



BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No 135
January 2023

Berkshire Local History Association Newsletter

Editor: John Chapman

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PRINTED BY

Reprographics Department, University of Reading
Whiteknights House, Reading RG6 6AH

Distribution: Dr Margaret Simons

Website www.blha.org.uk

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 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

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Richard Bennett unveils the memorial plaque to Joseph Huntley
- see p10

Chairman's Corner

For the last edition, the Chairman was sweltering in his Corner in the heat of August. For this one, he is wearing a pullover, and the temperature outside hasn't risen above freezing for several days.

We are gradually getting going again. Apart from the BLHA AGM at Marcham on Saturday, March 25th, 2023, there are as yet no firm dates for events. Your committee met in October, and moves were proposed to re-start some of the projects which stalled when the pandemic struck, and there were some new ideas for events for members to attend and enjoy.

Incidentally, the committee members decided to meet socially in December, for a meal at The Horse and Groom at Hare Hatch, on the A4. Some of us hadn't met in person since the AGM last March, and meeting via Zoom always seems to leave you with something lacking. The evening was enjoyed by all.

The last Newsletter appeared in due course, and our journal, "Berkshire Old and New," came shortly after. It contained three articles – one on two earthworks near Reading (Coombe Bank and Tilehurst Bank), another on the records of the Berkshire Lieutenancy, 1758-1960, and the third on the building of the Assize Courts in Reading. As usual, there was the Berkshire Bibliography, compiled by Katie Amos at the Central Library in Reading.

The Berkshire Record Society's project to produce a volume on "Building Schools for Berkshire, 1870-1914" has re-started. A team of around ten volunteers is back at work, sifting through thousands of volumes, documents and plans in the Berkshire Record Office. The BLHA was able to support the research for the previous book produced in this way, "Berkshire Schools in the Eighteenth Century." Will the Record Society one day fill the gap, with an extensive essay and gazetteer of the schools built between 1800 and 1870, one wonders?

Speaking personally, over the summer one of my pleasantest discoveries was The People's History Museum in Manchester. It's a new museum, telling the stories of the struggles of working people, men and women, to get representation in Parliament and to achieve recognition for trade unions. Of course, the Peterloo Massacre featured strongly, but there were banners, posters, satirical cartoons and other memorabilia from all over the country – including Reading. It was, of course, partly heart-breaking and partly

inspiring – I can't imagine anyone being unmoved after a visit. I was so impressed that I went back there with my sister, who was equally impressed.

David Cliffe

A Word from the Editor

I had a real scare recently - I got scammed and lost a lot of valuable data including all my BLHA records. So I have had to reinvent this newsletter with material that I have been able to salvage. I hope to get sorted by the next edition. I saved my e-mails so I hope I have included everything that was sent to me; but if I have missed some emails then my profuse apologies.

John Chapman

Book Reviews

The Register of Bishop Richard Praty

The latest volume in the Canterbury and York series. This records the Register of Richard Praty, Bishop of Chichester 1435-1445. These volumes contain incredible detail for local historians but this particular one almost totally ignores Berkshire. The only reference is to Windsor when it mentions the ordination of Thomas Passh' of Pagham in 1440. He became a noted pluralist who was canon of St Georges Chapel from 1449 and a benefactor of Merton College Oxford.

Miscellanea

A Bus at Bucklebury

My apologies for bothering you, but for many years I have been aware of an interesting photograph taken at Bucklebury, which appeared in a book about the village some years ago.

However, the quality of reproduction in that publication was very poor, so I am trying to find someone who has a good print of the photo, for which I am requesting your assistance please.

The main persons in the photo were the regular crew of the Thames Valley bus which was kept in a small garage adjacent to the Blade Bone



Inn, Archie Lock and Bert Sawyer. Both men were awarded a medal for averting a dangerous roll-back accident, so were well known local men, and I am currently preparing an article about them and Thames Valley at that location, so would appreciate either the loan of a print, or a good quality scan of the photo to use with that.

Anyone who can help can contact me on this email address, and I thank you in advance for bringing this to the attention of the readers.

Paul Lacey

Write for Berkshire Old and New

At a recent BLHA committee meeting I was asked about our 'Guide for Contributors' to Berkshire Old and New, the journal of the association. I had to admit I hadn't such a document to anyone in years, and when I looked for it I found it was still in typescript.

I don't want to put anyone off writing an article by issuing a long list of instructions. Instead, I answer the simple questions people ask when they inquire about writing an article. There's not many of them, so let's take a look at them, and together perhaps they will form a new guide.

1. Length. There's a lot of flexibility. Most of the articles in Berkshire Old and New are between 3,000 and 4,500 words. Use that as a rule of thumb. A shorter article is fine, and we might be able to accommodate a

longer one. Word count isn't everything. Notes and references and illustrations also affect the space required.

2. References. We encourage you to give full references to your sources in the form of numbered notes – footnotes if you prefer in your script, but they are always endnotes in the published journal. We use the form of citation Author, Title (date) p. 00. We don't use Harvard citation.

3. Illustrations. Photographs, diagrams, etc are welcome. The journal is printed in black and white, so I am afraid we will not do justice to your beautifully coloured maps (perhaps on the cover, though). Send your illustrations as separate files, not embedded in the text document.

4. Rights and permissions. You are responsible for obtaining all copyright and other permissions for material reproduced. The BLHA does not have funds to pay copyright fees.

5. The editing process. Berkshire Old and New is published once a year in the autumn. Articles submitted after mid-June are unlikely to get into that year's journal. On receipt, articles are sent to a small team of readers who look out possible factual errors and suggest ways of making the article better. It's not quite the full peer review of an academic journal, but the readers give invaluable support to both author and editor. I look after all the copy editing for house style, missing words and so on. I will edit for length if necessary, though that is a rare occurrence.

I hope this encourages you to get some of your research into article form. Send any questions and completed articles to me at journal@blha.org.uk.

Jonathan Brown

Articles

Scanning Slides

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

means that in due course, you'll be able to search for images of, say, foundries across the county, breweries in Reading, or Wantage Road Station, and the appropriate images will appear.

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

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

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

Sometimes there was a problem where the photographer had tried to record a piece of machinery in a very restricted space, and so I knew where the machine was, but not what I was looking at. And sometimes the labelling was, from my point of view, inadequate. There is a slide that shows some brick arching, labelled just "ice house." Another slide, saying "The Wellington Arms," appears to show a brick-lined well.

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

Nothing has been covered systematically, but nevertheless, when put

together with the images from other sources which are already in the collection at Reading, they will help tell the story of what happened where, and show what things looked like.

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

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

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

POSTSCRIPT

The above was written in August, in case we were short of material for the September edition, but it wasn't needed in the end. At some time in the spring I had agreed to give a pre-Christmas presentation of the best of the slides to the Industrial Archaeology Group. It was a bitterly cold night, but a respectable number turned up – more than I'd thought. We had several visitors, who were there just because they'd heard about it and were interested. I knew that there would be people there who had been members much longer than I, and who would have been there when some of the pictures were taken, so I started by encouraging them to shout out when they had information to add. From the start, I could tell that the audience was

interested. Some held up their smart phones from time to time, to capture odd images, and one lady, who was unknown to me, was busy taking notes. Usually, just before giving talks, I ask myself, “Why do you keep putting yourself through this?” On this occasion, when it was all over, I thought to myself, “Yes – that was well worth doing.”

David Cliffe.

What’s a Local List?

Some of us may not know what a Local List is and some may not know how to get something onto that list. I knew of the concept, but not the process until this October 2022 when I was delighted to be invited to attend West Berkshire’s Local Listing Panel. The first thing I learned was that you don’t need to be invited, as the panel is open to all to attend, with the notification of the meeting dates being placed on West Berkshire Council’s website.

The Panel was held in Thatcham Parish Hall and eight heritage assets had been put forward for consideration. To give some background to the process, a ‘Local List’ is a list of heritage assets within a district considered by the public and the relevant council as having special local architectural, archaeological or historic interest. It excludes those assets that have already been recognised by English Heritage as nationally important. The West Berkshire process is jointly managed by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum and West Berkshire Council using a defined process that contains a set of criteria against which the assets are assessed. While being locally listed does not provide additional planning control coverage, it is a material consideration for any relevant planning application that arise.

At the October meeting all of the eight assets under consideration were recommended for Local Listing, but this is not always the case. On the day in question all submissions were finally recommended for listing, but for one of them there was personal representation from proposing and opposing parties and a robust discussion took place over the process and criteria to be considered. There are a number of criteria to assess, twenty-six in all, that have to be considered and each is reviewed against the written submission from the proposer based on the type of asset being discussed.

I am pleased to have been at this sitting, as the debate showed how seriously the panel take the process and that they are a group highly knowledgeable in heritage management and drawn from a broad range of

organisations who aren't afraid of confrontation. It made me feel that decisions on our heritage assets are in good hands with respect to listing.

Local Listing is a nationally supported and recognised process, and it is used by a number of Berkshire's councils such as Reading Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Council. Based on my experience I would recommend anyone interested in how we recognise and care for our heritage assets in Berkshire to try to get to one of these sessions and get involved in the process.

Jo Alexander-Jones

Society Contributions

Berkshire Family History Society

The society will be extending the opening hours of The Centre for Heritage and Family History in Reading Central Library from the beginning of January to allow our visitors to stay longer. Please check our website for opening hours and also the facilities you may use. Re-cataloguing of our reference library is now nearing completion and the ongoing catalogue can now be accessed both in the Centre and via our website. Help for everyone from beginners to seasoned researchers is available from our Research Assistants, should a visitor want it. We also run a programme of pre-booked advice sessions both in the Centre, at libraries across Berkshire and via Zoom. Face-to-face sessions are once again becoming popular, having been relatively quiet since Covid.

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. Places at some events are necessarily limited. Society members can also opt to receive regular In Touch electronic newsletters, as well as the quarterly journal in print form.

Catherine Sampson

Berkshire Gardens Trust

Although the winter and spring is a period when many focus on indoor activities and hobbies, we are be offering some events which link the indoors with the garden, themed around the inspiration of and close relationship between art and design and our historic parks and gardens.

The programme begins with two Zoom talks: at 2pm on 25th January, Nature's Favourite Child – Thomas Robins and the Art of the Georgian Garden, by Cathryn Spence, an inspiring lecturer as well as being an historic gardens and buildings consultant; and at 6pm on 27 February, In the Garden with William Morris: Flora as Art by Fiona Rose, who also links into the world of literature, looking at how William Morris made a significant impact on the evolution of the English garden by rejecting Victorian formality and drawing inspiration from medieval gardens, art and where he lived as well as his lectures, letters, poetry, and prose. Our Spring lecture on 24 March is at 7pm in Purley Barn on The History of Botanical Art by Sally Pinhey, one of Britain's foremost botanical illustrators. Finally, in April a Spring visit to Kelmscott Manor just into Gloucestershire, exemplifies how art and gardening come together at this recently refreshed National Trust site.

BGT is also continuing to contribute to planning applications across the County, suggesting where proposals could be improved to protect the setting and aesthetics of various designed parks and gardens. These diverse applications ranged from those concerning a new use for sites such as at Caversham Park, Reading (Caversham Park Grade II) and Silwood Manor, Silwood Park, London Road, Ascot, where it is important to ensure that new building and activities do not compromise adversely either the landscape setting or particular historic features within them. In addition we have also considered some Parish Plans and associated policies. For example, Winkfield Parish's Plan had no vision for the heritage assets in the parish, such as Ascot Place, a Grade II* Registered Park, and the non-designated Foliejon Park, nor any policies to protect them and we have recommended rectifying these omissions to conserve important aspects of this part of Berkshire. Research into the parks and gardens concerned is vital to enable us to speak authoritatively and to mitigate the impact of ill-considered and under-funded policies by Berkshire's six unitary authorities.

If you would like to find out more about any aspect mentioned in this

contribution or the Berkshire Gardens Trust, please visit our website <https://www.berkshiregardenstrust.org/>.

Fiona Hope

Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group (BIAG)

One of the most pleasing things that has happened to BIAG since the last update to BLHA is the securing of our event location for another year. Being a smallish group, we can't afford some of the bigger and more popular venues in the county and are pleased that St Mary's Church in Castle Street, Reading has agreed to let us have their church hall again. While the pandemic made virtual meetings a necessity and we enjoyed the opportunity to share with a wider audience, there is something really nice about getting back with old friends face-to-face and having a chat over coffee and biscuits.

So, what have we been doing? We met in September for a heritage walk around Newbury. Along with the look at the town's industrial past we had a lovely guided session in the 'secret garden' beside the lock. If you get a chance to see what they have done with this area squeezed between the waterways then do go. October saw a talk on the content included and how Reading's Library Services have pulled together of the first in a series of booklets on the town's lost businesses, followed by November's talk on the glass bottle industry of Mexborough.

In the last BLHA newsletter we spoke of how BIAG and its work is a little obscure, so we have written a presentation on what industrial archaeology is and how BIAG looks at the topic for Berkshire. We gave the talk to the Goring Gap Probus Club and it went down well – so they told us! So, if you would like to know more about us, please contact the BIAG's secretary.

We were also pleased to be invited by the Reading Civic Society to the unveiling of the blue plaque for Joseph Huntley in Christchurch Road, Reading, and just as pleased to hear the talk and eat the cakes in the Christ Church Hall.

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

Goring Gap Local History Society

What a lot has happened since my last report in the April issue, some of it of national historical importance. Little did we think that when we held our exhibition on Life in the 1950s at Goring Community Centre in June to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee that our monarch would be dead within a few months. Now King Charles III is on the throne and we wonder what his reign will bring.

The exhibition went well. A 1950s timeline listed notable events in each year of the decade and was illustrated with contemporary advertisements and photographs. Display panels on various aspects of life in Goring and Streatley showed the big changes that took place as new housing estates were built. The Royal element was covered by photographs of the Coronation celebrations in the Gap and of later Jubilee events right through to 2012. Visitors were fascinated by the old films of the 1953 festivities and also those of the 1977 Silver Jubilee. Not a few recognized themselves, or their children. Society members kindly searched their lofts and sheds to produce artefacts and publications of the time, showing domestic life, transport, education and leisure activities, with a big emphasis on childhood as most people had hung on to toys and games. Youthful visitors of all ages competed to have a go at some of the games, with bagatelle particularly popular. A beautiful 1954 wedding dress graced a stately mannequin and little girls' smocked dresses provoked many comments.

It was all good fun and we were very pleased that so many came along, including children. The WI served hot drinks and delicious home-made cakes throughout.

The 1950s theme was continued in our annual Journal, which, breaking with the tradition of having a range of articles on all kinds of local history, has focused on life here in the Goring Gap in that decade after World War II. We are fortunate to have a full run of parish magazines and relevant editions of the parish council's Official Guide in our archives to provide a lot of the background information.

After the previous disruptions due to Covid-19, our monthly lecture programme has been able to run face to face in the village hall. We were glad to leave Zoom behind, although some local organisations have been running hybrid events as life returned to relative normal.

At the April meeting Richard Fortey fascinated us with a history of the Chilterns beechwood that he owns near Henley. In May we welcomed back

a favourite speaker, Tim Healey, whose talk on Sex, Drink and Death in the 17th century was both informative and entertaining.

The annual coach outing in June to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst was most enjoyable. Transport History Group trips have been restricted this year due to rail strikes. Most of these outings are by train and the unpredictability of industrial action has made it almost impossible to make firm bookings for events.

July saw the AGM, although with Covid issues remaining a factor, the usual sumptuous buffet was replaced by crisps and nibbles to go with the wine. There was still a good turnout. The committee was, unsurprisingly, re-elected. We were very pleased to welcome two new recruits to fill the officer roles of Programme Secretary and Archivist.

Our new season of talks was due to start in September but the meeting had to be cancelled because it clashed with the day of HM Queen's funeral. It meant members hadn't seen each other for quite a while by the time we got together in October to hear Dick Richard's talk on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This was really interesting and we hope to organise a guided walk round the CWGC cemetery at Botley next spring. Nicola Tallis was our speaker in November on the topic of Margaret Beaufort: Uncrowned Queen, which took us back to the cut-throat life of our rulers in medieval times. In December we heard all about mumming from Sem Seaborne, who as a member of the Wantage Mummers is highly knowledgeable about this ancient tradition.

In November the Society participated in an event taking place in Goring Library about Romans in the area. A whole range of activities was arranged to complement the display of artefacts from Lowbury Hill, a Roman temple on the Berkshire Downs. Not much evidence of the Romans has been found in Goring or Streatley, other than a few artefacts dredged from the river close to the site of the Roman ford. More important was the Roman villa discovered at the hamlet of Gatehampton, a mile downstream, and we were able to persuade our colleagues in SOAG, who carried out the digs there, to put on a display. We also put together a small panel about Goring and Streatley in Roman times which was on show in the library. The whole event was successful and succeeded in improving the footfall in the library considerably, as well as educating visitors about the Romans.

This year saw the release of the 1921 census. Initially the database was behind a significant pay wall, making searches very expensive, but now subscribers to the commercial genealogy website FindmyPast, which is also available free in local libraries, are able to access the whole database. This provides a new opportunity to study our local communities in that fascinating period just after World War I. We hope to explore the source as time permits. What have other researchers found?

Janet Hurst, Secretary
www.goringgaphistory.org.uk

Hungerford Historical Association

The new season for HHA got off to a splendid start with a wonderful talk from Sarah Somerville, Visitor Services Officer for Shaw House, Newbury. Sarah entertained us with tales from 400 years of history at Shaw House, a well-preserved Elizabethan Manor House built in 1581 for wealthy cloth merchant Thomas Dolman on a site with dwellings dating back to 1042. This ambitious 'Prodigy House' built in brick with many large glass windows, usually the reserve of royalty or the aristocracy in the Tudor period, made Shaw an unusual house for a merchant family who were clearly demonstrating their wealth and aspirations. The expenditure worked as Queen Elizabeth I, Charles I, Charles II, James I and Queen Anne all visited Shaw along with large retinues of servants and courtiers. The house was a Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War. The Second Battle of Newbury was fought at Shaw in 1644 which is when Charles I was likely to have stayed there. The legend of a musket ball narrowly missing the King and lodging in the panelling of the room he was in, although a great story, is now thought to have been a legend constructed in the 18th century.

The Dolman family sold Shaw to the Duke of Chandos in 1728 who was more interested in the revenue from the Estate than living there. The 2nd Duke of Chandos, having inherited Shaw with large debts, sold it all to Joseph Andrews in 1751. In 1850 Henry Eyre inherited Shaw and filled it with his seven children and a multitude of servants. During their tenure a service corridor was added that extended the central section of the H shaped Tudor house. The original outside walls and windows can be seen today inside the reception area. This represents the only significant change to the external architecture. The ceiling of the Great Hall had been lowered to

enable a suite of rooms on the floor above to be added for Queen Anne's visit, and the grand central staircase was installed at the same time, but otherwise it is a remarkably unchanged building.

World War II saw the requisitioning of Shaw from Peter Farquhar who had inherited the Estate from his grandmother in 1935. The Royal Army Ordnance Corps used the house initially, and in 1941 it became the base for the 1st Airlanding Reconnaissance Squadron. The American troops of Company B205th QM Battalion later occupied the house with disastrous results. Peter Farquhar wrote that they had broken in to his private quarters, broken his Chippendale furniture, stolen his clothes and personal possessions, and drunk his wine cellar dry.

In 1945 Farquhar sold the house and broke up the Estate. Shaw House became the Council School, later Shaw House School, until structural defects prevented its use in 1985. In 1998 West Berkshire Council took control of the property, and a restoration programme ensued with backing and funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Vodafone and English Heritage. The aim of the project was to restore the house and establish a venue to be used by the council and community alike. In 2008 these goals were achieved, enabling the house to support itself and secure its future. Visit www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on to find out about visiting Shaw House.

It was an unusual meeting of Hungerford Historical Association on 26 October. The Corn Exchange in Hungerford doesn't normally have a full-sized canon at its entrance, nor does it normally have 18th Century Grog and ships biscuits served to visitors.

However, that is what greeted HHA members and visitors when Capt. Thomas Masterman Hardy (a.k.a. Harry Wrightson) spoke about life in H.M. Navy 200 plus years ago.

Captain Hardy, in full dress uniform, was introduced to his audience by a beautifully attired Mrs Hardy and we were awed by the harsh life of naval seamen revealed by him. It was clear that there were no creature comforts, the food was at best just edible, that drinking water could be distinctly off and punishment for even minor offences brutal.

The hierarchy of a naval ship was rigid and reflected wider society. Captain Hardy admitted to a privileged entry through patronage and his



Captain Harry Hardy

officers were mostly from the more privileged sections of society. As for the more lowly seamen, these were either “pressed” men or volunteers who joined for the relatively good pay and job security, in spite of the hardships.

The good Captain outlined the daily routing of the ship which started at 4am and he illustrated the privations experienced by the crew. Boredom, awful food, hunger, punishment by Cat-O-Nine-Tails and constipation were constant companions. The latter led for an explanation of means of dealing with bodily function and of the origin of the term “The Heads”!

Larger ships had a surgeon on board but being 220 years ago, his treatments were very limited and mainly involved bleeding, purges and enemas. Amputations were commonplace but rum was the only aesthetic available.

In a talk that enthralled his audience for an hour, Captain Hardy revealed many surprising facts: that there were a few women in the crew, that many more seamen died through illness than in battle, that “Victory” took eight years to build and on launching, was already pretty rotten.

Captain Hardy finished his career as First Sea Lord and continued to miss his mentor Nelson. In closing, he freely admitted that Nelson did ask him to kiss him – and he did, twice.

Chairman Caroline Ness thanked the good Captain for his expose of life in the navy to the enthusiastic applause of the audience.

Hungerford Historical Association was pleased to welcome expert speaker in his field, Dr David Drake, on 23 November when he described life in occupied Paris during the war. Dr Drake has published four books and penned numerous articles on France and French life and he shared his knowledge of Parisian life between 1940 and 1945 with his audience of over 100 members and visitors.

The build-up to the Armistice in June 1940 between France and Germany and the division of France between occupied and “Vichy” France under Petain was outlined. The ‘Germanification’ of Paris was then illustrated by photographs of road signs, parading troops and Nazi banners on buildings. Sobering details followed of the escape of 3 million Parisiens from the city out of a population of 5 million. Unsurprisingly, over the subsequent months and years, survival was the key and Dr Drake described the privations of rationing, curfews, brutality and loss of freedoms under the Nazi occupation.

In time, relationships deteriorated significantly, particularly as a result of sporadic retaliation and the treatment of the Jewish population. The former led to brutal reprisals and the latter, as in other parts of Europe, led to the transportation of Jews from Paris to camps and, for many, to the horror of Auschwitz.

The Nazi regime’s invasion of Russia in 1941 had weakened the German strength in France by 1943, which in turn resulted in more resistance and more reprisals. The Allies advances in North Africa heralded a further turning point and any sense of French authority in southern France evaporated. Labour shortages in German factories led to a quarter of a million Frenchmen being sent to work there. Resistance to the regime was consolidated in 1943 under De Gaulle, then in London, and this movement supported sabotage and helped the return to Britain of airmen who had been shot-down.

The “D” Day landings spelt the beginning of the end to occupied France and Dr Drake described the positive actions of Parisians to rid their city of German control. Poignant images illustrated the many Parisian buildings that, to this day, show the marks of the battles that took place.

One mark of a good speaker is the keenness of his audience to ask

questions. Eventually, Chairman Caroline Ness had to call a halt and thanked Dr Drake for what had been a sobering and absorbing talk.

The association takes a short break over Christmas: the next talk is on Wednesday 25 January 2023 by Dr Ann Benson on “Bramshill, Hampshire – the mystery of its historical gardens and botanical paintings”, when visitors are most welcome.

David Whiteley, Treasurer HHA

Oxfordshire Family History Society

'There has never been a better time for researching your family history, so much can be done by ‘Googling’ and searching on line. However there can be an overwhelming amount of information with many websites offering hints and tips - but can you be sure that you are looking at the correct people from the past?

At Oxfordshire Family History Society (OFHS) we have advisors and helpers who have on average 25 years’ experience at deciphering and analysing the wealth of information that is available. They are great problem solvers and where you can not find an ancestor they quite often will! Over the years they have developed techniques and a thorough understanding of information as it is presented to winkle out that elusive family member.

This service is FREE to all - you do not have to be a member of the Society although we would love it if you do join! You do not need to have Oxfordshire family roots either; our advisors can search records from around the UK and in some cases worldwide.

So whether you are a seasoned family historian with a brick wall or two or totally new to this fascinating hobby, OFHS advisors will be delighted to see you.

You can find our advisors at various libraries around the County and also in the Oxfordshire History Centre (OHC). At the OHC specialist staff can also help you search other archive material to flesh out the lives of your Oxfordshire ancestors.

To check where we will be see our website page - <https://www.ofhs.uk/news/helpdesks/advisors-helpdesks>

Angie Trueman

Project Purley

September's meeting was a fish and chips supper followed by a talk on Royal Weddings by Catherine Sampson. We scheduled the talk as a follow on from the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of June, but the very sad news of HM The Queen's death a few weeks earlier made the evening even more poignant. In October, Katie Amos, Lead Local Studies Librarian at Reading Central Library, talked about the history of Yeomanry House. Many of us were familiar with Yeomanry House due to its role as a Register Office, but one of the early occupiers was a member of the Sherwood family of Purley, giving us another special connection to this fine building.

In November, we were delighted to welcome Jo Alexander Jones as our speaker. Jo talked about Reading's other industries beyond the well-documented beer, biscuits and bulbs. Focusing on one or two examples of a selection of other industries, Jo gave a fascinating and superbly illustrated talk which was much appreciated by the audience.

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company returned to Purley again on Friday 2nd December, hosted by Project Purley, with a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Musical Hall Mystery". The evening was a great success and donations and profits from the performance have been donated to Dogs for Good, a charity which trains and provides support dogs for those in need. Project Purley also made a further donation of £400 to Readifood in the lead up to Christmas. This money was the proceeds of a raffle held at our June Vintage Fashion Show and afternoon tea, together with an extra donation from the afternoon's profits.

The society's Christmas gathering was once again a Curry and Quiz night, following the success of last year's event. Forty-nine members and guests attended, and all seemed to enjoy it.

Our thrice-yearly journal continues to receive very good feedback and also continues to include new research and discoveries. We have welcomed some new contributors of late.

Our talks programme continues in January and the committee are due to meet in the New Year to discuss how we wish to commemorate the King's Coronation.

Catherine Sampson

Friends of Reading Abbey

Our AGM and Autumn Lecture on Saturday 29 October was attended by 54 members and a further 25 members of the public: 79 in total. This is back to pre-COVID levels of attendance. We heard an excellent talk by Chris Darbyshire on the Trail and Execution of Abbot Hugh Cook Faringdon, in 1539. The speaker is the author of the book *Hugh Cook Faringdon, Last Abbot of Reading*, published by the local Scallop Shell Press in 2018.

The AGM re-elected the committee to serve for 2022-23. It also unanimously elected local historian and author John Mullaney to fill the vacant position of Vice-President.

Our Chairman, Dr Peter Durrant MBE, has published an article on the Berkshire Assize Courts in the latest issue (no. 39) of *Berkshire Old and New*, the journal of the Berkshire Local History Association. The Assize Courts, now Reading Crown Court, opened in 1861 in The Forbury, immediately to the west of the Abbey Gateway. The Association has a limited number of spare copies of the journal which it is happy to post to FORA members at no charge, by request to Ann Smith at membership@bl-ha.org.uk.

John Painter

The History of Reading Society

After the summer break, the monthly talks in the Abbey Baptist Church recommenced in September with a talk by John Dearing on the local architect, Spencer Slingsby Stallwood (1844-1922). Born in Marlow, he worked in Salisbury, Scarborough and Folkestone before arriving in Reading in 1875. He entered into partnership with Joseph Morris, but set up on his own in 1886. His favoured architectural style was “Queen Anne,” and John showed many slides showing examples. In the town he was responsible for several large and impressive board schools, for the British Dairy Institute in Valpy Street (which was later the police station and is now demolished), and for Queen Victoria Street – lots of red terra cotta, with one side the same as the other.

Then in October, Evelyn Williams and Richard Stainthorp told the story of one of Reading’s long-lost industries – the manufacture of linen sailcloth. The factory of Musgrave Lamb, in the Katesgrove area of town, flourished in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, producing

sail-cloth for the East India Company and the Royal Navy. This led to the old adage that the Battle of Trafalgar was won in Katesgrove Lane!

November brought a talk by Anne Green Jessel on Southcote Road in Reading. This is a fairly short tree-lined street between Bath Road and Tilehurst Road and is today mostly lined by low-rise apartment blocks. In the past, however, it was a street of large houses in their own grounds, and Anne outlined the history of each house, telling us which Reading characters, famous in their day, had lived there, and showing slides as we went along one side of the street, and then the other. One of the remaining old houses was “Westfield,” once the home of Dr. J. B. Hurry, who wrote a history of Reading Abbey. The house was, until 1998, a Carmelite monastery, and is now divided into luxury apartments.

This was the last of the “in person” talks for 2022 – the December, January and February meetings are via Zoom, and can be accessed by members only. The topics are “Earley in the Nineteenth Century,” “Southcote Mill,” and “Extraordinary Women of the MERL [Museum of English Rural Life] and University of Reading Special Collections.”

Thatcham Historical Society

The Historical Society has managed to hold the majority of its 2022 meetings in person, moving the AGM last year to March, by which time the Covid cases had dropped. Meetings have been popular and well attended. Of particular note were the talk by Dr David Peacock, the local historian for Newbury, about the Legend of Jack of Newbury, the famous clothmaker; the History of Thatcham Town Centre, by Thatcham’s historian, Dr Nick Young; Dr Victorian reeve talking on Archaeology and Heritage at Thames Water, and the History of RAF Welford, by a local volunteer, Alan Bovingdon-Cox. In celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, a four day exhibition was held at the Old Bluecoat School in Thatcham, attracting over 500 visitors.

In 2023 we intend to hold a smaller exhibition on 7th-8th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III – this will also be at the Old Bluecoat School and will be promoted on the Society’s website <https://www.thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

Our first meeting next year will be the AGM on 30th January, followed

by a talk on the Silchester excavations by Dr Mike Fulford on 27th February, and a talk on Operation Mincemeat by Sue Ellis on 27th March. The Society will return to meetings held from 7.30-8.30pm (doors open at 7pm) at the Sixth Form Block, Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham .

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society

After the Summer break our first speaker was Sheila Vyner who gave an interesting account of her research into the many paper mills that had existed in and around the Thames Valley. It was particularly relevant to one member who had business experience with one of the mills no longer in existence. In October Joy Pibworth gave an insight into Jane Austen's connection with the Thames Valley. Her many relatives were connected with local places as well as Reading town. The Gentlemen Danes was a fascinating talk by John Nixon in November, a subject quite new to all of our members .who were surprised to learn of Reading as a parole town in the mid 19th century when some 600 Danish prisoners of war were housed and given free access to get to know the town and its population .There is a plaque on the Minster wall commemorating the event and some artefacts in Reading museum.

A Bring and Share supper has been arranged for our December meeting with some live entertainment to complete the year.

We are looking forward to a successful 2023 with another varied programme and wish all societies A Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Jean Poulter

Wargrave Local History Society

In September, Dan Remenyi gave a presentation about Henley Management College, which is based in Greenlands, a beautiful Thames-side house. There had been a house there since possibly Tudor times, and occupied by a Royalist family in Civil War times,.but the Parliamentarians demolished the house. Greenlands was later built on the site, and bought by the Smith family (of W H Smith's), later generations being known as Viscount Hambleden. When World War 2 began Greenlands was made available to the government, but at the end of the war the family decided not to re-occupy the house. The newly formed Administrative Staff College needed a home and courses, based on the ideas of the Army Staff College, began there in March 1948. Dan outlined the College's successes and problems,

particularly financial, its renaming as Henley Management College into a good business, and its eventual merger with Reading University.

Dr David Lewis enlightened us about the Medieval Hospital of St Peter and the hermitage of St Leonard, both at Windsor, in October. The hermitage was important enough to be mentioned in Caxton's first book printed in 1485. David explained some of the problems in researching that era, the few surviving documents being written in shorthand medieval Latin, with different letterforms to those we now use. The term hospital did not have its current meaning, but cared for the old, infirm or sick on quasi-monastic lines. The residents (typically 12) were people without family support, but not necessarily poor. It continued in use until the 15th century, when Henry VI granted the lands to Eton College. In 1538 the site became Spittal Chapel Farm, with some used for housing in the late 19th century. Sadly, when 21st century redevelopment took place, the opportunity for a proper archaeological survey of the site was lost as the developer wanted to get on with their building project.

The Thames from Oxford to Windsor: - shaping history through the centuries - was the subject of chairman Peter Halman's presentation in November. It is small compared to other rivers in the world, but as MP John Burns said "the Thames is liquid history". The Romans named it the Thames, and it has influenced people's lives for generations, with Dorchester Abbey being a centre for Christianity since the 7th century, and the river forming a political and social boundary since the 9th, when Alfred the Great was King, but aerial photographs show there had been Bronze Age and Iron Age round houses long before that. Being a good boundary, the Thames is difficult to cross. The Romans had built many bridges, although early medieval timber bridges could be rickety and swept away. Many of the early sites were re-used. Peter described many of those bridges, and explored the use of the river for food supply, employment, transport and leisure purposes. The Thames also has its place in literature – such as *The Wind in the Willows* – for as Ratty said to Mole, "there is nothing absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats".

In December, the society held its traditional Christmas Party, with festive refreshments provided by member Wendy Smith,. During the evening, the society's secretary, Peter Delaney, gave a short presentation featuring a

selection of items recently added to the society archive.

Longer reports on our meetings, and details of the Society can be found at www.wargravehistory.org.uk/

Opportunities

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

Newbury Museum

8th February 1pm to 2pm free - talk **From Dragons to Dinosaurs** with Sue Ellis - book place on 01635 279279

Abbey Gateway Reading

15th February - **Victorian Schoolroom Experience**

Reading Museum

Every Saturday 2pm to 3pm **Bayeux Tapestry Tour** - free

Museum of English Rural Life

Why not come to one of our **informal drop in sessions** on 17th Jan, 21st Feb, 21st March and 18th April. from 2pm to 4pm. - A chance to chat and explore the museum and we would particularly like to hear your memories of times past. No need to book unless more than four of you

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Full details and book at <https://berksfhs.org>. Berkshire Family History Society is a registered charity number 283010.

Thursday, 12th January – 2-3.30pm Talk: **Britain's Railways in WW1** with Richard Marks. At the Centre, £5

Saturday, 21st January – 11am-1pm Workshop: **WW1 RFC Records for Family Historians**, Zoom, £10

Thursday, 26th January – 2–3.15pm Talk: **Five Generations at the Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey** with Ian Wheeler, Zoom, £5

Friday, 27th January - 2-3.30 pm Tour: **St Mary's Church (Minister)**, Reading, £5

Saturday, 28th January – 2.30-4.30pm **DNA Special Interest Group** facilitated by Debbie Kennett, Zoom, £5

Thursday 9th February – 2-3.30 Talk: **The Hidden History of Reading's War Graves and Memorials**: with Liz Tait, At the Centre £5

Saturday 11th February – 11am-1pm Workshop: **WW1 Navy Records for Family Historians** with Richard Marks, Zoom, £10

Thursday 23rd February – 2-3.15pm Talk: **Titanic Effort! RMS Carpathia's dash to save a stricken liner** with Paul Barnett, Zoom, £10

Tuesday, 28th February – 2.30-3.30pm Tour: **Holy Trinity Church**, Reading with Ron Cutting, £5

Monday, 6th March (1st of 6 sessions) –7-9.30pm **Beginners' Family History Course** with Chad Hanna & Gillian Stevens, Zoom, £35

Thursday, 9th March – 2-3.30pm Talk: **Tracks to the Trenches with Mike Hurst**, At the Centre £5

Saturday 11th March – 11am-1pm Workshop: **Making the most of autosomal DNA** with Debbie Kennett, At the Centre £10

Thursday, 23rd March – 2-3.15pm Talk: **The Thames Before Time** with Rob Wallace, Zoom, £5

Friday, 24th March – 10am-12.30pm **Huntley and Palmers Walkabout** with Terry Dixon, £5

Wednesday, 29th March – 7-9pm Workshop: **Parish Registers** with Catherine Sampson, Zoom, £10

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@mhcl.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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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

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

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on 1st May 2023.

We look forward to your contributions.

Deadline for submission of copy 15th April

HAPPY NEW YEAR