

S.H.S. Newsletter.



Carol Singing and Panto in Sherington, it must be Christmas!



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NEWSLETTER 70:

December 2010



**WINTER IN SHERINGTON
2009**

Annual Open Day: Our 10th Anniversary Annual Open Day proved to be another success for us. A steady stream of visitors came to view the exhibition boards featuring our past Open Days. We were very pleased to welcome members from distant places – Howard Dalton from Poole, who went away delighted with some more photographs and a tile from, what he believes to be, the roof of his forebear's dwelling; Josephine and Roger Heather from Cornwall who come to the area every year to carry out



research at Aylesbury and in our archives. We were also visited by Stuart Watts who met with Barbara Smith and Philip and added to his knowledge of the Watts family. At our mid-year Open Day we were visited by Lynda Jefferies, whose ancestors farmed Mercers Farm and she came back to the 10th Anniversary Day with masses of information that she has collected and for which we were her early starting point. Hopefully Lynda will send us copies of her information to add to our own archives. All-in-all a successful day and now we need to start thinking of a theme for next year! Any ideas?

We should give a big thank you to Sylvia Sullivan for making the Anniversary cake (as photo). I have to say that all who had the chance to taste it, said it tasted as good as it looked. Also thanks to Ian for the photos of the Open Day.

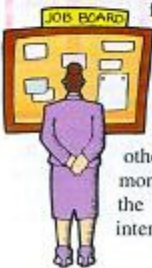
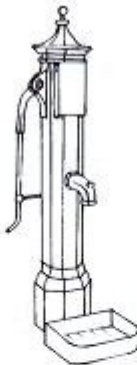


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News from the Pump: Stuart Watts, who visited the Open Day, has just started researching his family and emailed to say how wonderful the site is and that he found photographs of his great-grandfather (Long-Un) that he hadn't seen before.

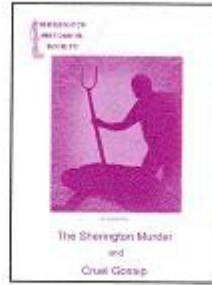
Another email was from Peter Evans who is a member of the Baptist Church in Stevington, near Bedford. Peter first enquired about staging a Scarecrow Competition and Sheila Q sent him some information. In August he emailed to let us know that they had held a most successful competition and thanked us for our advice.

Ron Barrett is looking for information about Elizabeth Stanton who was an Assistant Schoolmistress to Frank Collett at the time of the 1901 census. We were able to give him the information he wanted regarding Mr. Collett but none about Elizabeth Stanton – unless, of course, any of you know better. Mr. Barrett also sent us a photograph of the interior of St. Laud's Church, which he thinks was taken during Miss Stanton's time in Sherington. It is obviously Harvest Festival time and probably taken by a photographer from Newport Pagnell; name of Thorneycroft



Positions Vacant: We are looking for someone who would be willing to collate the information and produce the SCAN articles and newsletters. This will involve working with the Secretary and Chairman and other contributors. In all honesty it is about 4-6 hours a month. It would be helpful if the member concerned joined the committee, but it is not compulsory. If you are interested please contact Mark or Sheila.

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Murder Most Foul! The latest edition of our Sherington Murder & Cruel Gossip booklet is now available. Liz Revell has revised the script and Dave Revell designed the front cover, which is now suitably "sinister". Liz also arranged for the printing of the booklet – our thanks to both her and Dave for their hard work. Thanks also to Keith and Giles at The White Hart for sponsoring the booklet.

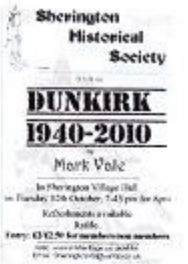
The SHS Website: Ian Collinge has added the photographs taken by Kay at the Open Day to the website. We continue to receive emails congratulating us on the site: one from Marie Coleman who didn't ask for any information but simply said how splendid, easy to navigate and interesting the site is. Other plaudits include "I have just stumbled upon your website – what a joy!"; "I'm so jealous of your brilliant website if only we had something similar." It is always gratifying to receive such praise and the emails are all forwarded to Ian Collinge, who is responsible for the site and deserves all the praise we receive.



Ian adds: "The latest visitor statistics show that the number of 'page loads' was 4523 in October, and 5638 in August, making a total of 154,000 since Easter 2008 when we started counting. Of the last 500 visits, 85% were from the UK, 5.4% from the US, 4.2% from Austria and 2.2% from Italy. There were also visitors from Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan, Philippines, Iran, Latvia and Turkey. It is also interesting that 2.8% of these 500 visitors used a Smartphone, although 60% are still using Internet Explorer."

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Didn't He Do Well!! Mark volunteered to speak at our October meeting and gave a most interesting talk and slide show about the Little Boats of Dunkirk. He gave us lots of information but did not overwhelm us with statistics and also had an excellent display of information and magazines connected to the historic event and the Association of Little Ships that has been formed. Writing from a personal angle, one of my uncles was evacuated from Dunkirk and my son, who is in the Royal Navy, was on HMS Norfolk when she was the RN escort in 1995; he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and also chatting to "some of the old boys" as he put it. I'm sure that I am not the only member with links (however tenuous) to the Dunkirk evacuation (SAQ). Mark rounded off the evening with a DVD made by the Vale family on the day of this year's return to Dunkirk by the flotilla. The only disappointment regarding the Open Evening was that there were no "visitors", but then, that was their loss.



Dates for your Diaries:

14th December: Christmas Party in the Village Hall. Please bring nibbles to share. Drinks will be provided.

11th January 2011: Members Evening.
18th January 2011: January Jolly (date to be confirmed)

January Jolly: Christmas is approaching rapidly and we need to start thinking about the venue for the Society Dinner in January. The White Hart has served us very well for the past two years, but if any members would like to suggest somewhere else, please contact any member of the Committee.



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Swans on Bancroft pond: Many of you may know that a pair of swans on Bancroft pond hatched 6 cygnets during the summer. Unfortunately, only two have survived and that has been due greatly to Caroline Leslie, who has been feeding them with swan food, as advised by an expert from the Swan Sanctuary. Ro Smith also feeds them so SHS members can take some of the credit for their survival. Well done Caroline and Ro.



Village Painting:

Caroline has completed a beautiful painting depicting the village during the four seasons, which you may have seen at the Open Day. It was one of our 10th anniversary projects and, hopefully, can be used to produce copies for sale and also for sets of notelets. The views

Caroline has shown are cottages in Church End in winter, the Tumulus at Crofts End in Autumn, May Day on the Knoll and Park Road in Summer

SCAN Articles: Once again we are appealing to members to think about writing a short article for SCAN. You are welcome to borrow one of the archive files and the article can be about a person, a building, an event – in fact anything to do with Sherington.



2010 Scarecrow Competition:

30 scarecrows put in an appearance this year and were varied and ingenious in design. The first prize went to The Thumbsticks for their "Farm Worker" (right) who took up residence in St. Laud's Churchyard; second prize was won by Tony and Madeleine Pilcher for "Mrs. Moppett", while "Trapeze Girl" won third prize for Alice Charles; the Lusted family came fourth with "Bed Time". Philip Smith accepted the winner's shield on behalf of the Thumbsticks and the runners up were all presented with certificates. Our judge this year was Marion Becks of the Newport Pagnell Historical Society.



The committee have decided to hold the Scarecrow Competition bi-annually, the next one being in 2012 to coincide with the Open Gardens and Flower Festival.

Marion Palmer: We are very sad to report the death of Marion Palmer, who had been a member with Gillian Nursaw-Smith. Marion had been very poorly for some time, so her death was not completely unexpected. We shall miss her lovely smile and quiet friendship. A donation in memory of Marion has been sent from the Society to the hospice where she was treated.

Congratulations to Doris Stephens on the occasion of her 90th birthday (1st November). We send Doris our very best wishes and look forward to her continued membership of the society



If you would like to receive regular copies of the full printed Newsletter, why not join the Society? Membership is only £5 per year. **Email for further details**