



Friday Focus: The Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick

St Mary's Church in Warwick is home to '*one of the masterpieces of medieval art.*' The journalist and author of a bestselling book on English churches, Simon Jenkins, recently wrote this about the tomb of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, adding that the chapel built to house it is '*complete, spectacular and to some acerbic critics even rather vulgar.*' Visitors to Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum can find out more about the fascinating history of the chapel and the key personalities associated with it at a lunchtime talk by Jeff Watkin on **Friday 5 March at 1pm.**

Work on building the Beauchamp Chapel began in 1443, as the Hundred Years War with France was closing, and was completed in 1464, by which time the Wars of the Roses were well underway in England. The construction of the chapel therefore spans two of the greatest conflicts of the fifteenth century. It also helps commemorate two of the most important participants in them. The first was Richard Beauchamp himself, a great noble who was a friend and companion in arms of King Henry V, victor against the French at Agincourt. The other is Richard Neville, Beauchamp's son-in-law who also became Earl of Warwick. Now best known as 'The King Maker' for his role in the Wars of the Roses, Richard Neville is present as one of the figures – 'weepers' - along the sides of Richard Beauchamp's tomb.

The talk which is part of the Art Gallery & Museum's Friday Focus programme will be illustrated by images from the collections of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum and elsewhere.

You can drop in for a Friday Focus on Fridays at 1pm, the event is free and there is no need to book. For further information and a programme please call 01926 742700 or visit the Royal Pump Rooms website, www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms

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Further information – Call Jeff Watkin, Heritage and Arts Manager, on 01926 742708 (jeff.watkin@warwickdc.gov.uk) or Emma Lewis, Publicity Officer, on 01926 742709 (emma.lewis@warwickdc.gov.uk)