

Report of Malvern Civic Society Talk by Andy Cameron on 13 October 2017

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings

On 13th October, Malvern Civic Society members were treated by Avoncroft Museum volunteer Andy Cameron to an excellent illustrated talk about the museum, its exhibits and history. Founded originally in Bromsgrove in 1963 as the Avoncroft Folk Village Association, its first exhibit was the 15th century timber framed 'Merchants House'. Dismantled, carefully reassembled and restored at the museum, it was the first of a collection of 30 or so historic buildings now relocated to this open air site.

The museum has a variety of domestic and workplace buildings; among the larger exhibits are the Merchants House, the Windmill, the Guesten Hall, and a cruck framed barn. Smaller but equally cherished are a post WW2 Prefab, an ice house, a toll house and a 3 hole toilet 'closet'. Many of the exhibits, such as the Prefab, are furnished to illustrate contemporary life.

Some of the buildings are in active use again. The Victorian Church, originally from Herefordshire, was dismantled, reassembled at Avoncroft and is now re-dedicated and used for services. The museum's Guesten Hall is used for community events: its roof was faithfully reconstructed using preserved timbers from the roof of the former Worcester Cathedral Guesten Hall. The 'Doctor Who' Police Box is part of the museum's extensive collection of telephone kiosks, and is a favourite with visitors as background to photographs – it is not presently time travel capable!

With refreshment facilities and guided walks, a visit to the museum has exhibits of interest to all ages. Civic Society members have a visit planned.