



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

SOCIETY NEWS. I regret to announce the death of my husband Ken Sherwood on 6th April in the Leonard Pulham Nursing Home, Halton. I should like to express my thanks for the many kind letters and cards I have received and for the support I have had from so many members in the last difficult months. Although he was never on the Committee of the Society he gave tremendous support behind the scenes and cared passionately about the history of Berkhamsted. His support was invaluable.

MEETINGS. In January we welcomed John Hopkins of the Sarratt Local History Society who gave us a well-researched talk on the Victorian Church in Sarratt and the surrounding district. In February Julian Evan-Hart spoke on 'Aviation History in Hertfordshire'. We ended the season with a talk by member, Bill Willett, who gave a very detailed talk, entitled 'Berkhamsted Maps- a potted history of Cartography.' All meetings were well attended.

At the AGM in March Jenny Sherwood, our Chairman, was re-elected to serve for a further two years. Other officers of the Committee remain the same.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS. Ken Wallis, our Programme Secretary, has arranged an interesting programme of outings for the summer. Firstly on 14th May at 11.15 for 11.30 we are visiting the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1, High Street, at corner of Lambeth road, London. This follows on from the interesting talk we heard last September. The Museum of Garden-History is directly opposite so members are welcome to visit that museum afterwards. On 7th June at 1.45 for 2.00 we have arranged a walk around the village of Sarratt. Meet at the Village Hall at the southwest end of the village by the Cricketers Public House. On 15th August a walk has been arranged along the Wendover Arm to see the restoration work on the canal. Further details, bookings, request for transport contact Ken Wallis, 877592

'WALK BACK IN TIME.' The Society is participating in this series of historic walks sponsored by the Chiltern Conservation Board. They comprise a visit to the Castle Visitor Room, a guided tour of the Castle and a guided tour of the principal historic sites of the town. The first two took place on 22nd March and 5th April and were very well supported with people coming some distance to participate. Two more are arranged for 14th June and 19th July. The walks last approximately 2 ½ hours and start from the Castle main gate. £3 adults, £1.50 children. Bookings to Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or email Ksherw9100@aol.com

CASTLE VISITOR ROOM. The Visitor Room opened for the Easter weekend and will open for the summer season on 2nd May. From then on it will be open Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays until 27th September, from 10am-4pm. Stewards for the season are required. Members will be interested to know that English Heritage has recently installed several information boards in the castle grounds, which are certainly an improvement on the previous almost total lack of information. The information in the Visitor Room augments this information.

SCHOOL GROUPS. We are also offering guided tours of the Castle for school and other children's groups and to other interested groups, local history societies, U3As etc during the week or at weekends and have already received five bookings for the summer.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS. These will be held in Berkhamsted on 12th and 13th September. Details are now being finalised. Many of the most popular sites, such as the Foundling Hospital, 173, High Street, Berkhamsted School, the Town Hall and tours of the DHT Museum Store will be included again. We are including this year, Sunnyside Church, in the centenary year of the present church's consecration. Full details will be distributed to members later in the year, advertised locally and published on the Heritage Open Days website.

SUNNYSIDE CHURCH CENTENARY EXHIBITION An exhibition depicting the history of Sunnyside and its church will be held in the Breukelman Room, Sunnyside Church from 26th June – 2nd July. A history of the church, 'The Story of Sunnyside' will also be available at the exhibition and at other outlets in the town.

DHT NEWS A number of members will have visited the DHT exhibition earlier this year in which the proposals for the refurbishment of the Museum Store were displayed and a consultation exercise was held to gauge possible support from the public for the proposals, prior to making a Heritage Lottery bid. The success of this bid would bring considerable benefit to our Society and other societies whose collections are deposited in the DHT Museum Store as well as to education groups and the public at large.

A Conservation Open Day has been arranged to take place in the DHT Museum Store on Saturday 13th June from 10am-2pm. Discover how museums clean and care for objects. Watch curators and volunteers work on textiles, books and paper records and find out how we keep objects safe from different insects. Tours will run every half hour. Suggested donation £3 per person. Further enquiries on 879525.

PUBLICATIONS The Society still holds a stock of 'Berkhamsted-a History & Celebration' and the accompanying Quiz book, both available at a lower price. We also have a few copies of Nash's 'Reminiscences of Berkhamsted', Birtchnell's 'Bygone Berkhamsted' and Eric Meadows' 'Gateway to the Chilterns,' again available at a favourable price.

FOUNDLING VOICES work has now started on recording former foundlings' memories, especially those at the hospital in Berkhamsted. The Society is represented on the Steering Committee at the Foundling Museum.

ENQUIRIES AND CONTACTS THROUGH WEBSITES We continue to receive a large number of enquiries from all over the world concerning matters of local history. We also receive information, which often increases our knowledge. We have received an enquiry from a Canadian couple. They plan to visit Berkhamsted next January as part of a visit to Britain. We feel very honoured that they have elected to visit our town and look forward to welcoming them.

The Committee apologises for the late arrival of the newsletter and the Chronicle, which is due to the delay in the printing of the latter.

The new programme will be sent out with the July newsletter.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you on one of our outings or at the first meeting of the next season on 9th September 2009

Jenny Sherwood, April 2009