



# BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

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

**SOCIETY MATTERS** There are still some subscriptions outstanding for 2015. Personal reminders are enclosed for those members.

**MEETINGS AND OUTINGS** The March meeting was preceded by the AGM. Norman Groves was elected to the Committee. Otherwise there were no changes. The mystery March talk 'It's on the Cards' turned out to be a fascinating history of cigarette cards by David Clarke and his wife, a trip down Memory Lane for many members. We have two joint outings arranged with PROBUS. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July we visit Sezincote House and the National Falconry Centre. On 9<sup>th</sup> September there is an outing to the Red House (William Morris) and Down House (Darwin). For further details and bookings please 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** We have a full programme again this year with one new one, the WWI trenches on the Common. The full programme is included with the newsletter. I hope you will support them since a great deal of work is involved in the preparation. They are FREE and open to everyone, not just to Society members.

**J.T. NEWMAN PHOTOGRAPHS** We are still awaiting the successful conclusion of the copying of Newman's album of WWI photographs held at the Inns of Court Museum, agreed by the Curator of the Museum and the former Mayor Peter Matthews. It is unfortunate that it has taken so long.

**WWI BOOK** This is progressing steadily.

**THE CASTLE** The Visitor Room opened for the Easter weekend and thereafter on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank

Holiday Mondays from the beginning of May. Last weekend we reached 2,000 so far for this year and by the end of this week we will have had four school parties, a group of Cubs and a Group of Beavers. I am grateful to all the stewards and the guides of school parties for their support, and to the keyholder for accommodating the Cubs and Beavers after closing time.

**BERKHAMSTED LIBRARY** You are probably aware that the present library is to be demolished as part of the scheme for the development of the Police Station. There are to be two consultation days with the Library Service on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1030-1530 and on 18<sup>th</sup> July from 1000 - 1330. I am hoping this will provide an opportunity to put forward a case for a local studies and consultation service as access to Berkhamsted's valuable collection becomes increasingly under threat.

**DHT MATTERS** As a result of the rejection by the HLF of the initial plan for the development of the Bury as a Museum and Art Gallery the way forward seems uncertain. The bid was a joint one of DHT and DBC. Funding for heritage and conservation seems to be increasingly orientated towards Hemel Hempstead at the expense of the rest of Dacorum. Recommendations for the Conservation Area document made by the Berkhamsted Citizens Association and our Society are unlikely to be carried out because the funding has been directed elsewhere. We have also been told that there is no longer room for any new acquisitions to be added to the collections. We are now back to the situation of thirty years ago. We need to keep a careful eye on the situation. I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting and the Heritage Open Days. Enjoy the summer.

**Jenny Sherwood July 2015**