

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 1097355

President: Brian Boulter

41st Annual General Meeting

Saturday 10th March 2018

Maidenhead Community Centre, 42 York Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1SH

Dear Member.

Thank you for booking attendance for the Meeting.

The Agenda is attached, together with a street plan of Maidenhead, the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting, and the proposed change to the constitution. To facilitate a shorter business meeting, the reports from members of the Executive Committee are also attached. These documents will also be made available on the BLHA website – www.blha.org.uk. Therefore they will be presumed read before the meeting. If you have difficulty accessing these documents, please let me know.

Ann Smith

Membership Secretary

Parking in the Town Hall Car Park opposite the centre, Grove Road Car Park (small), 5 minutes, Broadway Car Park, 10 minutes. There is a small forecourt which can be used to unload displays, etc.

Public Transport: the Centre is ten minutes' walk from the station.

Mobility Concerns: please contact Ann Smith.

Display Tables: For societies wishing to set up displays, the centre will be open from 10.00. Enquiries to Ann Smith.

Arrival and refreshments from 11.00.

The meeting begins at 11.30.

Maidenhead

* CONVENIENTLY YOURS

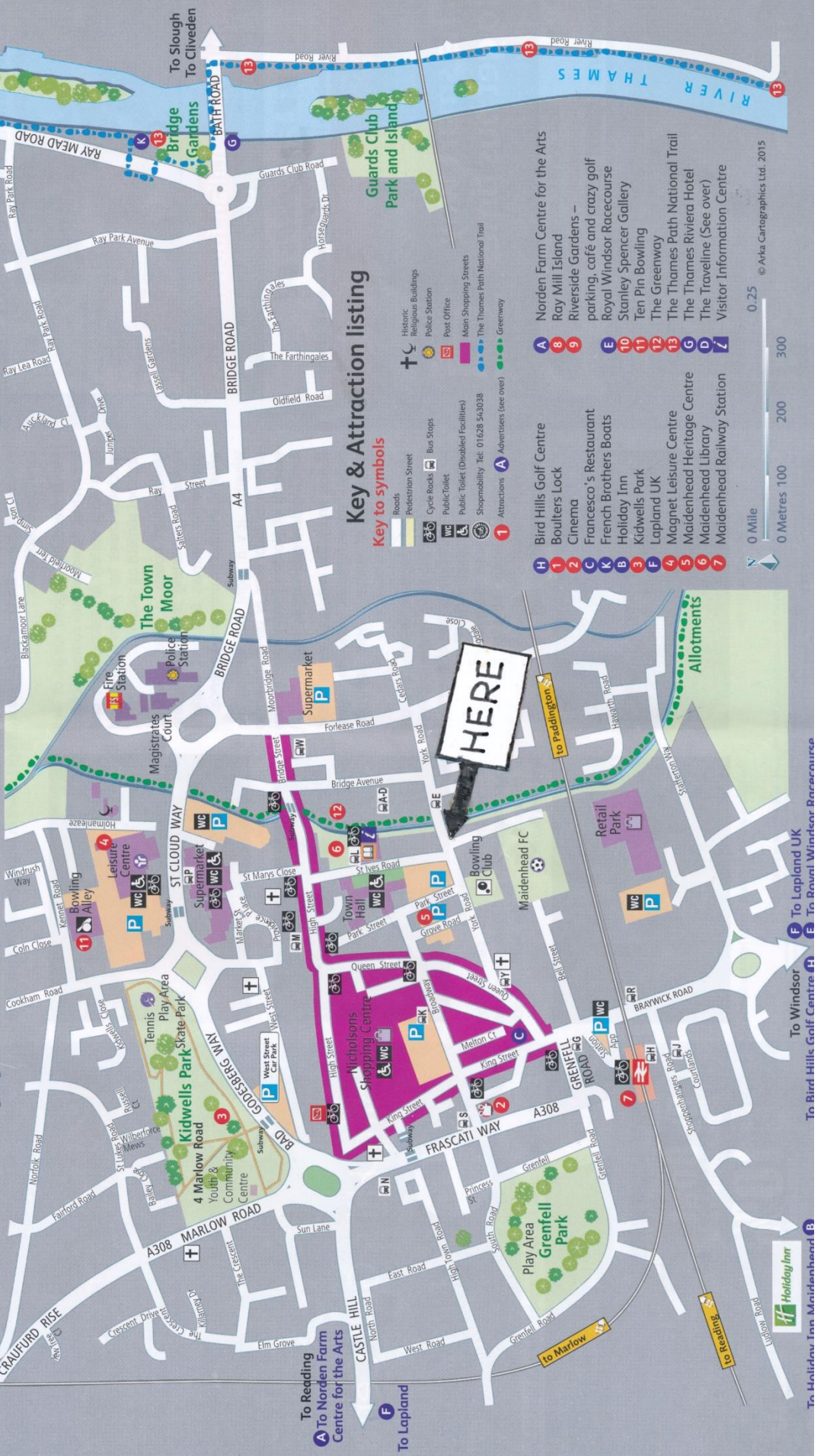
- LIVE
- WORK
- PLAY
- EAT
- SHOP



To Marlow
To Wycombe

www.enjoymaidenhead.com

www.maidenhead.gov.uk



Key & Attraction listing

Key to symbols

- Roads
- Cycle Routes
- Public Toilet (Disabled Facilities)
- Main Shopping Streets
- Attractions (see over)
- Historic Buildings
- Police Station
- Post Office
- Bus Stops
- Public Toilet
- Shopmobility Tel: 01628 543038
- The Thames Path National Trail
- Greenway

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| H Bird Hills Golf Centre | A Norden Farm Centre for the Arts |
| 1 Boulton's Lock | 8 Ray Mill Island |
| 2 Cinema | 9 Riverside Gardens – parking, café and crazy golf |
| 3 Francesco's Restaurant | E Royal Windsor Racecourse |
| K French Brothers Boats | 10 Stanley Spencer Gallery |
| B Holiday Inn | 11 Ten Pin Bowling |
| 3 Kidwells Park | 12 The Greenway |
| F Lapland UK | 13 The Thames Path National Trail |
| 4 Magnet Leisure Centre | S The Thames Riviera Hotel |
| 5 Maidenhead Heritage Centre | 6 The Traveline (See over) |
| M Maidenhead Library | Z Visitor Information Centre |
| 7 Maidenhead Railway Station | |

0.25
0 Mile
0 Metres 100 200 300
© Arka Cartographics Ltd. 2015

To Reading
To Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
To Lapland
To Marlow
To Maidenhead
To Windsor
To Bird Hills Golf Centre
To Lapland UK
To Royal Windsor Racecourse

AGENDA

WELCOME, FROM THE MAIDENHEAD AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 11th March 2017.
3. Matters arising not already on the agenda.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Journal Editor's report.
6. Newsletter Editor's report.
7. Membership Secretary's report.
8. Website Designer's report.
9. Chairman's report.
10. Election of President: vote of thanks for outgoing President; election of incoming president.
11. Election of Vice-President.
12. Election of Officers.
13. Election of members of the Executive Committee.
14. Election of Honorary Examiner of Accounts.
16. Proposed change to the Constitution.
17. Any other business.

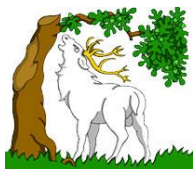
“SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN BERKSHIRE, 1870-1918,” Joan Dils introduces a new project.

“WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN BERKSHIRE,” a talk by Dr. Margaret Simons.

Presidential Address: **“THE ORIGINS OF MAIDENHEAD,”** a talk by Brian Boulter.

LUNCH and VISITS TO DISPLAY TABLES

GUIDED WALK AND VISIT TO MAIDENHEAD HERITAGE CENTRE



BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 1097355.

President: Professor E.J.T. Collins, B.A. Ph.D.

Email: secretary@blha.org.uk

Website: www.blha.org.uk

The 40th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Local History Association

Saturday, 11th March, 2017 at 11:00am

St Nicolas Church Hall, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HG

1. Apologies:

Elias Kupfermann, Sue Burnay, David Osborne, Ann McCormack. About 40 members including the committee attended.

2. The 2016 AGM minutes were circulated to members in advance and taken as read.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. The committee reports had been made available before the meeting, during which committee members took questions and made additional points. Jonathan Brown reported that he has articles for this year's Berkshire Old and New. John Chapman would like to hear from more societies with items for the newsletter. David Cliffe asked if anyone would like to join the BLHA committee.

5. Election of the President:

Ted Collins is standing down after 19 years as president. Brian Boulter was unanimously elected as the new president. David Cliffe presented Ted Collins with a gift of red wine and two 19th century Berkshire covers as a thank you. There was a vote of thanks from all the members.

6. Election of Vice Presidents:

Prof. Ted Collins will stay on as a vice president. Joan Dils and Margaret Yates were also elected as vice presidents.

7. Election of Chairman and Treasurer:

David Cliffe was elected as chairman and David Lewis as treasurer.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members:

David Axford, Jonathan Brown, Sue Burnay, John Chapman, Elias Kupfermann, David Osborne, Margaret Simons and Ann Smith were elected to the committee. The post of secretary needs to be filled.

9. Clive Burgess agreed to act as Honorary Examiner of Accounts.

10. Prof. Ted Collins gave a speech covering the last 40 years of the BLHA. There were only 6 county record offices in 1939 and few local history societies. Universities regarded local history as an extra mural subject. Leicester offered the only local history course. The post-war years saw the

growth of interest in local history. When he joined the BLHA as president it had a membership of 29 local societies and 11 libraries and museums, covering about two thousand members. The publication of the Historical Atlas of Berkshire by the Berkshire Record Society was a major achievement.

11. David Cliffe talked about how access to local history records had improved over recent years. The Berkshire Record Office moved to a purpose built site in Coley Avenue. The local history collection at Reading Central Library changed from closed access in the Town Hall to a new building with open access. He was invited to join the editorial panel of Berkshire Old and New in 2002 and became BLHA chairman in 2009. He announced a study day in Ewelme on October 7th arranged by David Lewis, to which Oxford LHA members will be. It is hoped that a visit to East Hendred will take place in 2018.

12. Brian Boulter was one of the founder BLHA members. In 1903 The Victoria County History of Berkshire was produced, written by local historians. The Berkshire Local History Recording Scheme had volunteers in 202 Berkshire parishes who researched people, buildings, field names etc. Reading Central Library and the Berkshire Record Office have copies of their findings. Local history became bottom-up, looking at ordinary lives. Michael Rix coined the term industrial archaeology. Books and TV documentaries by W.G.Hoskins made people aware of landscape history.

13. Phil Wood talked about the Newbury District Field Club which was founded in 1870 to research natural history and antiquities. The original president was the Earl of Carnarvon and many members were vicars .Alfred Waterhouse and Walter Money were early members. The NDFC campaigned for a memorial to the First Battle of Newbury. The museum opened in 1904 in the cloth hall and has recently been restored and extended into the granary. The NDFC publish transactions , run trips and guided walks and work with West Berkshire Heritage Forum to list buildings not covered by English Heritage. They have been involved with local history commemorating First World War centenaries.

14. There was no other business.

After lunch, one group remained in the hall for an “armchair tour” of historic Newbury, led by Jane Burrell, while another one set out on a walking tour with Dr. David Peacock and Phil Wood. When the walkers returned to the hall, refreshments were served before departure.

Berkshire Local History Association

Proposed resolution to change Section 4.1 of the constitution to be considered at the Annual General Meeting, 10th March 2018.

The change is necessary to comply with the directions of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION:

The Association shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by an Executive Committee, which shall, on behalf of the Association, be entitled to exercise all the powers set out above. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together shall constitute the Trustees of the Association, and in accepting their offices, shall accept the obligation of Trustees.

THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION:

The Association shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by an Executive Committee which shall, on behalf of the Association, be entitled to exercise all the powers set out above. All members of the Executive Committee shall constitute the Trustees of the Association, and in accepting their election, shall accept the obligations of Trustees.

Chairman's Report

Over the last year, the Association had been able to move forward on a more-or-less even keel. We've had an edition of "Berkshire Old and New" with two good long articles, three well-packed newsletters, and several e-mail bulletins to help keep us up-to-date. We had one call on the Antony Cross Fund, from which we can give grants towards Berkshire history research. No-one applied for a loan to help get their research published, and the new committee will be considering the future of the two funds we have for this purpose.

The two highlights of the year were the A.G.M. in Newbury in March, and the "Death and Commemoration" seminar at Ewelme in October. I will refrain from praising them again here, as I have done so in the newsletters, but in both places we were treated with great kindness, and thanks are due to the organisers, the speakers, and the providers of refreshments.

But we have suffered some losses on the committee, which will make it hard to keep going without some "new blood." Dr. Margaret Yates has resigned as a Vice-President. She was very much involved in the running of the Association in its early years, and later as V-P. I am pleased that she wishes to remain an "ordinary" member.

Sue Burnay has left the district, and so must resign from the committee. It was Sue who began the Berkshire Bibliography, accessible on our website. We may now be forced to abandon the project, and are investigating the possibility of creating links from our website to the local history sections of the library catalogues of the six Berkshire unitary authorities.

Dr. David Axford has also resigned. It has been good to have him with us, even if for only a couple of years. On behalf of the committee, I should like to wish him well in his continuing research.

Then, last but not least, at our last committee meeting we learned that Brian Boulter, our President, has decided to leave the district. Whilst we fully understand his reasons for going, we had hoped to have him as President for a lot longer. His departure will leave a large hole in Berkshire local history that will be hard to fill. He has been instrumental in so many things – the Maidenhead and District Archaeological and Local History Society, the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group, and our own Association among them. His good humour and wisdom will be greatly missed from our committee. I was really pleased when he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the British Association for Local History in 2015, and it is particularly fortunate that we chose to go to Maidenhead for the A.G.M. this year!

I am delighted to be able to announce that Joan Dils has agreed to follow Brian as President. Over the years she has filled many posts in the Association, but she hasn't been President. Considering the great number of ways in which she is involved in local history in the county, it really is most generous of her to take on this additional role.

The departures will leave three vacancies on the B.L.H.A. committee, since we are also at present without a secretary. So I very much hope that members will seriously consider stepping up and maybe taking on a job. Most of the work is done outside the meetings, (four a year, including the A.G.M.) and can be done as and when. We have a good team, and I salute them all for what they do, but now we really do need some more help. With more help, we can achieve even more!

You will notice that at this year's A.G.M. we are proposing a change to the constitution. Instead of the three Officers being trustees of the Association, it will mean that all committee members will be trustees. It will bring us in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission, it won't involve anyone in taking on more work, and, incidentally, it will take us back to the situation we had before the A.G.M. of 2010 at Twyford, when we last made a change.

Looking, briefly, beyond the Association, the situation for public libraries and record offices is looking decidedly grim, thanks to reductions in funding from central government. This will inevitably mean reductions in opening hours, and in numbers of staff. I'm sure that librarians and archivists will continue to do their best with what they have. It is particularly sad for me, when I visit the local history floor of Reading Central Library, and find the sign that says it is currently unstaffed. For much of the

time there is no-one to help people find what they want in that large and rich collection – which is what I was once paid to do.

Hopefully, things will improve one day. We will keep the Local History Association thriving. We have things to look forward to.

Booking for the visit to Hendred House will begin in April. Please watch out for the e-mail bulletin. Numbers will have to be limited, and places will soon be filled. The Oxfordshire Local History Association will be looking after the bookings for us.

In the autumn we are investigating the possibility of a film show with pieces of old movie film taken across Berkshire. I've made contact with the Wessex Film and Sound Archive, and will see what they have.

I'm told that we have more than enough articles to fill the next edition of "Berkshire Old and New," which usually appears in September. Please don't let that put you off sending articles in, or exploring possibilities with our editor, Dr. Jonathan Brown. If this happens again, we will have to consider adding more pages!

The gazetteer of Berkshire Schools, 1700-1833, towards which the Association has promised a grant, will be published by the Berkshire Record Society in the spring of 2019. Joan Dils and I represent the Association on the project management board – the Record Office, the Record Society and our Association are involved. The book should prove useful to local historians for many years to come. It will be available to BLHA members and to members of affiliated societies at a reduced price.

A new research project is about to start. It was proposed to research aspects of the gaols at Reading and Abingdon, but the sheer volume of material would have made the project unmanageable. Instead, the volunteers will be researching the building of schools in the county between Forster's Education Act and the start of the First World War, 1870-1914. The Association has promised to support this project also, and Joan Dils and I are willing to continue on "the board."

Then in the autumn of 2019, we're hoping to run a workshop on digitisation, best practice, "future-proofing," and what happens to the original material once it has been digitised. This is intended for societies with archives, and individuals with their own collections.

Thanks to all our members, whether personal, or local societies, libraries or archives for your continued support. I look forward to our visit to Maidenhead, a town I don't know much about, and to hearing your news and ideas from across the county.

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

Treasurer's Report

The association continues to have sufficient funds to continue its activities into the future, with unrestricted reserves of £5,378 and restricted reserves, earmarked for grants supporting local history research of £1,279 and £2,500 for the support of members publications.

The Association made a loss on its activities in the year amounting to £680, which is largely attributable to the provision of a subsidy over the ticket price for the Ewelme study day organised in October 2017. This cost was in line with the budget set for the event by the trustees.

Subscription income is £187 lower in 2017 than 2016 although as this is accounted on a cash basis, a part of the apparent reduction can be explained by differences in the date payments were received.

The Association's expenses in the year, including the publication of the newsletter and journal, are much in line with 2016. The cost of the journal although increasing to £696 includes, as an exception, the reprint of *People, Places and Context* at a cost of £348.

Owing to greater use of internet distribution the charge for postage continues to fall and where possible savings will continue to be made, although as many members prefer to have paper copies of the newsletter this item will continue to represent a large part of the Association's costs.

The 2016 AGM held in Newbury was effectively cost free for the Association, but this saving was off-set by new current account charges applied by CAF bank amounting to £60 for the year.

One grant of £50 was made for local history research in the year and the trustees would welcome similar applications for further grants from its reserves.

Dr D G Lewis FCA, FSA

Journal Editor's report

Berkshire Old and New no. 34 for 2017 was published on time and contained two substantial articles. We are promised four articles for the 2018 journal.

I am pleased to report that Brigitte Mitchell has won an award from the British Association for Local History for her article 'Windsor and the Contagious Diseases Act', published in Berkshire Old and New in 2016. Many congratulations to her on this achievement.

Dr Jonathan Brown

Membership Secretary's report

There has been a slight decline in membership numbers. Two local history societies did not renew their subscriptions last year: Wokingham and Sandhurst. We gained a new one: Marcham. Reading Museum and Wokingham Library failed to renew their subscriptions in 2017. The BLHA has 87 individual members including four new ones, 38 local history societies and 17 museums and libraries.

Ann Smith

Website Report

We have approximately 250 visitors to our website each month. This peaks each quarter when we produce the latest Newsletter. The Newsletters are now available to all visitors to the site.

We are looking to improve the site with some more images of Berkshire over the coming months.

The Bibliography that we introduced some time ago remains on the site, but we have now added links to the six local libraries which will help users find other items elsewhere.

The website has been updated to include events of member societies but unfortunately not all societies have provided the necessary information. Thank you to those who have sent us their events. It is never too late to send this through and we will gladly add your events to our website.

New member societies have also been added to the list, but we do rely on members letting us know of changes to personnel so please do send any changes through to us.

Finally, if you have any suggestions on improvements to the website then please feel free to let us know.

Dave Osborne