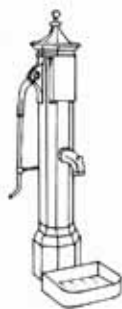


No:86



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



March 2015

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 14th April 2015

Victorian Farms: Elizabeth Knight from the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney is coming to give us a short talk on Victorian Farms. We will also be having some old farming songs with our "house band".

Tuesday 12th May 2015

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

Tuesday 9th June 2015

Members Outing. A visit to the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. Meet at the Village Hall for 6.30 pm to be at the Museum for 7.00 pm.

Tuesday 14th July 2015

Philip Smith - Bygones: Come to an open evening being hosted by Philip with one of his infamous Bygones evenings, where we will be regaled with stories of Sherington of old.

Tuesday 11th August 2015 - no meeting

Tuesday 8th September 2015

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

Saturday 26th September 2015

Open Day. Subject to be confirmed, any ideas welcome. Sherington Village Hall 12.00 noon - 4.30 pm (setup from 9.30 am).

Tuesday 13th October 2015

Stephen Kennedy's Return: Stephen to give us a talk about another member of his family. Last year's story was truly fascinating. We're sure this one will be just as amazing.

Tuesday 10th November 2015

Members Can Talk: A chance where we can talk about something we care about. Please contact Caroline to let her know what you want to talk about.

Tuesday 8th December 2015

Christmas Party: Games, wine and nibbles. Bring a nibble to share and need there be any more said.

Tuesday 12th January 2016

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

Mid-January

January Jolly: More details nearer the time.

Tuesday 9th February 2016

Ox and Bucks on the Somme, 1916: Very topical we think this year. Stephen Barber is coming to give a talk about what the local light infantry got up to during WW1.

Tuesday 8th March 2016

Annual General Meeting: Time to review the year and appoint the committee for the next.

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

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



One of the most exciting things that has happened to me in the last couple of months is that we were contacted by a Professor Chibnall - no, not one from beyond the grave, this distant cousin is a great-great-great-great-great grandson of John Chibnall (b. 1762) and Elizabeth Bass, of Sherington, and later of Bromham.

Professor John Thomas Chibnall from St. Louis, Missouri, USA, works as Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. As I found out, John has got the genealogy bug and wanted to come

and visit Sherington to come and look up his ancestors. See his emails later on in this newsletter.

The AGM went well, and we all enjoyed the film that Dave and Liz put on of their flying exploits around Sherington and London and a revisit to view the ploughing match.

We are still missing a Secretary, so if you would like to help out I would be more than grateful.

On Tuesday 24th March, the Milton Keynes Heritage Association is coming to town and holding their quarterly meeting up at the Village Hall. We will be in attendance, and I am sure that it will be an interesting evening. It is thanks to the MKHA that we are able to host our website for a very minimal cost. They are a voluntary organisation that liaises with official bodies like Milton Keynes Council on behalf of the small heritage groups around Milton Keynes.

This coming Saturday (28th March) we are in the Village Hall from 11 'til 4 with the reorganising the Buildings archive. Please come along and help out if you can, your help will be most appreciated.

I am fully looking forward to the new programme that kicks off on the 14th April where we have Elizabeth Knight (off of the telly, and Cowper and Newton Museum) who is coming to talk about Victorian Farms. Hope to see you all there.

Mark Vale

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
SAVING A CENTURY

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
THE COACH HOUSE, WADDESDON MANOR



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Clarendon, The Albert Memorial, London
St George's Hall, Liverpool
Welford, Lincoln, England and St Pancras Station, 1873, Gloucester, England, Heritage National Monuments Record
The Oxford University Museum, 1854



25 MAR 2015 WEDS-SUN
24 MAY 2015 10-5

Entrance included in Gardens admission (group rates apply). FREE to National Trust members
For more information: 01296 653226 | www.waddesdon.org.uk | www.victoriansociety.org.uk


WADDESDON
Rothschild Collection

 National Trust

Past SHS event - Eleanor of Castile



The February meeting was a very interesting illustrated talk from Chris Rowe about Eleanor of Castile and the Eleanor Crosses. She gave us the history of Eleanor and told us that when Eleanor died near Lincoln in 1290, her husband, King Edward I, ordered the building of 12 crosses to mark each of resting place of his wife's funeral procession as it travelled from Lincoln to her burial place at Westminster Abbey in London. Only 3 of the original crosses still survive, 2 in Northamptonshire. The best-preserved of these crosses is in Geddington (see photo to the left).

Chris brought some books along for us to look at after her talk. A fascinating evening and I'm certainly inspired to go and have a look at the Geddington Eleanor Cross when I'm next travelling through Northamptonshire.

Liz Revell

News snippets

You'll notice a couple of posters for nearby exhibitions in this newsletter - the exhibition on the work of the Victorian Society at Waddesdon Manor (poster on page 5) and an exhibition on the building of Milton Keynes in the 1970s (poster on the back cover).

We've had a few interesting emails in the last couple of months - one from Dr Roy Parker who has just written a local history book about a rural community in Lancashire. It illustrates the ways in which people earned a living in rural communities countrywide during the late 18th and throughout the 19th centuries. Further information is on page 7.

We've received a couple of pictures of Yew Tree Farm from Barbara Dowsett. One is shown on the front cover of this newsletter. The other, which shows the back of Yew Tree Farm, will appear in a future newsletter. We're not sure of the date of the cover photo. If anyone can throw any light on this, please let us know.

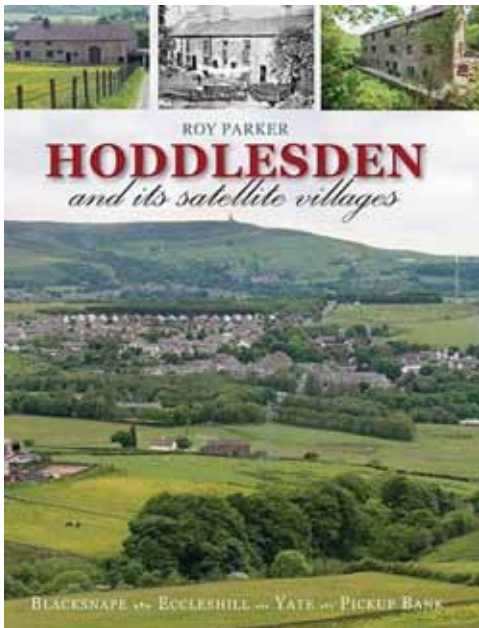
Hoddlesden and its satellite villages - book by Roy Parker

Hoddlesden and its satellite villages tells the history of four intertwined rural townships that were typical of old east Lancashire, tracing their development from their beginnings as tiny settlements in one of the county's beautiful wildernesses, right up to the modern day. This is a story of adaptation and resilience, as over the centuries the inhabitants of Hoddlesden, Blacksnape, Eccleshill, Yate and Pickup Bank have had to respond to factors which have largely been outside of their control. Both family and local historians have found Hoddlesden and its satellite villages to be a useful portrait for writing their own personal accounts, albeit for villages other than their own.

A Library Manager at a County Council stated 'It is a lovely book'

Mrs Sarah Ann ... commented 'My records became alive and enhanced to the point where I was proud of the result'.

Mrs J R... stated ' Even my family became interested in their ancestors way of life'.



The book is attractively presented in hardback with stitched binding and has 240 high quality pages containing around 170 illustrations mostly in colour. Included is an extensive bibliography and all sources are referenced, some little known. The purchase price is £14.99, plus p and p £3.50. When ordering from the author please state if you require a signed copy.

This book has been compiled by Roy Parker from his PhD research, which explored over 60 rural communities and was identified by the British Library as 'of high scholarly value'; although with a 'highly readable style'.

Contact: Dr. Roy Parker. Tel: 01204 64424. email: royparker@talktalk.net

John Thomas Chibnall - visit to Sherington

We received the following email from John Thomas Chibnall on 22nd February 2015:

Greetings! My name is John Thomas Chibnall. I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, where I continue to live and work as Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. My passion is Chibnall genealogy, and I have spent many years tracing the family lineage, particularly since our arrival in the United States nearly 165 years ago.

“I am a direct descendant of the Sherington Chibnalls. I am the great-great-great-great-great grandson of John Chibnall (b. 1762) and Elizabeth Bass, of Sherington, and later of Bromham. This John was the last Chibnall to occupy the family holdings in Sherington, which had been inhabited by Chibnalls since the 14th century. William Russell Chibnall (b. 1790), second son of John and Elizabeth, was the last of the Chibnalls born in Sherington. William Russell’s second son, John (b. 1823), was my great-great-great grandfather; he emigrated to St. Louis, Missouri, USA, in 1851; my direct paternal line of descent from there was Philip Herbert I (b. 1852), Philip Herbert II (b. 1873), Richard Herbert I (b. 1899), and my father Richard Herbert II (b. 1928). William Russell’s third son, James Russell (b. 1828), was the father of George William (b. 1861), who was the father of Albert Charles Chibnall (b. 1894), who wrote *Sherington: Fiefs and Fields of a Buckinghamshire Village* (1965), as well as a History of the Chibnall Family. On a related note, William Russell had a brother, John (b. 1787), also born in Sherington, whose line of descent is John (b. 1811), Walter (b. 1849), Walter John (b. 1871), Walter Francis (b. 1903), and Walter Charles (b. 1928); Walter Charles lives in Keston, Kent, with his wife Jean, and I maintain close contact with them.



The happy purpose of this email is to inform you that my wife, Kate, and I will be in Sherington on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. This is a life-long dream of mine, and we hope to spend the entire day visiting your lovely town. I am, of course, interested in seeing the old Chibnall family house, which is at #23 Croft’s End. I have it on the authority of A. C. Chibnall that John inscribed “JC 1785” on the garden wall during his late renovations of the property. Mostly, we wish to walk the streets that my ancestors walked, have a celebratory pint at the White Hart, and of course

Speak with anyone in Sherington with an interest in Chibnall history, including any members of the Sherington Historical Society. We also plan to drive over to Astwood to see the mural brass in St. Peter's Church dedicated to Thomas Chibnall (c. 1534) and his wives Alice and Emma.

If you have thoughts regarding any activities we might enjoy while in Sherington, please pass them back to me. We are very much looking forward to our visit!"

John T. Chibnall

John and Kate met up with various residents of Sherington on their visit to our village on 11th March, and John sent the email below on his return to the USA. As you will read below, they very much enjoyed their visit to Sherington. (*Ed.*)



Dear Sheringtonians!

Kate and I wanted to thank you all for the gracious hospitality you showed us on our recent visit to Sherington (aka the ancestral home of the Chibnalls)! I (John) just returned to St. Louis from our trip, with Kate staying on in Switzerland for another week or so. Our trip to Sherington was the highlight of a very memorable excursion across England and Switzerland. Our time in England included a morning in Brompton Cemetery in London, where, after much detective work with the very helpful Brompton Cemetery manager, we located the grave of James Russell Chibnall, the grandfather of A. C. Chibnall and the brother of my g-g-great grandfather John Chibnall (who emigrated to St. Louis in 1851). I have attached a photo of James Russell's grave, which is the horizontal, triangular, black crypt;

unfortunately, time had erased almost all the lettering on the crypt. We also found the grave of my g-g-g-great grandmother Mary Chibnall, wife of William Russell Chibnall (William is buried in Ramsgate, but, alas, we did not make it down that way).



Thank you all very much for making our time in Sherington so memorable. Jackie and Mike were the most gracious hosts, including lunch at the White Hart (great food, great bitter, and



better company!) and relaxing and talking in their beautiful and welcoming home. Jackie and Mike: the bay leaves made it back to St. Louis; thank you for welcoming us into your home, and for your gracious company! One major regret: We somehow managed to leave Sherington without a photo of us with you, which is most regrettable, but will be remedied on our next visit. Mr. Smith was a raconteur of the first degree, and a veritable encyclopedia of Sherington! His tour of the village, although

unavoidably much too brief, was interesting and entertaining in every way. We look forward to a more leisurely exploration with Mr. Smith on our next visit, but remain grateful for the chance to meet and spend time with him. Mr. Smith: we haven't forgotten: 12 quid is on the way! Our time with Caroline and Roger later in the day was just wonderful! Our tour of the old Chibnall house with Caroline was the fulfillment of a life-long dream for me, and our side trips to Astwood and Bromham (where John Chibnall, father of William Russell, lived and worked at the Swan Inn, where we had a pint in his memory) were simply unforgettable! Caroline and Roger: Thank your inviting us into your home; it felt like visiting with old friends; and Caroline, your print, a most generous gift, is now proudly displayed in our home (you are a very talented artist; Jackie and Mike shared the incredible Christmas card you painted of their home, which was beautiful!). Last but certainly not least, thanks to Mark for organizing and managing our visit!



Mark: We couldn't have done it without you, and we appreciate your time and energy on our behalf; the trip would not have been complete without our having had the pleasure of meeting you, although all too briefly, before we headed back to London. Thank you!

What struck Kate and I most about our visit was how welcomed and comfortable we felt, like we had known you all for ages instead of for one day! Your village is beautiful and this felt like a homecoming. Our next visit will be an extended one,

that is for sure. We thank you all from the bottoms of our hearts, and wish you warmest regards. Enjoy the attached photos (Kate has many more, but they are on her phone in Switzerland!).

Until we meet again, take care.

John and Kate

Sherington Brownie Pack

This photo was passed onto Diana Morgan from Barbara Dowsett who was given it by Kathleen Garrett. Can anyone tell us the year? Also, the surname of Tessa (bottom right).



(top row, left to right) Jo Hughes, Elizabeth Temple, Vivienne West, Glenys Smith, Julia Burgess.

(middle row, left to right) Deborah Cheeseman, Linda Taylor, Stephanie Keech

(bottom row, left to right) Christine Odell, Tessa

Building the City



An exhibition
glancing back at the
early 1970s when
Milton Keynes was
emerging from the
mud!

Featuring many
archive photographs
from the early days
of development, as
well as household
memorabilia from
the era.



MILTON KEYNES
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



26th February –
30th April 2015

At *Discover Milton Keynes*,
First Floor,
Milton Keynes Central Library,
555 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes
MK9 3HL

www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk

