



# Newsletter

Walking Tour of Chipping Norton by Dr Adrienne Rosen

11:00 Thursday 27th June 2019



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Adrienne Rosen has kindly agreed to host a walking tour of Chipping Norton as a follow up to April's Marcham Society talk when, due to illness, she was unable to appear in person. It will be followed by lunch somewhere in town. Places are limited to 18 people. Please use the sign-up sheet at May's meeting.

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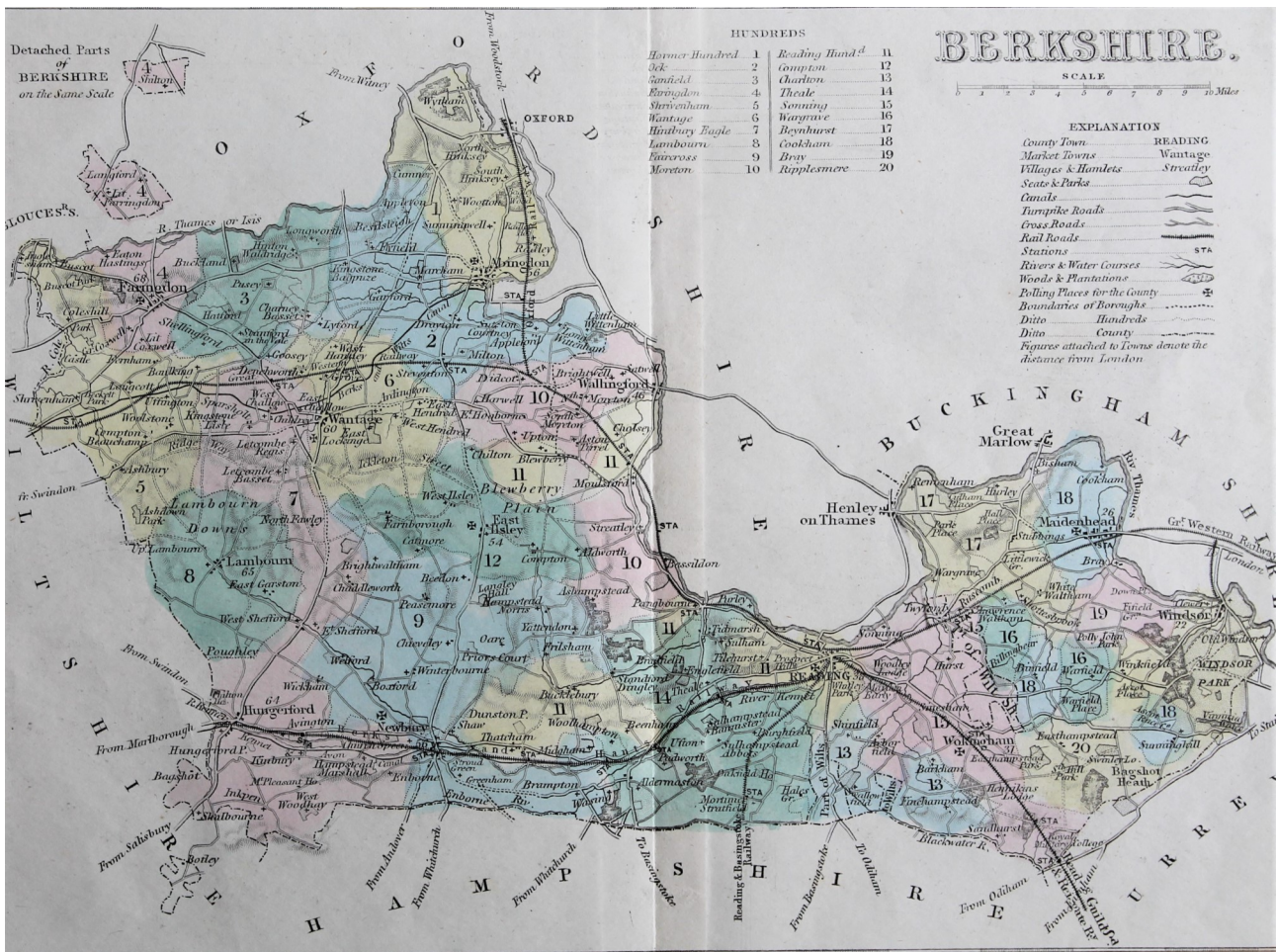


### 1972 Local Government Act

This was one of the major pieces of legislation under the Conservative government led by Edward Heath, reorganizing local government into more rational organizational districts.

## Liberated Oxfordshire or Occupied Berkshire?

Before the county boundary changes of 1974 Marcham was part of Berkshire, together with much of what is now Oxfordshire south of the Thames, as the map from the 19th century below shows. The Vale of the White Horse District was made part of Oxfordshire county as part of the wide ranging 1972 Local Government Act.



### Berkshire Local History Society

The Berkshire Local History Association (BLHA) was founded in 1976 to encourage interest in local history in the county, both before and after the 1974 boundary changes.

This includes education and training, research, and publication.

It provides a common meeting-ground for individual members, the various local history societies and groups within the county, and the professionals working in archives, museums, and education.

It is a common joke amongst local historians as to whether this annexation meant liberation for the poor oppressed people of Berkshire concerned, or whether it was the noble independent minded people of Berkshire being thoughtlessly tossed away to be subjugated to the ne'er do wells of Oxfordshire. You may well have your own opinion, I of course have to remain neutral (couldn't possibly comment).

All this is to introduce the fact that, on the 28th of March 2020, the Marcham Society will be hosting the AGM of the Berkshire Local History Association (BLHA). We have done this in the expectation that the new village hall will be complete by then, but as backup, we have booked All Saints' church as well. Below is a brief description of this year's BLHA AGM which took place at Watlington House, Reading.

## 42nd BLHA Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 6th April 2019**

The meeting was held with around 30 members in attendance, including your chairman for part of the day. It convened at 10:00 for registration and the official AGM business was concluded by about 11:30

There was then a talk on the work of The Mills Archive followed by a visit to the Archive in Watlington House itself.

After lunch, there was a walk round the area, looking at different building styles, At Wesley Methodist Church, Jonathan Brown gave a short talk on its history, and there was chance to look round.

The afternoon ended at the Polish Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – the former Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist. David Cliffe (President of BLHA) gave a short talk on the history of the building.

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## *Dates for the Diary*

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### 14th May Tales of Hanney History by Andy Robertson

Andy Robertson, of the Hanney History Group, will be entertaining us with stories from the two villages - not least the traditional rivalry between East and West. Was the annual tug-of-war fixed and when did the battle of the church stones take place? Maybe we'll find out on the night.

### Saturday 27th July Summer Barbecue

Eric and Sheila Dunford have kindly agreed to host our traditional summer barbecue at the end of July. Please save the date.