



JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER

BALDOCK MUSEUM & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

COMING EVENTS

SOCIETY TALKS

- Thursday 27th July **“The Development of Hitchin Town Centre before 1800”**
Bridget Howlett
- Thursday 28th September Short **AGM** and showing of the **Kayser Bondor** film, **“A Glimpse of Stocking”**, with a short introduction and slides
- Thursday 23rd November **“The Coaching Inns of Baldock”** describing how the inns operated in the Coaching Age, Brendan King

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum display changed in May to “The Bondor” the story of Kayser Bondor’s headquarters factory in Baldock from 1928 to 1983, especially during its 1950s heyday. There is also a section describing the initial building of the factory by Kosmos Photographics of Letchworth in 1920 explaining their intentions for the new project, which had nothing to do with a film studio!

In the last issue it was mentioned that Ted Ellis had put the film “A Glimpse of Stocking” about Kayser Bondor on to the TV screen in the museum with subtitles instead of sound, he has since kindly added another film about the origins of the factory under Kosmos, just push the appropriate button beside the set.

The “Glimpse of Stocking” film, with its original sound, will be shown at the AGM. It will be an opportunity to hear some lovely characters remembering their time at the Bondor, but it also includes some interesting commentary about the hosiery business and its demise. Those of you with good memories may recall that thirteen years ago a group of enthusiasts had approached us with a view to making this film about Kayser Bondor after one of them had attended a talk by the late Neville Chuck (many of whose photographs are in the present display.) We obtained a small grant from the local councillors, found some contributors and provided the museum for a location for some of the filming. They did a very good job of it as you will see.

We could do with more volunteers to attend the gallery/museum opening times (Saturdays and Wednesdays for two hours once every one or two months) please telephone 892640 if you can help.

HISTORY IN THE AFTERNOON

The programme for the BAHC talks on Friday afternoons is as follows:

- 14th July: ‘*Celebrating Royal Occasions in Victorian & Edwardian Baldock*’ by Brendan King
- 11th August: ‘*The Brewing Industry in Baldock*’ by Jane Tunesi
- 1st September: ‘*Medieval Feasting*’ by Maureen Maddren
- 13th October: ‘*Shopping between the Wars – Fashion, Food and Fantasy*’ by Frank Foy
- 3rd November: ‘*History of Wallington*’ by Dan Pinnock

All talks start at 2.30pm upstairs in the Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre's Thomas Pryor Theatre.

Admission £4 with a £1 reduction for BMLHS members. Free tea and cake provided!

PLEASE NOTE: Starting with the October talk BAHC will be raising the price of the History in the Afternoon talks to £5 with the same £1 discount to the BMLHS and also BAHC volunteers. This is due to the greatly increased cost of gas and electricity.