

Compared with towns like Winchester, York and Chester etc its history is a brief, but nevertheless proud one. Like most boroughs Leamington has its civic insignia and gladly displays this on public occasions. Royal Leamington Spa became a borough in 1875 and the charter of incorporation, together with the grant of arms made the following year, are now housed in two handsome cabinets presented to the town by the Leamington Spa Courier.

Following the abolition of the borough of Royal Leamington Spa by the Local Government Act, 1972, custody of the civic insignia was given to the Charter Trustees, a duty undertaken until the grant of Town Council status in 2002.



Crest of Royal Leamington Spa.

## COMPOSITION OF THE COAT OF ARMS OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

**CREST.** The Ragged Staff, which was the ancient badge of the Earls of Warwick, also the Staff of Aesculapius the Greek god of health.

**BADGE OF THE MONKS OF KENILWORTH.** Two flowers, stalks bent and wreath wise.

**BORDURE.** Fleur de Lys, from the arms of Geoffrey de Clinton.

**MULLETT.** From the Willes Coat of Arms. (Three five pointed stars).

**PARTY PERFESS.** (The horizontal division of the shield) representing the two Manors, Newbold Comyn and Leamington Priors.

**ARMS OF AMBROSE DUDLEY, EARL OF WARWICK.** (A green lion).

**CHEVRON.** Vair from the Arms of Fisher of Packington Hall.

**MOTTO.** SOLA BONA QUAE HONESTA. (Those things alone are good which are honourable).

### Helpful Notes

**Aesculapius.** The Latin name of Asclepius, the Greek God of medicine. Homer called him "the blameless physician". This crest shows his staff with coiled snake.

**Bordure.** The outer area of shield showing fleur-de-lys. Arms of Geoffrey de Clinton founder of Kenilworth Priory. The Priory owned Leamington for 392 years.

**Mullet.** A five pointed star. From the Willes coat of arms. The Willes family held the Newbold Comyn Estate for more than 400 years.

**The Green Lion.** Queen Elizabeth I<sup>st</sup> granted the manors of Leamington Priors and Newbold Comyn to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick so his emblem the green lion occupies both divisions of the shield.

**Chevron.** Arms of the Fisher family who became Lord Aylesford. Their home is Packington Hall. Thus, Aylesford Well and Aylesford Street.

This information was researched at Leamington Spa Library.