

BALH's September 2018 report

BALH's new Chair is Professor David Killingray, who as many will know is a Kent person and local historian as well an historian of Africa. You can read about him on <http://www.balh.org.uk/publications/local-history-news/local-history-news-number-128-summer-2018> This biography is in the latest *Local History News* which your society will also have received in print if it is a member of BALH. If you would like to join as an individual and receive your own copies of *The Local Historian* and *Local History News* and other every quarter benefits of membership, please see the website www.balh.org.uk .

Local History Day 2018 was held in York this year. Both the morning and afternoon sessions covered material and sources which could be used by local historians across the country The Annual Lecture by Professor John Beckett on investigating and recording the history, architecture and furnishings of churches and chapels of all dates will be published in *The Local Historian* in October 2018. Alison Kay, archivist at the National Railway Museum, gave a talk on sources at that Museum including maps and plans, railway company advertising- which provides a wealth of attractive images from across the UK, and how to access the online search engine. Her powerpoint slides are available on the BALH website [<http://my.balh.org.uk/lhd2018/Railway-Museum-Resources-For-Local-History.pdf>]. There is also a helpful diagram showing where to find a wide range of railway- related resources across the country including at the Bluebell Railway Museum and Archive. All these are to found by going to the BALH website www.balh.org.uk and looking under the tabs Education and then Conference Presentation material [<http://www.balh.org.uk/education/presentation-material>].

There is a wealth of other material there too including a comprehensive guide to the records created under the New Poor Law. This was written by Dr Paul Carter of the National Archives who directed a project supported by BALH which digitised a large amount number of volumes of correspondence between the localities and the central poor law organization and opens up the lives of workhouse inmates, staff from nurses, porters, teachers to governors and more. This digitised correspondence has been made freely available on the National Archives website and Dr Carter's guide shows you how to get the best from it. The digestion project also resulted in one of the two new BALH books now out, which is a good-value introduction as to how nine local historians in the Midlands have used these records which may spark off your own interest in investigating the local or family history of the workhouse and poor law in other parts of the country. The book *Pauper Prisons...Pauper Palaces* is also an important contribution to the social history of the Victorian period. It is available via the BALH website for £6.99 (in paperback) plus £2 P& P, or you can buy it at events where BALH has a stand.

BALH's other new book is *Exploring Local History*, which will be useful for parents and grandparents hoping to interest and help children with local history in the school curriculum, as well as the primary and secondary teachers, and indeed undergraduates, for whom it has been written. It is available for £10 on the BALH website and at events, or £8 for members.

BALH will have a stand at The Family History Show, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher on 22nd September 2018. This event attracts exhibitors and family history societies from all over the UK, and there will be free talks. There is easy parking and access, and a free minibus from the station according to the website Tickets at door, £7 or two for £7.50 [<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>]

BALH will also have a stand at The West Surrey Family History Society Show, Woking, on 3 November 2018 <http://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

Lastly, Dr Gill Draper, BALH's Events and Development Officer, has recently given a paper on 'Settlements and the development of routes through the Weald c.1100-1500, with a case study of a secondary pilgrim route'. This was given at the Annual Conference of Medieval Settlement Research Group at Canterbury Christ Church University in July 2018. A published version will appear in the Group's Journal next year.

On 23 June Dr Draper also gave a paper on 'Urban Privilege? The advantages and enjoyment of Cinque Ports status in the Middle Ages' at the *Maritime Kent Through the Ages* conference at the same university. This too will appear in a book based on the conference papers in due course.