



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

Society Matters. Bookings for the Civic Centre are from April onwards being dealt with by a commercial company and it is no longer possible for local associations of however long-standing to book the Civic Centre on the desired day of the week. From next September we shall be holding our meetings in the Clock Room of Berkhamsted Town Hall.

Meetings. For our January meeting we welcomed Terry Jenkins, author of *Sir Ernest Lemon*, who gave us a fascinating talk entitled '*Sir Ernest Lemon, last resident of Northchurch Hall.*' In fact Lady Lemon was the last resident and there were one or two other contradictions in the life of Sir Ernest Lemon. Life member, Bert Hosier, was able to add some of his personal memories of Lady Lemon. '*Open wide – A short history of Dentistry*' was the title of 'Melanie Parker's talk in February. Visits to the dentist are not pleasurable occasions for anyone but Melanie's talk gave a most interesting insight into the history of this branch of medicine. Both these talks were very well attended. For the March meeting after the AGM we are looking forward to a talk on '*The Bayeux Tapestry*' by member, Bill Willett.

Summer Outings. This summer we are joining PROBUS for a number of all-day outings. On 23rd May there is a visit to Reading Museum (copy of Bayeux Tapestry) and Stratfield Saye, home of the Duke of Wellington, cost £26. On 21st June there is a visit to Goldsmith's Hall, cost £18. On 4th October a visit is arranged to Chelsea Hospital and the National Army Museum, cost approximately £18. For further details and bookings please contact Bill Willett on 01442 863760 or email bill@billwillett.co.uk.

HOD Organisers' Forum 20th March. The Society has been asked to host one of six HOD Organisers' Forums nationwide. The purpose of the day is to exchange ideas on the running of HODs but also to give those who have thought of opening a building of particular interest the opportunity to learn what is entailed. It is to be hoped the day will prove a success. It will be held in the Clock Room of Berkhamsted Town Hall.

Berkhamsted's Heritage Open Days 6th-9th September

Arrangements are in hand for this year's HODs. It is hoped that we shall be able to have double the number of tours for the BFI at Kingshill since so many were disappointed last year. I am also hopeful that we shall be able to include a building, which we have wanted to include for some time, but this is not yet definite. Details will be submitted to the Heritage team in

May and go live on the Society website then, www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk and in July on www.heritageopendays.org.uk There is an interesting range of sites on offer so if any members have not visited all of the sites do make the most of this heritage weekend.

'Walk Back in Time.' We are running these guided tours of the castle and the town centre on Sunday afternoons monthly from March – September, excluding August. They start from the Castle Visitor Room and cost £3 adults and £1.50 children. The dates are 25th March, 22nd April, 20th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 23rd September and 21st October. Those who are new to the town may well find these walks of interest.

Castle Visitor Room. This will be open for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend (not Good Friday) and then opens for the summer season from Saturday 5th May until 30th September from 10am-6pm. We are open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays and also on the Tuesday Jubilee Bank Holiday. Don't forget the castle is a good place to bring visitors especially those from overseas. School and other groups are also welcome during the week, bookings to Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com.

Queen's Jubilee. The Town Council has asked us to stage a small exhibition depicting royalty, coronations and jubilees, for the Jubilee weekend. We are also providing 1950s photographs from our collection for a feature in *Berkhamsted Living*.

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust. The chairman of this trust is bringing a small group for a guided tour of the historic sites of the town centre in May. The new owners of Dean Incent's house have very kindly agreed for us to visit the house.

Berkhamsted through Time. We have agreed to produce text and photographs for a book in this series published by the Amberley Press. It is unlikely to be ready before early 2013.

Percy Birtchnell Memorial Prize The topic for this year's prize will be World War II related to life in Berkhamsted.

Chronicle IX This year's *Chronicle* has a wider range of contributors, including one from overseas. I hope this will encourage more members to submit something relating to their research or particular interest.

Next September's Meeting. The first meeting of the new season takes place at 8pm on Wednesday 12th September in the Clock Room of Berkhamsted Town Hall, when we shall be welcoming Eileen Wallace, author of 'Children of the Labouring Poor'. Her talk is entitled 'Working Lives of Children in 19th Century Hertfordshire.'

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you in September, if not before.

Jenny Sherwood, March 2012