



Website: www.radlettmuseum.com email: info@radlettmuseum.com

RADLETT AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

Newsletter number 1- May 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter, in which we hope to tell you about what has been happening so far and about future plans.

The **Radlett Archives Group** (RAG) was formed in 2017 to acquire and store the comprehensive archive of photographs, documents and artefacts accumulated by the late Philip Eastburn, the well-known and highly-regarded local historian. RAG is the working name of the Radlett and District Museum, which is registered with the Charities Commission.

The **initial challenges** were to find a secure place to store the archives, to establish a plan to catalogue and display them and to form a team to carry out the necessary tasks.

A committee of Trustees, all of whom are volunteers, was formed and this group has been very active in driving the project forward. **Achievements to date** include:

- Registration with the Charities Commission
- Formulation of a constitution
- Appointment of Officers and allocation of responsibilities
- Agreement of Aims for RADM – specifically to store its extensive archives and exhibit them
- Opening of bank accounts, preparation of budgets and arrangement of insurance
- Extensive research into possible locations in which to store and exhibit our archives
- Seeking and obtaining substantial grants in order to finance the acquisition of suitable premises
- Commencement of the cataloguing according to The Collections Trust guidelines and digitisation of our archives – a huge task!
- Recorded interviews with a number of local residents, capturing their recollections of the local area over the years
- A well-attended Open Evening at the Library and a number of events, talks, school visits, quizzes, and other fundraising events



Seen at Battlers Green: of what rare local stone is this wall largely built?

- Displays in the window of the Harpenden Building Society and the Radlett Centre
- Creation and maintenance of website

John Apthorp very kindly agreed to be our **President** and the current **Trustees** and their responsibilities are:

Stuart Nagler – Chairman

Graham Taylor – Vice Chairman
and Archiving and Website

Roger Housechild – Treasurer

Peter Turner – Secretary

Jan Adams – Communications and
Publicity

Gill Balen – Interviews

Laura Davis – Fund Raising and
Events

Martin Jeens –Premises

Maintenance

Diana Lobatto – Fund Raising and Events

Chris Wilkins – Acquisition of Premises and Communications and Publicity



Do you know this location in Radlett?

The achievements to date could not have been accomplished without the help of a number of **volunteers** and without **substantial grants** from a local benefactor, Hertsmere Borough Council and Aldenham Parish Council. We are very grateful to them all.

After a period of searching for a “home”, an agreement was reached with Hertfordshire County Council to lease a room on the first floor of the Radlett Library. Whilst being an ideal place for storage, the annual rent is expensive and the room is not big enough for exhibiting purposes. Consequently, we have sought to acquire suitable and affordable **premises**. Agreement has been reached with the Trustees of the Radlett Village Institute (RVI) to lease an area at the bottom of the Institute’s garden and erect a prefabricated building. The building will be constructed of steel and timber and will be timber-clad and landscaped so as to blend in with its surroundings. At the time of writing, the necessary legal documentation is being prepared and planning permission sought.

Future Plans include:

- Agreement of the lease with the RVI
- Receiving formal planning permission for the proposed premises
- Construction of the building and provision of the necessary services (water, electricity, etc)

- Grand Opening followed by regular opening hours – probably two mornings a week initially
- Formation of a rota of volunteers to man the building during opening times
- Obtaining sponsorship to contribute towards ongoing costs
- Setting up a membership group (“Friends of the RADM”)
- Arranging a programme of exhibitions, talks, school visits, events and fund-raising activities
- Enhancing and maintaining the website to reflect the activities of the RADM
- Liaison with other museums and local history groups to consider areas of mutual interest and benefit
- Searching for an off-site, secure, damp-proof and low-cost storage facility in which to house “overflow” archives material
- Building our membership and volunteer base
- Taking a stall at the Radlett Festival on 9 June

Any **constructive observations and feedback** would be gratefully received. Offers to help from **prospective volunteers** would also be appreciated. Please contact Chris Wilkins at chrisandrosalind@hotmail.com or on 01923 852842.

Finally, Stuart Nagler will lead two more of his “**Historic Watling Street**” walks starting at 10.00 on Sundays 30 June and 21 July. The cost (a donation to RADM funds) will be £5 per person. Please register your interest with Stuart at r.nagler@btinternet.com.

Picture Quiz Answers:

Image 1: Puddingstone, seen in a wall alongside FP A17, Batter's Green

Image 2: Watford Road, looking towards Aldenham Road, as seen from the entrance to Barn Close

Radlett Archives Group is a working name of the Radlett & District Museum
 a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission
 Registered number 1175292
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