



NEWSLETTER

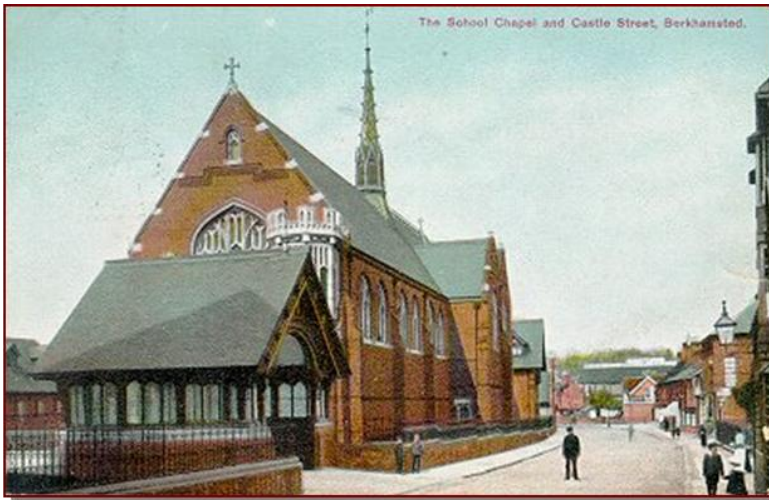
No. 80

AUTUMN 2015

www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

As part of this national event, you can explore places that are not usually open to the public - completely free. You are invited to take this opportunity to delve into the hidden histories of some of our local heritage sites, with guided tours and small exhibitions.



The events listed below have been organised by Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, with the exception of Piccotts End Cottage (book via DHT); where booking is required, please contact Jenny Sherwood directly on 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com unless otherwise stated.

Berkhamsted School Old Hall & Chapel. Castle Street, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2BB. **Open Sun 13th. Tours 10:30 & 14:30 (book via Jenny).**

The Old Hall was built in 1544 and is the original school house of Berkhamsted School (founded 1541 by Dean Incent), and at the time was the largest school hall in England. Graham Greene's father is among the portraits of former headmasters. The late 19th century chapel is modelled on the chapel of Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice. Tours taken by Old Boys of School

House. Small exhibition. Not suitable for under 7s. Access: entrance steps to The Old Hall.

St. Peter's Church & The Court House. High Street, Berkhamsted. **Tour Sun 13th at 15:00 (no booking required).**

St. Peter's Church was consecrated in 1222, at the time probably the second largest church in the county, reflecting the importance of the wool trade. Many interesting tombs of the families who influenced the town. The Court House is Tudor and was where courts of common pleas were heard and weights and measures checked. It housed the National School in the 19th century and is now used as a church hall. Church has two windows dedicated to the poet William Cowper, whose father was Rector here. Not suitable for under 7s.

Ashlyns School (Foundling Hospital). Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3AH. **Open Sun 13th, 13:00 - 17:30. Tours by former foundlings at 13:30 & 15:30 (book via Jenny).**

Ashlyns School was the former Foundling Hospital opened in 1935. It contains stained glass windows, a staircase and many monuments from the original 18th century London Foundling Hospital. A DVD and small exhibition is included. Not suitable for under 7s. Access: Crypt - no wheelchair access; stout shoes and torch recommended.

The Museum Store. Clarence Road, Berkhamsted HP4 3YL. **Tours: Fri 11th at 14:30 & 16:30 & Sat 12th at 10:30 (Limited places - booking essential via DHT)**

The Museum Store is the converted old Fire Station. It houses collections from all parts of Dacorum and is open by appointment only. Come and see why Dacorum desperately needs a museum to display the many stories and the 124,000 artefacts. Tours take approx 1.5 hours. Not suitable for under 8s. Access: unsuitable for those with mobility problems - steep stairs to upper floor.



THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LTD.

Registered Office: **The Museum Store, Clarence Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3YL.**

Tel. No. **01442 879525** (answer phone). Or email collectionsmanager@dacorumheritage.org.uk

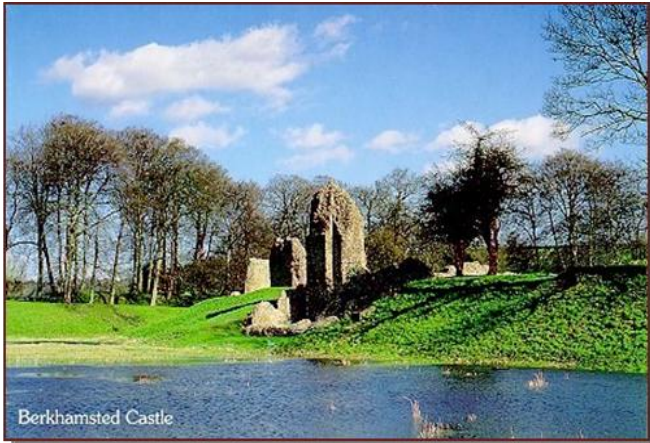
Company Registered in England No. 2851313. Registered Charity No. 1026161. Accredited Museum No. 1594.

Walk Into The Past – Berkhamsted Place Successor To The Castle. The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1HQ. **Tours, incl. the Great Barn. Fri 11th 10:00 & Sat 12th 14:00 (Book via Jenny).**

Berkhamsted Place was built by Sir Edward Carey in the reign of Elizabeth I; using materials from the Castle. From the 18th century, it was frequently referred to as 'the Castle'. Demolished in 1967, little remains of the mansion; the area is rich in history. Small exhibition. Access: steps and uneven ground - stout shoes recommended.

Devil's Own World War I Trenches. 1B Berkhamsted Golf Club, The Common, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2QB. **Open Sat 12th 11:00 - 16:00. Tours at 11:30, 12:30, 13:30 & 14:30 incl. the memorial, trenches and possibly rifle butts (Book via Jenny).**

Small exhibition of old photos of the Inns of Court (the Devil's Own), billeted in Berkhamsted during WWI. The Officers Training Corp trained in and around Berkhamsted, digging a large number of training trenches in warfare preparation for the Western Front.



A Heritage Lottery Funded project uncovered and preserved a small area as a permanent memorial to the many who later lost their lives. Not suitable for under 7s. Access: uneven ground – stout shoes recommended

Berkhamsted Castle. Open Sun 13th. Guided tours at 10:30, 12:30 & 15:00 (no booking required).

Considered to be the finest remaining Norman motte and bailey castle in the country. Originally a timber built structure by William the Conqueror's half-brother. Display of the castle history and its royal connections in the Visitor Room. Not suitable for under 6s. Toilets: at the railway station, platform 4. Dogs to be kept on leads. Parking near castle entrance.

Berkhamsted Town Hall. 196 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 3BA. **Open Sun 13th 10:30-12:30. Tour 11:00 (Book via Jenny).**

Victorian Gothic market house and town hall designed by Edward Buckton Lamb and built in 1859 (replacing the Elizabethan market

hall, which burnt down in 1854), extended in 1890 and restored 1983-1999. Exhibition on the building's history including many old photographs. Not suitable for under 7s. Access: some pictures are not accessible to wheelchair users, chair lift to Clock Room by request.

Rectory Lane Cemetery. Rectory Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 2DH. **Open Sun 13th, 13:30 - 18:00. Tours: 14:00, 15:00 & 16:00 (Book via Jenny).**

Small exhibition on the cemetery's history and the links with St. Peter's Church, Victorian attitudes to funerals, deaths and mourning, WWI memorials and genealogy enquiries. Guided tours with themed trails. Come and see this little known and neglected peaceful open place. Special activities for children, not suitable for under 6s. Access: cemetery is on a steep slope. Parking - High Street & Three Close Lane, special arrangements may be possible please enquire.

Piccotts End Medieval Wall Paintings. 132 Piccotts End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3AU. **Open daily Fri 11th - Sun 13th, 10.00 - 15.00 hourly tours (Limited places - booking essential via DHT).**

Very rare and fine examples of medieval wall paintings housed in a timber framed cottage. Believed to date back to the late 15th century, images include Christ in Majesty, The Pieta, the Baptism of Christ by John the Baptist, St. Peter, St. Clement, St. Margaret and St. Catherine. Access: not suitable for wheelchairs no toilet.

For more information visit the HOD site: <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

Photos: Front Page: School Chapel c.1908*; boys in foreground of Foundling Hospital*. Above: Berkhamsted Place c.1830s artist Buckler*; post card of Berkhamsted Castle; post card showing Piccotts End Wall Paintings, depicting the Baptism of Christ. Starred images from Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society collection cared for by DHT.



CURATOR'S CORNER

The Victorian's At Home. Monday 26th October half term activities at Hemel Hempstead Library (now within Hemel Hempstead Civic Centre) from 10.00 - 11.30 am. Handle genuine objects and try out a Victorian craft. Please book at your local library. Tickets £1 per child aged 5 - 11.

Lion's August Bank Holiday Fete, Berkhamsted – 31st August. Come and visit our 'Saving the 70s' exhibition in the History Den. If you remember Abba and Pink Floyd, flares and hot pants, Afros and Albion Fairs, macramé and Black Forest Gateaux, then this was your time! Come along and take a walk down memory lane and see what was happening in the area in those long lost days, when the sun shone forever to the best soundtrack of our lives.

'TALKING NEW TOWNS' ART COMPETITION

We recently ran an art competition, which was open to all, with artwork inspired by the New Town oral histories which have been uploaded to the project website www.talkingnewtowns.org.uk

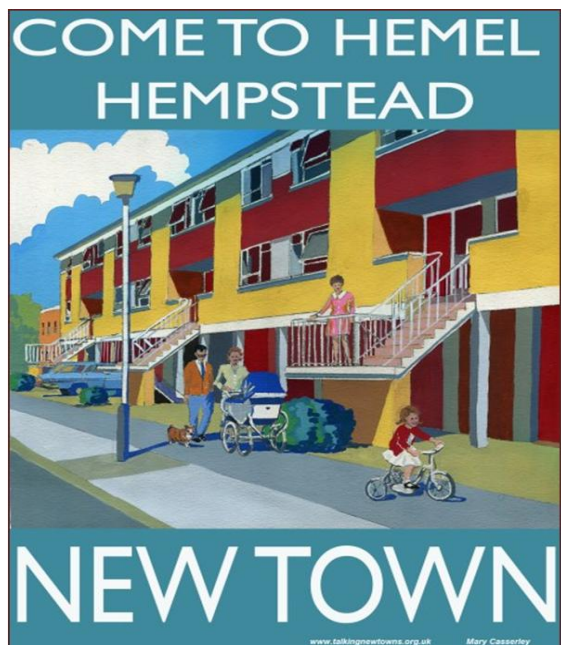
The three winners from the Hemel Hempstead entries are (right top), an imaginative work entitled 'The land taking back Marlowes' by Tommy Pounder aged 10.



Below right is a piece of layered artwork, based on the town's map, depicting the transformation of the landscape by Elizabeth Ashley.



The image on the left was inspired by those very evocative pre-war railway advertising posters created by Mary Casserley.



We would like to thank all those who entered their artwork; as you can see the standard was very high in all age

groups. If you have missed the deadline, but still would like to submit a piece of artwork, there is still time to have it exhibited on the project website.

Photos: Courtesy of the artists and the Talking New Towns project.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH CHIPPERFIELD

The Rev James Tomlin of Bulstrode led the campaign and the Lord of the Manor, John Parsley, sold his cornfield on Chipperfield Common as the site of the new church. The cost of building the church was just under £1,500, raised by public subscription.



1837, by the Earl of Essex of Cassio Park. The church was consecrated on 10th October 1838 by the Bishop of Lincoln. It provided 400 places, of which 176 were free.

There was a strict hierarchy of seating, reflecting the social status of the inhabitants. Pews were rented out and prices ranged from 4/- to £2 per annum. Pews for the vicar's family and church trustees ran either side of the chancel. Some seats in the nave were free, and all the seats in the gallery – up in the gods in theatrical terms – were free, barring the front row which was reserved for members of the choir.

The character of the church must have been greatly changed in 1889, with a more decorative Victorian style, when the gallery and the three-decker pulpit were removed. A publication by Cussans in 1879, described the pulpit as unique, being the only one of its kind left in the whole of Hertfordshire. The main door was moved from the east to the north side and a

The architect of St. Paul's Church was Thomas Talbot Bury (1811-1877), who was articled to Pugin and designed 35 churches, including Bovingdon, where there is a stained glass window dedicated to his memory by his sister. The Rev Lacy of Tring freely provided the working drawings. Designed in an Early English style, laid out in the traditional cruciform shape. It was built of local flints with a plain interior.

Unusually, the altar is situated at the west and not the traditional east side of the church. The story is that the door, which was then at the back of the church, was nearer to the Manor House, making it quicker for John Parsley (of the Manor House) to enter the building.

The foundation stone was laid on 23rd April

porch added along with a new lych gate structure, together with a fine pair of lych gates presented by Mr. Sands Clayton and brothers of Chipperfield House, in memory of their brother, who served under General Gordon.

In the early 20th century, the bell was rung every day at noon throughout the Great War as a reminder of the villagers serving in the trenches, but silenced in the Second World War unless warning of an emergency.

Based on an article by Mary Nobbs

Photos: 'Consecration of the Church of St. Paul, Chipperfield, 1848, from the David Spain Collection, cared for by DHT.

HERITAGE DIARY 2015 - 2016

Constituent Society's Winter Season of Lectures and Events.

September 2015

- 9 (BH)** 'An Introduction to Crested China' Graham Webster
9 (W) TBA
16 (T) 'Oliver Pike: Pioneer Wildlife Photographer' Rory Morrisey
16 (KL) 'Life of a Town Crier' Dick Smith
17 (BV) 'Victorian Engineering: Making of Empire' Colin Oakes.
23 (HH) Exhibition by Peter Ward (society's ex-President)
28 (BA) 'Europe & Rediscovery of Ancient Egypt' Peter Clayton

October

- 7 (W)** 'Tring & Wigginton Gardens: Then & Now' Wendy Austin
14 (BH) 'Farming in Hertfordshire in the 19th C' Dr Julie Moore
15 (BV) 'Verner von Braun & the V2 Rocket' Hugh Granger
21 (HH) 'Kents Brushes, History of Important Apsley Company'
21 (KL) '5000 Years Afloat – Ships & Boats in Northern Europe before the Norman Conquest' Mike Farley
26 (BA) 'The Horse in Ancient Western Asia' Nigel Tallis

November

- 4 (W)** 'A Talk on the BBC' Sue Hexter
7 (LG) LGVA Firework Display
11 (BH) 'History of Stag Lane Aerodrome 1917-34' Stuart McKay
14 (LG) LGVA Winter Fayre
18 (T) 'The History of R. A. Halton' Francis Hanford
18 (KL) 'The Impact of the Grand Junction Canal on West Hertfordshire' Fabian Hiscock
19 (BV) 'Invasion 1940 – What If?' Tony Eaton
23 (BA) 'Unusual Pots for Unusual Purposes' Jacqui Pearce
23 (LG) LGVA AGM
25 (HH) 'The Roman Occupation of Hemel Area' Dr David Neal

December

- 2 (W)** 'Christmassy Things' Sue Hexter
9 (BH) 'Black Plumes & Victorian Mourning' Robert Stephenson
10 (BV) 'Not 'All over by Christmas' Festivities in WWI' Catherine Grigg
14 (BA) 'The Ashridge Dig' Ken Wallis & Graham Juniper

January 2016

- 13 (BH)** 'Medieval Wall Paintings & the Medieval World View' Julie Wakefield
18 (W) 'Local Memories of the USAAF at Cheddington' & 'The Americans During WWII' joint meeting with Cheddington History at Cheddington.
20 (T) 'Moats, Mottes and Castles in Bucks' Mike Farley
20 (KL) '10,000 Years of a Field' Paul Stanbridge
21 (BV) Annual Dinner 7.30 pm. Memorial Hall. Tickets required
25 (BA) 'Mildenhall Roman Silver Treasure' Dr Richard Hobbs

February

- 3 (W)** 'Plain Tales of the Raj' Tony Eaton
10 (BH) 'Pictures in the Parlour: Story of the Magic Lantern' Kevin Varty
17 (KL) 'Verulamium, Roman Town Under the Park' Ann Ledger
18 (BV) TBA
22 (BA) 'Viking Silver Hoard from Vale of York' Barry Ager

March

- 2 (W)** 'The Rudolph Hess Cover Up' Tony Eaton
9 (BH) AGM & 'From Business College to Monastery: the Story of Ashridge House' Ken Wallis
16 (T) 'The Impact of the Grand Junction Canal on West Hertfordshire' Fabian Hiscock
16 (KL) AGM & 'Thatching' Robin Webb
17 (BV) AGM
28 (BA) 'Archaeology and The National Trust' Gary Marshall

April

- 6 (W)** 'Bates Boatyard and Dry Dock' Jem Bates
25 (BA) 'Thor Heyerdahl: Adventurer or Archaeologist?' Dr J Bjørnar Storfjell

May

- 4 (W)** – 'The Romans' Jill Evers
18 (T) - AGM & 'The 1850s Account Book of William Brown of Tring' Chris Reynolds

Contact Details – for more information see the society websites

- (BA) Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society** (www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk) Meetings: 7.45 pm. The Music Room, Berkhamsted School, Mill Street, visitors welcome £2.50 per meeting – Jill Baxter 0771 027 8036 email via website.
(BH) Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) Meetings: 8.00 pm. Wellcome Great Hall, Town Hall, Berkhamsted, visitors welcome £2.50 a meeting (£1.00 Dacorum cards)- Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158.
(BV) Bovingdon History Group. Meetings: 8.00 pm. Bovingdon Baptist Church (unless otherwise stated), visitors welcome £2 per meeting – Sylvia McClelland 01442 833136 pandsmcc@mccllell.plus.com
(HH) Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society (www.historysochemel.bravesites.com) Meetings: 8.00 pm. Carey Baptist Church Hall, Marlowes, visitors welcome £2 per meeting – Roy Wood 01442 398285 roy.wood3@ntlworld.com
(KL) Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society (www.kingslangley.org.uk) Meetings: 7.30 pm. Baptist Church, The Nap, Kings Langley – Alan Penwarden 01923 263205 jandapenwarden@hotmail.co.uk
(LG) Leverstock Green Village Association (www.lgva.org.uk) Village Hall Office 01442 268723 lgvaoffice@gmail.com
(T) Tring & Dist. Local History & Museum Society (www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk/SOCIETY.html) Meetings: 8.00 pm. Parish Hall, (behind the Parish Church), visitors welcome £4.00 per meeting – Sue Lipscombe jazz@kensue.plus.com
(W) Wigginton History Society. Meetings: 8.00 pm. St. Bartholomew's Church. Richard Tregoning 01442 822702

The Museum Store is open by appointment **only**. For enquiries email Nina Glencross our Collections Manager. Join our newsletter emailing list - contact the editor with 'Add to Mailing List' in the subject box. In line with the Data Protection Act your details will remain confidential and will not be given or sold to any third party.

		<p>EDITOR: Pam Gasking office@dacorumheritage.org.uk <i>Like us on Facebook.</i> <i>Follow us on Twitter @DacorumHeritage</i> Authors are responsible for content accuracy. <i>Deadline: for next issue is 9th November.</i></p>	 <p>Funded by DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>
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