



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

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

Society News Just too late for the Spring Newsletter came the news that John Cook had passed away after a valiant fight. The large crowd of Berkhamstedians and many from further a field who gathered in St. Peter's Church for his funeral service reflected the respect and love in which he was held for his many contributions to the life of Berkhamsted. We shall miss his competitive spirit in our Christmas history quizzes. Our thoughts are with Joan and all the family.

I am also very sorry to report the sudden death last month of Patricia Willett at home. Our sympathy and thoughts are with Bill, the children and grandchildren, at this sad time.

Summer Outings Quite a number of members have joined the PROBUS outings, arranged by Bill Willett, to places of historical interest. The final one takes place on 4th October, when a visit has been arranged to Chelsea Hospital and the National Army Museum. The cost is approximately £18. For further details please contact Bill on 863760 or email bill@billwillett.co.uk

Heritage Open Days Forum 20th March This was a success, delegates came from some distance and some very useful contacts were made. It will lead to the introduction of two new sites for Berkhamsted's HODs, one for this year and one for next.

Berkhamsted's Heritage Open Days, 6th-9th September A full programme is enclosed with this newsletter. Those who were unsuccessful last year in gaining a place for the **BFI** please book as soon as possible. Unfortunately I cannot give priority to Society members. The number of places has been doubled but it is still likely to be oversubscribed. **DHT Museum Store**. A number of new members have expressed an interest in seeing the collections. These tours on the Friday are free. Say what your particular interests are when booking. **Tours of Berkhamsted Place and the Great Barn**, Friday and Saturday. This is new for this year! If you have never visited **173, High Street** or the

Foundling Hospital or the **Old Hall and Chapel at Berkhamsted School**, or any of the other sites on the list do make the most of this opportunity! Details are also available on the Society's website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk

Percy Birtchnell Memorial Prize. The topic for this year is Berkhamsted during World War II. The prizes, two book tokens of £20 each, will be awarded at the end of this school term.

'Walk Back in Time' These guided tours of the Castle and historic sites of the town centre take place monthly in the summer, excepting August. They start from the Castle Visitor Room at 2pm and last 2 ½ hours, cost £3 and £1.50 for children, 22nd July, 23rd September and 21st October.

Castle Visitor Room This is open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until 30th September from 10am-6pm. We are open throughout the year by special arrangement for school and other groups, when guided tours are also provided. A small donation is requested. Bookings to 865158 or

KSherw9100@aol.com I am grateful for the continuing support of Society members, aided by NADFAS members, who act as stewards, and those who help with group parties.

Jubilee Exhibition The Society provided a small exhibition of old photographs for the Jubilee weekend in Deans' Hall, Berkhamsted School. This was well supported even though the tea was in short supply!

DHT matters The Museum Store's status as an accredited museum is due for renewal. This has entailed producing an inordinate number of documents. A new system of MODES for cataloguing has been introduced. Society members continue to work regularly in the Store. We have recently been given a large number of documents and artefacts by Beryl Edwards. They reflect the interest and involvement of her late husband, Jeff, in Berkhamsted's affairs.

Next Year's Programme The new season's programme is enclosed. Please note the new venue, the Wellcome Hall, Town Hall, and **NOT** the Civic Centre, as before.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Jenny Sherwood 5th July 2012