



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

Summer Newsletter July 2017

Society Matters: At the AGM in March Jimmie Honour was again elected as president. Jenny Sherwood stood down as Chairman after 16 years but remains on the committee as Archivist. We are indebted to her for her sterling work. Mary Casserley was elected in her place. We welcome two new committee members, Sandra Lawman and Adrian Barham. After the AGM we had a fascinating talk on Berkhamsted, Tring and Aylesbury rival market towns by Julian Hunt.

Summer Outings: We joined force with PROBUS for a coach trip to Bletchley Park, and look forward to our next visits to Audley End on July 27. And on September 19 there is an outing to Sulgrave Manor and Upton House, both near Banbury. Please note these trips are for everyone, you don't need to be a member, so bring your neighbours and friends. Ticket details from Bill Willett 01442863760 or bill@billwillett.co.uk. It gets more difficult to fill a coach, so please support these outings, for if you don't, they will cease. Also, tell us where you would like to go.

The Castle: The visitor room opened for the Easter weekend and remains open on Saturdays, Sundays and bank Holidays until the end of September. During the week and throughout the year we offer guided tours to groups. This year we have had the Richard III society, cubs, and school parties. Thank you to all the volunteer stewards and assistants and to Brian Norris who organises the rota. The shifts are for two hours, with two or three slots per season. If you would like to join the team for next year please call Brian on 865262. The job involves sitting in the visitors room welcoming visitors (some from around the world) - you are not required to scale the Motte!

Heritage Hub Update: This is now known as the Berkhamsted Heritage Hub Project, which aims to bring together the many aspects of Heritage in Berkhamsted and Northchurch and the surrounding area, which would include a Museum. The present committee includes representatives of BLHMS, BDAS, DHT, BTC, DBC and the BTHT. It is a community project but our Society is playing a key role.

In April a number of us met with Kate Brown of the HLF in Cambridge to discuss our project. It was a useful and positive meeting. Since then Norman Groves has been preparing the Consultants' Brief, a very detailed document, and we are meeting in July with Claire Walsh, the Herts Museums' Officer to discuss certain important issues.

Linda Hattersley has been carrying out some valuable audience research with different target groups. As we move forward we shall need more members to work on specific tasks.

Heritage Open Days: September 2017. The programme for this year's HODs is enclosed. Please remember these events are open to everybody and not just members, so bring your friends and neighbours along! Bookings and further enquiries to Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or ksherwood9100@aol.com Also check the society website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Forthcoming programme: Next season's programme and membership card is enclosed. Visitors are always welcome at £3 on the door. Bring your friends.

Website update: Please look what is on here. There is a bagful of historic delights assembled by Linda. She also provides almost weekly spots on Facebook. (You have to admit our Society is way up there with the new-age technology!) One interesting new feature is the (slow) appearance of the articles that Percy Birtchnell wrote for the Parish Magazine. There has been a title-index on the website but now the actual articles are there also. This is an amazing body of work stretching over 30 years. All our history is there and, what is more, written in a pleasant and charming style.

Lions fete: We will be having a stall at this year's fete on 28th August promoting the society and selling local books etc. Please pop along to support us.

Outstanding Subscriptions: There are still a few subscriptions outstanding. A reminder is enclosed for those involved. On behalf of the committee, I would like to say a very big thank you to the deliverers, which we are apt to take for granted.

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

Mary Casserley. July 2017