



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

SOCIETY MATTERS It is with regret that I have to report the death of Derek Knight after a short illness. Derek was keenly interested in industrial archaeology and an expert on preparing power point presentations. We extend our sympathy to his wife and family in their sad loss.

MEETINGS The year opened with a most interesting talk by Steve Bryant, Senior Curator of Television for the BFI on the 'Work of the British Film Institute and National Archives.' A visit to the archives at Kingshill is planned for later this summer. For the February meeting Christopher Green gave us a most informative talk on the 'Architecture of St. Peter's Church'. A guided tour by Christopher is planned for May (see below).

For the March meeting, preceded by the AGM, Andrew Houseman returned to his favourite theme of the American Civil War and spoke on 'World - wide events during the American Civil War' comparing the situation in Berkhamsted at that time with war-torn America.

FOUNDLING VOICES A leaflet concerning this interesting project is enclosed. Sarah Lowry and Alison Duke spoke to members at our March meeting requesting help with this project. Would you be interested in interviewing those who were at school with Foundlings either at Ashlyns or at Berkhamsted Girls' or Boys' School or remember seeing the children in the town? The project will provide the necessary training. Or, perhaps you would be prepared to be interviewed yourself or know someone who would. Please do not let us down. We would far rather have Berkhamsted people involved in this rather than someone coming out from London. Perhaps you have views on what a travelling exhibition concerning the Berkhamsted years should cover. Please contact me on 865158, or Sarah or Alison on 0207 8331148 as soon as possible.

AGM The Chairman paid tribute to our retiring President, Eric Holland, whose contribution to the Society over many years has been enormous. Leslie Mitchell was elected unanimously as our new President.

SUMMER OUTINGS On 12th May at 3pm Christopher Green is giving a guided tour of St. Peter's Church. A visit to the British Film Institute at Kingshill is planned for 23rd June, meeting at 10.30am at Kingshill.. On 21st July Roy Craske will be giving us a guided tour of Redbourn. Meet at the Cricket Club Car Park at 2pm. Please contact Ken Wallis on 877592 to book, for further details and transport requests.

OPEN BELL TOWER WITH CREAM TEAS St Giles Church Cheddington is offering visitors the chance to tour the bell tower and to learn about bellringing. Tours are at 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Tours are free but donations are welcome. Cream teas provided. Book with Alan Masters on AlanRMasters@btinternet.com or phone 01296 668024

'WALK BACK IN TIME' The Society has arranged further guided tours of the castle and of some of the sites of historic interest in the town. Adults £3, children £1.50, lasting from 2pm-4.30pm. Meet at entrance to Castle. These are on 25th April, 20th June, 25th July, arranged in conjunction with Chilterns Conservation Board.

OTHER WALKS OF INTEREST Tuesday 25th May Ashridge Parkland Archaeology Walk Adults £5, children £3. 6.30pm-8.30pm Book with Ashridge Visitors' Centre 01442 851227

Wednesday 16th June, 7pm-9pm. Ashridge Historic Parkland Walk, cost and contact details as above.

Tuesday 27th July 6.30- 8.30 pm, Secrets of Northchurch Common Walk. Cost and booking details as above.

ASHRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY DAY Sunday 18th July 11am-3pm. This is part of the Festival of British Archaeology and a joint venture between the National Trust and the Chilterns Conservation Board. There will be guided walks, displays and hands-on activities. Our Society will have a stall. Assistance in manning this would be gratefully received.

'60 YEARS OF PRESERVING HISTORY' TUESDAY 29TH JUNE- SATURDAY 3RD JULY, 10AM-5PM, IN CIVIC CENTRE, BERKHAMSTED

This is the Society's exhibition to commemorate the 60th anniversary of our foundation. I ask all members to advertise it as widely as possible and to support it by coming themselves, preferably bringing along non-members with them. Nearer the time I shall be drawing up a rota of stewards to man the exhibition during this week.

CASTLE VISITOR ROOM The Castle Visitor Room opened for the Easter weekend (excluding Good Friday) and in spite of the chilly weather 347 people visited the room. We are now open from 10am-6pm. We have already had several group visits out of season and have more booked for later this summer. We have reproduced 4 different postcards with old photographs/prints of the Castle from our collection. These cost 30p each or £1 for the set. **Several more stewards for the Castle Visitor Room are urgently needed. The duties are not onerous. You will have the opportunity to meet interesting people from all over the world! Please contact me on 865158 or Brian Norris on 865262**

**AGE CONCERN CHARITY WALK,
'THROUGH THE AGES FOR THE AGES'
SUNDAY 6TH JUNE 10AM – 4PM**

This sponsored walk has a historical theme, starting and finishing at the Castle, with notes being supplied on some of the points of historic interest by our Society. There is the opportunity to participate in a 2 mile walk on the flat or in a much longer walk to Aldbury and then back along the canal. Disabled/elderly may limit their participation to a tour round the bailey of the Castle. £15 registration fee or £35 per family includes tee- shirt. Sponsorship forms available. To register call 01442 259049 or visit website www.ageconcerndacorum.org.uk All proceeds go to Age Concern Dacorum and will help to provide services for the elderly in the community.

'THE CHRONICLE' I apologise for the continuing delay in getting this year's Chronicle to you. Since there are important matters of interest to you I am attempting to reach as many of you as possible by sending this newsletter by e mail. Others who have expressed an interest in going on outings I will endeavour to contact by phone.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you at the exhibition, and to your continuing support.

Jenny Sherwood April 2010