

HIGHWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November 2009 Meeting Newsletter

Hello again

First of all, a reminder of our programme of events in the coming months:

- *November 30 – Steam on Wiltshire Roads by Peter Donovan*
- *December 14 – Our own Jo Clark will be giving a talk about Margaret Fitzgerald – Lady of Sevenhampton*
- *January 25 2010 – Trades and Occupations of North Wiltshire by Mike Stone of Chippenham Museum*
- *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.

We hope you all enjoyed the meeting last month, when Mike Boyes came to talk to us about the Le Marchant family from Little Rissington or, more specifically, the nine daughters of the family, none of whom ever married. What an interesting family they were! We are hoping to have Mike back to talk to us next season about the six sons of the family who, I'm sure, will prove equally engaging.

Visit to Swindon Library

Around ten members turned up for the visit to the new central library in Swindon on Monday 9th October. We were split into two groups and taken round the library by two friendly, informative and very enthusiastic members of staff. The visit was fascinating and we all felt that the two hours we spent there could have been doubled and there would still have been more to see! The Local History section was of particular interest and we were all amazed by the sheer quantity of books, documents, maps and general information kept there. In addition, membership of the library entitles you to access to various websites to which the library subscribes, most of them even available from your computer at home. If you haven't visited the library yet, go soon – you won't be disappointed!

What's Happening Next Year?

Next year is the Year of Culture here in Highworth and we at the Historical Society are doing our bit to add to the festivities. Over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, we will be running a Mediaeval May Day Market. For your entertainment, there will be madrigal singers, Morris dancers, maypole dancing, Jack in the Green, a stilt walker, a fire eater, a juggler, mediaeval market stalls, plague victims, an apothecary and many other things. Do spread the word! We hope that you'll come along and bring all your friends and family with you. We will, of course, be sharing more information with you as the event draws closer.

Other Historical Society Events Happening Locally in December

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

- 1st - "The Music Scene in Salisbury 1945-1969" - Richard Nash and Frogg Moody - Redlynch Local History Society
- 1st - "The Stained Glass in Salisbury Cathedral" - John Elliott - Salisbury Local History Group
- 2nd - "Wiltshire Militia and the Monmouth Rebellion" - Chris Scott - Chiseldon Local History Group
- 7th - "The Great Salisbury Train Disaster" - George Fleming - SWIAS
- 3rd - "1908 Salisbury Murder Retrial" (Salisbury Guildhall) - History at Large - Salisbury Local History Group
- 8th - "(W)rong but (W)romantic - The Wiltshire Cavaliers" - Dinah Starkey - WHFS (Chippenham/Calne)
- 8th - "From Wollongong to Wallonia (via Wiltshire) - an Archaeology of the Great War" - Richard Osgood - Salisbury Museum Lecture
- 9th - "Folk Songs of Wiltshire - Illustrated" - Bob and Gill Berry - Pewsey Vale History Society
- 10th - "Early History of the Wiltshire Constabulary" - Steve Bridge - Wootton Bassett Historical Society
- 10th - Christmas Evening - Tinker's Bag - WFHS (Swindon)
- 10th - "King Edmund, Little Jack Horner and Edwin Lutyens: The Remarkable History of Mellis" - Michael McGarvie (Frome) - The Historical Association (W Wilts Branch)
- 15th - Christmas Meal with Speaker (booking essential) - WFHS (Devizes)
- 15th - Christmas Party - A seasonal feast, songs and music - Bob and Gill Berry - Salisbury Local History Group
- 16th - "Life in Sheep Street, Devizes, in the 20th Century" - Bill Underwood - Devizes Local History Group
- 17th - Fireworks - D Cox - Whiteparish History Group

Don't forget that our meeting next month will be on December 14th - earlier than usual, due to the Christmas festivities.

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.org.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 kaystracey@btinternet.com to be included on our list.