

HIGHWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2010 Meeting Newsletter

Hello again!

Lots of information to share this month but, as always, first of all, a reminder of our programme of events for the remainder of this season:

- **February 22 – Welsh Love Spoons by Bob Browning**
- **March 29 – Ladies and the Vote by Paul Booy**
- **April 26 – History of Wiltshire Police by Paul Sample**

All the meetings are on Mondays and will start at 7.30pm.

Wanted!

We're still trying to locate the Oral History of the area done by Mary Hussey-Freke. Does anyone know of its whereabouts? Just to remind you, it is required by a journalist who is writing a book about the British Censorship Department based in Bermuda in World War Two. Mary Hussey-Freke was one of the examiners there and talks about her time in Bermuda on the tape. If anyone has any idea where it might be, we'd be very grateful.

Did You Know...?

...that, as members of the Highworth Historical Society, you have free entry to the Wiltshire Heritage Museum? Our Society membership allows up to three HHS members at one time free entry to the Museum at 41 Long Street in Devizes. Just show your HHS membership card on entry.

Isambard Kingdon Brunel

Tickets are now available from the Lighthouse Bookshop. Book early – they're sure to sell out quickly! Just to remind you, the date is Friday May 7th, the venue is Highworth Warneford School and it starts at 7.30pm. Ticket price: £8 adults £4 juniors

Mediaeval Market May Day – Saturday May 1st

Hopefully, you will have seen the posters around Highworth and the details in the Highworth Year of Culture brochure. We want to make this day a huge success and we'd love it if you (and your families and friends, of course) would come along and join in the fun. To really join in the spirit of the occasion, it would be great if you could also dress in mediaeval costume for the day. We'll be providing costume suggestions for anyone who wants to dress up!

Egg Saturday

Egg Saturday precedes Shrove Tuesday and HHS were able to celebrate in style when we held a Coffee and Pancakes Morning in the Community Room. The Town Crier, Richard Williams, was on hand to advertise the event and escorted Marian with her pancake along the High Street to the butchers. A crowd of almost 60 people filled the pavement to watch Andy Sears toss this pancake for 1 minute 48 seconds! The sweepstake on the Tossing Time was won by Margaret Ayres and she was awarded with a meat voucher, generously donated by our butchers. The Community Room had a continuous flow of customers who enjoyed freshly cooked pancakes despite the best efforts of the noisy fire alarm system to drown all conversation. Thanks to the many helpers, to those who donated prizes for the tombola and to the cooks - Christine, Chris, Brenda and Marian. Also thanks to Edith who decked us out in starched white aprons and caps. A pleasing amount of about £155 was raised. Gillian.

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Friends of Alfred Williams

Short notice, we know! Those of you with e-mail have already been informed about this but we hope many of you can go along to this event:

Where: In Highworth Library

When: Tuesday February 23rd at 2.30pm

What: Readings of a selection from the works of Alfred Williams

Who: Friends of Alfred Williams Society

The Life and Times of William Hooper – Photographer Extraordinaire

Where: In Swindon Central Library

When: Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30pm

What: The Life and Times of Swindon Photographer William Hooper – Photographer Extraordinaire

Who: Paul Williams

Entry is free but places are limited and must be booked in advance. Reserve your place by phoning (01793) 463238 or e-mailing central.library@swindon.gov.uk

Other Historical Society Events Happening Locally in March

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

1st – “Nurses in Victorian Salisbury” – Jane Howell – Atworth History Group

1st – “Stonehenge – The Story So Far” – Julian Richards – Warminster History Society

1st – “Road Rollers” – Doug Roseaman – SWIAS

2nd – “Redlynch Remembered” – Rod Phillimore’s collection of slides – Redlynch Local History Society

2nd – “W H Smith” – Rita Burstow – WFHS (Devizes)

2nd – “William Cobbett’s Botley” – Geoff Watts – Salisbury Local History Group

9th – “Wiltshire – Recently Discoveris in Archaeology” – Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger – Salisbury Museum

9th – “No Knickers: A Light-Hearted Look at Tudor Life” – Jenny Peake – Tisbury Local History Society

10th – AGM followed by “Researching Soldiers’ Records at the National Archives” – D Chilton – WFHS (Chippenham/Calne)

10th – “The Early Days of Cycling” – Bob Townsend – The Swindon Society

10th – “Changes From Mediaeval Great Hall to Tea Room in National Trust” – Judith Plant Cleall – Pewsey Vale History Society

11th – “Village Life and Government in the 18th Century” – Dr Alan Dodge – Wootton Bassett Historical Society

11th – “The Living River Project” – Martin Gilchrist – Salisbury Civic Society

11th – “Victorian Children – Their Crimes and Punishments” – Jim Renehan – WFHS (Swindon)

16th – “A History of Punch and Judy” – Alix Booth – Salisbury Local History Group

17th – AGM followed by “Wiltshire, A Journey Through Time” – Nick Baxter – WFHS (Salisbury)

17th – “Researching the Local History of Your House” – Dorothy Treasure – Devizes Local History Group

17th – “Women and the GWR” – Rosa Matheson – Chiseldon Local History Group

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18th – “Village Life and Government in the 18th Century” – Dr Alan Dodge (Freshford) – The Historical Association (West Wilts Branch)

18th – “Black Knight and Black Arrow Rockets” – J Scragg – Whiteparish History Group

18th – “Battle House, Bromham and its Inhabitants” – Dennis Powney – Melksham and District Historical Association

18th – AGM followed by “The Dutch Golden Age: Housewives and Hussies” – Paul Booy – Purton Historical Society

18th – “Wroughton RAF Aerodrome and Hospital” – Danny Hicks – Marlborough History Society

18th – AGM followed by “Collets Farthing Newspaper” – Rex Sawyer – Bemerton Local History Society

23rd – “Richard Cockle-Lucas – Salisbury’s Eccentric Sculptor” – David Richards – Salisbury Local History Group

24th – AGM followed by “Family Search” – Penny Ann Ellis – WFHS (Malmesbury)

25th – “DNA Testing for Family Historians” – Chris Pomery – WFHS (Swindon)

25th - AGM followed by “Messages in a Bottle” – Marc Jacobs – Dinton Historical Society

26th – “Sir Harold Brakspear 1870-1934 – Local Architect and Antiquary – Tom Brakspear – Corsham Civic Society

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.