



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

Number 59

AY Nutt Plaque unveiled at last

After nine years of negotiations and set-backs, the AY Nutt plaque in Kings Road Windsor has been unveiled by the Mayor Cllr Mrs Dorothy Kemp. Even the weather intervened when the original unveiling was scheduled for the day after England was closed by snow in February.

Alfred Young Nutt was an architect who worked his way up to become Clerk of the Works at the Castle, Surveyor of St Georges Chapel and Overseer at Frogmore Mausoleum. He also showed an interest in Art Education in Windsor and produced dozens of watercolour paintings which are now in the Store. He made illuminated addresses and also designed war memorials after WW1, including that at St Mary's Church Slough Norman Oxley discovered these and wrote his biography.



On Thursday 16th April Norman spoke about AY Nutt's achievements to a group of friends and other supporters then the Mayor pulled the cord to reveal the plaque.

Chairman's Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Our Social in January was a jolly occasion, attended by the Deputy Mayor Mrs Catherine Bursnall, who wrote a warm thank-you letter. Hester brought along her pedlar doll, Pamela gave us some interesting facts about cat's eyes, of which we have some examples in our store and I brought along a copy of a unique early nineteenth century map of Windsor which I intend to donate to the museum. We had two very interesting talks in February and March, unfortunately both the social in January and the February talk were thinly attended. Should we move them to a more clement time of the year? What is your opinion?

You may have already heard the big news, the council has decided that the Guildhall should be used as a permanent museum exhibition, rather than make room for us temporarily in the library. The Guildhall is of course a prestigious site and superb location, there is however, limited space to do justice to our rather extensive collection and there are serious issues with security, staffing and disabled access to overcome. The decision is also subject to the agreement of English Heritage and listed building consent. There will also be an entrance charge, but this will not apply to Friends or Advantage Card holders. This is a step in the right direction and will make people aware of the need for a larger space for a proper Windsor & Royal Borough Museum exhibition. We would like to hear your opinion on this decision, and there will be time for discussion during the AGM. A form for your views is included with this Newsletter, but you can email them to me or through the website if you prefer.

I have not heard from Waitrose about their token scheme, except that they promised to consider us for May or June. If you go into Waitrose please do keep filling in the forms at the store to remind them of their promise. I have already filled in two.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM in the library on 20 May. Please consider if you can join us on the committee. If you do, you could have the chance to influence some very important decisions in the next year.

Brigitte Mitchell

What's on?

Annual General Meeting

We have managed to book the Reference Room in Windsor Library for the AGM on 20th May at 7.30.

Admission is free for this event as usual. There will be a chance to discuss the announcement that the council has decided that the museum should go into the Guildhall. There will also be a raffle.

After the AGM there will be a talk by Leslie Grout about his time on Mastermind.

Annual Summer Outing

There are still some seats available on the coach to Parham House on 24th June. Parham is a beautiful Elizabethan manor house with gardens and parkland and the cost of the day is £28.50., plus your lunch (or bring your own) get in touch with Hester Davenport 60 Church Road Old Windsor SL4 2PG if you can come.

Talks Programme

Valerie Batt-Rawden will be speaking to us on 20th October and has called her talk *WINDSORIAN- From Coach to Concord (and beyond)* and will be telling us about her family's involvement with transport for over 100 years. She will be showing us images of a slower age from the first 'coach' which was a retired WW1 ambulance from the 'dump' in Slough

through to the present day white coach which still carries the name Windsorian. The company is no longer owned by the family but proudly carries a Royal Warrant, as they often carry Royals, a tradition started by her father, Reg Try.

We have booked Frances Dimond to talk about Royal Christmases on 26 November and both talks will start at 8.00 and the Library has been booked.

Subscriptions are due on 1 June. If you want to save yourself the postage you can pay at the AGM

Berkshire Family History Association

Windsor, Slough & Maidenhead Branch

Meetings are held at Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, SL4 1BA at 7.15pm for 7.45pm on the last Tuesday in the month except August and December and they are quite happy for our members to attend.

On 26 May 2009 there is a talk on *Film Archives for the Family Historian* by Kathy Chater

On 30 June it is *Widow's thirds, bench or dower – married women's property* by Eve McLaughlin

On 28 July Ken Wells will talk about *Amelia Dyer - The Reading Baby Farmer*

Heritage Development Officer's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write I realise that I have been in my 'new' post here for a year now, and it has passed very swiftly! I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed a new museum assistant – Louisa Knight, whom some of you may already know.

Louisa lives in the borough and has already worked at Wycombe Museum for four years: both as a volunteer and more recently a part-time museum assistant, so she has plenty of museum experience. She will work at Tinkers Lane with me on Mondays and Tuesdays starting on Tuesday 12 May and we hope she will be very happy with us.

We have had an extra busy few months as we not only had the museum service to run, but Margaret Kirby and I also had to work to complete a file of documents to send with our application for Accreditation to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, to make sure that we meet the new government standards for museums. We submitted this at the end of February and we expect to hear at some time during the summer.

In addition Margaret was asked in January by Councillor Simon Dudley, the lead member for Adult and Community Services, to prepare a feasibility study on having the museum *permanently* in the Guildhall instead of *temporarily* in Windsor Library. Both sites have advantages and disadvantages and I am sure that each of you will have an opinion on the matter. There are some stages ahead, but my professional opinion is that the limited space in the Maidenhead Room, even with the use of the Old Robe Room below, will be a real design challenge to do justice to a museum collection of over 6,000 objects. We are aiming to deliver inter-actives and family-friendly activities as other small museums do.

It is very important that you as knowledgeable Friends of the Museum, from whom the museum volunteers are drawn, have a chance to express your views, and I do urge you to do so on the paper provided. Send them to Museum Survey, Tinkers Lane, Windsor SL4 4LR.

At the store we have continued to deal with a host of local history enquiries and to collect objects of relevance to the borough. Recently we had an email offering us the tail wing of a Hurricane aeroplane, used by Dowty Engineering of Cheltenham in testing parts for robustness. Once I had established that it was in fact a tail wheel of 10 inches diameter and not a tail wing, I was delighted to accept it!

The museum displays around the borough have been in place for longer than they would normally be as we have been so busy with other things, so you can still see them if you haven't already done so: the 'Stone Age to Saxon' archaeology display in Windsor Library and the Roman villa display in Cox Green Library.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM when Margaret and I will have an opportunity to give you an update on the museum's future development.

Wishing you all a very good summer,

Caroline

Are you interested in Windmills or Watermills?

As part of the 2009 National Mills Weekend the Mills Archive Trust is opening their Archives and Library and would be delighted if any of our members could visit them.

Watlington House has over a million items relating to **wind/water/animal powered mills and their families** throughout England, and, as well as their comprehensive website www.millsarchive.com they provide a research facility within their library.

Their material comes from donated major collections amassed over the past 70+ years which contain precious records of a way of life and industry rarely seen today. A band of enthusiastic volunteers will show you how they are **Saving The Memories** and you'll see how you can help too!

If you would like to attend or have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Dr R F Cookson by email on: info@millsarchives.com or telephone 0118 9478 284. Their doors will be open from 1pm until 5pm on Saturday 9th May 2009. If you want to visit at any other time you must make an appointment.

The Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House, 44 Watlington St, Reading RG4 6UA

Hedgerley Historical Society

I have been sent the programme card of the Hedgerley Historical Society and their meetings seem to be held on the third Wednesday of each month. The first one is on the day of our Annual General Meeting so I am not advertising that, but the next one is at 8.00pm on 17 June 2009:

The SWOP project – Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs -

Talk by Mike Dewey

The project is being run by Buckinghamshire County Council and the area covered includes the part of the Royal Borough that is north of the river.

Their July meeting is a trip behind the scenes at Beckonscot, but booking is needed for this, so ask me for the number to ring if you are interested. On September 16th it is Restoring a Railway, the Icknield Line by Roger Fagg.

Anthony Ray Comments.....

‘This historic Thames-side town has given the world so much and now, after years of planning, the dream of a worthy heritage centre is about to be realised’ –

Unfortunately this is **not Windsor** but Marlow, and John Evans started their successful campaign 16 years ago. (Article and pictures in *Berkshire Life Magazine*)

The Hawker Hurricane replica will be placed in the Alexandra Gardens in 2009. The name of Hawker comes from Royal Navy pilot Lieut. Harry Hawker who founded the company as HG Hawker Engineering at Brooklands where he had been chief test pilot for Thomas Sopwith. Sydney Camm joined the company in 1923 as chief draughtsman.

Earlier in his life Harry Hawker was part of a two-man team that attempted to claim the £10,000 prize offered by Lord Northcliffe of the *Daily Mail* for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. They took off from Newfoundland on 18 May 1919 but a storm caused them to drift and the engine developed trouble. After 14 hours they ditched in the sea and were posted missing presumed dead. But they had been picked up by a Danish steamer with no radio and took six days to reach port. The prize went to Alcock and Brown just a month later but the *Daily Mail* acknowledges Hawker as the first to fly over 1,000 miles of water and gave him a consolation prize of £5,000.

Darvilles the Grocers. The family ran seven local shops in 1965, but now alas no more. Your chance to hear more at Eton Wick Local History Group Meeting at 7.30 on Wed. 9 September when Miss Karen Darville will tell the story in the Village Hall at Eton Wick.

Town museum seeing stars after record year!

The *Windsor Express* tells us that they had 48,000 visitors over the past year – Where? Our close neighbour Slough where they have William Herschel and Mars!

Nooks & Crannies of Windsor Walk. On Sun 17 May 2009 the local Ramblers Group invite you to join them on a four mile exploration of Windsor’s footpaths and bye-ways. Meet at Windsor Leisure Pool main entrance, Stovel Road at 10am There is no charge. Enquiries to Anthony Ray 01753 863851.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre I visited to view their *Mapping our History* exhibition, a useful opportunity to see maps in larger sizes, as in books they are often reduced in size and legibility. On Rocque’s map of 1761 you can clearly see the parish boundaries of Windsor and Dedworth (then part of Windsor) and Clewer sandwiched in between. The Centre is now open on the second Sunday of each month to coincide with the Farmer’s Market. They sell mugs, tea-towels and china dishes with their logo.

Confucius sayings to be taught in schools – *Jim Knight, Schools minister.*

The philosopher Confucius, when asked what his first task would be in administering a country, said ‘to correct language’. When they suggested in amazement that surely the Chinese equivalent of the Welfare State or better drains or canteens for rickshaw men might be a better election platform, Confucius replied thus: ‘If language is not correct then what is said is not what is meant, then what ought to be done remains undone; if this remains undone morals and arts deteriorate; if morals and arts deteriorate justice will go astray; if justice goes astray the people will stand about in helpless confusion.’

Dates for your Diary

Current display at Windsor Library will remain until further notice
Stone Age to Saxon

17th May Anthony Ray's Nooks and Crannies of Windsor Walk

20th May 2009 at 7.30pm
Windsor Library, Bachelors Acre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Followed by a talk by Leslie Grout on his experiences as
International Mastermind Champion
Admission Free

Wednesday 24 June 2009 All Day

Friends Summer Outing Parham House

There are still a few seats available on this trip.
Please get in touch with Hester Davenport 01753 866198 if you can join us

Tuesday 20 October 2009 at 8.00pm

Provisionally booked at Windsor Library Admission £2.00
Windsorian—From Coach to Concorde (and beyond)
Talk by Valerie Batt Rawden

Thursday 26 November 2009 at 8 00pm

Provisionally booked at Windsor Library Admission £2.00
Frances Dimond on Royal Christmases

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