General History Group 2026 programme at 27 Sept 2025 – part 3

Wed 9 September 2026 Visit to The Lord Leycester Hospital at Warwick – fully booked. A day visit with entry, a heritage tour by staff. Time to visit the Masters Garden and to independently explore Warwick and Collegiate Church of St Mary a beautiful church that dominates Warwick's skyline. Not to be missed during your visit, take in the Church's rich history and marvel at the nearby magnificent 15th century Beauchamp Chapel.





Over 700 years ago, the United Guilds of Warwick built their headquarters consisting of a meeting room, banqueting hall, mansion for the Master of the Guilds, storage rooms and lodgings for travellers. The Guildsmen built this splendid example of medieval half-timbered buildings with trees felled in the 1200's from forests across England. Today, the site survives intact and tops the list of most complete and important medieval buildings in the British Isles.

The buildings are extraordinary, but what makes them unique is the enduring communities that have lived within the walls since the 1300's. First came the Guilds, and then the Earl of Leicester, Robert Dudley, who was a favourite of Elizabeth I. Dudley founded the Lord Leycester Hospital in 1571 – a philanthropic community of a Master and twelve Brethren. Coming from the ranks of soldiers injured in Tudor wars, the Brethren were deserving recipients of Dudley's philanthropy.

For programme October – December 2026 please see part 4