

Historians' Meeting 26 January 2024

Allan Howard: 'Four Bagot Ladies'

Allan welcomed members to the first meeting of the New Year. He talked about plans for the coming year, including the Parish Boundary walk in September. The walk will be divided into four sections and members volunteered to lead the various sections and recce the walk beforehand.

Allan's talk on four female members of the Bagot family started with an overview of the Bagots of Blithfield, near Abbots Bromley. They are in all probability one of the very few families who have held their lands in unbroken continuity since the reign of William the Conqueror when the estate of Bagot's Bromley was held by one Bagod of Robert de Stafford.

The first lady to be discussed was Agnes Lane 1809-1885, the "Little Queen of Kings Bromley", who married John Newton Lane of Kings Bromley in 1828. Allan went on to talk about Anne Bagot 1774-1847, who was the eldest daughter of Rev Walter Bagot, Rector of Blithfield. She never married but kept a diary of her active social life and travels for 22 years.

The next Bagot lady to be discussed was Mary Howard 1785-1877, daughter of Richard Bagot. She was a philanthropist and heiress who lived in Elford, responsible for the rebuilding of churches, schools and cottages and for contributions to many charities.

The final Bagot lady, Nancy Bagot 1919-2014, was introduced as the "Saviour of Blithfield Hall". She was the wife of Caryl Bagot, 6th Baron Bagot, and repurchased the property after her husband sold it at auction in 1959. After the death of her husband in 1961, she remarried but later divorced and resumed the name 'Nancy Lady Bagot' by deed poll.