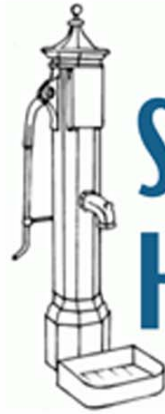


No: 94



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



March 2017

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

11th April

Amy Wonderful Amy: Roy Smart is talking to us about Amy Johnson, the inspirational female aviator. See the poster on the back cover for further details.

9th May

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

13th June

The Reeves Tale. Hugh Granger is to talk about life in an English village of 1450, seen through the eyes of the Reeve . The talk will cover how life was lived in the 1450's and ends with the tale of how a village mystery was solved

11th July

Outing - Broughton Church. Come and discover this history of St Lawrence's Broughton, with a guided talk that will cover such topics as its medieval wall painting.

8th August

No Meeting

9th September

Open Day. Theme to be set, but to coincide with the HODs weekend.

12th September

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

10th October

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.

14th November

The Gunpowder Plot. Chris Rowe , who came a couple of years ago to talk about the Eleanor Crosses is returning to talk about the Gunpowder Plot.

12th December

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

9th January

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

Mid January

January Jolly. More details nearer the time.

13th February

Wolverton Works. Philip Marsh is coming to talk to us about the Wolverton Works, Philip will talk about life in the Works, the royal train and what was special about the 1838 London to Birmingham train.

13th March

AGM, 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)



I was just looking at the Musing that I wrote last year at this time and I was talking about the AGM preparation that the committee was going through and I was thinking HA! We have done this this time around, but then I also noticed that these go back to the year before, as I appear to have started them at the beginning of 2015. This still feels like a new thing that I am doing. Anyway I think the AGM went well this year with a good number of people turning up.

The one big change this year as far as the SHS committee goes is that Caroline has stepped down as Events Secretary, where she has performed most sterlingly, and will be missed by the rest of the committee. As I said at the AGM she joined the committee in 2006 around the time of the art show open day and has been a valued member ever since. If you or know of anyone who would like to help on the committee, it does not need to be the Events Secretary, please let me know as your help would be most grateful.

Our new programme starts on the 11th April at 8pm where Roy Smart will come and talk to us about Amy Johnson, the famous aviator, not to be confused by any other, and looking on the internet, this looks like quite a popular talk. He is often referred to as a “professional speaker”, so it will be a great night.

The May meeting is a members meeting, where more work on the files will be happening. The June meeting will see Hugh Granger coming to talk to us about “The Reeves Tale”. More details in SCAN nearer the time.

Something that was mentioned at the AGM was the History Fare weekend in Campbell Park on the 17th/18th June. This is to be quite a big event with re-enactments planned as well as a “heritage village” where there will be a number of stalls with organisations like ourselves and we are being asked to be involved. There will be a table that we have and we have been asked to bring a family friendly activity to be part of the event. If you can spare a couple of hours Saturday or Sunday afternoon again I would be very grateful.

I think we are still reeling over the shock over losing one of the village stalwarts. As I said in SCAN, although never a member of the Society, he worked tirelessly for the benefit of the village. He was always seen as an approachable person that was a very

knowledgeable and sensible council, with a wonderful sense of humour. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go to Tina and the family at this time.

Mark Vale

Photographic Competitions 2016

Our photographic exhibition took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 25 February. We had nearly 100 entries in the adult section of both the Sherington: Sights and Seasons and Wild Sherington competitions and 4 entries in the junior sections of each competition. Local photographer David Mackay chose our winners again this year. Thanks to David for taking on such a difficult task. The winners are listed below and their photos appear in this newsletter. We're running both competitions again this year but we have just one category for each competition. Please see the website for further details (www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington) or contact me on 07941 403492.

Sights and Seasons

Over 18

First: Autumn Colours by Peter Soul (shown on the front cover)

Second: Mist Bow by Peter Soul

Third: Dancing Around the Maypole by Kay Turrell

Under 18

Sunset – Anna Kennedy

Wild Sherington

Over 18

First: Musk Mallow – Peter Soul

Second: Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly – Peter Soul

Third: Common Frog – Emily Leslie

Under 18

Common Mallow – Grace Kennedy

Liz Revell

The Parting of the Ways of Mercers Farm and the Jeffersons

The final part of the article by Lynda Jefferson about the Jefferson Family.

Mary Eliza Jefferson 1842-1930

Mary Eliza (actually born Eliza Mary) had two sisters: Miriam 1839-1918 and Sarah Ann born in 1836 who married a Thomas Salmons in 1857. In 1881 he was a coachbuilder. Their son Frederick and then Sarah's grandson via her daughter Mary Jane were jewellers at Newport Pagnell.



Mary Eliza Jefferson and some of her family

In the 1910 Land Survey Mary Eliza was renting 16 acres at Wood Close, Sherington from her sister Sarah and paying her £16 in rent.

She was also paying £35 in rent for farm buildings and 18 acres of arable at Sherington Bridge Farm to a Mrs G.G.Gill-Russel.

But the two main farms were Mercers and Manor Farm. Mercers consisted of 131 acres 1 rod and 30 poles with a rent of £131 – there is a comment about this seeming quite cheap. Mary Eliza had a 7 year lease from Michaelmas 1906. The farm is freehold S & T house, has 3 downstairs rooms, kitchen, scullery, dairy, 4 bedrooms, 2 attics and 1 outside privy. Plus the shooting rights went to the tenant. The farm was of course owned by the Mercers Company at Mercers Hall E.C. They also owned 2 cottages at Croft End who were tenanted by Joseph Feasy and Walter Wright. The market value of the farm was £3,400.



Mary Eliza Jefferson
1842-1930

Manor Farm consisted of 103 acres, 3 rods, 30 poles of pasture land, W. B & S buildings and again with the shooting rights. Rent £100. (Reference: Sherington Historical Society.)

On the 9th November 1918 Mary Eliza's sister Miriam died at Steppingley. Probate was granted to her two sisters: Sarah Ann Salmons and Mary Eliza Jefferson. She left £1725 5s 8d.

Then in 1919 Mary Eliza bought Mercers Farm with its manorial rights. This brought the Mercers Company association with Sherington to an end after 400 years.

Her son Francis William was present when she died on the 6th November 1930, at the age of 88 of 'femoral embolism and vitral disease', this can be a blood clot that blocks a coronary artery and vitral disease might be mitral valve disease which is a valve in the heart.

Mercers Farm was then sold at the Swan Hotel on June 17th 1931 for £3152 15s 3d. The main farm was made up of the farmhouse and various outbuildings which included a dairy fitted with lead stands, a brewhouse with a copper and a detached washhouse fitted with a copper, plus 134 acres. This sold for £2700 to Mr Cook. The two cottages sold for £450 to Mr Cook. W.B & W.R. Bull's charges for proving the will, sale of Mercers Farm and all entailed in winding up the estate was £84.00. Also included in the executors statement was a rent for Manor Farm of £118 10s.



The text on the gravestone is as follows:

In affectionate remembrance
of Joseph Jefferson
Who died November 10 1887
Aged 56 years
"Thy will be done"
And of Mary Eliza, his wife
Who died November 6 1930
Aged 88 years
Also of Charles Beaumont
Son of Joseph and Mary Eliza Jefferson
Killed in action April 8th 1917 aged 30 years

Village haircuts

Alan Garratt was born and grew up in Park Road, Sherington. His mother's family (the Lines and the Wrights) had deep roots in the area and he had many relatives locally. He says of this and other articles that he has written: "I wrote these memoirs in the order my head remembered them, which is not necessarily chronologically correct. They cover the decade between 1954 and 1964 from age 6 to 16."

Just before the 1960s transformed our innocent lives, all us village boys had a limited choice of tonsorial art, indeed you could count the number of available haircuts (styles wasn't a word used for men or boys) on the fingers of one hand... Short Back and Sides, Square Neck, Feather Neck and Crew Cut.

Short Back and Sides was the standard cut for 90% of the male population and had been around forever as far as I could tell. It left only the crown hair to be individually determined e.g. long-medium-short. For the adult men Brylcreem was a must to spruce them up.

Square Neck and Feather Neck were pretty much the same thing, with the finish at the nape of the neck being either squared across with the clippers or feathered. The Square Neck was a Teddy Boy cut, Elvis was the role model with the top usually long and quiff'd. With both these styles the biggest difference from the short back and sides was the tight hairline around your ears.



Crew cuts were about but were really a 'Yankee' thing and were few and far between in Sherington. The only bloke in the village with one was Slick Slater.

For me as a boy and young teenager hair cutting had two crucial points associated with it and in truth both were out of my control. 1) Who was going to do it? 2) What was it going to look like?

Dad was the village expert in trimming dogs (his normal occupation was a Butcher). He had a set of clippers and on a Sunday various mutts would arrive for a trim. Some from as far afield as North Crawley and Newport Pagnell. The dogs and Dad would disappear into the tin shed. It was here I learnt that the expression 'y'bu*ger' should be used after such doggie commands as 'sit still' and 'get up'. They had to be growled deeply and slowly rather than said, otherwise the dog would obviously not understand.

Boys, Dogs, what's the difference? Clippers cut hair on whatever creature they were applied to.

All I will say is that you do not need to experience the feel of hand clippers on your hair to empathise with the sitter, just compare cutting paper with sharp scissors and tearing it. Dad knew all about what shape a dog's coat should be. Boys were different so he adapted and adopted the pudding basin technique. In his case he imagined the bowl on your head as his guideline. All showing below was clipped off as close as possible... and all the hair above the imaginary basin line was now shortened with various utensils, including scissors, razor combs and the clippers. All this was undertaken using the same sit still command described earlier. It really felt like being a dog. What did it look like? Well Dad admitted I never turned out as good as a dog, so I probably looked worse than one. Blood, sweat and tears finally persuaded Mum to relieve Dad of this duty. The blood and tears were mine, the sweat was Dad's.

I think that having Dad introduce me to the pleasures of the barber's art was just a cunning ruse. In normal circumstances the thought of Uncle Ben Line (the village carpenter and handyman) cutting my hair would have been bad enough, but given a choice of



Ben Line

Dad or an alternative, the alternative had to be better and Uncle Ben did have electric clippers.

Uncle Ben cut hair on a regular basis, he was a bachelor and I guess this was his opportunity to socialise whilst making a few bob on the side. He held court in the kitchen of his cottage and you needed an 'appointment'. That is to say Mum would have made arrangements and then at the last minute, to avoid excuses, she would give me a shilling and send me off with instructions to go straight to Uncle Ben's.

Uncle Ben had all the gear, a big chair with a 'boy box' to raise you up to men's height, a mirror to look at yourself whilst he cut away. Waiting chairs, magazines, comics, Brylcreem and 'Tonic', which smelled of ladies perfume and which was applied to men upon request.

Uncle Ben would say 'up y'get air'Alan' 'ow d' y'u want it?' I would pause and perform some badly acted thought 'A square neck please Uncle Ben'. Uncle Ben now avoided eye contact and his response would be 'r y'u sure y'u Mum ses that's all right air'Alan?'. 'Yep' I replied, with fingers crossed.

And so the cutting and shaping and questioning about what I was up too would commence. No basin. No razor comb. Just the buzz of the electric clippers and the snipping of sharp scissors. I swear to this day I could feel the cold scissors cutting the square across the nape of my neck. Without any blood, sweat or tears the job was done. I would walk home with the wind whistling around my newly exposed ears feeling like a rock star.

What did it look like when I put a mirror behind my head? (Uncle Ben had not been that silly). I looked like a boy with a Short Back and Sides, in-fact exactly what Mum had arranged with him and I fell for it every time.

Like all the other boys we knew Uncle Ben was better than our Dad and each time we went to Uncle Ben's we convinced ourselves we would get the cut we wanted.

Eventually we grew-up enough to get our hair styled in the barbers in Newport Pagnell... just in time for the Beatles.

Sherington: Sights and Seasons



Mist Bow – Peter Soul



Dancing Around the Maypole – Kay Turrell



Sunset
– Anna Kennedy

Wild Sherington



Musk Mallow
– Peter Soul



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly – Peter Soul

Common Frog – Emily Leslie



Common Mallow
– Grace Kennedy



AMY WONDERFUL AMY

A TALK BY
ROY SMART
ABOUT

THE EARLY FLYING HEROINE AMY JOHNSON



Sherington Village Hall
Tuesday 11th April 2017

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

Entry: £2.00/£3.00 for members/non-members
Refreshments available
Raffle