



Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

CADHAS President: Margaret Coombs

Secretary: Richard Fitch (secretary@cadhas.org.uk) 020 8647 5304

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Meetings are held in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, SM5 2DL

Sat. 6th February - a talk by Andrew Skelton on "The Scawens of Carshalton" (Starting at 3 p.m.)

Sat. 5th March Annual General Meeting (Starting at 2:45 p.m.)

Following the AGM John Phillips will give us a report on the excavation in Beddington Park last summer. John Thornton will then show slides of the 2015 outings including the May weekend trip to the Isle of Wight.

Sat. 2nd April 2016 - Ian Bevan will speak on "The Inns of Court" (Starting at 3 p.m.)

The Inns of Court - Legal London consists of the 4 Inns of Court in and around Holborn, the Strand and Fleet Street, where barristers have had their chambers since the 14th century. This talk describes the features of these historic parts of London and some of the characters who have frequented its courts and alleyways.



May Weekend Visit to Norwich (7th - 9th May 2016)

John Thornton reports that the May weekend outing to Norfolk is currently fully booked.

Tuesday 14 June - Boat Trip, Westminster Pier to Hampton Court

Pick-up at Wallington, Shotfield at 9-30am or at Carshalton, Ruskin Road at 9-45am.



Our coach will take us to Westminster Pier where we will board the cruiser for our 3-hour cruise. The river banks are lined with upmarket new and converted residential properties. We catch glimpses of notable London riverside venues including Lambeth Palace, Tate Gallery, and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Passing Putney Barnes and Mortlake we follow the course of the Oxford and Cambridge Universities Boat Race. We then

pass upriver of Kew Bridge and almost seem to be in rural countryside as we cruise between the wooded vistas of Richmond Park and Kew Botanical Gardens.

The boat offers limited tea and coffee facilities and a small licensed bar, a packed lunch is recommended.

On arrival at Hampton Court there will be a short opportunity to maybe visit the gardens of Hampton Court Palace where there are cafeteria facilities or perhaps a stroll around the nearby shops.

The coach will then return us to Carshalton/Wallington by around 6pm.

Cost (including coach fare and river trip) £25 for Freedom Pass Holders (which have to be shown, otherwise add £7-50). (Cost for non-members and guests £26).

Tuesday 12 July - Coach Trip, Chichester and Fishbourne

Pick-up at Wallington, Shotfield, at 9.30 a.m or at Carshalton, Ruskin Road, at 9.45 a.m.

Arrive Chichester for lunch and a look around 11.30. Leave Chichester 1.30 for short drive to Fishbourne Roman Palace. There is a short introductory film (12 minutes) which sets the scene and then a one-hour guided tour immediately afterwards (included in the cost). Built about 30 years after Claudius's conquest of Britain in 43 AD, it may originally have belonged to a pro-Roman local chieftain. The rectangular palace surrounded formal gardens, the northern half of



which have been reconstructed and re-planted using authentic plants from the Roman period. There were extensive alterations in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with many of the original black and white mosaics being overlaid with more sophisticated coloured work, including the perfectly preserved Cupid on a dolphin mosaic in the north wing. The palace burnt down in about 270, after which it was abandoned. It was rediscovered in 1960 during the laying of a water-main across a field. It is by far the largest Roman residence known north of the Alps, with a footprint bigger than Buckingham Palace. There is a cafe serving tea and cakes, also a shop. Depart 4.30, return Carshalton about 6.30. Cost £27 (£28 for guests).

Thursday 11 August - Coach trip to Rochester

Pick-up at Wallington, Shotfield at **9-30am** or at Carshalton, Ruskin Road at **9-45am**.

The one-time home of author Charles Dickens, in addition to adopting the Dickensian theme as almost a mascot, the city has a wealth of other historical and interesting places.

On arrival we will have a guided visit to the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and an opportunity to view the Textus Roffensis - a bound collection of documents predating the Magna Carta.

Thereafter you will be free to visit some of the other historic buildings in Rochester and have lunch: maybe the Guildhall Museum or

follow a self-guided 'Dickens' walk. Rochester Castle is an English Heritage venue, entry cost for non-EH member Seniors is around £4 - but there are some 50 outside steps to gain access!

Departure from Rochester 4-30pm arriving Carshalton/Wallington by around 6pm.

Cost(including coach fare and guided tour of cathedral) £20-00 (£21 for non-members and guests)



Wednesday 14 September - Greenwich and the Thames Barrier Learning Centre

Pick-up at Wallington, Shotfield at **9-30am** or at Carshalton, Ruskin Road at **9-45am**.

We will first stop in Greenwich for a couple of hours giving an opportunity for lunch, visit to one of the many historic buildings in this Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site: The Old Royal Naval College, Painted Hall, Chapel, Queens House, National Maritime Museum, or perhaps the Fan Museum. The 'Cutty Sark' and the Old Royal Observatory and Prime Meridian are other nearby attractions.

At 2pm we will re-board the coach for the short drive to the Thames Barrier Learning Centre where a guide will talk about the history of the river, the risk of flooding in London,

the construction of the largest moveable flood barrier in the world, the environment and wildlife of the Thames.

We will then be served tea or coffee and cakes before departure at 4-30pm for return to Carshalton/Wallington by around 6pm .

Cost (including coach fare and afternoon tea/coffee and cake) £25. (£26 for non-members and guests)

NB: There is NO access onto the barrier, nor is a river trip around the barrier included.



The Society is launching a new booklet, Stanley Bird's account of his experiences as a soldier during the First World War, edited by his daughter Brenda Allen, and called 'An Ordinary Soldier'.

An ordinary soldier

his account of service in the First World War

S. A. Bird

(of the 1st Surrey Rifles)



He joined up soon after the outbreak of war, and served throughout the war, first as a bandsman, then on active service as a stretcher bearer. He saw action in France, Macedonia, and finally in Egypt and Palestine on the march to Jerusalem. The book concentrates on the lighter side of army life with much of interest about the war along the way.

Stanley was a member of the Society for many years, as is his daughter

The book launch will be at the AGM on 5 March 2016 and is priced at £4 for members and £5 for non-members. Brenda has agreed to sign copies



Photo: London Borough of Sutton

Visit <http://www.newsroomsutton.co.uk/?p=2827> for a press release of our visit.

Barrow Hedges

Last year we supported Kath Shawcross, the Sutton Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, when she asked for help to purchase some deeds and documents relating to the Barrow Hedges estate, some dating back to 1785. We contributed £375 towards the cost and on January 7 Kath invited a groups of 15 members of CADHAS to inspect the documents at the Sutton Local Studies and Archive Centre.