

Bicester Local History Society Newsletter (January 2011)

Welcome to the first Bicester Local History Society Newsletter. It is our aim that we publish a short quarterly edition of the Newsletter to enable members without internet access to be kept informed of forthcoming meetings, events and projects that the Society will be undertaking. We would welcome any contributions that you might like to send to us.



Forthcoming Meetings:

We celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Bicester Local History Society in 2011. The talks we have selected for our monthly meetings reflect local themes in the Bicester Area. Talks take place at St Edburg's Church Hall, Old Place Yard, Bicester at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The programme for the first quarter of 2011 includes:

- 'A Doorway into Bicester's Architectural History' – Pat Snelson (17th January)
- 'Bicester in World War Two' – Pete Chivers (21st February)
- 'The World of Flora Thompson' – Christine Bloxham (21st March)

Bicester Local History Society 25th Anniversary History & Heritage Exhibition:

The highlight of the 25th Anniversary celebrations will be a 'Bicester History & Heritage Exhibition' at The Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street at 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 21st May 2011. This will prove to be a major undertaking for the Society. We have a number of Local History Societies joining us for the event as well as Oxfordshire County Museum representatives, Clubs, Societies and individual exhibitors. We hope to unveil the refurbished Bicester Fire Engine at the event. We would really welcome offers to assist us organising the event on the day. Please talk to any of our Committee members if you are able to help us for this event.



Oral History:



'Do you Remember When' oral history sessions have regularly taken place at 'The Pop-In' Centre during the last two years. We have built up a wealth of local stories, recollections and information about the town and the surrounding area as a result. We have now reached the stage where we can begin to visit individual contributors to record their memories of the locality. We hope to produce an illustrated DVD of the material we have gathered later in the year. This will be followed by a book in 2012.

Other News:

- The 'Bicester Past & Present' Book that we have researched over the last few years is at the History Press publishers and awaits a date for publication. More details to follow....
- A programme of Bicester Town and local Village Walks for 2011 is currently under consideration. Dates for these will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.
- Ghost Walks have proved very popular with over 150 people applying to take part in November, December and January. We have raised over £500.00 for Society funds as a result. Many thanks to all who have helped to organise the Walks.



- A Bicester World War Two 'Home Guard' Talk, organised by the Society, at the Library in November raised £140.00 for 'The British Legion Poppy Appeal' and 'Help for Heroes' charities. We helped with 'Bicester Battalion Home Guard' and 'Christmas Past' displays at the Library over the past few months.

Can You Help?????

In our collection of photographs of Bicester and the surrounding area there are a number of “mystery” items. The only clue that they might be local is either the postmark on the back of the postcard or the name of the photographer. If you have any ideas as to where these buildings are please contact Bob Hessian – 01869 350662, or via the website – www.blhs.org.uk



PICTURE ONE



PICTURE TWO



PICTURE THREE