

Bicester Local History Society Newsletter (July 2011)

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:



We celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Bicester Local History Society in 2011. The talks we have selected for our monthly meetings reflect local themes in the Bicester Area. Talks take place at St Edburg's Church Hall, Old Place Yard, Bicester at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The programme for the third quarter of 2011 includes:

- 'Bicester Railways' – Bob Hessian (18th July)
- Summer Break – There is no talk scheduled for this month (15th August)
- A.G.M. and 'The Otmoor Riots of the 1830s' – Pete Chivers (19th September)

Bicester Local History Society 25th Anniversary History Exhibition:

The highlight of the 25th Anniversary celebrations, a '*Bicester History Exhibition*', took place at The Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street on Saturday 21st May 2011. This proved to be a major undertaking for the Society and could not have been achieved without the hard work and good will of all taking part. **We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the event such a huge success.** We estimate that nearly 1500 people visited the event during the day. We hope that you enjoyed the occasion.



The Bicester Georgian Fire Pump restoration is unveiled:



Following the blood, sweat and tears of many months of labour, the *Bicester Fire Pump* (dating back to the mid 1700's) was unveiled at the *Bicester History Exhibition*. The project was made possible by the willingness of Bicester Town Council to allow the Society to restore an important part of Bicester's historic past and a grant of £450 to enable our volunteers to do it! Congratulations to '*The Fire Team*' of Dave, Bob, Geoff and Peter for their efforts in completing the task so successfully.

Bicester Local History Society Annual General Meeting:

The A.G.M. of the Society takes place at the start of the 19th September Meeting. A review of the events that have taken place over the last year will be considered, a statement of the Society's affairs discussed and a range of plans for future activities will be unveiled. The Society would welcome any one who would like to become a Committee member or volunteer to help take forward the current and future projects the Society is engaged upon.

Other News:

- A series of Bicester town and local village walks has been organised to take place in the near future. Remaining town walks in the programme include '*Bicester Odds & Sods*' - Sunday 11th September. Village walks are open to BLHS members only and include '*Fritwell*' – Sunday 26th June, '*Kirtlington*' – Sunday 17th July, '*Launton*' – Sunday 14th August and '*Steeple Aston*' – Sunday 18th September. Town walks cost £3.00 per person and village walks £4.00 per person. Refreshments are provided at the completion of the village walks. The Steeple Aston walk will cost £6.00 as a rather splendid tea will be laid on by the Red Lion pub in the village.
- Bicester '*Ghost and Foul Deeds Walks*' proved a very popular attraction once again during the winter months. Further walks are scheduled to take place on Thursday 3rd and 17th November 2011.
- A huge thank you to Pat Snelson for producing a new architectural history guide about the town '*A stroll round Bicester's Buildings*'. The leaflet is available from Sally James at meetings and costs 50p.
- A public outing for the *Georgian Fire Pump* is planned in next month when we intend to parade the attraction at the Bicester Carnival on Sunday 10th July. The society will also have a display at the event to continue our 25th Anniversary celebrations.

Pictures at an Exhibition – Bicester Local History Society celebrate 25 years!!!!



A further selection of photographs taken at the Exhibition by David Hemmings is displayed on the BLHS website.