AUTUMN WORKSHOP 2000

BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION in conjunction with BEDFORDSHIRE & LUTON ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE is holding a workshop ‘BREAKING THE LOCAL SEAL’ on OCTOBER 14th, 2000 from 11.00am to 3.30pm in the Records Office. There will be a series of short presentations by records office staff and other experts with the aim of expanding the knowledge of lesser known sources of historical information. Lunch will not be provided but some space will be available for eating a packed lunch. Space is extremely limited and entrance will be confined to pre-booked applicants, contact Joan Curran on 01525 221963. Entry will be free but County Hall carpark will be £1.

BEDFORDSHIRE IN WORLD WAR 2

As a result of the outstanding success of the exhibition BEDFORDSHIRE IN WORLD WAR 2 in March and your many requests for a repeat in another part of the County there will be a second chance to see this popular event at Biggleswade Weatherley Centre on Saturday March 3rd 2001 from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm. New information was revealed at the last exhibition by the anecdotes told by visitors who had interesting first hand knowledge of particular events of the period. This will be reflected in the updated exhibits on display in Biggleswade.

If you missed the opportunity to exhibit last time and wish to participate contact Joan Curran on 01525 221963.

MARY ROSE & HMS WARRIOR

Bedfordshire Archaeological & Local History Society has arranged a visit to Portsmouth by coach on Sunday 1st. October 2000. The programme includes visits to the Mary Rose and H.M.S. Warrior. The coach will leave St. Peters Church at 8.30 am. Seats may still be available and members of the Association are welcome, further details from Silvia Woods on 01234 365095.

VERULAMIIUM

David Thorold, Keeper of Archaeology at veralium will be speaking to the Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society on Monday December 4th, 2000 at the Library, Flitwick. David’s talk will bring the Society and its visitors up to date on this most important Roman site. Visitors are welcome. There is a £1 meeting charge Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.
BLHA AT ROXTON

During a break in proceedings at the BLHA Bedfordshire Local History Conference hosted by Roxton & District Local History Group in Roxton in May, the delegates joined villagers outside the village hall for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the history of Roxton. The plaque, donated to the village by the Roxton & District Local History Group, to commemorate the Millennium was unveiled by David Stocker, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, who was a speaker at the Conference. Pictured above from the left are Onslow Stocker*, Don Clarke*, V.Chairman R&DLHG, David Stocker*, Stella Gibbs, Chairperson R&DLHG, Allen Fletcher, Treasurer R&DLHG, Margaret Crow, Secretary R&DLHG, Martin Lawrence, Chairman BLHA. (* speakers at the Conference).

The Bedfordshire Local History Conference was very well attended and proved to be a very interesting day. Delegates went home with a wider knowledge of Roxton and its environs, its archaeological and historical background, its relation with the River Ouse, the history of a Wyboston wool merchant family (the Stockers), its City of London connections and the current work of the Eastern Region of British Heritage.

FREE SERVICES OFFERED FROM BEDFORD MUSEUM

Free Exhibition Equipment Loan Service
A comprehensive temporary exhibitions equipment loan service is available free to local history groups in Bedfordshire. The equipment available includes display panels, a comprehensive range of showcases, barriers, plinths, video and computer units. The equipment is of high specification and can be used to create “museum quality” displays.

Details of the service, including an on-line catalogue, briefing sheets and booking form are available on-line at www.museums.bedfordshire.gov.uk/equipment.
Alternatively, phone Bedfordshire Museums on 01234 354954 to discuss your requirements.

Free Web Page for Local History Groups
Bedfordshire Museums is offering a free web page for all local history groups in the county. The site provides information and contact details of your group, and can include photographs, maps, details of your activities and links to related internet sites.

The local History in Bedfordshire website can be found at www.museums.bedfordshire.gov.uk/localgroups. If your group would like a web page, please follow the guidance notes included in the website or phone Bedfordshire Museums on 01234 354954.

RE 521 FIELD SURVEY

Did you attend the Bedfordshire in World War 2 exhibition in Ampthill in March? If so did you fill in one of our questionnaires and put the following comment “Why wasn’t the RE 521 Field Survey mentioned - stationed at Ampthill Park for 2 years.” We would like to know more about this and if it was you (or any body else who can help) please contact Peter Wood on 01525 712778.

MILESTONES UNDER THREAT

Terry Keegan of Kidderminster is proposing the formation of a society devoted to the study of milestones, their history, present survival and preservation. He is willing to act as co-ordinator to get such a society off the ground and would appreciate the help and support of other enthusiasts who would be prepared to give their time and energy to help bring a Milestone Society into being.

He would also appreciate learning of any published information on the milestones in our area as he intends to form a library on the subject for other researchers to study.
He can be contacted at The Oxleys, Tenbury Road, Clows Top, Kidderminster, Wores., DY14 9HE. Tel. 01299 832358 or Fax. 01299 832162.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2000 REPORT

The 1999/2000 Annual General Meeting of the Bedfordshire Local History Association was held on May 15th, 2000 at Houghton Conquest, (Minutes of the meeting will be issued to members at the usual time). After apologies for absence, the minutes of the previous were dealt with and accepted.

The Chairman, Martin Lawrence, commenced his report by paying tribute to his immediate predecessor, Harry Arch, who sadly died on May 30th 1999

In summarising the years activities he said "We have sought to work effectively in partnership with member societies and individuals and all those organisations that support and promote local studies.

The Carlton and Chellington Historical Society was our host on 5 June 1999 for our Annual Local History Conference. Delegates enjoyed a fascinating day learning about the Village’s past, particularly enjoying their tours of the Church and the Baptist Meeting. Many thanks to all those who organised an excellent day and congratulations to the Society on their successful reprint of the Diary of the Rev. Benjamin Rogers. We are already looking forward to an interesting day in Roxton on 3 June this year.

Many members contributed displays at the Bedfordshire Millennium Festival on 28, 29 & 30 August. It was a good opportunity to showcase our societies and the important role they play within community life. My particular thanks to Jean Williams, who co-ordinated the societies.

The Association, working in partnership with the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service and the Heritage Environment Record Officer, who is leading the Defence of Britain Project site survey in this county, provided the membership with a presentation on Wartime Bedfordshire on 16 October in Clapham. After a rare opportunity to visit Twinwoods airfield, each partner provided an illustrated talk and display material.

This presentation was a precursor to our main event of the year, an exhibition on Bedfordshire in World War II, held in Ampthill on 4 March. This was the Association’s Millennium event and I am delighted to report that it was very warmly received by all those who attended. We were particularly pleased that so many groups took part and collectively provided such a high standard of display. The hall and the car park were filled to capacity for most of the day and contributors felt the event had been very worthwhile. Our visitor survey provided very useful feedback about what was appreciated and some ideas for continuous improvement."

He concluded his report by thanking the committee for their dedication and support that has resulted in the high standard of organisation of the Association and its events.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mike Turner, presented the accounts for the financial year ending March 31st. 2000 which had been fully audited by Mr. R. M. Dolman, Honorary Auditor. These showed that the Association’s funds had increased from £1,323.70 at the start of the year to £1,702.55 at its close, a surplus of income over expenditure of £378.85. The Honorary Treasurer proposed that in light of these figures the subscription rates should remain unchanged for a further year. Following the Treasurer’s report Mr. R. M. Dolman was re-appointed Auditor.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Officers and Committee for the following period. The election was duly carried out with the result that the Committee for 2000/2001 is

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Minutes Secretary

Martin Lawrence
Elizabeth Field
Mike Turner
Janet Thornton
Stephen Coleman
Joan Curran
John Currie
Barry Dackombe
Mollie Foster
Brian Lazelle
June Masters
David Parker
Jean Williams
Peter Wood

Kevin Ward of the Bedfordshire & Luton Archives and Records Service remains a co-opted member.

After the completion of the business of the A.G.M, the members present and visitors who joined them, were entertained by David Dymond, Chairman of the British Association for Local History with a talk entitled ‘The Workings of the English Parish’.

NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for Autumn 2000 issue is set for October 15th 2000. The editor urgently requires short articles of around 1000 words or short notes on any suitable subject relating to the history of Bedfordshire or Luton. New authors are particularly welcome. Please support your editor’s attempts in making this newsletter explore the whole of the Ancient County.
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Following the popularity of the Stopsley Book in 1998 by James Dyer, he has now produced a picture book with 150 photographs, many previously unpublished. It contains pictures of Stopsley and its residents taken over the last 100 years.

A city child evacuated from London during the Zeppelin raids of 1917 ends up in Hitchin. Here begins a story of a young dressmaker whose customers are to include Glenn Miller, Flora Robson and Bing Crosby. Most of her life, bringing up her family, is spent in Bedford and the tale ends in Cardington where she now resides.

Sited on crossroads less than 40 miles from London, Oxford and Cambridge, Dunstable has been involved in many national events. Written to celebrate the Millenium, the book devotes a chapter to each of its ten centuries.

A useful reference book of addresses of research sources for family and local historians together with feature articles by respected authors on a wide range of subjects, from 'Conservation and Restoration' to 'Gretta Green Marriages'. The local history section is prepared and presented in association with the British Association for Local History. Bulk rates are available to societies, 10 - 19 copies at 20% discount and 25% for 20 or more.

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

Riseley Historical Society are about to publish their first book in celebration of the millennium. The book will reflect life in Riseley over the last 100 years. It will contain 250 pages of text and photographs and cost £10 plus £2.50 p&p. Contact Mr. M. D. Ives, 40, Kings Close, Riseley, Bedford, MK44 1EP.

Biggleswade History Society has produced an index of the five volumes of their series Biggleswade -a collection of Photographs. The index in A4 ring bound form is available from David Parker on 01767 222342. The books themselves are also available £10 the set of five volumes or £2.50 each. The Society has also reprinted Great Fire of Biggleswade also available from David for £2.

HISTORIC HOLIDAYS

Do you wish to organise a holiday with a difference? The University of Wales, Bangor offers a range of accommodation and services to visiting groups, and are proud of their area's historical and archaeological remains. Their brochure gives a comprehensive summary of the historical and archaeological sites in North Wales including Anglesey, from the Neolithic period to Modern Times, also included are details of facilities and services available. Other universities have similar schemes. Accommodation is available in single rooms with ensuite facilities during non term time. Current prices (per person per night including VAT) are as follows:-

- Self Catering £11.28
- Bed & Breakfast £14.98
- Half Board £27.46

Full Board (packed lunch) £31.72

Contact the Conference Office, Bryn Haul, Victoria Drive, Bangor,Gwynedd, LL57 2EN. Tel. 01248 382560.

RECORDS OFFICE

1999/2000 has been a record year for the Bedfordshire & Luton Archives and Records Service, the number of visitors has increased from between 4,000 to 4,500 per annum in recent years to 5,149 in 1999/2000.

HISTORY IN BEDFORDSHIRE is published by the BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Editor:- Brian D. Lazelle.
Springfield,
63, Amphill Road,
Maulden,
Bedford, MK45 2DH.
Telephone:- (01525) 402264.
Contributions are welcomed and should be sent to the above address, together with a stamped addressed envelope if the contribution is to be returned. Contributions may be in any readable form, including on IBM compatible disc. If the latter is employed please consult the editor before despatch to avoid compatibility problems.
This document may be freely copied by local organisations for circulation to their members or employees always provided that it is copied and circulated in its entirety without modification, such copying is encouraged.

ISSN 0968-9761