

No: 100



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



October 2018

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

29th September

Open Day - Bygones. This year the SHS will be working with Philip Smith to revive the Bygones events, where we will invite a good number of past residents, or people with connections to the Village, for a get-together.

9th October

The Living Archive Band. Come for a great evening of live music, when the Living Archive Band come back to Sherington after about 10 years. They will be putting on a show about The Great War. See the poster on the back of this newsletter and further information in News Snippets.

13th 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.

11th December

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

8th January

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

Mid January

We may go back to January next year for the Jolly, or if people prefer we could keep it to July. Please let us know your thoughts.

12th February

Film Night. We will be showing June Corfield's film plus others, more details nearer the time.

12th March

AGM (Annual General Meeting). Time to review the year and appoint the committee for the next year.

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

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



I am putting pen to paper, well really, fingers on keyboard, just after the reunion event up at the Village Hall last Saturday. As I got out of the house the weather that I was presented with was a lovely warm autumn morning, so we had certainly picked the right day for inviting old Sheringtonians back to all meet up, the sun was shining and there was no cold wind blowing. The set-up party all met up at the Village Hall just after 10 am where we set up the tables, brought down the folders from the office, got the kitchen ready, and we were all set up by 11:30.

From 1 pm people started arriving, the first through the door was Belinda with some great photos and all of a sudden the noise level rose to a level and then stayed there for the rest of the afternoon.

Earlier in the afternoon I counted about 60 people in the room, and I repeated the count and got the same number but with some different faces, so we can say that this was a great idea to put on and thanks has to go to Philip Smith for this idea, and his contacts to be able to get everyone here. I also have to say thank you to the cake providers, the tea servers, Coralie for the soup and the raffle prizes. It WAS a great day.



We have been gifted some old maps from Milton Keynes Library via Hanslope History Society, a long and involved route by the sounds of it. But when investigating the maps, it seems that there are lots of reparation of two maps from the North-west and North-east of the village, if anyone one can think of any ideas of what to do with them, I'm up for ideas.

Has everyone seen the new plans for the Sherington Village Shop? The Council are asking for our opinions as residents. Our constitution does not allow us to get involved with the planning request, but as residents, people should have their say.

As I said earlier, the nights are drawing in, so it must be time to talk Christmas. At our last committee meeting we were discussing the Bazaar which is on the last Friday of November, does anyone have an idea for a stall?

Again, just a gentle reminder, please keep submitting those photos for the competition and hope to see you soon.

Mark Vale

News Snippets

On the 9 October, the Living Archive Band will be making a return visit to entertain us after about 10 years. They will be putting on an audio-visual show of local stories about the First World War. The Band will perform Living Archive's original songs, based on the reminiscences and experiences of local people from the Milton Keynes area. We also hope that they will include some photos of Sherington men who are mentioned in the Roll of Honour.

The Living Archive Band's last appearance at Sherington Village Hall was my first Historical Society meeting, a few weeks after we'd moved into the Village, and I remember it as being a really good show. So please try and make it if you can - £2 entry for members. If you know of anyone who would like to come along who is not a member of the Society, we are selling tickets in advance at £5 each. They can buy tickets from sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk or 07941 403492.

For the November meeting we are doing Members Can Talk again. If you would like to talk about anything associated with history, then please let us know. It can be just for a few minutes or up to about half an hour.

Liz Revell

The Burgess Family



John Burgess

Article from 'A Walk Around Sherington' edited by Phyllis Loxley-Walton. Written by John Burgess, 'Whinyards', Gun Lane, 7th July 1988.

The Burgess family came to Sherington in 1906. They moved from Wavendon, where they kept a beerhouse called The Wheatsheaf, where no spirits or wines were sold. They were also carriers and landowners, farming at Bury Field, Newport Pagnell.

My grandparents, Mary and John Burgess, together with their children Harriet and John (my father) bought 'Yew Tree Farm' in Park Road where their second daughter Lavinia was born. My father was a pupil at Sherington School until he was 12 years old, when he left to work on the farm with his father. He was a choir boy for many years and a keen bellringer. His sister Lavinia was a Brown Owl with the Sherington Brownies.

At Yew Tree Farm they employed twelve hands during harvest time, as well as running a dairy herd. In those days the milking had to be finished and the milk taken to Newport Pagnell station by pony and trap to catch the milk train at 6.30am.

In 1917, Yew Tree Farm was sold and my grandfather bought 'Church End Farm' and 'Griggs Farm'. He also ran a haulage business, with twenty-four horses and carts on contract to the local Council for road building. All the materials were manually loaded at Newport Pagnell and Olney Stations for onward transport to various sites. My father always said that one of the most interesting contracts he remembered as a boy was the transportation of a German organ and Italian marble for the construction of the 'Temple of Music' in the grounds of Tyringham Hall.



Yew Tree Farm

At about this time, my grandfather started a milk round in Newport Pagnell and other local villages. On Saturdays, I used to help my Aunt Harriet on the round with a pony and milk float.



The stone barn in Griggs Close (which we converted into two houses in 1982) was the main storage barn for 'Griggs Farm'. Over the years it has been used in many different ways and I am sure the old walls could tell many stories.

One I remember being told was about my grandfather who suffered from 'quinsies' and had to grow a beard.

Because of the beard he was given the nickname Pharoah. Jack Pateman (who still lives in Crofts End) worked for my grandfather as a boy and one morning, whilst in the barn asked: "Has anyone seen Pharoah this morning?" Out of the darkness boomed my grandfather's voice: "Where were you my boy when they christened me Pharoah! I cannot remember seeing you in church." Jack hastily took to his heels!

My father remembered when the ladies of the village worked in the barn, using the rushes from the nearby river to make rush matting. You can still see some of it preserved in The White Hart public house dining room. Another cottage industry housed in the old barn was lace making. My mother continued the Sherington tradition at home and now my daughter, Julie, using her grandmother's lace pillow, is keeping up the tradition by learning this craft at the Sherington Lace Circle.

During the last war the barn was used by the Red Cross to store clothing donated from America. This was used to clothe people who had lost their belongings in the bombing.

In 1930, my father married Elsie Britton from Hardingstone and went to live in Prospect, near Emberton, where he started his own business as a coal merchant and haulier. It was here that my elder sister Margaret and I were born. In 1933 we moved back to Sherington and lived at 'The Nest' in Park Road (Wayside Cottage), where my sister Evelyn was born.

In 1936, Lavinia Burgess married my mother's brother Jack Britton, at Sherington Church and went to live at Wellingborough; whilst Harriet married Horace Homans, who had a small-holding and greengrocers business at Newport Pagnell.

As youngsters, we were always full of pranks. A favourite was to wrap up a parcel and attach a long piece of fishing line to it. We would then lay it on the road and hide behind a hedge, waiting for some poor innocent souls to come along and pick it up. Once picked up, we would give the line a mighty pull and the parcel would leap from their arms. The squeals could be heard the other side of the village!

As children, two of the best events we remember were V.E. and V.J. days. It seemed that the whole village turned out for these celebrations. In the fancy dress competition, Michael Cook and I dressed up as two St Trinian girls. Nobody recognised us. Rhoda Borton was heard to say: "Who are they?" In the evening, Mr Hayes Snr floodlit The Knoll from the top windows of his garage and also supplied the music for dancing.

We, and many other children in the village were members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies. Our meeting place was the Rectory (now the Old Rectory). For many years I was in the Church choir and acted as a Server.

Some years ago, Sherington, like all villages, had a 'bobby' and ours (unfortunately for him) was Mr Knibbs, affectionately known as 'Knibbo'.

When going on night duty, he would ride his bicycle to The Knoll and leave it by the telephone box while he went into the Crown & Castle (where David Byrne now lives) for his evening beverage, before reporting by telephone to Newport Pagnell Police Station. One night, we were ready for him. Whilst in the pub supping his ale, we stripped his bicycle, leaving only the frame against the phone box. When he came out you could have heard the words of blasphemy all over Sherington. All the parts from the bicycle were scattered in various front gardens throughout the



PC Knibbs with his bicycle on Manor Corner

village. Over several weeks the parts were retrieved and Mr Goodman (grandfather of Tom Nicholls), who was a bicycle mechanic and lived in Crofts End, managed to reassemble 'Knibbo's' bike. Over the weeks that followed, 'Knibbo' caught us all and one by one we received the whack of punishment!

In 1937, my grandfather retired from farming and my father continued to farm 'Griggs Farm', where I joined him after leaving school.

In 1949, my mother converted the Old Blacksmith's Forge at Chicheley into the Chicheley Post Office and shop and ran the business for some years. She was a very enthusiastic member of the Sherington Womens Institute and Mothers Union, and served for many years on the St Laud's Parochial Church Council.

My sister Margaret left home to take up a nursing career at Northampton General Hospital and in 1954, married Tom Frost.

My younger sister Evelyn married John Goss at Sherington Church in 1955 and went to live in Weston Underwood, where they farmed until they returned to Sherington to live.

In 1982, my father retired and sold most of his land, except for the cottages and farm buildings in Church Road and the site in Park Road where we continued our contract and plant-hire business.



Sherington Place

In 1972, we built two houses on the former site in Park Road. We moved from 'The Nest' in Park Road in 1954, to Sherington Place, where I lived until I was married to Jill in 1956.

Jill is a teacher and for many years taught at Sherington School. She is still a member of the Church Choir. We built our present home in Gun Lane, where our daughters Julia and Helen were born.

One summer evening, Jill, the children and I, visited my uncle and aunt at Newport Pagnell. The children were very intrigued with my aunt's pet pig called Jane. It followed her around like a dog. Some months later, we were eating supper with them and remarked how tasty the ham was. Jill's appetite suddenly left her when we were told the ham was JANE!!

Both Julia and Helen started their education at Sherington School, where they were taught by their mother. They enjoyed being members of the Brownies and Guides and later the Young Farmers Club. They were also members of the Church Choir and especially enjoyed singing with the 'Laudians' (a group of young choir members led by Vicky Pipes on the guitar).

Julia is a Cordon Bleu cook, married to Brian Reynolds, who farms at Weston Underwood. Helen is a property surveyor, married to Johnathan Stockham, a chartered surveyor and they live in Northampton.

OLDHAM & CO

Extract from the document “Milton Keynes Area - Old Stoneware Flagons & Bottles” by Paul Cox.

Active c.1894-c.1935



Large amount of different glass bottles, Codd's with “Sherington”, “Sherington, Newport Pagnell” or “Rushden & Sherington”. Internal screw mineral bottles and a crown-top skittle.

An 1891 Trade Directory shows “Oldham, Owen, baker & coach builder”, but by 1895 “Oldham & Co, non-intoxicating ale-brewers” had been added, although Owen was still listed too.

In June 1894, they advertised for an agent to cover Northamptonshire for their “new non-intoxicating ale from Oldham & Co XL-ALL Brewery”. Three years later, they needed an agent for Bedford.

By August 1900, adverts had added “Rushden and” to Sherington. The premises in Rushden were in Duck Street in 1903 and in Church Street in 1906 and then in Wellingborough Road in 1908.

The war meant labour was in short supply, or were they just a close family firm? One of their mineral water carts overturned in Bletchley in May 1918, Miss Oldham was unhurt, but Mrs Fisher, who was with her, broke her leg. She was taken to Bedford Hospital.

Still listed in directories in 1920 “Oldham & Co. mineral water manfrs.”, and by 1924 a telephone number had been added.

The Sherington Historical Society: “High Street South. No.6, The Small House, is the location of the Oldham & Co.’s bottling plant. It is rumoured that it is called the Small House because it housed the servants from the manor and it is the smaller of the two properties.

Oldham & Co. was a manufacturer of “non-intoxicating liquor”. Little is known about the factory, they sold Ginger Beer and other such bottled drinks. The water for the drinks came from a spring at the rear of the property and was piped into the factory. It is thought that the factory closed in about 1935.

1935 was the last Trade Directory they appeared in, as there was no entry in the 1939 one. George Oldham died May 1954, aged 81, he had been a lay Methodist preacher.



The Small House

THE LIVING ARCHIVE BAND

THE GREAT WAR IN STORIES AND SONGS

TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2018

8.00 PM

SHERINGTON VILLAGE HALL



Tickets £5 (members £2)

sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk 07941 403492