



The
Marcham
Society

Newsletter

9th of October Secrets of Oxford Castle

The second of our new season of talks takes place at the usual time at All Saints Church. The subject is 'The Secrets of Oxford Castle' and our speaker is Mark Davies. Mark is an Oxford local historian, specialising in the history of non-University Oxford. He has written and published six Oxford local interest books, four of which are currently in print: *A Towpath Walk in Oxford* (2001/2012), *The Abingdon Waterturnpike Murder* (2003/2008), *Alice in Waterland* (2010/2012), and *Alice's Oxford on Foot* (2014/16). His most recent work (2015) is a biography of the Oxford pastry cook James Sadler, who became the unlikely first Englishman to build and ascend in an air balloon in 1784. See 'King of all Balloons' page.

Mark is a regular contributor of articles on various aspects of Oxford's local history to the Oxford Times' Limited Edition magazine, and also writes occasionally for national publications. He composed the text for the three-mile Oxford Canal Heritage Trail, from central Oxford to beyond Wolvercote – see Recommended Sites – and for the Royal Geographical Society's 'City of Streams and Spires' waterside walk to Sandford-on-Thames.

Refreshments will be served from 7:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:45 p.m.

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AGM Results

This year's Annual General Meeting took place on the 1st of September and the Society was shown to be in good general health with a stable membership and healthy finances for the size of organisation, which means that we have been able to leave subscription rates unchanged. There was a brief review of activities over the past year and the major change that has taken place is that, as previewed in last month's newsletter Marge Hall and Joy Myatt retired from the committee, but their last act was to help out, yet again, with the refreshments for the

evening for which much grateful thanks were extended. Sheila Tilley and Elaine Steere were co-opted on to the committee to take the place of Joy and Marge and a welcome was extended to them both. There has also been a new role created on the committee which Rosemary Harwood has agreed to fill, which is as Membership Secretary, so expect to hear more from her once she gets to grips with what the role entails. The rest of the committee remains in place for another year.

Archiving Resumes After Summer Break

3rd October at 2:30 p.m.

The archiving project resumes at Manor farm Boardroom on Wednesday the 3rd of October, where the group will continue to catalogue the contents that we have. Please come along, if you have time and discover what secrets we have left to discover amongst our documents.



Berkshire Local History Association (BLHA) are hoping to arrange an archiving group day themselves to share best practice amongst their members and may receive some help from the

Berkshire Records Office about what material to keep and how best to protect and catalogue it. The Marcham Society will be involved in this undertaking if and when it takes place.