

Bicester Local History Society Newsletter (Jan. 2013)

Welcome to the Bicester Local History Society Newsletter. It is our aim that we publish a quarterly edition of the Newsletter to enable members without internet access to be kept informed of forthcoming meetings, events and projects that the Society will be undertaking. We would welcome any contributions that you might like to send to us.

Forthcoming Meetings:



The talks selected for our meetings over the next few months reflect aspects of local history on a broad theme. Talks take place at a new venue 'The Clifton Centre' Ashdene Road, Bicester at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The programme for the first quarter of 2013 includes:

- The Birth of Leisure 1800 – 1900 (John Chaplin) 21st January
- From Time out of Mind: Custom & Ritual in C19th Oxfordshire (Shaun Morley) 18th February
- Where is the Medieval Blacksmith? (Gwyl Williams) 18th March

Our New Meeting Venue:

We have successfully relocated to our new venue for our monthly meetings since the last Newsletter was published. Our previous venue at St Edburg's Church Hall proved too small to accommodate the increasing membership numbers that now belong to the Society. For those who have not attended a meeting at the new venue the address is ***'The Clifton Centre', 23 Ashdene Road, King's End, Bicester OX26 2BH.***



The Centre has a large car park adjoining it and is located opposite ***'The Centurion' Public House*** at the junction of Ashdene Road and Kingsclere Road. We would like to thank the administrators of St Edburg's Church Hall for the help and support that they have provided during our time with them.



Can you help please?

A number of our members have kindly volunteered to take on additional responsibilities and volunteer to help with projects and tasks that aid the organisation of the Society. These can take a variety of forms such as helping organise activities such as walks, researching items of local history or domestic assistance at our monthly meetings. With the relocation to 'The Clifton Centre' we are looking to build up our volunteer base to help with the organisation of the meeting activities. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help with these tasks.

Can you give a little time to help with serving tea or coffee, helping to set out the hall ready for the meeting or helping to clear up afterwards? The membership has always been very supportive in helping with such tasks but it would aid the Society to know that we have a core of people who will undertake these tasks on a regular basis to help ensure the smooth running of the organisation of the evening. If you can help please contact any members of the Committee and we can build up a list of regular volunteers. Many thanks for your kind help.

Local History Walks:

The 2012 programme of Bicester Local History Society 'Village and Countryside History Walks' was completed in October. The walking group explored a number of interesting local villages and the surrounding historic landscapes.

We intend to repeat the walks format during 2013. Initial explorations have identified Deddington, Stratton Audley, Finmere and Tackley as possible locations for this year's walks. Further details will follow when the programme has been finalised for the season. We hope that the first of the walks will take place in May.



Oral History DVD

Members of the Society have been busily engaged over the past few months in continuing to produce an oral history of the town and the surrounding area. For a number of years oral history recording sessions were held at former The Pop-In Centre at the rear of Crown Walk. Memories and recollections of the town in former times were exchanged to record what community was like when ‘‘Bicester wuz a Little Town’’. Recent months has seen a review of the information collected and planning for the compilation of a DVD of these memories.



The Society has purchased video recording equipment to assist the project. We have been extremely fortunate to enlist the help of Matthew Hathaway who is masterminding the production of the DVD. The format of the DVD will attempt to share recollections of different areas of the town, growing up in the community, daily life, employment and events that have taken place following World War II until the period twenty five years ago. Interviews, unpublished photographs, cine film and home videos will have a part to play in describing the story. Thank you to everyone who has contributed resources for this purpose. The

release of the DVD is planned to coincide with the opening of the new town centre later in the year. The DVD is intended to remind and inform people how our fast developing community has changed during the present expansion of the town.

Can you recognise anything about this mystery photograph?



The photograph above was taken in approximately 1948 at either Crockwell School or Bicester Secondary School. Can you recognise any of these pupils? Please let us know if you can.