

# *The History of Reading Society*



The object of the Society is to cultivate interest in and to encourage research into the history of the town of Reading

Hon Secretary Mr P Russell 5 Wilmington Close Reading RG5 4LR Tel 0118 961 8559	Chair & Acting Treasurer Mr J Dearing 27 Sherman Rd Reading RG1 2PJ Tel 0118 958 0377	Programme Organiser Mr E Hooper
---	---	------------------------------------

**Late Summer 2002**

## **Newsletter**

By way of introduction, this is again a shortened Newsletter to bring you up-to-date with news and events. It is produced as an interim arrangement as the Society has no Newsletter Editor at present.

## **Programme of Meetings and Visits 2002 - 2003**

Your copy of the Programme Card for 2002- 2003 is enclosed.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there has been a delay in getting the programme finally distributed for which we apologise. We hope that members will not have been inconvenienced by the delay. But it reinforces the need to have a Newsletter Editor to mastermind the compilation of our newsletter: a point made at the AGM by John Dearing, our Chairman.

Your Committee hopes that as many as possible will be able to come to the talks organized for the year. Eddy Hooper has again arranged a feast of speakers and subjects and we must congratulate him because as those who have arranged similar programmes for other organisations, it is no easy job to undertake. We realise that - for those who are unable to come by car - with changes in bus services over the past year, coming out in the evening may be somewhat difficult. If there is any way in which your Committee can help individuals by say matching spare seats in cars with members who would like to come, please do speak to one or other of those named above.

While it perhaps detracts from Eddy Hooper's whole feast, we should like to highlight 3 parts of the menu:

21 November- Field Road Chalk Mines: this will be a joint meeting with the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group [BIAG]. In view of the ongoing concern about Reading's now apparently widespread chalk mines, this should make for an interesting evening.

19 December - Joan Dils will give her Presidential Address on *Elizabethan Reading*. It would be best to come early on that occasion: we are likely to have a full house.

19 June 2003 - the visit (for members only) arranged to the University Dept of Typography & Graphic Communications.

**Heritage Weekend 13 -16 Sept:** many places are open in Reading & Berkshire. The Central Library has a list or see the Reading Chronicle for 6 Sept. Or you can phone 020 7930 9294 or see [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

London Open House Weekend is 21-22 Sept: [www.londonopenhouse.org.uk](http://www.londonopenhouse.org.uk)

**Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre** (*possible private visit for members*)

The Old Laundry Medical Museum at the Royal Berks(hire) Hospital is open on the first Sunday afternoon of every month (2.30 - 4.30). Admission is free and the museum well worth a visit.

It may be possible to organise a private visit for a Saturday afternoon or a weekday evening. Such a visit would have to be restricted to 15 persons at a time to avoid overcrowding, but it may be possible to arrange for two consecutive one hour visits so that 30 people could be accommodated.

If you are a member and are interested in attending an arranged visit in January or February 2003, please would you let Eddy Hooper know by the end of September. Please let him know whether you would prefer an afternoon or an evening visit.

### Electronic **Mailing**

For those on our electronic mailing list, because we need to send you the programme card, you are getting this newsletter in traditional hard paper copy. But electronic distribution will resume with the next issue, as an attachment in Word to an introductory email.

For the 17 or so who subscribe to this form of mailing from us, we are grateful as already it helps considerably with the logistics of printing and distributing to some 85 members and organisations. If there are other members prepared to receive their copy of each newsletter by email please contact Bent Weber, who provides technical support to the Society.