

Sherington Historical Society

Norman Arnold started the Sherington Historical Society in the year 2000 to ensure that the history of the village was not lost. He recruited a small band of like-minded people to set about documenting the history of the village and researching events prior to those in living memory. Our local group is growing slowly and steadily, and now consists of nearly 50 members.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month except for August in Sherington Village Hall at 8.00 pm. New members are always welcome. We run a yearly programme of social events. These include guests speaking on various heritage-related topics and members working together on the village archive.

For further information email:

sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk

or phone the Chairman, Mark Vale, on:

01908 216543.

Visit our website:

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs



The Knoll Circular Walk

The walk starts and ends at: The Knoll, Sherington, MK16 9NZ.



Directions to Sherington

By car:

From Newport Pagnell: Take the B526 north towards Northampton. Take the first right fork (Sherington Road) signposted Sherington, Chicheley and Bedford. After Sherington Bridge turn left to Sherington Village. Take the second right turn (Church Road) by The Knoll (village green).

From Olney: Take the A509 south past Emberton. After the speed derestriction sign take the right turn to Sherington (High Street). Proceed down the hill to The Knoll (village green).

There are no parking restrictions in the village but be aware that the roads are narrow and used by large vehicles.

By bus:

The latest bus timetables can be downloaded from the Milton Keynes Highways & Transport Hub website at

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/bus-and-taxi/bus-timetables-maps-and-travel-updates>.



For information about Sherington Historical Society visit: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs



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**MILTON KEYNES
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**



The Knoll Circular Walk

Sherington Self-guided Walk No. 2

The Knoll Circular Walk

Sherington's village green, or **The Knoll**, is the place of many outdoor activities, including the May Day celebrations. The communal water pump is here and it was the site of the famous meeting between Oxford and Cambridge, where representatives from the two Universities buried the hatchet in 1935 to settle their differences. Since Sherington is exactly halfway between the two cities, it was chosen as the perfect meeting place. A re-enactment of the event, again involving both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, took place in 1995.



The K6 red telephone box on the south-west corner of The Knoll, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, is Grade II listed.

1 Start your walk at **No. 1 The Knoll** which is thought to have been a public house in the past, and until recently had an inscription over the door "Thomas Tandy licensed to sell ...".

2 **Nos. 2 & 3** form a large L-shaped, stone-built property that was once a single dwelling, Nos. 1, 2 & 3 are noted on the Enclosure Map of 1796. Writings and maps from A. C. Chibnall's book,



Fiefs and Fields of a Buckinghamshire Village indicates similar on The Knoll from about 1580. The very talented artist Arthur Crump (1867-1935), exhibited Royal Institute, Piccadilly 1896-1899; lived in the attic of No. 2, before sadly being committed to Aylesbury Asylum in 1934. There are many of his delightful depictions of the village still in existence.



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Past No. 8 The Knoll and set back from the road is the old **Wesleyan Chapel**, built on the site of a former Wesleyan Meeting House that was there in the 1700s. The Chapel was sold in 1974 and is now a private residence. It was one of four places of worship in the village.

8

Knoll Cottage, formerly the village bakehouse, still contains the large baker's oven. Bakers Owen and Fanny Oldham lived here for many years and their son George instigated the soft drinks factory around the corner (see point 12, overleaf). In the 1891 census Fanny was the baker and Owen ran a business from the yard outside, but by 1901 all 3 members of the family are listed as being mineral water makers and bakers.



3

At the end of the access road was the site of **C.J. Hine, wheelwright**. Cross over Church Road.

4

No. 8 The Knoll, an old thatched cottage, is a Grade II listed building. Turn left along Church Road.



5

Next are two cottages – **Wayside Cottage** and **No. 4, The Cottage**. Wayside Cottage is one of the oldest properties in Church Road.



6

Opposite is the site of the old woodyard, where **Nos. 1, 1a and 1b Church Road** now stand.

Walk back down Church Road towards The Knoll.

9

Next are the premises of the **Haynes' family businesses**, founded in 1923. Once a typical country garage, now a successful haulage company, with another branch of the family still offering car repairs and servicing.

The Knoll Circular Walk (continued)

Continuing our tour of The Knoll... Turn left onto High Street. No. 12, a thatched property, was once a row of small cottages. Some of the old doorways are still evident in red brick.

- 10** No. 10 High Street was The Swan Inn. Charles Wells Brewery closed the pub in early 2009, it reopened as a free house in late 2009 after a campaign by the villagers. It closed again in 2010 and is now a private house.



- 11** Ash Cottage is the next property along, which until recently had the original ash tree in the front garden.

- 12** No. 6 High Street, **The Small House**, was the location of Oldham & Co's bottling plant, which closed down around 1935. They manufactured ginger beer and lemonade, using water piped into the factory from a spring at the rear of the property. A plaque on the wall reads B.WE.1753.

Further along High Street, bear left onto the footpath, with the spinney on your right. This was owned by Manor Farm and was used to pen livestock on the way to market.

Turn right along the access road and cross over Crofts End to the garden wall of **The Manor**.

- 13** In 1817 James Smith, the owner of Caves Manor, was presented at court and accused of having built the 90-yard-long garden wall, which encroached onto the highway to a depth of two yards. After many years, this accusation was withdrawn since no evidence was found.

Behind this old brick wall is an ancient moat, within which the original Manor House stood, dating from the twelfth century. There is some evidence that the son of Oliver Cromwell lived here during the English Civil War. A replacement Manor was built in 1770. Its most eminent resident was Dr John Cheyne, Physician General to the Army in Ireland, who lived here from 1828 until his death.

22

Turn right and walk down Crofts End with the wall on your left. Continue along the hedge line around to The Manor entrance. Be aware that there is no footpath on this blind corner.

Cross the road, and walk back along High Street.

- 14** No. 1 High Street, also known as **The Lodge**, Grade II listed, is a large old farmhouse with adjacent barns and yard. The barn to the side is now a private house.

- 15** The demolition of some cottages allowed for **Nos. 5 to 19**, a block of low-rise flats, to be built in the late 1970s.

Cross over Leys View. Ancient water pipes made from elm wood were found here during the excavations for the housing.

- 16** **The Old Post Office** was the village Post Office and Stores for many years and has now become a private residence.



- 17** No. 21a was mentioned on the 1796 enclosure map and has been many types of business. Its final use was The Clock Shop that closed in 1993 when it became a private dwelling. The owner was Norman Arnold who was the founding Chairman of the Sherington Historical Society.



- 18** **Primrose Cottage**, Grade II listed, is on the corner of High Street and Water Lane.



Turn left into Water Lane. On your left you'll pass the electricity sub-station before arriving at Water Lane Farm.

- 19** **Water Lane Farm**, Grade II listed, is one of the old farms of the village. At the time of the Enclosure Act of 1796, it was owned by local farmer Thomas Battains but now is owned by the Gardner family and has been for the last three generations. Peter Gardner Gunsmith and The Sherington Shooting Centre are also located at Water Lane Farm.

Continue past two more buildings on your left-hand side.

- 20** No. 25 Water Lane is **Oak Villa** and has a plaque dated 1898. Brothers Albert, Francis and Percy Bailey lived here before The Great War. Francis and Percy both died on the Somme.

- 21** Further down is **Smith's Yard** owned by the Smith family. It has been used for many years for light industrial businesses from car repairers to furniture restorers.

- 22** At the end of the road is **End Farm**, now four private dwellings.

A concrete road provides access to the sewage station. There is open farmland on either side with views of Newport Pagnell to your left.



Retrace your steps along the Lane. No. 40 Water Lane may have been the site of the Quakers' Meeting House.

- 23** Pass an open field and several buildings on your left including **Nos. 16 and 18**, both Grade II listed. The stone building near the end of the road on the left is Crumbles Barn which was associated with the old shop, Virginia House Stores.

Turn left onto High Street.

- 24** No. 25, **Virginia House Stores**, a large old double house, dates from 1857. It was used as a shop until it became a private dwelling in 2010.



- 25** No. 43, **The Old Castle** was originally an ale house named



The Crown and Castle. The history of this building and its adjacent cottages can be traced back to the early 1700s. **No. 43a**, at the side of The Old Castle was the blacksmith's shop. It was partly demolished in the mid-1900s, allowing the road to be widened. The painting is by Arthur Crump.

Cross over Maryot Close.

- 26** No. 45 is a large L-shaped house that was the Hickson's butcher's and grocer's shop. This was run by the Hickson family from about 1850 and continued as a family business until it closed in the 1930s. They had their own slaughterhouse at the rear of the shop.



27 Nos. 47 and 49 are a pair of Grade II listed cottages with attic rooms and are end onto the road.

28 No. 51, **The Gables** is an attractive red-brick, gabled house, with stone window lintels, ledges and lead mullions. There is a motif in the brickwork on the north side.

29 No. 53, **Home Farm** is an extensive L-shaped, stone-built property. The stone plaque on the wall is dated 1849. The barn at the rear has been converted to a private dwelling. Both are Grade II listed.

Cross over Village Close.

30 No. 57, **Village Farm**, more commonly known as Fleet's Farm, was the home of the well-known Sherington Fleet family: farmers, horse traders, butchers and dairymen.

31 No. 59, **Bakers Farm** is a private residence. Next to it is **The Winnowing Barn** which is used as offices.

This is as far as this walk goes in this direction. Due to the fact that there is no public footpath, turn around and stay on this side of the road.

Retrace your steps and look across the field to your left at the iconic view of the Grade I listed building St Laud's, the starting point of Circular Walk No. 1.



Proceed further along High Street and you'll see the kissing gate opposite. You could cross Mason's Field on the public footpath, go through a second kissing gate and into The Ridings, to arrive at St Laud's.

Proceed along High Street and look across the road to an old thatched cottage.

This cottage is known as **Harriet's End**, and was once the premises of the village undertakers.

Our last building of interest, **Pearcey Cottage**, is situated next to No. 1 The Knoll. This ends the circular tour.



Sherington

