



TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 14

Summer 2008

THE HISTORY SOCIETY'S FOURTH SUMMER VISIT THIS YEAR IS TO BE TO THE HISTORIC CITY OF SALISBURY

The Society's Committee, following consideration of the many suggested destinations, has arranged a coach trip to Salisbury. This Medieval City boasts arguably the country's greatest cathedral topped with the tallest spire in England. Added to this Salisbury has the largest close in England with the famous cathedral at its centre and the old town is entered through four Medieval Gates. There is also a very good shopping centre! The visit is scheduled for **Thursday the 18th September 2008** with the coach picking up from the village bus stops starting at **9:30am** returning to the village around **7:00pm**. The cost of seats are **£9.00** for **Members** and **£11.00** for **Non-Members** and can be booked at meetings or by telephone at **01865 739208** or **01865 730321**.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

In 1819 Radley Hall (now the Mansion House at Radley College), the Manor House of the Stonhouse and Bowyer Families for almost 100 years, together with 112 acres of parkland, were leased to a Benjamin Kent to open a Nonconformist School. In 1847, following this school's failure some three years earlier, William Sewell and Robert Singleton applied for a lease on the house to open an Anglican Boarding School for boys. In August that year their School opened and this was the start of St Peter's College later known as Radley College

QUOTATION

'A Politician, a person with whose politics you don't agree. If you agree with him, he's a statesman.'

David Lloyd George

SOCIETY VISIT TO PENDON

Following the success of David Day's talk about **Pendon Museum** Long Wittenham a special showing has been arranged for **10:30am Saturday 19th July 2008**. The cost to members of this subsidised visit is **£4.00**, and for non-members **£4.50** including entrance to the Museum and a cup of tea or coffee. Transport will not be provided and one of the limited places available can be booked at any of the Society's meetings.

QUOTATION

'When I'm good, I'm very, very good, but when I'm bad, I'm better.'

'I used to be Snow White but I drifted.'

Mae West

DIARY

16th June 2008
Daily Life in Tudor Times -
Martin Sirot-Smith of Sulgrave Manor

19th July 2008
*Visit with Special Showing to -
Pendon Museum

15th September 2008
The Parish of St Thomas West
Oxford -
Liz Woolley

18th September 2008
*Annual Summer Coach Trip -
Visit to City of Salisbury

20th October 2008
More National Parks -
Adrian Thornton



Dr Barnardo – A Person I Would Like to Have Met

Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845, and was, as a young man, an agnostic. As he said himself, he was "brought to Christ in the year 1862" when he became a member of the Plymouth Brethren Church. With his new found faith he found he was able to preach and people listened. His faith became so strong that in 1866, at the age of 20, he left home and travelled to London to offer his services to the China Inland Mission. After interview, this intense young man was turned down as a candidate; however they suggested that he became a doctor and then re-apply. He was sponsored by the Plymouth Brethren and lived in the East End of London where he witnessed poverty and hardship at first hand. Barnardo started to study medicine to fit himself for work in China, but it was many years before he qualified. He also started working in the established Ragged Schools but he always wanted to organise things in his own way and soon left. On leaving, Barnardo opened his own day school in a converted donkey shed which he later called the East End Juvenile Mission. One of his pupils, Jim Jarvis, told him about London's abandoned children and took him to where they congregated. He did not know it then, but this was the beginning of a task to which he would devote his life.

In those days strong drink was a major cause of poverty. However Barnardo realised that there was nowhere, in the overcrowded slum houses, for adults to go for warmth and comfort, except public houses. This is why he raised money and bought the "Edinburgh Castle", a gin palace. He then opened its doors to serve tea and coffee in clean, warm and comfortable surroundings. This giant building could hold a thousand people and doubled as a church on Sundays. Thomas Barnardo, an inspired orator addressed crowds in excess of a thousand on many Sundays. He made a great impact in the East End, but in the end the care of young waifs became his life's work.

Stepney Causeway became the centre of his organisation and it was here that a boy, called Carrots, asked for help. At that time the Mission was full and he was turned away, but that night the boy died of cold. After this tragedy the Doctor declared his mission statement "No destitute child ever refused admission" and this was displayed on a sign outside the premises. Dr Barnardo was now absolutely committed to his own mission statement.

Despite his good works he had to survive a newspaper campaign and attacks by other Christian organisations which ended at the Arbitration Court. He was exonerated but criticised for some of his methods. However, he emerged from his ordeals with greater public support.

At the time of his death in 1905, aged 60, there were 12,000 in his care including 1800 disabled children. 18,000 children had been resettled abroad. He had raised £3,250,000 (£30,000,000 today) to finance his "Homes" for boys and girls.

David Holt

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Family Membership	£16.00	Single Members	£10.00
Non member/Visitor		£2.50	

Please make all cheques payable to: Kennington History Society

If you require any further information on the Society please contact:
The Chairman, George Ross on Ox 739208

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