



JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

BALDOCK MUSEUM & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SOCIETY TALKS

- Thursday 23rd January “**Edwardian Codicote**,” an illustrated tour around the village, Nicholas Maddex
- Thursday 27th March, “**The History of the Church of St. Mary, Baldock**,” Rhian Dodds
- Thursday 22nd May “**Detecting Local History**,” what metal detecting can tell us about local history, Dave Mance and Clive Reader
- Thursday 24th July “**From Paganism to Christianity**,” some recent discoveries in the sacred landscape bounding late prehistoric to medieval Baldock, Gil Burleigh
- Thursday 25th September Short **AGM** and **slideshow: “Baldock in 1953”**
- Thursday 27th November “**The Home Front in Hertfordshire in WW2**,” Sarah Kerrison of Herts Archives

All talks at Baldock Community Centre and start at 8pm

Thank you all for your support at our talks last year and we hope that the new programme of talks will entice you back again this year. We are very fortunate in having a numerous and loyal membership without which the society would soon wither away. This has happened to some other local societies and the committee are very grateful for your continued support. The membership fee remains at a very low level of £5 for our six talks, with a discount for the History in the Afternoon talks. Subscriptions for this year can be paid at any of the talks.

HISTORY IN THE AFTERNOON

There is a new programme for the BAHM talks on Friday afternoons:

- 14th February: *Cassiobury* – a landscape history of one of Hertfordshire’s great houses, Laurie Elvin
- 14th March: *North Herts Through the Eyes of its Artists*, Ros Allwood, North Herts Museums
- 11th April: *Hitchin Through Time*, ‘then and now’ photographs of the town, Hugh Madgin
- 9th May: *Rossini, Donizetti and Bellini*, a talk with singing by soprano Laura Valentine
- 13th June: *Cardinal Wolsey’s Hertfordshire Palace*, Heather Falvey

All talks start at 2.30pm in the Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre's Thomas Pryor Theatre. Admission £5 with a £1 reduction for BMLHS members. Free tea and cake provided!

SOCIETY NEWS

We regret to report that Jean Watson, one the early members of the Society, died last September aged 93. Always a bright and cheerful person, Jean served on the committee until 2001 and was secretary until 1996. She remained a member of the society and was a frequent attender on the front row at our talks. We also remember Garth Denning who died in September aged 81. Garth served on the committee from 2005 to 2007. Also Paul Culpin, who helped at meetings in recent years, recently deceased.

MUSEUM NEWS

The museum project is rumbling along rather more slowly than hoped. Those who have attended our AGMs will recall that the plan had been to get a large Lottery grant and pay museum designers to arrange the new museum. When it became obvious that no grant was forthcoming we decided to try to do the job ‘in-house’. This has proved more difficult and time consuming than anticipated. Previously the idea had been that the museum would shut for several months while the work was being done. The present plan is to complete a section at a time whilst keeping the museum open with temporary displays. However even that may change as there are new developments in the pipeline!