



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

SOCIETY MATTERS Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2014. Those who have not yet renewed for this year will have a renewal form in with their newsletters and *Chronicle*.

MEETINGS We started off the New Year with a most interesting talk by Jim Matthews of the firm of H.G. Matthews' Brickworks, Bellingdon. His talk 'Local Brick –Making History' covered not only the history of the family firm but also explained the making of bricks in the locality. The interesting talk for our February meeting, entitled 'The Ancient Art of Deception' given by Hugh Davies of Bletchley Park covered the use made of deception by warring nations throughout history with only a brief mention of Bletchley Park. All meetings were well attended and the talks of a very high standard. We now look forward to the March talk by David Pearce entitled 'Dr John Incent 1480-1545.'

SUMMER OUTINGS These are being held jointly with PROBUS and are as follows: 21st May. Chiswick: Fuller's Griffin Brewery and Chiswick House and Gardens. 10th July. Lichfield Cathedral and the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

11th September Buscot House and Gardens and Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire. The timings are 9.0-9.30 depart Berkhamsted, back at latest by 6pm. If interested please contact Bill Willett, 01442 863760 or bill@billwillett.co.uk for further details.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 11th –14th SEPTEMBER 2014

Preparations are already underway for this year's Heritage Open Days. As well as many of the regular sites it is also planned to include a tour of the Rectory Lane Cemetery. This will probably be held in conjunction with the 'Friends of Rectory Lane.' Suggestions for new sites are always welcome. Tours of the British Film Institute at Kingshill will again be included. I will take bookings from June. There are only 40 places in total. Don't leave it too late since I cannot give priority to Society members.

DHT MATTERS Shortly before Christmas Dr Paul Hyman, the Curator left by mutual consent. Nina Glencross is at present in sole charge and has been given the title of Collections Manager. She is asking for volunteers to help with two projects. The first, 'Saving the 70s' is gathering together artefacts and memories of the 1970s. Working in conjunction with museums in Suffolk DHT has been successful in gaining a lottery grant for this. 'Talking New Towns' is collecting memories of

Hemel Hempstead New Town. Help is needed with transcribing these memories. There are already 20 memories of about 1 hour in length. Appropriate equipment will be provided. Please contact Nina if you feel you could help. Tel: 879525 or email collectionsmanager@dacorumheritage.org.uk

THE CASTLE It was agreed at a recent meeting of the Castle Liaison Group that the agreement for the Society to use the Castle Visitor Room should now last three years rather than the previous one -year tenancy. We had a very successful visit from a group of children from Christchurch School, Chorleywood, in January but unfortunately we have had to postpone a visit from Micklem School, Hemel Hempstead because of flooding over the causeway leading into the Castle. We hope that a visit arranged for the end of March from Bridgewater School can still go ahead.

CASTLE ROTA Brian Norris is currently drawing up the rota for the Castle Visitor Room and could do with a few more volunteers. The Visitor Room is open from 10am-6pm and duties are in 2 hourly stints. You will meet interesting people from all over the world! Please contact Brian on bhnorris@talktalk.net or tel:865262

WWI COMMEMORATION A number of members are researching the names of local people who lost their lives during the Great War in preparation for producing a book In addition to that we are hoping to reproduce an annotated version of 'The Devil's Own Time' which we have in our collection. We hope this will be partly financed by the HLF grant received by the Chiltern Conservation Board for the IOC trench project.

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST 29TH MAY 10AM-4.30PM Study Day to mark the restoration of the Forest Garden at Tring Park. Full details available on Society website.

CHRONICLE XI This is enclosed. There is a wide range of articles, which we hope you will enjoy reading.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you at one of the summer outings. The next indoor meeting takes place on Wednesday 10th September in the Wellcome Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall, at 8pm. The subject is still to be confirmed.

Jenny Sherwood. March 2014 KSherw9100@aol.com
Society website. www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk