

Annual report for Warwick Town Council

Warwick Words History Festival 2018

Warwick Words History Festival 1– 7 October 2018

- Series of 45 History based events including talks, walks and lectures including 18 *In and Around Warwickshire* events – based on local history.
- Events hosted across the town including: Court House Ballroom, St Mary's Church, Lord Leycester Hospital, County Records Office, Friends Meeting House, Kings High School, Warwick School, Warwick Library, Warwick Arms Hotel, St Nicholas Church and Warwick Castle.
- Hosted national historians and journalists including: Dan Snow, Tracy Borman, Max Hastings, Alison Weir, Juliet Barker, Saul David, Kate Williams and many more.
- Worked alongside local historians and speakers including: Heidi Meyer, Trevor Langley, Graham Sutherland, Sylvia Pinches, Jacqui Kirk, Nick Corbett, Ginny Davis and more.
- One of the big changes was the introduction of ticket sales at Warwick Visitor's Information Centre – increased footfall into the centre and made ticket buying easier for local people from Warwick.
- Attracted existing and new audiences into the town to exclusive events.
- Strengthened relationships with new external partners and businesses including: Warwick Court Leet, Unlocking Warwick, Torry's DIY, Warwick Castle, Westham House Trust Fund, Kings High School and Warwick School, Warwick Books, Thomas Oken Tea Rooms and Brethren's Kitchen and Warwick District Council.
- Strengthened relationship with University of Warwick History Department by developing series of tea Time Talks.
- Attracted over 4,500 people to the town from across the country.
- Festival promoted locally and around Birmingham to London. Featured in the Independent and local press and radio.
- 45 local volunteers help with festival and events.
- Warwick Words History Society Fair – attracted 12 local history groups to share their work including: *Our Warwickshire*, *Unlocking Warwick*, *Warwick History Society*, *Warwickshire Gardens Trust*, *Warwickshire Local History Society* and the *Royal Regiment of Fusiliers* plus others.

Warwick Words History Festival 2019 will be held from 30 September to 6 October