

Bicester Local History Society Newsletter (July 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 third quarter of 2013 includes:

- The Great Train Robbery (John Woolley) 15th July 2013
- No Meeting (Summer Break) 19th August 2013
- Kirtlington Morris (Michael Wright) 16th September 2013

The September Meeting is preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Society. A number of the existing members of the Committee will be standing down at the Meeting. The Society would welcome volunteers to join the Committee from September.

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? 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' have taken place this year. The walks have included *Stratton Audley* (19th May), *Finnere* (23rd June) and walks to be held at *Tackley* (4th August) and *Deddington* (8th September). Thank you to everyone who has helped to organise and to provide refreshments for these events.



The Society has also continued with a programme of 'Countryside History Walks'. The walks have enabled those who wished to enhance their knowledge of the local historic landscape to advance their interest that little further! The walks were structured to complement the 'Local Village History Walks' and included countryside circuits around *Godington* (9th June), *Mixbury* (14th July) with future walks still to take place at *Tackley* (18th August) and *Deddington* (13th October). The walks lasted about two hours and ranged in distance between 3 and 5 miles. The walks were free to members of the Society although there was a charge to cover refreshments,



following the walk should members have wished to take the opportunity to join this aspect of the activity. Further details relating to future Village or Countryside Walks can be obtained by contacting Pete Chivers.

Bob Hessian has led a series of 'Bicester Town History Walks' to explore elements of the town's history during the summer featuring *'Bicester for Beginners I'* (12th May), *'Inns, Alehouses & Pubs'* (9th June), *'Bicester's Architecture'* (14th July) and still to take place *'Bicester for Beginners II'* (18th August).

The Bicester History & Archaeology Exhibition – Saturday 28th 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 28th 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. Over forty exhibitors will be present at the event. The event will showcase a number of artefacts held at The Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre at Standlake, near Witney. These include the first public appearance in Bicester of 'The Alchester Tombstone' and the Roman fort gateposts excavated at the Alchester site, near Wendlebury. Artefacts from the recent Bicester Priory Archaeological Excavation in Chapel Street will also be displayed as will a Roman writing tablet excavated in the town.

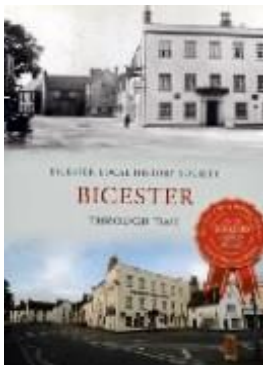
The Exhibition is designed to fulfil the Oxfordshire's Museum Service objective of displaying their collections in areas of the County that do not have museum facilities. The Museum Service will be offering local historically based organisations a chance to take part in the Exhibition, to display their resources and to provide fund raising opportunities for their organisations. The Bicester Museum & Heritage Trust will be officially launched at the event.

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. Local History Groups, individuals, organisations and County History interests will be represented at the event which promises to be a memorable day for all concerned.



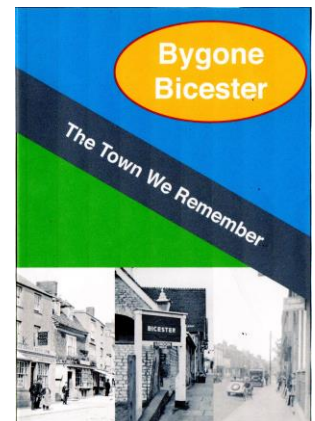
Please look out for additional information in the local press as it becomes available. **The Exhibition is free** and provides an opportunity not to be missed by local history enthusiast.

Bicester Local History Society 'Bicester Through Time' Book and Oral History DVD:



Members of the Society have been busily engaged for a number of years in researching material for a new publication *'Bicester Through Time'* and an oral history of the town and the surrounding area *'Bygone Bicester – The Town We Remember'*. Various meetings have been recently held to finalise details relating to the production of the products. Both initiatives will add significantly to the body of historical knowledge relating to the town.

Further information regarding the launch of the book and DVD and ways in which they may be purchased will be sent to B.L.H.S. members in the near future. Both will be on sale at special launch events and at the History and Archaeology Exhibition to be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street on 28th September.



The Bicester Big Lunch:



A sunny Sunday at the beginning of June saw Sheep Street packed with residents for the Big Lunch. Bicester Local History Society's contribution had Gill King, Bob & Kate Hessian and Sally James on a stall in Crown Walk. Our collection of 'past & present' and 'royal visits' photographs created a lot of interest. We made contacts, answered questions and publicized the society's activities. It was also an opportunity to promote our forthcoming book and DVD. All in all, a very successful venture.