## The History of Abbey Fields, Kenilworth

## A talk by Robin Leach - 17th October 2024

Robin Leach is a local historian and author who has been



researching, for over 40 years, the last 200 years or so of Kenilworth history.

Ten of his books have been published about the town.

One of his books 'The Abbey Fields' was published in 2017 and according to the Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society 'will remain the standard work for years to come'.

Abbey Fields is a 68-acre (28 ha) <u>park</u> that is found in the centre of <u>Kenilworth</u>. The park was

once <u>farmland</u> belonging to <u>St Mary's Abbey</u>, which was <u>dissolved</u> in the middle of the sixteenth century and is now <u>ruined</u>. <u>St Nicholas Church</u>, with origins from the twelfth century, remains in the park.

Robin's talk, like the book, concentrates on the complicated acquisition of the fields and its years as the town's park, including of course the swimming pool and other amenities, its development, events, the two world wars, archaeology, etc., and touches on the future.