



# BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society  
**SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2013**

**Society Matters** I am very sorry to have to report the death of our honorary life member, Michael Browning, who served for many years as a most efficient Membership Secretary. We express our deepest sympathy to Ann and to all the family on their sad loss. Michael came to Berkhamsted in 1991 on his marriage to Ann and immediately immersed himself in Berkhamsted's history. He worked in the Museum Store every Wednesday and was among the first to master the intricacies of the MODES system. He was actively involved in the surveys of the Berkhamsted gardens in the 1990s. Peter Fethney of Gilhams Court and May Shirley of Bridge Street, a very long-standing member, have also passed away. We extend our condolences to both their families.

**Meetings** At the March meeting Colin Oakes gave a most interesting and informative talk entitled 'Talking to Walls, Latimer in WWII'. This was preceded by the AGM at which Jimmie Honour was elected as President and Jenny Sherwood as Chairman. Linda Rollitt was elected as Archivist and Robin Gee as Membership Secretary. The other officers remain as before. With the resignation of Tony Statham and Ned Hunt, because of frequent absence from Berkhamsted, Sarah Mears, Mary Casserley and Bill Willett join the Committee. We thank Tony and Ned for their valuable contributions to the Society over a number of years.

**Summer Outings** Once again we have combined with PROBUS and so far had very successful outings to Newmarket, Halton House and Waddesdon. Outings are planned to Chinnor and to the William Morris Museum and Waltham Abbey. For details and bookings please contact Bill Willett on [bill@billwillett.co.uk](mailto:bill@billwillett.co.uk) or 01442 863760.

**Programme 2013-14** The programme for the new season is enclosed. I hope you will find the talks of interest. We are always open to suggestions for new topics or speakers. Meetings will again be held in the Town Hall. I hope that arrangements can be made to improve the sound system.

**Heritage Open Days 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September** Full details of these are enclosed. Anyone wishing to join a tour of the BFI or of Berkhamsted Place should book as soon as possible in order to avoid disappointment. We are re-introducing St Mary's Northchurch, where Peter the Wild Boy's grave was recently listed Grade II. Anybody who

does not know why someone who lived in Broadway, Bourne End, was buried in St Mary's should make sure they visit that church.

**DHT Matters** Nine members of the Society work regularly as volunteers in the Museum Store carrying out various tasks relating to the different collections. There is currently a vacancy on a Wednesday morning. Anyone who is interested and preferably, computer literate, please contact me. Another member serves on the Education Committee of DHT. Meetings for volunteers and committee members of the Societies have been set up to enhance their involvement in any developments towards the establishment of a museum for Dacorum.

**'Berkhamsted Through Time'** This is now on sale at £14.99 and available from Waterstones, the Way Inn or from me. If purchased from me any profit goes to the Society.

**Chronicle XI** We shall soon be starting to assemble material for the next issue of *the Chronicle*. If anyone has a particular topic of interest to research or an article already written please do contact me or any member of the Committee.

**Commemoration of WWI** Many of you are already aware of the Commons Project and the Audio Trail which links up with the trenches on the Common. The Committee is currently discussing ways of remembering the Berkhamsted people who lost their lives. Contact has already been made with representatives of other organisations involved to avoid duplication of effort.

**The Castle** We have had a busy season so far at the Castle with a large number of school and other group bookings, ranging from the elderly to Beavers, and we already have bookings for September- November. Grateful thanks to all those who act as stewards in the Visitor Room and help with school tours. Further help would always be very welcome. We have recently been contacted by a group who are celebrating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burg Uda in Oedt, North Rhine Westphalia and wish to link up with other castles in Europe. We have sent some photos of Berkhamsted castle together with our Society logo.

**Research enquiries** We continue to receive a large number of enquiries from all over the world, which very often help us to broaden our knowledge of the history of Berkhamsted.

**Subscriptions** These were due in January. A few are still outstanding. **I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you on 11<sup>th</sup> September for our first meeting in Berkhamsted Town Hall, when we welcome Robert Stephenson, who will be speaking on *The Gruesome History of Body Snatching*.**

**Jenny Sherwood July 2013**