

HIGHWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2010 Meeting Newsletter

Hello again!

Lots of favours to ask of you again this month but, as always, first of all, a reminder of our programme of events for the remainder of this season:

- ***April 26 – History of Wiltshire Police by Paul Sample***

And more dates for your diaries with a sneak preview of next season's programme:

- ***September 27 – Highworth Miscellany by Bryan Lawton***
- ***October 25 – Life in the Polish Camp at Fairford by Alice Christofides***
- ***November 29 - Dying for Glory – The Adventures of Five Cotswold Brothers by Mike Boyes***
- ***December 13 – Magic Lantern Show by Patrick Furley***

The meetings are on Mondays and will start at 7.30pm.

*And don't forget the events happening between now and the start of next season. The **Medieval May Day Market** on May 1 is looming ever closer. Programmes for the event have been produced and will be available to purchase for the extremely reasonable price of £1 at the meeting on April 26. They are also available from many of the High Street retailers in Highworth and from any of the Historical Society committee members between now and May 1. Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society are very kindly hiring out costumes for the occasion and these can be found at Highworth Library but be quick – they're in demand! We do hope to see you all at the event.*

*The following week, **Isambard Kingdom Brunel visits Highworth**. This will take place at Warneford School at 7.30pm on Friday May 7. What better way to relax after the mayhem of the General Election! This is sure to be popular so make sure you buy your tickets soon. Tickets (£8 for adults and £4 for children) will also be available at the meeting on April 26, at the Lighthouse Bookshop, from our stand at the Medieval May Day Market or from any committee member.*

*On Sunday 6 June, we are running another trip to the **Richard Jefferies House and Museum**. The house is being opened especially for us for a private tour at 11am and will include a talk by Jean Saunders. Why not bring a picnic lunch and make a day of it!*

Help Still Needed - Mediaeval Market May Day – Saturday May 1st

We'd like some help on the day with some of the activities. Chris is running a cake stall and would like some assistance before and on the day, baking cakes and helping on the stall. Just one cake or an hour on the stall would make all the difference! If you would like to help with this, please contact Chris on chrissuter16@googlemail.com or 01793 764811.

We also need people to help out with directing visitors to particular events, manning our stand, etc. If you can help out with this kind of thing, even if it's only for a couple of hours, please contact Jo on jlark@homecall.co.uk or 01793 763863. We'd be really grateful for any help offered and given.

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Help Still Needed - Isambard Kingdom Brunel

We would like some help on the night of this event to assist with various activities. Please contact Gillian on millerwrde@homecall.co.uk or 01793 762599.

Help Still Needed – Swindon at War Event – Swindon Central Library – 5th and 6th June

We're showing a display at the above event and we'd like some volunteers to be there to give out information to any interested visitors to the event. Again, even if you can offer only a couple of hours, it all helps and your time will be gratefully appreciated. Please contact Jacky on jackyclark@live.com or 01793 763581.

Do You Know...?

...anything about a school that was opened in Highworth around 1932/3? It appears that it was opened by an ex-Army Officer called Guy Hogan and was called Highworth House or Highworth House School. It seems it had financial difficulties and may not have lasted very long. Can anyone help with more information about this?

Auxiliary Celebration Event at Coleshill on 4 July 10.30am to 4pm. Entry £1.

Coleshill was the GHQ for Auxiliary training during the Second World War. 2010 is the 70th anniversary of the Auxiliary Units commencing their training at Coleshill. These were civilian men, in reserve occupation, who were chosen to go underground in the event of a German invasion and occupation. They were trained in the art of unarmed combat, weaponry and explosives. They were supplied equipment far advanced of that given to the regular army, and with an underground secret Operational Base. They intended to create havoc behind the lines and collect invaluable information. Their life expectancy was 10 – 14 days.

Re-enactors will demonstrate training techniques and exhibit artefacts in the Clock House gardens. The Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) will give timetabled talks in the Granary. Both CART and Parham Museum will exhibit artefacts and be available for questions and further information. Guides will show visitors the key places and remnants from the period; Coleshill's training Operational Base, the Guard House, Stable Yard and Radio Bases. Period catering will be available in a street party in the Carpenters Yard. The National Trust welcomes families, and relatives of Auxiliers to this exciting one off event. For further information contact Liza Dibble on 01793 762209.

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Other Historical Society Events Happening Locally in May and June

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact us for further details:

4th May – “Secret Underground Cities (What the Government Did Underground in North Wiltshire in WWII)” – Nick McCamley – Redlynch and District Local History Society

4th – “150 Years of the Railway from Tisbury and Gillingham” – Steve Chislett and Mike Pearce – Salisbury Local History Group

10th – “The Life of a Soldier in the Trenches in WWI” – S Williams – Atworth History Group

10th – “Growing Up in Warminster in the 1950s” – Chris Warren – Warminster History Society

11th – “Shaftesbury – Not Just Gold Hill” – Diana Goetz – Salisbury Local History Group

11th – “Wiltshire in the Age of Arthur” Nick Griffiths – Tisbury Local History Society

12th – AGM and presentation – Paul Williams – The Swindon Society

13th – “The Monmouth Rebellion 1865” – Chris Scott – Wootton Bassett Historical Society

13th – “Salisbury Museum – 150 Years Old” – Adrian Green – Bemerton Local History Society

14th – AGM and Social Gathering – Town Hall 7pm – Corsham Civic Society

19th – Tour of Freemasons’ Hall, Devizes - Devizes Local History Group

20th – “The Churches and Chapels of Purton and the Hamlet of Braydon” – Victoria Bainbridge – Purton Historical Society

20th – “Public Parks and Pleasure Gardens in Bath from the 18th Century” – Felicity Medcalf (Bath) – The Historical Association (West Wilts Branch)

20th – “History of Deacon and Son, Jewellers” – Richard Deacon – Marlborough History Society

25th – “The Warre Sisters of Bemerton and West Harnham” – William Alexander – Salisbury Local History Group (meeting at the Church Hall, West Harnham)

27th – “William Beckford and the Fonthill Estate – Amy Frost – Dinton Historical Society

June 1st – Town Walk Around Salisbury with City Guide – Redlynch and District Local History Society

10th – Evening Walk Around Lacock – Bob Clarke – Wootton Bassett Local History Society

17th - “A New Look at the Vikings” – Nick Griffiths – Dinton Historical Society

18th – “Corsham and Geology” – Dr Eric Robinson – Corsham Civic Society

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That's it for this month. As always, we're keen for you to be happy with the Society and for you to be as involved as you want to be. If you have any suggestions for us, for the meetings, the website, the newsletter or anything else, please do let us know.

Don't forget to check our fantastic website www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk for news and updates over the season. If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail in future (and save trees and recycling), please contact Kay Brown on kay.brown23@btinternet.com to be included on our mailing list.