



# BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society  
**SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015**

**SOCIETY MATTERS.** There are still some subscriptions outstanding for 2015. Members are reminded that our subscription is one of the lowest of all the History Societies in Dacorum. For this you can attend meetings at no extra cost and receive three newsletters a year and a copy of the 'Chronicle', our annual publication of articles relating to the local history of Berkhamsted. Your copy is enclosed with this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it. We would welcome any comments you may have. This year's is the 12<sup>th</sup> edition and articles are largely based on research of the archives in the Society's collection.

**MEETINGS** These have been exceptionally well attended. In January we enjoyed a very detailed and well-presented talk on 'De Havilland Aircraft you've never heard of' by Robin Webb, former De Havilland and British Aerospace Engineer. In February an enthusiastic audience listened to Nicholas Halsey speaking on his family history, 'The Halseys of Gaddesden: a Hertfordshire Family from Time out of Mind.' For our March meeting, which will be preceded by the AGM, we welcome David Clarke, Parish Clerk of St Leonards, who is giving us a mystery talk entitled 'It's on the Cards.'

**SUMMER OUTINGS** We are joining PROBUS for three all-day outings, as follows: 14<sup>th</sup> May Brooklands Museum, 22<sup>nd</sup> July Sezincote House and Chastleton House and 9<sup>th</sup> September the Red House (William Morris) and Down House (Darwin) Bookings and further details contact Bill Willett on 01442 863760 or [bill@billwillett.co.uk](mailto:bill@billwillett.co.uk).

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** I am in the process of making arrangements for this year's HODs and hoping to introduce one or two new ones for those who have already visited all our sites. I have contacted the BFI at Kingshill again in the hope of persuading them to reintroduce tours of their archives, which were so successful and heavily oversubscribed for the three years we ran them. You will be kept informed on our Society website [www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) of the progress of my negotiations and of details of any new sites. They go live on the Heritage Open Days website in July [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) Full details will go to members in the July newsletter.

**BERKHAMSTED & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY** BDAS is organising an all day outing on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Colchester, to which members of BLHMS are invited. This will include the Colchester & Essex Museum in Colchester Castle, the Roman Theatre, the Berryfield

Roman Mosaic, St Botolph's Augustinian priory and the Balkerne Gateway. Dr David Neal, FSA, will accompany the party. The cost is £35 per person (cheques payable to BDAS,) send to Ms Laura Sanderson, Pipers, Vicarage Road, Potten End, Berkhamsted HP4 2QZ, who will give you full details.

**MOBILE SCANNER** The Society has purchased a mobile scanner, largely paid for by the generous grant of £200, which we received from the Berkhamsted Community Partnership. This will enable us to scan in and copy all the Newman photographs, which are held at the Inns of Court Museum in London. Subsequently it will enable us to scan documents and photographs in our collection and save them onto a memory card.

**WWI IN BERKHAMSTED** Work is proceeding steadily with this book but we are still keen to gather as much information as possible from people whose fathers or grandfathers, uncles and great uncles were involved in the War and have passed on memories to the next generation. Please contact Linda Rollitt, [linda.rollitt@ntlworld.com](mailto:linda.rollitt@ntlworld.com), Janice Boakes [Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com](mailto:Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com) or me on [KSherw9100@aol.com](mailto:KSherw9100@aol.com) or 01442 865158.

**THE CASTLE** The Castle Visitor Room will be opening for the Easter weekend, not Good Friday, and then from the beginning of May until the end of September from 10am-6pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Brian Norris has already done the rota for the first half of the season. Grateful thanks to Brian and to all those who have agreed to help. We already have a number of schools, adult groups and some Beavers booked for guided tours. Thank you also for those who help with these.

**DHT MATTERS** Sophie Dimond has been appointed as Museum Support Officer. She will work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Museum Store as assistant to Nina Glencross, our Collections Manager.

**EBAY BIDDING** I am aware that several Berkhamsted people have their own collections of Berkhamsted postcards, photos and artefacts and obtain these on occasions through Ebay. I also sometimes bid on EBay to acquire artefacts for the Society's collection. This means that we could well be bidding against each other, which is pushing the price up unnecessarily. Perhaps we could come to some arrangement, which we did some years ago, to avoid this happening in future.

**THE COMMITTEE** We have a large membership with a number comparatively recently joined. We are always looking for members who would like to be more actively involved either on the Committee, at the Castle, helping with the Heritage Open Days or researching the archives in the Museum Store. Don't be shy about coming forward.

**I wish you all a good summer Jenny Sherwood March 2015**

