

## **WELLAND HISTORY GROUP**

Newsletter September 2024

**Friday 27 September, 3:00 pm\*, Welland Village Hall**

### **Boundaries: creating them, beating them, arguing over them and sustaining them**

A talk by Wendy Jones, Chris Mesley and Bev Ramsden

Welland has been in existence for well over a thousand years. How was the parish created and its boundaries defined and perpetuated? What disputes arose? And are the boundaries now fixed permanently?

All welcome, entry £1 at the door, refreshments

*\* Please note the later start time.*

### **Write-up of Mike Street's talk on Madresfield Court, 28 June**

Mike, a tour guide at Madresfield Court, led us through the history of this moated house and estate, which has never been sold but only passed by inheritance from one generation to the next. The de Bracy family held it for three centuries until Joan Bracy married Thomas Lygon in 1419-1420. Their only son inherited it in 1450 and the Lygons' descendants have held it since then. The medieval building was replaced in the 16th century and major reconstruction took place in the 19th century to create the house we see today, now Grade 1 listed.

The family's fortunes were boosted when William Lygon, later to become 1st Earl Beauchamp, inherited a share of the great wealth of a distant relative, William Jennens, who died in 1798. Many people made a claim to the estate and lawsuits continued for decades, thought to have inspired Charles Dickens' creation of the long-running Jarndyce v Jarndyce lawsuit in Bleak House.

The 7th Earl Beauchamp was a patron of the Arts and Crafts movement and commissioned many works from its craftsmen, notably in the library and chapel, with its richly painted walls and ceiling.

Amongst the famous visitors over the years was Evelyn Waugh, who knew the family well and visited frequently in the 1930s. The fictional Flyte family in his *Brideshead Revisited* (1945) is believed to have been based on the Lygons.

Madresfield Court was also selected as a possible residence for the royal family if they were forced to leave London during World War II but this never happened.

Our thanks go to Mike Street for his very interesting and enjoyable talk.

## **Welland Women's Institute, c 1960**

Does anyone have an original print of this photograph? This is the scanned image of a photocopy, supplied by the late Mary Purser, who also gave me some of the ladies' names. If you have a print and are willing to lend it for scanning, please let me know. The photo and list of names will be available to see at the September meeting.



## **Exploring Welland**

Beverley has recently added to our website an article (written by me) about Welland's war memorial. Some of you may have attended the dedication ceremony in 2005.

<https://wellandhistory.uk/2024/09/04/war-memorial/>

## **Next meeting**

Friday 29 November: Welland's roads and tollhouses

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*If you no longer wish to be on this emailing list, please email me, phone me, or put a note through my door.*