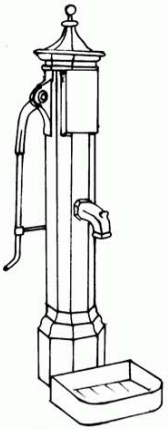


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Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



December 2015

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

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.

Tuesday 19th January 2016

January Jolly at the White Hart, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. (See back cover for further details).

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.

Saturday 20th February 2016

Sherington Wild Photographic Exhibition, 2.00-4.00 pm, Village Hall. Come and see the winning photographs from our 2015 competition.

Tuesday 8th March 2016

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

Tuesday 12th April 2016

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

Tuesday 10th May 2016

Buckinghamshire Coaching Inns - a talk by Julian Hunt.

Tuesday 14th June 2016

Outing to Gayhurst Manor. A guided tour by Nick Braid.

Tuesday 12th July 2016

Black Propaganda Radio - a talk by Michael Kushner. The Germans believed programs were coming from Germany. It was Britain's greatest hoax of the war.

Tuesday 9th August 2016

No meeting.

Tuesday 13th September 2016

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

Tuesday 11th October 2016

Northamptonshire Witches - a talk by Kevin Varty.

Tuesday 8th November 2016

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 13th December 2016

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

Tuesday 10th January 2017

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

Tuesday 14th February 2017

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

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

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



It seems quite a while back since I put pen to paper for the Historical Society newsletter, but checking the diary, it's only been three months. So what has happened since the last newsletter? Well ...

The Open Day has come gone, a little quieter than previous years, so the committee is thinking how to approach it next year. One of the thoughts is that we give it a break, or maybe bring in a couple of speakers about historically linked subjects and scale down the exhibitions. Would be good to hear what the members think.

Stephen Kennedy did not disappoint with a fantastic talk about another member of his family. As all who read SCAN would have seen the great write-up from Roger Leslie, who summarised the talk wonderfully. Many thanks to Roger for that. The November's "Members Can Talk" meeting was a great success with a varied list of subjects, so thanks to Gillian, Caroline and Philip. And as I write this we are just about to have the Christmas party meeting, so fun and festive cheer for this one with some new games afoot I'm sure.

Time speeds on and it's getting close to the January Jolly. As ever, Pearl and Sheila are the ones to talk to about this. The date has been set for the 19th of January at the White Hart, and we are giving the option to book a 2 or 3 course meal depending on your requirement. I am sure that there will be more about this elsewhere in the newsletter (*See the back cover - Ed*). It's a great night, so if you can make it, it will be a "Jolly" evening,

The new programme has now been put together for the 2016/17 season, thanks the Caroline, and another corker of a year is with us. Again, there should be more about this elsewhere, so I shan't steal any thunder, but I am looking forward to the new season.

Mark Vale

News snippets

Philip was presented with his British Empire Medal by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, at Stowe School on Wednesday 28th October. Philip brought the Medal along to show us at the Members Can Talk meeting. See the photo on the front cover of the presentation by the Lord-Lieutenant, also the photos of the Medal on page 11.

Sad to hear about the death of Anita Arnold who was involved with Sherington Historical Society at the very beginning. I've reproduced below the article from SCAN written by Mark. Someone mentioned to me that Anita was involved in providing benches for Sherington a few years ago. I found an article about this on the Sherington website from Sherington News which I've reproduced on page 6.

Thanks to Caroline Spaughton for the second part of her article on the Ponting family. You'll find this on page 7.

The Wild Sherington photographic competition has been popular with the adult and very young residents of Sherington (93 entries so far), but we still have had no entries from the 11-18 age group. The competition closes on 31st December - there's still time to go out with your camera and take a photograph. Dave took some yesterday of a female sparrowhawk in our garden. These photos are on the website under Sherington Wildlife if you want to take a look (<http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington/sherington-wildlife/>).

Liz Revell

Anita Arnold

It is with some sadness that I have to report that Anita Arnold passed away in early November. Anita was the wife of our founder and first Chairman, Norman. They were both keen to get the Society up and running and Anita was the first to be in charge of the catering, supplying the tea and cakes / biscuits for the meetings that started up in the Pavilion, before the marvellous extension, where they would go and turn the heating up to try and warm the room a little before we went up and met.

She was quite a country girl at heart, she was a caring person with a good sense of humour, as I remember always having a chuckle with her about something when we

met. She spent some of her early life around rural Middlesex and Bucks, as she had family around this area. She also had a cousin, Ian, who was in a famous pop band (The Small Faces).

I am led to believe that Anita and Norman met at a cycling club, as Norman in his day was quite a keen cyclist. They married and settled down, and had two sons: Stuart and Bruce. After the boys had grown up Norman and Anita decided to have a career change and moved up to Hanslope and opened a Clock Shop there, but found it wasn't working for them in the location so cast around and found the house in Sherington where they settled and Norman opened the Clock Shop in Sherington, where both of them saw out their days.

I was just looking through Phyllis' "A walk around Sherington" and Anita entered a poem:

*Onion skins very thin
Mild winter coming in
Onion skins very thick and tough
Coming winter cold and rough*

So perhaps a good time to go and check your onions!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stuart and Bruce and their families.

Mark Vale

Sherington News

The following is taken from the Sherington website from Sherington News in 1998/99.

Anita Arnold's Millennium Project

October 1998

Anita is convinced that a seat on The Knoll would be of great benefit especially to the older members of the community. Many of them live in the top half of the village and Anita feels that they would be more inclined to walk to the shop and post office and thus keep active if there was a seat where they could rest before the return journey up the hill. It would also encourage the use of the village shops.

Anita was refused funding by the Help The Aged Millennium Awards Scheme because this project doesn't fit with their criteria for projects which involve continuing activities, so she is now hoping for support from other sources. Perhaps a village club, a youth group, a business would like to make this contribution to the village in the year 2000? Perhaps an individual would like to achieve a small measure of immortality for themselves or a relative by having their name on a seat in the centre of the village. The cost would be approximately £350 for a bench and its installation.

Anita would be delighted if funds could be found to provide one seat on The Knoll - to replace the old one which fell apart from use and wear, but there are convenient locations for two more should funds be sufficient.

September 1999

Anita Arnold would like to thank all the Sherington villagers who helped with her village seat project. Special thanks go to Mrs Paul and her daughter Dierdre and to Mr and Mrs Gadsby who donated the two seats in the recreation ground. Also special thanks to Alan and Ann Barber who engraved and donated the two brass plaques for the seats.

Fanny Osborn Ponting nee Jefferson (28/7/1851- 27/11/1885)

Part 2 - Children and Divorce

Fanny and John Jones Ponting had four children:

- Henry Edward Ponting, born 8 June 1873
- Pattie Partridge Sarah Ponting, born 26 August 1874
- Frank Osborne Ponting, born 8 February 1876
- Frederick Hewett Ponting, born 28 October 1877

Their first three children were born at 24 Caves Terrace, Goldhawk Road, Hammersmith, and Frederick was born at Hyde House, Shakespeare Road, Acton.

On 8 August 1879 when his brother Sydney drew up his will, John Jones was still living at Hyde House, but it is not clear whether Fanny would have been there, for on 11 September 1879 John Jones Ponting files for divorce. In the petition he states that Fanny committed adultery on or about 26 and 27 June 1879 in the neighbourhood of Broad Street Station, on diverse other days during 1878 and 1879 at their house at Acton and other places, and on 1 August 1879 at 70 St Georges Road, Southwark. On each occasion the man's name is unknown. Affidavits from John and also from his mother, Jane, are filed with the court, although we do not know what these say. The case is finally heard in March 1880. Fanny does not attend. The marriage is dissolved and John Jones Ponting is granted custody of the children. The decree absolute was issued on 16 November 1880. Seven years and four children and the marriage is over, seemingly because of Fanny's adultery.

I am not sure what Fanny did after the divorce. I can find no trace of her in the 1881 census, but she was not with her children. Son "Harry E" was a 9-year-old scholar boarding with Margaret Gregson at 8 Burlington Road, Kensington. Fanny's daughter, Pattie, aged 7, was living with her Uncle William Ponting at 125-127 High Street, Kensington. Her sons Frank, aged 5, and Frederick aged 3 are "visiting" Edwin Barnes, a "Square keeper" at St James Terrace, Kensington.

Fanny died on 27 November 1885 at 6 Brook Green Place, Hammersmith aged just 35 years old. The cause of death was "sudden rupture of blood vessel". In place of informant it states "certificate received from Thomas Bramah Diplock, Coroner for Middlesex. Inquest heard December 1st 1885". Regrettably few records of London inquests remain.

John Jones Ponting went on to marry twice more and had four more children. His second wife, an assistant at the Pontings Store, was 18 years his junior, and his third wife was 40 years his junior, but on both occasions it was he who was widowed. When he died on 20 September 1910, aged 68, he left an estate valued at £1,425 17s 2d, but fails to make any provision for the children of his first marriage. His brother Thomas had also excluded them from a possible legacy under his will on the basis that they had "already been provided for elsewhere".



This suggests that Fanny's children may have inherited from their mother in 1885 and were now reaping the benefits of the estate left by Edward Jefferson. However as John Jones and Fanny had married before the "Married Women's Property Act 1882" it is not entirely clear whether her inheritance from her father would have remained with her or had been surrendered to her husband when she married. I have been unable to trace a will for Fanny at the present time.

In 1891 Fanny's eldest son, Henry Edward Ponting, a 17-year-old draper's assistant was living with his father and his second wife at the Hollies, Barnes, Surrey. Pattie's whereabouts are not known; she would have been around 16 and may have been away at school. Frank Osborne Ponting and Frederick Hewett Ponting were both at boarding school. Frank, aged 14, at Nelson College, Lee, London and Frederick, aged 13, at Emanuel School, West Battersea.

Some time thereafter Henry Edward Ponting went to India, where on 14 June 1895 he marries Fanny Louisa Gerrish at Calcutta, Bengal. Their first child, Ethel Ada Ponting, was born on 8 November 1896, baptised on 16 December 1896 at St Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, died and was buried on 17 July 1897 at Sawree, Bombay, India. At the time Ethel was born, Henry was an assistant at Messrs Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. The firm of tailors, who also imported and sold household goods, was founded in 1882 in Calcutta and grew to have branches in about 20 cities in India and the Strait Settlements. Henry and Fanny had two more children, both sons, Edward Alick Ponting, born on 8 September 1900, and Sidney John Ponting, born on 2 November 1902, both in Calcutta. Henry Edward Ponting, an 'out of employ' salesman, died aged 38 years 8 months and 8 days and was buried on 17 January 1912 at the Lower Circular Road Cemetery, Calcutta. His widow remarried on 5 March 1913. Their son Edward Alick Ponting married Marguerite Kathleen McHugh in 1940 in Calcutta. They emigrated to New Zealand and from 1954 onwards were living at 23 Wallace Street, Ponsoby, Auckland until Edward died in 1971. Nothing more is known about their son Sidney John Ponting.

Fanny's youngest son, Frederick Hewitt Ponting, went to sea, and on 25 July 1902 he gained a "Certificate of competency" as a "second mate" on a foreign going ship. On 29 May 1907 he married Hermine Eloise Charlotte Dora Hanning at Bedwelty Parish Church in Monmouth. Hermine, the daughter of Herman Hanning, an army officer, had been born in Germany in about 1872. In 1911 Hermine was boarding at 57 Lansdowne Road, Cardiff with her eldest daughter, and I assume that Frederick was away at sea. The couple had two daughters, Hermine Gladys Ponting, born 3 June 1908, and Iris Lillian Ponting, born 27 June 1911. Master Frederick Hewitt

Ponting drowned at sea as a result of an attack on an enemy submarine on 5 August 1917. He was just 39 years old. On 3 April 1922 Captain Fred Hewitt Ponting was posthumously awarded the Mercantile Medal and the British Medal, which were given to his widow Mrs H Ponting, who was still living in Cardiff. Hermine died on 1 March 1949 at Middlesex Hospital, St Marylebone. Neither of their daughters married. Gladys Hermina Ponting died on 5 May 1999 aged 90 in Llandaff, Cardiff. Iris died at Pelham House Residential Home in Folkestone on 15 June 2008.

Frederick's elder brother, Frank Osborne Ponting, had also followed his father into the drapery business. In 1901 he was a hosier living at 607-609 Old Kent Road with 8 other hosiery employees. He had also been a minority shareholder in Pontings Brothers Ltd since 11 August 1898. Frank married Jane Johnson Chapman on 28 March 1910 at Stanford Le Hope. Frank and his wife seem to have taken responsibility for his young half-siblings following his father's death, and in 1911 Frank and Jane were living at 1 Bengal Road, Ilford, Essex with 4-year-old Sidney and 2-year-old Ida Mary, John's youngest children. Fanny's daughter, Pattie, who was last heard of as a 7-year-old living with her Uncle William at Kensington High Street, re-appears living with her brother "on private means". Frank Osborne Ponting of Butler Cottage, Bruisyard, Saxmundham died on 2 February 1946 aged 69 years old.

Pattie Ponting died on 13 August 1946 at Red House, Bulchamp-Cum-Blythburgh, Suffolk. The Red House, originally a workhouse, had become a hospital for the chronically ill. She is described as a draper's assistant and would have been about 72 years old.

So by 1946 all Fanny's children had died, only two of her children produced grandchildren, and it seems any descendents living today would be through her eldest son Henry. But for one reference to Pattie living on her own means there are no obvious signs of any of the Jefferson wealth remaining. Her brother Frank had left an estate valued at only £30.00 when he died.

Caroline Spaughton



Philip Edward
Smith BEM



SHS JANUARY JOLLY

19th January 2016

7.00 for 7.30 pm

This year we are at the



THE WHITE HART
SHERINGTON

Menu (choose one of the following):

Starters

Leek and potato soup, mushrooms, fishcake, black pudding

Mains

Steak and ale pie, sea bass, chicken, vegetable flan

Puddings

Lemon tart, chocolate brownie, fruit crumble, sorbet in brandy basket

Coffee or tea included

2 Courses £20.00 3 Courses £25.00

(To include first Drink and Tip)

Please confirm with Pearl Teasdale by 12th January 2016

(01908 610661 - pt@croftsend33.freeserve.co.uk)