

to make them available for research to anyone who is interested in the county's past. As well as original documents, catalogues and indexes, there is a library at the Record Office.

9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF
Telephone: 0118 901 5132
Email: arch@reading.gov.uk
Website: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk

Berkshire Family History Society Research Centre

The Berks FHS Centre can help you – wherever your ancestors came from. There is a Research Centre Library open to all.

Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ
Telephone: 0118 950 9553
Website: <http://berksfhs.org.uk>

West Berkshire Archaeology Service

The Council's archaeology service provides advice and information about the historic environment of the unitary authority of West Berkshire. It maintains the Historic Environment Record (HER), which consists of a database linked to a computerised map, as well as a library of books, journals and unpublished reports. The HER is a public resource which can be consulted by appointment.



Telephone: 01635 519534
Email: archaeology@westberks.gov.uk
Website: www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology

Museum staff will also endeavour to continue to deal with enquiries about the collections and local history; email museum@westberks.gov.uk or call 01635 519231, but please note that staff may be working away from the Museum on some days.



West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

If you require this information in a different format, such as audio tape, or in another language, please ask an English speaker to contact the Museum on 01635 519231.



West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AS.

LR/Sept09

West Berkshire Museum



Autumn/ Winter Closure 2009/10

West Berkshire Museum – Autumn/Winter Closure 2009/10

The Museum will be closed to the public from Monday 28 September, re-opening with a new exhibition on Thursday 1 April 2010.

Since the Museum was subject to an Enforcement Notice from the Fire Service in May 2008 access to much of the building is severely restricted.



As well as the closure of galleries, staff are prevented from spending anymore than minimal time in the storage areas. This closure is to enable staff to use the accessible space to focus on looking after the collections and preparing for next spring's special exhibition programme. We will be able to carry out vital work on the museum collections bringing long-term benefits to their care and use in public exhibitions, etc.

The Museum has over 100,000 objects or groups of items in its collections. These need regular inspection and preventative conservation measures such as cleaning and re-packing. The records for many of these items need updating, so that staff can

look after them for future generations and locate them more efficiently when they are required for displays, etc. We also need to begin clearing the galleries not open to the public, these items have to be carefully packed and stored off-site to protect them.

The closure period will also be used to prepare material for our two major exhibitions in 2010:

West Berkshire Archaeology

Featuring recent discoveries and items from the past.

Thursday 1 April to Sunday 27 June 2010

The Kennet & Avon Canal

An exhibition celebrating 200 years of the K&A Canal.

Thursday 15 July to Thursday 30 September 2010

The Museum will also be making changes to its other displays, including exhibiting recent acquisitions.

During closure there will be no public access to either the museum shop or local history



library resources. Some items from the shop will be on sale in the Tourist Information Centre (01635 30267), while many Museum books will be available for purchase at Shaw House (01635 279279). Books and other publications will also be available mail order. Visit our website www.westberks.gov.uk/museum or write to the Museum for details (address overleaf).

Local history information is also available from the following sources:

Newbury Library

All West Berkshire libraries have a collection of books and material about the history of their immediate area, although the main collection is held at Newbury Library. During closure Newbury Library will provide access to the Museum's collection of local photographs in the reference section on the first floor.

Telephone: 01635 519900

Email: newburylibrary@westberks.gov.uk

Website: www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

Berkshire Record Office

BRO was established in 1948 to locate and preserve records relating to the county of Berkshire and its people, and

