



BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY REPORT

by Sue Lavender 1 December 2017

If you would like a short spring break in York why not include BALH's Local History Day on 2nd June 2018, at the Friargate Friends Meeting House in central York? The annual Lecture at Local History Day will be given by Professor John Beckett, University of Nottingham on 'The English Parish Church – past, present and future. We take great pride in our parish churches – particularly, perhaps, the stock of stone built medieval churches which are scattered across the landscape of Great Britain – but just how much do we know about their past, and what might become of them in the future? Nearly twenty years ago, in what were then the very early days of the internet, a project began in Nottinghamshire to gather together information about the county's churches in digital format. In the 2018 BALH lecture, Professor John Beckett will tell the story of the project, and then look at many of the lessons which have been learnt and which are applicable and relevant throughout the country, in relation to digital production, what we can find out about our parish churches, and what still remains unknown.' In the morning of the day Alison Kay, Archivist, National Railway Museum, York, will speak on 'Railway Records - Resources for research in the National Railway Museum.' Almost every community in the country has been affected in some way by the railways. In this session we will explore how the resources for railway history at the Museum can be exploited by local historians. There will also be an opportunity for questions, and discussion. BALH's awards for Personal Achievement and Publications will be made. Full details of Local History Day and booking forms will appear in early 2018 on the BALH website www.balh.org.uk and in BALH's newsletter Local History News and in fliers available at the next KHF meeting.

BALH Events and Development Officer Dr Gill Draper and Local History News Editor Dr Jane Howells represented BALH in the West Surrey Family History Society Open Day on 4th November. It attracts stands and visitors from across southern England and beyond. As well as running a stand advertising BALH's work and publications, both gave successful talks to sell-out audiences. While Jane spoke about 'Townies, Ancestors in small market towns', Gill's talk covered 'Going back in time: free resources for finding people, 13th to 18th centuries'. Gill also spoke in September to an audience of 200 family historians and U3A group leaders at the U3A Family History Conference in Buxton. Gill's theme was 'Local History for Family Historians', basing the talk on the highly popular BALH publication

Internet Sites Directory which is available from its website www.balh.org.uk. Slides from these talks are available on this website under Education, Presentations. BALH has also been represented at the new Discover your Ancestors Fair at Sandown Park, Esher, and the annual local history conference of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, and an article on Kent history appeared in its recent Transactions (vol. 67, 2016 for 2017) entitled 'Fields of Food for London? Supplies from the Hoo Peninsula, Kent, in the Middle Ages'. The article is available on <https://kent.academia.edu/GillianDraper> together with others on Kent history.

New community adult education courses for the Spring and summer will shortly be available at Canterbury Christ Church University. Those on local history include Pilgrims, Peasants and Paths on 29 April and Castle Life in Kent and Sussex on 12 May. Details on <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/cae/cae-home.aspx> or by phoning 01227 863451 for a brochure.

More detailed information, prices, and booking forms are available on the BALH website www.balh.org.uk or by post with a SAE from: BALH(V), PO Box 6549, Chester House, 68 Chestergate, Macclesfield SK11 6DY.
