

THE SWINDON SOCIETY

January Newsletter

Meeting Wednesday 12th December 2012

Our Christmas Party.

The day of our party was dull and very cold with the temperature hovering around zero all day, so we expected to find car windscreens may need seasonal scraping, when we went home... but we didn't have to. We arrived to find quite a few already there, the long tables were laid out with the lovely food under covers and the 'bar' organised with glasses, wine, and soft drinks for drivers.

We were sitting around tables which felt more sociable for a party occasion.

As all the members arrived we were given a free raffle ticket and a streets quiz form, then there was much to-ing and fro-ing exchanging cards, and greeting friends before beginning to puzzle out the street names Kevin had set for us. Bob had arranged a picture quiz around the walls which was quite a challenge too.

After we enjoyed our food and drinks we heard the results of the quizzes and the raffle was drawn.

This year Sheila Daghish was away on a well deserved cruise holiday, so we thank Dee Bedford for standing in and providing the excellent buffet spread, and Gina for buying and serving the drinks.

All these things, the preparation of food, transporting the drinks, compiling quizzes, printing the questionnaires and organizing the raffle takes much longer than it does for the guests to absorb, but I feel sure we all really enjoyed the evening as we made our way home amid Christmas and New Year Greetings being wished all round the Hall.

New Local Magazine .

Several of our members and committee attended a presentation at Steam on Tuesday 18th December, by Graham Carter to publicise this new venture, for which a grant has been received which will enable the first issue to appear in January. All the local history groups were represented to hear Councillor Rod Bluh introduce the meeting, coffee and Christmas cake was served and unfortunately a crumb of the cake went the wrong way and I had an embarrassing fit of coughing and rather put him off his speech.. Graham Carter showed us a proof copy of the magazine which is A4 size with a glossy cover and contains articles of local interest.

The first edition of Swindon Heritage, will be available at the end of January 2013. and then quarterly. Local and family history enthusiasts, local history groups and members of the Swindon & District History Network are invited to contribute articles, photographs, remember when pieces, society news and forthcoming events. This glossy, all colour magazine will be available in a number of town outlets, by subscription and online. For further information contact Mark Sutton on 01793 535281 email sutton5110@hotmail.co.uk and/or Frances Bevan 01793 875416 email francesbevan@outlook.com.

Recycled Calendars.

Once again this year I am using some recycled Calendars, 2002 unused i.e. not scribbled on, fits this year's dates, perfectly, even Easter comes right... Good Friday is on 29th March.

2012 Calendar, as it was a leap year, does not recycle until 2040 ! 28 years hence....

I began saving calendars for the lovely pictures, then discovered they can be re-used, which appealed to my miserly streak.....

Further presentations were given on 5th November by Bob Townsend and Frances Bevan, Bob told

of Victorian Times around Old Town and Francis 's was about schools of that era..

Library News

Dates for Archivist visits.

An Archivist from the record office will be at the Reference Library in the Central Library Regent Circus 10am till 12 noon to give advice to researchers on Mondays, dates as follows:-

Monday 28th January 2013.

If you have special research or require a particular document a telephone call to the Library would ensure whether it is available when you visit.

Telephone. (01793) 463238 which is the number for both the lending and the reference library.

Also on these dates, the Archivist will be giving talks on research, as follows :-

Archivists Research Talks.

Monday 28th January.

Family History on the Internet, Do's and Dont's by Claire Skinner..

All talks at **1.00 pm.** on these dates. unless otherwise stated

Tickets £2.50 or £1.50 for Library members. Available from the Swindon Collection Help Point on the Second Floor of the Central Library, or ring 01793 463238 from 2 weeks before.

Friends of Swindon Railway Museum

Members of this group have a full and interesting programme for the new session.

Our members would be welcome to attend as visitors.

Programme of Meetings 2013.

2013.

Saturday 12th January The Inheritance of the Great Western Railway between the Wars - Tim Bryan.,based on his 12th book a portrait of the GWR 1918 to 1939.

Monday 18th February Annual General Meeting. Followed by members slides.

Monday 18th March Australia Part 2: Edward Stansfield .

Saturday 13th April Great Central, Part 2: Chris Youett.

Details of May meeting will be advised in due course.

All meetings will take place in the Daniel Gooch Lecture Theatre at Steam.Please Note, the Monday evening meetings will commence at 7.15pm and Saturday afternoon meetings this season will start at the earlier time of 2.0pm to comply withthe new Museum opening hours.

Meet at the Steam Museum, Kemble Drive, Swindon.

If you would like to attend these meetings, **please take your Swindon Society Membership card with you.**

Purton Historical Society.

Please note,meeting dates vary from month to month.

Meet monthly **at St Mary's Primary School, Purton** at 7.30pm.

Thursday January 17th A Load of Old Cobblers, Mary Bedells.

Mrs. Helen Dixon ,Secretary 01793 770648

The Historical Society of Royal Wootton Bassett.

'Looking forward to the Past'

Visitors are most welcome, (£2.00); refreshments served before our main event which begins at 7.30. Do come along and join us in an entertaining and informative evening.- Vivien Sumner.

Thursdays 7.30 pm. Civic Centre, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett. SN4 7TZ First Floor,upstairs.

Annual membership £10.00. Visitors always welcome : £2.00

Further Information from Vivien Sumner 01666 511195

2013

Thursday 10th January Mesolithic and Neolithic Britain - Bob Clarke. First in a series of six talks on a Prehistoric journey from 10,000 BC to 43 AD

Talk 1 Islands 10,000 - 4,500 BC

Thursday 14th February The Romans in Swindon - Mike Stone. Introduction to some Roman settlements uncovered around Swindon.

Thursday 14th March Industrial Archaeology in your Garage Shed or Attic - Bill King.

Rodbourne Community History Group

Meets monthly at 7pm at Even Swindon Community Centre, Jennings Street on the last Wednesday of the month. Admission Members £1 Guests £2 (including refreshment).

2013

Wednesday 30th January To be arranged.

Ring Gordon Shaw 01793 616558 for details....

Highworth History Society

All lecture meetings are held in the United Reform Church, High Street, Highworth unless otherwise stated.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the last Monday of the month. Membership £10.00 (Renewable in September each year) Visitors £3.00

2013

Monday 28th January Awakening the Blade, Dr. Robert Jones, A practical approach to medieval swordplay.

Monday 25th February The Life and Times of Swindon Photographer, William Hooper, Paul Williams.

Monday 25th March 18th Century Private Theatricals, Alan Ledger.

Chiseldon Local History Group

Meet at Holy Cross Church Room, Butts Road, Chiseldon.

at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Visitors Welcome. small charge.

2013

Wednesday January 16th Gallipoli 1915. John Winterburn, Independent Archaeologist.

Wednesday February 20th Nelson's Navy. Chris Scott, Writer and Historian.

Wednesday March 20th The End of Roman Cirencester. Neil Holbrook. CEO Cotswold Archaeology.

Wednesday April 17th Making the Cauldrons. Hector Cole, Blacksmith and Historical Ironworker.

Chiseldon Museum, The Old Chapel, Butts Road, is open from 11am to 3pm on the first and third Saturday each month from April to October.