

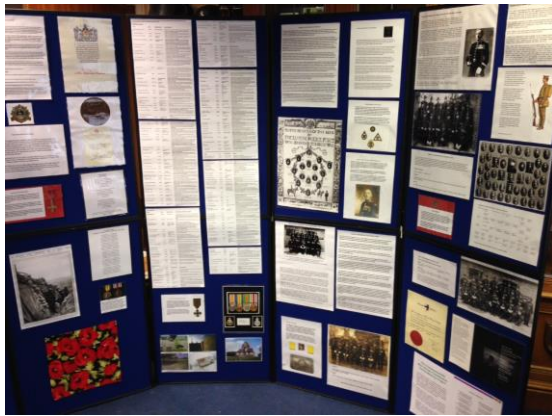
# Bedfordshire Local History Association

BLHA Spring Event - A Visit to

## Bedfordshire Police Museum

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, 7pm

The Museum arose out of the Force Historical Society that had existed since the early 1970's. As well as research the Society found itself accumulating a large number of artefacts to act as demonstration pieces when delivering talks. Alan Dyer, who joined the Force as Deputy CC in the early 1980's, took a keen interest in the Society and when he became Chief Constable in 1985 generously gave over his Conference Room to house the Museum. It remained there until 1996 when the new Chief decided he wanted the Conference Room back.



We were left with some display space in the foyer at HQ but the storage space/office was shifted to the old pig sty's (they had been updated a little) by the car park. This situation remained pretty much unchanged until 2010 when that space was required to be repurposed and practically everything not on display was moved to a shipping container on the field. Sadly, this did mean handing over our most precious archive, personal records, to BLARS on 'loan' as a container was not suitable to keep them in.

We were then (in around 2013) allocated rooms at Greyfriars Police Station as a short-term measure as the building was already in the throes of being decommissioned. I think we'd been there for a year when we were required to move again. This time however I negotiated the space we currently occupy at Halsey Road as a more fixed 'home'. After much scrounging of display cabinets and hard work we have arrived at where we are.

As to what there is to see - albeit on a small scale there are medals, badges, helmets, uniforms, equipment, cameras etc together with display boards giving some information about the history of the Force(s) and some individual stories.

Keith Jackson, Curator

We hope you will be able to join us in what is going to be a fascinating evening.

**Date and Time** – The museum is only able to take a group of 12 at a time. We plan to run the event on three evenings, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Please give your preferred choice on the booking form. If there are insufficient bookings, for your preferred choice evening, or it is over booked, then you may be asked to attend an alternative evening.

Meet for a 7pm start at the museum, we expect to close 9.00 – 9.30pm

**Location of the Museum** – The Bedfordshire Police Museum, Halsey Road (off Bedford Road), Kempston, Bedford MK42 8AX.

**Where to Meet** – At the museum, parking is available within the station perimeter.

**Catering** – There are no catering facilities at the site.

**Disabled Access** – Wheelchair access is problematical due to low steps at the entrance

**Cost and booking** – There is no charge for the visit, but the BLHA committee would like to propose a donation of £5 per person.

To secure a place, cheques must be received by *Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May*.

*The number of places available for this trip is limited to 12 per evening, so early booking is advised.*

Full details are on the booking form.

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## The Bedfordshire Police Museum

### Booking Form

Please reserve .....place/s @ a suggested donation of £5.00 each for the 'BLHA Spring Event'.

I enclose a cheque to the value of £.....

Cheques payable to: *Bedfordshire Local History Association*

Receipt of the booking form will be confirmed by email.

#### Names of Attendees:


#### Contact Email:

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#### Contact Telephone:

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#### Preferred Date: (please indicate 1 = first choice, 2 = second choice, 3 = third choice)\*

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	

#### To which Local History Society / Societies do you and your party members belong?:

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\* If there are insufficient bookings for your preferred choice evening, then you may be asked to attend one of your alternative evenings.

Please return the form with payment by **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** to:

Colin West, BLHA Committee, 14 Fieldfare View, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6BL

Telephone: 01234 743752

Email: colinjohnwest4@gmail.com