



## Newport Pagnell Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 801897  
Chandos Hall, Silver Street, MK19 0EN  
[www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs](http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs)

### NEWSLETTER APRIL AND MAY 2019

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#### There's no place like Homeworld – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

There was a good turnout for a trip down memory lane with Diana Sutton.

Three areas of Milton Keynes became famous for their innovative, energy saving and futuristic housebuilding during the 1980s and 1990.

Many of the ideas incorporated in the Future World houses in Kents Hill seem “old hat” now but rain water harvesting, low allergen, green roofing were new and futuristic in 1994.

The Energy World site at Shenley Lodge was again ahead of its time. Many of the houses had a very low energy cost index, something we are well aware of today. Although our requirements within our homes have changed, we still want energy efficiency.

The houses built on the original Home World site at Bradwell Common in 1981 were designed to be innovative. This included an “A frame” house, a solar house with the whole of one side made of glass and the Pyramid house which contained a nuclear fallout shelter in the basement!

It was an interesting talk, awakening dormant memories and, to those of us who are regular watchers of Grand Designs, maybe making us realise how ahead of its time Milton Keynes has been in the past. **SD**

#### Away with Fairies - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February



Kevin Varty has spoken to us on many subjects: toilet, sweets, artificial legs and this time in was fairies. On the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1914 a state visit was being held for the Grand Duke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. He and his wife were assassinated. This resulted in the First World War. At the time the general consensus was that it would be all over by Christmas, but sadly this was not to be. To cheer the troops Princess Mary decided they should all have a Christmas present, a brass tin containing cigarettes, a card, a book compiled by authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle and J. M. Barrie amongst the others. One of the stories about fairies. Meanwhile, in Cottingley, near Bradford, Yorkshire lived two girls. Elsie aged 16 and Frances, aged 9, they were isolated from the rest of community through their accents, which were South African and Canadian. They amused themselves playing in the beck at the bottom of the garden. They kept falling in and would blame it on the fairies. To prove it was the fairies, they took some photos with Elsie's Dad's camera. In December 1919 a meeting of the Theosophical Society was being held when Polly (Frances mother) said she had photographs of fairies. They were shown to the Society. Arthur Conan Doyle, bereft with grief following the death of his son, was one of many who wanted to believe that they could contact their loved ones. He was a member of the Society and endorsed the photos as true.

It was not until 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1983 Elsie admitted that she and Frances had used illustrations from the book in the Princess Mary Gift tin and a hat pin.

Kevin closed his presentation using his original Magic Lantern and projected a slide of the "fairy photo", Wonderful!!! **CW**

**The AGM followed by Brooklands DVD and PAG Production DVD** The AGM went smoothly attended by 55 members. Our Chairman opened the proceedings, reporting that the Society had another successful year. He thanked the committee for their continued work. Our Chairman also thanked the committee for their dedication and commitment throughout. The Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist then gave their reports, they confirmed that the Society had had another good year. The regular meetings and summer walks had been well attended and fund-raising events had been well supported. Our finances have improved, mainly due to having no major outlays. It was also pointed out that our membership has increased. It was then time to nominate and elect the Officers and committee. They were all re-elected by a show of hands. No further person came forward. The only change was that Allen Mullett was standing down from being Treasurer. He has served the Society dutifully over his term as Treasurer. A big "Thank you" to him. Barbara Evelyn has volunteered to be our new Treasurer. A full list of our current committee follows later. The DVDs were introduced by Roger Kitchener. The first DVD covered the story of the Brooklands Centre from conception to the current day. Once a need for a club for the older residents of the town was recognised a few prominent members of the town made it their mission to raise funds to build a centre. The leading force was three gentlemen Capt. Les Payne, Peter Adams and Ron Groom. These were also the leading figures in PAG Productions the topic of the next DVD. This showed many archive photos and videos of their antics and interview with Ron Groom. Many of their exploits raised funds for Brooklands. If you missed the Brooklands video or are interested in owning a copy of your own, they are available from Brooklands Centre priced £5. **SB**

### **MK that Never Was – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

An interesting talk by Tim Skelton about ideas that never came to fruition in Milton Keynes.

Before Milton Keynes was starting to be developed there were various other plans around for this area including a plan to raise Wolverton to the ground in 1945, Bletchley on Water to be developed where the Lakes Estate is in 1964 and Pooleyville to be developed by the county council in 1962.

A mixture of new and established architects were around at the start of Milton Keynes and they were allowed a reasonable free rein on how Milton Keynes should be developed. Many ideas came from architects who had worked on other new town designs especially Runcorn. The masterplan was developed by architects Llewellyn Davies and the grid square plan was drawn up in 1967. The idea of grid roads in various guises was planned using very low speed limits of 30mph, with the roads going through the housing developments, the opposite of what was actually developed and the speed limit increased to 60mph. Roundabouts were initially only there as a temporary measure instead of traffic lights. Low density housing was initially planned but was not cost effective so much higher density was developed.

The first plan for the city did not include a railway station this was not added until 1970's.

Original idea of different landscape for different areas would show where in the city people were, this was changed in the 1970's.

Milton Keynes could have been a city with a mono rail, a theme park, a university which was to be developed between Stony Stratford and Wolverton. A tower of life was also to be built. Water carpet in Campbell Park along with a sculpture park, Campbell Park play castle – play area for adults, water organ at Willen. Campbell Park was originally to have a golf course which would then lead onto Willen Lake British Telecom were going to move their head office to MK, VW warehouse at Blakelands, Olivetti HQ at Mount Farm, eco village at Ashland's, Greentown group at Crownhill, Community TV Ariel. . CBX was expected to cover a very large area and include offices, leisure facilities, shopping and residential with a sports stadium at one end and large hotels, this was only ever partly developed.

The plan for Milton Keynes changed and evolved constantly over the years. **BE**

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## **MUSEUM AT CHANDOS HALL**

The current theme centres around the Society's collection of Deeds pertaining to Buildings in Newport

## **MUSEUM OPENING TIMES**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April

2pm – 4pm

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** Dear readers this may be your last newsletter if you have not yet paid your yearly membership fee. You don't want that....please join us again. Bill will be present at the meetings to collect your money.

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## **FORTH COMING EVENTS**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	A Landscape History - Olney	Tom Jones
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Royal and Derngate	Michael Bralley
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	First Aid Nursing Yeomanry	Alex Milne
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	CD Recordings of Joan Rose Memories Followed by That Pioneering Spirit DVD	Roger Kitchener

Summer walks begin in June

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## **Here is the list of the current committee:-**

### COMMITTEE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	RICHARD PARKER	CHAIRMAN	PETER SEAR
VICE PRESIDENT	DON HURST	HON. SEC	BRIAN BEACHER
TREASURER	BARBARA EVELYN	MEMBERS SEC.	BILL WATSON
ARCHIVIST	DON HURST		

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KATH DENITH, SUE DONALD, ALLEN MULLETT, STEPHANIE PROCTOR, YVONNE SURRIDGE, CAROL WALKER.

Please let Sue or Carol have any future donations to the raffle and any articles for the Newsletter to me, Stephanie.



# **SPRING FAIR**

## **SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

### **URC CHURCH**

### **9AM TO 2.30 PM**



## **DONATIONS PLEASE**

We will be asking for donations for the Stall, would all you gardeners please use your skills to grow on some plants.