lesson, complete with a school mistress in wig and gown.

These days, LHG just opens South Lodge (Parade entrance of Jephson Gardens) on all four afternoons, from 12.20-3.30 pm, enabling Leamingtonians and visitors alike to enjoy the permanent exhibition of the history of the Gardens. How many of us knew that the Gardens were originally an



arboretum, with specimen trees from all over the world, or that they held Leamington's first Archery Ground? Before the setting up of the Leamington lawn Tennis Club at Guys Cliffe Avenue, tennis tournaments were held every summer on the top lawn, famously ploughed up in WW2 for the 'Dig For Victory' Campaign. Perhaps the favourite display is of the Leamington Lights, - begun in 1951 after the Festival of Britain, - and still vividly remembered by so many people from all over the Midlands.

Additionally, on Saturday and Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm, there will be guided walks of Brunswick Street cemetery, where you can discover the astonishing number of courageous, gifted, creative and sometimes eccentric Leamington residents of the past. Meet at the 'Whitnash' gate. The walk is suitable for all ages and abilities, and follows designated paths appropriate for mobility-scooter users.

A LHG booklet, 'In Memoriam, a History Trail in Leamington Cemetery' is available from the guide, priced £3.50, or from South Lodge any Tuesday morning between 10 am -12 noon.

### Reminder

Leamington History Group is open to all. We hold a weekly 'Drop-in' on Tuesday mornings at South Lodge, Jephson Gardens, from 10am - 12 noon, and a monthly evening meeting on the fourth Monday of every month except August, at the Dormer Centre, Dormer Place, starting at 7.30 pm. These meetings are presented by visiting speakers, on topics of local history or research interest. We have strong working links with a number of local history societies and are affiliated to the British Association for Local History, who cover us for Insurance for meetings and walks. We are proud to have helped revive and improve the free guided Town Walks which take place each summer. The highlight of the year is the annual History Day, held at the Parish Church in September each year, when local history societies great and small come to Leamington to showcase their activities. Contact Margaret Rushton, LHG Secretary ([rushtonmm1860@gmail.com](mailto:rushtonmm1860@gmail.com)) for further information. Full details of all activities and LHG annual subscription can be found on the website, [www.leamingtonhistory.co.uk](http://www.leamingtonhistory.co.uk)