



Melksham Heritage Discovery Fair

Saturday 5 July 10am-2pm Well House Manor

SPECIAL GUESTS

Book signing and presentation – come meet the author, John Forbat

“Evacuee Boys: Letters of a Family Separated by War”

written by John E. Forbat; published by The History Press (1 April 2012)

Aged 11 and 14, two brothers, John and Andrew Forbat, were evacuated to Melksham at the onset of World War II to find themselves in straitened circumstances, cut off and far from home. Their many letters home throughout the war, with details of their life in Melksham – schooling, bullying, friendships and constant pursuit of more pocket money form a humorous and at times tragic testament to the hardships of war. • Then join his talk on his own experiences accompanied by photographs.

Discovering the history of a house: Who lived in it and when was it built? – Kate Bevan is the Cataloguing Team Leader for the English Heritage Archive Team and is also leading the development of a new initiative for English Heritage entitled “Your Home’s History”.

Researching the history of your home can be a challenging and rewarding experience. It can also be very useful. Knowing its history, and that of its surroundings, can tell you what’s important about it - its significance to the community. It can also tell you how your house was constructed, and if there were later additions or alterations. This sort of information can help when you’re thinking about making changes, or tackling the building’s energy efficiency.

HISTORIC PHOTOS AND EPHEMERA OF MELKSHAM

The Well House Collection – the Museum of Melksham. See artefacts and displays of documents and books, as well as free access to more than a thousand photographs.

Andy York Photography – Melksham Memories: Looking at Melksham’s past and raising funds for The Wiltshire Air Ambulance through the sale of CDs and prints.

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – Restoring a waterway for the 21st century

SHORT TALKS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS

History of Melksham’s Rail – “From Brunel to the Current Franchise” presented by Graham Ellis

“I Remember When ...” – Phil McMullen will lead a fun discussion down memory lane by showing old photographs of the town. What shops do you recall?

Do you know your chronology? – We’ve printed out photographs of the Market Place over a span of years. Can you place these photos in year order? How well can you do with dating the scenes and various floats that were in Melksham Carnival?

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

Scanning your old photographs and documents – The Well House Collection

We will be on hand to scan your flat items and photograph artefacts you bring in so you can keep a digital record of your precious family memories. Bring a USB memory stick; this service is free as time permits (we will have new, unopened cross-platform 8M USB memory sticks available for £3.50 if you forget yours).

Documents, Directories and Books – Many will be available to browse through to fill in your missing information; most are Melksham area-based, but many are more general too. Free handouts will be available on several topics to suit your interest.

Entry

Entrance is free.

Location

Well House Manor
48 Spa Road
Melksham SN12 7NY

01225 708 225

info@twhc.org.uk

Schedule

Saturday, 5 July, 2014

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Attend all or part. There will be presentations throughout and a chance to talk with experts on various topics.

Parking

Ample parking is available in our free, off-road, car park.

Refreshments

Coffee, tea, beverages, pastries and light sandwiches are available through Well House Manor for a charge.

Please note: The term “Melksham” is used politically to cover a wider area, and surrounding villages are included as well.

Even if your family roots are not local, come along!



THE WELL HOUSE COLLECTION • info@twhc.org.uk

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