

# *Bicester Local History Society Newsletter (Apr. 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. Meetings take place at 'The Clifton Centre' Ashdene Road, Bicester. OX26 2BH at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The programme for the second quarter of 2013 includes:

- *Vikings* (Martin Way) 15<sup>th</sup> April
- *Stoke Lyne* (Bob Hessian) 20<sup>th</sup> May
- *A History of Shopping in Bicester* (Pete Chivers) 17<sup>th</sup> June

## **Can you please help?**

Many thanks to all those who have kindly volunteered to assist with refreshments and in organising the Clifton Centre at the monthly meetings of the Society. Your help is greatly appreciated. Additional help is always welcome.

Can you give a little time to help with serving tea or coffee, helping to set out the Centre 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. A rota for helping with refreshments is located with Sally James at the welcome table, inside the main hall, at each meeting to sign up if you can assist. Many thanks for your kind help.

## **Local History Walks:**

A series of 'Local Village History Walks' is planned for this year. Walks take place on Sunday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. and are followed by refreshments when the walk is completed. The walks this year include *Stratton Audley* (19<sup>th</sup> May), *Finnere* (23<sup>rd</sup> June), *Tackley* (4<sup>th</sup> August) and *Deddington* (8<sup>th</sup> September). Details will be forwarded to Society members to confirm arrangements and provide additional information regarding cost, locations, timings and venue car parking facilities.



Bicester Local History Society will be continuing the programme of 'Countryside History Walks' once again this year. The walks enable those who wish to enhance their knowledge of the local historic landscape to advance their interest that little further! The walks are structured to complement the 'Local Village History Walks' and include countryside circuits around *Stratton Audley* (9<sup>th</sup> June), *Finnere* (14<sup>th</sup> July), *Tackley* (18<sup>th</sup> August) and *Deddington* (13<sup>th</sup> October). The walks last about two hours and range in distance between 3 and 5 miles. The walks are free to members of the Society although there is a charge to cover refreshments following the walk should members wish to take the opportunity to join this

aspect of the activity. Further details will be forwarded to Society members to confirm arrangements and provide additional information regarding costs, locations, timings and venue car parking facilities.

The Village and Countryside History Walks are available to members of the Bicester Local History Society only as there are insurance issues regarding non-members taking part. Should you require further information then please contact Pete Chivers (Tel: 01869 600109 or e-mail: [peter.chivers@ntlworld.com](mailto:peter.chivers@ntlworld.com) )

## The Bicester History & Archaeology Exhibition – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013:



The Oxfordshire Museum Service will be organising a *'Bicester History and Archaeology Day'* at The Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, Bicester on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Exhibition will be on a similar scale to the successful event that B.L.H.S. organised in 2011. The Exhibition will showcase a number of artefacts held at The Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre at Standlake, near Witney. These include the first public appearance of 'The Alchester Tombstone' and the Roman fort gateposts excavated at the Alchester site, near Wendlebury. The County Finds Liaison Officer will be available at the Exhibition to identify and provide information concerning local historical artefacts brought along to the event. Artefacts from the recent Bicester Priory Archaeological Excavation in Chapel Street may also be displayed if they are made available at that time.

The Exhibition is designed to fulfil the Oxfordshire's Museum Service objective of displaying their collections in areas of the County that do not have museum facilities. The Museum Service will be offering local historically based organisations a chance to take part in the

Exhibition, to display their resources and to provide fund raising opportunities for their organisations.



A number of organisations that did not exhibit at the 2011 event have committed to take part including The Bicester Home Guard Living History Group, who will be displaying materials relating to the history of The Bicester Battalion Home Guard and demonstrating aspects of the World War II Home Front in the area as well as providing refreshments with a World War II theme at the event.

Please look out for additional information in the local press as it becomes available. **The Exhibition is free** and provides an opportunity not to be missed by local history enthusiasts.

### Bicester Local History Society Oral History DVD:

Members of the Society have been busily engaged over the past few months in researching an oral history of the town and the surrounding area. Interviews and filming have been taking place based on the recollections gathered at Oral History meetings that have taken place.



The interviews, photographs and cine films, made available for the project, are being assembled to produce a DVD of 'Bygone Bicester' which it is planned to launch when the new Bicester Shopping Centre and Entertainment Complex is opened in the summer. The DVD will tell the story of a Bicester very different to that of the present, through the memories of those who grew up in the town and who can truly remember when *'Bicester wuz a Little Town'*.

Further information regarding the launch of the DVD and details relating to ways in which the DVD may be purchased will be sent to B.L.H.S. members in the near future.

### The Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre:

The Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre, at Standlake, will be holding an **Open Day** on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013** from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. **Admission is free.** Further details are available on the Museum Resources Centre website.