

No: 103



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



July 2019

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

9th July

Pot-luck supper at Yew Tree Farm. Earlier start this evening at 7.30 pm to make the most of the light evening. Please bring a plate of nibbles. Diana and Richard will be providing the drinks.

August - no meeting

10th September

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

September - Open Day

There is nothing planned for this year currently.

9th October

The History of Olney. Tom Jones from Olney's Cowper and Newton Museum is coming to talk to us about the history of Olney.

12th November

Members Can Talk. A chance where we can talk about something we care about. Please contact any member of the Committee to let us know what you want to talk about.

10th December

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

14th January

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

Mid-January

January Jolly. More details nearer the time.

11th February

Magic Lantern Show. Kevin Varty will be coming to show his lantern show entitled “St Dustan and the Cenotaph”. More details nearer the time.

11th March

AGM. 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)



Life is not looking any quieter. This is a late night musings, as I am away this weekend accompanying Dougie to Liverpool to ring in the “RWNYC” (Ringing World National Youth Competition), where groups of under eighteen-year-olds compete against each other to perform the best piece of ringing they can do. Douglas is in the Oxford Diocese’s band, and he has been asked to “conduct” it (means he’s in charge of the ringing). There are going to be something like 24 different teams from all over the country competing against each other. So we have been trying to get him all the practice he can.

It's still hard to take in that Philip Smith is no longer with us, and I think it will still take some time for this to sink in, as he has been with us and guiding us for so long. After he got involved with the SHS, he was a very firm supporter of us and helped us in so many ways, it's difficult to get it all in, so perhaps I should follow the advice of the Rev Coralie and not try to rush it all out, but perhaps we can detail various aspects for future editions of the newsletter. All I will say now is that the village has suffered a great loss, and it will take some time to get over. Thoughts and prayers to Roy, Alison, Charlotte and the rest of the family.

However, on a happier note I can report back that the Scarecrow Competition went very well. We had 16 entries and it was all very difficult to judge, I'm so glad I did not have to. Thanks go to Neil Loudon from the Stacey Hill Society and MK Museum who came and judged it for us. So on the morning of the start of the Open Gardens we wandered about the village and at the end he judged Sherington School to be the winners, the Ice Dancer second and the Sheringtons to be third. Photos of the winning scarecrows are later in this newsletter.

While we are at this time and place, I want to say publicly a big 'Thank You' to Diana Morgan and Pearl Teasdale with Friends of St Lauds for organising the Flower Festival / Open Gardens this year, as it was a resounding success. The wonderful weather was the crowning glory, but with the various attractions around the village, including Liz' folk band playing, the village had a buzz about it that weekend.

Thanks again for Diana and Richard Morgan. I am looking forward to this coming week where we are all hopefully going to meet up at Yew Tree Farm for a pot-luck picnic for our July meeting. If you are coming along, please bring along a nibble you would like to share and drinks are to be provided. Starting at 7.30 pm this time to try and get more of the summer light. This will be just a night to enjoy each other's company and the garden (weather permitting).

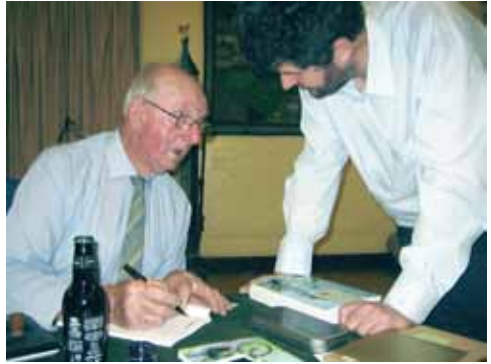
Hope to see you all there.

Mark Vale

News Snippets

As Mark has already mentioned, it was a sad time when we heard that Philip had died. He did a lot for the Historical Society, including setting up the reunion last

year and also giving all the profits from the sale of "A Little Bird Told Me" to the Historical Society. We still have a few copies left if you haven't already got your copy - £12 each, just let me know if you'd like one. He was also my first port of call when an email came in requesting information about Sherington in the last 92 years. We'll miss him. See the photo of Phil and Norman Arnold on the front cover. For those who are new to the village,



Norman founded the Sherington Historical Society in the year 2000. He ran the Clock Shop on the High Street. He did repair a clock for me in the late 1980s when we were living in Newport Pagnell, but I never met him as a member of the Historical Society as he died in 2005, before we moved into Sherington.

I'd also like to thank Diana and Pearl for all their hard work on the Flower Festival/ Open Gardens event. I didn't manage to get round to seeing all the gardens as we were playing at Yew Tree Farm on Saturday afternoon, but the ones I did see were stunning and must have involved many hours of hard work leading up to the event. I've included some photos I took on the Sunday at the end of this newsletter.

Our next main planned event is on 9 October when Tom Jones from the Cowper and Newton Museum will be coming to talk to us about the history of Olney. Those who came on the walk last year will know what to expect. Tom is a very good speaker who has great enthusiasm for Olney, so it should be a good night.

Liz Revell

Scarecrows 2019

Photos of the winning scarecrows are on the following 2 pages.



First prize - Shaun and Shirley by Sherington School



Third prize - Dingle Dangle Scaretots by Sheringtots



*Second prize
- Ice Dancer
by the Thomas
Family, High
Street*

June Outing to Piddington Roman Villa

We went to the Piddington Roman Villa, Chapel End, Piddington, NN7 2DD, for our annual June outing. The village of Piddington is tucked away down a dead-end, on the road to Northampton between Horton and Hackleton. Follow the brown signs to find the Museum. The Museum is housed in an old Wesleyan Chapel built in 1851.

Unfortunately the weather was not on our side with lots of rain before



the event, so it wasn't safe to go to the archaeological dig site to see the actual remains. However, Roy and Liz Friendship-Taylor did us proud with the evening. Sixteen members attended the event, so we split into 2 groups of eight. Liz took the group I was in upstairs first for tea and an explanation of what the site was about.



Roy took the second group on a tour of the artefacts in the downstairs room. We then swapped over. A great evening was had by all the people I spoke to. Although a small Museum, it was packed with very interesting artefacts, all laid out in a very accessible way. Well worth a visit.

The brochure they gave us states the following:

“The Museum displays tell the story of the Piddington site, based on the evidence from the excavations. They show how people lived - what their houses were like, what they ate, the animals they kept, the crops they grew and the games they played.”

There is also a small, but well-stocked Museum shop, which offers popular and academic books, souvenirs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, quality replicas and a range of attractive and affordable items for children.

As we were not able to go the site, Roy and Liz have offered the members who attended on 11 June free entry to their Open Day on Saturday 17 August. Anyone else is welcome to go along but will need to pay £5. Normal opening times for the Museum are Wednesdays, 10-12 am and 2-4 pm. Check first on the day at 01604 870312 or 01604 871266. It also opens on Sunday Afternoons - 1 October to 31 March, 2 pm to 4 pm, 1 April to 30 September, 2 pm to 5 pm.

Liz Revell

Research into fates and final words

We had an email from Chris Wood as follows:

“I am currently trying to research a couple of areas, namely the ‘fates and final words’ of people down the years. Taking the form of perhaps, death bed confessions, written letters, or the final words of someone prior to execution, for example, the aim is to collect some of the more interesting instances of such occurrences. An example of a case we are currently looking at is that of chap who prior to being executed for one murder, admitted carrying out another years earlier - one which someone had already been hung for!

Ideally these would be of lesser-known cases, but equally, any story or information at all from your area would be so gratefully received.

If there any cases that you or your members may be aware of, I would love to hear from them. Equally, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will get back to you as soon as possible.”

If anyone has any information that might be useful to Chris, not necessarily Sherington related, then please email chriswood2205@gmail.com or let one of the Committee know and we'll send an email.

Grafton Regis - Medieval Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday 13 September



Jacquetta, mother of Queen Elizabeth Woodville, rumoured to be involved in witchcraft, is hosting this dinner. Do you dare to attend?

Tickets, costing £20, include dinner and entertainment. To book, contact Kathy on 0791 009 2132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com.

Sherington Flower Festival / Open Gardens 2019







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