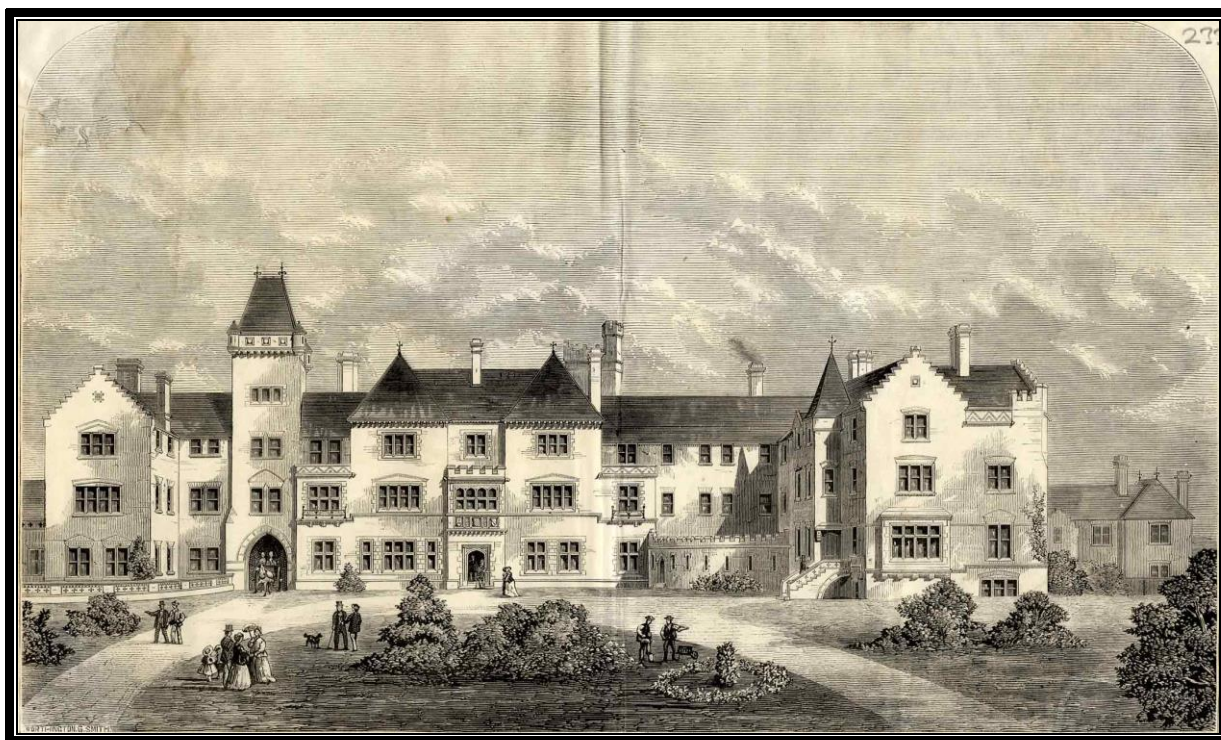


Berkshire Local History Association



Newsletter No. 107

September 2013

**Berkshire Local History Association
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THE DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS 1 December 2013.

Front Cover: Courtesy of Reading Local Studies Library. The Berkshire Lunatic Asylum, Cholsey, 1870. The asylum was later known as the Moulsoford Asylum, Berkshire County Mental Hospital, and Fair Mile Hospital: engraving, entitled "Berkshire, Reading and Newbury Lunatic Asylum - Mr. C. H. Howell, architect."

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Chairman's Corner

Since the A.G.M., some things have moved on, and others haven't.

The committee spent some time deliberating over who should take over the editorship of this Newsletter. We failed to reach a conclusion, and Margaret Simons has gallantly offered to edit this issue.

Then it is with great sadness that I have to note the passing of two committee members of long standing, who will be remembered with great fondness by many – Cliff Debney, and Vincent Millett. Obituary notices appear on other pages.

On the brighter side, we have a new committee member in Jameson Wooders, who has come up with some good ideas for visits and study days – as you will see as you read on.

I'm glad that interest is being shown in the fund we inherited from the Reading Local History Trust. We are using it in the same way they did – to help with the costs of getting local history printed and published. We have agreed to give a grant to Elias Kupfermann towards the cost of a new book of old photographs on Windsor. This book seemed particularly worthwhile because some of the photographs come from a collection which has ended up in a different part of the country, so they won't have been seen in Windsor for a long time. When the book is published, towards the end of the year, and copies start selling, the money comes back to the fund, which we can use for other projects. The arrangement has worked successfully before, and hopefully will do so again.

The Berkshire History Prize was won this year by Laura Wilcox for her dissertation on "Exploring Female Madness through Moultsford Lunatic Asylum Records." And then there was the surprise prize, when we learned that the British Association for Local History were awarding their prize for the best short article on local history to be published in the last year to Natalie Burton, for her article in the last edition of "Berkshire Old and New." See reports and photographs on following pages.

The joint study day with Oxfordshire Local History Association in May was most enjoyable, but one of the most interesting parts of the day for me was being allowed to sit in on the A.G.M. of the O.L.H.A. It was held over the lunch break, and took around 20 minutes(!) Obviously, in this short time, there was no presidential address, and no items requiring much in the way of discussion. The similarities and differences revealed in their annual accounts were also interesting, and I was grateful for this opportunity.

At the Berkshire committee meeting in June, we of course talked about our A.G.M., and whether we wanted to change anything in the light of my Oxfordshire experience. We remembered how, at Theale, the presidential address had over-run, and what a pity it was that we hadn't more time to study Prof. Collins's excellent slides at the end of the presentation.

In the end, we decided not to make any great changes, but we thought we'd try sending out the reports of the various committee members in advance. (This, in itself, will take some organising!) In this way, they won't have to be read out at the A.G.M.,

but members can still make observations and ask questions. Hopefully this will mean that the rest of the day won't have to be rushed.

On a personal note, I see progress being made on the Berkshire Schools' Project, and look forward to a trip to the British Schools Museum at Hitchin, along with the volunteers. I shall also be interested to find out more about the digitisation project at Reading Central Library. I hope to see the morris dancers celebrating 500 years of morris dancing in Reading in August, and in the Heritage Open Days in September, I hope to visit the Reading Synagogue, something I've been intending to do for some years.

I've made a start on helping The Mills Archive with their project on mills in the Reading area. For the Reading Libraries website, I've finished cataloguing pictures of fires, floods and accidents in Reading, and have moved out into the country, cataloguing pictures the area south a west of Reading – Calcot, Theale, Sulhampstead, Burghfield and Mortimer. I feel that my "retirement" is being well used!

David Cliffe, Chairman, BLHA

Words from the Editor

Well, it would seem that I am not to relinquish the role of editor too easily, but I am hopeful that an enthusiastic individual will come forward to take over and move the Newsletter forward. So it is that I write in this latest edition; one that is tinged with sadness due to the loss of two stalwarts of the BLHA, Cliff Debney and Vincent Millett. It is hoped that we will be able to include an obituary for Vincent in our next edition.

Having been blessed with better weather this year your summer outing and barbeques will no doubt have been so much more enjoyable because of it. It was on a hot summer day that I recently visited the Great Dorset Steam Fair and enjoyed the sights, the sounds and the nostalgia. Whilst wondering round my eye was drawn to a tiny little engine that drove an egg washing machine. On closer inspection I found that the machine was made by a Reading company I have never heard of and apparently the apparatus had been rescued from a skip! I gave my details to the exhibitor and hope to find out more. It just goes to show that you never know where your local history interests might be found. If you have a similar story of visiting a place and coming across something unexpectedly let me know.

Enjoy your autumn programmes and don't forget Heritage Open Days in September, a chance to explore some hidden places .

Margaret Simons

In Memoriam

Edward Clifford Debney 1930-2013



Cliff greeting people who attended the Purley Diamond Jubilee Exhibition

Cliff was born in Didsbury, Manchester on the 2nd August 1930. When war started, his school was evacuated on 1st September 1939, and he went to the edge of the Peak District at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, sparking his passion for the countryside. He was too young for the Second World War but joined the RAF for his National Service having been apprenticed at 16 as a mechanical engineer with the Renold and Coventry Chain Company Limited. He opted to become a navigator and served on the last Lancaster in service. Later he earned his wings on Tiger Moths.

He met his future wife Jean at a Baptist Missionary Society Summer School and they married at Purley (Surrey) Congregational Church on the 5th September 1959. He had returned to Renolds after his National Service and was promoted to be office manager for them in Reading so they moved to Purley (Berks) in 1979. They had two sons, Andrew and Peter who brought them much joy with many grandchildren.

He met his future wife Jean at a Baptist Missionary Society Summer School and they married at Purley (Surrey) Congregational Church on the 5th September 1959. He had returned to Renolds after his National Service and was promoted to be office manager for them in Reading so they moved to Purley (Berks) in 1979. They had two sons, Andrew and Peter who brought them much joy with many grandchildren.

Jean had long been interested in family history and the move to Purley saw this flower into one for local history as well. They both joined Berkshire Family History Society in Sept. 1979. He had two spells as Chairman and later ran the Research Centre. He also served as chairman of the International Federation of Family History Societies and was on the Committee of the Berkshire Local History Association for over 30 years finishing up as Vice President.

In 1984 he and Jean helped to found Project Purley serving terms as chairman and being on the Executive Committee until ill health intervened when he was presented with Life Membership of Project Purley and a framed copy of a document from the National Archives by the BLHA.



Presentation of life membership of Project Purley

He was always a very affable and humorous man who quickly made friends. He kept smiling and joking despite his illnesses and loss of mobility and appeared at almost every Project Purley event until Jean suffered a mild stroke and he had to go into a nursing home where he passed away on the 17th July 2013.

The esteem in which he was held was witnessed by a packed church on the 2nd August commemorating his life and at the reception afterwards at the Barn.

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My thanks go to John Chapman of Project Purley for sending the above obituary, which first appeared in the Project Purley Journal.

I first met Cliff just over 10 years ago when I attended my first BLHA committee meeting in our Lady of Peace Hall. He was kind, welcoming and encouraging and it was his enthusiasm for local history that I particularly remember, an interest that brought him back to the role of Chairman at our Wokingham AGM in 2003. Even after he stepped down from this role and became a vice president, he regularly attended meetings until his illness prevented him from doing so.

Ann McCormack our secretary first met Cliff when she attended a BLHA study day held at MERL several years ago. He was one of the first friendly faces she met and undertook the important task of making sure she knew where to find refreshments and lunch. While they were in the queue for our sandwiches he gave her some background on who was who in local history and who were the most interesting speakers. Later, on the Executive Committee, she became aware of Cliff's long term support for local history endeavours through his strong commitment to several organisations. Together with Jean, he helped to make sure that local history knowledge was passed on and Berkshire records were made accessible to present and future generations.

*Margaret Simons*



## **Requests for Information**

### **Emm Brook**

My name is Adele Emm and I run the Emm One Name Society and have just come across the Emm Brook. I wondered if any of your members know how the Emm Brook and Emmbrook got their names? I have looked in a dictionary of place names and online and have found no reference.

The surname Emm tends to be based around Wiltshire and Hampshire whereas Emms tend to come from Norfolk unless they were two Emm(s) from Wiltshire who married....! so I was intrigued to find the name in Berkshire. Does anyone have any ideas?

If you think you can help Adele please contact the editor.

### **Expelled from Uganda to Berkshire**

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in Britain of thousands of Ugandan Asians expelled at the hands of Idi Amin. To mark this important occasion the India Overseas Trust(IOT) has been collecting resources to add to a digitalised diaspora archive and ancillary website that will house and showcase a wide range of multi-media resources conveying our community's integration into British society over the past 40 years.

The resources we propose to absorb into the archive include hundreds of photographs donated by our community, a number of oral history interviews and associated audio, as well as a variety of artefacts from the resettlements camps the migrants were initially housed in. Eventually these items will be incorporated in a planned touring exhibit, showcasing Britain's response to the refugee crisis of 1972. One of the resettlement camps was located in the RAF Greenham Common and we are hoping you could help us track down individuals who may have volunteered with the government-sponsored resettlement process. The IOT would like to interview these individuals and incorporate their testimonies into our archive and exhibition.

Do you know anyone in your community who may have memories of the resettlement, and would be interested in being interviewed? Do you have any resources such as photographs or local media coverage of the events? Are there any local historical societies, archives or libraries/museums in your area that may have already collected items on the events of 1972?

Vivian Meza, Executive Assistant to the Indian Overseas Trust would like to contact anyone who helped as a volunteer at this camp, or has information or photographs. If you can help, please contact Vivian Meza ([vivian-meza@hotmail.com](mailto:vivian-meza@hotmail.com)) or write to the Trust at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 10-11 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3NH.

## **Notice Board**

### **AGM 2014**

Please make a note in your diaries of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 for our next AGM. We are very lucky to have secured Wellington College for the day, which promises to be very interesting. More details in the January Newsletter.

### **Archive Visits**

I am very pleased to be able to announce that we will have a programme of archive visits available for you shortly. Our new committee member Jameson Wooders has been very busy liaising with archives and museums and we hope to be able to send out booking details in the not too distant future. One date for the diary already is

The National Archive, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November (times, cost etc tbc)

If you know of a museum or archive that you think would be of interest do contact the editor.

### **Berks Bibliography online now!**

Have you tried using the Berks Bibliography on the BLHA's web-site yet? It is intended to point you towards publications that might be helpful in your research. You can search for specific topics and/or places, using the drop-down boxes on the web-page. There is also an option to search for names, but this is quite limited at present.

The topics list is grouped into general categories to make searching a little easier. For example, if you wanted to find what publications are listed for horse racing you would look under 'Sport' and then scroll down to the entry for horse racing.

[**TIP:** if you type the first letters of the topic, the list will jump to the first item matching, so typing 'sp' will take you to the beginning of the listings for sports]

The list for places is alphabetical and includes all of the parishes in both modern and old Berkshire (pre-1974). As with the topic list, typing the first few letters of the place name will take you to the first match, making it easy to scroll down to the required place. Note that places such as East and West Ilsley will be found under 'E' and 'W' respectively.

Once you have made your selections from the lists, click on the search button and any publications that match your selection will be listed below. The list includes the title of the publication, author and publisher. Many of these publications will be available in local studies sections of Berks libraries.

There are currently over 2500 items in the bibliography but not all of them have been fully indexed as yet. Many of them have only partial indexing completed and we need help in extending this indexing to make the bibliography even more useful. If



you would like to help in this work, please contact the BLHA secretary for more information.

*Sue Burnay, Coordinator, Berks Bibliography*

### **Electronic Access to Newsletter**

Our most recent copy of the Newsletter is now available electronically via our website. However, access will only be available to members via a password; any member interested should contact our membership secretary, details on back page. If you want to keep your membership subscription at the 2011 level and have access to the internet, act now, sign up to access the Newsletter via the website and there will be no increase to your subscription.

We will be emailing the current known list of member society secretaries advising them that we will be producing the Newsletter in electronic format for them to circulate to their members. We will be inviting them to let us know whether they would like to offer this service to their members. For those who do sign up:

- Each secretary will receive an email when the latest Newsletter is available; January, May and September each year. The email will include a link to the Newsletter in PDF format and if desired a pdf of the newsletter can also be attached to the email. This choice will be made at the outset.
- We will offer the link and or an attachment in case some members have ISPs that limit the size of attachments that can be received and sent.
- The member secretaries would then forward the email with the attachment (or just the link) to their respective members.

Electronic access for individual members stays the same.

If you have any issues about the delivery of the Newsletter or ways in which we could improve our service to you do let me know.

*Margaret Simons*

### **Heritage Open Days**

This year the event covers the period from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and is the opportunity to go behind the scenes in museums and archives and visit places not normally open to the public. To find out what is on offer and make the most of the opportunity visit <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

### **West Berkshire Heritage Forum**

‘The aim of the Forum is to encourage heritage and history groups to come together and share activities, events and experience. The Committee meets regularly through the year, and there is an Annual General Meeting in April, and a second annual event which can be an Open Day, talks or seminars, or another group event.’ More details can be found at <http://www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk/>

## Special Feature

### The Berkshire History Prize



The prize, funded jointly by the Berkshire Record Office and the BLHA, was won this year by Laura Wilcox, for her thesis on “Exploring Female Madness through the Moultsford Lunatic Asylum Records.” The prize is awarded for an outstanding thesis on some aspect of the history of the county. It is only given for an exceptional piece of work, and is not necessarily given every year.

David Cliffe, the BLHA Chairman, and Peter Durrant, County Archivist, were at the University of Reading on graduation day. David took the photograph, as Peter made the presentation. *David Cliffe*

#### **‘Exploring Female Madness through the Moultsford Lunatic Asylum Records’**

When I was told that I had won the award for the best undergraduate dissertation that used Berkshire sources I was absolutely thrilled and very shocked! My dissertation, was a project that I had enjoyed researching so much I was delighted to hear that others had found it interesting too.

I decided to study female hysteria after I had looked at women’s literature in my second year and found that madness among women was considered so common in the Victorian decade that the ‘madwoman in the attic’ had become a prominent stereotype in English culture. I wanted to research whether women were simply more ‘prone’ to mental illness, (perhaps as a result of their social oppression) or whether the phenomenon could be understood from a different perspective.

To do this, I studied the medical notes from male and female patients who were incarcerated at the Fair Mile Lunatic Asylum (originally known as Moultsford Lunatic Asylum) during the years 1895-1900, which were available in the Berkshire Record Office. I assessed what symptoms and signs of improvement were noted by the physicians and whether this differed between the genders. I found that some symptoms were held in common to both sexes, for example, ‘ignorance’, ‘displays of emotion’, the inability to ‘control’ their behaviour and the inability to express themselves ‘rationally’. However the wide range of adjectives used to describe these failings and the frequency that they were stated in the casebooks revealed that they were felt far more stringently in the female patients. On the other hand, men were expected to conform to traditional ideas of masculinity and any departure from this was considered a symptom of insanity. Some causes, for example hereditary insanity were in common with both sexes, but ‘emotional’ causes were frequently cited for women, and ‘physical’ causes, for example alcoholism and syphilis cited more often for men.

Alongside the casebooks, I considered the scientific texts of figures such as Henry Maudsley and Havelock Ellis. These texts, deriving their ideas predominately from the work of Charles Darwin, described symptoms common to both the 'lower races' and 'madmen', and illustrated that as women were undeveloped in comparison to men, they would display more of these symptoms and to a greater extent than their male counterparts. The common analogy of women as children in the casebooks reflected the notion that women were in a permanent state of underdevelopment. In one case, it was stated the female patient was 'childlike' eleven times, whereas a similarly diagnosed male patient was called childish only once. These texts also described the widely held belief that women's bodies and reproductive systems predisposed them to insanity as they were naturally 'unbalanced'. This was also demonstrated in the casebooks as a disruption in women's menstrual systems, for example childbirth and the menopause were cited as 'causes' of madness.

After extensive secondary reading I came to consider these texts 'mediations', or in other words, an account of the physical world that has been filtered through the culturally derived perspective of the knowers. Therefore by analysing the use of figurative language such as simile and metaphor within the texts, I could identify assumptions that operated quite outside of a scientific narrative. I began to see the how abnormal behaviour, or behaviour that broke the norm for each sex, had been reconstructed as medically certified illness, thus resulting in the proverbial 'madwoman' kept in the attic.

*Laura Wilcox*

### **BALH Day Saturday, 8 June, 2013**

This was the latest of the annual meetings of the British Association and a particularly successful one for those who come from the ancient county of Berkshire. The format of the day is always the same: a lecture on some aspect of local history research or teaching; the AGM (always very efficiently organised and mercifully short); lunch with a chance to meet old friends; awards for achievement in local history; and the annual lecture.

This year the lecture on research was given by Dr Jonathan Mackman, one of a team at York University researching aliens resident in England (the foreign kind, not those with green heads and antennae). It was fascinating, more so because he mentioned there were some in fifteenth-century Berkshire. He gave the address of the team's website which has an article by Jessica Lutkin with some preliminary results from the medieval county though all the details will not be available until the project is nearer completion. Even so, it names foreigners, mostly French, German or Irish and their families in Abingdon, Stanford-in-the-Vale and states there were others in Reading, Newbury, New Windsor and Wantage. If you are interested, the website address is <http://www.englishimmigrants.com/commentary/county-studies/berkshire-oxfordshire>

As if this were not enough excitement for one day, two BLHA members won awards. Peter Keene said to be of Oxfordshire but in fact from Longworth & District History Society, one of our member societies, received a personal achievement award as its 'long-serving publications' officer'. Natalie Burton who works at the BRO won the short article award for her contribution to our journal, *Berkshire Old and New* in 2012, 'The establishment and organisation of civil defence operations in Berkshire'. Congratulations to both prize winners and to Jonathan Brown, our journal editor. What can we hope for in 2014 - an award for the newsletter or another journal article? Even if we are not mentioned next year, we can take heart from a comment made at the award ceremony: 'The volunteer is the backbone of local history' - and that applies to all BLHA members.

Joan Dils



### **BALH Prize**

The prize for the best short article on local history to be published in the last year has been won by an article in last year's "Berkshire Old and New." The prize is awarded annually by the British Association for Local History. Coming out of the blue, as it were, it reflects great credit on the author, Natalie Burton of the Berkshire Record Office, and of the editor of the journal and his team of readers. Jonathan Brown accompanied Natalie to London University to receive the prize.

The subject of the article was Civil Defence operations in Berkshire, just before the outbreak of war in 1939. It shows how the authorities were making preparations during the time that war was becoming ever more likely. It looks at people, and the organisations they managed.

In making the award, Natalie was commended for her use of archive material to throw light on a subject which has as yet been little studied.

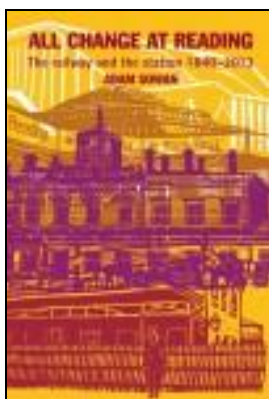
The photograph shows Natalie receiving her certificate from Professor David Hey, President of the B.A.L.H.

*David Cliffe*

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## **New Books and Reviews**

We just have one book this time which is new and for which I will give a short review. The book was recently received by the editor from the local Reading book publisher Two Rivers Press and as we do not have another Newsletter out before Christmas I thought it timely to include it in this issue.



Adam Sowan, *All Change at Reading: The railway and the Station 1840-2013* 2013. Paperback, 94 pages, £10

Given the extensive work that Reading railway station has undergone in the last few years *All Change at Reading* is a timely reminder of how things used to be at I.K. Brunel's station. The book follows the history of the station in a chronological format, which is useful in itself, but offers much more. Combined with some rather effective black and white photographs of the new

station are older photographs and sketches which chart the development of the station area and offers glimpses of how the area has changed over the years. Complementing the photos is the substantial amount of information given at each date which fills in the gaps and gives the background details of the station and railway history. The author also provides further insight by providing a number of short features covering different railway related topics and through these we get a sense of the romance and excitement of early railway travel, crime and the railway, but above all the entrepreneurial spirit that was fundamental to the development of the railways in general. This is a comprehensive volume and is written in such a way that it will appeal to all those interested in the town and its railway. One for the Christmas stocking?

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## Society News

### The History of Reading Society

Our last meeting of 2012 featured four films of local interest from Wessex Film and Sound Archive, Hampshire Record Office, presented by archivist David Lee. The first, by the late Alan Lott from 1938, showed piling to widen Station Hill, just now, of course, being demolished, and concluding with the only known film of Reading trams. A short 1968 film of the final months Reading's trolleybuses was followed by a superb 'talkie' from Huntley & Palmers about 1948 and the evening concluded with a silent 1950s film from Reading's Medical Officer of Health, which showed midwives, health visitors, school dentists and baby clinics, etc.

The New Year commenced with an enthusiastic audience keen to learn about the evolution of Morris Dancing, in particular, how it came to be first recorded in Reading precisely 500 years ago, in the summer of 1513, not many years after it first evolved. It is, of course, steeped in history, with connections to mummers, miming and play acting. Sticks, men in white britches and jingling bells came later, most of it with good reason.

Mike Cooper's talk 'The Bombing of a Southern Town' was topical in February in view of recent events commemorating the bombing raid on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1943. He has also researched the Home Front, with interesting facts on the local ARP, Home Guard, AFS, fire watching, etc., and other less serious Luftwaffe raids on Reading, mostly in 1940.

The Society's AGM, in March, was followed by a most interesting presentation by five of the ten Reading U3A ladies who researched former residents displaced almost fifty years previously from central Reading when their houses were demolished to build the IDR, Civic Centre and Hexagon, etc.

Rick Jones came to talk to us in April, explaining in detail the perceived advantages of building the Kennet and Avon Canal at the time of the industrial revolution, including various enforced delays in its financing and construction, and in particular, some of the civil engineering challenges of the time which had to be overcome, bearing in mind, of course, that it was all built by men with shovels and wheelbarrows. What a shame that the Great Western Railway was built so relatively soon after the canal came into use.

Tony Hadland, well-known for his excellently-researched book 'Thames Valley Papists' (1992), came to talk to us in May specifically about Thomas Vachell and his family through the turbulent times of 1530 through to 1610, as some branches were and remained staunch Catholics whilst others were vehemently opposed to the papacy and had precisely opposite opinions – all this in 80 years of religious turmoil through the reins of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth.

In June, the first of two summer walkabouts was ably conducted by member Joy Pibworth, starting at St. Mary's Minster and finishing in Forbury Gardens. It took in the Spanish Civil War memorial outside the Civic Offices, Castle Street, the Oracle (on the site of Simonds brewery), St Giles' church; and the Quaker Meeting House and its churchyard. Returning to town via London Street, Dr Anthony Addington's house was viewed and the long story behind the Great Expectations Hotel explained before crossing over High Bridge (of 1787) to Jackson's Corner and into Abbey Square to ponder the untitled abstract Jens Sorensen statue, the walk concluding on passing through Abbey Gateway.

The second walkabout, in July, was a tour of Reading University's London Road Campus, conducted by Dennis Wood. University College, was established in 1904 on the six acre site donated by Alfred Palmer (of biscuit fame). Entering through the distinctive London Road porch to the Great Hall (built 1905); its foundation stone was laid by Viscount Goschen, Chancellor of Oxford University. Proceeding to the Old Library Building (sadly no longer used as such), we ascended the grand staircase where hangs a portrait of George William Palmer, who donated £200,000 in 1911. Visiting first the western end of the campus to view recently-built student accommodation, we passed the gymnasium of 1914, donated by Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry, governor and college medical officer. Then, proceeding to the eastern end, along cloistered walkways, we visited the War Memorial clock tower of 1921, designed by Herbert Maryon, of the University's Fine Art Department. Passing

through the peace garden, we then visited The Acacias, now the senior common room, which, from 1865 was home to George Palmer and wife, Elizabeth, before concluding our visit with a brief tour of the Museum of English Rural Life.

We invite membership to all who are interested in the history of Reading. Green leaflets inviting membership and detailing our meetings to the end of 2013 will be found in certain bookshops, all libraries and other selected outlets throughout the Reading area. Meetings are on Wednesday evenings mid-month at Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square starting at 7.30pm prompt and ending around 9.00pm. Entry is free to members; All are welcome - Non-members £2.00. Secure free car parking is available for members nearby – if you prefer using your car. Ring 0118 947 2470 or eMail Edward.W.Hooper@btinternet.com for further details of the Society.

*John Whitehead*

### **Hungerford Historical Association**

#### **Look, Duck and Vanish**

The Hungerford Historical Association were recently treated to an excellent talk by Roger Day, a prominent local historian, on the local Defence Volunteers, known affectionately as Look, Duck and Vanish, or the Home Guard. His talk focused on the defence of Marlborough by the Home Guard and even though programmes like Dad's Army show the humorous side of these citizen soldiers, his talk emphasized the real role that they played in the order of battle (ORBAT) for the defence of Great Britain against a possible German invasion during World War 11.

*Shelagh Parry*

### **Sandhurst Historical Society**

In April Alan Turton gave us a talk on the now ruined splendour of Basing House built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by William Paulet. The house was one of the most magnificent mansions in the country even larger than Hampton Court. Royal visitors were frequent. It was heavily fortified and during the Civil War the Parliamentarians under Cromwell's lead took the house which was looted, fire completing its ruin. Some houses in Basing Street contain bricks from the house.

May's talk on the history of Camberley by Ken Clarke held our attention not only because it was interesting but also full of his amusing reminiscences. There were a couple of highwaymen of note, William Davis who had 18 children and Claude Duvall who was a ladies man. They were finally hung in London for robbing mail coaches. The railway arrived in Camberley in the 1870's. Cambridge was the former name for Camberley whose name is made up of 3 elements: Cam a small stream which still flows under the town centre, Ber from Amber Hill and Ley meaning pastureland or shelter.

June brought Lindsay Kerr who gave us an illuminating talk on the Grade I listed Bramshill House – the gardens are Grade II. It is now a Police College and reputed to be one of the most haunted houses in Hampshire! It holds the largest



collection of truncheons in the world and has the second largest collection of books on policing. During WWII it was taken over by the Ministry of Food, was the HQ of the Red Cross penny a week fund and was even used as a temporary maternity hospital. The building of this Jacobean house by the last Lord Zouche took the best part of 20 years and was completed c. 1625.

In July Liz Saunders accompanied by Tex gave us an insight into the Guide Dogs for the blind charity which was started some 80 years ago to provide mobility and independence to the visually impaired. Tex was a 'reject' and is known as a 'My Buddy' dog. £47,000,000 is needed p.a. to train these dogs, each dog costing £50,000. 6 weeks after birth the dogs go to a puppy walker learning to socialise, followed by 12 weeks basic training. They are then boarded out for their advance training, going into 'school' during the day. The dogs are retired at 9 years and reject dogs are used for collecting money.

*Janice Burlton*

### **Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society**

Over the last few years Twyford Library has asked the Society to give a presentation in March – and this year our Cairman, James fort, gave a fascinating talk ‘Scandals and Crimes on Railways’, which went down very well. Next, our Secretary, Audrey Curtis, was asked by SCOF(Senior Citizens Open Forum) to talk about our village – and under the title ‘Twyford: Scattered Houses to Prosperous Village’ she did just that: introduce our Society to a wider audience.

After a very well-attended AGM in March Mr Dennis Johnson came in April and talked to us about ‘Trade and Industry in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Reading’. A small settlement between the rivers Thames and Kennet existed since Saxon times; and Reading takes its name from the Reada tribe who lived there. In the Middle Ages the main industry was wool production and cloth processing – the Berkshire Downs being ideal for sheep. With the aid of old photos, maps, etc., Mr Johnson took us through the changes over the centuries; and a remarkable diversity of trades onced flourished in the town.

Sadly it is no longer a town of the three Bs – biscuits, beer and bulbs – but its ideal situation, near to Heathrow and the M4, has enabled industry to give way to commerce; and today IT, insurance and finance firms predominate. A very interesting talk.

Also in April we had an outing to Greenwich – guided by Sally Botwright, a Blue Badge Guide with whom we have ‘travelled’ before. We boarded the 2012-installed Cable Car linking he Royal Victoria Docks with Greenwich Peninsula – and had a wonderful view over London, including the Thames Barrier and the City Airport. Arrived at Greenwich, we each did our own thing – some visiting the Cutty Sark; others the Old Royal Naval College, etc.

The day simply was not long enough, but everybody agreed that it was a great outing – thanks to Sally, who was a mine of information, and to Doreen Scott who had arranged this enjoyable visit.

We were lucky enough to have another fascinating talk in May, when Mr David Ford spoke about the ‘Legends of Berkshire’. Mr Ford was talking about ‘old Berkshire’ – i.e. before we lost part of our county to Oxfordshire – and he must have done a tremendous amount of research in order to give us such an enjoyable evening.

In June an ex-Befeater, Mr Stafford, arrived in full Beefeater regalia to talk about ‘Bishops, Sex, Money and the Tower’. His audience were rived! Apart from anything else, we learned how many of our everyday phrases – e.g. ‘on the wagon’ have come down from historical events. A memorable and entertaining evening.

Grateful thanks go to Doreen Scott and her husband for hosing our Ploughman’s Lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was wonderfully kind (unlike last year, when we ended up in their garage!) and we all enjoyed their beautiful garden, and a chance to chat to fellow members.

*Denise Wilkin*

### **Wargrave Local History Society**

In April, Michael Aris and Neville White spoke about the *Duke of Wellington and his Country House at Stratfield Saye*. There had been a house there since Saxon times, and after the Norman invasion, the lands were given by William I to 3 knights who had fought with him - de Saye, Turgis and Mortimer. The estates were near the Stratfield, or ‘straight road’ - hence Stratfield Saye, Stratfield Turgis and Stratfield Mortimer. Eventually, the estate was acquired by Sir William Pitt, who enlarged the house in 1630. Michael then briefly recounted the Duke of Wellington’s career. In gratitude for his battle successes, Parliament voted, in 1814-5, to give him a total of £700,000. The Stratfield Saye estate was purchased and all the subsequent Dukes of Wellington have lived there. The audience was then taken on an interesting photographic tour of the house and its contents.

*St George’s Chapel, Windsor* was Leslie Grout’s subject in May. Building of the Chapel had been begun by King Edward IV, in 1475. The south side of the building has the ornate ‘show’ front, as that is seen by visitors as they approach through the Henry VIII gate. The north is the ‘working side’ of the Chapel, and not as elaborate as the south. Although begun in Edward IV’s reign, the work of building St George’s Chapel took about 50 years to complete - Henry VIII persuading his knights to provide the funds to finish the work. The rest of Leslie’s talk took the form of a ‘tour’ around the Chapel, noting many of the interesting memorials and other features to be seen. He also talked about the Knights of the Garter, whose spiritual home is St George’s Chapel, the Garter Ceremony being one of two occasions annually when the Sovereign attends service there.

In June, for the Village Festival, the Society arranged a *Historic Wargrave Exhibition*. With over 250 photographs to view, along with old documents, maps, books of newspaper cuttings and items relating to village history, there was a lot for

people to see. The only critical comment was that visitors wished it had been open for longer! The following day, two groups were conducted on a Historic Wargrave Walk, learning of the history of many village buildings, their residents, the businesses that carried on there, and of incidents from centuries of Wargrave's history.



The Wargrave Village Festival 'theme' was "Carry On... ", and this was picked up by the board advertising the exhibition outside the village hall.



Each topic in the exhibition had a "Carry On... " heading (such as "Carry on Teacher" (schools), "Carry on Sergeant" (wartime), etc). Here visitors are looking at the display boards, a display in the centre of wartime artefacts, and in the bottom left hand corner, photographs from the village primary schools.

In July, our visit to 'a place of interest' was to *Hughenden Manor*, Benjamin Disraeli's home. Visitors also learnt about the secret war-time map making work that was carried out there, before enjoying a delicious afternoon cream tea - an essential part of any Society visit!

For more information about the Society, visit [www.wargravehistory.org.uk](http://www.wargravehistory.org.uk)

*Peter Delaney*

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## Heritage, Family History, Museums and Libraries

### Maidenhead Heritage Centre

We are researching the effect of the Great War on the people of Maidenhead district, in preparation for an exhibition next year to mark the 1914 Centenary. Life on the "Home Front" was affected to a far greater extent than we had realised. There were shortages of food, coal and labour, and nearly 1000 troops were billeted on the town. Casualties were cared for in five local hospitals, including the Littlewick Convalescent Home which we have yet to locate. German officers were held at Holyport POW

Camp, from which there was a “small escape”. The drying sheds of the local brickworks were used by the Wycombe Aircraft Company. We would be glad to hear from other members about their investigations into the war.

*Brian Boulter*

### **Museum of English Rural Life**

#### **Heritage Open Day tours**

**Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th September, 2013**

- 3pm - 4pm
- Free
- Book

As part of the national Heritage Open Days event, MERL is offering behind the scenes tours of its Victorian home, including a visit to the archive store (Thurs & Fri) and object store (Sat & Sun). Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited due to space restrictions in the stores.

#### **Apple Day**

**Saturday 19th October**

- 1-5pm
- £1 per adult, children free
- Drop-in

Our annual celebration of apples and orchards, will include tastings of different varieties of apples, chutneys and apple juice, and children's activities such as apple and spoon races and a longest peel competition. Delicious apple inspired refreshments.

#### **MERL Traditional Craft Fair**

**Saturday 9th November**

- 11am to 4pm
- £1 per adult, children free
- Drop-in

This is your chance to pick up beautiful gifts made by some of our most skilled local craftspeople, laid out in the unique setting of the MERL galleries. Talk to our makers and try out some simple crafts yourself. Refreshments will be available.

Applications for stallholders at this year's Craft Fair are now open. For details and to download an application form, visit the MERL Traditional Craft Fair 2013 page - See more at: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/whatson/merl-specialevents.aspx#sthash.12tLlEiv.dpuf>

*Alison Clare Hilton*

### **Berkshire Record Office**

#### **A new source for civil defence in World War 2**

We're pleased to report that we have recently listed around two hundred Berkshire County Council files relating to the home front during World War 2. The files are

focussed mostly on either people or buildings: air raid shelters, wardens' report posts, equipment stores and correspondence with local folk who could provide helpful equipment in an emergency. Many towns and villages feature in the files, and they give a lot of information about what civil defence actually looked like on the ground. They are available for research in the usual way.

### **Downton Abbey for real**

We're putting on a small display this autumn which relates to Bisham Abbey. For many years, the estate of what is now the National Sports Centre was in the hands of the Vansittart Neale family, and they have left behind a little treasure trove in terms of descriptions of family life for the Victorian and Edwardian gentry. The display consists of items relating to personal stories, rather than to the mechanics of running an estate. Tragedy struck the family on more than one occasion – come along to the Record Office to find out more.

### **New online catalogue**

We're also pleased to finally have a dedicated online catalogue up and running. It's by no means complete – and won't be for several years yet – but it has tens of thousands of items listed on it, and is bound to prove an invaluable alternative to having to search the hardcopy lists and indexes. Please do take a look: click 'Search the archives' on our website, and then follow the link.

*Mark Stevens, Senior Archivist*

### **Reading Local Studies Library**

Reading Local Studies Library now has a project manager for Berkshire in the First World War and we are ready to start work. I have been amazed at how much research is going on already in other parts of the county by people like The Western Front Association, the Wardrobe Museum, Wokingham Remembers and so on. We hope to co-operate with them and link to their websites so that we do not duplicate work already done.

The focus of our project is the effect of the war on people in Berkshire, both those who went to fight and those who stayed behind. We'll be looking at women at war, hospitals and rehabilitation for the wounded, war work, enlistment and recruitment, who volunteered from local businesses and sports clubs, what happened after the war: the flu epidemic, social change, votes for women and what happened to the 'surplus' women.

We were given a loan of photos by Mr Peacock, son of the wartime managing director of Wellsteeds department store. They showed the shop interiors in the 1930s, then the damage done by the People's Pantry bombing raid of 1943 and the rebuilt shop in the late 1940s and 1950s. They are a valuable addition to the library because photos of shop interiors are so rare. They have now been catalogued and scanned and you can see them on the library website [www.reading.gov.uk](http://www.reading.gov.uk).

Still on the subject of shops, we had a wonderfully entertaining and informative talk by Thomas Lacey on the history of Jacksons department store. He is in great demand because of the impending closure of Jacksons. Catch him if you can at The History of Reading Society meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Autumn programme of talks at Reading Central Library starts at 7.30 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September with a fascinating talk “Broadmoor Revealed” by Mark Stevens, senior archivist at the Berkshire Record Office.

*Anne Smith*

## **Reading Museum**

### **Exhibitions**

#### **Making Faces: Tudor to Modern**

Saturday 21 September – Sunday 16 March 2014

What makes a great portrait? Find out in this impressive exhibition of over thirty oil paintings in the Museum’s Art Gallery. Works range from Tudor and Stuart panel paintings, including Reading’s extraordinary portrait of Elizabeth I, to secret self-portraits from the 1990s. In between there are Georgian dandies and Victorian characters by Thomas Gainsborough and Benjamin Haydon and more informal twentieth century images of the friends and acquaintances of John Minton, John Bratby and Stanley Spencer. Many of the portraits have local connections and all are stunning paintings, together giving an impression of how portrait painting has developed over four centuries. Look out for associated activities in the New Year.

#### **Jacksons Closing Down display**

Tuesday 26 November – April 2014

It will be with sadness that Reading says goodbye to Jacksons when it closes its doors for the final time at the end of 2013. Founded by Edward Jackson in 1875, the shop will be affectionately remembered by generations of Reading people. This small display on the Museum’s ground floor takes a nostalgic look at the history of one of Reading’s best loved names.

### **WALKS, TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

These are just some of the events that may be of interest to BLHA members. For details of all our forthcoming events and exhibition details please go to

[www.readingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.readingmuseum.org.uk)

#### **Talk: Making Faces**

Wednesday 2 October

What makes a great portrait? A brief introduction to the new exhibition with curator Elaine Blake.

**Adults and older children, 1pm – 1.30pm**  
**£2, pay on the day, drop in\***

**Workshop: A Community Self Portrait**

Saturday 12 October

Join professional photographer Anna Mitchell and sculptor Jon Lockhart to experience a working photographic studio within the Making Faces exhibition. Enjoy having your photograph taken and being transported digitally to a variety of exotic and familiar locations using editing software. Come along and be part of a growing archive of local portraits of local people.

**All ages, 1pm – 3.30pm**

**Free, drop in\***

**Talk: Victorian Reading**

Wednesday 16 October

Discover life in Reading during the reign of Queen Victoria with curator Brendan Carr. In this illustrated talk find out more about people such as the Simonds family and George Lovejoy who were hugely influential in developing Victorian Reading.

**Adults and older children, 1pm - 1.30pm**

*£2, pay on the day, drop in\**

*Matthew Williams, Museum Manager*



## Courses

There is still time to embark on an autumn course or a day school then why not have a look to see what is available to occupy yourselves in the coming months. For more information visit [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk) and [www.southern.wea.org.uk](http://www.southern.wea.org.uk) to out find out what there is on offer near you.

Other local Further Education colleges often run courses for adults; there are five in Berkshire, so keep a look out as there may be something of interest. Look out for these logos.



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## Picture Gallery

### The Mapledurham Study Day



Visitors outside the house



The gable of Mapledurham House, set with shells, designed to be seen from the river to indicate that this was as Catholic household



Coffee in the  
Old Manor



The  
Waterwheel

## History Societies

**Arborfield Local History Society:** Secretary Tina Kemp, Kenneys Farm, Maggs Green, Arborfield RG2 9JZ [tina@geoffkemp.force9.co.uk]

**Berkshire Archaeology 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]

**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@bopenworld.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 01189730479 []

**Goring & Streatley Local History Society:** Janet Hurst, 6 Nun's Acre, Goring on Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 9BE tel 01491 871022 | Mob: 07799 583524 [gslhs@w-mark.demon.co.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:** Edward Hooper, 6 Tower Close, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 8UU tel 0118 9472470 [edward.w.hooper@btinternet.com]

**Hungerford Historical Association:** Secretary: Mr Mark Martin, 23 Fairview Road, Hungerford. RG17 0BP. Tel: 01488 682932. [mandm.martin.t21@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 Boulter, 43 Bannard Road, Maidenhead SL6 4NP [bboulter@tesco.net]

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

**Mortimer Local History Group:** Mrs Sue Penney, New Fishery Bungalow Stratfield Turgis, Hook, RG27 0AB [susanmpenney@btinternet.com]

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

**Oxfordshire Family History Society:** Tony Hadland, 4 Barcote Cottages, Buckland, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8PP

**Pangbourne Heritage Group:** Rosie Newrick, 1 Thames Avenue, Pangbourne, RG8 7BU tel 0118 9842565

**Project Purley:** Catherine Sampson, 32 Waterside Drive, Purley on Thames, Berks, RG8 8AQ tel 0118 9422 255 [clspurley@aol.com]

**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.

**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, Reading, RG7 1QX. tel 0118 9883650 [slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk] [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 tel 01635 863536 [enquiries@thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk]; [www.thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk]

**Theale Local History Society:** A.D. Spurling, The Fifteenth, Broadlands Close, Calcot Park, Reading RG31 7RP [thealehistory@aol.com]

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

**Wargrave Local History Society:** Peter Delaney, 6 East View Close, Wargrave, Berks, RG10 8BJ tel 0118 9403121 [peter.delaney2@btinternet.com]

**Windsor Local History Group:** Sue Ashley, 49 York Avenue, Windsor, SL4 3PA [nutritionsshaley@hotmail.com]; [www.windlesora.org.uk]

**Friends of Windsor and Royal Borough Museum** Jinny Melville, 15 Gloucester Place, Windsor, SL4 2AJ [www.windsormuseumappeal.org.uk]

**Winnersh & District Historical Society:** Brian Eighteen, 50 Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berks, RG41 5JT [b.eighteen@btinternet.com]

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

**Wraysbury History Group:** Gillian Hopkins, 45 Staines Road, Wraysbury, Staines, TW19 5BY tel 01784 482947 [gillian\_hopkins@tiscali.co.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:** 278-286 High Street, Slough, SL1 1NB tel 01753 526422  
[info@sloughmuseum.co.uk]

**West Berkshire Museum:** Museum Collection Store, Unit 3, Bone Lane, Newbury, RG14 5SH  
[museum@westberks.gov.uk]

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

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**Journal Editor**, Dr. Jonathan Brown

**Membership Rates for 2013.**

Corporate £18.00, Individual and Family £9.00. for those opting for electronic access to the Newsletter only. For those who still wish to receive hard copy Newsletters, membership is £20.00 and £12.00 respectively. A surcharge of £2 will also be levied on those who opt to pay by cheque. Membership includes an annual copy of *Berkshire Old & New* and a copy of the Newsletter thrice yearly; corporate members receive three copies of each issue of the Newsletter and two copies of the Journal.

**The next Newsletter will be published in January 2014 (Copy by 1 December 2013).** 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! Email: [newsletter@blha.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@blha.org.uk) or post to Dr. M. Simons 80, Reeds Avenue, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5SR.

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