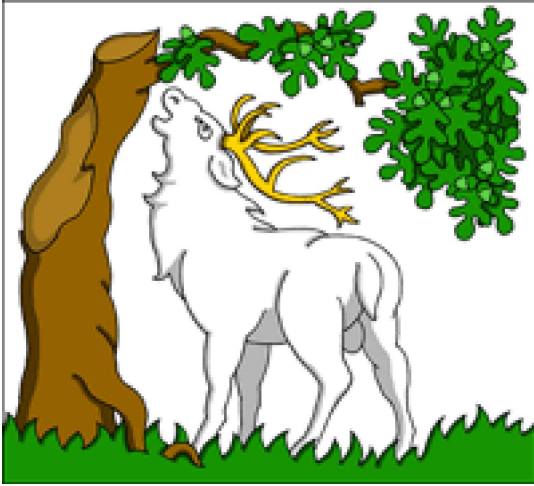
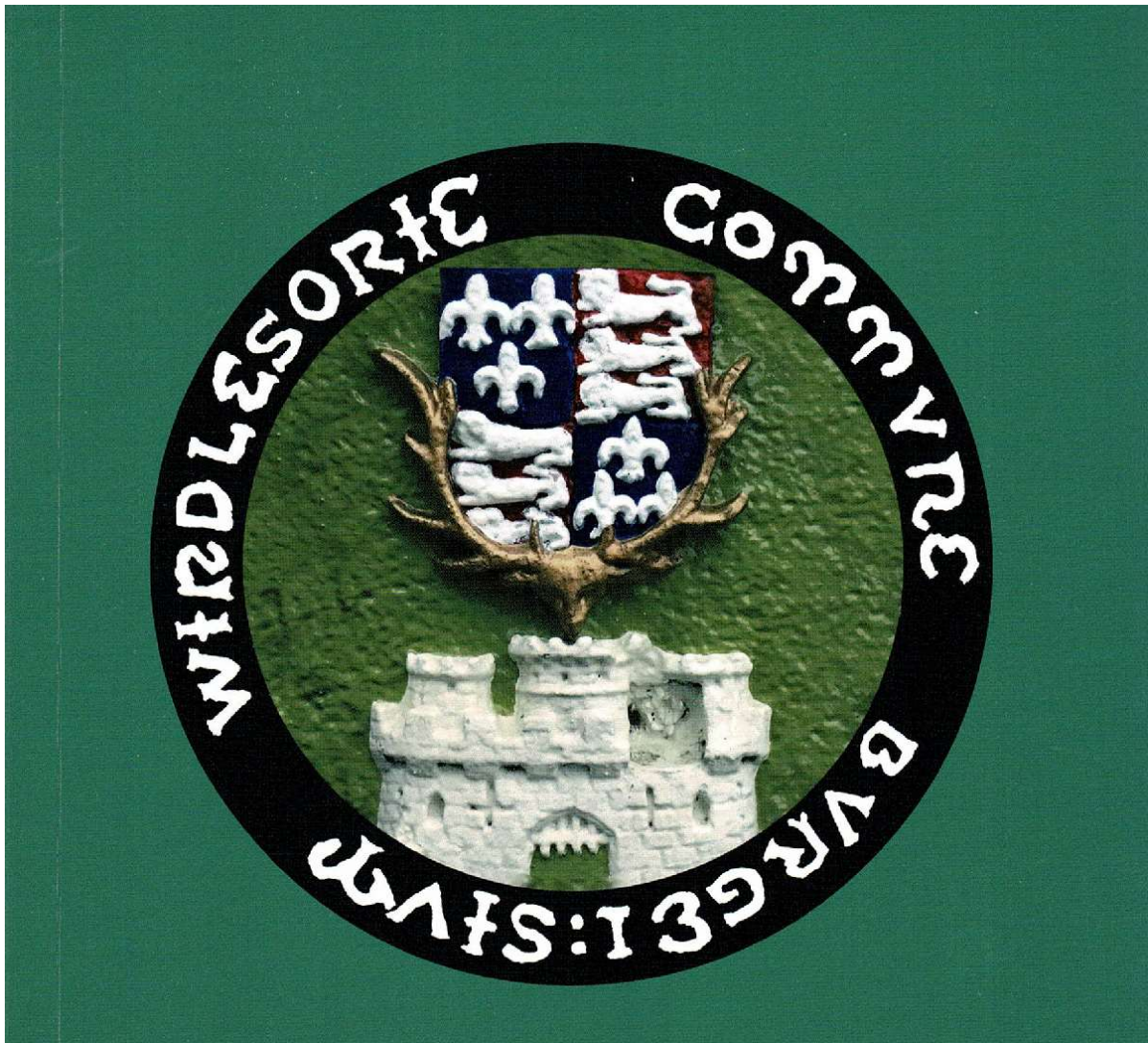


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Berkshire Local History Association



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Berkshire Local History Association
Newsletter

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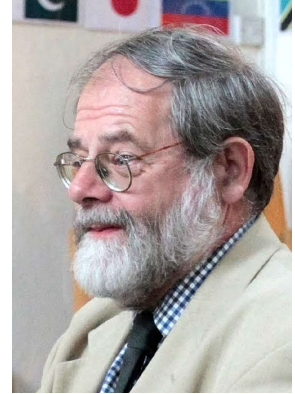
We ask all member societies and institutions to provide a short report on their activities for inclusion in the Newsletter. We are always interested in articles on other matters and notice of events likely to be of interest to our members.

Contributions should be e-mailed to:- newsletter [@blha.org.uk](mailto: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 - **The Tudor Badge of Windsor Borough (see page 6)**

Chairman's Corner



At every meeting, your committee has on the agenda a section about the events which were put on hold on account of the Covid pandemic – the old movie film show, a study day on the “Swing” Riots of 1830, and a session on community archives. Every few months, they come back to haunt us, they’re all well worth organising, but we can’t help noticing, among the other community groups in which we’re involved, the reduced numbers of people who turn up to this kind of event. And this is for very understandable reasons. Some people we only encounter on line, and, sadly, there are others we no longer see at all. I’m sorry to begin on a gloomy note, but that’s how things seem during this hot mid-August. I very much hope we are able to run at least one of these events that nearly happened in the past, in 2023.

We did, however, manage to help run the Berkshire Heritage Online Fair in August. This was a joint project with the Berkshire Family History Society. I’ll leave it to others to comment on the event as a whole. I only saw it from the point-of-view of the three people from the History of Reading Society in their “room,” being “visited” by people from Reading, from more distant parts of the country, and from abroad. We were all sitting at home, and were able to reach down items from our shelves to help answer enquiries. It seemed a worthwhile way of spending four hours on a warm Saturday, helping people.

Earlier in the summer, and following on from our AGM at Eton Wick in March, Ann Smith had organised a walk for the Association in the same area, taking in stretches of the Jubilee River and the Thames. It was a pity that more people didn’t turn up, but for those who did, the most memorable part was probably seeing Boveney Church, all rather strange and isolated, and hearing of its history from David Lewis. Perhaps I should admit that equally memorable for me was the large colony of pyramidal orchids by the path going by Dorney Lake.

Some months back, I was pleased to be asked to proof-read the new history of Woodley, which is reviewed later in this newsletter. I was struck by how much of the information on more recent times came from family records and from memories, not likely to be found anywhere else. It’s a

substantial work, and editing it must have been a major task for Ann Smith, our Membership Secretary.

Then, only in the last few days, I've been able to peruse the latest volume from the Berkshire Record Society, which has David Lewis, our Treasurer, as its editor. It's called "Living in Tudor Windsor: the Records of the Sixteenth-Century Town," and its pages include transcriptions of documents such as the corporation accounts, the churchwardens' accounts, and the accounts for the construction of the Windsor Castle water conduit, along with the statutes of the town, and some wills. It's an impressive and varied collection, giving interesting insights into what went on. The Association gave a loan to enable additional copies to be printed, and since the book is likely to enjoy a wider sale than most of the Record Society volumes, it is likely that the loan will be repaid, soon after the launch. The Association still has funds to make loans like this, and to give grants towards research on the history of the county, though they're taken up only occasionally.

Currently, I have a local history book (not about Berkshire) at the printer's, and another one (about Reading) which should be published next year. Then, for a change, I've been putting together an autobiography from digital recordings I made with a nonagenarian friend. Having transcribed the many hours of recording, it's now a matter of editing, copying and pasting, to make a chronological narrative, and to put in some photographs. It's the story of a life in agriculture, from working on father's farm as a boy, to working for the Ministry of Agriculture at Coley Park, Reading. I'm finding it an interesting experience, in view of the content, and of the whole editing process.

David Cliffe

A Word from the Editor

We have been a little thin on the ground this time as regards society contributions; but a big thank you to those who have contributed.

I have been trying to get our local archive digitised so it can be updated, indexed and made available to all our members. At the moment we have a huge volume of material stored in a cupboard in our local Barn with lots more in my office and other people's garages etc.



When I started with local history I used to visit local record offices as well as libraries and the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, as did several other members of Project Purley. Nowadays I would be surprised to find any one of our hundred plus members even visiting a library. Its all on-line or sitting back to listen to a talk.

We do however get people to write short articles about a subject of interest to them and part of our project is to get digital copies of these and store them away where they can easily be found.

John Chapman

Book Reviews

A History of Woodley.

by Ann Smith, (ed).

Old Woosehill Press, 2021.

Anyone with a connection to Woodley, east of Reading, will find much of interest in this welcome new history, appearing as it does several decades since anything similar. Local, family and young school historians alike will be delighted to find such a comprehensive collation of data, memories and photographs saved for posterity. Local residents, like my mother-in-law, are also likely as to read it cover to cover and “thoroughly enjoy it”.

Editor Ann Smith is to be congratulated for gathering together three years-worth of research by some 15 contributors across three local U3A groups (Reading, Wokingham and Woodley & district). The 22 chapters are divided according to the various projects undertaken: Woodley’s development over time, archaeology, buildings, churches, education, parks, pubs, scouting, shops, sport and leisure, streets, transport, work opportunities, plus special studies about World War II, St Luke’s children’s home and the Evans family. The final chapter provides a self-paced walking itinerary, complete with before and after photographs so readers can experience Woodley’s past and present for themselves.

Accordingly chapters have very different styles. Some are quite gripping, such as the transport section including an early Great Western rail accident and the motorway construction disaster. Other chapters have less spectacular stories to tell, a few facts to gather from here and there, or reproduce lists of information. Nonetheless, this creates a considerable storehouse of

historical material. The inclusion of a gratifying number of photographs and maps, in colour where possible, tells more than words.

A History of Woodley is on sale price £10 from Berkshire Family History Society in Reading Central Library, Woodley News, and Woodley Town Council at the Oakwood Centre. Some chapters are available on the website, <https://www.woodley.gov.uk/a-history-of-woodley>

R. Redrup, BA History, MLib, MCLIP, AFHEA

Living in Tudor Windsor: the Records of the Sixteenth-Century Town

Edited by David Lewis

'Windsor's documentary archive, which dated from the late twelfth century, was destroyed in the late seventeenth century, and in consequence the town's history before this date was thought irrecoverably lost. New archival research, however, has uncovered previously neglected material which allows a significant portion of this 'lost' history to be recovered, information that supports the detailed introduction in this volume. For the first time, the town's turbulent existence between c. 1510-60 is revealed, supported by transcriptions of the town's most significant historic source material, including detail about the widely overlooked but important Windsor castle water conduit. This volume traces the town's transition from its medieval existence to that of the early modern period, when it flowered as an internationally recognised centre of pilgrimage, prematurely cut short by the religious changes of the Reformation. The reorientation of the borough's economy in this period forms the template for its present-day existence. Although of much interest to local historians, this volume retains value for a much wider readership: students of the Tudor period curious about the outworking of national policy in a local context, ecclesiastical historians, London historians, tourists interested the town's past and students of 'Tudor' society, more generally. The numerous references to local people, places and street-names adds colour and interest unavailable from any other local publication, and provides a unique and extensive source for family historians.

373 pages, with illustrations and index.

Available by post from Berkshire Local History Association, 5, Gloucester Place, Windsor SL4 2AJ. £15 plus £5 p&p, cheques payable to Berkshire Local History Association.'

The Hidden History of Wargrave Hall

Author: Terry Gourk

Publisher: Wargrave Local History Society

At the BLHA AGM in March this year I was asked by Peter Hellman of the Wargrave Society if I would review a recent publication from the Wargrave Local History Society, how could I say no?

I have over the years enjoyed many walks along the river Thames and have also taken the odd river cruise too. One of the things that always fascinates me and in which I take a great amount of interest are the riverside residences. Many with their large lawns sweeping down to the Thames are rather majestic and invite you to wonder about their history and the stories they have to tell. Wargrave Hall is one of these riverside properties and the account of its history will appeal to a wide readership, not only to the local population but those with a connection to the families that lived there and to social and even political historians.

The author Terry Gourk currently lives in flat 5 and so has a personal connection to the property. We know from his research that the subdivision of the hall began in the years following World War II and the 4 flats became 5 in the early 1960s. However, the story starts back in the 18th century, the 1770s to be precise.

Built for John Mathews, of whom little is known, the house was in the ownership of only two families until 1906, the second being the Fuller Maitlands. Thomas who bought the property in 1849 was a barrister, a Major in the Berkshire Militia and a son of one of the country's wealthiest families. Both of these families let the house during their ownership, the position of the property and the potential for the leisure opportunities it afforded being a significant attraction.

Its proximity to the river certainly appealed to the next occupant, who bought the house for the opportunities the house offered for entertaining. When Edward Goulding bought the Hall in 1906 it ceased to be a family house yet it is from this point on that the history of the house becomes increasingly interesting. Goulding was a conservative MP before becoming Sir Edward in 1915 and Baron Wargrave of Wargrave Hall in 1922. Gourk tells us that in purchasing the Hall Goulding was providing an

unofficial place for politicians to meet and discuss the politics of the day, there being no official country residence for the government of the time. This fact is clearly evident from the visitors' book with signatures of significant and influential politicians of the day.

When Goulding sold the house, it was briefly owned by Mrs Pelton Peel, but it was the next owner Major Francis Fryer who once again brought the house to life. He was a skilled folk musician and keen on English folk dancing which led him to form the Wargrave Morris Men and to hold dance events at the Hall. It was Fryer who created the separate apartments at the Hall and following his death in 1961 a limited company was formed to manage the property.

The booklet is well presented with colour and black and white illustrations and is most definitely worth a read.

Copies cost £4 plus £1.65 for second class postage. Please contact Peter Delaney at secretary@wargravehistory.org.uk

Margaret Simons

Sent from Reading

At the same time that he was tackling the perhaps more popular subject of Reading's pubs and breweries, History of Reading Society stalwart, John Dearing, was also at work on a book covering what he believes to be a hitherto uncovered aspect of the town's history – its part in Christian missions overseas. With a cover price of £10, *Sent from Reading* records the lives of missionaries, mission-founders and administrators between 1790 and 1950, including Reading-born Charles Simeon, Reading School-educated Thomas Valpy French, Reading shoemaker, Richard Clark, and many others. It has been well-reviewed in a number of church newspapers and is on sale locally at Waterstones and Greyfriars bookshops. If you would like to purchase a copy direct from the author please contact John on 0118 9580377 or john@jbdearing.co.uk.

Miscellanea

Berkshire Heritage Fair

On Saturday 6th August the Berkshire Local History Association jointly hosted the Online Berkshire Heritage Fair with the Berkshire Family History Society. The event saw thirty local heritage and family history groups provide virtual stands at the event, which ran as both morning and afternoon sessions to allow for visitors from across the globe. We were pleased to have over two hundred people sign up to attend the sessions, and were delighted to have visitors from Australia and Canada along with the Berkshire contingent, and those who had ancestors from Berkshire are now scattered across the UK.

The feedback we received on the day and subsequently, has been overwhelmingly positive. This was the first event of this kind that we know of to feature both heritage and family history groups combined, although there have been a few fairs for just family genealogy run recently. It was nice to have two of our contiguous family history groups say this was the best organised online fair their society had attended to date. Many of the stand holders were busy throughout, and even those who experienced less traffic said that they had had really good conversations with the participants.

A big thank you must be given to those who planned and organised the event, especially the technical team who battled with the vagaries of Zoom and showed wonderful patience to those of us less experienced in online activities. Let's hope that given a few days to recover the team will be ready to go with another event in 2023.

The Heritage Fair

We understand that there a few technical problems with the Heritage Fair. We received the following piece from David Chilton who was working in the Wiltshire Family History room

I was unable to attend either of the online briefings, but I was able to go through the related slide show. As such, on the day, I reported for duty and

was transferred to the Wiltshire FHS breakout room. There I stayed until the break and resumed after until the end.

I found the two back screen options confusing and would rather have just had the correct one available. I'm not sure why the 'normal' screen was made available. Got there in the end though. It was amusing to see my wife appear through the ether bearing a drink for me!

Even now, I have no idea as to who else had breakout rooms. It all seemed to be controlled through the central 'office'. It would have been good to visit other rooms, but there didn't seem to be any easy way to do this. Other online shows have had maps which both show the participants and allow easy movement between them.

As such I wasn't able to see if there was a military breakout room. I don't think there was. That being the case, I could have made myself available to take military questions, given my Wardrobe experience. I'm sure there are people in Berks FHS who are aware of my background. Anyway, I was never asked.

In our room we found we could not share screens. This was important to us when trying to provide help to our visitors. We had to ask one of our departing guests to speak to 'control' to allow us to share screens. It seemed strange that sharing screens was not a default setting.

We had seven visitors in the morning and four in the afternoon. Visitors could see where they were in the pecking order and were happy to wait their turn, following the conversations prior to their turn. Having the Zoom video feature was so much better than a text based system.

David Chilton

I too was participating in the Heritage Fair representing Project Purley. We had no visitors morning or afternoon. However myself and two other members had a long chat between ourselves and managed to generate some excellent reminiscences. Towards the end of the afternoon session we sent one of our members to control to ask that she could visit some of the other rooms, but I have had no feedback on this yet. After the day I had an interesting email from another room asking me to respond to a gentleman in Australia as it was a military question they could not answer. I responded to him and we had a very interesting exchange of e-mails. Like David I had

suggested they should list topics that society representatives could handle even if they were not relevant to the place of the Society.

John Chapman

BLHA walk round Eton Wick

As our 2022 AGM was hosted by Eton Wick History Group, the BLHA decided to do a walk round Eton Wick. The 6 mile walk took place on June 24th along the River Thames, via Boveney Chapel, the Jubilee River, Dorney Court and back to Bray Studios on the Thames. Dr David Lewis met us at Boveney chapel and talked to us about the history of this riverside place of worship. Lunch was at Crocus Garden centre in Dorney, and a good time was had by all.

Ann Smith



BLHA members at Boveney Chapel

New BLHA Speaker List

At a recent AGM it was agreed to initiate a new Berkshire Speaker List. As a result of this discussion, there is now a process for capturing speakers and their talk topics on the Association's website; it is available from the Home Page under the heading 'Speakers List and Talks' or directly using this link <https://www.blha.org.uk/speakers-list-and-talks/>

When a speaker wishes to be added to the list, they complete the online form and the details are then made available on the website. The details can then be accessed as a list of speakers or as a list of talks; the list of talks has a search facility which uses the terms within the text. While the process is designed to minimise manual intervention there is a checking process that ensures that the information is completed correctly and that any issues are captured before publication.

Please ensure that this new feature is communicated to your groups so that we can build up a comprehensive list of speakers and topics. We would also recommend that when committees are organising their event programme they tell their speakers about the facility so that they can add in their details to be shared with a wider audience.

Articles

'The Clocks and Clockmakers of Hungerford'

Dr Hugh Pihlens, archivist of the Hungerford Virtual Museum, always treats Hungerford Historical Association to a well-researched, interesting and entertaining evening. His research of the historic clocks and clockmakers of Hungerford from the 17th century to the present day was no exception. After a Loyal Toast to HM The Queen marking the historic occasion of her Platinum Jubilee, members and guests learned much about the origins of horology. Hugh took us through the history of the types of time-keeping over the centuries from Egyptian shadow clocks c.3,500 BC, through sundials, pocket sundials, water clocks, candle clocks, oil lamp clocks and hourglasses, right up to what is thought to be one of the first mechanical clocks, still to be seen working at Salisbury Cathedral, dated 1386. We learned about the various types of clock movements; Salisbury's clock is an iron frame verge and foliot, and how they were later improved with pendulums that added greater accuracy. Robert Hooke's anchor escapement of 1657 improved on the verge, allowing a smaller 6° arc that required a

longer pendulum, necessitating the design of the familiar ‘long case’ to house it.

Hungerford’s first Town Clock may have been as early as 1573 and was situated in the Town hall building rather than the church as it was the most central part of the town for visibility. The Constable’s Accounts list those who cared for the town clock. A new Town Clock was given by the Magistrate’s Clerk, Mr Hall, in 1862. When the Town Hall was rebuilt in 1870, the clock was moved into the new building where it remains to this day. Another notable clock in the town is a ‘Tavern Clock’ of 1735 by Marsh of Highworth, still in The Bear Hotel, an important historic coaching Inn on Charnham Street.

The third part of Hugh’s talk took us through the clockmakers of Hungerford from the 18th century to the present, using his own acquisitions and subsequent restorations of historic long case clocks and fusee wall clocks as examples. Hugh has restored a James Woodham (b.1741) clock made in the town c.1800. Woodham’s father Edward was a local blacksmith turned clockmaker of 1 High Street, who started looking after the Town Clock in 1742, and James took over maintenance of it around 1779. Hugh’s second clock was made by Richard Woodham, elder brother of James, c.1760-1770 and is in a much older style 30 hour iron bird cage movement. Hugh has also found and restored a long case clock c.1776-1785 made by Matthew Bance (b.1743) who lived in Hungerford from 1776. A Victorian Fusée wall clock by Caleb Joyce came to Hugh in pieces in a cardboard box, now happily restored and fully working. The Hungerford Virtual Museum www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk has details of many other Hungerford clockmakers mapped out by Hugh, right down to current clockmaker and restorer Chris Bessent who has been in the town since 2000 and is at 127 High Street.

Caroline Ness

Society Contributions

Berkshire Family History Society

The society was very pleased to partner with the Berkshire Local History Association to offer the very first online Heritage Fair for Berkshire on 6th August. Thank you to all of the organisations which took part. See separate article in this newsletter.

The society will be extending the opening hours of The Centre for Heritage and Family History in Reading Central Library for the Heritage Open Days (HODs). On Saturday 10th we are offering a free beginners' talk and help will be on hand from our experienced research assistants throughout. It's good to be back with a face-to-face offering for the HODs, having been Zoom based for 2020 and 2021.

Looking ahead, we continued to offer talks each month through the society's six branches together with a more extensive programme of talks, walks, workshops and courses offered from the Centre. Some of these are online and some face-to-face.

All events are detailed on the website — <https://berksfhs.org/whats-on> — and in the e-mailed Events newsletter, available to non-members and members alike. See <https://berksfhs.org/newsletter>. Places at some events are necessarily limited, and tickets can sell out very quickly. Society members can also opt to receive regular In Touch electronic newsletters, as well as the quarterly magazine in print form.

The society's complimentary new online service for its members – YourTrees has been expanded and is going from strength to strength. Designed as a back up to a member's primary family tree program (eg Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, Legacy, Family Historian), YourTrees also unifies members' interests and pedigrees into one collective dataset, enabling members not simply to publish their family trees but also to create a permanent research record. Media and documents can now also be included in the trees. Where tree owners allow, society members may browse shared content for research purposes, collaborate in areas of mutual interest, and the society preserves digital legacy copies of all trees provided. Find out more on <https://yourtrees.berksfhs.org>

Catherine Sampson

Berkshire Gardens Trust

The Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT) has organised several zoom lectures and garden visits this spring and summer. We started the year looking at the history of Shaw House, Newbury, told through the development of its gardens by Sarah Somerville, Visitor Services Officer at this Historic England (HE) Grade II registered park and garden landscape. Our February lecture was totally different with Dr. Twigs Way, a well-known garden historian, introducing us to a wide range of female artists in floral and botanic art from the 16th to the 19th century, with some wonderful images.

In April, BGT members were given a personal tour of the gardens at Kidmore End, north of Reading, being revitalised with the addition of an organic vineyard. This was followed by a return visit to Purley Hall, near Pangbourne, led by Ben Viljoen, a founder member of the Trust, after an introductory zoom lecture on the house and its landscape.

In July, we were privileged to visit another privately owned garden, also rarely open to the public, just over the Berkshire-Hampshire border. Earlstone Manor's unique gardens have been carefully recreated over the last 30 years to reflect an Elizabethan Jacobean garden. Our afternoon visit included an introduction by the owner, an inspiring tour and ended with tea and cake in the 16th century barn. Our September visit is a guided tour to Dorney Court, in South Buckinghamshire, following an introductory lecture by Claire de Carle, the Chair of Bucks GT.

We continue to find out more about Berkshire's designed parks and gardens, researching both private and publicly owned landscapes under the Garden Trust's Unforgettable Gardens banner, from their origins and evolution to how their varied styles and features illustrate different aspects of our local heritage. This research work helps inform our comments in respect of local development plans and planning applications which could potentially affect designed landscape sites throughout the county. Recent planning matters have been linked to a variety of sites across the county. For example, to the east of the county, we objected to the allocation of housing proposed for the registered landscape of Ditton Park, just north of the M4 and with views towards Windsor Castle. We also expressed our concerns about the density and siting of proposed housing within the magnificent setting of the BBC's former Caversham Park site in the centre

of Berkshire. Both these estates were originally designed by Capability Brown and are Grade II on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens.

And last, but not least, our Autumn Lecture and AGM will be in the afternoon at Purley Barn on Thursday, 29th September. The lecture is entitled 'Giggles in the Garden: how children have played through the history of our parks and gardens' and will be given by landscape historian, Linden Groves, Head of Operations and Strategy at the Gardens Trust, the national body representing the Berkshire Gardens Trust and a freelance researcher and author. She has carried out substantial studies into how children played in historic landscapes for organisations such as English Heritage, the National Trust and the Royal Parks, using this knowledge to inform provision for children today.

If you are interested in coming along to join us at any event, you can find out more via our website: www.berkshiregardenstrust.org (click on "2022 Events"), email BerksGTenquiries@gmail.com or phone 0118 984 3504. You can also use these contact points to alert us to any planning issues affecting parks and gardens near you or to offer help on any aspect of our activities.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Fiona Hope

Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group (BIAG)

We're just basking in the pleasure of having attended the Online Berkshire Heritage Fair hosted jointly by the BLHA and the Berkshire Family History Society. As BIAG is a little obscure to many, we were uncertain if we would have much traffic, but as it turned out most of the four hours was filled with lively conversation on local industries, people's family connections and most excitingly for us people sending us old photos and information from their own archives.

Since the last update we have had the last two events in our spring programme. The first a very topical look at the development of the electric car which was not only full of information, but had us laughing at the antics of the speaker as he revealed his efforts to make the early innovations work (or in some cases stop). May saw the second talk which was on the restoration of Southcote Mill given by its current owner, with the insights

of what owning such a heritage site can mean. We now have our summer break, which we usually fill with trips and this year the chosen location is Newbury. We will walk the industrial sites, visit the museum and end with a cosy meal in a local hostelry.

In June we were kindly invited to the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the site where Buckler Cars operated in Reading. A piece on the event and the history of this local industry has been shared on our website.

More information on our programme of activities, membership and Berkshire's industrial heritage can be found on our website www.BIAG.org.uk

Jo Alexander-Jones

Hungerford Historical Association

HHA had a busy 2021-22 season enjoying eight talks on a variety of subjects on the histories of Lady Craven and Benham Park; the American Army stationed locally during WWII; London's Great Exhibition of 1851; Hungerford's fuel stations; the rescue of a Victorian steamship in the Andes; the salt mines of Cheshire; the historic clocks and clockmakers of Hungerford; and ships and vehicles from the Falklands War of 1982. We also enjoyed a terrific outing in May to Great Chalfield Manor and The Courts Gardens near Melksham.

The Friends of Littlecote Roman Villa, volunteers from the HHA led by Dr Hugh Pihlens, are now in their fourth year helping to restore the wonderful villa at Littlecote – just a couple of miles west of Hungerford. In the first three years the villa walls were cleared of grass, moss and weeds; the fabulous Orpheus mosaic was cleaned, and tons of encroaching willow and scrub removed from the adjacent riverbank. This year's working sessions have seen the laying of geo-text membrane over the villa rooms and the spreading of 80 tonnes of gravel! One of the original archaeologists who worked on the site back in 1978-91 is now restoring some of the flint hypocaust area of the west wing which had started to collapse. The five-year project is working towards its end. Hugh and team are currently designing a set of new interpretation boards which will be installed early next year. Along with the cleaning of the walls and the gravelling of the rooms, the whole site should be much easier to understand. It's a great story! If you've not visited recently, Hugh and all of us at HHA really

recommend it!

Our new season begins in September:

28.09.2022 'Shaw House: 400 years of History' Sarah Somerville

26.10.2022 'The Royal Navy 1790-1815: the battle against Napoleon and the threshold of Empire' Harry Wrightson

23.11.2022 'Resistance, Collaboration and Survival: Paris under German occupation 1940-44' David Drake

25.01.2023 'Bramshill, Hampshire: the mystery of its historical gardens and botanical paintings' Dr Ann Benson

22.02.2023 'Stonehenge' Graham Loxton-Best

22.03.2023 'Increased National Debt in the Great War 1914-18 and Mechanical Transport Costs.' Roy Larkin

26.04.2023 'Littlecote Roman Villa' Dr Hugh Pihlens

24.05.2023 'Crofton Beam Engines' Jon Willis

28.06.2023 AGM and Social followed by 'History of the Thames Valley Police' Ken Wells

Meetings are normally held at 7,30pm in the Corn Exchange, Hungerford RG17 0NJ. Members annual subscription is just £15; visitors £5 per talk.

For further information and how to join please visit: <http://www.hungerfordhistorical.org.uk/>

The Hungerford Virtual Museum can be accessed at: <https://www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk/>

Project Purley

In June, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with two events. On 2nd and 3rd June we held an exhibition "Purley during the Queen's Reign" exploring the changes within Purley during the last 70 years in image, words and objects. This was free to attend and we had a large number of visitors on both days. One of the joys of each exhibition we mount, is that it inspires new people to get involved and encourages us to re-look at a subject from a new angle and that involves new research and sourcing new material. Alongside the exhibition boards were display tables on which



The time line showing what happened locally and nationally in the seven decades of newly purchased display units from IKEA gave much needed height. One of the more unusual items on display was a 1950's comptometer, which was owned and operated by Dolly Howarth, the sister of one of our members.

Alongside Project Purley's displays we had also invited some other individuals and groups to have a table reflecting the overall theme. Purley's Horticultural Society put on a fascinating display showing the changes in garden design and horticulture during the Queen's reign. Purley WI had a vintage cake stall, which could have come straight out of the 1950s. The cricket club showed the history of cricket in the village, taking us back a little further to show the link to Huntley and Palmers. David Downs, attracted a good level of interest with memorabilia of Reading Football Club. Probably most popular of all however, was the impressive display of farming equipment. Tim Metcalfe of Home Farm kept countless small crowds enthralled with his demonstrations of how to use each implement and was able to show how some items evolved during the 70 years, whilst other fundamentally remain unchanged.

On the afternoon of Friday 3rd, our second event took place - a vintage fashion show and afternoon tea, celebrating fashion through the Queen's

reign. This was a ticketed event and sold out on launch day. Clothes and accessories were loaned by a number of individuals and combined gave a fascinating timeline of fashion changes over the last 70 years. As each model or models strutted or sometimes even danced their way along the “catwalk”, they were accompanied by a brief introduction and much applause. It was a lovely afternoon, and we hope to produce a booklet detailing the fashions in due course.

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company returned to Purley again on Friday 16th July, with a performance of “The Recruiting Officer”. These performances in Purley are hosted twice a year by the society and this time we raised money for Ukrainian refugees.

Our summer outing in July was a tour of St Mary’s Church, churchyard, and its hinterland, followed by a cream tea. We had a capacity turnout of members and guests and so split in two groups, one of which would begin by focusing on the church, and the other on the churchyard and its hinterland. At half time everyone swapped over so that by the end of the tour they had seen everything.

The Church Group, led by John Chapman, began with an opening summary of the history of the church and the not-to-miss features. Everyone was given a copy of John’s booklet on the history of the church, updated and reprinted for the occasion. Members and their guests were then able to use the booklet to self-tour the remainder of the interior and also the exterior features.

The second group, led by Catherine Sampson, began with a summary of the history of the area and in particular the development of the marina, back to its origins in Chiswick. Then they moved outdoors, pausing briefly in the churchyard, before heading over to the privately-owned Marina, especially opened to us for the occasion. There, members were able to see the marina and also the railway tunnel which had been installed for the Storer family of Purley Magna by GWR in 1840.

On August 6th we were pleased to participate in the online Berkshire Heritage Fair.

Our meetings resume in September with a fish and chips supper and talk on Royal Weddings.

Catherine Sampson

History of Reading Society

Several committee members attended the AGM of the Berkshire Local History Association in March, where, for the first time, we had a display stall, with copies of the Society's latest publication, "Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries." Also on sale were several titles written by other members of the Society. Not much was actually sold, but at least we had a presence. The AGM, at Eton Wick Village Hall, was followed by a short talk on the history of nearby Dorney Court. After lunch, some of us went to visit this old manor house and the adjacent church.

At our April talk, members enjoyed a fascinating talk by Lindsay Mullaney, entitled "Henry I and his Abbey: Why Reading, Why 1121, and Why the Cluniacs?" Those present could not fail to have been impressed by the depth of the research which must have gone into the talk – and into the book, with the same title, that was available for sale afterwards. You might have thought that everything that needed to be said on the subject had already been said, but not a bit of it.

Misfortune befell the May meeting, when we were to have heard about "The Black Arts in Reading" – about printing, rather than sorcery. For the first time ever, no-one arrived to open up the meeting-place. There had been an administrative error. A good number of people had turned up, and we were able to hold the planned sale of second-hand local history books, but out of doors, before departing rather earlier than planned. Our speaker, Paul Joyce, has kindly offered to give the talk next year.

The two summer visits were greatly enjoyed, and well supported. In June, we visited the old Reading Cemetery (at Cemetery Junction), where we had a guided tour from Liz Tait. Then in July, Caroline Piller led a walk round Reading town centre, looking at statues and sculpture.

August brought the Berkshire Heritage Online Fair, organised by the Family History Society and the BLHA. In our "room" we had three committee members, where we were visited by people from different parts of the country, and of the world. Things were slow to start off, but after the first half hour, things got going, and we were kept occupied. Of course, this was the first such event in which we had been involved, and we were wondering how things might turn out, but in the end, it all seemed worth while. This was especially so in the case of a "visitor" from Cornwall. She

had been trying for years to find a picture of the house in which her family had lived, and where her father had been born, but without success. She had been told a lot about the house, but had only seen it once from a car window as a child. From what she told us, we were able to identify the house, and find a photograph. Our enquirer later e-mailed to say that she had wept with excitement on seeing it!

The programme of talks re-starts in September, with a presentation on the Reading architect, Spencer Slingsby Stallwood, by John Dearing. A varied programme for 2023 is already taking shape

Thatcham Historical Society

Thatcham Historical Society in partnership with the Old Bluecoat School held an exhibition from 2nd to 5th June 2022. This was to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a remarkable achievement. There were three sections to the exhibition; first there was information about the Queen and events that have happened during her reign, next there was information on the history of Thatcham and finally there was information about the Bluecoat School Charity as well as the history of the building.

The opening day saw a visit from Thatcham Town Mayor, Councillor Jeff Brooks, along with an estimated 500 visitors over the four days. The Exhibition had a constant flow of visitors including visits from locals who attended cookery and other school classes at the venue when it had been used as an extra classroom for the local schools. Other visitors took a keen interest in a model of Thatcham Ordnance Depot (on loan from West Berkshire Museum) with some having worked there and/or living on the site, Kennet Heath, today. Others took an interest in how Thatcham got its name, or the soldiers from WWI and the old photos of Thatcham as always stir memories and discussion.

There was also a Queens and Crowns hunt for the younger visitors and a history quiz too – popular with both children and adults! For those that found all the Queens and Crowns or got all the quiz questions correct, there was also a certificate given out.

Exhibition organiser and committee member Nick Young said “I am enthusiastic about educating people about our local history and the last four



Some of the exhibition staff from Thatcham Historical Society and the Old Bluecoat School along with The Town Mayor of Thatcham

days have been a joy to do that and to celebrate the Queen's remarkable achievement at the same time"

It wasn't just local visitors either, we have seen people from all over Berkshire and further afield. Some came just to see what the "old building" was that they had driven past but then got enthralled by the history on display.

Thatcham Historical Society Chairman, Sue Ellis, noted "everyone who has come through the doors has been delighted with the exhibition, and all have gone away having learnt something new."

The event wasn't just educating visitors, many visitors helped educate us with some of their own memories and lent or donated old documents and photographs to the Society. The chairman of the Old Bluecoat School, Mark Thomas, had a visit from a lady whose father attended the Old Bluecoat School as a pupil before it closed in 1914.

Mark Thomas, Chairman of the Old Bluecoat School Charity said "We

were very happy to work with Thatcham Historical Society to make our 700 year old building available for this special exhibition and to talk with the many visitors who came to see us.”

The exhibition has only been possible with the support of volunteers from the Old Bluecoat School, Thatcham Town Council, Station Tyres and West Berkshire Museum. Many thanks to them all.

Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History society continue to make a determined effort to return to normality after the pandemic.

In May Lionel Williams came and spoke about Brunel and The Great Western Railway .It was interesting to learn how the coming of the railway affected our local communities especially as today we are experiencing even greater changes with the coming of Crossrail.

The June meeting was about the History of Coaching and Colin Pawson gave an illustrated and musical account of the stage coach era . His skill in sounding the coaching horn signals was very impressive.Together with his suitable attire it made for a very entertaining and informative evening before our Summer break.

During the break the newsletter will continue to keep people in touch and a summer lunch has been arranged at Buratta’s

An outing to the Vyne to see the newly refurbished tapestry has been organised for early Sept.

The Platinum Jubilee was much celebrated in the village . We were able to man a stall at the Donkey Derby on June 5th. Our display of past Jubilee celebrations in the village was much admired.

It was an occasion to savour Coronation chicken and the famous Platinum Jubilee Pudding, ably made by our vice chairman. The gazebo which was to protect us from the elements proved to be unnecessary.

However it did house some of our publications which were on view and for sale

It was a very special few days and we are looking forward to a successful year

Jean Poulter

Wargrave Local History Society

A History of Wargrave Fire Station was the topic of Rodney Annetts' presentation to Wargrave Local History Society's May meeting. Several of the Annetts family, including Rodney, had been firemen based there, so the audience had a personal insight as well as an historical account of our local station. The fire service in Wargrave had begun in 1905 with volunteers using a hand operated pump. This was replaced by a horse drawn one, 4 men on each side to working the pump, with others filling it with water, and then Wargrave's first motorised fire engine arrived in 1931, paid for by a house-to-house collection. Rodney outlined the changes that came with local government reorganisation, through to the closure of the Wargrave fire station in 2020, as well as various incidents they attended. The village brigade had always been a big part of the community, and there was clearly a great camaraderie amongst those who served at Wargrave – and pride in what they had done.

As part of the Wargrave Village Festival, the society arranged an Historic Wargrave Exhibition in the village hall, with documents from 1635 to recent times, photographs from the 1870s to 2022, and a variety of objects relating to Wargrave's past on display. Visitors ranged from 'under 5' to 'over 90', and included the Rt Hon Theresa May, MP, who studied many of the items with interest during the afternoon. The following day was the ever-popular Historic Village Walk, when the participants – some long-time village residents, and others more recently arrived (including a family from Ukraine) - heard about people and events from Wargrave's past, and places associated with them, as they had a gentle stroll. At the village festival fete a fortnight later, the society's display of aerial photographs of the village attracted the attention of many visitors - the changes between the pictures of 1931 and more recent ones showing how Wargrave had developed over this time.

A warm July afternoon saw members enjoying a visit to the Kennet and Avon Canal - originally planned for 2020, but postponed twice due to the pandemic. Although one of the warmest days of the summer, the movement of the boat along the water created a gentle breeze, making it probably the best place to be that afternoon! The canal had opened throughout in 1810, but had fallen into dis-repair by the early 1950s. However, a group of enthusiasts saw its potential, and so the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust

began the work to restore the canal in 1962. The first section, from Hungerford to Newbury, re-opened in July 1974, and it became navigable throughout again in 1990. Travel on the canal is very peaceful and calm – our trip from Hungerford to Wire Lock and back being on the Trust's Rose of Hungerford. An essential part of a WLHS visit is an afternoon tea, our freshly made scones with clotted cream and home-made jam being served on board.

More details of the Society can be found at www.wargravehistory.org.uk/ - or email info@wargravehistory.org.uk to confirm meeting details.

Local History Interest

An appeal by The Mills Archive for you to complete a survey.

Please help us to understand the history interests of people in the local area.

Can those in the local Reading area help out one of our fellow heritage institutions by filling in this survey? Information is needed to help with a lottery application. Your help would be gratefully appreciated.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CWN8L3B>

NEXT TIME

How did you celebrate Heritage Days?

An article by David Cliffe on Images for Local History.

Opportunities

For talks, events, exhibitions etc which are open to the public

ARMISTICE WEEK - November 2022

To commemorate Remembrance Day and in particular, the men of Steventon who fell during the two World Wars, Steventon History Society will be presenting a number of events in the week commencing 7th November.

Highlights of our activities will include:

- A Poppy Trail around the village marking the homes of the men of Steventon whose names appear on the war memorial. Each home will be identified by a giant poppy with details of the service record of each soldier.
- An exhibition in St Michael's Church (2.00pm to 4.00pm Tuesday 8th to Sunday 13th) presenting stories from the people of Steventon about their war time experiences; memorabilia and artefacts from the wars including medals, photos, and finds from the battlefields.
- An illustrated talk (7.00pm, Tuesday 8th November, St Michael's Church) by Martin McIntyre of the Royal Berkshire Regimental Museum

Full details will be published in the October issue of The Steventon News, in the local press and on social media. In the meantime, for more information, contact:

Tim Owen at owentd@talk21.com

City of Oxford 1850-1914

Oxfordshire historian Liz Woolley will be running her popular weekly class The City of Oxford 1850-1914 from September to November 2022, at the Old Fire Station Oxford. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the social, cultural and economic history of Oxford's 'town' (as opposed 'gown') in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, and to set that history in the context of contemporary national developments.

Ten classes, every Tuesday morning, 10:30-12:30pm, 13 September – 15 November 2022

Venue: The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ. The venue is in the city centre, 5 minutes' walk from the train station and 2 minutes' walk from Gloucester Green bus station. There is full disabled access, and a café on site.

Contact Liz on 01865 242760 or liz@lizwoolley.co.uk if you would like to book a place on the course.

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

See <https://berksfhs.org/whats-on> for full information on every Berkshire Family History Society event (including local Branch meetings whether face-to-face or hosted on Zoom), and details on how to book and take part. The society is a registered charity no. 283010.

Saturday 3rd September – 11am–1pm Course: **Latin for Family Historians** (2 sessions, next one on 10th September), Zoom, £20.00

Thursday, 8th September - 2.00-3.30 pm Talk: **Suttons Seeds** with Richard Marks, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, £5

Saturday, 10th September – 12 noon–1pm Talk: **Who Do We Think We Are** with Catherine Sampson, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, Free

Tuesday, 13th September – 2.30–4pm Walk: **Caversham Two Bridges** led by David Cliffe, £5

Thursday, 22nd September – 2-3.15pm Talk: **A History of Southcote and its Manor** with Mike Cooper, Zoom, £5

Saturday, 24th September – 2-3.15pm Day School: **Huntley and Palmers** with Dr Margaret Simons, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, £25

Thursday 13th October – 2-3.30 Talk: **The Influence of Victorian Mourning on Reading Cemetery** with Anna Ellis, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, £5

Saturday 15th October – 2-4pm Workshop: **Railway Records for Family Historians** with Richard Marks, Zoom, £10

Thursday 20th October – 2.30-3.30pm Tour: **Greyfriars' Church**, Reading led by Malcolm Summers, £5

Thursday, 27th October – 2-3.15 pm Talk: **A Brief History of Reading Gaol** with Mark Stevens, Zoom, £5

Saturday 12th November – 11am-1pm Workshop: **Munition Workers in World War One** with Richard Marks, Zoom, £10

Saturday 19th November – 11am-1pm Workshop: **Scrapbooking for Family Historians** with Angie Catt, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, £10

Monday 21st November – 7-9.30pm Workshop: **Wills** with Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens, Zoom, £10

Thursday, 24th November – 2-3.15pm Talk: **Huntley and Palmers** with Richard Marks, Zoom, £5

Thursday 8th December – 2-3.30pm Talk: **Reading's First World War Hospitals** with Lionel Williams, The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading Central Library, £5

Thursday, 15th December – 2-3.15 pm Talk: **The Murder of Alfred Oliver** with David Downs, Zoom, £5

Heritage Days

9th to 18th September

Heritage Days will be celebrated all over the country. Look out for local announcements. Here are just a few from Berkshire but please check their websites for details of timing and how to book.

Windsor Guildhall

They arrange to meet small parties (max 8 persons) to give them a guided tour of the Guildhall and its surrounds.

Cost £5/head - book at 01753 743900

Newbury Museum

10th September 10.30 am to 3pm **Attic Visits** - see the contents of the museum's attic, not usually open to the public.

16th September - talk **Dressing Victorians and Edwardians** 6.30 to 8.30 pm

Reading Museum

Two tours on 9th and 10th September already sold out.

14th September - **Museum Store tour** a unique opportunity to see behind the scenes.

Saturdays 2 till 3 pm **Bayeux Tapestry Tours** - visit this unique part of Reading Museum and hear about the tapestry.

Shaw House Newbury

10th September **Guided Tours** starting at 2pm

The Croft, Hungerford

11th September 10 am to 3 pm **Hungerford Heritage Festival**

History Societies

- Aldermaston History Group.** Chris Boott, Kennet, Church Road, Aldermaston RG7 4LR
[blha@aldermastonhistory.uk]
- Arborfield Local History Society,** Secretary Rosemary King [roking@henforyd.plus.com]
[www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk]
- Berkshire Archaeological Society,** Anne Harrison, [secretary@berksarch.co.uk] [www.berksarch.co.uk]
- Berkshire Archaeology Research Group,** Dr Roger Sym, 197 Halls Rd, Reading, RG30 tel
0118 942 7703 [Roger@PsrLtd.Demon.co.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]
[https://.berksfhs.org][secretary@berksfhs.org]
- Berkshire Gardens Trust.** Fiona Hope, 23 St James Close, Pangbourne, RG8 7AP [fiona.hope-
@btinternet.com] [www.berkshiregardenstrust.org]
- Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group,** Secretary, Graham Smith, 114 Shaw Rd, Newbury
RG14 1HR [secretary@biag.org.uk]
- 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 [audreyrosettalong@gmail.com]
- Bracknell & District Local Historical Society,** 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.barlow@btinternet.com]
- East Garston Local History Society,** Mrs Karen Sperrey, Church Cottage, Front St, East
Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7HJ [karen@kado.cloud]
- East Ilsley Local History Society,** Eric Saxton, School House, Church Hill, East Ilsley RG20
7LP [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, mob 07799 583524 [goringgaphistory@gmail.com]
[www.goringgaphistory.org.uk]
- Hanney History Group,** Mrs P J Taylor, Walnut Cottage, Ebbs Lane, East Hanney Oxon, OX12
0HL [07776 842413]
- The History of Reading Society,** Vicki Chesterman, 7 Norman Road, Caversham, Reading RG4
5JN, tel 0118 947 3443, [vickichesterman@yahoo.co.uk] [www.historyofreadingsociety.or-
g.uk]
- Hungerford Historical Association,** Secretary Helen Lockhart, [shelenlockhart@aol.com]
[www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk]
- Longworth & District History Society,** Pam Woodward, 22 Cherrytree Close, Southmoor,
Abingdon OX13 5BE. [prwoodward@btinternet.com] Jill Muir, [jill@shottle.plus.com],
[http://longworth-history-society.org.uk/]
- Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society,** Paul Seddon, 1 vine Cottage, Stubbings
Lane, Maidenhead SL6 6QN [paul@c21networks.co.uk]
- Marcham Society** Simon Blackmore, 2 Walnut Mews, Mill Road, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6NZ
tel 01865 392090 [spblackmore@googlemail.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]

Oxfordshire Local History Association Liz Wooley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS [chair@olha.org.uk]

Pangbourne Heritage Group, Jane Rawlins (archivist) Chapel House, Thames Ave, Pangbourne RG8 7BU contact Ellie Thorne [eb_thorne@hotmail.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, Catherine Glover, Suvukuja, Basingstoke Road, Spencers |Wood RG7 1PH tel 07762 251686 [catherine_e_m_glover@icloud.com]

Sonning & Sonning Eye History Society, Heather Kay, 5 Augustfield, Charvil Lane, Sonning, RG4 6AF [kaydenis@googlemail.com]

Stanford in the Vale & District Local History Society, Mike Macfarlane, 53 High St, Stanford in the Vale, Oxon SN7 8NQ [tel 01367 710 358 [mmacfarlane1@btinternet.com]

Swallowfield Local History Society, Ken Hussey, Kimberley, Swallowfield RG7 1QX, tel 0118 988 3650, [www.slhsoc.org.uk]

Tadley and District Local History Society, Carol Stevens, 5 Church Road, Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 3DP, [tadhistory@googlemail.com] [www.tadshistory.com]

Thatcham Historical Society, Susan Ellis, Open View, New Road Hill, Midgham RG7 5RY [susan.carver@gmx.com] [enquiries@thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk], [www.thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk]

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

Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society, Jean Poulter, 17 Weir Pool Court, Silk Lane, Twyford RG10 9GY, [jeanpoulter@tiscali.co.uk], [www.trlhs.org.uk]

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

Windsor Local History Group, Anne Taylor, Canon Cottage, Bishops Farm Close, Oakley Green, Windsor SL4 5UN [taylorad22@btinternet.com] [www.windsorhistory.org.uk]

Friends of Windsor and Royal Borough Museum, Len Nash, 27 Bourne Ave, Windsor, SL4 3JP, [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)

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, tel 01628 780555 [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]

Museum of Berkshire Aviation Mohawk Way Reading RG5 4UE tel 0118 944 8089 [www.museumofberkshireaviation.co.uk]

Newbury Library, Newbury Central Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AU, tel 01635 519900 [library@westberks.co.uk]

Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's Church, Temple Road, 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]

The River and Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley on Thames, RG9 1BF tel 01491 415600 [curatorial@rrm.co.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]

Wallingford Museum, 52 High St, Wallingford, OX10 0DB, tel 01491 835 065 [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.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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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

Individual - for individuals and couples living at the same address

Family - for families living at the same address

Corporate - for local history societies and institutions, such as libraries, archives and museums

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 send out occasional **e-mail Bulletins** in between Newsletters with the latest news.

We maintain a **Website** to keep you up-to-date with Society activities [www.blha.org.uk]

We hold an **Annual General Meeting** in Spring each year where local societies bring in displays and copies of their publications. The formal meeting is followed by a variety of activities - talks, walks and visits - dependent on where we are. Meetings are held in different parts of the county.

We hold occasional **Seminars, Workshops** and **Day Schools** with eminent speakers

We organise occasional **Day trips** to visit archives or places of interest (usually with privileged access to material)

We award a number of **Prizes** to authors of articles and students at the University of Reading.

We offer **Grants** towards research and **Loans** to assist authors to publish their results.

We work with a variety of organisations to **Protect and document the heritage of Berkshire**

Membership fees

The rates for 2022 are:-

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

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Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is due to be published in January 2023.

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th December 2022 - preferably we would like to have it a bit earlier.

We like to hear of your society's activities over the last four months and will publicise future events that are open to the public (but not regular society meetings)

Please address e-mails to newsletter@blha.org.uk but please include BLHA and your society name in the title of the e-mail.

Berkshire Old and New

Berkshire Old and New, the journal of the BLHA, is published once a year. It has changed over the years, as you will see from a look at the back issues on the BLHA website, but the aim remains to print good-quality, research-based articles on any aspect of Berkshire's history, supporting the study of local history. It is a sad fact that the supply of articles has diminished. Some long-standing contributors have retired or died, and fewer new writers have emerged. But we intend to continue the journal in one form or another for as long as possible. If you have an article - or ideas for one - contact Jonathan Brown at journal@blha.org.uk.