



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

SOCIETY MATTERS Enclosed with this newsletter is your copy of Chronicle XIV. It is pleasing to see wide-ranging articles and a number of new contributors amongst the ranks. In fact we are already holding over at least two articles in readiness for Chronicle XV. Some of you will find you have no Chronicle. This is because your subscription for 2017 is still outstanding. You will receive your Chronicle as soon as you pay your subscription. We regret that we have to take this action but production and especially postage costs mean we cannot give away our Chronicle to those who do not pay their subscription.

MEETINGS These continue to be well attended. The first two talks in the New Year were provided by Society members, Stephen Lally and Bill Willett. In January Stephen entitled his talk 'Your Ancestors in Ireland 1818-1848, a dreadful life leading up to the Great Famine' and told us of his research into the Ireland of his ancestors. Bill spoke of his passionate interest in the Rothschilds of Bucks and Herts with his detailed talk on the different family members and their houses. We look forward to welcoming Julian Hunt who at our March meeting will be speaking on 'Berkhamsted, Tring and Aylesbury- rival Market Towns.' Julian has spoken to the Society on a number of occasions in the past.

SUMMER OUTINGS Bill Willett has arranged several outings in conjunction with PROBUS. On 25th May we are visiting Bletchley Park, on 8th July a visit to the Palace Theatre, Watford, to see the Gondoliers is being arranged. On 27th July there is a visit to Audley End (English Heritage) On 19th September there is a visit to Sulgrave Manor and Upton Park. For further details, times, cost etc please contact Bill on Bill@billwillett.co.uk or phone 01442 863760.

HERITAGE OPENDAYS 7TH -10TH SEPTEMBER

I shall shortly be starting the initial preparations for this year's HODs, which have to be registered by the end of April. I should welcome any suggestions for new sites or guided tours. I have tried on several occasions to get permission to include Lady Cooper's Japanese Garden, which is in the grounds of Britwell now in Castle village. Britwell, itself is a listed building and a brief history and exhibition would be included. Other possibilities might include a return to 173 High Street, and perhaps Dean Incent's House? Another possibility could be a guided tour of Berkhamsted's historic centre, 'A Walk Back in Time.' There is a myriad of possibilities.

TALK BY PROFESSOR DAVID BATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA 7TH APRIL, 7.30 P.M. IN OLD HALL

BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL I gather this event is already sold out, but you might be lucky. The title of professor Bates' lecture is 'Why the submission of the English to William the Conqueror at Berkhamsted still matters.' I hope to see a large number of members at this event.

POSSIBLE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT OF CASTLE. A meeting of a recently established working party to discuss the possibility has been held. This involved two representatives of the Town Council, a representative of English Heritage, a representative of the Duchy of Cornwall and members of the Castle Liaison Group. On a separate, but related issue, there is a possibility that a field adjacent to the Castle, but still part of the ancient monument may be donated to the Duchy, English Heritage or the Town Council. This could have a beneficial impact for visitors to the Castle or the holding of events.

A LIVING HISTORY EVENT AT THE CASTLE. The possibility of holding an event is shelved for this year, depending on further developments at the Castle. Additionally requests for active involvement by Society members to assist in such an event brought little response. We cannot organise an event at the Castle without a team of volunteers for the preparation and at the event itself.

WWI BOOK Now that Chronicle XIV has come into print we are hoping to return to this book, which we are producing to commemorate the centenary of WWI with the aim to have it published in 2018. It is hoped that the publication will coincide with a travelling county exhibition using archives from HALS. Most of the necessary research is complete. There is so much material: it needs to be brought together and loose ends tied up.

HERITAGE HUB / MUSEUM PROJECT As reported in the Christmas Newsletter the Resilient Enquiry Form was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December. We learnt late January that the project was recognised as being worthy of consideration. A small group is going to Cambridge on 6th April to discuss the project further in preparation for drawing up the full submission. A tremendous amount of work is involved and I am grateful to Norman Groves for his valiant contribution in preparing the detailed work necessary. Once we have received a better idea of the next step forward we hope to be able to involve more members.

THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST In the Autumn the Battlefields Trust gave a guided tour of Berkhamsted Castle explaining the events leading up to the Siege of 1216 and placing it in its historical perspective. The tour was led by Julian Humphrys, who has been booked to speak on the Siege next November. BLHMS now has membership of the Battlefields Trust.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you again in September

Jenny Sherwood March 2017