

# **Berkshire Local History Association**



**Newsletter No 119  
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***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](mailto:newsletter@blha.org.uk) and arrive not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 -*    **The Old Schoolhouse at Ewelme (see page 4)**

# Chairman's Corner

By now, I trust that everyone is aware of the forthcoming seminar at Ewelme on October 7th. Following on from the success of the symposium we held in St. Laurence's Church in Reading in 2015, and the comments from the floor at the A.G.M. in 2016, we are holding a similar afternoon, but this time we shall be out in the countryside, and the three talks are on related themes. "Death and Commemoration in the Middle Ages" will be examining medieval ideas about piety, charity and commemoration in stone. See below in the newsletter for more details. Please book soon if you're intending to come – numbers may have to be limited.



Sadly, we've had a couple of recent resignations from the committee. Margaret Yates, who played a major part in the running of the Association in its early years, has reluctantly decided that the time has come for her to retire as a Vice-President. We shall be sorry to "lose" her, but are glad that she has decided to remain a member. Her infectious smile was a great source of encouragement to me as a newly-elected Chairman! Then Sue Burnay, another committee member of long standing, is moving to East Anglia and therefore must resign. It was Sue who initiated and developed the Berkshire Bibliography on our website. We wish her all the best in her new home. Added to these resignations, the lack of a Secretary is making the work of the committee more difficult. I hope that we can find a suitable volunteer before too long.

"Berkshire Old and New" will appear soon, with two major articles, longer than usual, and the list of books published in the last year. I've recently completed the article on the history of local history in Berkshire, based on the three talks given at this year's A.G.M. in Newbury, and it should appear in the 2018 edition.

The text of the gazetteer of Berkshire schools, c. 1700-1830, is almost complete, and is due to be published by the Berkshire Record Society next year. It is a parish-by-parish account of the dame schools, Sunday schools, church schools, charity schools, grammar schools, and private schools for which records have survived. This is the project where the work has been done by a team of volunteers, extracting information from documents in the Berkshire Record Office, and also from the collections in libraries and record offices across southern England. Our Association offered financial help, and help in recruiting the volunteers. Such is their enthusiasm that it is likely that by the time you read this, they will probably have embarked on a new research project, under the guidance of a board with representatives from the Record Office, the Record Society, and the B.L.H.A. At the time of writing, the subjects under consideration are the County Gaols at Reading and Abingdon, and a continuation of the previous project, further into the nineteenth century. (see p 5)

In July, the Berkshire History Prize was awarded to Vicky Fowler for her dissertation on the question: "To What Extent were Governesses Social Anomalies in



*Dr Elizabeth Matthew and Vicky Fowler at the presentation of the Berkshire History Prize at Reading University*

late Georgian and Victorian Britain?” The prize is awarded for work of exceptional merit, and is not necessarily awarded every year. The thesis must be based, at least in part, on Berkshire sources, and a copy is deposited in the Berkshire Record Office. Mark Stevens (County Archivist) and I went up the University of Reading on graduation day to make the presentation, since the prize is funded jointly by the B.R.O. and B.L.H.A. Unfortunately, the arrangements did not go as planned, through no fault of ours, which is why we are not in the picture! Instead, Dr. Elizabeth Matthew, Associate Professor in Medieval History, had to make the presentation on our behalf. The UoR were very apologetic, and I trust they will do better next time the prize is awarded!

Earlier this year, Reading Libraries changed their cataloguing system, and until it's working smoothly and I've had the training, I cannot put any more pictures onto the catalogue. In readiness for being able to re-start, I've spent a lot of time at home during August, editing and scanning over 1,000 images of local history interest.

Over the summer I have visited and enjoyed two exhibitions at Reading Museum and Art Gallery. There is a small exhibition about mills and milling in this area, “From Quern to Computer,” presented by the Mills Archive. The major exhibition is in the Madejski Gallery upstairs: “The Reading Abbey Quarter: Then and Now.” It

was good to see several objects and pictures which I'd only seen as photographs before.

The Heritage Open Days run from September 7th-10th this year. As a change from merely visiting, I shall be taking an active part. On the Saturday I shall be at Waterstone's bookshop in Broad Street, Reading, signing copies of my book, "Picture Palace to Penny Plunge: Reading's Cinemas," between 12 noon and 1 p.m. see page 8

To remind me of where I'm due to go, and where I've been, I still use a pocket-book diary, and the time has come where I need to buy one for next year. Among other things, I need to remind myself that A.G.M. will be on Saturday, March 10th at Maidenhead, where we hope to have the Berkshire Flag on display. The Association now has a flag of its own, thanks to John Chapman who went over to Newbury to collect it. We shall not be taking it to Ewelme, which is now, and always has been, on the "other" side of the river!

*David Cliffe*

## ***A Word from the Editor***

We seem to be somewhat short of reports from our member societies for this edition so we have had to improvise. We have revived the Picture Gallery which we used to have but which got crowded out because of space several years ago. I came across some cases where material sent to me via newsletter@blha.org.uk did not arrive so it would be helpful if you used j.chapman45-8@btinternet.com as that seems a lot more reliable. When I receive items and edit them into the next newsletter I always send a reply of 'thanks' so if you do not get such a reply within a week please try again.



*John Chapman*

## ***Miscellanea***

### ***Berkshire Stories and World War One***

The Berkshire Stories website [www.berkshirstories.org.uk](http://www.berkshirstories.org.uk) was set up in 2015 with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Most of the information on it relates to the First World War. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave money to digitise materials in Reading Central Library. A team of volunteers researched and produced a book *Berkshire in the First World War* (available to buy or borrow from the library and as a free download on the website).

The digitised materials on Berkshire Stories are:

The Reading Standard newspaper supplement *Berkshire and the War 1916-1919*

Kelly's Directories of Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon from 1911-1920

Kelly's Directories of Reading from 1914-1919

The four newspapers The Reading Mercury, The Berkshire Chronicle, The Reading Standard and The Reading Observer from 1914-1920

All the above are searchable by names and keywords.

The idea of [www.berkshirestories.org.uk](http://www.berkshirestories.org.uk) was to include other materials in addition to the First World War. If any members of history societies in Berkshire would like to publish local stories, research or snippets on the website, please contact Ann Smith at [wokinghamsmith@gmail.com](mailto:wokinghamsmith@gmail.com).

Ann Smith

### ***Death and Commemoration in the Middle Ages***

This study day, organised by the B.L.H.A., will be held on Saturday, 7th October at the Church at St. Mary the Virgin, Ewelme.

From mid-day, the church and almshouses will be open, where we shall be welcome to walk round – and also to bring a picnic lunch to eat in the churchyard (or in the church if it's wet). The proceedings proper begin in the church at 2 p.m. There will be three talks from acknowledged experts. The first of them, "Contextualising Ewelme's Medieval Tombs: Negotiating the Journey to Paradise," will be given by Dr. David Mercer. Next, Dr. Clive Burgess, of Royal Holloway, University of London, will consider "Commemorative Institutions in the Late Middle Ages," and those at Ewelme in particular. Finally, after the break, Dr. Rowena Archer of Christ Church College, Oxford, will talk about "The Life and Tomb of Alice, Duchess of Suffolk."

There will hopefully be time for questions after each talk, and over tea and cake at the end of the afternoon, kindly provided by the parishioners.

The appropriateness of each talk will be apparent to anyone who has looked round Ewelme. Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, died in 1437. Her monument is recognised as one of the finest medieval tombs in the country. It is on three levels: above the tomb-chest lies her effigy as in life, and below the tomb-chest, with its rich heraldic carving, lies her effigy as in death, an emaciated corpse. You have to be prepared to get down close to the floor if you want to peer at the corpse! Her parents were Thomas and Matilda Chaucer, whose tomb is also here. Thomas, who died in 1434, was the son of the poet, Geoffrey Chaucer. There is much else to see in the church. The almshouses and school were founded by the Duke and Duchess: the foundation deed dates from the year of her death. The school room, which has medieval wall-paintings, will be opened specially for us at the end of the afternoon. It is thought to have been in continuous use as a school from the time of its foundation.

Anyone interested is invited to attend: members of the Oxfordshire Local History Association have of course been invited, since we shall be on their territory. Please book in advance: we are expecting a lot of interest, and numbers may have to be limited so that everyone can see and hear in the church. All we ask is a contribution of £7.50 towards expenses – which is very modest for an event of this quality. Please

download the booking form from the website ([www.blha.org.uk](http://www.blha.org.uk)) and post it off with your cheque.

David Cliffe

### ***A New Festival for Reading***

This is a new arts and cultural festival for Reading, organised as part of the Reading Place of Culture programme. It will open to coincide with the start of Heritage Days.

Nigel Horton-Baker, Executive Director of Reading UK CIC, said: “This new festival comes about as a direct result of last year’s Reading Year of Culture. Reading’s vibrant arts scene is developing into a real asset to the people living and working in Reading as well as a draw to businesses and people considering relocating here. The Reading-on-Thames Festival will celebrate Reading’s riverfront locations and heritage and provide a great platform to showcase the diversity and range of arts, culture and heritage in the town.”

Here is a link to the Festival web page:

<http://readingplaceofculture.org/2017/06/19/new-festival-reading-reading-thames-festival-launches/>

see *Opportunities* on Page 17

### ***Citizen of Honour***

A little while ago we celebrated the achievement of Fred Potts VC and the Berkshire Yeomanry by unveiling a memorial in front of the Crown Court in Reading. The sculptor was Tom Murphy and we learned that he was awarded a special honour by the City of Liverpool as their *Citizen of Honour* on Friday August 11th.

## ***Volunteers needed!***

We have had three appeals for volunteers - come on BLHA we can do it!!!

### ***Berkshire Record Society***

Following the very successful research project on Berkshire schools in the eighteenth century (the book is expected to appear next year), Berkshire Record Office, the BLHA and Berkshire Record Society have again joined forces to sponsor a new project, this time on school buildings, 1870-1914.

This was a significant period for school building. Following the Education Act of 1870 several schools were built by the newly-established school boards (notably in Reading, but also elsewhere in Berkshire), and after the Education Act of 1902 several more were built or rebuilt by Berkshire County Council. The project will focus on public elementary and (after 1902) secondary schools and will look primarily at the school buildings (rather than at management, curriculum, etc), asking such questions as why was the building needed, what was needed (in terms of size, facilities), how many pupils could it hold, who designed it and who built it, what equipment was provided, how much did it cost, and who were the key people involved. It will involve

research in original records at Berkshire Record Office and in newspapers at Reading Local Studies Library, and we hope will lead to the publication of a book.

We're looking for volunteers to join the team that worked on the eighteenth-century project. You'll be given guidance on sources and on the questions to be asked, and there will be regular opportunities to meet fellow researchers and to find out about progress. You will be expected to commit not less than one day a month (or the equivalent in part days) over the period of the project, which is expected to last three to four years.

If you are interested, contact Peter Durrant at [peter.durrant@reading.gov.uk](mailto:peter.durrant@reading.gov.uk).

*Peter Durrant*

### ***Mills Archive***

Have you previously worked in libraries or can offer suitable skills and experience? Perhaps you are looking for library work experience prior to gaining professional qualifications?

The Mills Archive Trust (registered charity no. 1155828) was established in Reading in 2002 and is an Accredited Archive with the National Archives. It is an independent and permanent repository for historical and contemporary material on mills and milling throughout the UK and worldwide. The Archive collections are recognised as of national and inter-national importance comprising several million documents and images.

The Library is the largest single repository of published material on mills and milling in the world. It comprises 5000 donated items: books, pamphlets, journals, articles and reprints, trade literature, press cuttings, ephemera and maps. We wish to develop the Library and improve online access to its resources in line with professional standards for libraries.

Our Librarian would like a volunteer who can offer weekly help with the following priority tasks:

- Cataloguing and processing of books and booklets on mills and milling
- Create summaries and catalogue foreign language material on mills and milling
- Cover vulnerable books with acetate and undertake minor repairs and preservation

Prior knowledge of mills and milling is not expected but an interest in archaeology, history, industrial heritage, or engineering would be useful. Training and development will be given for all tasks but supervision will be minimal once the volunteer is established. Accuracy, analytical thinking, computer literacy, self-motivation, initiative and teamwork are necessary skills.

Please contact Elizabeth Trout, Information Manager (and Librarian) for more information and to arrange a visit to discuss this opportunity - [elizabeth.trout@millsarchive.org](mailto:elizabeth.trout@millsarchive.org)

You would be joining a volunteer team who come from a variety of backgrounds and ages. The minimum commitment would be one day a week on Wednesday to

Friday when the Librarian works. Hours are flexible but our volunteers usually come in between 10am and 3pm.

We are based in Watlington House, a lovely 17th century Grade 2 listed house in the centre of Reading. It is close to local bus routes and just a 20 minute walk from Reading Station. Volunteers should be aware that, whilst there is level access to the offices and Library, there are steep stairs to the basement toilets and kitchen; there is no lift.

*Elizabeth Trout*

### ***National Appeals***

Are you or your group looking for a project to occupy you this autumn? If so, the Summer 2017 issue of Local History News offers several ideas.

A group is studying the Gough Map of 1400. They ask local historians to look at their section of the map and report anything odd such as major places omitted or minor places given undue significance. Go to [www.goughmap.org/map/](http://www.goughmap.org/map/) for details. Judith Hunter wrote an excellent article on the map in "Old & New" No.5. She covered its history and used the evidence from it to investigate when the Roman road from London to Bath via Staines and Silchester was superseded by the present Bath Road.

The Great War continues to be studied. Prof. Peter Stanley of Australia is investigating the 50,000 Territorial Soldiers, mainly from southern England, who served in India. Go to [indiaterriersgreatwar@gmail.com](mailto:indiaterriersgreatwar@gmail.com)

The Government-backed Big Ideas Company suggests that local historians investigate "the Unremembered". Soldiers who were wounded at Passchendaele, brought home for treatment but subsequently died. Go to [www.bigideascompany.org#Unremembered](http://www.bigideascompany.org#Unremembered)

2018 will not only be the centenary of the Armistice, it will also be that of the Influenza Pandemic which killed over 50 million people, many more than died in the conflict. In Maidenhead it caused schools to close. Prof. Killingray of Goldsmiths College suggests that local history groups might investigate the effect on their local community. No contact details or central database, just an interesting suggestion.

Finally, 2018 will be the centenary of the Act which saw (some) women being given the right to vote. They had to be over 30 years old and were no doubt expected to vote as their husband told them! Again no contact details or database, it appears that museums will be organising events, and of course Parliament.

If you decide to follow up one of these ideas, please let BLHA know how you progress, other groups will be interested.

*Brian Boulter*

# **New Books and Reviews**

## ***Ten Men of Hedgerley***

A group of members of the Hedgerley Historical Society have been working since 2014 on a research project into the histories of the ten men who died during World War 1 and are commemorated on the war memorial in St. Mary's Church, Hedgerley. The project group are currently completing a book reporting their findings, which we will be publishing this autumn. They intend to produce a single printing of the book and are asking people to reserve their copies in advance so they can order an adequate print run.

Payment will not need to be made until publication; reserved copies are offered at a special price of £5 per copy. Reservations will be taken until Wednesday, 20th September, after which date they are unable to guarantee availability.

If you would like to reserve any copies of the book, please email them with your name and the number of copies you wish to reserve. [mailto:jdlovelock@btinternet.-com]

## ***Picture Palace to Penny Plunge***


*by David Cliffe ISBN 978-1-909747-31-9*

This will be launched on September 9th. It is published by the Two Rivers Press and will cost £12 - The story of cinema in Reading, from the travelling shows at the beginning of the twentieth century, to the single-screen cinemas and today's multi-screen cinemas and outdoor screenings. The book traces the technological developments and how they influenced the types of buildings, the numbers of seats, prices, programmes, refreshments and ownership. It describes each cinema, of which there have been more than 20, and includes appendices listing some of the films made in or near Reading, and some of the actors and directors with Reading connections. Illustrated with contemporary photographs and drawings.

# **Articles**

## ***Scanning Slides***

One of the tasks I had set myself this summer was to scan a collection of 35mm slides which had been taken by Lawrence Cameron and given to the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group. They had decided, for better or for worse, to divide up the collection among a number of organisations, according to their areas of interest – railways, watermills, canals, etc. I had offered to take any that were taken in Berkshire – a relatively small proportion of around 400 out of several thousand. My idea was that they could be added to the collection of local history images at Reading Central



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Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF



Library, where they would be indexed on the library catalogue. This means that in due course, you'll be able to search for images of, say, foundries across the county, breweries in Reading, or Wantage Road Station, and the appropriate images will appear.

No-one takes 35mm slides these days. I have memories of being asked to give a talk in London. I was held up in the Tube, and arrived at the venue a bit late. Then, to my horror, I managed to drop the slide carousel, so there was a further delay while I desperately tried to put the slides back in the right order and the right way round, with an audience looking on! If only I'd had the pictures on a USB drive . . . but this was 1982, and it would not have been possible.

Another disadvantage of slides is that over time, they can fade, or develop strange colour casts. I have had to spend time trying to correct excesses of blue and purple. The slides date from the 1970s and 1980s. Once scanned, corrected and saved, the digital data should not deteriorate – though no-one knows how long it will last, even if properly backed up. And, of course, no-one can know if people in the future will still be interested in looking at the images.

Then, I'm afraid that some of the slides were just so poor that I couldn't see what the subject was, even though there was a title on the slide, so some editing had to be done. This was usually the result of under-exposure.

Sometimes there was a problem where the photographer had tried to record a piece of machinery in a very restricted space, and so I knew where the machine was,

but not what I was looking at. And sometimes the labelling was, from my point of view, inadequate. There is a slide that shows some brick arching, labelled just “ice house.” Another slide, saying “The Wellington Arms,” appears to show a brick-lined well.

The slides were taken across the county, and show a wide variety of subjects. There are a few which were taken just over the border – such as Brakspear’s brewery and maltings at Henley, and the pump which supplied water to The Vyne near Basingstoke. Breweries, maltings and cooperages are represented at Henley, Reading, Wallingford, Hungerford, Theale and Bradfield, and there are foundries, forges, smithies, gasworks, a power station, pumping stations, brickworks, railway stations, signal boxes, a bus garage, etc., etc,



*The sign on High Bridge*

Nothing has been covered systematically, but nevertheless, when put together with the images from other sources which are already in the collection at Reading, they will help tell the story of what happened where, and show what things looked like.

The next stage in the exercise will involve my creating the catalogue entries so that searchers can find what they’re looking for, and then the slides will go into safe storage.

Many of the slides show subjects not already represented in the library collection. I was intrigued by a picture of a large stack of bundles of tree branches at Waltham St. Lawrence. They belonged to Underwood Industries, and were to be used for making brushes. (see page 20) And there was a photograph of a circular yellow sign with the figure “70” on a green pole, by the High Bridge in Reading. I believe this was the weight limit, aimed specifically at drivers of military vehicles in the Second World War.

During the hours I spent scanning, my mind occasionally wandered. Why is it that people take pictures like this – and why are they usually men? I should know – I take the same kind of pictures myself. Are we planning to give lectures, or to use the pictures to illustrate books? Maybe we have friends who may be interested (but usually they are not), or maybe we’re just like to look back on where we’ve been. It was while one of the slides was actually on the screen that an e-mail message arrived to tell me that the photographer had died. Naturally I felt sad, but at the same time I felt that he would have been pleased to know that his work was being preserved, and made available to people interested in the same kinds of things as we both were.

*David Cliffe.*

# Society News

## *Berkshire Family History Society*

The society is on the move!

After 17 years at Yeomanry House, Berkshire Family History Society is on the move. By the time you receive your next BLHA newsletter, the society should be firmly ensconced in new premises on the second floor of Reading Central Library, in Abbey Square.

This great new space is for everyone to use and to enjoy, up to six days a week, making it a lively meeting place and friendly focal point for all with an interest in heritage and history —family, local, social. As a visitor, you will find a large and comfortable area available for your ongoing research, with access to a number of online databases. Acoustic screens will divide this research space from a larger meeting area, able to seat 40 or more in comfort, in a variety of layouts, and fully equipped to stage events, educational initiatives, workshops, seminars and similar activities for both members and non-members. Like the library, available volunteers permitting, the intention is to open on Saturdays, as well as during the week.

### *Heritage Open Days*

Yeomanry House is open to visitors on 7th, 9th and 10th September. Join the society in celebrating Berkshire's fantastic heritage and culture — get some help with your family history research — or just come along and enjoy the cakes! The society also provides a Beginner's Guide to Family History talk at Berkshire Record Office on 9th September. Go to [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) for more details.

### *42nd Annual General Meeting of the society*

The society's Reading Branch hosted this year's AGM on 30th June at The Old Mill, Aldermaston. Over 70 members attended and, after the formal proceedings, enjoyed a talk on the life and history of The Old Mill, followed by "Keeping it in the Milling Family" from The Mills Archive Trust. At the AGM, Catherine Sampson was elected as society chairman, and Vicki Chesterman is now society secretary. Members also approved introduction of a new membership category — UK Young Person (18-25) — at a reduced annual rate.

### *Autumn Branch programmes*

Meetings resume in September — in Abingdon, Bracknell, Newbury, Reading, Windsor and Woodley. Branch autumn programmes offer an eclectic and inviting mix of topics, with much to interest researchers of all levels of experience. Visitors are always welcome at meetings and, where they can afford to do so, are encouraged to make a suggested £3 donation as a contribution towards the society's costs in staging local activities. The Discussion Group also meets on the first Tuesday evening each month.

### *Other events this autumn*

The society will be at The Family History Show at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher on Sunday, 24th September. Now that the Who Do You Think You Are? Live show is no more, this is an important event for the southern half of the UK. There are subsequent opportunities to meet the society at Open Days staged by the Oxfordshire, Hampshire and West Surrey Family History Societies in October and November.

Full details of all society activities can be found at [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)

*Derek Trinder*

### ***East Ilsley Local History Society***

Will be holding their Annual Open Day, in the dining room of 'The Swan', East Ilsley during opening hours on Saturday October 7th 2017. There will also be an exhibition on the subject of '*Sport & Leisure in East Ilsley*'

All our considerable resource material (parish registers, censuses, photos, wills, maps, models, etc.) will be available for study, as well as display panels from previous years, and access to online sources. Advice and help will be on hand from local volunteers who will be only too happy to share their local knowledge.

*Eric Saxton: secretary EILHS*

### ***Project Purley***

The 2016-7 season of talks ended in April with Catherine Sampson speaking on *Living Through the Civil War in Reading*. She described how Reading was before the war and how it effectively killed off the cloth trade by an order for 1000 uniforms which were never paid for. The major impact was always having hordes of soldiers billeted in and around the town and how their demands for feeding denied the citizens of Reading access to their normal sources of food and opened the door to typhus.

The first outing of the summer was to Hatfield House on 31st May. Members were able to take advantage of the house and many other facilities including the old Hatfield Palace which was opened especially on the day.

Our visiting actors, the Rain or Shine Theatre Company came on June 9th to perform Twelfth Night at The Barn and raised over £400 for charity which this year was the Five-a-day Market Garden. For a change the weather held for our Barbecue on June 16th. 17th July saw our second outing, this time to Ewelme and a talk on the monuments. We were able to see the Almshouses and School and we finished with lunch at the Shepherd's Hut.

In September the society is embarking on its first overseas trip when we visit Ypres and see something of the Somme and Paschendaele battlefields, visiting some of the places where men from Purley are either buried or commemorated. During our trip we plan to visit some of the main sites associated with the war, lay wreaths at the graves and monuments commemorating some of Purley's war dead, and also take some members to see the graves of their own grandfathers for the first time, which I am sure is going to be very moving.

Work continues on building the content on our website and streamlining its look and feel. The overall aim is to make more material available through the site to those interested in the history of the village. see [www.project-purley.eu](http://www.project-purley.eu)

Our monthly meetings resume on 15 September, when metal detector James Mather will be talking about 'Treasures beneath our feet and the Watlington hoard'.

*John Chapman & Catherine Sampson*

### ***History of Reading Society***

The subject of the March talk was the history of the Reading suburb of Southcote, it was presented by Mike Cooper a popular speaker on local and military history. In 2016 Reading Borough Council launched a project to promote local history to a wider audience through the publication of booklets and talks by their authors; Mike's contribution was the histories of Southcote and Tilehurst.

The subject of the April talk was Jane and the Thames Valley Austens, it was presented by committee member Joy Pibworth.

2017 is the bicentenary of Jane's death and it was of great interest to the members to learn of the famous author's family connections in the Thames Valley and her brief education in Reading.

The subject of the May talk was Smith's Coaches of Reading, it was presented by Paul Lacey. Paul gave a very nostalgic and well informed talk on this subject with many slides; later this year he intends to publish a history of Smith's Coaches.

In June the Society visited the Church of St.Mary the Virgin in Reading where our guide on a hot evening was Geoff Morris.

We were sorry to learn recently of the death of Peter Russell who was secretary of the Society for many years as well as hosting committee meetings at his home in Woodley. We offer our condolences to his family.

We hope to have the 2018 calendar with old postcard views of Reading's waterways on sale at the September 20th meeting the price £5.

Committee member Vicki Chesterman is working on a bibliography on the subject of Reading this can be accessed on our website: [www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk](http://www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk)

*Sean Duggan*

### ***Shinfield and District Local History Society***

The speaker at our May meeting was Catherine Sampson who gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on "*Royal Weddings*". Catherine took us through the various stages of royal marriages starting with the choice of a suitable bride then through choice of wedding venue, scandals and secrets and divorces. Brides were generally chosen for the quality of their looks and ability to breed but other factors came into

play. For nine generations of monarch spouses were chosen from German families, partly to maintain the Protestant religion in England, although this did not always guarantee a successful outcome with at least one marriage (George I to Sophia Dorothea of Celle) ending in divorce. Several secret marriages were mentioned, including Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn, this being followed by a public wedding to show that the couple were actually married.

The most popular wedding venue has been Westminster Abbey, starting with Henry I to Matilda in 1100. Other venues have been St. Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle, York Minster, Hampton Court and Reading Abbey, where Edward IV married Elizabeth Woodville in 1464. Scandals mentioned included the marriage in 1396 of Richard II, aged 29, to Isabella de Valois, aged 6.

There was no speaker in June, this being a working meeting.

Our July meeting saw a return of Tony King, this time to give his presentation on "*The Twenties*". He began by setting the scene following the end of World War 1 and contrasting life for the working classes, many of whom were living in slum conditions with poor sanitation and no running water, with that of the middle classes, who could employ a maid to carry out general housework, and upper classes who employed servants with specific duties. Hardship culminated in the General Strike of 1926 and was aggravated by the effects of the Wall Street crash of 1929. There were, however, happier times in the 1920s and most of Tony's presentation concentrated on these, in particular the forms of entertainment available, accompanied by contemporary film or photographs and appropriate music. Music halls were very popular with acts such as Florrie Forde and Little Titch and musical shows included "Rose Marie", "The Student Prince" and "Desert Song". Cinema, too, was popular with silent films up to 1927 when "The Jazz Singer", the first talkie, was made.

Radio broadcasting in the UK began in 1922 and a working television system was demonstrated by John Logie Baird in 1925, although it would be some years before public broadcasts became available.

Seaside holidays at resorts such as Blackpool became popular. Cycling was a popular means of personal transport but motor cars were becoming more affordable with models such as the Model T Ford and those manufactured by Morris Motors and MG. Air travel became available to those who could afford it.

As always with Tony's presentations we all enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening.

*George Taylor*

### ***Swallowfield Local History Society***

Our Project to gather and save the Childhood Memories of Living in our Parish of Swallowfield, Riseley and Farley Hill started with great success on a lovely sunny afternoon in June having tea and cake together while our guests reminisced, talked, laughed and remembered. Surrounded by Memorabilia which had been found in boxes kept in cupboards, under the stairs, in lofts and almost forgotten until we asked

them to tell us about their childhood memories of living or visiting family who lived in Swallowfield. They evoked so many recollections and stories we know we have a wonderful archive on which to take our Project forward. How to save this treasure trove before it is lost in the mist of time? We plan to visit some of our guests and gather their stories on a one to one basis, easier to record and make sure the anecdotes and tales are correctly noted.

Our walk on a very hot day in July with Sally Ballard started in All Saints Church. It was interesting to start with the origins of the church and to see the grave of Mary Russell Mitford. Our route took us over Pitt bridge and down Part Lane, we paused under an oak tree where they turned in the past when beating the bounds - hence the name Bound Oak, down to the Devils Highway with talk about the Roman route to Bath via Silchester. Along to the ford, historically we were unusual in having two Roman fords. Past the confluence of the Whitewater and Blackwater, then various interesting buildings in Nutbeam Lane. People agreed they had learned something they didn't know before about the village of Swallowfield.

August took us once again to the Swallowfield show where we mounted an exhibition of the History of the Swallowfield Horticultural Show. Created lots of interest and discussion.

On 21st September we are so pleased to have persuaded one of our Members to speak to us again, Barbara Stanley will talk about some aspects of the tumultuous last hundred years of Irish history through the experiences of her extended family. The 1916 Easter Rising, the recent Troubles, the EU and the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement all feature, with a walk-on part for George Bernard Shaw, an elopement and a cautionary tale of a George Brown-like microphone problem. Her presentation is called 'Personal experience of growing up during the Troubles in Ireland'.

Mike Round, our Treasurer, has been researching and collating information about the two cemeteries in Swallowfield connected to All Saints Church. In October he is going to tell us about some interesting and surprising facts found during his Research.

In November we are delighted that Hazel Gillingwater will tell us how she gathered her collection of Historical Costumes. Her wealth of experience in the world of 'costumes' knows no bounds and we are so lucky to have her in the Village, using her expertise to costume our Pantomimes and Plays. She is fun and we know we will have an entertaining evening.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Rose Room at the Swallowfield Parish Hall. Visitors are always welcome. Any queries please contact Ken Hussey (Chairman) on 0118 988 3650 or Maggie Uttley (Secretary) email [kcuttley@aol.com](mailto:kcuttley@aol.com). Visit our Web Site for the full programme for the year. [www.slhsoc.org.uk](http://www.slhsoc.org.uk)

*Maggie Uttley*

### ***Wargrave Local History Society***

Wargrave 535 was the title of George Rawlinson's illustrated presentation to the April meeting of the Wargrave Local History Society. George, operations director for the

RNLI, grew up in Wargrave and shared his memories of the village at that time. His talk was very personal and thought provoking, as he reflected on what had brought him to the area and the various influences on him – his parents, his older brothers, teachers, the community. He commented that the skills he had learnt in Wargrave were never far from his mind, and he was thankful for the village community that had helped him develop those.

The Chairman of the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group, Peter Trout, gave a talk on the early history of airships entitled *Inspiration – A Lot of Gas in May*. He began by recounting his mother's experiences in WW1 of seeing a Zeppelin appear on a raid overhead, and quoting from his grand-father's diary, written in 1916, describing some of the Zeppelin raids over Hull. Peter then went on to use a series of early 20th century illustrations, to trace the history of airships from the 1850s to modern times, showing some 'weird and wonderful' designs – not all successful! – and concluded with film of various Zeppelin style airships.

The Wargrave Village Festival, in June, included the Society's ever popular local history walk. The participants heard about people, buildings and episodes from over 900 years of Wargrave's history as they walked around the village. "More About Antiques" was another 'sell-out' event staged by the Society. Antiques expert Thomas Plant – familiar to many from BBC television, with his fellow Special Auction Services director, Neil Shuttleworth, delighted the audience with anecdotes from the auction world, before describing and valuing many of the items brought by members of the audience (images of each item being displayed on a large screen). Thomas and Neil are also both ambassadors for the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, and gave a review of this worthwhile project. The Village Fete took place on the last weekend of the Festival, when the Society information and sales stall was accompanied by a display of photographs and documents showing how Wargravians were involved at that time – not just those who 'joined the colours', but those who gave support 'at home' in the village, and many questions about village history were answered for visitors during the afternoon.

In July, the Society visited Kingston Bagpuize House, when members had a most interesting tour, personally guided by the lady whose home it is, followed by afternoon tea and home made cake – essential for any Society visit!

Contact me, Peter Delaney, by visiting our website [www.wargravehistory.org.uk/](http://www.wargravehistory.org.uk/), or on 0118 9403121 for more information about the Society.

*Peter Delaney*

## ***Museums and Libraries***

### ***Windsor Guildhall Museum***

Craft activities themed around local heritage, art and current events were held every Tuesday throughout the summer break.

# Opportunities

## ***2nd September - The City***

A study day organised by the Newbury District Field Club at St Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury, starting at 10-30. A series of talks with *The City* as a common theme. Tickets at the door £12.

## ***8th to 10th September - Heritage Open Days***

Watch out for details of events at heritage sites across Berkshire. To see a full national programme of events go to the website [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

## ***Friday 8th September - Matilda the Empress***

A talk by Lindsay Mullaney at St James' Church, the Forbury in Reading starting at 2 pm - admission free no need to book.

In advance of November's RBL production of *Matilda the Empress*, to be staged at St James', Lindsay's talk will describe the life and career of Matilda, who nearly became England's first female monarch.

## ***Saturday 9th September - The Art and Music of Reading Abbey***

A talk by John Mullaney at St James' Church, the Forbury in Reading starting at 2 pm - admission free no need to book, just turn up.

The monks of the Benedictine order in the 12th century were at the forefront of a Europe wide cultural and scientific revolution. John will look at various aspects of the arts, and developments in music associated with Reading including *Sumer is Icumen In*

## ***15th September - Reading's Royal Burial***

This is a performance by local theatre company *Reading Between the Lines*, telling the story of King Henry's last journey as his body travelled the River Kennet to be buried in the Abbey that he founded. It is on Friday 15 September 2017, at 7.30pm in The Oracle Riverside. The performance is free, but tickets must be booked in advance at [www.readingbetweenthelines.co.uk](http://www.readingbetweenthelines.co.uk)

## ***16th September - Abbey on Wheels***

Will be popping up at Caversham Court Gardens to tell the history of the Abbey Quarter and conservation of Reading Abbey (Saturday 16 September). Free

### ***16th September Reading Abbey Revealed***

Reading Museum will be running tours of the conservation works on the Abbey Ruins. These are at 10.00am and 11.30am.

Learn about the 900 years of history in the Quarter and about our exciting 'Reading Abbey Revealed' project that will reopen the Abbey Ruins in Summer 2018.

This tour will not be entering the ruins of Reading Abbey due to the on-going conservation work, but will explore the Quarter and highlight key points from around the perimeter of the ruins.

Please meet at the Reading Museum and Town Hall Reception ten minutes before each tour. Participation is free but pre-booking essential at [www.readingaabbey-quarter.org.uk](http://www.readingaabbey-quarter.org.uk)

Suitable for adults and older children.

### ***24th September - Gatehampton Roman Villa***

Please join the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group for their annual Gatehampton Roman Villa Open Day on Sunday September 24th. There is parking on site, but if you come by train we are a pleasant half a mile walk from Goring Station.

### ***27th September Greenham – Tracks Across the Common***

A special exhibition opens 27 September 2017 at the West Berkshire Museum. Celebrating the history of Greenham Common to coincide with Greenham Common Trust's 20th anniversary since the former RAF airbase was returned to nature.

### ***30th September - Iron Age Exhibition***

The Berkshire Archaeological Society are working with OpenHands OpenSpace to promote Brock Keep in Reading as an exhibition centre. The first exhibition on the Iron Age in Berkshire opens at 1130 on the 30th September and will be open every day until the 14th October. There are two associated lectures starting at 19:30 on Wednesdays 4th and 11th October. The Keep is on Oxford Road served by the nos 16 and 17 Reading Buses.

### ***7th October - Death and Commemoration in the Middle Ages***

The BLHA Study day - see page 4

### ***21st October From the Cotswolds to the Chilterns - The Historic Landscapes of Oxfordshire***

A conference hosted by the Society for Landscape Studies, and the Oxfordshire

Architectural and Historical Society, on October 21st at St. Anne's College in Oxford.

Some of the areas under consideration are up against the Berkshire boundary, if not part of "old" Berkshire. See [www.landscapestudies.com](http://www.landscapestudies.com) for full programme.

### ***24th January 2018 - Hoards***

A new exhibition at the West Berkshire Museum opens January 24th 2018. Bringing together for the first time, over 11 hoards from all over West Berkshire. A chance to see buried treasure from prehistory to the medieval period.

## ***Picture Gallery***

*As we have been a bit short of copy for this edition we are including some pictures to remind us of Berkshire in the past.*



*The former power station at Newbury*



*The old forge at Enborne*



*A stack of brushwood belonging to Underwood Industries of Waltham St Lawrence*



*The GWR introduced a completely new form of transport in 1934 - the diesel railcar. This example pictured at Windsor and Eton Central Station is no 21 built in 1940 and now in British Railways livery..*

*The mill at Wantage*





*The 'Wargrave Coffee Tavern. Talbots - coal and corn merchants - occupied it from about 1902 - 1906, after which it became a business run by the Pether family - with a sign board hanging outside saying "Tea Coffee and Dining Rooms". On the far right is the Woodclyffe Hall, given to the village by benefactress Mrs Harriette Cooke Smith. On the far left is the business run by Charlie Lunn - as a tobacconist, hairdresser and dealer in fishing bait.*



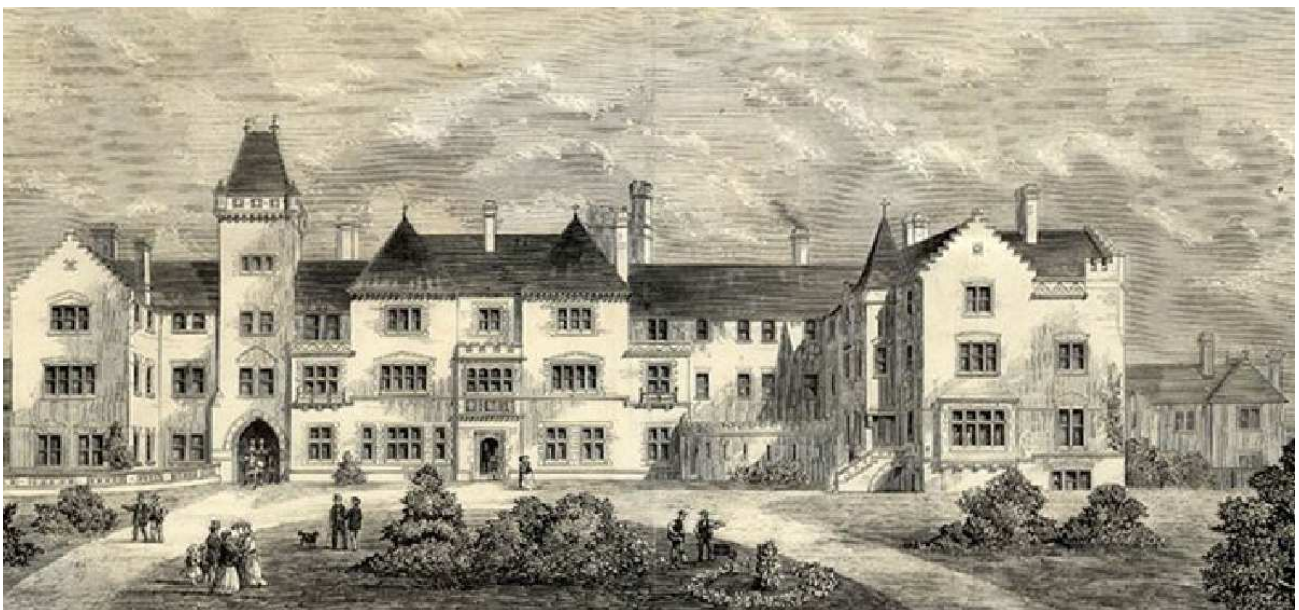
*Pangbourne Station around 1860. On the left you can see the spur which abutted the platform and was used to load coaches bound for London and diverted from the Great West West Road onto trains before the line to Bristol was completed. You can also see one of Brunel's own design for standard station buildings and also note that this was one of the earliest dual gauge stations with the GWR broad gauge and the standard gauge because the Liverpool and Southampton Railway had running rights from Tilehurst to Oxford over the GWR. This all made points very complicated.*



*I am sure many members have seen this iconic tower in the gardens at the London Road campus of Reading University, but how many have looked inside to see a very moving war memorial?*



*A dovecot made with love. This lonely structure at Nunhide just by Junction 12 on the M4 has a tale to tell. It was built by Henry Wilder of Sulham House as he was in love with Joan Thoyts of Sulhampstead House and both the lovers could see this from their windows and dream of each other.*



*No this is not a stately home but a hospital. It is Fairmile Hospital opened in 1870 as the Berkshire County Lunatic Asylum. It closed in 2003.*



*We are getting used to mail order and getting our groceries delivered. However in times gone by there were lots of merchants who took their goods to the people. This was taken on the Purley River Estate*



*Many of us can just remember the trolley buses in Reading and know they were preceded by trams. But the first tramways in Reading were horse drawn not driven by electricity.*

# History Societies

**Arborfield Local History Society**, Secretary Tina Kemp, Kenneys Farm, Maggs Green, Arborfield RG2 9JZ, [tina@geoffkemp.force).co.uk] see [www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk](http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk)

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

**Berkshire Archaeology Research Group**, Richard Firth, The Bailiff's Cottage, Barkham, Wokingham RG41 4TG, [tel 0118 978 7434 ]

**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**, Mrs Jane 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 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.mtahs@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**, Jane Burrell, Walnut Tree Cottage, Oxford Rd, Donnington, Newbury, RG14 3AG [tel 01635-46497] [secretary@ndfc.org.uk][www.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, [secretary@project-purley.eu], [www.project-purley.eu]

**Shinfield & District Local History Society**, Eileen Taylor, Long Meadow, Part Lane, Swallowfield, Berks, RG7 1TB. tel 0118 9883580. Reporter George Taylor [george.taylor2-9@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**, Dr David Axford, Honey End, 14 Ock Meadow, Stanford in the Vale, Oxon SN7 8LN, tel 01367 718480, [dnax@btinternet.com]

**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**, Mr P Laverack, 2 Ashworth Drive, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 3YU, tel 01635 863536, [enquiries@thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk], [www.thatchamhistorical-society.org.uk]

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

**Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society**, Jean Poulter, 17 Weir Pool Court, Silk Lane, Twyford RG10 9GY, [jeanpoulter@tiscali.co.uk], reporter Denise Wilkin

**Wargrave Local History Society**, Peter Delaney, 6 East View Close, Wargrave, Berks, RG10 8BJ, tel 0118 940 3121, [secretary@wargravehistory.co.uk], [www.wargravehistory.org.uk]

**Windsor Local History Group**, Sue Ashley, 49 York Avenue, Windsor, SL4 3PA, [nutritionsas-hley@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]

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]

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

**Guildhall Library**, Serials Assistant, 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

**Oxfordshire History Centre**, St Luke's Church, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2HT,  
tel. 01865 398200, e-mail: oxhist@oxfordshire.gov.uk

**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**, Kate Devaney, PO box 223, Whiteknights, RG6 6AE, tel 0118 378 8785, [k.r.devaney@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]

**Oxfordshire County Council Library Service**, fao Marco Lazzarini Library Support Services, Holton Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1QQ, [askalibrarian@oxfordshire.gov.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**, Ground Floor, High Street, Slough, SL1 1EA, tel 01753 526422 ,  
[info@sloughmuseum.co.uk]

**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: Brian Boulter**

**Vice-Presidents:- Prof E J T Collins, Joan Dils.**

## **Officers**

**Chairman David Cliffe**

1 Priest Hill, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RZ

tel: 0118-948-3354,

e-mail [chairman@blha.org.uk](mailto:chairman@blha.org.uk)

**Treasurer Dr David Lewis ACA**

5 Gloucester Place, Windsor, Berks SL4 2AJ

tel 01753-864935,

e-mail [treasurer @blha.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@blha.org.uk)

**Secretary vacant**

e-mail [secretary@blha.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blha.org.uk)

## **Committee Members**

**Dr Jonathan Brown** (Journal Editor)

**John Chapman** (Newsletter Editor)

**Dave Osborne** (Web Designer)

**Dr Margaret Simons** (Newsletter Distributor)

**Elias Kupfermann**

**Dr David Axford**

**Ann Smith** (Membership Secretary)

# 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 individuals 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](http://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
<b>Institutional</b>	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
<b>Society</b>	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
<b>Individual and Family</b>	£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](mailto:membership@blha.org.uk)

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## Forthcoming Events

see also *Opportunities* Pages 16-19

**Heritage Open Days 8th to 10th September**

**BLHA Symposium at Ewelme 7th October**

*We do not list meetings of our local societies, but see our website [www.blha.org.uk](http://www.blha.org.uk)*

## Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is due to be published in January 2018.

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th December 2017 - 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](mailto:newsletter@blha.org.uk) and copy it to [j.chapman458@btinternet.com](mailto:j.chapman458@btinternet.com)