

Berkshire Local History Association



**Newsletter No 121
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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.

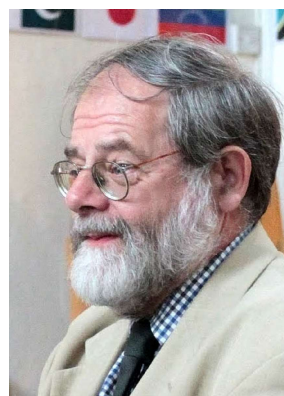
Contributions should be e-mailed to:- newsletter@blha.org.uk and arrive not later than the 15th of the month preceding publication (January, May and September) Word, Text or pdf copy is acceptable, but keep it simple and please do not use spaces or tabs to lay out presentations. Photographs and images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

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

Cover picture - **The Chapel Arches at Maidenhead, with the chapel to the right, from a print published in 1805. Courtesy of Reading Borough Libraries**

Chairman's Corner

This year's AGM went well, and the associated activities were enjoyed. Sending out all the paperwork in advance seems a good idea: it means that at the meetings we are not waiting for members to read through the minutes and reports which they have only just received.



We were fortunate that we had chosen to go to Maidenhead in 2018. Had we left it for another year, we would have been denied the genial presence of Brian Boulter, our President. At the meeting, we wished Brian well in his new surroundings in Wales – he will be greatly missed. But we were also fortunate that Joan Dils had agreed to take over as President, and she was duly elected at the meeting. It looks likely that in 2019, we shall be at Watlington House in Reading for the AGM.

Thanks are due to the Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society for being this year's hosts. Several of us arrived early on the day, and received help in the setting out of the furniture, and the refreshments were much appreciated. I was greatly relieved when I found that my data projector would communicate with Margaret Simons' laptop and the pictures appeared on the screen. There was a minor panic, until I discovered the little rocker switch on the back of the projector which turned the power on!

After the formal business, Joan Dils told us about the new project, supported by the Berkshire Record Office, the Berkshire Record Society, and ourselves, to produce a book on school buildings in the county between 1870 and 1918. A great deal of the research will be done by volunteers, and so Joan invited anyone interested in helping to contact her. The previous volume produced in this way, the gazetteer of Berkshire schools from an earlier period, is almost ready to go to the printer, and is expected to appear next year. The volunteers on the first project are interested in getting their teeth into something else, but there is room for a few more researchers. They work, mainly in the Record Office, in good company, at their own pace, have the fun of finding out things in old documents, and at the end of the exercise have the satisfaction of knowing they have contributed to something worth while.

Then Margaret Simons had put together an illustrated talk on the activities of the suffragists and suffragettes in Berkshire. This, of course, was to mark the centenary of (some) women gaining the ability to vote for Members of Parliament in 1918. Several historians have commented that the county was not a hot-bed of activity, but during the course of the talk we discovered that this does not mean that nothing happened. Since it was researched just for this occasion, I

hope that it can be used again somewhere, and maybe written up as an article for publication.

Several of us had lunch in the nearby café in the public library, some went to a pub, and others stayed in the hall, following which Brian gave us an amusing and erudite talk on the origins of Maidenhead. He had applied his “scientific” mind to the subject, and had come up with some interesting insights. I had known that the “head” bit of the name had originally been a hythe, or wharf, but hadn’t come across some of the ideas surrounding the “maiden” part. (Incidentally, reading the old Reading corporation diary, it appears that the High Bridge there was originally the Hythe Bridge – and that what’s now Duke Street was in the 17th century Duck Street!) And so we heard of evidence for roads, fords and bridges, the chapel and early settlement.

After the talk, some of us followed Brian on a short walk along the brook to the Chapel Arches, and from there to the High Street, where the site of the first chapel was marked out in the pavement. Others chose to visit the nearby Heritage Centre.

At the risk of repeating what I wrote in the report for the AGM, we are still looking for someone taking on the secretary’s role. At present, several committee members are sharing the tasks. Please get in touch if you think you might be interested in taking this on.

We have in the pipeline a visit to East Hendred and Hendred House in June. Then, at dates still to be set, the committee is hoping to organise a film show where you’ll be able to see movie film clips shot in various parts of the county over the last century, and a study day on the preservation and digitisation of documents and images, for organisations and private individuals who have their own collections. But before any of those, we’re also planning a “Wilfred Owen” walk around the village of Dunsden near Reading. (Yes, I know it’s in Oxfordshire, but he attended classes at the University of Reading, and from his letters we know that he went to the Vaudeville Electric Theatre and West’s Picture Palace there!) The walk will be around the village, where he was a lay assistant to the Vicar, and will be marking his achievement as a poet, and the centenary of the armistice of 1918 – see back page.

Finally, whilst on the subject of commemoration, I felt I should mention the recent death of Tony (Thomas Anthony Buchanan) Corley, the economic historian. Hopefully we shall be able to find someone to write us a fuller obituary for a future issue. He ended his career at the University of Reading as a Senior Lecturer at the International Business History Centre.

As well as papers published in academic journals, he published books on

the Burmah Oil Company, Beecham's, the makers of the pills, and, of course, Huntley and Palmers, the biscuit makers. But besides these, he wrote many shorter histories of Berkshire and Reading enterprises, published in the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*. These include *The Old Breweries of Berkshire, 1741-1984*; *Simonds Brewery of Reading, 1760-1960*; *A Small Berkshire Enterprise: J. Dymore Brown and Son [brewers at Reading] 1831-1944*; *The Earliest Reading Bank: Marsh, Deane and Company, 1788-1815*; *The Celebrated Reading Sauce: Charles Cocks and Company Ltd., 1789-1962*; *Barrett, Exall and Andrewes' Ironworks at Reading*; *Huntley, Boorne and Stevens and Tin Box Manufacturing in Berkshire, 1832-1985*; and three articles about Martin Hope Sutton, of the Sutton's Seeds firm in Reading, who lived 1815-1901.

He also wrote an article on Jane Austen's time at school in Reading, and a booklet for Courage's brewery in Reading, *The Road to Worton Grange*.

All of these can be seen in the local history collection at Reading Central Library, and represent a considerable achievement in themselves. Local historians and industrial archaeologists will be grateful to him for many years to come.

David Cliffe

A Word from the Editor

I had intended to focus on archives for local historians in this edition but unfortunately I got a bug and was diverted. However another issue has reared its head, ie the question of data protection. As you may be aware the EU Directive on data protection comes into force May 25th and are likely to affect local history societies. Unfortunately the Directive was written to avoid problems with large Internet companies acquiring personal data and then selling it on for commercial gain. The net result is a Directive with frightening penalties for small businesses, charities and societies and very little guidance as to what is actually required of them.

Many people have tried to provide guidance but they almost always seem to take the most draconian legalistic interpretation of the new regulations which are giving many local societies nightmares in trying to gain specific consents from their members to permit communication by e-mail. The 1998 Act which this supersedes had specific exemptions for historical and personal research whereas the 2018 one does not. Do we need to lobby our MPs to ensure that after Brexit we can get reasonable exemptions reinstated?

Thanks to Margaret O'Sullivan of the British Association for Local History we are able to reproduce an article from the Winter 2018 edition of *Local*



History News which provides some guidance for local history societies (see page 6)

John Chapman

Miscellanea

Woolhampton Almshouses ?

This watercolour is presently in the hands of a charity which is intending to sell it to raise funds, but before they do so, they would like to find out about the almshouses in the picture, and the painter.



A label on the back of the picture reads: “Almshouses, Woolhampton. Alice L. Fowler, Crookham Road, Brimpton.”

I have tried to help, and have found that Alice Maud Levine Fowler lived between 1861 and 1949, and that her pictures usually sell for between £200 and £400. But the almshouses remain elusive. There just don’t seem to have been any almshouses in Woolhampton. If you recognise the cottages, and can say whether or not they are still there, or if you know more about the artist, please get in touch with the editor.

David Cliffe.

Berkshire Lost Paths Project

This project aims to record any missing or incorrectly recorded routes in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Definitive Map before the deadline of 2026. They have asked us for volunteers to walk and record all the alleys in Maidenhead to ensure that they are listed. I can think of two. Atkinsons Alley which runs from Cookham Road to Northtown, which I think is well used, and Cullerns Passage at the back of Queen Street which is in a bit of a state and will disappear if the Landing is ever built. Can you think of others? If so let me know. The Ramblers are of course involved but there is nothing like a bit of local knowledge.

Brian Boulter

New Books and Reviews

Smith's Coaches of Reading 1922 to 1979

by Paul Lacey ISBN 978-0-9567832-3-3

The Smith family business was in coaches over a period when coach travel was about the only way most people could do tourism around their local area, and for people who worked at places like Aldermaston and Harwell almost their only means of getting to work. Paul gives us not only a very detailed history of the business but also opens many windows into the social life of the people of Reading and around.

The history of the business tells us of every vehicle that the company acquired and a year by year summary of their excursions and contracts. It is profusely illustrated with two full colour sections; but if you ignore the vehicles and peep into the background you can spot buildings and features of Reading that have long disappeared.

We follow the company as its headquarters and depots moved around the town and get insights into many of its employees. The business is now absorbed into Horseman's Coaches and going strong. As a bonus he also covers the other coach operators in the area to 1939.

The amount of research that has gone into this book is mind-blowing and adds a new gem to Paul's many other contributions to the history of transport in Berkshire.

I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone with an interest in buses and coaches but also to anyone with an interest in the social history of the period.

You can get a copy by sending a cheque for the special price of £30 to Paul at 17 Sparrow Close, Woosehill, Wokingham RG41 3HT

John Chapman

Articles

GDPR and Local Societies

This article was originally published in Local History News of Winter 2018. We are grateful to Margaret O'Sullivan who provided the advice and gave us permission to reproduce it.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect on 25 May 2018.

- If your society has an up to date Data Protection policy and effective record keeping procedures, the impact of GDPR is likely to be limited
- If your society has no such policy and procedures in place, you will need to work toward compliance with GDPR. You need to identify what you must do in the short, medium and long term. There is no 'one size fits all' formula and your strategy needs to be proportionate to your obligations
- Best practice guidance on GDPR is provided by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Its website has much useful information including an action plan and checklists. See <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>

What is GDPR?

GDPR is a piece of legislation which builds on the Data Protection Act, 1998 (DPA). It relates to personal data concerning identifiable, living individuals. The eight principles of the DPA remain the same (see <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/data-protection-principles/>), but the GDPR gives individuals a greater level of control over how their data is managed and requires organisations which hold personal data to explain and justify how this is done. The shift is to greater transparency and accountability.

What is personal data?

Information such as: name, postal and email addresses, career or employment details, date of birth, and financial information such as bank details. It also includes any written comments or opinions about an individual and photographs from which an individual can be identified. Data held on new technology is included: location data on an iPhone, IP address, etc. There are obligations for data processors as well as data controllers and so GDPR applies to external mailing lists (such as MailChimp), cloud data storage providers and out-sourced data management services. Most local history societies are unlikely to hold what is classed as 'sensitive personal data' (information about an individual's sexual orientation, their racial or ethnic origin, criminal record, political opinions, and religious beliefs, etc) and it is strongly recommended that care is taken that your society does not acquire or hold such data to which strict management and

retention procedures apply.

What does accountability mean in this context?

Under GDPR an organisation needs to be able to demonstrate why it collects personal data and what it is used for. You need to be able record what data processing activities are undertaken and what measures you have in place to keep personal data secure and up to date. Processing refers to manual (hard copy) activities as well as to electronic record keeping. You must be able to show the individual whose data you hold has clearly given his or her consent. You also need to be aware that consent can be withdrawn at any time and so you also need to facilitate and document such decisions. Subjects have the ‘right to be forgotten’.

What does your society need to do to comply with GDPR?

This will depend on what personal information your society holds, how it collects it and how it keeps it. You may have a membership database or membership forms; a mailing list for a newsletter; Gift Aid statements; details of partners in projects or of people who have donated money or archives or artefacts to your society; you may have attendance lists from events or details of permissions from individuals who are copyright holders in images you have used or publications you have issued. You may have surveyed visitors or members, either in person or online. If you employ staff, you will have HR and payroll records. If you sell goods or services, you will have purchasers’ details. All these are examples of sources of personal data; there will be many others.

So the first step is to find out what personal information you have and who holds it.

Having clarified these aspects, you then need to look at how and why. Security of personal data is paramount: you need to be clear who has access to it and for what purpose and that everyone involved takes precautions to avoid inadvertent disclosure or inappropriate data sharing. Risk management is essential. Under GDPR you need to be more specific about your justification for keeping personal data. ‘We always have’ or ‘just in case we might need it’ are not adequate reasons. ‘In order to provide you as a member with our regular publications’ is the type of statement you should aim to provide.

What is meant by consent to using personal data?

One option under GDPR – and the one that is probably most relevant to local societies - is to justify your data collecting activities by ensuring you have explicit consent from the individual concerned. So you need to ask him or her to say ‘yes, I agree’ , rather than assuming silence means consent. The means of

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contact – email, social media, telephone, etc. - also need to be clearly stated. You should check your existing mailing and membership lists and take action accordingly. There are many templates available for consent forms which can be adapted to specific circumstances. See the ICO website (address above) or <https://www.itgovernance.eu/blog/en/how-to-create-gdpr-compliant-consent-forms/> or <https://dma.org.uk/article/gdpr-in-practice-tick-box-consent-forms>

Does your society need a privacy notice?

Yes. You need to state how you will safeguard the personal data you hold and this is the purpose of a privacy notice. It should be on your society website and on membership and other forms. See: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/privacy-notices-transparency-and-control/privacy-notices-in-practice/>

Our mailing lists probably go back several years. What do we do with them?

Check them by contacting the addressee, either by email or by post. If there is no reply within a reasonable period, delete the information. Under DPA and GDPR, you should not hold personal information for longer than is necessary.

Where can you get further advice?

In addition to the Information Commissioner's Office, many organisations

provide advice and guidance on GDPR. For local societies, one useful source is the NCVO website. See: <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/data-protection>

Because each society is different, BALH cannot provide specific advice, but if you have a general query, please email: admin@balh.org.uk and we will try to help with sources of information.

GDPR Update for local societies

Recent weeks have seen much media publicity about inappropriate use of personal data. This is pertinent in the context of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25 May 2018. Societies have enquired about how GDPR may affect their collections of records which contain personal information. If these are the society's own records, the organisation's records management and retention policies should cover GDPR requirements. With inherited or donated records (in local voluntary archive or museum collections), the situation may be different. Public archives and museums which have legal obligations (such as archive services which are Places of Deposit for records under the Public Records Act) can hold personal data under the criterion of 'legitimate public interest', but the situation is less clear for voluntary organisations. Current best practice advice is to check documentation for existing holdings and, for new donations or acquisitions, to ensure you know how, when and why the personal data was acquired. Then a decision can be made about any conditions for future use and access. Remember GDPR only relates to personal information about living individuals (for practical purposes, anyone known to be alive and/or less than 100 years old). So archival data in local society collections may well not come within GDPR.

Society News

Berkshire Family History Society

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

On 21st February, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, Mr James Puxley, formally opened the society's new premises in Reading Central Library. The society was pleased to welcome a number of county and civic guests to the opening reception, all with a keen and active interest in heritage issues, and in aspects of local, social and family history.

The first quarter's programme of regular events at The Centre has just concluded. The next talk series takes The English Civil War as its theme, reflecting this year's 375th anniversary of the Siege of Reading. Details of the

lectures can be found under Opportunities (see page 21). All are held at The Centre for Heritage and Family History, 2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ. Tickets £5 (Members £4)(unless otherwise noted) – includes tea and cake, booking recommended. Book online at www.berksfhs.org.uk or pay at the door (subject to availability).

The Centre continues to attract very positive reviews from visitors. Further investment in additional PCs has been necessary to meet steadily increasing footfall in the research facility. Offering free access to five online subscription databases, few of which are universally accessible across the county, it has already become very popular with researchers. The added benefit of adjoining the local studies library is also working very well and we have found our separate collections of trade directories particularly complementary. Local groups may wish to request tours of The Centre (with prior notice), with an associated talk or opportunities for individual research built in if required.

Branch programmes and AGM

Meetings continue in Abingdon, Bracknell, Newbury, Reading, Windsor and Woodley. The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the society takes place on Monday, 11th June at 7.30 pm, preceding the Vale of the White Horse branch meeting at The Barn, Crown and Thistle Hotel, 18 Bridge Street, Abingdon OX14 3HS. The Grade II listed coaching inn dates to c.1605 and many original features remain. Guided walks around Berkshire's old county town will precede the AGM. After the AGM, Dr Simon Wenham is the guest speaker, taking as his title ***More than three men in a boat: the rise and fall of pleasure boating on the Thames***. Guests are most welcome.

This brief report gives a flavour of the society's immediate activities. For the very latest information, go to www.berksfhs.org.uk to see all that is happening — both at The Centre and across Berkshire.

Derek Trinder

Hungerford Historical Association

The New Year kicked off on 24th January with a talk by Roger Day on *Motoring Emergencies – A History of the Automobile Association*

Today, the Automobile Association has a membership of over 10 million. Originating in 1905, it now provides a comprehensive role often described as “The Fourth Emergency Service”, giving a 24-hour nationwide service to give help to motorists facing emergencies and problems with their vehicles on the road or at home. This service also gives motorists reassurance that it can always be relied upon if needed.

In the early 1900s, as vehicles came on to the roads increasingly capable of higher speeds, roads were still used by horse-drawn vehicles, and cars posed great alarm to all other road users, creating clouds of dust in their wake. Legislation was passed to limit speed to 20 mph. This was frustrating for motorists but was the first “road safety” law. It was difficult to enforce by police officers on foot or bicycle. Motorists formed the Motorists’ Union to represent their interests. In 1910 it amalgamated with the Automobile Association. Membership cost 2 guineas.

Speeding motorists were targeted by police with primitive “speed traps”. The AA had uniformed patrolmen “scouts” who would salute the AA member’s badged car but not raise their arms if there was a police patrol ahead! A compromise to resolve the police v. motorist tensions!

The AA “scouts” were issued with a semi-military uniform, bicycle, saddle bag, chain and whistle similar to that of a police officer. With increasing numbers of cars, garages sprang up selling fuel but also combining this with repairs, and would proudly become registered as “AA recommended repairers” and sport the large distinctive AA sign. From 1924-1939, the Motorists’ Union having now become exclusively involved with motor insurance, the Royal Automobile Club was a rival organisation to the AA.

By 1932 the AA had half a million members. The distinctive black and gold wooden AA boxes were a feature of roads every 10-15 miles, fitted as shelters for patrolmen, but they also had a phone, maps, and a fire extinguisher. They lasted from 1927 to the 1960s. Roger had some most interesting photos of local boxes and patrolmen. In 1968 the wooden boxes were replaced by “pillar” phone boxes which were more advanced and have duly been superseded by the ubiquitous mobile phone.

Patrolmen’s transport advanced from bicycle to motor cycle, adding a well-equipped sidecar. They then used vans, cars, transit vehicles, low-loaders, and today not only a large fleet of vehicles but also two fixed-wing aircraft for essential mapping. After initial training there is frequent updating and specialised training “in service” to provide a highly skilled workforce.

The AA has always had a major role in “signage” and has provided an invaluable source of information for motorists. The AA mapping service provided essential routes countrywide on request, vital information adding to the interest and pleasure of much less stressful driving and journeys. The excellent AA annual members’ handbook was always carried in the car! The AA also produced some excellent guide books.

Roger’s enthusiastic and most informative account was enlivened by

photos, newspaper cuttings and diary extracts gleaned from local sources, and gave rise to many interesting questions. Members had clearly much appreciated his engaging talk, a follow-up to his previous, enjoyable “Motoring in the Kennet Valley”.

Daphne Priestley

Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society

The December meeting was a talk by Richard Poad on *The Shakers - Hands to Work - Hearts to God; More than Kitchens and pretty boxes*.

Richard gave a most fascinating and engaging talk on the history, culture and crafts of the Shakers. From its beginnings in the mid-1700s in Manchester when Ann Lee’s tragic loss of her four children made her question whether this was punishment from God for marrying her father’s apprentice. She believed that all sin originated from Adam and Eve and that celibacy should be the way to a godly life, and thus, the Shaking Quakers evolved.

In 1774 a large group of Shakers set sail for the US and bought land from a Dutch settler, and through a variety of means recruited new followers and soon had 5,000 “brothers” and “sisters”. Unlike many religious groups, they did not cut themselves off from the outside world. There was equal treatment of men and women, and when children came of age, they were free to choose whether to leave or remain. However, the “brothers” and “sisters” did live separately, and although they were supposed to be celibate, they were only human!

Shaker villages were run by village trustees and all visitors were checked in and there were rules to follow. These villages consisted of large meeting and dwelling houses, which were brightly painted. They embraced new technologies, were self-sufficient, and have become famous for their excellently constructed furniture and woollen cloaks. There are a few remaining Shaker villages in the North West US states, which ensure that the Shaker story is preserved for future generations.

Richard finished his talk with the current situation of the Shakers. In what he supposed was the natural consequence of celibacy, and after years of dwindling numbers there are currently only two living Shakers. The last two survivors are brother Arnold and sister Frances, who are 69 and 86, respectively. “If it is gods will that the Shakers die out with them, then so be it”.

It must have been the most successful New Year’s party in many a year, we even had to get out extra tables a more members and friends turned up than we had anticipated. Vernon again treated us to several songs on his electronic keyboard, and this year we had the printed lyrics so we could all sing along!

The buffet as always was a marvellous assortment of savoury and sweet dishes that we all contributed to, and David, our bar tender made the drinks flow all evening.

There was the usual raffle with plethora of prizes such that I think it was nigh-on impossible not to be a winner, and once again the raffle ticket sales money is being donated to the Douglas and Helen House hospice. Our thanks go to Pauline for organising yet another splendid evening.

In really atrocious weather on the 28th February, with snow and sub-zero temperatures it was great to see 25 members brave the elements to listen to David Hunt give a talk on *The National Trust's industrial heritage*. As David said in his introduction, the NT is much more than just houses and gardens, it is a major land owner with some 775 miles of coast line and 600,000 acres of land.

David split his talk in to sections covering Water Power, Wind Power, Scientists and Engineers, Textiles, Mining, Manufacturing, Chemicals, Brickworks, Land transport and finishing on a topic close to his heart of land and water transport.

For each section a small number of NT properties were shown to exemplify the range of industrial heritage within the Trust. The many water mills, such as Shalford Mill in Surrey, Houghton Mill in Cambridgeshire and Branscombe Mill in Devon provided insights into how these industrialised the grinding of grains, as did the windmills he mentioned at Pitstone and Stembridge. He also talked about the wind pump at Wicken Fen that was used to drain the fen for farm land.

The NT has a number of houses in its care that were the residences of eminent scientist and engineers who were giants in the industrial revolution and more recent endeavours such as Lord Nuffield, the founder of the Oxford motor industry.

Mining played a critical role in our national industrial heritage and the NT owns several including the Dolaucothi gold mine in Wales. Examples of places of manufacturing, from heavy foundries with “drop hammers” to cotton mills and hand and mechanical weaving were shown together with David providing a range of interesting facts and figures.

David finished with a whistle stop tour of land and water transport, showing such examples as the lovingly restored stream yacht that take tourist on Coniston water, and the Wey and Godalming navigations and how the NT had made these navigable again. A fascinating talk to keep us all entertained on such a cold evening.

The New Year opened with a talk on 31st January by Paul Whittle entitled *Alaskan Adventure*

Paul had begun his journey in Banff, Canada, where he boarded the Rocky Mountaineer. The Canadian Pacific Railroad was built to unite the country and today carries huge freight trains which have priority. Reaching Vancouver he boarded a boat heading north through the west coast islands which form the southern part of Alaska. These were first colonised by Russian Trappers who crossed the Bering Straits in search of fur animals. The discovery of gold in the Klondike brought an influx of hopeful prospectors. Later the salmon fisheries opened supplying the canned product which was on many Sunday tea tables.

Now the short tourist season has become important. Many of the main streets resemble film sets for Wild West movies. There are the general stores which provided the equipment required by prospectors, saloons and houses of pleasure.

Paul ended with a whale watching boat trip but when this proved disappointing, the skipper decided to go to islands where there were seal colonies. Unfortunately he ran aground and with the tide falling rapidly, they had to be rescued by the U.S. Coastguard Service and transferred to other trip boats. Hence the adventure referred to in the title of Paul's fascinating presentation.

Brian Boulter and Andre Charlett

Newbury District Field Club

Spring is a relatively quiet time for the Field Club. The 148th Annual General Meeting in January saw the departure from the Committee our longest serving member, Tony Higgott, former curator of the West Berkshire Museum. Having served for over three decades, much of that time as Secretary, Tony is taking a well earned rest. Phil Wood was re-elected as President (the equivalent role to Chairman in most societies), and the remainder of the committee were also re-elected.

The talks programme is well underway. In February our History Group heard from Ros Clow on *Death, Debt and Discrimination in Victorian Newbury* and in March Claire McGann's talk focused on *True Newes from Neubury* - a 17th Century pamphlet telling the fascinating tale of an episode of religious fervour in a small Berkshire town.

For more details of the Club's activities - www.ndfc.org.uk

Phil Wood

Project Purley

It has been a busy start to the year with well-attended meetings. Angela Buckley was very well received as our speaker in January on the riveting topic of

“*Murder at Reading Gaol*”. In February, member Rita Denman, talked about the *History of Purley’s Infant School*, a subject she first researched and spoke about almost twenty years ago, but to which she continues to add more material. March was our AGM and there were a few changes to the officer positions as Catherine Sampson took over from John Chapman as Chairman and Ann Betts took on the Secretary role. Marjorie Butler remains Treasurer. Afterwards, Catherine and John talked about the society’s recent Battlefields Trip and took the audience on an armchair tour of the Somme and Ypres Salient.

We have a summer trip planned to Salisbury in May and a walkabout around the old village of Purley in July, which includes tours of some of the cottage interiors. In June, we hold our annual Barbeque and, on the 8th, host another visit by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company who this year are performing *Much Ado About Nothing*. Planning is also underway for a series of commemoration events in Purley to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Work continues on our website and streamlining its look and feel. Much content has been added over the last few months and more is planned.

Catherine Sampson

History of Reading Society

The subject of the January talk was the *History of Katesgrove*. The speaker was Evelyn Williams who has lived in the area for nearly 20 years. Evelyn has done much research into the area's history, particularly its industry, and was a founder member and is a regular contributor to the Whitley Pump the local news website for Katesgrove. This Reading suburb had industries as diverse as leather tanning, brick making and an iron foundry. Evelyn lamented the loss of the area's many public houses: the Greyhound, the Red Cow and Tanners' Arms to name but a few.

The subject of the February talk was the *History of the Abbey Baptist Church, Reading*. The speakers were from among the congregation. They began by outlining how the Baptist church emerged in England and its early beginnings in Reading and the hostility they encountered from the established church. Its heyday was in the nineteenth century when the church moved to the site in King's Road; the present church is nearby.

The subject of the March talk was the *History of Coley and Coley Park*. The speakers were Katie Amos and Mike Cooper. They have co-authored a book on the area's history.

The pre-eminent family for 400 years were the Vachells whose lasting legacy to Reading are the almshouses in Castle Street. In modern times most of

the area has been swallowed up by housing estates.

The subject of the April talk was the *Simonds family of Reading*. The speaker was Raymond Simonds. The family is best remembered for its brewing business that for over 150 years was located at Bridge Street, Reading until its move in 1980 to Whitley Wood and eventual closure in 2010. The family also had interests in banking with the J & C Simonds Bank in King Street, Reading; it merged with Barclays Bank in 1913.

At the AGM in March the Society's treasurer John Starr announced that he would stand down, the Society would like to thank John for his valuable contribution in this post and his role on the committee. Anyone interested in the role should contact our secretary Vicki Chesterman via email: vickichesterman@yahoo.co.uk

Evelyn Williams and committee member John Dearing are working on a book about every public house that has existed in Reading. The Society hope to publish it in 2019.

Society chairman David Cliffe reported that there are still copies of his book on Reading's cinemas available for sale at the meetings.

More information about future meetings and membership can be obtained from our website: www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk

Sean Duggan

Shinfield & District Local History Society

Our January meeting was the AGM at which all officers were re-elected to serve for a further year. Following the AGM Catherine Sampson gave a talk on *Georgian Cookery and Kitchens*. Catherine described how the many changes that took place in the Georgian period (1714 – 1820) influenced the food eaten by the different social classes. Land enclosure, crop rotation and sturdier breeds of cattle affected the quality of food produced while industrialisation and transport improvements increased the variety of foods and spices being imported. The French Revolution resulted in many chefs, no longer having employment in aristocratic households, emigrating to Britain.

Throughout most of the period cooking was done on open fires. Experiments were carried out in the early 1800s with drawing heat from the fire into an oven but no major changes occurred until the introduction of ranges in the Victorian period.

Certain items associated with dining became available. The four-pronged fork in use today evolved from a three-pronged type previously used and cruet sets in mass-produced lead crystal glass became available.

While the diet of the poorer classes consisted largely of pottage (a type of stew, mainly vegetable) the better off ate large quantities of meat, the cause of widespread gout resulting from the high salt content of preserved meat. Turtle soup was popular, resulting in the mass import of turtles. This soon became unsustainable and mock turtle soup was developed, made from calves' heads and hooves.

Cookery books appeared in the Georgian period. Hannah Glasse collected and wrote up existing recipes in an understandable form and her book is still in print today. The talk ended with our enjoying cake made by Catherine from a recipe by Margaretta Acworth dating from the 18th century.

Our February, March and April meetings were largely taken up with various items of Society business. We did, however, spend time looking at a copy of an 18th Century indenture relating to the village school which one of our members brought along. We also discussed progress on our project to record the history of the public houses in Shinfield Parish with a view to publishing a book on the subject.

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society

After a very enjoyable Christmas Party, when we were entertained once again by members of MERL, we started the New Year with another talk by Jaye Windmill, under the title of '*The Length and Breadth of Britain*'. She described how she and her husband had walked from Lands End to John o' Groats, taking some three months to complete the journey. On the way, with some excellent photos, Mrs Windmill drew our attention to the culture, countryside and curiosities which they encountered, and in doing so provided us with a fascinating evening.

Mr. John Brearley came in February to talk about the *Verney family of Claydon*, with particular reference to the family in the 17th century. That was a time of great change in the country and Mr Brearley reminded us of some of those changes. Claydon House, now in the ownership of the National Trust, must surely deserve a visit now that we have been given so much interesting information about its history.

The society suffered a very sad loss in November, when Doreen Scott died following a massive stroke. Doreen had arranged many interesting outings for us over the years and is greatly missed. However at our AGM in March, it was announced that Audrey Curtis would be taking on this role; and indeed a visit to Mottisfont House has already been arranged for April. Audrey has relinquished her post as Secretary which has been taken over by Jean Poulter.

With the formal AGM business over, we enjoyed a beautifully presented talk by members Gerry and Chris Wise under the title of '*The 600 - Fact v Fiction*'. This was about the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War.

Gerry's great, great, grandfather had fought in this action and had mercifully survived it, so this added a special interest to the talk.

As regards the Heritage Osier Bed, the first year's crop has been harvested: a useful bundle of withies is pitting now in shallow water and stripping should take place in April or May.

Denise Wilkin

Wargrave Local History Society

In January, Mick Pope gave an interesting illustrated presentation to the Wargrave Local History Society on activities *Around the Recreation Ground*, which covered much more than the football, cricket, bowls and tennis! Over eleven acres had been given in 1907 to the village by Harriette Cooke Smith to provide the recreation ground, with a Pavilion and groundsman's house. Mick told of their history, and recalled the various groundsmen, as well as the other buildings for the Bowls Club, Scouts, Guides, Youth Centre etc Mick had also arranged a large display of photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to people and events at the Recreation Ground over the last century or so.

Catherine Sampson described a fascinating selection of historical, unusual and sometimes hidden, *Berkshire (and near neighbours) churches and churchyards* in February. For some, it was the location that told the story of their history, like St Oswald's at Widford ("A gem of a medieval church" near Burford) which stands in the 'middle of no-where'. Other churches were interesting for their part in history, examples being Harford, near Faringdon, where the sister of Jane Seymour was married, or St John the Baptist, Burford. in the Cotswolds woollen territory, where Oliver Cromwell's men rounded up some 340 of the Levellers, and locked them in the church – though they escaped through a different doorway!

The March meeting began with the AGM, after which Society Chairman Peter Halman took members for "*A stroll in the park: the story of England's royal, private and public parks*". The making of parks, largely for hunting, began in this country with the Normans. After the Civil War, period that country house parks were developed, being more a place for entertainment than hunting. In towns people often lived in crowded and insanitary conditions and there were few public spaces.

However, the increase in recreation time for workers from the 1840s helped the park movement gain momentum. Peter showed examples of many from around the country, describing their rise, decline, and later restoration.

In April, the Society had an entertaining and informative presentation by Clive Williams, formerly Berkshire County Council's County Secretary and

County Solicitor, on *Shire Hall Remembered*. In 1889 when the Council was formed, the county town was Abingdon, and Clive told how it came to move to Reading, the building of Shire Hall in the Forbury, and later at Shinfield Park, as well as many of the personalities involved. Clive's book on Shire Hall is due to be published shortly.

Our meetings start at 8 pm in the meeting room at the Old Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. See the Society's website www.wargravehistory.org.uk/ or contact me, Peter Delaney, on 0118 940 3121, for more information about the Society.

Peter Delaney

Museums and Libraries

Berkshire Record Office

Recently catalogued items which may be of interest include the Newbury Borough Deposited Collections relating to Newbury and the surrounding area, 1311-1986 (N/D). Highlights from this include registers of baptisms and deaths for an unidentified chapel, possibly Wash Water Independent Methodist Chapel, Enborne, 1825-1837 (N/D111). We also have papers of the Longland family of Abingdon and Radley, 1839-1917 (D/EX2564); records relating to property of the Dewe and Floyd families in Grove and East Hanney, 1632-1920 (D/EFL); accounts and a rental for the manors of Didcot and Sotwell Stonor, 1456-1457 (D/EZ191); papers of the Andrews family of Shaw House, 1405-1909 (D/ENM1); and photographs of members of the 4th Berkshire ATS platoon, 1939-1940 (D/EX2505). The BRO collects records relating to the whole of Berkshire, so to find out what we may have, take a look at our online catalogue: <http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/search-archives/>.

If you're interested in seeing any of this material, why not get in touch and make a visit? Please see our website for information on our opening hours and how to find us. You can also discover more about family or local history in general, read our latest monthly highlight as well as our newsletter, The Berkshire Echo: <http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/>.

Yvonne Turnbull

Reading Museum News

Patrons and Donors: Reading's Art...and how it got here

An exhibition until 12 January 2019

In 1885 crowd-sourcing existed in Reading: 5000 people contributed to the cost of having a portrait of biscuit magnate William Isaac Palmer painted for the

town. And remarkably, in the 1970s, Reading commissioned a modern set of Civic silver with the support of dozens of local businesses. When Palmer went on to bequeath his personal collection of contemporary Victorian art, he started the impressive art collection at Reading Museum and set a precedent for later generations of gifts from Reading people. Today the museum remains unusual as its art collection continues to grow through the support of Reading Foundation for Art, grant-giving bodies and many individuals. See familiar favourites and unexpected treasures, some with curious stories attached.

www.readingmuseum.org.uk/museum/whats-on

Reading Abbey Quarter news

2018 is a big year for Reading Abbey as the site gradually reopens through the work of the Reading Abbey Revealed project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Reading Borough Council. In February a new, permanent display about Reading Abbey and its relationship with the Reading opened on the ground floor of Reading Museum. Starting with objects highlighting the town's history before the Abbey was established, this fascinating gallery follows the history of the Abbey itself leading up to its tumultuous closure at the time of King Henry VIII in 1539. The gallery features interactive displays, hands-on objects, new reconstructions to show how the Abbey might have looked as well as easy-to-read information panels. A second phase to the gallery will be developed later in 2018 and will tell the history of the town post 1700, and we are asking for visitor feedback on this next stage.

The newly restored Reading Abbey Gateway reopened on Saturday 14 April. There are public tours of this fabulous Grade I listed medieval building where Jane Austen went to school throughout the summer, book online at www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk/whats-on/abbey-gateway-tour

From September the Gate will also become the home of Reading Museum's popular Victorian Schoolroom, where schools and families can enjoy an immersive child-friendly experience.

Finally after being closed for almost ten years, the Abbey Ruins will reopen to the public on Saturday 16 June with an exciting festival. This long awaited free event will reveal and celebrate the exciting history of Reading and the abbey. Alongside 'Waterfest', the festival will take over the Abbey Quarter with a varied programme of activities and entertainment for all ages. On the day local residents and visitors will have the opportunity to explore the newly restored Ruins, as well as enjoy a variety of summer activities. Visitors can indulge in Reading's best street food, take part in historical crafts and family activities and enjoy performances and displays across the site. There will also be the opportu-

ity to visit a living history camp and learn about the lives and history of key characters of the Quarter through our volunteer costumed interpreters.

From this date, the Ruins will be free to enter and programme of events and tours will continue throughout the rest of the year to share the history of this internationally important site with local residents and visitors. This will be complemented by the installation of accessible information panels across the Abbey Quarter and town centre in June.

For more information see www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk

Reading Riverside Museum

A short walk along the Kennet beyond the Abbey Ruins brings you to Gas Works Road and the historic industrial buildings of Reading Museum's satellite Riverside Museum, beside Bel & the Dragon restaurant. They contain a wonderful Dunton gypsy caravan and a Turbine House gallery which stretches over the river. This year we are collaborating with Bel & the Dragon and many individuals and organisations to provide a summer of artists' exhibitions, residencies and events.

For details, including a map to help you get there, see www.readingmuseum.org.uk/your-visit/permanent-galleries/riverside-museum-blakes-lock

Slough Library

Will be celebrating a book *The Muse* by Jessie Burton with two talks which are part of CityRead London. Free copies of her book will be available throughout the month of May. See *Opportunities*

Gaby Koenig

Opportunities

- For Lectures, Visits and Exhibitions

We do not publish meetings of individual societies only public events

Henry Marten

A talk by Dr Manfred Brod in the Heritage Centre Series on Wednesday, 9th May from 2.00-4.00 pm (see page 9)

Dr Manfred Brod's talk considers Henry Marten, MP for Berkshire in the Short and Long Parliaments, and well known for his radical views and ready wit. One of the most uncompromising of the regicides, Marten's life was spared at the Restoration. Tickets £5 (Members £4) - includes tea and cake. Book online at www.berksfhs.org.uk or pay at the door (subject to availability).

Swinging Sixties London: an illustrated timeline

Tuesday 15 May 10am-11.30am, at Langley Library

The Sixties saw London cast off the gloom of the post-war years and transform into the bright, swinging centre of style and culture. This illustrated timeline provides a reminder of that groovy,

swinging decade and reveals a London quite different from our Capital today.

This talk will be from respected historian Nick Dobson, and will be hosted by the Langley Community Coffee Shop at Langley Library. The first half hour will be chat and refreshments, followed by the talk itself

Book online www.thecurveslough.com

Ancestors - Tracing African and Caribbean ancestry

Wednesday 16 May 5.30pm, The Curve, William St, Slough

Secrets of the 1817 Slave Registers Uncovered! Trailblazing author and family historian Paul Crooks captivates his audience with an account of how he traced his African forebears. He will be discussing how the slave registers can support exploration of Black Ancestry and self-identity as well as talking about what the registers reveal about the roots of British racism

Book online www.thecurveslough.com

The Place Names of Berkshire

A talk by Dr David Peacock in the Heritage Centre Series on Wednesday, 23rd May from 2.00-4.00 pm (see page 9)

Dr David Peacock asks what's in a name? David explains the origins of many Berkshire place names and ways by which to identify how such names originate.

Civil War to Commonwealth, 1645-1660

A talk by John Brearley in the Heritage Centre Series on Wednesday, 6th June from 2.00-4.00 pm (see page 9)

John Brearley examines 15 eventful years from the Civil War, via the Commonwealth period, to the Restoration, and embracing the first Council of War in Reading and the brief captivity of King Charles I at Caversham. Tickets £5 (Members £4) — includes tea and cake. Book online at www.berksfhs.org.uk or pay at the door (subject to availability).

A Guided Walk: Civil War walk around the Katesgrove area of Reading

in the Heritage Centre Series on Tuesday, 12th June from 7.30-8.30 pm (see page 9)

Led by Evelyn Williams and Steve Haywood, this is an up- and downhill walk of about two miles, exploring places in the Whitley and Katesgrove areas of Reading, that played a part in the Civil War.

Reading Abbey Ruins

Reopen on the 16th June - see page 20

How to Read Old Handwriting

18th June 2018, at the Berkshire Record Office time 10.15-14.45

Always wanted to know how to read old handwriting? Come along to our introduction to reading handwriting found in documents at the BRO from c.1500 to 1700. Cost is £20 per person. There are 10 places available and booking is essential. Please email arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.

Behind the Scenes at the BRO

Monday 25th June 2018, time 10.30 to 11.30

Ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes at the BRO? Come along and find out. You will be shown how we store our documents and given an insight into the job of our conservator. It's FREE and there are 12 spaces available. Booking is essential. Please email arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.

Abingdon History Day

On Saturday 30 June 2018, at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon.

It will be a day of lectures and discussion, focussing on recent developments in our knowledge of the past of Abingdon and its region, and on the prospects and direction of future work both in local history and archaeology.

Further information will be circulated in due course, and will be posted on the AAAHS website, <http://www.aaahs.org.uk/> The contact address for enquiries is AbingdonHistoryDay@aaahs.org.uk.

A Workshop on School records

*led by Joan Dils in the Heritage Centre Series on Saturday, 30th June from 11.00-1.00 pm
(see page 9)*

Participants will discover what school records were created, where they can be found, what information they contain, and learn of their value to family historians. Tickets £10 (Members £9). Places are limited and pre-booking is required.

DNA Workshop: I've got my DNA results, now what do I do?

led by Debbie Kennett in the Heritage Centre Series on Saturday, July 14, 2018 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (see page 9)

Led by Debbie Kennett, an internationally recognised expert, speaker and writer on genetic genealogy, this workshop looks at the interpretation of DNA test results and how to get the most from matches. Participants are invited to bring along their results and questions. Tickets £10 (Members £9). Pre-booking is required. Free parking for attendees. Book online at www.berksfhs.org.uk.

History Day - Victorian Newbury

This will take place on 1 September at St Nicolas Church Hall Newbury

This year it will concentrate on Victorian Newbury (speakers: David Peacock, Jane Burrell, Ellie Thorne, Dick Godfrey, Dave Stubbs and Phil Wood).

And Finally

Some pictures from our AGM



*Ann Smith, David Cliffe and Brian Boulton
presiding*



Thinking of lunch?

Society Displays



Wargrave



Thatcham



Purley

History Societies

- Arborfield Local History Society**, Secretary Rosemary King [roking@henforyd.plus.com see www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk]
- Berkshire Archaeological Society**, Anne Harrison, [secretary@berksarch.co.uk] [www.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**, Centre for Heritage and Family History, 2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ, [tel 0118 950 9553] [www.berksfhs.org.uk]
- Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group**, Secretary, Peter Trout, 7 West Chiltern, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 OSG, or Bent 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 [teresams35@virginmedia.com] [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, Chairman:Malcolm Austen. Secretary: Angie Trueman c/o Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2HT, [email: secretary@ofhs.org.uk or 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, [nutritionsashley@hotmail.com], [www.windsorhistory.org.uk]

Friends of Windsor and Royal Borough Museum, Courtney Rudge c/o Windsor Library, Bachelor's Acre, Windsor SL4 1ER , [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, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1BH, tel 01344 423149
[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, Newbury 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 685686,
[museum.collections@rbwm.gov.uk], [www.windsor.gov.uk]

Slough Library Local Studies, Slough Library, The Curve, William St, Slough, SL1 1XY, tel 01753 875533, [library@slough.gov.uk] [www.slough.gov.uk/libraries]

Slough Museum, The Curve, William St, Slough, SL1 1XY, tel 01753 875533,
[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

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Vice-President Prof E J T Collins

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tel 01753-864935,

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Secretary vacant

e-mail 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

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]

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 2018 are:-

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

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

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

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Next Newsletter

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

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th August 2018 - preferably we would like to have it much earlier. To avoid some of the problems we have had recently could you please address e-mails to newsletter@blha.org.uk and copy it to j.chapman458@btinternet.com

Wilfred Owen Trail

Monday 9th July 10.30

Join members of the Berkshire Local History Association on a walk around Dunsden to commemorate the centenary of the death of war poet Wilfred Owen and the end of the First World War.

We will start at Dunsden Church, then follow the Wilfred Owen Trail to see the places where he lived and worked as a lay assistant to the vicar in 1911-13. Optional pub lunch at The Shoulder of Mutton in Playhatch.

Length of walk 3 miles over level ground with no stiles. Please contact Ann Smith membership@blha.org.uk or phone 0118 978 3430 to book a place.