



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

SOCIETY NEWS I regret to announce the death of John Pitkin on 8th July after a short illness. I am sure you would wish to join with me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Betty and all the family. John had been a member of the Society for very many years and a member of the Committee for some time. He was one of the first volunteers to help in the Museum Store and in recent years worked regularly entering documents and artefacts on MODES. He was always involved in preparing for exhibitions. We shall miss his support and his good humour.

MEETINGS In March we had a fascinating talk, entitled *The History of Royal Flying* by Graham Laurie, formerly a pilot of the Queen's Flight. This was preceded by the AGM at which Linda Rollitt was elected Secretary of the Society. Linda has set up and managed for the Society both the Castle website and the Society website: www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk, www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk We now have, with the loss of John, three vacancies on the committee. Volunteers or suggestions, please.

On April 23rd a special members' evening was held, with a short illustrated presentation by Ken Wallis on the Society's collection. Members had an opportunity to see some of our artefacts for themselves.

SUMMER OUTINGS A small group of members visited the Museum of St. Albans in June when Chris Green gave a detailed explanation of the Salaman collection of tools, a useful complement to his earlier talk. In July members visited the High Wycombe Museum to see the collection of Windsor Chairs, again following on from an earlier talk. On Sunday 10th August a walk along the Wendover Arm with Roger Leishman has been planned. Please phone Ken Wallis on 877592 for further details and requests for help with transport.

PENNY FARTHING CYCLISTS Residents were somewhat surprised to see several penny farthing cyclists approaching the Castle down Bridgewater Road on 3rd May. The Society welcomed members of the International Veteran Cycle Association from Germany, Scotland, the USA, New Zealand and Canada, to the town. They were keen to see the birthplace of Thomas Stevens, the nineteenth century Berkhamstedian noteworthy for travelling round the world on a bicycle.

CASTLE VISITOR ROOM This opened for the Easter Weekend and then for the summer on 3rd May. So far this season almost 1700 have visited the room. Very many thanks to those of you who have acted as stewards. More still are required, particularly for the August Bank Holiday Weekend. We are open until the end of September on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays.

PERCY BIRTCHNELL MEMORIAL PRIZE This was held for the 7th year and the topic, based on the National Curriculum was yet again *Victorian Berkhamsted*. The winners were Annabel Hunt and Hannah Salmon, both of whom entitled their projects *How Life Changed in Victorian Berkhamsted*.

BOOK SALES We have a few books formerly sold by *Bookstack* available for members at very reduced prices. Birtchnell's *Bygone Berkhamsted*, Nash's *Reminiscences of Berkhamsted* and Eric Meadows's *Gateway to the Chilterns*. We also have copies of *Berkhamsted- a History & Celebration*, and its accompanying Quiz Book, which are no longer available in the town. These are of particular interest to anyone new to Berkhamsted. Please contact me on 865158 or email Ksherw9100@aol.com

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS Once again the Society is organising Heritage Open Days from Friday 12th September –Sunday 14th September. Details will soon be available on www.heritageopendays.org.uk and from the enclosed leaflet

PROGRAMME 2008-09 The new programme is enclosed, once again covering a wide range of topics. We always welcome feedback or suggestions.

DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST NEWS. We were sorry to have to say 'Goodbye' at the end of June to Lyndsey McLean, Acting Curator at the Museum Store. She has returned to her native Scotland to take up an exciting post at the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. On the positive side the Dacorum Heritage Trust was awarded Accredited Museum status also at the end of June.

**I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN IN
SEPTEMBER!**

JENNY SHERWOOD JULY 2008