

No:73



Newsletter

Sherington Historical Society



Slater Family wedding.
See more Sherington Family photos
at the October Open Day.

September 2011

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Saturday 1st October

Sherington Historical Society Open Day, Sherington Village Hall, 12.00-4.30 pm. (Setup from 10.00 am.) See the page opposite for further information.

Tuesday 11th October

Open Meeting: “The Clatter of the Stage Coach” – speaker Anne Leaver. See the back cover for further information.

Tuesday 8th November

“Members Can Talk”. An open meeting where one or a collection of members can present something of interest to the group. We hope you’ll all come with short stories of family and/or friends to share.

Tuesday 13th December

Members’ Christmas Party. A fun evening with games, wine and nibbles.

Tuesday 11th January

Members’ Meeting. Please come for a low key evening archiving and chat.

Mid-January

January Jolly - the Society’s New Year outing. More details nearer the time.

Tuesday 14th February

Fall in love with Sherington again. For your delectation, a cinematic extravaganza, or some much loved films, to show how we all used to have a good time.

Our Tuesday monthly meetings start at 8.00 pm unless otherwise stated.



Sherington Historical Society

Open Day **Sherington Family Histories**

Saturday 1st October 2011
12.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Sherington Village Hall

**Come along and see the family trees of past
and present residents of Sherington.**

Find out how to research your own family history.

**Do you have any information on any Sherington
families? If so, we'd love to hear from you.**

Full archives open to all.

Raffle
Refreshments available
Free entry

Web: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs
Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk

News Snippets

The Open Day on Saturday 1st October will be on Sherington Families and also giving advice on how to go about researching your own family history. If you have any information about Sherington families that hasn't been told before, please let a member of the Committee know.

Our other event in October is the Clatter of the Stagecoach talk by Ann Leaver on Tuesday 11th October. This is an open evening, so please tell your friends. For further details, see the back of this newsletter.



We have 5 new designs for our Christmas cards this year, which Caroline Leslie has painted specifically for the Society. They are all based around the Sherington pump on The Knoll and are historic scenes featuring children. One of the images can be seen on the left - Bread for the Robin. Thanks to Caroline for producing these fantastic illustrations. Small cards will be sold in packs of 4, each card a different design, for £2.50, and large cards for special friends and family can be bought singly at £1 each. They will all be on sale at the Open Day and our meetings up until Christmas.

Ray Bailey (1936-2011)

Ray Bailey, well-known local historian and photographer from Newport Pagnell, died in July. He had suffered from prostate cancer for the last 5 years. Kay and Pearl attended his funeral on 1st August. A card was sent to Ray's family and a donation of £20 was made to the UCLH Clinical Oncology Unit in memory of Ray on behalf of the Society. His obituary by Dennis Mynard appeared in Town Crier - here's an extract:

“His early interest in local history was encouraged mainly through the influence of historian Newman Cole. Ray also had an early interest in radio and electronics. After he took early retirement in the 1980s he then set up a local building company with his son Jason, which continued until recently when Ray was forced to give up due to his ill health.

In the 1950s, together with Michael Pratt and Dennis Mynard, he commenced taking photographs, recording the local scene which was rapidly changing due to the building of the M1 motorway. Over the years he has amassed a collection of over a quarter of a million photographs.

When the New Town of Milton Keynes was proposed the Wolverton Society helped form the Milton Keynes Research Committee and Ray personally organised the recording of all the local villages within the Designated Area. He also took photographs of Newport Pagnell, taken as part of that survey, and these are now

preserved in the National Monuments Record at Swindon.



Ray was passionate about preserving the local architectural environment and landscape, in particular Bury Field, which was a subject very dear to his heart.

Ray's last project, which he has carried out over the last 3 years with his friend Andy Fowle, has been to record all the surviving graves in the old Cemetery. The graves

and also the old plans of the burials have been photographically recorded and the project is nearing completion.

Ray was not the sort of historian to spend a lot of time delving into dusty records in archive offices. He recorded Living History and was a Social Historian following in the steps of Newman Cole. Ray loved Newport Pagnell and lived in the town all his life. He knew almost everyone of his generation and their family history, and he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of local affairs, industries, businesses and families.

Ray will be sadly missed by Pat, his partner for over 20 years, and his 2 sons, Jason and Justin, by his first marriage, and also by many friends in the town.”

The picture above of Bury Field is from a water colour and shows the top meadow by the River Ouse. In the distance to the right can be seen the north bridges. Taken from the Newport Pagnell Historical Society website.

‘Learning from Objects’ Training Day

Every now and again an email comes, which you think, ‘Hey that sounds fun but it is short notice and a long way away’, but on the 20th July it happened to me. Mark had an email from Oxford University via Milton Keynes Heritage Association for a course two days later (and on the last day of term) for ‘Learning from Objects’ Training Day and I went. Oxford run training courses for their students and have decided they may as well open them up to others, such as museum staff and teachers, at no cost. In view of the date, the numbers of teachers were limited, and thereby the non-qualified but still interested were invited.



Sarah (in case I got lost) and I headed to Oxford at an unseemly hour in the morning and got to Pitt Rivers Museum (do go, it is absolutely brilliant and free!!) to hear a series of talks about involving children (mainly primary) in what can be very dry subjects. We had quizzes (what are these, who would use them, how old are they?), coin handling

(if they look old – they are old, if they look valuable – they are valuable), model making (children understand scientific instruments much better if they have to make them in card and the memories last longer), treasure hunting (where would we find these?) and drawing (close your eyes and use your hands, or a description from someone else).

We had 13 talks covering anthropology, archaeology, botany, historical science and educational psychology, each with a speaker from Oxford University and in each case with ‘actions’. We were encouraged to let children handle valuable and important objects, (they have items that they think are special and are careful with, these are our special objects, and if necessary must be touched with a finger) and told to give children time to look and feel, and space to feel calm. We were also told to be prepared for mishaps (a canoe paddle from Northern Canada had the tip broken off as it had been used as a walking stick by an enthusiastic child), but that this also

added to the item as this was now part of its story, and to use the very descriptions they come up with as valid and interesting.

Children work well with a narrative, so instead of dragging them around a room, do a 'bear hunt' or a magic carpet ride (take carpet with you), and when you 'lose their concentration' do something active (shake your body, stretch your fingers) and be prepared for the unexpected (not unknown). Finally, enjoy the children and the children will enjoy the experience and learn so much more in all different ways from it – believe me, these two grown-up children had a wicked time!!!

Helen Vale

Discover MK October Exhibition

We've had an email from Melanie Jeavons, the General Manager of The Living Archive. They are making a call-out for material for the next Discover MK Exhibition which starts on 24th October. The theme is all about myths, mysteries and ghost stories. They are looking for stories like the Ghost story at Passenham, the Cock and Bull story or the murder of Grace Bennett at Calverton Manor. As part of the exhibition, which will start during the half-term week, there will be storytelling and writing workshops for children. They are hoping that stories from the area will be an inspiration for the children's own writing.

If you have any stories or images that you think would be relevant for the Exhibition, then contact Mel at The Living Archive, 205 Stratford Road, Wolverton, MK12 5RL, email: mel@livingarchive.org.uk, phone: 01908 322568 The stories and any images would need to be sent to Mel by Friday 7th October.

PC Knibbs and Inspector Browning

Andrew Knibbs, the grandson of PC Walter Knibbs, has been in touch and sends the Society his warmest greetings. He said that he sometimes travels from his home in Cornwall to Bedford, and he diverts through Newport and Sherington for old times' sake. Mark sent him a postcard image of PC Walter Knibbs which Andrew had not seen before, and Andrew in return sent 3 photographs through of his family for us



to see - one of his grandfather, PC Walter Nibbs, in the Bucks Central Division Policemen. The photo was taken around 1920. The picture is reproduced above and PC Nibbs is fifth from the right in the back row.



Andrew also attached a photo of his other grandfather, Inspector Ralph Browning, who covered Sherington from the Newport Pagnell Police Station. This photo is reproduced on the page opposite.

The final photo (left) is of Andrew's father, John Knibbs. It was taken in 1942, when John was building airfields for heavy bombers. John was born in Sherington in 1912.

Andrew Knibbs sends his greetings to Jill Burgess and confirmed his mother's name was



Joan and that she was District Commissioner for the Guides for some years. She lived at 11 Park Avenue, Newport Pagnell between 1944 and 1990. Andrew remembers that sometimes Guide meetings were held at their house, and he thinks that Jill may have attended some of them.

Andrew said he has fond memories of staying with his grandparents at the top of Crofts End. He often went fishing or canoeing on the river.

Andrew's also keen to contact Philip Smith as Philip remembers PC Nibbs. Philip has memories of being baby-sat by PC Knibbs when he was a young child. Also, later in Philip's life, when leaving the Army, Philip was told by PC Knibbs to become a member of the Parochial Parish Council.

Emails received

An email arrived from Shirley Marsh telling us that her grandfather was Frederick Moses Parrot. His parents were Abel Parrott and Ellen Boon. Ellen Boon was the daughter of James Boon (the Sherington Murder). Abel married Ellen in January 1873 just after the murder. The 1871 census shows the two families were living next door to each other in Gun Lane. Ellen was a widow with her surname given as 'Stimston' (her married name). Also, on the 9th November 1872 Frederick's uncle, Moses Parrott, died on duty. His name is on the Metropolitan Police Roll of Honour.

Dr Charles McGuire of the University of Westminster has written asking for information regarding the use of the old POW camp for construction workers building the M1. Philip Smith and John Burgess may have information about this. Any info will be co-ordinated and forwarded onto Charles McGuire.

Julia Wilson sent an email telling us that she has become a grandmother. Julia has been sent a congratulatory email. Kit Cameron-Allen has written offering to send papers and photographs of Paul Mann. Julia Wilson has been advised and they have been put in touch with each other.

The Seemarks and Slater Family Album

A photograph album of the Seemarks and Slater families was by chance given to the Society. The photos have been digitised and the album passed onto Jane Coles, who is related to the Seemarks and Slaters by marriage. Further information can be found out at the October Open Day, but, as well as the photo on this edition's front cover, two others are reproduced here. From Primrose Seemarks' notes in the album:



(Top) “Granny Seamarks with Gwen and I and Aunt Trixie’s boyfriend. He died of TB when still young.” (Bottom) “I was thrilled to get this photo a few years ago, showing the senior class, Sherington. I was never well enough behaved to sit at the back. Many a smack on the head with a book for talking. Second from the left, front row. Gwen had left school, so I must have been 11-12 years old.”





Sherington Historical Society

presents

A talk by Ann Leaver

The Clatter of the Stagecoach

Sherington Village Hall

Tuesday 11th October 2011

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm



Refreshments available
Raffle

Entry: £1.00/£2.50 for members/non-members

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Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk