

No: 93



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



December 2016

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 10 January

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

Tuesday 24 January

January Jolly at The White Hart, 7.00 for 7.15 pm.

Saturday 28 January

Film Show of some of Peter Gardner's short films. Sherington Village Hall. 7.30 pm. £6 including refreshments. Tickets available from Mark or Liz (see poster on the back of this newsletter for further information).

Tuesday 14 February

We'll be showing the MK Heritage DVD *MK Through The Lens*.

Saturday 25 February

Wild Sherington and *Sherington: Sights and Seasons* Photographic Exhibition.

Tuesday 14 March

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.

The programme for the remainder of 2017 will be available soon.

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



Hello all, I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas/New Year holiday and looking forward to getting into 2017. I have to say a thank you to Jackie and the team for doing all the work for the decorations on the second Christmas Tree on The Knoll, they have been a great joy to see every time I went past, knowing the fun that we had hanging them on the tree just before Christmas. This will be a great tradition to continue.

Kevin Varty lived up to expectation with his talk in October about Northampton Witches. This was a very different talk to the Magic Lantern show Kevin gave us a couple of seasons ago, but this was just as interesting with the background of the political machinations of the time with the self-appointed Witch-Finder General Matthew Hopkins and how this linked back to the Northampton trial where a number of women and a man were tried for witchcraft of various kinds, from murder to bewitching of pigs.

November saw again a full programme of members talking, some for longer than they were meant which meant that Philip did not get to present his talk about the fields until our next meeting in December, because I went on too long about the bells of Sherington. However, on the back of me talking for too long means that I am going to be giving the same talk to the Thursday Group this coming November.

The January Jolly is a week later this year – we are on the fourth week of the month on the 24 January. Further details will be elsewhere in this publication, but orders need to be with Pearl or Sheila by the January meeting.

Other events this month include the film show on Saturday 28th in the Village Hall, which has all the hallmarks of a great night, showing a number of recently digitised films of Peter Gardner. Again, I am sure that there is more about this in this newsletter, so I shan't say any more on that.

I hope everyone got their photos in on time for the photo competitions as I am sure that judging is about to start, and like last year we have booked the Village Hall to exhibit the entries and announce the winner. Again, I am sure that there will be more elsewhere in the newsletter about this.

Just before Christmas I was talking with Philip Smith about this and that and he made a very valid suggestion. He and Peter Gardner watched the building of Carters Close in a practical way with recording the process with film. He also suggested that we should do the same with the new development that is happening at the north end of the High Street, like it or loathe it we can all agree that it will have an impact on the village, and this should be recorded. Is anyone interested in joining me in this endeavour?

Mark Vale

News snippets

The photographic competitions for 2016 have now ended and all the entries are now with David Mackay for judging. We have had just under 100 entries for each competition which is a great response – not many entries from Under 18s though. There will be an exhibition of the best entries in the Village Hall on Saturday 25 February. Please make a note in your diary.

The MK50 Birthday Weekend will take place on 20-23 January. Many of the events are free. Further information is here: https://issuu.com/dylanjeavons/docs/mk50_events_brochure_v1c. The Sherington Film Show of some of Peter Gardner's short films is mentioned. See the poster on the back of this newsletter if you would like to get tickets for this event – £6 each which includes refreshments. The films we hope to show are *The Development of Carters Close*, *From Roads to Rivers*, *The Drainage of Sherington* and *With Love from Claire*.

If you are going to the January Jolly this year on Tuesday 24 January at the White Hart, please pay Sheila (01908 211153) or Pearl (01908 610661) and give them your menu choices by Tuesday's meeting (10th January). The cost is – 2 courses £23, or 3 courses £27.50 ,which includes the first drink and a tip.

Membership renewals are now due, so please fill in the enclosed form and return it with a cheque made payable to Sherington Historical Society or cash either at the next meeting or drop into my postbox at 1 Church Road.

We'll be showing the hour-long DVD *Milton Keynes Through the Lens* at the February meeting. It is a glimpse into the history of Milton Keynes in moving images compiled from archive footage from 1940s to the present day.

Philip Smith celebrated his 90th birthday on 1 January. Here's wishing him a happy 2017.

Four of us took part in Sophie Reid's University project for her Speech Therapy degree before Christmas and spent a few minutes answering some questions for her research.

In case you haven't yet seen it, there is a new book box by the noticeboard at the entrance to Carters Close. Please borrow any books you'd like to read or add any that you would like to pass onto someone else.

Liz Revell

A new tradition in Sherington?



For the 2016 Christmas Bazaar SHS thought it would be a nice idea to offer folk the opportunity to make decorations for the permanent Christmas tree on The Knoll. There was an enthusiastic response on the evening.

The Christmas Team put lights on the tree and on 18 December a small crowd gathered to fix

the decorations, see the lights switched on, sing carols along with the Folk Group and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It was a lovely sunny day and the tree looks lovely at night. Fancy having two lit Christmas trees on The Knoll this year!

The Christmas Team are thinking about trying to address the slight imbalance of the permanent tree if the Parish Council agrees.

Jackie Inskipp



The Jefferson Family

This is the second part of the article by Lynda Jefferson about the Jefferson Family. It gives information about last five of Joseph's 10 children. The final part of this article will be in a future newsletter.

6. Mary Jane Jefferson 1878-

After her father died Mary Jane at the age of 13 is living with her aunts – Elizabeth Yarrow and Martha Barton – at Springfield Cottage, Edmonton, New Southgate in Middlesex.

Mary Jane married Frank Bertram Newman. They farmed at West End Farm, Kempston, Bedfordshire and had 3 children: Bertram 1907-1933, Kathleen 1912-1932 and Joy 1921-

Her husband Frank died 28 March 1930 of angina pectoris and then Kathleen and Bertram died of pulmonary tuberculosis. Understandably, after this Mary Jane moved away.

7. Winifred Jefferson 1880-1948

In 1891 Winifred was a pupil aged 11, staying in the British Orphan Asylum, Upton Cum Chalvey, Slough, Buckinghamshire. 'Winnie' on census, born in Sharrington, Wilts. (Unable to find a different birth matching Wilts.)

NB. Definition of orphan included a fatherless child of those once in prosperity with a living mother unable to support the child.

Winifred remained single, staying at Mercers Farm and then at Water Lane, Sherington.

8. Harry Gregory Jefferson 1880-1948

Harry, after his father's death was fostered by James and Elizabeth Wait at Hardmead, Buckinghamshire. Amongst all of the family at the time he certainly had luck on his side.



Harry Gregory Jefferson with James Wait

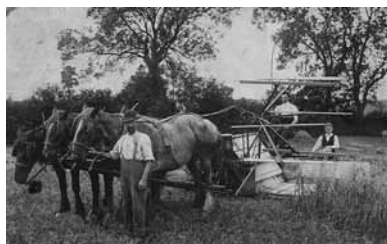
He attended Astwood village school and later helped James on the farm.

Through James' connections, Frank Wait Shepherd (Chairman of Blakesley Parish Council for 32 years – the council was set up in 1894) helped to get them the tenancy for the farm at Kirby Grounds – on the outskirts of Blakesley – and so Harry with his wife Nina Elizabeth, née Webster, moved in. They had been married at Gorlston-on-Sea, near Great Yarmouth, with his brother, Francis William Jefferson as a witness on the 4th November 1908. Nina's father had gone bankrupt after his only son died, and pride stopped him from asking for help from his brothers. They kept a boarding house in her mother's name at Gorlston.

They had 5 children:

Henry Adrian 1910-1960, Dora Anita 1912-1948, Rosa Mary 1914-1998, Alfred Charles Michael 1918-1944 and Samuel Joseph 1925-1992.

They moved to the larger farm at Foxley in 1931. Nina died shortly afterwards and Harry later married Joan Barker whom he would have first met on market days at the Angel Hotel, Bridge Street in Northampton where she was working as a bar maid.



Thought to be a young Harry Gregory Jefferson seated on a reaping machine.



Christmas card from Edward John and Alice's family to Harry Gregory and Nina Jefferson's family



Nina Elizabeth Jefferson née Webster



Alfred Jefferson

9. Alfred Jefferson 1883-1918

After being at the Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum, where he and his youngest brother Charles were placed by their mother, after their father's death (in the 1891 census Alfred is 7 and Charles is 5 at the orphanage of 564 pupils – quite a change from their very early years at Sherington!) Alfred moved to Cheapside to board with several other draper's clerks. In the 1911 census he was a manufacturing agent in textiles, living at 118 Wrottesley Rd., Harlesden. A Margaret Emma Turner lived nearby whom he must have struck up a special relationship, as after his death she applied for his war medals and he left her all his money (£568 5s 8d) in his will.

Alfred joined the 1/9th (County of London) Battalion, Queen Victoria's Rifles as Private 390353 as soon as war was declared. He would have taken part in several battles in France, but was probably killed by exceptionally heavy shelling on the support line on the Lavieville-Baizieux sector on the 15th July 1918. His luck had finally run out. He is buried at the Bavelincourt Communal Cemetery.

He is on the Roll of Honour and WW1 memorial in Sherington Church.

10. Charles Beaumont Jefferson 1886-1917

The 'Beaumont' part of his name is taken from Mary Eliza's grandmother, Ann Beaumont.

Charles was at the Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum, with his brother Alfred, as stated above, after his father's death. In 1901 he is living at Gower Street, St. Pancras, London, working as an upholstery clerk at the age of 15 with several other young men.

He had been in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry, Private 1776, but later joined the Bedfordshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion, as Private 33645. He looks very vulnerable in his photo. He was killed in action on Sunday 8th April 1917 in Flanders. He is buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France. Grave no.

VI.F.11. The 2nd Battalion moved from Blairville, mid-evening on the 7th April 1917 to Henin-sur-Cojeul. Not long after arriving there they came under attack – this could have been when Charles was killed. The Battle of Arras was to start on the 9th April. He, too, is on the Roll of Honour and WW1 memorial in Sherington Church.



Charles Beaumont Jefferson

Joseph died on the 10th November 1887 of locomotor ataxia which he suffered from for 4 years, diabetes for 2 years and carbuncles for 3 weeks. Locomotor ataxia is a late form of syphilis resulting in emaciation and damage to the spine resulting in a loss of muscular coordination. Mary Eliza would have had a very difficult time looking after him. The administration of his estate of £1,046 9s was left to Mary Eliza.

However, in the 1891 census most of the children have been sent away from Sherington. This seems very harsh, but after caring for Joseph perhaps it was all too much. There had also been an agricultural depression from the 1870s to the early 1900s, due to several bad harvests and most food and raw materials being imported.

Locations etc. of the children of Mary Eliza and Joseph Jefferson from the 1891 census (after the death of Joseph in 1887)

Gertrude Sarah: aged 23. Guide at Haddon Hall, Nether Haddon, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Residence: Haddon Cottage with Emma Swaine – custodian of Haddon Hall and two domestic servants.

Edward John: aged 22. Farmer's son. Residence: Calves End Farm, Sherington, Buckinghamshire with mother Mary Eliza and brother.

Frederick Joseph and Edith A Odell, domestic servant.

George Ernest: aged 19. Visitor. Grocer's assistant. Residence: High Street, Wavendon, Woburn Sands with Frederick Wingrave 43, grocer and his wife Hannah, Alice Potts (niece) and George Harrison, a boarder and also a grocer's assistant, and Jebes Wingrave, visitor, widower.

Francis William: aged 17. Butcher's apprentice. Residence: Simpson Road, Simpson, Fenny Stratford, Buckinghamshire with Alfred Benford (butcher), wife Eliza and 5 children and Frank Morton, also a butcher's apprentice. Plus Emma Dowes, domestic servant.

Frederick Joseph: aged 16. Farmer's son. Residence: Calves End Farm, Sherington, Buckinghamshire with mother Mary Eliza and Edward John and Edith A Odell, domestic servant.

Mary Jane: aged 13. Niece. Residence: Springfield Cottage, Edmonton, New Southgate, Middlesex with head Elizabeth Yarrow, 58, widow, living on own means, Martha Barton, 66, widow, Sydney W F Richardson, 19, nephew, medical student, born at Glaisdale, Yorkshire and Sarah A Panter 26, domestic servant.

Winifred: aged 11. Pupil. Residence: British Orphan Asylum, Upton Cum Chalvey, Slough, Buckinghamshire.

'Winnie' on census, born in Sharrington, Wilts. (Unable to find a different birth matching Wilts) (Definition of orphan includes a fatherless child of those once in prosperity with a living mother unable to support the child.)

Harry Gregory: aged 9. Visitor. Residence: Hardmead, Buckinghamshire, with James Wait, 64, farmer, wife Elizabeth, 35, and Annie Tomkins, 17, domestic servant.

Alfred: aged 8. Scholar. Residence: Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead, Leyton, Essex.

Charles Beaumont: aged 5, scholar. Residence: Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead, Leyton, Essex.

14 Park Road

We received the following email from Alan Garratt, a former Sherington resident.

It is fascinating how village properties evolve, none more so than the subject house.

The photo (from Google maps) shows the current roadside gable end of 14 Park Road and it shows an unusual mix of stone and brick construction. The opposite



gable end was also constructed in the same manner. The attached bill (if that's the correct term) explains how this came about.

The bill is from Henry George Rose, Carpenter & Builder (Kelly's 1903 Directory, your website records) and is made out to my Grandmother, Kate Wright. Her maiden name was Line and the cottage had been in the Line family for many years. It was left to her and her brother Harry Line. Harry was a bachelor and had been a career soldier, travelling the Empire, before retiring and sharing the house with his married sister and her family.

It sets out the cost of pulling down an existing stone cottage and replacing it with a house, a wash house and WC. The latter was at the end of the garden joined by a stone and brick high wall. The WC was still in use during my time there. My mother was told that some of the original single storey cottage was retained, which may account for the bricked-up doorway onto the road. In fact the right lower corner, by the old doorway, is stone and it goes back along the house some way. The left corner and front wall are brick. It would seem possible those parts are original and that the house footprint was extended sideways and backwards.

I wish I could clarify the dates. The stamp is clearly a one penny King Edward VII so I think it is safe to say the franking date is 1907. However the top of the bill seems to show 1876 & 7 and I can't believe it took 30 years to complete.

The house passed to my mother and her siblings and through her to my late brother, my sister and myself. It was sold out of the family in 1970.

1876 & 7
 Mrs K Wright Dr to £ 0/-
 Henry Rose
 to Pulling down old house
 to Rebuilding house according
 to Plans - to Wash House. WC
 to Draining to Po. +
 Labour for all 112 10
 Materials for same -
 15000 Boreing Bricks 1300 Slate
 26 square lime 3 bags Cement
 12 25' 6 inch Rod + blue iron
 21 Staffordshire Pipes 40 bundle Laths
 16 the Slate made 17 the Laths Wash
 23 6 inch Staffordshire Pipes
 5' 6 inch Laths + 4 inch Junction
 1 - saw Top for Siding
 300 10 x 5 x 2 blue bricks
 1 yard Stone Rubble +
 Material for all floors. Frames, Joint
 Boon Carp. Work Spikes Sash Weights
 + Glazing Woodwork
 £ 63 4
 £ 175 16/-
 Received Cash on a/c £135 0 0
 Materials taken away 2 10 7
 137 10 7
 to Ball Fee £ 37 16
 for - 16
 37 00
 J. H. Rose
 Jan 10 1877



Sherington Historical Society

An Evening of Peter Gardner's Short Films

Saturday 28th January 2017

7.30 pm

Sherington Village Hall

Entry: £6.00 per ticket
(includes refreshments)

Tickets available from:
Mark (01908 216543) or Liz (07941 403492)

Limited seats, so to avoid disappointment
prebook early

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