



NEWSLETTER

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www.dacorumheritage.org.uk

MEET OUR NEW MUSEUM CURATOR

We welcome Dr. Paul Hyman as the newly appointed Curator at Dacorum Heritage Trust, coming to us with 22 years experience as a museum curator.

Originally born in Melbourne, Australia, Paul grew up in Tunbridge Wells in Kent in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In the late 1970s he gained his degree in Life Sciences at the Polytechnic of Central London (now Westminster University), following this with a Ph.D. in Ecological Entomology at Silwood Park (the postgraduate centre of Imperial College) near Windsor, completing in 1983.



On leaving Silwood, Paul joined the National Trust to carry out biological survey work of Trust properties; a job that led to similar work in Metropolitan Essex, based at the Passmore Edwards Museum near East Ham. On finishing this contract, Paul then moved to the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England) in Peterborough, where he was contracted to write species-based biological reviews.

In early 1988, upon finishing in Peterborough, Paul moved to Luton Museum to take up post as the first Keeper of Natural Sciences; a job that also involved implementing wildlife conservation across Luton sites and managing Luton's first Field Centre. Within this new museum role, however, Paul quickly became proficient in many aspects of museum work, in particular collections management, exhibitions and events. It was also during this time that he completed his Diploma in Museum Studies at Leicester University.

Paul has many varied interests including cooking, music and entomology and also has a passionate interest in studio ceramics. He can give talks on a variety of subjects, including an interactive antiques handling talk. Living in Berkhamsted, he is passionate and enthusiastic about our cultural heritage and is looking forward to working at the Dacorum Heritage Trust and meeting its many volunteers and visitors.

DHT Quiz Night - Saturday 13th April 2013
Hemel Hempstead Community Church in London Road

Doors open at 6.30 pm. for a prompt 7.00 pm. start.

Tickets only £5 each

Come along and gently tickle your little grey cells. Good time guaranteed!

Refreshments ☺ Parking ☺ Raffle ☺ Teams of 6 (max)

For more details or to order tickets for our fundraising Quiz Night contact office@dacorumheritage.org.uk

THE DACORUM HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

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

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'ROAD & STREET NAMES OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD'

Dacorum Heritage Trust's Latest Publication

Have you ever wondered where your street or road got its name from, and if there was any particular reason for it being called what it is? Well, help is at hand, in the shape of this new reference book, which delves into the road names and more of Hemel Hempstead.



The book was the result of a task undertaken following a simple question asked by Mike Stanyon, who was then Dacorum Borough Council's Heritage Officer, at a Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society meeting.

A project was proposed, and as we were then pretty new to it all, up went our hands – and after all this time, our work and effort has come to fruition. It has taken more than ten years of hard work – yes, even blood, sweat and tears – but finally the finished article is in print for you to enjoy at your leisure.

The whole thing is preceded with a look at the history of roads and road building, with a special look at how the Romans gave us the 'know how' to build them.

The questions "Why do we name our roads?" and "Who is responsible for the naming?" are both asked and the answers can all be found inside. There is a serious look at the astrological and heavenly side of The Heights in Highfield, where one name, Hidalgo, gave particular issues, as it just did not seem to fit in with the other themes. But it eventually did, so take a look and see for yourselves just how it did.

Thorough investigation is also made into the tithe details of the 19th century, along with the field names, which were in use long before anyone decided to build on the land. Indeed, there are field names dating back to medieval times that are still in use today.

The question of why we decided to use themes and group naming is also looked at, and some of the results may well be a surprise, since they are all over the town. Naturally, there are many council-based road names, taking in such themes as mayoral names, and other connected people. Also find out who, locally, was responsible for the naming of the roads of Hemel Hempstead New Town.

Of course, there are many other people mentioned in our local road names, some of whom you may not even put together, or have heard of, but all have their little piece to tell. There are comedians, local heroes, national heroes, not-so-well-known builders, people from the past and royalty; there is even a 19th century murder victim. Finally, would you like to find out which roads were named after the places where a council member went on holiday, just because he loved it there? As with other towns, we have roads and streets named after inns or public houses, both past and present. Naming like this is part of our British heritage and, as stated, it is common everywhere.

Finally, after a good look at 'the best of the rest', which features all the roads and streets we could not put under any specific heading, we thought it would be a nice aside to include a look back at the roads and streets of the town that are no longer there, covering both previous names for roads still used today, or just roads that have disappeared. Here, also, is a look at some of the old schools and buildings of the district. Furthermore, we also looked at some of the enchanting local names given to some or part of our roads that still exist today.

We sincerely hope you and your families enjoy our very streetwise book. We would also like to thank Dacorum Borough Council staff and members for their interest and support.

Of course, with the ever increasing demand for housing, and the constant sight of buildings popping up all over the town, the project still continues, so there may be a follow up to this volume. However, in the meantime, if you have a query and would like to know what, if anything, we have found out about your road, (if it is not included in the book), please feel free to contact us.

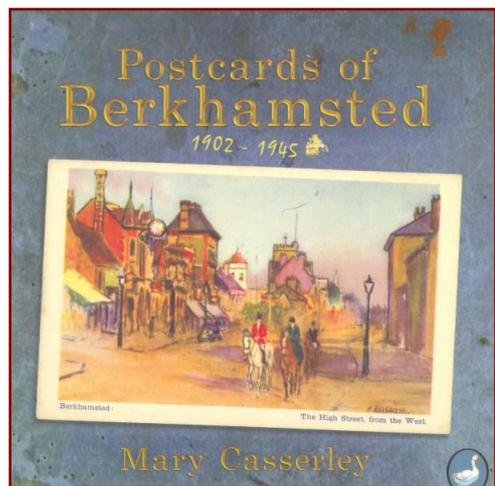
The book is on sale, priced only £5 plus £1.40 P&P. See our website and follow the link to 'Publications'. Or contact office@dacaorumheritage.org.uk or 01442 879525, to order your copy.

*Roy & Margaret Wood
Hemel Hempstead Local History & Museum Society*

Photo: The aerial photograph showing the New Town developments c. 1950, part of Dacorum Heritage Trust's own collection.

'POST CARDS OF BERKHAMSTED 1902-1945'

A review of 'Postcards of Berkhamsted 1902-1945' by Mary Casserley. (ISBN 978-0-9543838-1-7) Published by Goose Publishing, Berkhamsted HP4 3DW.



Over ten years ago Mary Casserley published a book of sketches of Berkhamsted High Street; now she has made a book about postcards of Berkhamsted; but with a difference, - she looks particularly at what people wrote on them. Also, she is now Mary Murray. The book is beautifully produced in full colour and selects around sixty cards and it is nice to see such a quality book totally produced in Britain. An early card of around 1875, perhaps among the oldest, is outside *The Goat* with no cars and the roads covered in gravel or worse, or so it seems. Another small feature that stands out are the sun-awnings shading the shop windows. This is the time when the shopkeepers displayed their wares in their windows, tempting the shoppers to venture inside.

The postcards are mainly street scenes with few cars, plenty of bikes, people, horses and carts. And everything seemed sunny. Not only is this one of the first books devoted to postcards of the town, but it also casts a glance at what the postcard was about: communicating the mundane between ordinary folk, in the main, female. Some of the

messages are short – a terse one to a Mrs. Lockhart in Ringshall (that is all of the address) asking for her annual subscription to the RSPCA – incidentally from Anthony Hopkins' mother, to long ones detailing the weekend's events, and the downright rude – 'Ma is knocked up!' And the stamp with the King's head licked and stuck diagonally meaning perhaps a kiss.

This is a great book full of memories of a lost age with words and images that speak of hope, optimism, kindness, love, prosperity, all to be changed forever in a few years with the World War. And here's a thought; the Post Offices – there were five in the area as well as the main town office, they were open for business from 8.00 am. till 8.00 pm. on six days and 8.30 till 10.30 am. on Sundays. Letter deliveries were at 6.45 am., 9.30 am., 3.15 pm., and 6.00 pm. and on Sundays, letters only, at 6.45 am. Post boxes were cleared six times a day between 9.00 am. and 9.00 pm. One collection on Sunday at 7.15 pm., but there was one from the station box at 9.00. No wonder the postcard was so well used by the ordinary folk of Berkhamsted, as you can see from this great book.

Bill Willett

Dacorum Heritage Trust Volunteer

Photo: Courtesy of Bill Willett.

UNIVERCITY PLACEMENT STUDENT

Just before Christmas we bade a fond farewell to Andrew Douthwaite, who had been with us full-time for four months on a student placement from Bradford University. Andy, who studies archaeology, had been helping us by working on archaeological artefacts from the collections, which included items from Cow Roast, the Kings Langley Royal Palace, Gadebridge Roman Villa and Aldbury pre-Roman cremation burials. He also helped out at the 'International Evening' held at Broadfield School, Hemel Hempstead, where we ran a workshop recreating an archaeological dig with replica coins and Roman artefacts, this proved very popular.

After leaving us, Andy will be spending his second placement with the Biological Anthropology Research Centre, specialising in analysis of human skeletal remains, where he will be working on an international project digitising diseases that affect the bone, which is based at Bradford University.



Andy said, "I have enjoyed my time at the Dacorum Heritage Trust, I've especially enjoyed the company". "During my time here I've relished learning about the wide range of archaeological collections stored at The Museum Store". "Some of the collections haven't been published, which is a shame. I also think we really do need a museum to display and interpret these collections".

We asked Andy what was his favourite object from the collections. He picked out a carved bone handle from a Gladius (Roman sword). It is almost full length and excavated at Fendley Farm, Orchard site at Cow Roast during the late 1970s. It fits perfectly well into your hand, which is very strange considering it's almost 2,000 years old.

We very much enjoyed having Andy with us; he made a valuable contribution to our team.

Nina Glencross

Acting Curator, Dacorum Heritage Trust

Photo: from the Berkhamsted & Dist. Archaeological Society collection cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust.

CURATOR'S CORNER



Quiz Night. If you would like tickets for our fundraising Quiz Night please email the newsletter editor, phone or request by post enclosing a cheque (made payable to 'Dacorum Heritage Trust') for the tickets. Teams are limited to a maximum of 6. Light refreshments will be available during the interval. This could be the best fun you can have for £5 on a Saturday night.

Talk. 'Distinguished and Famous Faces Associated with Leverstock Green' by Barbara Chapman, on Thursday 11th April 2013 at 2.00 pm. in the Main Hall at Leverstock Green Village Hall. Tickets are £5 each, all welcome. Contact Barbara directly at enquiries@dacorumhistory.net

DHT Anniversary. In September this year, we celebrate our 20th anniversary of the formation of the company. We are keen to hear from folks who have memories or amusing anecdotes about setting up The Museum Store in Berkhamsted. Were you involved? Can you help us to tell the DHT story?

THE 1910 LONDON TO MANCHESTER AIR RACE

On 17th November 1906 the Daily Mail newspaper offered a £10,000 prize for the first aviator to fly the 185 miles between London and Manchester, with no more than two planned stops, in less than 24 hours. The challenge also specified that take-off and landing were to be at locations no more than five miles from the newspaper's offices in those cities.



Powered flight was a relatively new invention and the newspaper's proprietors were keen to stimulate the industry's growth.

The first attempt at this valuable prize was on 23rd April 1910, when Claude Graham-White, from Hampshire, got as far as Lichfield but had to retire as his aeroplane was damaged in high winds.

Whilst Grahame-White's plane was still being repaired, a Frenchman, Isidore Auguste Marie Louis Paulhan, took off on 27th April from Hendon, on the site of what is now the London branch of the RAF Museum. On hearing this news, Grahame-White immediately set off in hot pursuit with an unprecedented night take-off. Next morning, he had almost caught up with Paulhan, but his aeroplane was overweight, which forced him to concede defeat. Paulhan reached Manchester early on 28th April, winning the challenge.

After military service Paulhan worked at the Voisin factory in Paris, where he won a design competition, his prize was a Farman biplane. In 1909 he taught himself to fly and became only the second person to receive a French pilot's licence. Paulhan was no stranger to British audiences; he competed in an early flight meeting in October 1909 at Blackpool. Shortly afterwards he flew in an aerial exhibition at the Brooklands motor racing circuit.

It is interesting that in order to navigate northwards; from Harrow they followed the route of the London & North Western Railway, flying at about 400 feet, passing through our area (as shown in this photograph).

Photo: post card inscription: 'London to Manchester M. Paulhan passing over Boxmoor 27/4/10'. Courtesy of Lionel Howard.

The logo for Accredited Museum, featuring a stylized blue archway above the text 'ACCREDITED MUSEUM'.	A square QR code.	<p>EDITOR: Pam Gasking, gasking166@btinternet.com</p> <p>Saving Our Heritage</p> <p>The accuracy of the content is the responsibility of the author.</p>	The logo for Dacorum Borough Council, featuring a shield with a green and yellow design and the text 'DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL'.	<p>This publication is funded by</p> <p>DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>
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