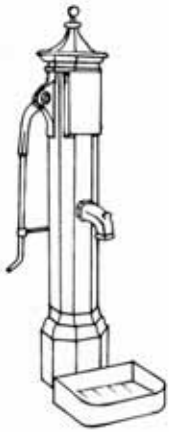


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Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



January 2014

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 11th February 2014

Pictures in the Parlour: A Magic Lantern. Come out and beat the winter blues with a Magic Lantern Show with Kevin Varty. For further details see the poster on the back page of this newsletter.

Tuesday 11th March 2014

Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 8th April 2014

Going for a Spin by Colin Rowe. A humorous and nostalgic look at motoring up to the 1930s.

Tuesday 13th May 2014

Members meeting.

Saturday 7th June 2014

Picnic at Yew Tree Farm (lunchtime) to celebrate the centenary of Diana Morgan's grandparents buying the farm on 24.06.1914.

Tuesday 10th June 2014

Tba.

Saturday 21st June 2014

Judging of the scarecrow competition.

Tuesday 8th July 2014

Members meeting.

Tuesday 12th August 2014

No meeting.

Tuesday 9th September 2014

Members meeting (preparation for Open Day).

Saturday 20th September 2014

Open Day (subject still to be decided).

Tuesday 14th October 2014

Talk by Stephen Kennedy about his research into his family.

Tuesday 11th November 2014

Members can Talk (with an emphasis on WW1).

Tuesday 9th December 2014

Christmas party.

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Members meeting.

Tuesday 10th February 2015

Eleanor of Castile and the Eleanor Crosses by Chris Rowe

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

News Snippets

Welcome to new members Gordon and Rosemary Clark from Calgary House.

We shall be very sorry to lose Betty from the Committee at the AGM this year. She has done a great job as Secretary for the last 2 years. If you would like to put yourself forward for this role, please see one of the present Committee.

We've got an interesting year of events ahead. We've been kindly invited in June for our annual picnic to Yew Tree Farm, but this year the event will be at lunchtime. We hope for it being warm and sunny. That month celebrates 100 years since Diana's family bought Yew Tree Farm.

A Little Bird Told Me ... If you haven't bought your copy yet or would like another to send to a friend, we still have a few available at £12.00 each (+ £2.00 UK postage and packing).

Congratulations to Sue Harrington of Carters Close who won the silent auction for the painting of the front cover of *A Little Bird Told Me ...* by Caroline Leslie. The winning bid was £52.00.



June Drew brought her collection of cards sent to her by Caroline Leslie over the years to the Christmas Party to show everyone. There were some lovely illustrations, three of which can be seen in the picture on the left. See the article on the next page for more about the Christmas Party.

There are still some copies of the framed Crump print of the High Street available - a limited edition of 20 prints at £35 each. We also have copies of another Crump painting of Park Road available at £25 each. If you would like a copy of the prints or the book, you can buy them direct from Liz on 07941 403492.

The painting of woods on the front cover is by Arthur Crump. Some new Crump paintings have come to light - see Mark's article about them and photos at the end of this newsletter.

Past SHS events

SHS Christmas Party - Tuesday 10th December 2013

'Twas the season to be jolly

Good food, good music and good company! What more can you ask for to make a thoroughly enjoyable evening? Well, there was audience participation, Enid's devilishly difficult quiz and prizes!

The "Christmas Do" gave members a chance to try their hand (literally) at John Burgess's hand bells, ably (or bravely) conducted by Jill. Some of the Christmas melodies were nearly recognisable, albeit at a somewhat slower tempo.



Having a go at the handbells

Also on the stage, musicians Tony, Caroline, Liz and Phil led the singing of well-known carols and the Gloucestershire Wassail. No excuse not to join in as song sheets were provided.



Leading the carols

Enid's quizzes don't get any easier, even the questions about Sherington which we should all know the answers to. Are there really that many no-through roads in the village?



Watching the handbells and setting up the quiz

A big thank you to members for the food which was as usual delicious, ample and varied, supplemented with free wine, fruit juice or beer.

I know that if we asked who should be thanked for organising the celebration it would be said “No one, it all just happens”. Well, it doesn't, so thank you to whoever from everyone who just turned up.

The January Jolly - Tuesday 28th January 2014

The January Jolly took place at The Chester Arms again this year and the Chester Arms did us proud - it was a very good meal. Many members attended this event. Thanks to Pearl and Sheila for arranging it all, and also to Ted and Enid for making the wonderful menu cards - much appreciated.

The Bells of St Laud's

Of a Sunday morning or a Thursday evening you might hear the bells of St Laud's ring out and you may wonder how old these bells are or how many of these bells are there.

The calling to pray with bells goes back a very long way. There are records showing that this was done as far back as 605 AD. Full circle bell ringing, which is the type of ringing that happens in the UK, has been going on for about 400 years. There are not many records around to say where and when this type of ringing started, as it seems to slowly evolve, and as far as I understand it was almost a gentleman's sport with a competitive element to it. To this day there are “striking” competitions, where different bands of ringers pitch themselves against others and are marked on the quality of their ringing.

At St Laud's there are a total of 5 bells, in the key of G. These bells are made of a copper-rich bronze alloy, but are not all the same age and are not all from the same foundry. Three of the bells (2, 3 and 5) were cast by William Watts in 1597, and as they are pre 1600, they are on the Oxford Diocesan register of bells of historical interest. The fourth bell was cast by Henry Bagley of Chacombe, a village 3 miles north-east of Banbury. The Treble, or the smallest and lightest bell, was cast by the Whitechapel Foundry in London.

Now I understand that St Laud's only originally had three bells, but when the parish church of Filgrave closed – this must have been pre 1630s – two of the bells came to St Laud's, augmenting the bells from 3 to 5 that we have at the present day.

The biggest and heaviest bell, known as the Tenor, has a mouth diameter of almost 40 inches (the open end of the bell) and weighs 12 hundredweight (cwt). That works out to be about 96 stone ,or approx. 600 kilograms, and is mounted perpendicular to the other 4 that are all in line and swing in an east-west direction, with the Tenor swinging north to south. The Treble is less than half that weight at just over 5

cwt and has a mouth diameter of 30 inches, with the other 3 bells being in between these two. All the bells sit in an oak frame that I don't think has been replaced since the 2 bells were added, as there is evidence of alterations being made to the frame.

Each of the bells have inscriptions, and this has been detailed on the Society's website (<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs/chbells.htm>).

Mark Vale



Bells 2 (to the left) and 3, with the ringing wheel of the Tenor to the right.

Hands on History - The Victorians



This is a free exhibition currently on until April at the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

Find out what life was like during Queen Victoria's reign. Discover key events on the time line. See how you measure up to Queen Victoria. Play with Victorian Toys. Dress up like a Victorian. Find out about chores in the Victorian Household. See what a

Victorian school room was like. Lots to touch, see and do.

Also on at the museum at the moment is an exhibition on Ancient Egypt.

Hickson's Butchers Shop

Mark mentions Hickson's Butcher's Shop in his introduction to Crump's paintings on the next page, so it's a good opportunity to add this paragraph and photo from the Sherington Historical Society website (Ed).

Hickson's Butchers Shop was located at 45 High Street. This was founded by the Hickson family in c1850 and run as a family business until it was closed in the 1920s. They had their own slaughter house at the rear of the premises, so all their meat would have come from local farms.

They also opened a second shop in Newport where they traded for a number of years.



Arthur Crump paintings

The story behind the pictures are that they were owned by one of the granddaughters of William Thomas Hickson, who ran the butchers on the High Street at around the time that Crump was around the village. The painting of Gun Lane and the Woods are smaller, but look like oil on board, the High Street scene is drawn from about the point that the Hickson Butchers and Grocers shop was.

The Lady in the Barn picture is one that Crump did more than once, as far as I am aware there are at least three, maybe more. As you may be aware, Crump would paint a picture for an amount of board and lodging, and after painting these he would tell the recipient that it was their mother that he painted. In this case, Thelma, who owned the picture, was always adamant that the lady in the painting was her grandmother.

Mark Vale



The lady in the barn



Gun Lane, Sherington



High Street, Sherington

Sherington Historical Society

<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs/>

Presents

Pictures in the Parlour A Magic Lantern

with

Kevin Varty

**Sherington
Village Hall**

Tuesday 11th February

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

Refreshments and raffle

**Entry: £1/£2.50 for
members/
non-members**

