

The Welford & Weston Local History Society

www.welfordandweston.org.uk

[Newsletter 95 – December 29th, 2024](#)

**‘In search of health’ early services in rural Warwickshire.
1820-1900**

An illustrated talk given by Dr John Wilmot

31st January 2025, at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall, Welford

(also available via Zoom)

Our first talk of the New Year will be given by Dr John Wilmot, who is the current Chairman of the Warwickshire Local History Society.

Dr Wilmot was for over 30 years a GP in Leamington. When he retired in 2008, he became interested in the history of his own house, then of local history more generally. He enrolled on part-time courses, at Oxford’s Continuing Education Department (diploma and then a master’s degree) and eventually took a part-time PhD at Warwick. His research focussed on the institutions called dispensaries which provided medical care for working people up to the coming of the NHS.

Dr Wilmot will be considering developments in small towns and rural areas, with a focus on Stratford-upon-Avon. This talk was recommended to us by an existing member of our Society, who felt it would be of particular interest to former nurses who are now members of our Society as well as to the wider community.

These are two of the earliest buildings in Stratford devoted to health care. The first is the former Infirmary (1838-1890s), Chapel Lane, Stratford. This building (in a somewhat enlarged form) is currently used as offices for the RSC.



The second is the former Stratford Public Dispensary, Chapel Street, Stratford. This modest building in Central Stratford housed the first charitable institution dedicated to medical care in the town. The dispensary was founded in 1823. This building is now a book shop.



The third is of a typical ward, of a larger hospital, of uncertain date.

The presentation will last for around 60 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

The programme for the 2024/25 Season can be viewed on our website. The cost of membership remains the same as last year. £8 for individual membership and £15 for family membership. Guests can attend individual meetings for £5, paying at the door.

To renew your membership for the 2024 – 2025 season, please go to the Society website, and click on Membership under Quick Links or click on this link...

.... <https://welfordandweston.org.uk/Membership/> & you will be taken to the Renewal / Application Form.

If you experience any problems with using our website or are having difficulties with the Application Form, please contact Karen Dickinson, our Chair, on 07970 179821.

This talk will be available to people attending in person in the village Memorial Hall, as well as available remotely via Zoom. The choice is yours.

You will receive an email from Karen Dickinson, inviting you to join this meeting, about a week before the meeting itself. This email is being sent to all members, whether or not you will be going to the Hall or viewing remotely via Zoom. Please check in your junk folder if you don't receive it.

***On the evening** of the talk, you will be able to join the meeting by Zoom 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 starts at 19:30. If you are going to attend in person, the doors of the Memorial Hall, are open from 19:10. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be another great talk.*

Karen Dickinson, Chair, Welford & Weston Local History Society, 29th December, 2024.