



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2014

SOCIETY MATTERS The sad news came just too late for inclusion in the summer newsletter that Eric Holland one of our life members had passed away after a short illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to Olive and their son and daughter. Eric had been a loyal and long-standing member of the Society. When the Archaeological Society was formed in the 1970s he was one of the first to join. He has left behind a rich legacy of photographs and research documents.

MEETINGS We started in September with a well-researched and detailed talk on the Tring Silk Mill by Society member Wendy Austin, who has written many books on Tring. In the October meeting two members of the St Albans and Hertfordshire Archaeological and Architectural Society spoke on research they were doing on conscientious objectors and tribunals held during WWI, of particular interest for those who are researching WWI. In November Norman Groves and Brian Shepherd spoke and sung to a packed Hall on the training of the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps 1914-19 during their time in Berkhamsted. We look forward for our December meeting to hearing Dr Catherine Grigg, Curator of the Wycombe Museum, speak on 'A Victorian Christmas'. We shall end the evening appropriately with festive drinks and mince pies.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 11TH-14TH SEPTEMBER These were very well attended, all the sites receiving more visitors than last year. The new addition to Berkhamsted's programme of HODs, the Rectory Lane Cemetery, had a very large number of visitors, was the launch of the project so had many activities. This did not however deter visitors from going elsewhere.

Berkhamsted Place and the Foundling Hospital were particularly well-supported. My grateful thanks to all members and other volunteers who helped to make the HODs a success.

REPRINTING OF *DEVIL'S OWN TIME* The unique copy of this book with pencilled notes by the original owner is in the

Society's collection, in a very delicate state. We have had it digitised and reprinted with a short introduction and comments. Sales are going well and we are hoping to recover in time the cost of the work. Price £10.

BERKHAMSTED AND WORLD WAR I Work on this book is progressing with research in a number of aspects. We have still a number of names on the War memorial and their families, with which we would like some help. Please contact Linda Rollitt, Janice Boakes or me if you are interested.

THE CASTLE In spite of the Castle being closed for several weeks in the spring and consequently three school visits being cancelled over 4,000 visited the Castle Visitor Room during the course of the year. This included 15 groups, 10 of them schoolchildren, a group of Cubs from Sarratt and 4 adult groups. A successful performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance' took place. Many thanks to the large number of members of the Society assisted by members of BDAS, NADFAS, Rotary and the Lions who assist with stewarding and guiding tours, an especial thanks to Brian Norris who draws up the Castle rota.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK We have had a number of very favourable comments about our website and the Facebook page. www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk but are always open to suggestions. Many thanks to Linda Rollitt for masterminding this. It brings us enquiries from all over the world.

CHRONICLE XII We are gathering copy for the next edition of *The Chronicle*. If you would like to share your research with us we should be glad to receive it.

DHT MATTERS The 'Saving the 70s' exhibition in an empty shop in the Marlowes was a great success. It is expected that the result of the HLF bid for the first stage will soon be known. In that connection it is important that the Friends of Dacorum Museum is revitalised to show solidarity for the project of a Museum at the Bury. See FODM or DHT website.

SUBSCRIPTIONS These are due on 1st January 2015

A Happy Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year to you All! See you on 14th January 2015 Jenny Sherwood