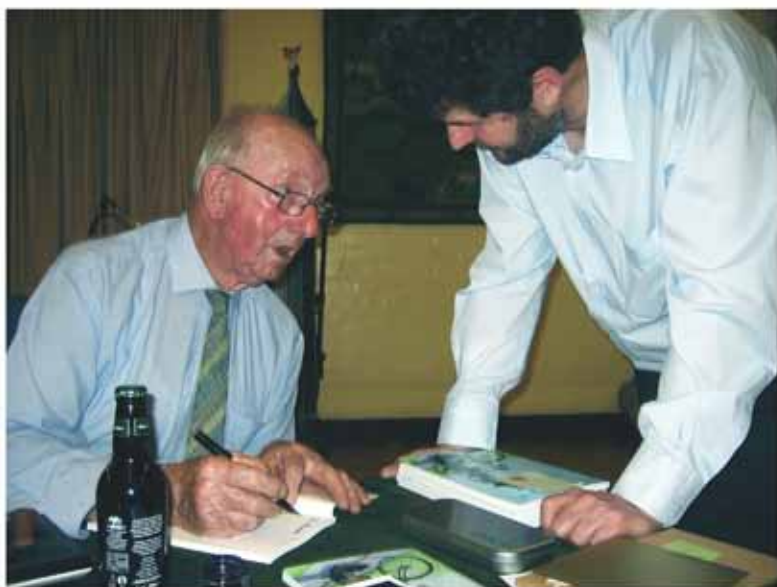


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Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



July 2013

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 13th August 2013

No meeting.

Tuesday 10th September 2013

Members Meeting. Please come for a low key evening archiving and chat, where we will be preparing for Open Day.

Saturday 5th October 2013

Open Day. The subject this year is Hatch, Match and Dispatch. Sherington Village Hall
12.00 noon to 4.30 pm (set up from 9.30 pm)

Tuesday 8th October 2013

Drovers and Ancient Routes of the Area. Bruce Smith to give a talk about the story of our local roads.

Tuesday 12th November 2013

Members Can Talk. A chance where we can talk about something we care about.

Tuesday 10th December 2013

Christmas Party. Games, wine and nibbles.

Tuesday 14th January 2014

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

Mid January 2014

January Jolly - more details nearer the time.

Tuesday 11th February 2014

Magic Lantern Show. Come out and beat the winter blues with a Magic Lantern Show with Kevin Varty.

Tuesday 11th March 2014

Annual General Meeting.

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

News Snippets

The usual June newsletter has unfortunately been delayed because of pressure of work. I hope to get back in sync for the September newsletter.

It's been a busy time for the Sherington Historical Society recently with the release of Philip Smith's book "A Little Bird Told Me ...". We had a very successful book signing at our monthly meeting in July - see Diana Morgan's report on page 6 - and sales are going very well. If you want to buy a copy, we still have a few copies left. Check out the poster on the back page of this newsletter.

There are still some copies of the framed Crump print of the High Street available - a limited edition of 20 prints at £35 each. If you would like a copy, please let a member of the Committee know. Doris Stephens has kindly lent us her Crump painting of Park Road and we will make a limited number of prints of this watercolour to frame and sell through the Historical Society. Please let us know if you would be interested in a print - the cost is still to be decided.

Our Open Day this year is on Saturday 5th October and the subject is Hatch, Match and Dispatch. If you have a picture of yourself as a baby or a marriage photo that you would be willing to share with us, please let a member of the Committee know. We will scan in the photo and return it to you as soon as possible.

Just to remind everyone that there is no meeting in August. We start the new term in September with a Members Meeting on the 10th where we'll be preparing for our Open Day in October.

We wish you all a good summer.

Past SHS events

Crime, Sex and Retribution - Tuesday 14th May

“Wonderful evening”, “The best Historical Society event yet”, “What talented performers”, “When can we have another evening like that?”, “More please!”

Just some of the comments from happy people after the ‘Crime, Sex and Retribution’ evening in May.

Annie Dearman and Steve Harrison entertained a large and very appreciative audience with a wonderful selection of English folk songs; Annie singing and skilfully interpreting the drama and intrigue within the music, whilst Steve added the accompaniment and related the fascinating history of the broadside song sheets.



Members’ picnic - Tuesday 11th June

Our annual picnic was this year held at Mark and Helen Vale’s house. We had a very pleasant evening and the weather was kind to us with no rain. Some sat under the



gazebo in the garden while others preferred the warmer environment of the kitchen. Thanks to Mark and Helen for their hospitality.

Below: A few members at the picnic enjoying a chat outside. Right: Pearl trying her hand at Jenga



Sherington Fete - Saturday 22nd June

We had a stand at the Sherington Fete where we collected people's favourite recipes and displayed some of the Millenium Project photos of families living in Sherington in 2000. We were given quite a few recipes and hope to put them all together in a book in the future. It's not too late to be a part of this if you would like to submit your favourite recipe.



Monumental Incriptions /Book signing- Tuesday 9th July

July's meeting started with some members going up to the Churchyard and checking the Monumental Incriptions (MIs). An extra MI was discovered. See Mark Vale's report on page 8. The book signing in the Village Hall was a great success - see the report on the next page by Diana Morgan.

‘A Little Bird Told Me ...’ book signing, 9th July 2013

The Village Hall was abuzz with Historical Society members and many others from the village as the long awaited evening of Philip Smith’s book signing arrived. Philip was ensconced in front of the pump and his long serving bicycle. His table was replete with ink, pen and blotter as he diligently set about the task of personally inscribing in his immaculate copperplate handwriting copies of his book. The queue at times formed the length of the Village Hall, keeping Philip busy for a couple of hours. The evening was due to finish at 9.00pm but so many enjoyed sitting and talking over a cup of tea and coffee and one of Pearl’s renowned cheese scones or piece of tea bread that people were reluctant to leave and clearing up did not begin until well past 10.00pm.

It was particularly pleasing to see that Gerald Stratton and his wife were able to be there, as Philip reminded us in the preface to his book that it was through the encouragement of Gerald Stratton, the former editor of *The Bucks Standard*, that the book got written in the first place. His words “Don’t talk about it, get on and write it” prompted Phil to take up his pen and retreat to the caravan where his memories were put to paper.

Additional copies have been bought by Milton Keynes Library, the Local Heritage Centre, as well as those sent to the British Library. Copies have already gone as far afield as Cornwall and Gloucester. Do you know of any that have been sent further afield? We would love to know.

Diana Morgan

See some photos of the book signing on pages 10 and 11.

The Pump

Well, we could have had the book signing on the Knoll next to the real pump but moving all the tables and refreshments probably required too much energy for the unknown numbers attending; and who was to know that it would be the start of the hottest periods for many Summers?

So, if Historical Society won’t go to the pump then the pump must go to Historical Society.

The pump, which serves as the cover to 'A Little Bird Told Me ...', drawn by our artist-in-residence, Caroline Leslie, symbolises the exchange of gossip and news in days when the drawing of water was an essential, everyday task for those households which had neither tap nor pump of their own.

Actually the replica, complete with robin and bicycle, in front of which Phil sat, dates back to the year 2000 when it was engineered for the village 'Son et Lumiere'.

In the script of the 'Son et Lumiere' it records how,

"In February 1935 Sherington became front page news in many of the National newspapers when undergraduates from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge performed the ceremony of burying the hatchet by the pump on the Knoll"



Five members of the SHS Committee with Philip Smith standing by the replica of the pump

The replica, made by the scenic and props team, is now safely stored in the Historical Society office, up the stairs at the end of the Village Hall, for whatever or whenever it may be needed.

Richard Morgan

New Monumental Inscription

At the July meeting before the book signing took place a small group of members (Sheila Q, June D, Ian T and I) took the delightful evening air and all met up to check as many MIs that we could in the time that we had. The area that we concentrated on was the central area to the western part of the graveyard. Some of the going was quite difficult due to the overgrown nature of some of the plots. Our starting point was the original document that Norman Arnold put together when he documented the MIs in the late 1990s / early 2000s. This was a task that he had taken on by himself and worked through with a great deal of diligence, but had as with all of these things self-editing can be a very difficult task. Now with the time that had past, there have been a number of changes and this is something that we need to update.

During this exercise we found an MI that has not been catalogued by the great man. The new MI that we found as said, go to at the churchyard to the west of the Church (big west window). Walk down the centre path, until you get to the end and turn left (south), follow the graves to your left, it will be the 7th grave along from the centre path. This is a Cremation Stone, flat to the ground and reads as follows:

IN MEMORY OF
BESSIE WEST
1892-1957
ERNEST DOUGLAS WEST
1898-1987
ELEANOR LAKE
AUG 1919-NOV 1997
CHARLES HENRY LAKE
MARCH 1914-NOV 1999



There also about 3 other differences that were discovered from the written test that we had on file. So in the next few weeks I would hope to get the files updated and into the archive.

All that took part had a very enjoyable time and thought this a worthwhile exercise that should be repeated soon.

Mark Vale

The Newport Muster 2013

Get in step with the Newport Muster – a festival of walks in and around Newport Pagnell – which this year takes place on Saturday 14th September.

Walks will include the popular 3 mile Picnic Walk, as well as a Garrison Town Walk (6 miles), a Country Walk (9 miles) and a Stately Ramble (15 miles).

Walks start from the United Reformed Church Hall, Newport Pagnell. Start any time from 10am (latest start for the 15 mile walk is 12 noon).

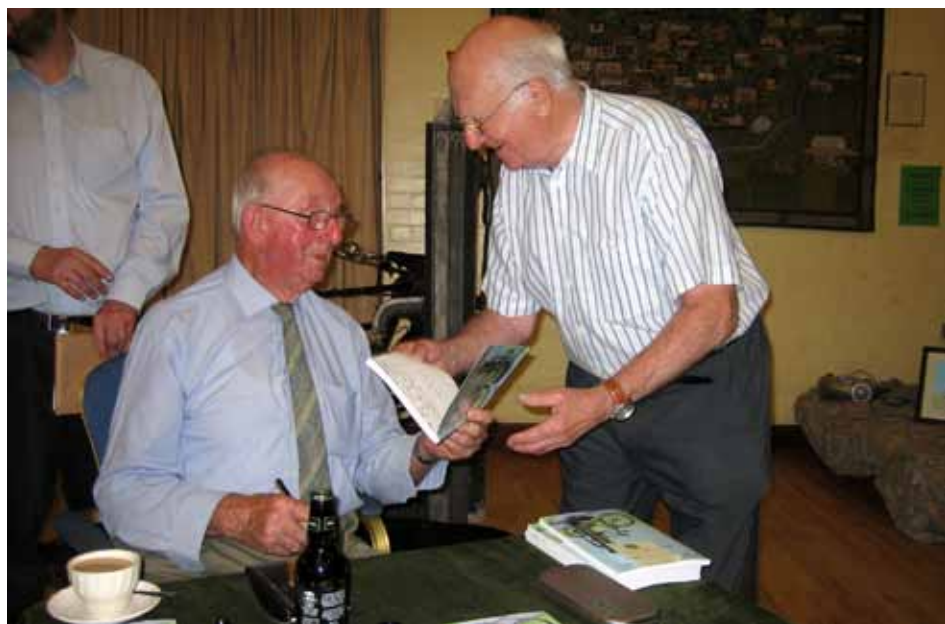
More information, how to enter and how to get involved can be found on the Newport Muster website, www.newportmuster.org.uk. Or you can obtain paper forms from the Newport Pagnell Town Council Office, Maggie & Josie's Bookshop and Newport Pagnell Library.

To make it really worthwhile, get yourself sponsored. They are again supporting Willen Hospice, but you can choose any charity that you want.



Photos of the book signing, 9th July



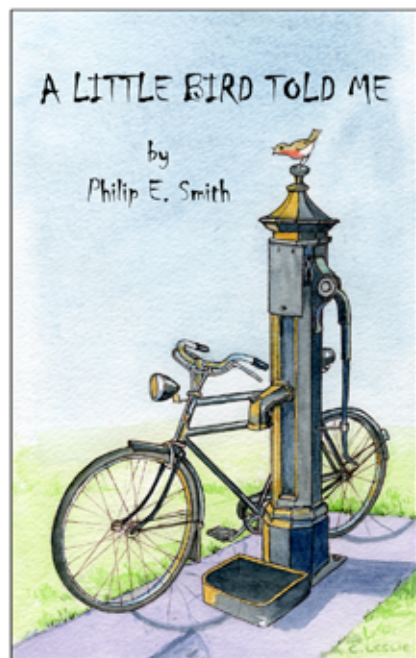




**Sherington
Historical
Society**

A Little Bird Told Me

by Philip E. Smith



Philip Smith's long-awaited book "A Little Bird Told Me ..." is a unique look at a way of life which has almost disappeared, covering the years from the 30s to the present day. Packed full of fascinating anecdotes, characters and events, Philip's own voice recalls with humour and affection an era where toffee apples, horses and thatching were the hot topics.

£12.00

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