



# BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society  
**SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014**

**SOCIETY MATTERS** There are still a few subscriptions outstanding for this year. Renewal forms are enclosed for those concerned. At the AGM in March Sarah Mears stood down from the Committee for family reasons. We thank her for her support in the last year. There were no other changes. Longstanding members will be sorry to learn that Kit Bayliss, a member of the Society for many years has passed away. We express our deepest sympathy to all the family. Joan Mitchell, the wife of our late President, Les Mitchell, has also passed away. We express our sympathy to all the family. We cannot let the death of our local, much-loved musician, composer and raconteur go unmentioned. Anthony Hopkins, although never a member of the Society was always a great supporter of our events. He opened one of our major exhibitions 'Berkhamsted- 150 Years' in 2000.

**MEETINGS** David Pearce gave us an entertaining and detailed talk on 'Dr John Incent 1480-1545', in his inimitable manner. It was a fitting end to our 2013-14 season.

**SUMMER OUTINGS** We are again combining with PROBUS for all - day trips. A successful visit was made to Lichfield Cathedral and the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas on 10<sup>th</sup> July but the visit scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May to Chiswick, Fuller's Griffin Brewery and Chiswick House and Gardens was cancelled for lack of support. A visit has been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> September to Buscot House and Gardens and Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire. Depart 9.00-9.30, back at latest by 6pm. For bookings and further details please contact Bill Willett 01442 863760 or [bill@billwillett.co.uk](mailto:bill@billwillett.co.uk)

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 11<sup>TH</sup>- 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014** You will see that the tours of the BFI which we held very successfully for the last three years are missing. The BFI has a new system and in spite of continuing negotiations we are unable to feature them this year. Otherwise there is a full programme, details are enclosed. Do give us your support and consider any you have not visited before. I am sure there is more you could learn of Berkhamsted's history. New for this year is Rectory Lane Cemetery. Come and enjoy the WWI Trail or Berkhamsted's Worthies' Trail, see an old funeral hearse and read accounts of local funerals. See if you can find any of your Berkhamsted ancestors. Enjoy this peaceful haven just off the High Street. How would you like to see it preserved?

The nationally- sponsored HODs have been running for 20 years now. In the Star Organisers category the Society was awarded 'Highly Commended' for its contribution.

**REPRINTING OF *DEVIL'S OWN TIME*** As part of the town's commemoration of the outbreak of WWI the Society has had its unique copy with pencilled annotations of *The Devil's Own Time* digitised and reprinted. The book tells the story of the cadets of the Inns of Court regiment and their life in Berkhamsted. The original is in a very poor state. Now we have an archival copy for research purposes in the collection. It has been reprinted and will be available from Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or [KShew9100@aol.com](mailto:KShew9100@aol.com) price £10, and other local outlets.

**RESEARCH FOR WWI BOOK** A number of members are carrying out research in preparation for a book on Berkhamsted during WWI and the effect of the War on the people and town of Berkhamsted. In connection with this we have applied for a grant from Berkhamsted Town Council and we are also applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund WWI grant.

**DHT MATTERS** The Town Trail in Hemel Hempstead's High Street was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> July with a street festival. 'The Saving the 70s' exhibition will take place in October in an empty shop in the Marlowes. Nina Glencross, the Collections Manager requests help with stewarding this.

**THE CASTLE** In spite of having to cancel a number of school visits because of closure due to flooding the Castle reopened in time for Easter and the number of visitors to the Visitor Room so far is almost 3,000. Thank you to the many who act as stewards and those who help with a wide variety of school and other groups. We would always be grateful for more help with the schools since some expect a guided tour to be arranged at a moment's notice! Recently two members provided 'taster' tours for a group from *Dacorum-Look no Further*.

**WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK** Requests for help with family/local history research come in from all over the world from the website and Facebook and lead often to exchanges of local history information. We also receive requests from PhD students seeking information from our archives.

**PROGRAMME 2014-2015** The new programme is enclosed. I hope you will all find something of interest. Remember we are always open to suggestions of topics of particular interest.

**CHRONICLE XII** We shall soon be starting on assembling articles for next year's Chronicle. Anyone who would like to share their research with other members is welcome to do so.

**Enjoy the rest of the summer. I look forward to seeing you on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Town Hall  
Jenny Sherwood July 2014**