

Berkshire Local History Association



**Newsletter No 116
September 2016**

***Berkshire Local History Association
Newsletter***

Editor: John Chapman

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We ask all member societies and institutions to provide a short report on their activities for inclusion in the Newsletter. We are always interested in brief news reports on other matters and notice of events likely to be of interest to our members.

A word limit of 400/450 words is in place to allow for as many of you to contribute as possible, please note that when space is limited, contributions over this amount will be subject to the editorial pencil!

Contributions should be e-mailed to:- newsletter@blha.org.uk and arrive not later than the 15th of the month preceding publication (January, May and September) Word, Text or pdf copy is acceptable, but keep it simple and please do not use spaces or tabs to lay out presentations. Photographs and images should be sent separately

Alternatively material may be posted to the Editor: John Chapman, 5 Cecil Aldin Drive, Tilehurst, Berks, RG31 6YP

Cover picture - Our President Elect, Brian Boulter (see page 10)

Chairman's Corner

The committee met in June, and thought about the ideas which had been put forward at the AGM. People seemed to like the idea of the occasional symposium with distinguished speakers, so themes, people and venues were duly thrown into the air, and in the end, a small sub-committee was formed to take things forward. We are looking for a day in the autumn of 2017 for an event which will be separate from the AGM in Newbury in the spring.



Study days and visits were also discussed, and one of our members, who is a guide at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, proposed a private visit, on which we might see places which to which we wouldn't normally have access. There would also be the chance to take afternoon tea in Windsor, and then return to the Chapel for Choral Evensong. Hopefully this will happen in autumn this year.

Naturally there was discussion on the need to find a new membership secretary, a new secretary, and a new president. The outgoing membership secretary, Amanda Harvey, who hadn't been able to be present at the AGM, was thanked for all her work, and Margaret Simons gallantly stepped forward to act as temporary membership secretary. Ann McCormack kindly agreed to continue as secretary for a while longer, but would like to step down this year. And as for a president, it was thought sensible to ask the vice-presidents if any of them would like to take on the role, when the time came. Brian Boulter has kindly stepped up to the mark, and the other two vice-presidents have endorsed the move. Both have said that Brian would be a particularly good choice, because he was not "an academic," and too many academics in one place could be daunting – especially for people who are setting out on writing local history. I think he's also a good choice because he doesn't come from Reading! Brian will take over from Prof. Ted Collins at next year's AGM.

The Berkshire History Prize was awarded on the University of Reading's degree day in July. Yvone Turnbull was there to represent the Berkshire Record Office, and I represented BLHA – each organisation pays half of the prize money. The winner was Alex Fenn, for his dissertation on "Reading During World War Two." In it, he looks at the existing historical views of the home front – did the war foster unity, or was it a cause of increased tensions? The Record Office has a copy of the dissertation, if you want to read more.



Alex Fenn receiving his Berkshire History Prize from David Cliffe and Ivone Turnbull

I'm told by Jonathan Brown, the editor, that we are in the happy position of having

more than enough articles for the next edition of “Berkshire Old and New.” In fact, some articles will have to be carried over to next year, but please don’t let that put you off writing! If this continues, we’ll just have to produce a fatter journal!

Copies of the book, “People, Places and Context,” the book that contains the three papers which were read at last year’s Symposium, have now been received from the printer, and will be distributed to members, probably along with this Newsletter. The whole committee is most grateful to Jonathan for editing the book, and “seeing it through the press,” as they say.

The book on schools in Berkshire up to 1833 is nearing completion, and is due to be published by the Berkshire Record Society next year. The compilation of the book is a joint project of the Record Office, the Record Society, and our Association, and a team of volunteer researchers was brought together to do the research. As a librarian, it has fallen to me to draw up the bibliography, something I intend to do in the next few weeks! Such has been the success of the project, that the researchers are already thinking of another book to research!

Here in Reading there seems to be a lot happening in September. Some new venues will be opening as part of the Heritage Open Days, this year happening between September 8 and September 11. There will once again be the chance to view the ruins of Reading Abbey wearing a hard hat. See www.heritageopendays.org.uk for details.

The archaeological investigations, using ground-penetrating radar on sites which were once part of the church of the Abbey, have aroused great interest, leading to headlines in the national press such as “Kings and Car Parks: is Reading the new Leicester?” I’d be very surprised if anything is left of the mortal remains of King Henry Beauclerk, founder of the Abbey, and his sarcophagus, which were buried in front of the high altar in 1136.

During September and October, parts of the old Reading Gaol will be open to the public for the first and possibly the last time, before the Ministry of Justice puts the buildings on the market. Sunday afternoon readings of Oscar Wilde’s “De Profundis,” written during his imprisonment at Reading but not published until after his death, were announced on July 21, and quickly sold out. But there is also an exhibition, “Inside – Artists and Writers in Reading Prison,” running between 4 September and 30 October. It is run by Artangel as part of Reading University’s “Reading International,” which is supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council’s Ambition for Excellence programme, and presented as part of “Reading 2016, Reading’s Year of Culture”. For the exhibition, you can book and pay for timed tickets on the website, www.artangel.org.uk/inside. I have to say that from the publicity I’ve seen so far, it isn’t very clear quite what you are going to see when you get inside the prison. Nevertheless, this could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Or it might not. After all, Reading Council is reported to be looking for a partner to build a replacement for The Hexagon somewhere in town

David Cliffe, Chairman, B.L.H.A.

Words from the Editor

It has been a busy summer for many of our member societies with outings and social events; but not many meetings; so we have not had as much material in as normal. Was it that you forgot? However we are grateful to our regular stalwarts who managed to meet the deadline.



John Chapman

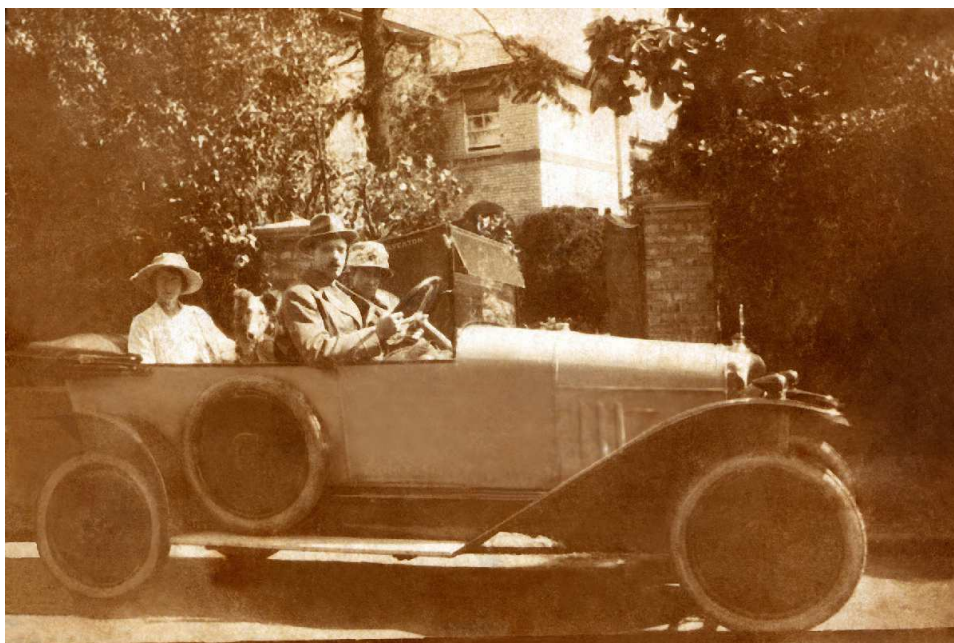
Miscellanea

A House on the Thames

We recently received this message from Trevor Vallor in New Zealand - can any members help?

I am trying to establish the names of the people in this photo and or find the location of the house, said to be on the banks of the River Thames. Where precisely is not known. The people in the photo are related to my grandfather (maternal side). He came to NZ before 1898. Unfortunately their names are not known but are part of my family. Many years of research have not revealed any family connections in the U.K. in spite

of the fact that he stated on his marriage certificate that he was born in London. Exposure of the photo on mailing lists, local papers that circulate in the Thames area etc.etc. have not helped. The photo was taken in the 1930's and housing experts think the house was built in the late 1800's/early-



1900's. A sign on the gate reads...ulverton. First letter is hidden but Dulverton or Bulverton are possibilities. On the left hand gate post just above the man's shoulder are barely visible letters: TWN or R or WN & a 8 or a B. Significance not known.

Any help leading to names of the people or location of the house would be hugely appreciated.

Trev.Valler. (trevaller@xtra.co.nz)

A New Crime Wave?

In the latest issue of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Society's newsletter they are reporting a new sort of crime in which ram-raiders demolish old walls and buildings, scoop up the bricks and then sell them at a huge profit to people renovating or extending older houses. Have we had any such cases in Berkshire? At a recent conference, Alex Godden, West Berkshire's Archaeological Officer made the plea that any sightings of damage to, or theft from, Heritage sites should be reported immediately to the police.

Reading Abbey Update

We thought you would be interested in an update on the work being done on the Abbey Quarter in Reading and the search for Henry I. Thanks to John Painter of the Friends of Reading Abbey for the information.

The Search for Henry I

During June 2016, the Hidden Abbey Project commissioned Stratascan to do Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys of the site of the Reading Abbey church. This lies under land owned by Reading Borough Council (Forbury Gardens), the RC Diocese of Portsmouth (St James church presbytery and nursery school), and the Ministry of Justice (Reading Gaol car park). Stratascan spent six days in total undertaking the surveys. They will be submitting a detailed report to the project later this month (August).

The surveys in the Forbury Gardens and Reading gaol were filmed by Darlow Smithson Productions with a view to inclusion in a future television programme.

The nave of the Abbey church lies under the Forbury Gardens. The north transept and choir lie under the Diocese of Portsmouth site. The high altar and ambulatory lie under Reading gaol car park (the Lady Chapel lies under the prison).

The surveys attracted local, national and international media interest, which was expressed principally in terms of the Abbey church being the burial place of Henry I.

Reading Gaol

There are a number of activities currently taking place at Reading Gaol in advance of the Ministry of Justice putting it on the market at the end of the year.

There will be an opportunity for the public to see inside the gaol when the Artangel Exhibition is staged - 4 September to 30 October 2016 (see Opportunities)

Reading between the Lines are doing a play about Henry 1 November to (see Opportunities)

Reading Prison and Abbey Quarter Project

During July 2016, Reading Museum teamed up with the National Citizen Service to deliver an innovative challenge project for a group of local young people. On 24 and 25 July a group of 12 young people visited Reading Abbey grounds and Reading Prison, accompanied by an ex-warder and Reading Museum staff, to photograph and

document the history of the grounds. On Sunday 24 July, the group found out about the background to the prison to give them a steer on what types of photography to focus on.

Stuart Kennedy, Assistant Curator at the Museum, said, "The aim was for the group to learn more about their local history through this exciting project. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to try out the new photographic skills they have developed. When Reading Prison closed it was a Young Offenders Institute and many of the last inmates would have been a similar age to those taking part. It was challenging for them to imagine what these places were like for the people their own age who had to stay."

The two-day project is part of a 4 week programme, run by the NCS, focused on social inclusion and social action, which seeks to take groups of young people from diverse backgrounds, aged 15-17, and challenge them physically, mentally and socially. This is the second year Reading Museum has supported the NCS project, with last year's group contributing to the presentation to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Reading Abbey Revealed bid.

Abbey Gateway - Victorian Schoolroom

Reading Borough Council is considering a proposal to relocate its Victorian schoolroom from Reading Museum to the room on the first floor of the Abbey Gateway, when it is restored as part of the Reading Abbey Revealed project. This was included in a report to the Council's Policy Committee on 18 July 2016.

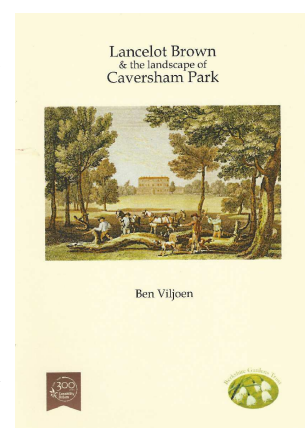
The schoolroom is a popular part of the Museum's education service, and is visited by 4,000 schoolchildren each year, generating £20k annual income. The Abbey Gateway was also the original home of Reading Abbey School, where Jane Austen was a pupil. This additional historical and literary link could add depth and interest to the educational programme for the schoolroom. The schoolroom experience would be modified to reflect Georgian as well as Victorian schooling.

New Books and Reviews

Lancelot Brown and the Landscape of Caversham Park

By Ben Viljoen ISBN 978-0-9566341-7-7

This year is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot "Capability" Brown who is perhaps our best known landscape designer, and has been marked in many ways with lectures, tours and articles. There are six properties in Berkshire associated with him, one which has disappeared (Maiden Erleigh), three which are private and not open to the public (Sandleford Priory, Benham Valence and Caversham Park) one occasionally open to the public (Ditton Park) and finally Basildon Park (National Trust).



This booklet records the introductory talk given to visitors when Caversham Park, long the home of the BBC Monitoring Service, was opened as a special favour to mark the anniversary.

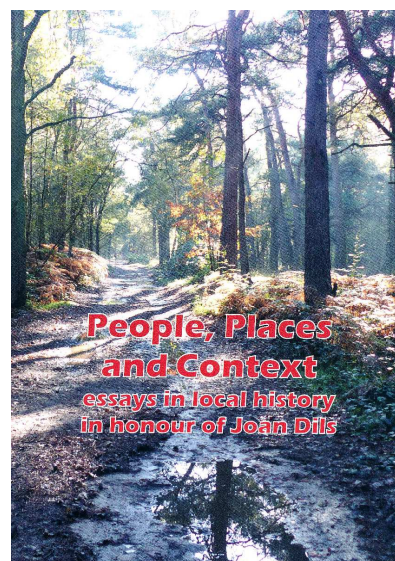
It covers ownership going back to Domesday and reconstructs the development of the park since 1633 when it was bought by the Earl of Craven. Sadly there are no records to go by so Ben has had to painfully reconstruct the changes based upon Rocques map of 1761 through Ordnance Survey maps going back to 1877 and finally Google Earth. Much of the estate has been given over to housing and the Henley Road cemetery; but it is to the great credit of the BBC that they have maintained the central parts and preserved the ethos that Brown created.

Copies at £3-50 (plus £1 P&P) can be obtained from the Berkshire Gardens Trust (c/o Ben Viljoen, High Veldt, Beech Road, Purley on Thames, Berks RG8 8DS tel 0118-984-3176)

People Places and Context

Edited by Dr Jonathan Brown

This book records the Papers delivered at the Joan Dils Symposium in 2015 - *see chairman's corner page 2*. Additional copies are available at £5 plus £5 P&P.



Spotlight on:-

The Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

The Friends was inaugurated on 14th February 1991 at Maidenhead Library, to help Judith Hunter, the Honorary Curator, to look after the collections of historical artefacts that had been displayed at the Windsor Guildhall from 1951 until 1982 and to make the public more aware of the collections by showing them. Annual exhibitions were held at the Guildhall with members of the Friends helping to prepare them and acting as stewards. In 1995 premises were found over the Information Centre at 24 High Street for a permanent display called Town & Crown. Many events and exhibitions were held there and members of the Friends volunteered.

The Friends held regular lectures on subjects relating to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at various locations in the Borough, and made visits to local historical buildings and those further afield by coach. A fund was started and this was used to buy exhibition boards, display cases and some important local artefacts that were offered for sale at auction. We also paid for conservation and repair work. Town & Crown closed in 2006 because the Information Centre was moving to the Booking

Hall at the Central Station and, with no space to display them there, the artefacts were returned to the store at Tinkers Lane.

A new Chairman of the Friends, Brigitte Mitchell suggested that the Friends should collect a million pounds to buy a building to display the collections. We registered as a Charity and sought out moneymaking ideas. The volunteers visited buildings with Caroline McCutcheon, the new Heritage Officer, who was now in charge of the collections, and found one that we thought would be suitable. However, while it was still being discussed, the Council made the decision that the museum should go back into the Guildhall.

The regular volunteers undertook many of the tasks involved in setting up the new museum and learned about new methods of presentation. It was an exciting time. Some of the money that had been collected for the building was now spent on artefacts and displays. The Museum opened in 2011.

Now there are many more volunteers, who



The cabinet in the Windsor Library Reference Room where we have a small exhibition to celebrate our 25 years.



Our 2016 committee:

Left to right: Angela Webster (Meetings and Trips), Pamela Marson (Publicity) Janice Carter (Treasurer) Brigitte Mitchell (Chair) Courtney Rudge (Secretary) Beryl Hedges, Len Nash (Newsletter) James Donnelly (Membership)

are all members and many of them help with curatorial tasks. Others are stewards, meeting the public and helping with events and activities at the Museum and other venues.

A new programme of lectures starts in the autumn and visits are planned for the future.

Great War Centenary

When the First World War began there was a sudden huge need for companies who could make the components and equipment necessary to equip our armed forces. Previously all this had been done by the military themselves and they always imagined that they were at the cutting edge of technology. It came as a terrible shock for them to discover how out of touch they had become. The railways, and the GWR in particular, were years ahead in terms of engineering skills and techniques. But what emerged was that a large number of small, often one-man concerns, had both the skills and the capacity to take on government contracts and do an excellent job. Reading in particular had dozens of such companies, often with their skills derived from making agricultural equipment.

We are discovering more and more war memorials that have either been forgotten or obscured. Also new ones keep emerging and we hear that Sunningdale and Ascot have a new one in mind.

Articles

Warricks of Reading

In early 1948, after the second world war, an exhibition was held in Reading to mark Silver Lining Savings Week which was partly sponsored by many of the local companies who had contributed so much to the war effort. We are grateful to Peter Pribik of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group who rescued the programme booklet in which many of the contributions were recorded. Here is the contribution from Warricks of Reading as written in 1948 so don't get confused by dates. Sadly things have moved on and Warricks are no longer with us. And when did you last see a carrier cycle?

Warricks of Reading were the pioneers of the Carrier Cycle industry. They were established in 1877 and built the first trade cycle in the early 1890s. The earliest Warrick Carrier Tricycle was really an adaptation of the pleasure type, then so popular with the "not so young" who feared to venture on the ordinary or penny farthing bicycle of those days. It had a roomy basket fitted over the backbone of the frame for the conveyance of goods. The first two such machines built by the late Mr John Warrick were sold to two firms of butchers who still [in 1948] use Warrick machines today for their deliveries, surely a tribute to the quality the firm has always achieved.

The demand grew rapidly and to meet it a larger Works were built in Caversham Road in 1890. These were unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1895, when the firm

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The advert in the souvenir programme

all the other engineering firms, were engaged on government work, comprising aircraft, sea mine and fuse parts, but they have again turned their attention to the Carrier Cycle trade and are building as many of these machines as shortages of material permit, many of them for export.

Their latest production is a "Tea Tricycle" with a body specially designed, in conjunction with the Empire Tea Bureau, to carry an insulated tea urn with cake cupboards and provision for spare urns and supplies. These machines, one of which is on show at their stand in this exhibition, have quickly established their value wherever a cup of hot tea served hygienically is required. The London Zoo had a number of them in service last summer. Others have already been sent to Egypt, Canada, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Australia and Holland.

In spite of Warricks' special concentration on the Carrier Cycle they have not neglected the other side of the business and their Monarch bicycles have been well known in the area for over half a century for their high quality and dependability. They specialize also in a repair service second to none, maintained by a highly skilled staff

moved to the site they now occupy.

Normally in the course of years many changes took place in design, both tricycles and bicycles being built to suit the needs of almost every type of business. The firm's one aim has always been to build only the best, quality being their constant aim, with price a secondary consideration. In other words they have built up to a standard and never down to a price. By this policy they have achieved a reputation for a first-class article which gives the best possible results under the most exacting conditions of use and abuse.

Between the wars the firm became famous as the builders of the ice cream or "stop me and buy one" carriers, both tricycles and bicycles, which were such a familiar feature of our roads all over the country. Here the absolute reliability enabled the users to maintain their service to the public with outstanding regularity.

During the war years, Warricks, like

From Leicestershire to Berkshire

Our President Elect is Brian Boulter who will be well known to most of you. Here is an article previously published in "Local History News," the newsletter of the British Association for Local History, following the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award. It was written by Jane Howells, with help from Brian himself, Joan Dils, David Cliffe, Richard Poad, and Fran Edwards. We are grateful to Jane Howells and the BALH for allowing us to re-publish it here.

Brian Boulter was born in Leicester, and he describes his Wigston forebears as some of the Hoskins' Midland Peasants.

As I am drafting this, the television series 'Victorian Bakers' is being transmitted, to the obvious enjoyment of viewers. I wonder if Brian is watching? By profession a food scientist, Brian worked mainly in the milling and baking industries, often visiting firms with long histories, but then facing challenging new technologies. This stimulated his interest along one of the routes he subsequently followed – industrial archaeology. A long-standing member (and committee member) of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group, he has researched subjects such as brewing and transport, and contributed articles to local journals, and to An Historical Atlas of Berkshire (1998 and 2012). He was part of a major project to record the site of Temple Mills, Marlow, in 1973, ahead of demolition. The main mill was built by Samuel Wyatt for Thomas Williams, 'The Copper King,' in 1790. Welsh copper ingots were shipped from Swansea and up the Bristol Channel, then along the Thames & Severn Canal. At Temple they were rolled into sheets, which were then sent down the Thames to the dockyards, where they were used to sheathe the ships of Nelson's navy.

In 1963 Brian had moved to Maidenhead, and began to discover the history of the town. He was Chairman of the Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society at the time of the foundation of the Berkshire Local History Association. He held the chair during a difficult period when other officers were hard to find, but the Society benefited from Brian's very 'hands-on' approach, and came through to flourish as an important part of the community. He served on the committee of the Berkshire LHA, and is now one of its vice-presidents.

Brian studied the new extramural certificate course in English Local History, run jointly by Oxford and Reading Universities in 1982. A dissertation based on original sources was one of the requirements; and for this, Brian researched Maidenhead, from its incorporation in 1582 to 1640. After retirement, he became an active local history tutor, especially for the WEA, and so has guided many people to share his enthusiasm for local history.

For twenty years since 1995, Brian was curator at the Maidenhead Heritage Centre. From small beginnings, he oversaw the management of the Maidenhead Heritage Trust's collection, including the successful application for Accredited Museum status. He was responsible for the introduction of the Modes cataloguing

system, and the transfer of all his meticulous paper records to the digitized format. Volunteers are vital to the Heritage Centre, and Brian has trained numerous volunteers to assist with catalogue and digitisation work, insisting on best practice at all times. He was always heavily involved in the many and varied activities at the Centre, being in particular demand for the popular programme of school visits. Every year he also gives talks to the Friends of Maidenhead Heritage Centre, as well as any other local organisations.

Brian's skills, enthusiasm and commitment serve the community through the Heritage Centre and the other organisations where he is much appreciated.

Jane Howells

Society News

Berkshire Archaeological Society

This Summer Berkshire Archaeologists have been keeping up the traditions displayed on an 1878 ticket for one of their early expeditions by train and carriage. In Queen Victoria's time our members enjoyed a luncheon and dinner with visits to sites such as Ockwells and Shottesbrooke, sites that we are still investigating today. The ticket was found amongst the materials held at Maidenhead Heritage Centre, in the collection made by the late Luke Over OBE. Luke who was our Treasurer for twenty years, made a huge contribution to archaeology with many publications which can be found in the Heritage Centre library. At the moment the display centres on the 'naughty days' of Skindles Hotel when the question was, 'Are you married or do you live in Maidenhead?' The Heritage Centre which is in a converted public house will soon be rehoused in the newly built centre of Maidenhead. I recommend a visit there.

The Society made a very enjoyable four day excursion to Cornwall in May, based at Newquay to visit sites as various as an Iron Age village, a cider orchard and Porthcurno Telegraph Museum where Brunel's ship the SS Great Eastern was used to lay cables in 1870. These relayed messages in Morse Code until it closed in 1970. Except for the intervention of a fantastic cream tea, we would have visited a tin mine too!

In addition to a varied programme of Saturday lectures the Society has continued to investigate Saxon Berkshire by research, field investigation and discussion. We have also run a programme of field work which has investigated the gardens of several properties in search of a Neolithic henge, made a search for a medieval village and the ablution block of a Second World War prisoner-of-war camp. I encourage you to join us in these activities.

Ann Griffin

Goring Gap Local History Society

We have had an interesting variety of talks since the beginning of 2016.

In January we were pleased to welcome one of our regular speakers – Liz Woolley – to tell us about *19th century food production in Oxford*. She focused on the interesting dietary mix of beer, sausages and marmalade. There were 319 licensed premises in Oxford in Victorian times, supplied by many small breweries and some large ones, of which Tawneys and Morrells were the most important. The latter was particularly relevant to us as the owner Mrs Morrell lived at Streatley House and had a big influence locally. In addition to beer, Liz covered the oddly shaped ‘Oxford sausage’ created by Mr Piggott and ‘Oxford marmalade’ introduced by Frank Cooper and which you can still buy today.

Tim Healey spoke most entertainingly in February about *the Green Man in Oxfordshire*. The term was introduced by Lady Raglan in 1939; before then these carvings in stone and wood, usually to be found in churches, were known as ‘foliate heads’. They depicted strange creatures entwined with oak, holly and ivy leaves. Tim concluded that ‘the Green Man remained and always will remain a mystery and perhaps that is just as it should be’.

March saw Lyn Davies from the Pangbourne Heritage Group describing the history of his Thames-side village. The Breedon family were the major landowners for hundreds of years and controlled their domain until 1894 when the estate was auctioned, allowing the development of Pangbourne into the busy commuter village that it is today.

The rise of leisure on the Thames was tackled by Simon Wenham at our April meeting. He described how the arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1840 brought about a decline in commercial boat transport on the river, but conversely allowed tourists to visit the Thames Valley where they enjoyed taking boat trips. Between 1861 and 1893, the Salter's fleet of pleasure craft increased from 185 to over 700. WWI brought about a decline in traffic but after WWII a ‘day on the river’ once again became popular, peaking in the 1970s and early 80s. Thereafter, the growth of cheap overseas package holidays and the increase in car ownership put paid to the boating boom.

June saw our annual outing, when we visited Salisbury Cathedral Close. After coffee and delicious pastries in the refectory on arrival, we had a guided visit of the Cathedral. Thereafter people were free to explore the various other attractions in the Close, including Arundells, Ted Heath’s house, the National Trust’s Mompesson House, the Salisbury Museum or The Wardrobe – the museum of the former Royal Berkshire Regiment, now based a long way from home!

In August Ian Wheeler took us on a guided tour of what used to be Fairmile Hospital at Cholsey, the former Berkshire Lunatic Asylum. On closure the site was

turned into a housing development, but many of the original buildings have been converted into apartments and some blocks of new dwellings have been built. Much of the original structure can therefore still be seen. The large size of the site was a surprise to many of us, on what was a very interesting visit.

The Transport History Group outings seasons started in March with a visit by train and underground to the Postal Museum Reserve Collection at Debden in Essex. We were given a conducted tour of the many exhibits and learned about the surprisingly fascinating development of both telephone boxes and pillar boxes. Members are now to be seen inspecting such objects in the landscape with a knowledgeable eye! In April we had a very enjoyable train trip on a glorious sunny spring day to the Dean Forest Railway in Gloucestershire. This included guided tours of the workshops and the museum, as well as steam-hauled journeys on the train and not forgetting a good pub lunch at Parkend. Our most recent outing was a boat trip around Chichester Harbour. Future trips include a visit to Exbury Gardens in the New Forest, Thinktank in Birmingham and a private garden railway in Thame.

The Society is 50 this year! We will be celebrating this milestone with an event on Saturday 1 October at Goring Village Hall. The focus will be on the 1960s, with talks on this theme in the morning and a public exhibition in the afternoon. All are welcome. In the evening there will be a special party for members by invitation only. At the moment we have around 190 members and we hope to make it 200 in our jubilee year. We look forward to the next 50 years, although the present committee will not be around to see it, having become history themselves!

Janet Hurst, Secretary (01491 871022; goringgaphistory@gmail.com; www.goringgaphistory.org.uk)

Janet Hurst

Hungerford Historical Association

Our April meeting featured Martin McIntyre & Col. Michael Cornwell talking about *The Royal Berkshire Regiment in World War 1*

Both speakers served in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment formed in 1959 amalgamating the Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments. They now play a major role in the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum at 'The Wardrobe' in Salisbury also the Rifles' Museum. Col. Cornwell is the former curator, he and 'Mac' McIntyre continue as volunteers. It has provided an invaluable resource for Mac's impressive publications, photographic histories of the Royal Berkshire Regiments from 1743-1914 and 1914-1959.

The presentation provided the 'Tommy's Perspective' on the actions in France from August 1914 to November 1918. The Regiment originally comprised 4 Battalions but by the end of the War had mustered 11 Battalions. It was very much a 'PALS' Regiment of local 'Brothers in Arms' and gave very distinguished service in its many actions mainly on the Western Front but also in Italy and Salonika.

The losses were heaviest in 1916, mirroring the devastating toll for the whole of the British Army on the Somme. By 1918, the Royal Berkshires had lost 353 officers and 6,375 other soldiers and had won 3 VCs and many other Awards.

Mac McIntyre had trawled through hundreds of photographs and associated papers to encapsulate the soldiers' lives on service in key actions and gave a vivid commentary with notes from diaries, letters and press reports. Col. Cornwell's masterly account of the campaign's progress 'talked through' his excellent maps and illustrations of the main engagements including Loos and Ypres.

Their complementary narratives brought the 'Soldiers' War' powerfully, and often poignantly to life. Having 'set the scene' of the Regiment's engagements, the focus was narrowed to some of the 75 Hungerford soldiers who died and are commemorated on the town War Memorial. Some very impressive photos of individual soldiers and an account of their brief lives accompanied by extracts from letters, and diaries, retold an often harrowing story: it was a moving account.

The presentation concluded by giving an interesting insight into some of the 'characters' of the Regiment. An artist serving as a medical orderly in Salonika later became the famous war artist, Sir Stanley Spencer, whose war experiences were captured for posterity in his awesome, overwhelming murals in the Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere. A schoolteacher from Welford/Wickham rose through the ranks and Major Attwell became the Head Teacher of Hungerford Council School.

A number of those present had proudly served in the Royal Berkshires: some had relatives in at least two, sometimes three generations and today in the 'successor' Regiment. For the whole audience however, it was a most impressive, memorable and sobering presentation by two excellent speakers and especially relevant in the centenary year of the Battle of the Somme.

Local historian, Nick Baxter introduced his talk in May entitled *Revolting Marlborough*, stating that 'Marlborough was not always quiet!' There were four phases of revolt: 'Medieval Mayhem', 'The Turbulent Tudors', the 'Revolting Age of the 17th Century' and the infamous 'Reform Bill Riots in the 19th Century'.

The strategic importance being at a 'crossroads' between East and West, North and South and the very extensive Savernake Forest belonging to the King, made Marlborough an important centre involved in the power struggles of successive monarchs. In 1070 William deposed the English Archbishop Aethelric and imprisoned him in the Castle; the 'Mound' is all that remains today in the grounds of the College. In 1139 it was attacked in the bitter power struggles between Matilda and Stephen. Her son, Henry II, spent Christmas at the Castle. Furious with Beckett, he signed the Writ for his arrest whilst there. Richard later gave John the Castle and Forest. Later as King, John gave the town its Charter in 1204 for two markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays which continue to thrive today.

Henry III's 'Statute of Marlborough' played a hugely important role in 'a radical step towards democracy' and probably averted civil war. It redressed the Barons'

grievances and continuing insurrection after John's reneging on agreements made in Magna Carta. 'The Turbulent Age of the Tudors' referred to as 'The Cousins' War' not 'War of the Roses', was a prolonged and bloody series of interfamilial feuds for the throne. By 1485 Henry VII Tudor the town had grown very prosperous as a 'wool' centre. The vast Forest belonged to the King for hunting deer, wood and meat. Poaching was a major problem. Seymour of Wolf Hall, the custodian, furnished a list of 'rebel poachers to the King'. One 'rebel', Wroughton, organised a riotous array – and ransacked the Priory was eventually caught and tried. Jane Seymour married Henry VIII and had his only son, Edward VI who later dissolved the remaining religious houses and founded a 'Grammar School', 'St John's' Medieval Hospital, the St John's College in Marlborough reflects this today.

There were two martyrs in Mary's reign. In 1576 Elizabeth granted a Charter of Incorporation to the town. Later she banished 'Shakespeare's Men' from performing in London considering them 'propagandist' hence the 'strolling players' who visited Wolf Hall and Marlborough. In 1602 they were banned from Marlborough because of vandalism, breaking of windows etc., during an 'interlude'. A plaque in Russell Square commemorates their visits.

The 17th Century was a crisis for the country with the Civil War. Marlborough was of strategic importance to both sides. The Royalist attack was strenuously resisted by the townspeople, firing from windows, and the Parliamentary forces relieved the town. Later in 1653 there was devastating fire which destroyed over 200 houses in the High Street: Oliver Cromwell launched a 'national subscription to rebuild the town' and hence the fine High Street of today. His son-in-law, a former Army officer became MP. 'Marlborough was at the forefront of republican England'.

In the 18th century being on the 'turnpiked' Bath Road, Marlborough flourished from the 'Golden Age of Coaching' as did Hungerford. However, the post Napoleonic Wars Depression brought great poverty and discontent. The Peterloo Massacre of protesters, with scores wounded, inflamed the masses. Parliamentary reform was seen as a solution to revolution. Wellington as Prime Minister was implacably opposed, also George IV. William IV was more disposed to some liberal causes. When Grey, a Whig, became Prime Minister he promised some reform to replace the 'Rotten Boroughs' with representation based on population. Marlborough would return one MP.

The Corporation's 'Petition' attacked the nominations in which they considered the Marquess of Ailesbury, a Peer, had retained influence. Uproar and a high state of excitement ensued. Effigies of Estcourt and Banks, the prospective candidates, were burnt at the crossroads! In 1832 the Bill was passed. Marlborough to have 2 MP's but not Estcourt or Banks! Estcourt became MP for Devizes.

Nick Baxter's dramatic account based on his encyclopaedic knowledge and his racy, lively presentation complemented by excellent illustrations made a most interesting evening enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

Daphne Priestley

Project Purley

Long Lane Primary School in Purley celebrated its 50th birthday in April and Project Purley was delighted to assist the school in gathering memorabilia, and putting together an exhibition, on the school's history for past and present pupil and staff and guests. As a consequence, the school has kindly allowed Project Purley to have copies of many of the photographs collected for the society's electronic image archive.

As in previous years, members and their guests enjoyed a variety of summer activities. In May, there was a coach trip to Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, perhaps best known as the former home of Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII, who is buried in the private chapel.

In June, the Rain or Shine Theatre Company once again visited The Barn, Purley, where they gave a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to an enraptured audience. Over £500 was raised during the evening which will be donated to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Intensive Care Unit in memory of former member David Edwards. Later on in June, over forty-five members and guests enjoyed the society's annual barbecue, hosted once again by Ben and Dorothy Viljoen in their exquisite gardens at Highveldt. Our chefs for the evening, Ben, together with David Green, provided a tempting selection of meats and vegetarian options which were accompanied, and followed, by the huge variety of salads and desserts provided by those attending. In a week of variable weather conditions we were resigned to the possibility of rain during the evening; amazingly once again the weather held out for us.

Our final visit of the season was in July to Hughenden Manor in Buckinghamshire. Four guided tours or talks were offered by a host of guides located throughout the three floors of the house as well as the gardens. The National Trust have preserved and maintained the house in a condition reminiscent of the times of the 19th century when its most famous owner, Benjamin Disraeli both Chancellor and then Prime Minister resided, and where Queen Victoria visited on two occasions.

Our regular meetings in the Barn start back after the summer recess on Friday 16 September at 8pm, when our Members' Evening will focus on special birthday celebrations. We will look back on the national and local celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday and David Downs will share the story of a very special 100th birthday celebration.

Catherine Sampson

Sandhurst Historical Society

Alan Copeland's talk in May on *Locations of curiosities* was of great interest to everyone, so here are a few of them. The oldest milepost is in Chipping Campden and the largest in Esher. The oldest church clock, dated 1430, is in Rye. In 1940 a bomb caused Queen Victoria's statue in Leamington Spa to move exactly one inch. The RAF Fauld explosion occurred in 1944 when 3,500 explosives were accidentally blown up, creating a 300ft crater and 70 fatalities. At the top of Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, site

of the well-known Hovis advertisement, there is a collection box in the shape of a Hovis loaf! A petrol station in Stockbridge was the last to sell petrol in gallons. King John slept in a bug-ridden bed at The Crown, Kingsclere and there is a now a bug sign on a tall tower nearby. In Llandovery there is a set of painted traffic lights with green showing a smiley face!

In June Mr. Strafford, who spent 19 years as a Beefeater at the Tower of London, arrived dressed in the current black and red uniform which was designed by Prince Albert. The ceremonial costume costs around £10,000! No one appears to know why the warders are known as Beefeaters although in times gone by they were given 1lb of meat a day in addition to eight pints of beer. Hence the saying “one over the eight”! To become a Beefeater one had to have served in the Army and reached a certain rank. Originally one had to pay to become a warder but a stop was put to this by the Duke of Wellington. Their pension, known as the Yeomans’ reward, was 8/6d per week which, after decimalisation, became 42p. Strictly speaking this should have been 42½p but was downsized!

In July Paul Whittle provided *A whistle-stop tour of the British Isles*, with the help of some stunning photographs. These included a replica of Stephenson’s Rocket, which was developed for use on the country’s first high speed railway, and which is housed in the National Rail Museum at York. Science-fiction writer H. G. Wells lived in Woking and set the “War of the Worlds” on nearby Horsell Common. Giant sculptures depicting the Martian invaders are located in Woking town centre. The inclined racetrack at Brooklands was the first of its kind to be constructed, for the purpose of testing vehicles for speed. Planes were built at Brooklands throughout both World Wars and the museum displays many motoring and aviation related exhibits. Local hero Samuel Cody was at the forefront of aviation and completed the first flight in Britain in 1908. His statue and reconstructed aircraft are located at the FAST Museum.

Janice Burlton

Shinfield & District Local History Society

At our April meeting we discussed some of our current projects, the most time being spent discussing how we might help Shinfield St. Mary’s Church in their project to produce a book about the effects of World War 1 on the village of Shinfield and its inhabitants. Several possible sources of information were suggested and some of our members undertook to investigate some of these.

The speaker at our May meeting was Colin Oakes who gave a talk on “*Where did that saying come from*”. His talk covered the origins of many familiar sayings and expressions, including – ‘Ne’er cast a clout till May is out’; ‘Posh’; ‘Bob’s your uncle’; ‘It’s black over Will’s mother’s’; ‘Not room to swing a cat’; ‘At sixes and sevens’. The stories behind the origins of most of these are too long and involved to summarise here but suffice to say this was a thoroughly entertaining evening.

In June we discussed further the possible content of a book on Shinfield in World War 1 and some of our findings to date.

Our speaker in July was Catherine Sampson who gave an excellent talk on "*Unusual aspects of Berkshire Churches*". The churches covered, which included a number in South Oxfordshire, were dealt with in three groups – Location, Historical Connections and Don't Miss. The first group comprised churches at Widford, East Shefford, Catmore, Nuneham Courtney and Frilsham, the majority of which are in isolated locations but all with interesting features. The second group covered those at Hatford, Cumnor, Burford and Wargrave. The 'Don't Miss' group included churches at Langley Marish, Wickham, Aldworth, Fyfield Ewelme, Swinbrook and Avington. Catherine provided a huge amount of information on each church, including how to gain access for those wishing to visit. The talk was well illustrated throughout with pictures of all the churches mentioned and their most interesting aspects.

George Taylor

Swallowfield Local History Society

We thoroughly enjoyed Mike Cooper's '*The Abbey and the Castle: Reading in the Middle Ages*' on the 19th May, with updates on the latest developments to the Abbey site. It was very interesting evening full of facts and anecdotes in Mike's usual style. To see early maps showing how much land the abbey controlled in Reading, and to hear snippets about the tradesmen who served the abbey, as well as a central kitchen which may have been Reading's first takeaway! A telling contrast was made between the Benedictine Abbey in the east of the town, which was wealthy, and the Friars living in their chosen poverty to the west. There were also some early insights into future ideas to focus on the "Abbey Quarter" in conjunction with the grant that has now been secured to preserve and make safe the abbey ruins. It is hoped that modern methods may reveal a lot more, although whether Henry I really is under a car park remains to be seen.....

Another good evening on the 21st July when Richard Marks gave his first talk to the Society called '*The Arrival of Railways in Reading*'. His presentation was interesting in that he went on to debunk some of the most notable historians' theories on the effect of the railways bulldozing themselves across the country side, notably Dan Snows recent TV series on the subject. As he said the railways wanted to use the most cost effective way of getting routes into Cities and Towns. He used Bath and Reading as examples of how the tracks were routed into them. In each case they did not come into the centre of the towns and used land that was readily available on the outskirts. Most routes when they came across habitation went round or brought land as part of slum clearance. A lot of this land was owned by the church or slum landlords. It stirred up lots of interest shown by the number of questions and the lively discussion that followed.

We're looking forward to welcoming Barbara Stanley to our next meeting on Thursday 15th September. Her presentation is entitled '*150 years of Girls' Education*

in schools such as *The Abbey School, Reading*'. This is a subject very close to her heart and as she has recently retired as Head Mistress of The Abbey School she comes with extensive knowledge of this important development in our history.

This will be followed by the Hon. Mary Bayliss on the 20th October, who will talk entitled 'The Berkshire Lieutenancy ' which is based on her experience as the Lieutenant of .

Both these ladies live locally and we are so pleased we have been able to persuade them to come and talk to us.

Our Web Site www.slhsoc.org.uk gives the full Programme for the rest of the year.

New Members and visitors are always welcome, if a subject attracts your attention, just come along and join us for the evening. The Rose Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, 7.45 for 8 pm. If you would like to know more about the History Society please contact either Ken Hussey (Chairman) on 0118 988 3650 or Maggie Uttley (Secretary) on 0118 988 2954 or email kcuttley@aol.com .

Maggie Uttley

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society

Our speaker in April was Mr Tony King. His subject was '*The Way it Was*', a beautifully illustrated presentation based on a personal view of growing up in the 1940s and 1950s; and the influence of what was happening around him. Mr King first set the scene in the 1930s, and then took us through the war years. A young Tony was very pleased to see the Americans arrive, because they gave Mars Bars to the children! But equally he remembered crouching under the dining-room table during air raids. There was great excitement when the children were able to inspect a crashed German bomber. The aftermath of the war saw great changes in the home: washing machines made their appearance –and spin driers that had to be held down as they bounced their way around the kitchen. Enormous changes have taken place in a relative short time and we saw some pictures of 'Reading Then and Now'.

In May Dr Malcolm Nelson gave us a fascinating talk entitled '*Smugglers of Yesteryear*'. The 18th and 19th centuries were the main periods for the 'free traders' (as smugglers were known). For some, smuggling became an organised business, and we learned a lot about some of the colourful characters involved. Others operated on a much smaller scale and only seemed to engage in smuggling when funds were low.

Catherine Sampson talked to us in June about *Georgian kitchens and cookery*; and this unusual subject proved to be very interesting.

Other activities included a visit to Arundel Castle in April; and we had a stall at the Donkey Derby in June (sponsoring 'Wellington Boot' in the first race).

In July the Scotts once again hosted a Ploughman's Lunch which was very enjoyable, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their hospitality.

Sadly our Osier Heritage Project has received a setback. One of our members,

Graham Starkie, had done an immense amount of work preparing the site- cutting back brambles, digging and planting 381 sets. These were growing well, but unfortunately they have been eaten by muntjacs. The osiers will grow again, but unless the plot can be fenced in they are likely to be eaten again. One way and another it has been a busy period

Denise Wilkin

Wargrave Local History Society

In April, Ann Smith gave an interesting presentation on *Reading Shops and Shopping – the Last 100 Years*. To those who have only known Reading in the 21st century, the Oracle is the main shopping area. When it was built, it transformed Reading's shops, but Ann showed that there had previously been a great variety of types of shop available in the town centre. These included several department stores and a range of specialist shops, such as motor companies, seed merchants, agricultural engineers, a blacksmith, Dudman's greengrocery and Hickies music shop, whilst another store making and selling a 'particular product' was Rain Bros in Broad Street, who appropriately dealt in umbrellas! Ann's illustrations came from the Reading Libraries' collection, available at <http://www.reading.gov.uk/libraries>

Henley's Workhouse was the subject of Valerie Alasia's talk in May. "The poor have always been with us", she said, and the provision of ways to help them dated back to Elizabethan times, resulting in a Poor Law Act in 1601. Every parish was responsible for collecting 'a competent sum' to assist the "lame, impotent, old, blind and those not able to work". Henley Corporation bought 3 acres of land in 1652, which generated income to help the poor when let to farmers. In due course a workhouse was built on these Townlands. With the passing of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act this served the surrounding area as well as the town. Following the creation of the NHS, the workhouse infirmary became Townlands Hospital. Valerie described the buildings, the workhouse administration, and the conditions for inmates - she has included much more in her new book about the Henley Union Workhouse.

David Williams, the Finds Liaison Officer for East Berkshire and Surrey, told members in June about the *Portable Antiquities Scheme*, which exists to ensure the proper recording of 'finds' of historic interest. Although many items are found by metal detectorists, by no means all are, nor are they all

The Jane Austen House Museum on the day of the Wargrave society's visit – Jane Austen went to school in Reading, her aunt and uncle lived in the parish of Wargrave. Her relations James Edward Austen-Leigh became vicar of Knowl Hill, and later Bray, whilst Arthur Henry Austen-Leigh became vicar of Wargrave – so several Berkshire connections !



metallic objects, and some are 'not what they seem', and David outlined some of the problems that arise with items brought in, and explained the legal position under the 1996 Treasure Act - Illustrated with a variety of items that had been found – some very locally. The database of items recorded by the scheme can be found at <https://finds.org.uk/database/search>.

Our Society trip to the Chawton House Library and Jane Austen House Museum was of special interest, as – apart from the general historic interest - several of Jane Austen's close relations had links to Wargrave.

The programme of talks resumes on Tuesday, September 13th, when the subject will be Wargravians and World War 1

The Society's website www.wargravehistory.org.uk/ has more information about the Society.

Museums and Libraries

Reading Museum

The railway exhibition 'On Track' has been hugely successful and will run until 14th January 2017.

Did you know that the story of Paddington Bear was based on Michael Bond's wartime memories of evacuees at Reading Station? Join us to make a friendly Paddington mask or finger puppet in one of the half hour drop in sessions on Wednesday 26th October 1000 to 1200 and 1300 to 1500.

During November there will be a series of Saturday afternoon talks - see Opportunities

Brendan Carr

Opportunities

For talks, Exhibitions, visits, conferences and participation

Artangel Exhibition - 4 September to 30 October 2016 Reading Gaol

Artists and Writers in Reading Prison is a one-off project at the Prison, where leading artists and writers will respond to the work of the prison's most famous inmate, Oscar Wilde, the architecture of the prison, and themes of imprisonment and separation. It will be run by Artangel, as part of the University of Reading's "Reading International", which is supported by the National Lottery through the Art Council's Ambition for Excellence programme. It is presented as part of Reading 2016, Reading's Year of Culture. For more information and bookings go to www.artangel.org.uk/inside.

Reading Museum Saturday Afternoon Talks

Starting at 1400 - you should book in advance on 0118-937-3400 and pay £2 at the door

5th November - *Disconnected* with Lord Richard Faulkner and Chris Austen OBE - the real stories behind Britain's rail industry.

12th November - *Isambard Kingdom Brunel - a very Personal View* by Peter Rance from the Didcot Rail Centre

19th November - *The Art of the Railway Poster* by Ed Bartholmew from the National Railway Museum

From Brunel to Crossrail

Saturday 26th November 1030 - 1530 at Reading Museum

An all day seminar organised by the WEA on 175 years of Reading's railway history - booking essential on 0118-946-4137 or e-mail WEAReading@googlemail.com - fee £32

St George's Chapel Windsor

General Tour and Evensong

It is proposed to organize a group visit to St George's Chapel during the month of November 2016. Dates are currently being negotiated but most likely the event would take place on a weekday afternoon (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday). The outline would be as follows:

2:00 – 2:15: Meet at Castle Hill, Windsor

2:30 – 3:45 approx – guided general tour of St George's Chapel accompanied by a Chapel Steward

3:45 – 4:00 approx: free time to browse in the Cloister Shop

For those who opt to stay and experience Evensong

4:15 – 5:00: Free time in Windsor to have refreshments

5:00pm: Gather at Chapel Hill again for entry to Evensong.

5:15 – 5:45 approx: Evensong sung by the 12 men and 18 boys of this world-renowned choir, in the classical English tradition.

St George's Chapel has been a site of Christian worship since 1240. The current building was begun in 1475 in the reign of Edward IV and completed in 1528 in the reign of Henry VIII. It is the spiritual home of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the oldest and most senior order of chivalry. It is the final resting place of 10 English/British sovereigns – and one German sovereign. It is the spiritual home of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the oldest and most senior order of chivalry.

There is much to see and in the short time allowed this tour will provide just an overview. It is proposed to organize a more in-depth visit in the autumn of 2017, with the opportunity to look behind the scenes and explore some of the unique treasures

held here. This visit will be a taster of greater things to come...

Once a date has been secured, members and societies will be notified via email and an eBulletin will be circulated with more precise details regarding booking arrangements.

All bookings must be made two weeks in advance to allow time for security checks. A £5 donation is requested by St George's Chapel and must be paid in advance. Admission on a Chapel tour does not permit admission to the Castle.

Comfortable footwear should be worn. There are cobblestones, an incline and a few steps to negotiate. Wheelchairs and scooters can be accommodated. Please advise organizer in advance.

Please contact me to express interest or for other enquiries. Do not send any money until the date has been finalized. At that point, I will email all members and societies with the full details.

Ann McCormack

4 Silwood Close, Ascot, SL5 7DX - ann.mccormack1@btinternet.com

Henry I of England

A Play written by Beth Flintoff and directed by Hal Chambers

St James' Catholic Church, Abbots Walk, Reading, RG1 3HW

2nd - 19th November 2016

Reading Between the Lines are honoured to be performing the incredible story of King Henry's life within touching distance of his final resting place, Reading Abbey, and inside the stunning St James' Church.

A son of William the Conqueror, father to over twenty bastard children, founder of a nearby zoo, a murderer, a man who imprisoned his own brother for 26 years allowing him to die in gaol, buried in Reading abbey (which he founded) having been sewn inside a bulls carcass and shipped back from France, Henry had an extraordinary life, as brave as it was tyrannical.

This is a compelling new play of epic proportions which RBL are thrilled to be creating with the support of Arts Council England.

Roman Roads, Past Present and Future Research;

The Ivan D Margary Memorial Conferences 2016 at the University of Portsmouth, 3rd & 4th September

Be informed and entertained by 14 internationally renowned archaeologists and Roman roads researchers brought together for the first time at this very first Roman roads conference

Be present for a preview of Roman Roads in Britain Online – Margary's work is being made freely accessible through us on the internet.

Participate in Discussion groups about many issues crucial to future Roman roads research – we need the opinions and involvement of all.

There is a conference fee of £25 per person for the weekend, including two course buffet lunch on both Saturday and Sunday and tea / coffee and biscuits provided at each break.

For further information go to http://romanroads.org/Margary_Conferences_2016 or phone on: 01457 872281

Berkshire Historic Environment Day-School

The Barn, Purley on Thames 22nd October 2016

This year we are continuing to explore the discrepancies between archaeology and local history. Archaeology tells us about anonymous people at well identified sites with independent evidence. Local history tells us about named people and events at generally ill defined places and it is usually the victor who writes the report. This year we have speakers from Reading, Bracknell and Thatcham. For each place there is one speaker talking about the archaeology and another about the history with plenty of opportunity for debate and discussion. You do not need to book - just turn up before 10:30 and pay £10. You can order a fish and chip lunch at the same time.

For further details contact Dr Andrew Hutt on 0118-973-2882 or andrew_hutt@talktalk.net

Heritage Open Days

September 8th to 11th

This year's Heritage Open Days will give you an opportunity to see inside places you do not normally have access to. Heritage Open Days is Britain's biggest Heritage Festival. Just to whet your appetite here are a few venues across Berkshire. To see more go to heritageopendays.org.uk

Green Park Wind Turbine Tours, Reading (Sunday)

Reading Crown Court cells (Saturday)

Eagle House School, Sandhurst (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

All Saints Church Tower, Wokingham (Thursday and Sunday)

Moor Close Gardens, Binfield (Sunday)

Holy Trinity Church, Bracknell (Friday and Saturday)

Superhome - Atherton Crescent, Hungerford (Saturday)

Shaw House, Newbury (Saturday and Sunday)

17 Castle St, Reading (Saturday)

Polish Church of the Sacred Heart, Reading (Saturday and Sunday)

Haslams Estate Agents, Reading (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

The Keep, Brock Barracks, Reading (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Reading Abbey Quarter Tours (Friday and Saturday)

St Michael's Church, Sandhurst (Saturday and Sunday)

St Michael's Church, Warfield (Sunday)

History Societies

Arborfield Local History Society: Secretary Tina Kemp, Kenneys Farm, Maggs Green, Arborfield RG2 9JZ [tina@geoffkemp.force).co.uk]

Berkshire Archaeological Society: Andrew Hutt, 19, Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ [info@berksarch.co.uk]

Berkshire Family History Society: Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading, RG1 7TJ [www.berksfhs.org.uk]

Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group: Secretary, Peter Trout, 7 West Chiltern, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 OSG or Mr. Weber, [bentwebershops@waitrose.com]

Berkshire Record Society, Secretary Margaret Simons, 80 Reeds Ave, Earley, Reading RG6 5SR [margaretsimons@hotmail.co.uk]

Blewbury Local History Group: Audrey Long, Spring Cottage, Church Road, Blewbury, Oxon, OX11 9PY tel 01235 850427 [audrey.long@waitrose.com]

Bracknell & District Local Historical Society: Geoffrey Moss, 31 Huntsman's Meadow, Ascot, SL5 7PF [MossSandalwood@aol.com]

Burnham Historians: Mary Bentley, 38 Conway Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 0LD tel 01628 665932 [burnhamhistorians@btinternet.com]

Cox Green Local History Group: Pat Barlow, 29 Bissley Drive, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 3UX. tel 01628 823890 weekends only. [alan.barlow2@btinternet.com]

East Garston Local History Society: Jonathan Haw, Goldhill House, Front Street, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7EU [jonathanhaw@btopenworld.com]

East Ilsley Local History Society: Sue Burnay, White Hollow, High St, E.Ilsley, Berks RG20 7LE tel 01635 281308 [info@eastilsleyhistory.com] [www.eastilsleyhistory.com]

Eton Wick Local History Group: Teresa Stanton, 35 Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6LU tel 01753 860591 [teresa.stanton@talktalk.net] [www.etonwickhistory.co.uk]

Finchampstead Society: Mohan Banerji, 3 Tanglewood, Finchampstead, Berks, RG40 3PR tel 0118 9730479.

Goring Gap Local History Society: Janet Hurst, 6 Nun's Acre, Goring on Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 9BE tel 01491 871022 [goringgaphistory@gmail.com] [www.goringgaphistory.org.uk]

The Hanneys Local History Society: Ann Fewins, 'Lilac Cottage', East Hanney, Wantage, OX12 0HX. tel 01235 868372 [annfewins@beeb.net]

The History of Reading Society: Vicki Chesterman, 7 Norman Road, Caversham RG4 5JN [vickichesterman@yahoo.co.uk] [www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk]

Hungerford Historical Association: Secretary: Secretary Mark Martin, 23 Fairview Road, Hungerford RG17 0BP. Tel: 01488 682932. [mandm.martin21@btinternet.com] [www.hungerfordhistorical.org.uk]

Longworth & District History Society: Pam Woodward, 22 Cherrytree Close, Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5BE. tel 01865 820500 [prwoodward@btinternet.com] [http://www.longworth-district-history-society.org.uk/]

Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society: Brian Madge, 11 Boulters Court, Maidenhead, SL6 8TH [bandgmadge@btinternet.com]

Mid Thames Archaeological & Historical Society: Jane Wall, 143 Vine Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4DH [sec.mtchs@yahoo.co.uk]

Mortimer Local History Group: Mrs Janet Munson, The Laurels, Ravensworth Road, Mortimer, RG7 3UD [munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk]

Newbury District Field Club: Ray Hopgood, 23 Lipscombe Close, Newbury, RG14 5JW [secretary@ndfc.org.uk]

Oxfordshire Family History Society: Wendy Archer, The Old Nursery, Pump Lane, Marlow, SL7 3RS [chairman@ofhs.org.uk]

Pangbourne Heritage Group: Lyn Davies, 1 Hartslock Court, Pangbourne, RG8 7BJ [lyndav87@aol.com]

Project Purley: Catherine Sampson, 32 Waterside Drive, Purley on Thames, Berks, RG8 8AQ tel 0118 9422 255 [chairman@project-purley.eu] [www.project-purley.eu]

Sandhurst Historical Society: Janice Burlton, 16 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 8JR tel 01252 872504 [janiceburlton@hotmail.co.uk] [www.sandhurst-historical-society.org]

Shinfield & District Local History Society: Ann Young, 'Roselyn', School Green, Shinfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9EH. tel 0118 9882120. Reporter George Taylor [georgetaylor29@btinternet.com]

Sonning & Sonning Eye History Society: Diana Coulter, Red House Cottage, Pearson Road, Sonning, Berks, RG4 6UF tel 0118 9692132 [diana.coulter@orange.net]

Stanford in the Vale & District Local History Society: Philip Morris, 71 Van Diemens, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8HW tel 01367 710285

Swallowfield Local History Society: Ken Hussey, Kimberley, Swallowfield RG7 1QX [www.slhsoc.org.uk]

Tadley Local History Society: 5 Church Road, Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 3DP [www.tadshistory.com]

Thatcham Historical Society: Alf Wheeler, 22 Park Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3PJ 01635 863536 [enquiries@thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk] [www.thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk]

Theale Local History Society: Graham Reeves, 52 Parkers Corner, Englefield, RG7 5JR [thealehistory@aol.com]

Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society: Audrey Curtis, 39 New Road, Ruscombe RG10 9LN tel 0118 9343260 [audreycurt@googlemail.com] reporter Denise Wilkin

Wargrave Local History Society: Peter Delaney, 6 East View Close, Wargrave, Berks, RG10 8BJ tel 0118 9403121 [secretary@wargravehistory.co.uk] [www.wargravehistory.org.uk]

Windsor Local History Group: Sue Ashley, 49 York Avenue, Windsor, SL4 3PA [nutritionasshley@hotmail.com] [www.windsorhistory.org.uk]

Friends of Windsor and Royal Borough Museum: Malcolm Lock, 1 Duncannon Crescent, Windsor, SL4 4YP [malcolmlock@hotmail.com] [www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk]

Wokingham History Group: Trevor Ottlewski, Uani, Holly Bush Ride, Wokingham, Berks tel 01344 775920.

Would you all please check these entries and let us know of any changes. The entry should show:-

The name, postal address and e-mail address for formal correspondence with the society and optionally a telephone contact number.

Your website url (if you have one)

Optionally the name and e-mail address of the person who will send in reports of your society's activities (if different from official contact)

e-mail changes and corrections to membership@blha.org.uk

Archives, Libraries & Museums

Abingdon Library: The Charter, Abingdon, OX14 3LY. tel 01235 520374
[abingdon_library@yahoo.co.uk]

Allen County Public Library: Genealogy, PO Box 2270, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA tel 001 468 012270 [www.genealogycenter.org]

Berkshire Record Office: 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF tel 0118 901 5132
[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk] [arch@reading.gov.uk]

Bracknell Library Local Studies: Hue Lewis, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1BH. tel 01344 352400 [bracknell.library@bracknell-forest.gov.uk]

Centre for Oxfordshire Studies: Helen Drury, Central Library, Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1DJ tel 01865 815741 [enquiries@oxst.demon.uk]

Eton College Library: Eton College, Windsor, SL4 6DB [archivist@etoncollege.org.uk]

Guildhall Library: Andrew Harvey, Principal Library Assistant Printed Books, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH. [Andrew.Harvey@cityoflondon.gov.uk]
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary]

Hungerford Virtual Museum: – [www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk]

Maidenhead Heritage Trust: Fran Edwards, 18 Park Street, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 1SL.
[administration@mhc1.demon.co.uk]

Maidenhead & Windsor Local Studies Library: Chris Atkins, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1QU tel 01628 796981 [chris.atkins@rbwm.gov.uk]

Newbury Reference Library: Fiona Davies, Newbury Central Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AU tel 01635 519900

Reading Central Library: Local Studies Librarian, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ tel 0118 9015965

Reading Museum Services: The Curator, Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH. tel 0118 9399800 [www.readingmuseum.org.uk]

Reading University Library: Val Davis, Library Assistant, PO Box 223, Whiteknights, RG6 6AE. tel 0118 378 8785 [v.j.davis@reading.ac.uk]

Museum of English Rural Life: The University of Reading, Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5EX. tel 0118 378 8660 fax: 0118 378 5632 [merl@reading.ac.uk] [www.merl.org.uk]

Windsor & Royal Borough Museum: The Guildhall, Windsor, SL4 1LR. tel 01628 796846
[museum.collections@rbwm.gov.uk] [www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_index.htm]

Slough Library Local Studies: Slough Library, High Street, Slough, SL1 1EA. tel 01753 787511 [library@slough.gov.uk] [www.slough.gov.uk/libraries]

Slough Museum: The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY tel 01753 526422
[info@sloughmuseum.co.uk]

Vale & Downland Museum: Dorothy Burrows, Church Street, Wantage, OX12 8BL tel 01235-771447 [vale.downland@gmail.com] [www.wantage-museum.com]

West Berkshire Museum: The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 4AU [museum@westberks.gov.uk]

Wokingham Library Local Studies: Denmark Street, Wokingham, RG40 2BB. tel 0118 9781368

Berkshire Local History Association

Registered Charity 1097355

President: **Professor E J T Collins**

Vice-Presidents:- **Brian Boulter, Joan Dils,
Dr Margaret Yates**

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tel: 0118-948-3354,
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John Chapman (Newsletter Editor)

Dave Osborne (Web Designer)

Dr Margaret Simons (Newsletter Distributor and
Temporary Membership Secretary)

Elias Kupfermann

Dr David Axford

Membership

Berkshire Local History Association exists to provide a meeting place for all those interested in the history and heritage of the Royal County of Berkshire. We cover the areas of Berkshire both before and after the 1974 review of local government. We are a registered charity.

We have three classes of membership

Institutional - for institutions, including libraries, archives and museums

Society - for local history and similar societies

Individual - for individual or couples living at the same address

We publish a **Journal** (Berkshire Old and New) once a year containing detailed articles on Berkshire's past - all members get one copy

We publish a **newsletter** three times a year in January, May and September and you can opt for a hard copy version by post or an electronic version by e-mail

We hold an **Annual General Meeting** in Spring each year with an exhibition and followed by a **Presidential Lecture**

We usually hold a **Day School** in the autumn with a number of eminent speakers

We organise **day trips** to visit archives and places of interest (usually with privileged access to material)

We award a number of **prizes** to authors of articles and students at the University.

We offer **grants** to assist authors to publish their results.

We maintain a **website** to keep you up-to-date with society activities [www.blha.org.uk]

We maintain a **Bibliography** of publications held in our public libraries relating to the history of Berkshire

We work with a variety of organisations to protect and document the heritage of Berkshire

Membership fees

The rates for 2014 are:-

	version of newsletter		no of copies	
	electronic	hard copy	Journal	Newsletter
Institutional	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
Society	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
Individual and Family	£9.00.	£12.00	1	1

A surcharge of £2 will also be levied on those who opt to pay by cheque.

Applications for membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary membership@blha.org.uk

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Forthcoming Events

see also Opportunities Pages 21-24

8th-11th September - **Heritage Open Days** - watch out for local announcements and see page 24

22nd October - **Berkshire Historic Environment Day School** - see page 24

We do not list meetings of our local societies, but see our website www.blha.org.uk

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is due to be published in January 2017.

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th December 2016 - preferably we would like to have it much earlier. To avoid some of the problems we have had recently could you please address e-mails to newsletter@blha.org.uk and copy it to j.chapman458@btinternet.com