



# NEWSLETTER

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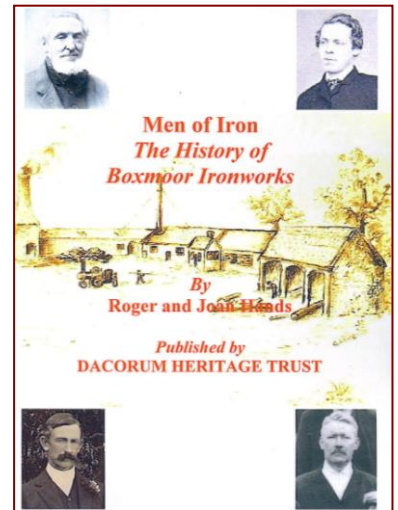
## MEN OF IRON

Joan and Roger Hands have done it again; they have produced another volume to add to their formidable pile of local histories. This latest one, again published by DHT and only just out, is called *Men of Iron – The History of the Boxmoor Ironworks*; it is a companion volume to *Paper Pioneers*, which was published in 2008 and is still selling well.

*Men of Iron* is a thing of beauty, I counted 118 superbly reproduced illustrations (many in full colour) in its 128 pages, but it is much more than a picture book; it is a painstakingly researched work of reference and what is more, it is very readable.

When the bulldozers moved in on old Hemel in the Fifties, they obliterated everything, shops, pubs, offices, houses and industries in a broad swath one hundred yards wide either side of the southern half of the Marlowes, maybe half a mile of it. Buildings of some beauty and character were replaced by glass and concrete boxes. This book recaptures a little corner of what it once was. All gone now alas, and that was sixty years ago so there are not that many of us left who remember what it was once like. Another world, a lifetime away.

Davis and Bailey had an extensive yard and ironworks, with farm machinery of all sorts displayed in a yard of nearly half an acre that faced onto the Marlowes. It was roughly where Bank Court stands today. This is the story, not only of the buildings and products of that ironworks, but of the people whose brainchild it was and those who worked for them, many of them prominent local citizens in their day.



I strongly commend *Men of Iron*, both as a good read and as a work of reference and maybe for those of us who remember old Hemel, as a little indulgence in nostalgia. My only criticism, and it is a small one, is that it is an anonymous item on my bookshelf because there is no lettering on the spine.

I happen to know that Isabel and Denis Miles put a great deal of work into the production aspect of this book and they too can be proud of what has been achieved.

*Eric Edwards*

*Photo: Workers in the yard at Boxmoor Ironworks, Lower Marlowes.*

Our new publication is available from our website online bookshop via Paypal price £10 (plus P&P); also from The Museum Store, David Doyle's Estate Agents in St John's Road, Boxmoor, Woods Garden Centre, Berkhamsted and the authors.

### The Dacorum Heritage Trust Limited.

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## SAUNDERS ALMSHOUSES



This Grade II listed building situated opposite the Three Blackbirds public house in Flamstead, was sometimes known as the Rest Houses.

A long single storey block of four almshouses erected by Thomas Saunders in 1669 to house 'two poor pious widows and two poor pious widowers'.

It is built in narrow red brick in Flemish bond with a steep tiled roof which has two equally spaced internal chimneys in the ridge, each with two conjoined lozenge shaped diagonal shafts with corbelled caps. The gable end has moulded brick parapets with square piers topped by ball finials at each apex and above each corbelled brick kneeler. At the front are four round arch chamfered brick recessed doorways and four mullioned windows

with chamfered brick jams.

These four little cottages bear a remarkable resemblance to the six Pemberton Almshouses at St. Albans, which are on the

main road facing St. Peter's church. However, there is a surprising date discrepancy: Roger Pemberton, in whose name the St. Albans Almshouses were erected died on 13 November 1627. So we have a mystery: why are the two blocks so strikingly similar when dates of construction would, on the face of it, appear to be forty years apart?

These were not the only Almshouses in the village; another row stood in Singlets Lane, built in the Victorian era, but demolished post war to make way for modern development.

Article based on and extracted from Eric Edwards book 'Flamstead – the listed buildings and the people who lived in them'.

The top photograph shows a sketch 'The Saunders Almshouses' by J. Buckler dated 1832, from Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society collection. The lower photograph shows the Almshouses as they are today.



## PRIMARY SCHOOLS LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT 2010

Dacorum Heritage Trust set up a local history competition with Boxmoor Primary School earlier this year. It was run on similar lines to those already existing in Berkhamsted and Chipperfield. The chosen subject was the history of the Grand Union (once called the Grand Junction Canal). Roger and Joan Hands visited the school to talk to Year 5 and give them a booklet full of information. The following week they took them on a canal walk. The children then presented an original folder of their work, if they so desired, prepared in the school holidays.

The folders were judged by DHT's Curators, the prize money, DHT's new book 'A Walk Along the Canal Towpath from Kings Langley to Winkwell' by Mary Nobbs, edited by Denis Miles, and a special certificate were presented to all the participants at the end of term Leavers' Assembly. We wish to thank the Boxmoor councillors of Dacorum Borough Council for providing the funds for two years for this enterprise. We hope that next year the theme will be Victorian Schools, focusing on the former St. John's School which was once in St. John's Road, Boxmoor. If anyone has any information on this topic, please contact Joan Hands via DHT.



Joan & Roger Hands

Photo: Year 5 pupils try to open the lock gates at Fishery Lock, helped by Roger Hands.

## CURATOR'S CORNER



Our Assistant Curator, Nina Bevan is pleased to announce her engagement to Matthew Glencross. Nina and Matthew are planning to marry next autumn. *Photo - Nina and Matthew somewhere exotic.*

'Beside the Seaside' during the June half term families visiting Hemel Hempstead Library were transported back in time to discover what seaside holidays were like in the past.

Together library staff and the curators ran a craft based activities inspired by objects from the collections. Children

made thaumotropes using seaside themed images. Handling objects and costumes together with photographs from the collections showed what people wore and how they travelled to the seaside.

Adults were asked to write memories of seaside holidays to encourage discussions about similarities of family holidays today and in the past.

*Photo: Shows Isobel Aptaker (DHT Curator) teaching a small gentleman sporting a boater from the handling and dressing up items that were available on the day.*



DHT Christmas cards will be on sale at The Court House in Berkhamsted on the following days Saturdays 30<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November and 27<sup>th</sup> November. This event is organised by Berkhamsted Combined Charities. See local press nearer the time.

Heritage Open Days in Dacorum. See [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) for more details.

On **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September** Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society are organising the following:

**Ashlyns School, (former Foundling Hospital).** Open 13.00-17.30. Tours at 13.30 & 15.30 by former foundlings. Booking essential.

**Berkhamsted Baptist Church.** Open 14.00-16.30. Tours on request. The church was built in 1864.



**Berkhamsted Castle.** Tours at 10.30, 12.30 & 14.30. The best remaining example of a motte and bailey castle in the country.

**Berkhamsted Town Hall.** Open 11.00-13.00. Tour at 11.30. Exhibition of old photographs. Built in 1859 to replace the market house destroyed by fire in 1854, with the addition of a community hall and Mechanics' Institute rooms.

**Claire Lloyd Properties, (formerly Figgs Chemist shop) 173 High Street.** Open 10.30-16.00. Frequent tours. The oldest urban timber framed building in the country, discovered 2003.

**St. John's Broadway, Bourne End.** Open 14.30-16.00. Tours on request. Designed by Gilbert Scott, built in 1855 as a chapel of Ease for the parishioners of the eastern end of the parish of Northchurch.

**St. Michael & All Angels Church, Sunnyside.** Open 14.00-16.00. Tours as required. The present church celebrated the centenary of its consecration last year, but the church's history goes back to the 1880s.

**St. Peter's Church and the Court House.** Tour at 15.00. Church was consecrated in 1222, with Tudor Court House.

**St. Mary's Church, Northchurch.** Open 14.00-16.30. Tours at 14.30 & 15.30. Originally the parish of Berkhamsted.

**Berkhamsted School, Old Hall & Chapel,** (Collegiate School Castle Street). Tours at 10.00 & 14.00. Dean Incent founded the school in 1541. The Old Hall, was the original schoolhouse built in 1544. The Chapel, designed by local architect, C.H. Rew, based on the design of the church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice.

To book tours or more information contact **Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158, or email [Ksherw9100@aol.com](mailto:Ksherw9100@aol.com)**

**The Museum Store.** Tours at 10.00 & 12.00. Booking essential, numbers are limited. Contact the **Curators 01442 879525.**

**Ashridge Estate,** Open 12.00-16.30.

**Museum of Technology,** High Street, Hemel Hempstead. Open both Saturday & Sunday 10.00-16.00.



You can see our newly released films of artefacts from the collections on **Youtube**. Our multi-talented volunteer Adam Quinn has filmed, edited and composed the original sound track. The voice-overs are by two other volunteers Connie Clarke and Richard Cook. You can see the films of the shoe and WWII baby's gas mask, together with films of a kettle, doll, camera and water jug by following the links from our website or [www.youtube.com/user/DacHeritage](http://www.youtube.com/user/DacHeritage).

# HERITAGE DIARY 2010 - 2011

## 2010

- 8 Sep **W** 'Cheddington Airfield during & after WWII' by Mr Pat Carty author of Secret Squadrons of the Eighth.
- 15 Sep **BH** 'The History of the Luton Hoo Walled Garden from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Century' by Oonagh Kennedy.
- 15 Sep **T** 'The Battle of Britain, 1940' by Chris Gravett.
- 16 Sep **B** 'Grand Union Canal in Herts history, wildlife & architecture' by Runnalls Davis.
- 22 Sep **H** 'More than a Century & a half of Learning' by Barbara Chapman.
- 23 Sep **BA** 'Nectar of the Gods: Wine & Trade in the Ancient Greek World' by Peter Clayton.
- 6 Oct **W** 'Northchurch, was it ever part of Berkhamsted?' Ned Hunt.
- 13 Oct **BH** 'Bygone Berkhamsted' by Jenny Sherwood BAT Festival Event. £1 all admissions.
- 14 Oct **B** 'The Rothschild's & Waddesden Manor' by Bob Keating.
- 27 Oct **BH** 'A Local Parish Scandal' Michael Soole, David Pearce.
- 27 Oct **H** 'Forty Years at Kodak' by Tony Earle.
- 28 Oct **BA** 'Turnshall Farm: Roman landscape in the Lea Valley' by Simon West, Verulamium Museum.
- 3 Nov - **W** 'Wendover Arm Canal' by Roger Leishman.
- 17 Nov **BH** 'Riotous, routous and unlawful behaviour, enclosure riots in 17<sup>th</sup> C. Berkhamsted' by Dr. Heather Falvey (Sec. Herts Record Society).
- 17 Nov **T** 'Leighton Buzzard Railway' by Tony Tomkins.
- 18 Nov **B** '1918-1948 & a Secret Society!' by Michael Stanyon.
- 24 Nov **H** 'Hell upon water – The Infamous Prison Ships of England 1793 – 1815' by Paul Chamberlain.
- 25 Nov **BA** 'The Glass Workers of Roman Briton' by Dr. Angela Wardle, Museum of London Archaeology.
- 1 Dec **W** Social & 'A Christmas Monologue' by Peggy Batchelor
- 8 Dec **BH** In-house event with film, quiz and items from our collection by Society members.
- 9 Dec **B** 'Thomas Coram' by Lydia Carmichael.
- 16 Dec **BA** 'The Swimming Reindeer: A Prehistoric Masterpiece' by Gill Cook, British Museum.

## 2011

- 5 Jan **W** Selection of local films accompanied by Cheese & Wine.
- 19 Jan **BH** 'Partnership in the Past: The History of John Lewis & Waitrose' by Judy Faraday (John Lewis Partnership Archivist).
- 19 Jan **T** 'The Gade & Bulbourne Valleys' by Mike Stanyon.
- 20 Jan **B** Annual dinner 7.30 pm. for 8.00 pm. Bovingdon Memorial Hall. Tickets required.
- 27 Jan **BA** 'Noviodunum: The final instalment' by Chris Lockyear, Institute of Archaeology UCL.
- 16 Feb **BH** 'Small Man Beorcham' by Bob Clark (Owner of Birtchnell's).
- 2 Feb **W** 'The Chesham Riots' by Colin Oakes.
- 24 Feb **BA** 'Briton, Cosmetics & Identity, 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC – 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD' by Dr. Ralph Jackson, British Museum.
- 2 Mar **W** 'Rebuilding the Village Hall' with Archive videos by Ray Desborough Wigginton Parish Council.
- 16 Mar **BH** 'The Tring Hundred, its Boundaries & Berkhamsted' by Ned Hunt (Herts CC Principal Land Agent Rural Estates and society member).
- 16 Mar **T** 'Victorian Herbal Medicine' by David Hammond.
- 17 Mar **B** Society AGM.
- 24 Mar **BA** 'Pre-Roman Dacorum – Forensic Archaeology' Geoffrey Crockford, Forensic Archaeologist.
- 6 Apr **W** 'H G Matthews, Bellingdon Traditional Brick makers for 3 generations' by Jim Matthews.
- 28 Apr **BA** Society AGM and 'Anglo-Saxon London: Recent work and finds'.
- 4 May **W** AGM & local quiz (prizes) and report on the Wigginton Archive 2010.
- 1 Jun **W** Hardings Wood Walk in company with one of the Trustees of Hardings Wood.

## CONTACT & MEETING DETAILS

**B - Bovingdon History Society. 8.00 pm. Bovingdon Library. Sylvia McClland 01442 833136**  
**BA – Berkhamsted & Dist. Archaeological Society. 7.45 pm. Newcroft Wing, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Mill St. Mrs H Grevatt 01442 254801.**  
**BH – Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society. 8.00 pm. Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158**  
**H – Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society. 8.00 pm. Carey Baptist Hall, Marlowes. Roy Wood 01442 398285**  
**T – Tring & Dist. Local History & Museum Society. 8.00 pm. Anglican Methodist Church Hall. Marianne Vinson 01525 384899**  
**W – Wigginton History Society. 8.00 pm. St. Bartholomew's Church. Richard Tregoning 01442 822702**



Visit the Local History website to read the latest articles.

*The Dacorum History Digest*

[www.dacorumhistory.bravehost.com](http://www.dacorumhistory.bravehost.com)



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