

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2011

Society Affairs. I regret to announce the death of three of our

members, Barbara Buckingham, Claire Olney and Ms Richardson. We extend our condolences to their families. A number of members have recently been in hospital, including two of our honorary life members, Jenny Honour and Bert Hosier. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery.

Meetings. We were obliged to swap round our two speakers for the September and October meetings since our September speaker broke her ankle. We posted the change on our website and tried to contact as many people as possible. We apologise to those who were disappointed to miss the scheduled October meeting. In September we heard Stephen Barnard give a talk entitled 'The BBC in Wartime', a lively and interesting talk which evoked many memories. In October Dr Kate Thompson told us something of her research on almshouses, 'Housing the Deserving Poor in Hertfordshire'. The November meeting took us back in time to the battles which preceded the battle of Hastings, when Charles Jones enthused us with his views on 'How the battles before Hastings impinged on subsequent events.' Our December meeting is a Members' Meeting with a quiz compiled by our President, Les Mitchell, a film showing more of the 1966 pageant, possibly some of our recent acquisitions, Christmas drinks and mince pies and the opportunity to socialise.

Summer Outings. The visit to the Walled Garden of Luton Hoo was a great success. Some photographs of this outing, and the one to Redbourn, are posted on our website.

Heritage Open Days These were overall a success. The two tours of the British Film Archives at Kingshill on the Thursday could have been filled three times over. We are hoping that we can double the number of tours for next year. The tours of The Foundling Hospital (Ashlyns School) were also very popular and people seemed reluctant to go home. Most of the other sites were also well supported. Grateful thanks to all the members who gave guided tours, helped as stewards etc or supported the events. If you have any suggestions for other sites to be included please let me know. Planning starts quite early in the New Year.

Castle Affairs Another successful season was recorded at the Visitor Room. Figures were about 200 down on last year but school and other groups continue to book for guided tours during the week and at weekends



throughout the season. We had two groups in November. Thanks to Brian Norris for master minding the rota and to all those who have acted as stewards, or guided school parties. We are always in need of more stewards, since we have lost one or two during this last season. Please contact me (865158) KSherw9100@aol.com or Brian Norris (865262) or bhnnorris@talktalk.net You will have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

'Walk Back in Time.' The dates for 2012 have already been fixed and details are on our website. These monthly tours given under the auspices of the Chiltern Conservation Board include a guided tour of the Castle and a tour of the historic sites of the town centre. They last 2 ½ hours and cost £3 and £1.50 for children.

DHT Affairs Negotiations are under way prior to the signing of an amended loan agreement between the Collecting Societies and DHT. There is also an amended Collection Policy for consideration. The importance of these documents is reflected in the current situation in Europe. Our Society has built up a very large collection of documents dating from its establishment in 1950. We are always grateful to receive any further acquisitions relating to Berkhamsted's history. If you wish to add something to our collection **please make sure that you say that you wish it to go into the Berkhamsted History Society's collection. Otherwise it will go by default into the DHT collection.** This was not always the case.

HALH Symposium The HALH Symposium, held every year in November, was hosted this year by the Hertfordshire Gardens' Trust and took place at Abbots Hill School, Nash Mills. The Society had a stall and we sold £63 worth of books. Altogether eleven members of the Society attended what was a very worthwhile event.

2011 Census of Shops This is almost complete and will now be tabulated and printed off so that we have a record of the shops in the High Street from the Old Mill to Gossoms End. Thanks to Jenny and Jimmie Honour, Keith Farmery and Robin Gee who have been working on this.

Subscription Reminders Subscriptions to the Society fall due on 1st January each year. It remains very good value for money at £7 for single and £12 per couple. For this you have the opportunity to attend seven meetings with no extra charge, receive three newsletters a year and a copy of *The Chronicle*, the Society's journal of local history topics.

Thank you for your support and don't forget to look at our website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk

A Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year to you all!

Jenny Sherwood December 2011