



The History of Reading Society

[REDACTED]
Reading.

July 1981

Dear Member,

At the AGM on 26 March last, the following were elected on to the Committee:

Janet CLARKE
Jean DEBNEY
Clinton ELLIS
Jo ELLIS

Derek HUMPHRIES
David QUARTERMAINE (Treasurer)
Sue READ
Peter SOUTHERTON

The new Committee has made the following arrangements about the Secretaryship of the Society which you may remember was unfilled at the AGM:-

- 1 Derek HUMPHRIES will act as Minute's Secretary
- 2 Jean DEBNEY will be responsible for the Newsletter
- 3 Sue READ will be Meetings Secretary as from September.

However, the CHAIRMANSHIP is still vacant, there being no-one on the present Committee able to take on the responsibility. This means that, in **accordance** with the wishes of the AGM, the first meeting in September will have the task of electing someone to fill the post; ANYONE who feels they could do so should contact Janet CLARKE - tel. [REDACTED] - as SOON AS POSSIBLE. I have been continuing to act as Chairman throughout the summer, but my workload is such that this cannot continue after July. It is extremely urgent, therefore, that we have a volunteer (or a conscript!) very soon. PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT!!!

Meanwhile, the Society has now been affiliated to the Berkshire Local History Association and was well represented at the Day Conference on 'Vanishing Berkshire' on June 6th at Bulmershe College. Like many other societies we had a small exhibition, ours consisting of eye-catching posters designed for us over the last few years by Jo and Clinton ELLIS to advertise our meetings. It was very heartening to see the huge amount of very high quality research being carried on by societies all over the County in what was a very fascinating exhibition. Also in the programme were two talks on "Tales of Old Berkshire" by Cecilia MILLSON, and "Committed to Parchment and Paper" by the County Archivist, Amanda ARROW-SMITH. A forum on local history topics and problems completed a very interesting and worthwhile day.

There is an exhibition at Reading Museum and Art Gallery that is a must for all members. It is a very comprehensive collection of paintings, drawings and prints entitled "Berkshire Observed". There is also an excellent photography exhibition called "A Reading Record". Both are on until August 8th.

Our own programme for the next session is now virtually complete, and is given in detail below for inclusion in your diaries.

DON'T FORGET - THURSDAY 9th JULY - Meet 7.30 pm outside
THE TURKS HEAD, LONDON ROAD

for a TREE WALK led by Catherine OLVER - an historical / botanical look around the trees of London Road, and time and weather permitting, the University Campus on London Road.

August - no meeting

(All meetings take place on a THURSDAY in the Abbey Gateway Room at 7.30 pm)

- September 24th - Mr Bill DENTON on 'Coley'
- October 22th - Mrs Mary TREMBATH on 'Pangbourne, a rural parish'
- November 19th - Mr W J WRIGHT, Chairman of the British Victorian Military Society - title to be announced
- December 17th - Members' Evening & Seasonal Entertainment. Theme: 'Visitors to Reading'

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- January 14th - Mr Michael THOMAS, RIBA on an architectural subject - title to be announced
- February 11th - Mr Alf ISON on 'Finding out about the past'
- March 25th - AGM and talk by Mr N CROMPTON, a member of the Reading Fire Brigade Society
- April 22nd - Members' Evening
- May 20th - Mrs Jean DEBNEY on 'Purley'

NOTE for anyone already engaged in or interested in helping with the INDEXING OF THE BERKSHIRE CHRONICLE:

Beginning on Sat 5 September and continuing on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month from 10 am to 1 pm, Janet CLARKE will be in the Reading Central Reference Library to organize the indexing and answer your queries. Come along and meet your fellow indexers and find out more about the town in the 19th century.

The Committee and I look forward to seeing you on 9th July and at the Winter Meetings.

With best wishes for the holidays,

Joan DILS

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Enquiries to - Jean DEBNEY
8 Huckleberry Close, PURLEY, Reading
Telephone - Reading 413223

ACT NOW before you get cold feet:

I wish to put my name forward / I suggest the following member as CHAIRMAN of the HISTORY of READING SOCIETY for 1981-82: (delete as necessary)

Name

Address

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.....

Tel No

Return to: Mrs J DILS, [redacted]
or telephone: Janet CLARKE on [redacted]