



# **BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

## **CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2015**

**SOCIETY MATTERS** Subscriptions for 2016 are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. We hope that you will renew your subscription, which remains one of the lowest for history societies in the county.

Since September we have had a variety of talks, starting off with 'An Introduction to Crested China' in which we learned what a complex subject it is. Then in October we heard Dr Julie Moore speak on 'Farming in Hertfordshire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century'. We were reminded how very agricultural our county was until comparatively recently. Then in November Society member Stuart McKay told us of the history of Stag Lane aerodrome. Although not our Stag Lane, there were nevertheless some interesting local references. In December we welcome again Robert Stephenson of Kensal Green cemetery to speak on 'Black Plumes and Victorian Mourning'.

### **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 10<sup>TH</sup>-13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Numbers for most sites were satisfactory and we received many appreciative comments. Again the Foundling Hospital and Berkhamsted Place topped the list. We are already beginning to plan for next year and are always open to new ideas.

**J.T.NEWMAN PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM** We have received a very good scan of this album from the Inns of Court Museum and Norman Groves has now scanned the photographs individually with appropriate notes from the album, which makes it a very useful research source

**THE CASTLE** Although numbers to the Visitor Room were slightly down on last year over 4,000 visited and

many more enjoyed the grounds themselves. We had fewer groups, especially adult ones, several cancelled because of parking difficulties. We need to remind English Heritage that we offer guided tours to school and other young people's groups. They come from Herts, Bucks, Beds and outer London. Thank you to the many members who act as stewards in the Visitor Room and those who do guided tours.

**WWI BOOK** Work is progressing well. Research is continuing and more chapters and biographies have been written up. If there any members whose fathers, grandfathers or other relatives have memories to pass on please do let me know.

**CHRONICLE XIII** We are preparing copy for the next edition of *the Chronicle*. We already have a number of articles in the pipeline. If you have a topic or subject of research you would like to share with us do let me know.

### **COMMEMORATING THE SIEGE OF 1216**

Negotiations are progressing with English Heritage and with a Living History company to commemorate this event next year at the Castle. English Heritage feels it is an appropriate event for the Castle, so we hope our application will be successful.

**ALDERNEY BAYEUX TAPESTRY** There is a possibility that the missing panel of the Bayeux tapestry, based on Jan Messent's panel which we exhibited in Berkhamsted about twenty years ago might be on show here next year, to commemorate 1066. We need to remember that we are already committed to other commemorative projects and regular commitments.

**A Happy Christmas and healthy New Year to you All!**

**I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.**

**Jenny Sherwood December 2015**