



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

SOCIETY MATTERS I am very sorry to report the death in May of Audrey Hollis, a very long-standing and until comparatively recently active member of the Society. She was involved in the Buildings Group in the 1980s and at one time lived in the 'Poplars' in the High Street.

At the AGM in March Jimmie Honour was again elected as President. Ken Wallis stood down as Programme Secretary after many years of service, but remains on the Committee: our grateful thanks for many years of interesting programmes. Mary Casserley was elected in his place. Otherwise there were no changes to the Committee.

After the AGM our retiring Programme Secretary, Ken Wallis, brought us up to date with the excavations, which have been taking place at Ashridge with 'From Business College to Monastery.'

SUMMER OUTINGS The outing to Cromer windmill and the Henry Moore foundation had to be cancelled through lack of support but the visit to Chartwell and the Lullingstone Roman villa went ahead and was very much enjoyed. The last of this year's summer outings is scheduled for Tuesday 20th September to Ham House and Strawberry Hill. Further enquiries and bookings to Bill Willett please on 863760 or bill@billwillett.co.uk

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 8TH - 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016 The programme for this year's HODs is enclosed. There is one new event 'Exploring Garrison Town Berkhamsted, a Then and Now guided walk of sites important to the IOCOTC during WWI.' We also have a number of new members who should try out some of the long-standing sites, and remember these events are open to everybody not just Society members, so bring your friends along! One day I may be successful in getting permission to include Lady Cooper's Japanese Garden, which I know would be popular. Bookings and further enquiries to me on 01442 865158 or KShew9100@aol.com Also check the Society website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or www.heritageopendays.org.uk

COMMEMORATION OF SIEGE OF 1216 Negotiations with two re-enactment societies and English Heritage failed to bring about agreement in time for an event to take place this year. There are a number of difficulties on several fronts, the wish of the re-enactment societies to camp overnight, English Heritage's programme of siege events already planned for 'more important sites' and the time and extensive paperwork required. We have been assured by our Castle Liaison Group

representative that we have a strong case for having a 'Living History' event next year. Having seen what was apparently permitted at the recent Cycling Event I think we have an even stronger case!

ALDERNEY BAYEUX TAPESTRY FINALE Some of you will have seen earlier publicity when the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall visited Alderney and 'stitched' a little bit of the Bayeux Tapestry Finale, the lost panel which depicts the battle of Hastings, the arrival at Berkhamsted and the crowning of William in Westminster Abbey. Those of you who remember Jan Messent's tapestry some years ago will be able to compare the two tapestries when the Alderney Tapestry comes to Berkhamsted from 2nd - 5th November after a two-month stay in Battle Museum. For the following week it will be displayed in Old Hall, Berkhamsted School, for school parties only, before it returns to Alderney.

CASTLE VISITOR ROOM The Visitor Room opened for the Easter weekend and remains open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of September. During the week and throughout the year we offer guided tours to groups, children and adults, So far this year we have had twelve groups, and have one more scheduled for this month. Again thanks to all stewards and assistants and to Brian Norris who organises the rota.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME Next year's programme is enclosed. I hope you will find the talks varied and interesting.

A MUSEUM FOR BERKHAMSTED The Trustees of Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust have received a legacy, which enables them to carry out a feasibility study of the remaining part of the building work to be carried out to complete the refurbishment of the Town Hall. The additional space made available, with an extra floor above the Bar area and access to the Minstrel's Gallery, together with redundant storage rooms and toilets on the ground floor the Trust would like to use as a museum for the people of Berkhamsted and Northchurch. Obviously our Society as the holder of the Berkhamsted collection is the key body involved in negotiations. What sort of Museum do we want for Berkhamsted? How can we best display the history of the Town? Museums have changed. It will be a very different museum from that which Percy Birtchnell, George Whybrow and Edward Pople envisaged in 1950 or others later in the 1980s. What do you think? Is this a viable, sustainable proposition? Will you support it? It is not something we can undertake lightly. Do let us know.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS There are still a few subscriptions outstanding. A reminder is enclosed for those involved.

Have a good summer. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Jenny Sherwood. July 2016