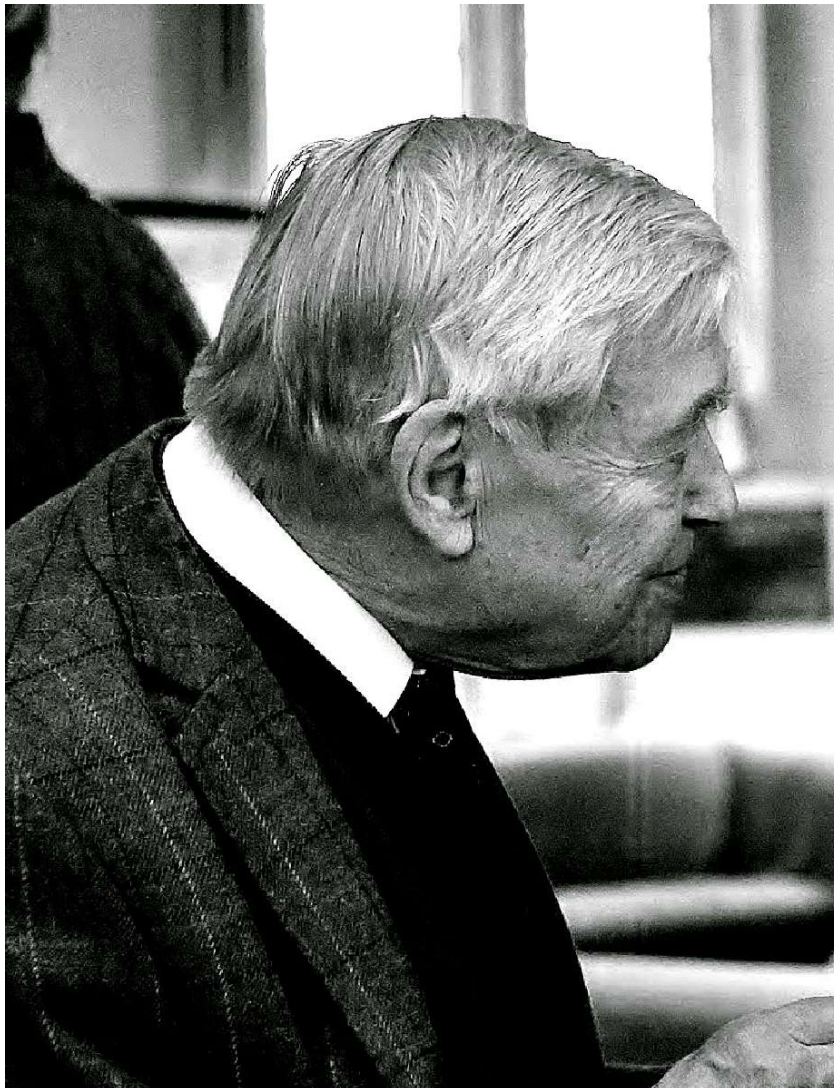


Berkshire Local History Association



**Newsletter No 125
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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 but please include your society in the name of each photo.

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

Cover picture - **Professor Brian Kemp** - see page 3

Chairman's Corner

For the last 25 years now, September has brought the Heritage Open Days. This year they begin on September 13, and end on 22nd. In the Reading leaflet, which I've just picked up in the Central Library, I see that there are 44 places to visit this time – more than ever before. I hope that there is something that you fancy seeing in the part of the county where you are.



The Berkshire History Prize was won this year by Robert Harrington, and there is a short report and a summary of his dissertation on another page of this edition.

The BLHA committee is still intending to put together a programme of old movie films representing life across Berkshire in the 20th century, and we are thinking of running another symposium. The first one we ran, in St. Laurence's Church in Reading in 2015, was greatly enjoyed. It was followed up by a no less interesting series of three talks, in the church at Ewelme, just over the county border in Oxfordshire. This gave us chance to visit the almshouses and the old school buildings, as well as to examine the splendid collection of monuments in the church. So we are trying to decide on a theme for 2020, and on whom we might call to give a talk.

I'm very sorry that we have had to cancel the Community Archives Day, but as you will see later in this edition, we are hoping to do something else in its place.

Part of the day was to have been members of local societies who looked after archive collections telling us what they did. This could include the sort of material they had, how much of it they had, where and how it was stored, and how it was catalogued so that individual documents and pieces of information could be retrieved. Then there was the matter of how any potentially interested parties were made aware of the existence of the collection, and how they might gain access to it. Here the four of us trying to organise the day came unstuck: though we knew of societies that had archive collections, no-one seemed willing to tell us about them.

The other part of the day was to have been experts giving us advice. The Berkshire Record Office had already agreed to take part. We were hoping to hear about the kind of material that really should be in a record office, and the kind of material which could be kept in community archives. We were hoping to have other experts on hand to talk about the ins-and-outs of digital copies, web

pages and databases. Perhaps we were over-optimistic, trying to cram all of that into a single day.

As you will see as you read on, we are now inviting the people who look after archive collections to contact the Association to tell us about what they have, and the kind of advice they would welcome. In early November we shall meet to analyse the responses and decide how to take things forward. Perhaps the Association could form a group of community archivists who could be put in touch with one another, to share information, and arrange meetings and visits, and maybe the Community Archives and Heritage Group of the Archives and Records Association might help.

Over the years, as a librarian responsible for a large local history collection in a public library, I've rescued many useful items from destruction, vacuuming off the cobwebs, dust and mildew where necessary. I've sorted out what's interesting and important and thrown the rest away, and I've offered suitable items to the B.R.O., which have always been gratefully accepted. The items suitable for the library have been catalogued, and if they were images, have been catalogued and scanned.

I also have a personal collection of several thousand items relating to the area where I was born and grew up. As a young man I had neither the money nor the space to collect things. The beginning came in middle age when I visited an antiques and collectors' fair. A couple of dealers saw the gleam in my eye as I perused their wares, and offered to post off likely items to me in Reading on a sale-or-return basis. Of course, once I had an interesting document in my hands at home, I wasn't likely to send it back. The items were largely the throw-outs from solicitors' offices – property deeds, sale catalogues, wills, inventories and family papers, from the end of the 17th century to the beginning of the 20th. They have helped me write and illustrate three books about the area, and to pass on information to family historians who have been put in touch with me by friends.

In order to retrieve items and bits of information, I created a big "Word" document to list and describe each item, making it possible to search places, streets, personal names, farms, field-names, etc. To store the material I invested in 50 archival boxes bought from the B.R.O., and most things are neatly stored in these labelled boxes which take up one wall in a spare room. Large items, including some maps, are in a portfolio.

Thinking of the future, I offered the collection to the appropriate record office, sending them the "Word" document so that they knew what was in it. They accepted it with alacrity, so I altered my will, and sent them a copy of the will so that they knew the arrangements.

So I hope I've done the sensible thing, and that when the collection is no longer of use to me, it will be kept together and will give other people pleasure, as it has given me pleasure. I have toyed with the idea of having my own website, but it would bring with it a lot of extra work, and there are other things I'd rather do. If we do get a community archives group going, I suppose I ought to join.

David Cliffe

A Word from the Editor

I was saddened to hear of the death of Brian Kemp who was the fount of all knowledge relating to Reading Abbey and the period of its existence.

It was also with considerable regret that we have had to cancel the Archives Day School planned for October. I am up to my ears with our Project Purley archive which seems to grow bigger and more complex week by week.



This edition has been delayed somewhat owing to other commitments but I hope it has turned out OK in the end. However we do need a few more societies and institutions to tell us a bit more about what they are up to.

John Chapman

Obituary

Professor Brian Richard Kemp, born 25 March 1940, died 12 August 2019 aged 79.

Brian Kemp and Reading Abbey go together: it is hard to think of one without the other. Brian was the recognised local expert and first point of contact on all matters concerning the Abbey. Therefore the news of Brian's death on 12 August 2019, at the age of 79, came with shock and sadness to all people with a love of the Abbey and an interest in its history, architecture, conservation and promotion. His erudition and enthusiasm will be very much missed.

Brian was a founder member of the Friends of Reading Abbey, in 1986, when the Abbey Ruins were closed to the public on safety grounds and in need of repair and conservation, and he served FORA continuously for the next 33 years, as Chairman and latterly as President. Over this period Brian and FORA oversaw and supported two conservation programmes for the Abbey Ruins, in 1986-91, and 2015-18. He had a strong commitment to FORA, attended our spring and autumn public meetings up to this year's Spring Lecture, and inspired

and led many of our annual outings up to 2018. Brian was delighted to see the conserved Abbey Ruins reopened to the public in the summer of 2018, following the £3.1M programme of works funded by the Council and Heritage Lottery, which has made the Abbey Ruins again the jewel in Reading's heritage crown.

Brian was born in 1940, in Lincolnshire. The family moved to Reading in 1951 with his father's appointment to run the Sutton Seeds trial beds. He went to grammar school in Earley (Woodley Hill House – which became what is now The Forest School, Winnersh), and then on to Reading University in 1958 where he graduated in History in 1961 with a first class degree.

He continued post-graduate research at Reading University, under Dr Cecil Slade, whose study of the history of Reading Abbey he took up and developed. Brian completed his PhD in 1966, having already started his career as an Assistant Lecturer in History at the University of Reading in 1964.

Brian became the recognised academic authority on Reading Abbey. He published *Reading Abbey: An introduction to the history of the Abbey*, in 1986, in conjunction with Reading Museum and Art Gallery. At the same time he was working on the *Reading Abbey Cartularies*, which he published as two volumes in the Royal Historical Society's Camden series in 1986-7. This required a working knowledge of Latin and an expertise in palaeography (the study of historic handwriting and documents). Through this and other work Brian became recognised as a leading expert on the history of the medieval church and its records. His last work, *Reading Abbey Records: a new miscellany*, was published by the Berkshire Record Society (volume 25) in 2018, to coincide with the Abbey Ruins re-opening.

Brian's interest in Reading Abbey was an extension of his more general interest in church architecture, monuments and records. His pioneering book on *English Church Monuments* published by Batsford in 1980, and his Shire booklet on *Church Monuments*, are still definitive guides to this subject. Brian was active for many years in the Church Monuments Society, serving as its President and remaining as a Vice-President until his death. He was also a much valued member of a number of other national academic committees concerning medieval church records; and was a Fellow of both the Society of Antiquaries and of the Royal Historical Society. His interest in palaeography generated an expertise on medieval seals, a subject on which he wrote a number of papers, and informed a fine exhibition at the Berkshire Record Office in recent years.

For Brian the national and the local were equally important. For many years he served on the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches as well as on the committee of the Berkshire Churches Trust, which gave him an encyclopaedic knowledge of churches in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfo-

rdshire. He was also on the Standing Conference on Archives of the Berkshire Record Office.

Brian had a commitment to make history accessible to the general public, as shown by his 1986 guide to Reading Abbey, and his Shire guide to church monuments. It was also evident in his support for the Historical Association, where he was active in reviving the Reading branch in the 1960s, was President of it from 1975 to 1980, and attended its lectures regularly until his death. Throughout his academic life, and into retirement, he was pleased to give lectures and talks to local and national bodies on Reading Abbey and other areas of his expertise.

Brian was an active member of staff in the History Department of Reading University for nearly 40 years, from 1964 to 2002, being made Professor in 1990. He retired partially in 2001, and fully one year later with the title of Emeritus Professor. He was an active member of the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, and continued to teach palaeography to the MA students into his retirement. He was honoured to be awarded a D Litt by the University.

Brian was a life-long plantsman, with a love and knowledge inherited from his father and expanded through his long-term membership of the Reading & District Natural History Society, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Brian also had a great love of music and he was an accomplished pianist. Until her premature death he was supported in all of his endeavours by Dr Julia Boorman, who was also a founder member of FORA and was our Chairman when she died in 2012.

We are grateful to John Painter and the Friends of Reading Abbey for permission to copy their obituary of Brian. I first got know him when he autographed my copies of the cartularies and then served with him on the Court of the University. He was always a marvellous friend; always happy to help and will be sadly missed.

Editor

Articles

(BALH) Local History Day 1 June 2019

British Association of Local History (BALH) annual History Day always provides interesting contributions with ideas to enjoy at the event and take away to share with local society members.

The first of the two traditional presentations again introduced some suggestions for research which some BLHA members may find worth pursuing. Prof. Krisa Cowman explored events in various towns in 1919 and later commemorating the achievement of the vote for women (or more accurately, older women)

with the title *Sites of Suffrage: local histories and the suffrage centenary*. She suggested more could be done to record suffrage activities locally either by a physical memorial or by talks and articles in local society journals. I know some research has already been done in Reading. Anywhere else?

The second, the BALH Annual Lecture, also given by a woman, Dr Rose Wallis of the University of the West of England was concerned with the response of local justices of the peace to social change and unrest in the years during and following the Napoleonic Wars. Her title, *Rulers of the County: the magistracy and the challenge of local government c1790-1834* discussed how far and how well local gentry in the West of England adapted to the demands of increasing poverty, political demonstrations and general disturbances in this troubled period. Her lecture to be published in a future edition of *The Local Historian* will be well worth reading with a view to investigating any Berkshire parallels.

In previous years we have celebrated Berkshire successes in the annual awards for personal achievement, long articles in local history journals and short ones. This year there were no such successes but we can congratulate members from other counties who were rewarded especially Roger Gilboy whose award-winning article is very relevant for anyone in Berkshire researching local aspects of the Civil War. Published in *Oxoniensia* vol 82 (1917) it is called '*Crisis mortality in Civil War Oxford*'. It should prove useful background for further exploration.

Finally two more useful developments. BALH has a new website Time for Change. Demonstrated at the meeting, it is more relevant, more useful than before and targeted at a younger audience. Try it at www.balh.org.uk

And look out for another project soon to be launched by Dr Tim Lomas, a former chairman of BALH. It is intended to bring together practising teachers and local history experts to meet at residential weekends to produce materials for use in schools. In Berkshire we have some experience in this field which may be of use to this more ambitious venture. Any information from BALH will be made available locally through our newsletter and perhaps our website.

Next year's Local History Day is on 6 June 2020 with two exciting contributions already promised: the practical session from Prof. Clarke of the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community, London, and the Annual Lecture by Andrew Hopper of the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester *The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars*, the more accurate name for the Civil War. The event will be held in London so not too far away. See you there?

Joan Dils

Miscellanea

Berkshire Historic Environment Archives Day School

The Archives Day School planned for 26th October has been cancelled. It was intended to cover the problems and opportunities for local archives held either by individuals or local societies.

As we have tried to complete the programme for this day school, we have found that very few societies or individuals want to share details of how they are managing and developing their archives. Faced with this, we have taken the view that members of these same societies are unlikely to want to attend the event so we have cancelled it.

Our efforts have also shown us that while many people have material they would like to archive, they are not aware of the different ways of going about it. As a result, we are considering offering the following:

Managing and Developing your local Heritage Archive: A presentation which looks at alternative ways of forming an archive of artefacts and documents and protecting the information content so that future people who are interested in researching their local history can make use of it. This would be an hour-long presentation aimed at members of a local history or heritage society.

Archiving Workshop: An interactive workshop which starts with a short presentation about archiving documents and other materials in the hands of a Society and then works to identify the documents that the Society has that it wants to archive and then develop a programme of work to scan documents and present them to the public. This is aimed at the committees of local history and archaeology groups and societies and last a few hours, typically a morning, afternoon or evening.

Archive Working Group: We are also inviting those currently involved in developing and managing archives to create a working group to share details of what they are doing and learning from each other. If this interests you please send an email to David Cliffe at chairman@blha.org.uk with a summary of what you are doing and any particular problems which we may be able to help you with.

Andrew Hutt, John Chapman, David Cliffe and Ann Smith

The Victorian Military Society

The Society is an educational charity which promotes the study of military

history – of all nations and races – in the period 1830-1914.

As part of this aim, we have for a number of years now been providing speakers who give talks to local history groups, museums, family history societies, military history groups, etc., which may be of interest to BLHA members.

Our current list of talks is as follows:

“1914 – Mobilization.” This describes how the British Army went to war in 1914, looking specifically at the local county infantry regiment of the group to whom the talk is given.

“Women and the Victorian Army.” This describes what life was like for soldiers’ wives and children in Victorian times, both at home and abroad, in peace and war.

“The Battle of Maiwand.” An account of the defeat of a British force in Afghanistan in 1880 which inspired a poem by Kipling, and a massive memorial in the centre of Reading.

“What did you do in the War, Granny?” – Women in the Army in the First World War.” A look at the women who joined the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps to do their bit in the First World War.

“The VC – Facts and Fancies.” The story of the origin of the Victoria Cross, and some of the more unusual stories that surround it.

“British Army Badges.” The story behind the events commemorated on some famous military cap badges (including the Royal Berkshire Regiment.)

“The Pig War.” A strange event in the 1850s where Britain and the U.S.A. nearly went to war over the ownership of a tiny island and a pig.

All the talks are illustrated with a slide show, last for approximately 45 minutes, and the charge is £50 per talk. There is no travel or expenses on top of this amount.

If your group is interested in having one of your speakers at one of their meetings, please contact Dan Allen, e-mail vmsdan@msn.com or via the website, www.victorianmilitary.org

Berkshire History Prize

The prize was presented at the University of Reading’s Graduation Day in July, by Ivone Turnbull representing the Berkshire Record Office, and by David Cliffe, Chairman of the Association. It was a day of heavy showers and only fleeting sunny spells – but we managed to avoid the rain!

The winner was Robert Harrington, and he has kindly written a summary of

his dissertation for the Newsletter.



Robert Harrington with David Cliffe and Ivone Turnbull

The Wolfenden Report

As the recipient of The Berkshire History Prize for the best undergraduate dissertation using Berkshire sources, I was invited by the Berkshire Local History Association to write a short summary of my dissertation. The title of my dissertation was “The Wolfenden Report and Homosexual Men in England, 1957-1967,” and I focused on how the Report changed the political and social position of homosexual men in the decade following its publication. My dissertation comprised four chapters, each looking at a different way in which the Report changed, or did not change, the lives of homosexual men living in England.

The first chapter introduced the Wolfenden Committee and looked at what methods they used to eventually publish the Wolfenden Report in 1957. I studied the immediate reactions the Report received from the English press, the majority of which were hostile to the Report’s recommendation that homosexuality be decriminalised between two men over the age of 21.

The second chapter looked at how the Report triggered an increase in

homosexual representation in the media, with several mainstream films and theatre productions including gay storylines and characters for the first time. The film “Victim,” which premiered in 1961, became particularly iconic owing to its emotional storyline which sympathised many viewers to the struggle that homosexual men faced in England at the time. The film broke down stereotypes surrounding gay men and supported the Report’s findings that homosexuals could be found everywhere in the U.K. and were not confined to having certain characteristics or only existing in certain echelons of society.

The third chapter focused on the Homosexual Law Reform Society which was established after the Report’s publication as a way of campaigning for the Report’s recommendations to be implemented into law. However, the campaign fell flat owing to its overly cautious methods which barred “open” homosexuals from joining its executive committee and being hostile towards the counterculture that became popular among gay men in the sixties. It was too concerned with alienating any potential supporters in Parliament, which meant it failed to create the impact that was needed to alter wider public opinion.

This leads on to the final chapter, which focused on the counterculture of the “Swinging Sixties” and Harold Wilson’s Labour government that came into power in 1964. These two factors significantly relaxed public opinion, which ultimately led to the passing of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 that finally implemented the Wolfenden Report’s recommendations into law.

My final argument was that the Wolfenden Report was undeniably significant because it provided campaigners and Parliament something to work with, and it was ultimately the Report’s recommendations that were used within the Sexual Offences Act. The Report triggered increased homosexual representation in the media which complemented the increasingly liberal attitudes of the sixties and led to an atmosphere that meant the passing of the Sexual Offences Act became inevitable by the end of the decade.

The Committee that published the Report was chaired by Sir John Wolfenden who, from 1950 to 1963, was Vice-Chancellor of The University of Reading. Therefore, the “Wolfenden Papers,” which are held at the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading, became particularly beneficial to my research. I was able to view letters he received and sent at the time of the Committee’s existence, as well as reactionary letters he received after the Report’s publication. Wolfenden’s memoirs were also enlightening as they provided me with an insight into how Wolfenden himself felt during this time. Although not public knowledge at the time, Wolfenden’s son being gay would have inevitably led him to feel passionate about the subject of homosexual law reform. However, it is evident he had to keep his personal feelings suppressed owing to the hostility

towards the issues in the 1980s.

I am very grateful to the BLHA and the Berkshire Record Office for this award. I genuinely enjoyed writing my dissertation on a topic that really interested me, and which was aided by using sources which were right on my doorstep as a University of Reading student.

Robert Harrington.

Society News

Berkshire Archaeological Society

Members of the society have been involved in two archaeological projects recently. The first, in April, was the continuation of work which has been in progress for some years in Sonning Common. Here we have been investigating a site presently under lawn looking for evidence of a former manor house. This year's excavations enabled us to establish some of the layout of a Georgian garden which superseded the medieval buildings. The site has previously produced pottery sherds dating from medieval times to the 19th century, and a large quantity of broken roof tiles, interpreted as the rubble from demolition of a service building before the garden was created.

The second project, in association with the National Trust, was to carry out a geophysical investigation of the fields around Ankerwycke Priory, Runnymede. This was a small Benedictine nunnery founded in 1160; a small section of the walls remain today. Over a period of two weeks society members and volunteers from the Trust surveyed about 4 hectares with a gradiometer and about 1.2 hectares with a resistivity meter. A large number of anomalies were identified and the work has helped to support future plans for the development of the site

The Society AGM will be held on 21st September and will be followed by the first in our 2019-20 lecture series. Details can be found on the website (berksarch.co.uk).

The Society joined other Heritage Organisations with a display at the East Reading Festival in June when we were able to meet and talk to many people interested in the archaeology and history of the area

Anne Harrison

Berkshire Family History Society

A successful 44th society AGM took place in late June at Hall Place in Burchetts Green, 60 members attending. Kathy Chater's talk followed, reminding every-

one that film and sound archives offer a valuable resource often overlooked by historians. The series of clips shown then illustrated what a rich source of information these materials can offer on the past.

This summer's talks and walks programme on a '*Shops and Businesses*' theme has proved extremely popular. Booking opened in August for the autumn events — on the topic of 'Institutions'. To be sure of your place, always book in advance if you can.

Interest in family history research remains high, helped by a 16th BBC series of *Who Do You Think You Are?*. A steady flow of visitors and society members has made its way to The Research Zone at The Centre for Heritage and Family History. Drop-in sessions and the monthly discussion group are well supported too. An established DNA Interest Group meets once a quarter for those looking to get the most from their DNA test results. This group is open to all.

In September, Joan Dils introduces a short Basic Latin for Family Historians course. Then, in October and November, a new four-session course for newcomers to family history takes place, in response to continuing demand. Forthcoming Saturday workshops feature Parish Registers, Writing up your family history, and Suffragettes. It is essential to pre-book your place for all of these.

This month marks the 25th year of Heritage Open Days. The Centre for Heritage and Family History is open to visitors from 10.30 to 4.30 (2.30 on Saturdays) on Saturday 14th, Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September. Its current exhibition features some of Reading's old shops and businesses. Informal days such as these offer opportunities to learn how The Centre and its facilities can assist in research. There are morning talks open to everyone on 14th and 21st September (20 places available at each). They will focus on those family items and memorabilia to seek out, collect and protect, before starting any journey into family history. Cakes and hot and cold drinks are on offer too! See www.berksfhs.org.uk.

A full programme of local meetings resumes in September in Abingdon, Bracknell, Newbury, Reading, Windsor and Woodley — details are on the website.

Lastly, a group of volunteers is working on the development of a new and updated website for the society. It has a fresh and very different look, with important extra content added. Watch out for the launch of this important initiative in coming weeks.

Derek Trinder

Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group (BIAG)

We kicked off our 2019 programme on 21st January with a talk on '*Goole – A Canal Town*'. Given by Peter Trout, the former Chairperson of BIAG, it covered the industrial history of Goole in Yorkshire. While Goole is obviously outside of Berkshire, Peter was able to use his intimate knowledge of both Goole and Reading to compare how having a canal run through your town benefits industry and the wider population.

Our second talk was equally as personal; John Joyes, our Treasurer, gave a fascinating talk on his working life at Boulton and Watt in the 1960s. The company was an early designer and manufacturer of steam engines and was located in the Midlands. Throughout his time there John had taken photographs of the working life, the buildings and the technologies and these combined with his humorous stories gave a great insight into the industrial working life of the time.

Our final talk to date was on *Carbon Arc Lights*. John Holden spoke on the introduction of these lights, their development and the technology involved. He punctuated his interesting presentation with anecdotes on the usage of this technology and the social changes that it supported, such as the growth of interest in Blackpool and its illuminations. We were very pleased that John brought with him a large selection of his arc lights and equipment which he allowed us to play with and which brought the whole discussion to life.

As part of our Summer Excursion Programme BIAG members visited the University of Reading's Typography and Graphic Communication Department, where we were hosted by Martin Andrews and given access to an eclectic and historically important set of artefacts ranging from early grave markers to posters in the Reading typeface, and re-enforcing the importance of the printing industry in Berkshire's past. We even got to make our own prints on an old press.

As part of our wider industrial archaeology remit we have been liaising with the developers of a site in Central Reading earmarked for residential housing. The site currently holds the iconic Reading gas holder that is clearly visible from the town, the canal and the river. While we are unlikely to save the gas holder as it has no listing and it is not an early design, we want to ensure that its design and the industrial heritage it represents is captured for future generations.

More information on our programme of activities and membership can be found on our website www.BIAG.org.uk.

Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society

In addition to our usual monthly lectures we held two events in July :

In conjunction with Maidenhead Heritage Centre and the “Portable Antiquities Scheme” we held a “Finds Day” when members of the public were invited to bring in any historical artifacts that they might have at home or have dug up in their gardens.

Our new Chairman, Paul Seddon, gave a lecture, sponsored by Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society, to a packed Bray Village Hall audience on the hottest night of the year entitled “The Origins of Bray”. It covered “The archaeology, pre-history and early history of the Manor and Parish of Bray, Berkshire. Recent archaeological investigation has revealed more of Bray’s early past. And there is more to be found....”

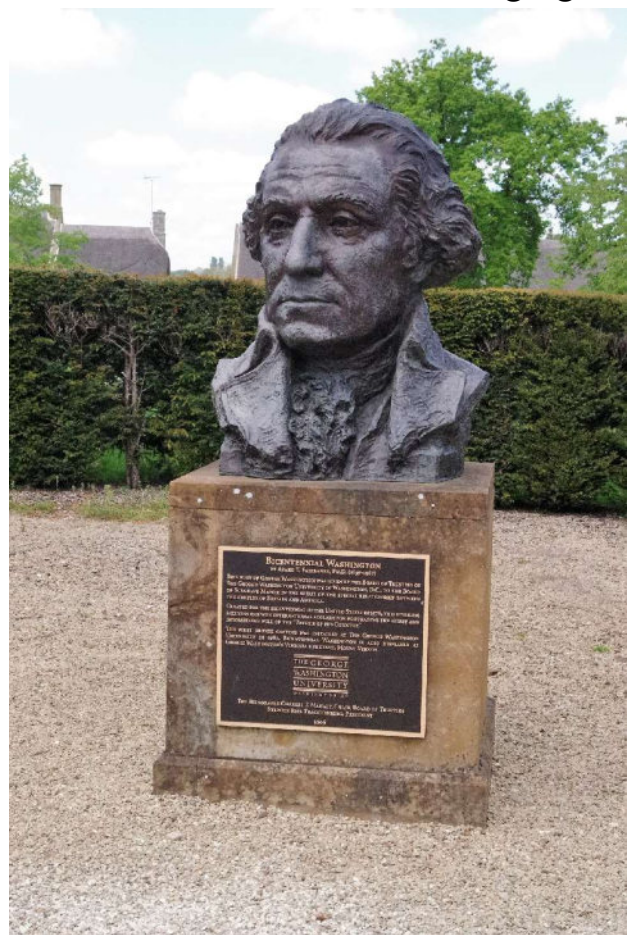
Brian Madge

Project Purley

Our major outing this season was a trip to Sulgrave Manor near Banbury on 21st May. The manor house was built in 1539 by wool merchant Lawrence Washington one of the ancestors of US President George Washington. It has all been restored and now managed by a joint American-British Trust. The hangings in the bedchamber were completed in 1995 by a consortium of needleworkers on both sides of the Atlantic. The grounds also boast a huge bust of George Washington.

In August John Painter of the Friends of Reading Abbey took us on a guided tour of the Reading Abbey Quarter starting at St Laurence's church to see the plaque commemorating those killed in the 1943 air raid, one of whom was a Purley resident. As well as admiring the Maiwand Lion we visited St James' Church and toured the Abbey ruins finishing up at the Centre for Heritage and Family History.

The Rain and Shine Theatre Company paid us their summer visit to put on Shakespeare's *As you Like It*. They stage 57 performances each summer all over



The bust of George Washington at Sulgrave

the south of England but take considerable licence with the script using the most simple but ingenious props and set. This year we raised £500 for the Berkshire Deaf Children's Society

John Chapman

History of Reading Society

In May John and Lindsay Mullaney gave a talk on the subject of Catholicism in Reading.

On November 3rd, 1534 King Henry VIII, following his failure to divorce his Queen, Catherine of Aragon, declared himself head of the Church in England and, at a stroke, he ended nearly 1,000 years of the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church in the kingdom.

In Reading the most tangible concomitant of this policy was the dissolution of the abbey whose gaunt ruins are a reminder of the Church's once significant power.

For nearly 300 years Roman Catholics in England were forced to worship in secrecy until the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 permitted catholics to worship lawfully. However, their churches were now in the ownership of the Church of England so new churches would have to be built.

In Reading, a local man, James Wheble provided land adjacent to the former abbey on which to build a church, also, he funded the cost of it; he engaged the eminent Victorian architect AWN Pugin to design it. Dedicated to St.James the Great the new church was consecrated on August 5th, 1840.

In June the speakers invited the membership on a guided visit to St.James's Church.

In July, the Society visited Watlington House, Reading where the Mills Archive is housed: it was established in 2002 to collect and preserve documentary and photographic records of milling heritage.

For 2020 the Society will produce a calendar on the theme of Reading's public houses it will complement our forthcoming book *The A to Z of Reading Pubs*.

The programme of talks will continue on 18th September when the speaker will be Martin Andrews on the subject of the Victorian Reading bookseller, George Lovejoy.

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

Sean Duggan

Shinfield & District Local History Society

Our May and June meetings were spent preparing for our participation in the celebrations to mark the 950th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's Church, Shinfield. Our part consisted of displays covering the history of the church and other aspects of the village's history – Shinfield CE School (founded 1707); Shinfield Baptist Church (founded 1908); the National Institute for Research in Dairying (1921-1985); Shinfield Eisteddfod/Festival (1951-1992) and old photographs of the village dating from c1890. The displays were mounted in the church and will remain there for several more weeks.

St. Mary's Church was founded in 1069 by order of William Fitzosbern, a lifelong friend of William the Conqueror, but was largely rebuilt in 1170; some elements from this date can be seen at the North door. In 1486, Henry VII granted the Manor of Shinfield to his Queen, Elizabeth of York, who commissioned the building of the South aisle. The tower suffered damage from Roundhead cannonballs during the Civil War – it bears a date of 1664, possibly to mark its rebuilding. George Gilbert Scott redesigned the interior of the church in 1855, removing some of the features introduced by Elizabeth of York. Alterations to the building continue to the present with the addition of a Millennium window.

Our July meeting saw a return of one of our regular speakers, Colin Oakes, who, this time, told us about the Treaty of Versailles. The treaty, signed by Germany and the Allied Powers on 28th June 1919, finally brought an end to World War I; separate treaties were signed by those countries that sided with Germany in the war. Colin's talk covered the background to the treaty and the difficulties in achieving agreement amongst the Allied Powers on the extent to which Germany should be penalised. His personal views on these differing opinions provided an interesting perspective on the subject and provoked discussion amongst our members.

George Taylor

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society

The photograph is of an activity in Twyford when the osiers were stripped this summer. We grew the osiers on our heritage osier bed as a reminder of past trades in the village.

The brake was an original tool made locally in the 1800s. One of our members made another identical brake when he attended a course at a blacksmith's forge. We were therefore able to demonstrate both at the local Donkey Derby and Fete.

In July some members took part in a heritage walk in Hampstead Norreys led by a member of their history group. It was much enjoyed and we were



surprised at the amount of history to be learned from such a small village. Afterwards a very delicious tea was served in the church by some of the village handbell ringers.

The last meeting before the summer break was about early photography in Reading by Martin Andrews. He was able to bring to life and explain some of the Fox Talbot inventions in his very interesting talk.

Jean Poulter

The brake in use at Twyford

Wargrave Local History Society

Wargrave Local History Society's May meeting was a fascinating illustrated presentation by Dr Stephanie Duensing and Dr Ceri Boston about the 2018 archaeological excavations and subsequent analysis carried out in Wargrave churchyard. Stephanie began with an overview of the archaeology. Human remains were found from early ones in shrouds (ie without coffins – possibly Saxon) to 19th century ones. Ceri explained that her osteological analysis related information from the bones to the area's history, Wargrave's burial records surviving from 1538. The age at death, the sex (for adults), the stature and robustness of build, etc could all be established, showing that most of the burials in that part of the churchyard were of working class agrarian or riverine people.

The Society's activities in June were part of the Village Festival. The Historic Village Walk was fully sold out – as usual! Stories from 900 years of Wargrave's history were recounted as the two groups made their way around the centre of the village. The Society welcomed back Thomas Forrester, the popular



The Wakes at Selborne

television antiques expert and local auctioneer, to the Woodclyffe Hall for "The Magic of the Auction". Thomas was about 10 when he attended a cattle auction with his father, and decided he wanted to be an auctioneer – but for antiques not cattle! He particularly enjoys seeing items that are brought in and hearing the stories behind them. Thomas also entertained his audience with tales about (supposedly) Hitler's teddy bear, and the sale of original film props. For the Village Festival Fete, the Society display was about the history of the local schools, and A Brief History of Wargrave – a booklet outlining aspects of village history, illustrated with many photographs from the Society archive, was published.

A warm, sunny, July day helped members enjoy a visit to the Gilbert White house and gardens, with the Oates Collection, at Selborne, Hampshire. Gilbert was 8 when his family moved into the house, called Wakes, in 1728. Educated at Oriel College, Oxford, he was ordained a priest and in time returned to Wakes as Selborne's curate. A keen gardener, he systematically recorded the weather, the seeds sown - and what grew - and the wildlife. Unusually for the time, he studied animals and birds in their natural surroundings, recognising many previously

unidentified species and the importance of creatures like earthworms. The results of his studies - *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* - was published in 1789, remaining in print ever since. The Oates Collection records the work of naturalist Frank Oates, a 19th century explorer, and Captain Lawrence Oates, one of Scott's ill-fated 1911 expedition to the Antarctic. The afternoon ended with a delicious cream tea - essential for any Society visit!

For more information about the Society, see the website www.wargravehistory.org.uk/

Museums and Libraries

News from the Berkshire Record Office

By Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Berkshire Record Office

What new archives are now available at the BRO?

Recently catalogued items which may be of interest include the records of Shinfield manor and estate, 1424-1811 (D/EZ194); a stray poor rate book for Shrivenham, 1895 (D/EZ195), as well as deeds for property in Reading, 1895-1954 (D/EX2691) and Windsor, 1909-1910 (D/EX2697). The records relating to historic Reading department store, Jackson's, 1865-2014 (D/EX2414 and D/EX2670) and a small collection of bills and vouchers of the Bradley family of Reading, 1929-1935 (D/EZ186) are also available.

We have also catalogued the diaries of the Revd James Randall (rector of Binfield 1831-1859 and later Archdeacon of Berkshire), 1814-1840, (D/EX2418) and the records of the Wernham family of Chieveley (D/EWN). We have received the records of several civil parish and town councils including Datchet (CPC200), Brimpton (CPC26), Englefield (CPC52), Leckhampstead (CPC34B) and Swallowfield (CPC129). Records relating to Hungerford Town Council (CPC71) and Wokingham Town Council have also been deposited (CPC154).

The records of Windsor Royal Gas Light Company include an interesting photograph of the 1947 floods (D/SG7) and we have also catalogued records of gas companies in Ascot (D/SG1), Maidenhead (D/SG4), Pangbourne (D/SG5) and Newbury (D/SG11).

Records of numerous clubs and societies such as the Reading Co-operative Allotment Association (later Reading Allotment Society), 1910-1968 (R/D147), Sunningdale and District Gardening Association, 1936-2016 (D/EX2661), and

the Datchet Working Men's Club, 1881-1986 (D/EX2481) are also now available.

Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist

Opportunities

For talks, visits and other events.

This time the list is not in date order. During this period we have the Heritage Open Days and there are lots of other events taking place all all over the country between 13th and 22nd September

Working in Shadows

Archive film screening with live musical accompaniment

West Berkshire Museum 21st September

It's 1943 and it's all hands to the pump on the Home Front.

When the Second World War was declared in 1939, the female population of Britain were called upon to fill all manner of roles. Women stepped up on the Home Front and abroad, which saw their lives drastically change.

Elliott's of Newbury was a manufacturing firm whose workforce, during the 1940s, was predominantly female. The factory was adapted to war work, and amongst other things was responsible for producing various Spitfire components as one of many Shadow Factories. The firm commissioned a series of films from this period. These films are held in the extensive collection of Hampshire County Council's Wessex Film & Sound Archive on behalf of West Berkshire Museum.

Following on from a recent appeal to help identify some of the workers seen on screen we are now pleased to present an unmissable opportunity to see archive footage that has not been publicly shared in over 75 years; brought to life with an exclusive improvised live score.

BOOK NOW ONLINE for the following venues:

NST City, Southampton – 12 September

West Berkshire Museum, Newbury - 21 September

The Plaza, Romsey - 2 October

Always here for you

Celebrating 100 years of the Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes

25th September to 20th December 2019, at the Berkshire Record Office

This exhibition looks back at how the BFWI encouraged and inspired women to develop their skills and empowered them to make a difference in their communities.

Available during our opening hours (Tuesday and Wednesday 9am to 5pm, Thursday 9am to 9pm and Friday 9am to 4.30pm). FREE admission. Why not come along and take a look?

Behind the Scenes at the BRO

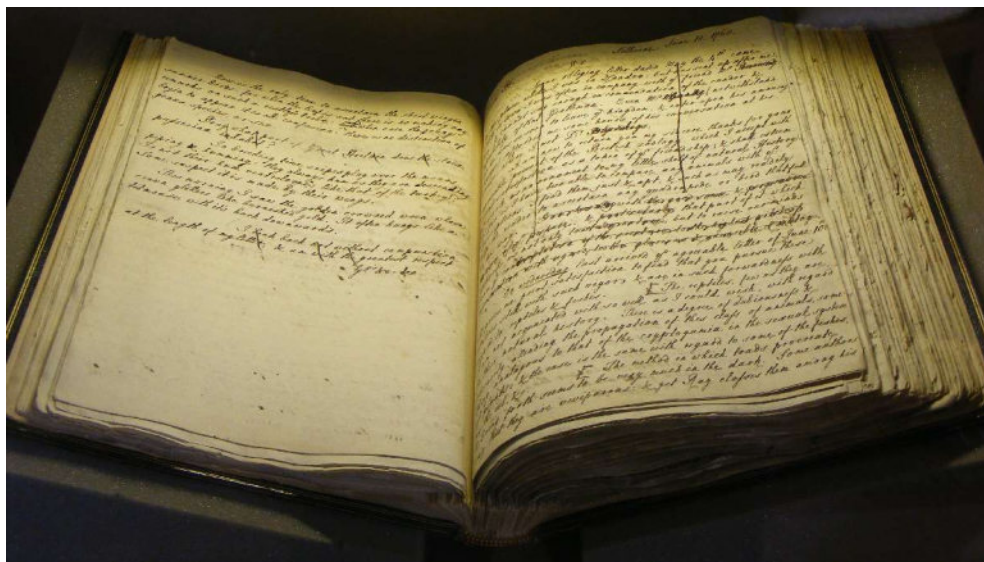
11th November 2019, time 10:30 to 11:30

Ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes at the Berkshire Record Office? Then come along and find out! You will be shown some historical documents, where we store them and given an insight into how our conservator repairs them. It's FREE and there are 12 spaces available. Booking is essential. Please email arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.

How to Read Old Handwriting Workshop

18th November 2019, time 10:15 to 14:45 at the Berkshire Record Office

Always wanted to know how to read old handwriting, but don't know how? Then come along to our workshop! It will be held at the Berkshire Record Office where we will look at samples from 16th to 18th century documents



held here. 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.

St John's Church Woodley

21st September 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

For the first time, St John's Church, the Victorian primary school and head teacher's cottage will be open for Heritage Open Days. Free drop in event

Public Events at The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Held at the Centre on the 2nd floor of Reading Central library - you must book ahead by phoning [tel 0118 950 9553 or email secretary@berksfhs.org.uk or online www.berksfhs.org.uk]

*Thursday, 5th September 2—4 pm TALK: **Reading's Manufacturing Industries:** with David Cliffe*

*Thursday, 12th and Thursday, 26th September 1—3 pm COURSE: **Basic Latin for Family Historians:** with Joan Dils*

*Saturday, 28th September 11 am—1 pm WORKSHOP **Parish Registers** Tutor: Catherine Sampson MSc*

*Friday, 4th October 2—4 pm TALK **The Foundling Hospital:** with Simon Burbidge*

*Saturday, 5th October 2.30—4.30 pm **DNA Interest Group** meeting*

*Wednesday, 9th, Wednesday, 16th October, Wednesday, 13th and Wednesday, 27th November 1—3 pm COURSE **Beginners' Family History Course:** with Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens*

*Thursday, 10th October 2—4 pm TALK **Reading Abbey:** with John Painter*

*Saturday, 19th October 11 am—1 pm WORKSHOP **Writing up your family history** Tutor: Dr Barry Jerome*

*Thursday, 24th October 2—4 pm TALK **The History of Reading Gaol:** with Mark Stevens, County Archivist*

*Sunday 27th, October 2—3.30 pm WALK **Tour of Reading University's London Road Campus:** with Friends of Reading University*

*Saturday, 9th November 12 noon—2 pm TALK **Murder at Reading Gaol:** with Angela Buckley*

*Saturday, 16th November 11 am—1 pm WORKSHOP **Suffragettes** Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons*

*Thursday, 21st November 2—4 pm TALK **The History of Reading's Hospitals:** with Lionel Williams*

*Thursday, 5th December 2—4 pm TALK **Reading's 19th Century Schools:** with Joan Dils*

Reading Museum Events

Most events are free but you should register by phoning 0118 937-3400 or on their website

13th September TALK **History of the Forbury** at the Cinema of the Roseate Townhouse Hotel 14:00

14th September DROP IN at **The Abbey Gateway** between 10:00 and 12:00

14th September DEMONSTRATION **The Father Willis Organ** at the Town Hall from 11:00 to 13:00

14th September TALK **Reading in the time of Jane Austen** by Joy Pibworth - meet in the museum at 15:00

University of Reading Events

Events are free but you must register in advance at www.reading.ac.uk/news-and-events/about-event-register.aspx

26th September MEETING **The University and its community** at the London Road Campus 1800 - The University is changing. We are at a pivotal point in developing our new strategy - we want to transform our role in the local community, but we can't do it alone. Come along to our Community Meeting, learn about our plans to build on our relationship with residents and businesses alike, and bring your ideas and shape the impact we can have in your area

16th October LECTURE **Climate Change** by at the Palmer building 19:30 - In this lecture, Environmental Economist Elizabeth Robinson brings together stories and observations with hard data to show the impact of climate change on human health over time. Building on her involvement in The Lancet Countdown, which tracks the positive health benefits of the world's efforts to reduce climate change, she makes a powerful argument for keeping climate change in check – not just for the planet's sake, but for the sake of our health.

11th November LECTURE **Mirrors of Versailles** - by Dr Liliana Riga (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Jack E. Spence, OBE (King's College, London) In this celebration of one hundred years since the Treaty of Versailles, which aspired to put an end to the 'war that would end all wars', we consider the ideals and realities which were negotiated during the six months in Paris that changed the world

13th November LECTURE **Making Architecture make Communities** Award winning architect, broadcaster and academic, Piers Taylor, will join us to discuss

how architecture can bring about transformations in people and places, and how ‘making’ can be a vehicle for participation.

14th November STENTON LECTURE: **Pagan Survivals in the Christian Middle Ages.** The Department of History’s annual Stenton lecture is an opportunity for a wide audience of interested local people, school students, and university staff and pupils to hear a leading historian speak on their area of expertise. Professor Ronald Hutton is well known for his distinguished work on the history of magic, witchcraft, and paganism, as well as being a leading expert on British politics and religion under the Tudors and Stuarts.

21st November LECTURE **The Age of Common Law and the Age of Statutes** The Hamlyn Lecture will be delivered by Professor Sir John Baker (St Catherine’s College Cambridge) on the subject of the history of English Law. It will be followed by a wine reception.

27th November LECTURE **Should Reading Firms have a social purpose?** Using evidence from her own research, Professor Emma Borg will ask what a ‘social purpose’ is, and whether companies should specify and fulfil such a purpose to earn their place in society.



This picture was sent in by one of our contributors but unfortunately we lost track of who. We do apologize but if you recognise it please let us know what it was about.

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] [www.BIAG.org.uk]

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, Graham Smith, 114 Shaw Rd, Newbury RG14 1HR

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, [nutritionasahley@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

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

Membership fees

The rates for 2019 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 Janury 2020.

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th December 2019 - preferably we would like to have it much earlier. To avoid some of the problems we have had, could you please address e-mails to newsletter@blha.org.uk and copy it to john.chapman458@gmail.com