



Newport Pagnell Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 801897
Chandos Hall, Silver Street, MK19 0EN
www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

A Walk around Linford Lakes – Tuesday 4th June Grace from the Parks Trust guided us around the lakes and to the far hide, with a good view of the heronry.

There are various ways that the biodiversity of the area is checked, mainly by volunteers. For example, pieces of pipe containing meal worms are placed in suspected habitats to encourage wildlife to enter.

The “poo” left behind can be analysed and species and their numbers identified.

Certain areas have been enhanced to attract wildlife to use the site, and there are numerous bird boxes. Everyone is welcome to become a Friend of Linford Lakes and visit on Open Sundays once a month. **KD**

A Walk around the Homeworld Exhibition – Tuesday 18th June Dianne showed us around the streets of Bradwell Common MK, pointing out some of the features of the individually built houses.

A housing exhibition was held, and opened to the public in 1981. Developers were encouraged to build innovative houses, showing off their best designs for the future. Some of the buildings included solar panels, under-floor heating and hi-spec insulation.

Two of the best known sites are The Pyramid and The World House.

All the properties were sold to private buyers after the exhibition.

Very informative walk. **KD**

A Walk around the Forgotten streets of Newport – Tuesday 2nd July Don Hurst took a group of over 70 people around the hidden streets of Newport Pagnell.

Meeting at Castle Meadows we set off down Priory Street. On one side new houses have replaced the old but he was able to show us where two closely built terraces called Northampton and Southampton Terrace respectively, used to stand.

Passing the site of the old boys school by the bridge on Ousebank Street we were told of a row of cottages that used to front onto the road. Window alcoves can be seen in the wall if you look carefully.

Then to Union Street, which used to be known as Dung Lane until the professional classes moved in and couldn't live with the name, we learned of a number of large houses that are sadly no longer there.

And so on to Caldecote Street, once known as Marsh End Lane. Here we learned that a row of terraces used to lead off towards the town, probably parallel to Cross Street, where two rather beautiful houses in terms of brickwork now stand.

Finally Silver Street where Willen Court, another row of terraces, used to lead down towards the river.

Newport Pagnell is a lovely town full of history if we only care to find it. Don Hurst, once again, opened our eyes to what is around us, or not, in this case! **SD**

A Walk around Great Linford Manor Restoration Project – Tuesday 16th July As many as 40 of our enthusiastic members, assembled at Gt Linford Manor Park under the guidance of Darrell Canvin, a member of the volunteer Friends of Linford Park and colleagues, for a guided historical walk.

We were assured that by about the same time next year, we shall witness the beginning of considerable improvements to the lay-out of the park, following a successful application for just over a million pounds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to reveal, revive and restore the Park!!!

We were informed that the Park originates from the 17th century, when London businessman, Sir William Pritchard, decided to use his wealth to create a country park. This was a popular means of investing and demonstrating status at that time! He later became Lord Mayor of London. The Park was extended by his relatives, the Uthwatts; and then the Baileys.

It was interesting to note that false windows had been installed at one section of the building, to make the house look more grand; whilst avoiding an increase in window tax!!

Across from the Manor were elegant stables, built to look like houses.

It was mentioned that the original approach to the Manor was typically 'grand' but when houses were built nearby, for ordinary people, more structures were placed within the Manor grounds to shield the 'Lord', and his guests, from the 'riff-raff' (the guides words, and certainly not mine). The Manor House itself, is still privately owned.

We were told that in the private, walled garden, within the immediate grounds of the Manor House, an inspiring and varied collection of plants flourish.

Apparently, the views from the Manor grounds were once incredibly impressive. We were also taken to a site where a variety of attractive and exotic trees were planted. But as they were too hastily grouped closely together, they too are scheduled to be up-rooted and replanted more professionally and appropriately, than hitherto.

The Water Gardens fed from a natural spring and their surroundings, are also due to be cleaned and restored to their former glory; thus enabling some of the original views to be re-created.

We were shown a selection of ancient buildings. Including a school-house that was created for the education of local boys; and six alms-houses, to accommodate unmarried poor people. These are now part of the Milton Keynes Arts Centre.

The park surrounds the ancient village church of St Andrews, dating from the 13th Century. There are memorials within the Church to Sir William Pritchard and his successors associated with the history of the Park and the Manor.

I believe it would be correct to say, that we found this tour particularly interesting. **BB**

MUSEUM AT CHANDOS HALL

MUSEUM OPEING TIMES

Saturday 14 th September	Heritage Open Days	1pm – 4pm
Sunday 15 th September	Heritage Open Days	1pm – 4pm
Saturday 21 st September	Heritage Open Days	1pm – 4pm
Sunday 22 nd September	Heritage Open Days	1pm – 4pm
Sunday 27 th October		2pm - 4pm

MUSEUM NEWS A new back door has been fitted at the Museum. The old door had become very dilapidated and no longer secure. We had several quotes and decided for go with Wilford and Dean. A local firm who came highly recommended. Being an old building, standard doors wouldn't fit, so a bespoke door had to be made. We are very pleased with the result.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 3 rd September	Presentation of Photographs	Don Hurst
Tuesday 17 th September	Lost Language of Headstones	Kevin Varty
Tuesday 1 st October	Our Changing Wildlife	Chris Ward
Tuesday 15 th October	Cropredy Bridge	Geoff Morris
Tuesday 5 th November	The Diarist	Julian Hunt

VINTAGE DAY SATUDAY 8TH JUNE



This event was, again, a great success for the town despite the inclement weather. Many people dressed up for the occasion, including the committee members who manned the stall in the Brooklands Centre



CARNIVAL DUCK RACE

To commemorate 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings we chose to dress our duck as one of the participating armed forces. Unfortunately, our duck was not as successful as our gallant Armies during that monumental event of the Second World War. He did however manage to complete the course and returned unharmed.



Heritage Open Days

The festival runs between 13th and 22nd September

The Society has several events for the two weekends covered by the festival, which is organised by MK Heritage Association.

{14th/15th September and 21st/22nd September}

To accompany the extra Museum openings, Kathy and Barbara have devised a Treasure Hunt. It will begin and end at the Museum, and will take the participants around the town seeking out clues. There will be a prize draw at the end of the event.

In addition to this Don Hurst will be escorting people on a walk around Newport on both Sundays. These will begin at Lovat Hall Car Park at 2pm and last about one hour.

We also plan to have some fun activities for the children in the Museum itself
All activities are free of charge.

There are many other events organised throughout the Milton Keynes Area.
Check MK Heritage web site for details.