

## **SUMMER EXCURSIONS 2014**

### **AMERSHAM, LITTLE SHARDELOES AND SHARDELOES Amersham 7 June 2014**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, about 20 members of the Bucks Archaeological Society met at the Market House in Amersham to look at old houses in the town and to walk to Shardeloes, the 18<sup>th</sup> century home of the Drake family. By kind invitation of Su Chases, the group called in at Little Shardeloes, a large 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house, latterly used by the Drake family as a dower house. The complexity of the plan form and the chronology of the various wings completely baffled the assembled “experts”. Those less engaged in the architectural puzzle admired a 1930s fabric-bodied motor car which was commandeered to convey the less energetic members of the party up to Shardeloes. The remainder enjoyed a brisk twenty minute walk up the drive to the big house. There we were met by BAS member Edward Copisarow, a genial and very knowledgeable host, who lives in the large ground-floor flat formerly owned by Michael Denison and Dulcie Grey. We were shown around and encouraged to examine the huge range of Shardeloes plans, photographs and documents which Edward has amassed. As it was a lovely afternoon, Edward served afternoon tea in the garden and several members stopped chatting on the lawn far longer than is normal on such occasions. Edward has promised to do a full-length talk on Shardeloes in 2016.

#### **Julian Hunt**

### **A TRIP TO HAMPSTEAD**

The visit took in Fenton House, built 1686, which houses excellent decorative and fine art collections, especially keyboard instruments, and is set in two acres of gardens and orchard. Kenwood houses the Iveagh Bequest art collection and its library is pure Robert Adam. Nearby is another National Trust property, Erno Goldfinger's 1930s house.

### **THE DORMER MANSIONS AT WING AND STADHAMPTON**

Diana and Peter Gulland led this excursion. Branches of the Dormer family built Ascott House near Wing and Ascott Park near Stadhampton. The mansion at Stadhampton burned down in 1662 before it was completed, while the mansion at Wing fell into decay in the 18th century. Both are survived by extensive earthworks of their gardens and parkland, which are now grass-mown but still traceable.