

No: 104



# Sherington Historical Society

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# Newsletter



**October 2019**

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[www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)

# Special dates for your diary

## 8th 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.

## 10th 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)**

Re-reading my last musings, I mentioned that we were about to go to Liverpool to compete in the "RWNYC" (Ringing World National Youth Competition), well they did quite well, so well in fact they won it. They had 24 teams competing in the competition from all around the country, and in the 9 years that this competition has been running this is the first time that "Oxford DG" (team name) has won it. So congratulation to Dougie and the team.

The archive meeting that we had in September was small in number, but we managed to be quite productive, even with the chat, with getting up to date with the SCAN magazines that we have. They are now all filed as well as a number of the old photos we had of people which had been waiting to be filed for a while. We are now just struggling to find somewhere to put everything as the office upstairs is getting fuller.

As you may have seen, we have Tom Jones coming for our October Meeting. He is coming to talk to us about Olney and its History. Should be an entertaining evening. Meet at 7.45 for an 8.00 pm start.

The November "Members Can Talk" meeting is coming soon. So if you would like to come and talk about something we will all be keen to listen.



We are on the lookout for new committee members and members in general. We have very few committee meetings these days, but we are still missing a couple of committee members, so if you would like to get involved it would be very helpful.

*Mark Vale*

## News Snippets

Thanks to Pearl for the article on the following page about Sherington's visitor from New Zealand. If anyone has anything they would like to put into a future newsletter, it would be most welcome. Please let me know.

We've been given some of Philip's Sherington-related papers and photographs by Roy, Alison and Charlotte, so I've looked through and include a couple of items in this newsletter. I found the photograph printed on page 11 particularly interesting. Taken in September 1894, over 125 years ago, it's fascinating to see the photo of these people. Some of the surnames are still familiar in Sherington today.

A couple of local talks happening in October are listed below.

For those who missed our talk about the Wolverton Railway last year, Phil Marsh is giving a talk for the Wolverton and District Archaeological and Historical Society on Wednesday, 16th October 2019 at 7.30 pm at St Mary and St Giles C of E School, King George Crescent, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1EF.

On Monday 21 October at 2.00 pm, Lavendon History Group are putting on a talk called *The Horrible History of Halloween*. Steve Dimmer traces the ghoulish evolution of this fun celebration, beginning in pagan pre-Roman days and showing how the ceremonies and superstitions changed into the night we know today. Open to anyone. £2.50 for visitors. Tea and biscuits are included.



Bradwell Windmill Open Day. One of Milton Keynes' most distinctive landmarks is open to the public this year on selected days. The final opening in 2019 is on Sunday 27th October from 1.30 to 4.30 pm, Nightingale Court, Bradville MK13 7UE. Admission is free but donations towards the upkeep are welcome.

*Liz Revell*

*Bradwell Windmill's sails are reattached following refurbishment*

## Mr Les Feasey from New Zealand

On a summer evening in August, a visitor, from the other side of the world walked into Sherington Village Hall and asked the members of the Bowls Club if he and his friend could watch their games. The visitor introduced himself as Les Feasey from New Zealand. Les was visiting England for the first time and was anxious to find out more about his ancestors who had been born in Newport Pagnell. After chatting with various members, Sheila Quinn, who is Secretary of the Bowls Club, invited the the visitors to join some of the Sherington residents at the Coffee Morning in St Laud's Church the following Saturday. Les and his friend came to the Coffee Morning and chatted with the folk there and, I am sure, gleaned quite a lot of interesting information to take back to New Zealand with them.

During the conversation, I had with Les and his friend, I recalled the information I had found (during 1995 - the Centenary Year of Sherington Parish Council) about the appointments of the first and second Parish Council Clerks – both Mr Feaseys are ancestors of Les. The first meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Schoolroom on 5th January 1895 and the minutes state that, after the Chairman and the Councillors were elected, Mr D Feasey was elected Clerk to the Council. (These days Clerks are appointed, not elected.) Mr E J Jefferson, one of the newly elected Councillors. proposed an amendment that he (Mr Jefferson) be Clerk until the Annual Meeting in the following April, but the original motion was carried by 4 votes to 3 (making Mr D Feasey Clerk to the Council). It was agreed by the council that a precept be set up and that £10 be given to Mr Feasey to purchase a deed box (in which to keep minute books etc belonging to the council) and a leather bag. The Clerk's salary was agreed at the Annual Meeting in April 1895. Mr D Feasey to be paid an annual salary of £2.10shillings. In addition to this it was agreed by the Councillors to pay Mr D Feasey £1 for Office of Constable in 1894.

At the Annual Meeting in April 1897 Mr J Feasey was elected as a Councillor. ( I believe he was cousin of Mr D Feasey.)

The Councillors, at the Annual Meeting in April 1898, agreed to ask the Clerk to accept a reduction in his annual salary. An amount of 30 shillings (£1.10s) was suggested. Mr D Feasey refused to take a reduction in his annual salary and offered his resignation which was accepted.

A Parish Council Meeting was held on 28th April 1898 to appoint a new Clerk. There were four applications, including one from Mr J Feasey, who resigned from

being a Councillor. Mr J Feasey was elected as Clerk by a majority of Councillors and it was agreed to pay him an annual salary of 30 shillings.

Three years later, at the Annual Meeting in 1901, the Clerk's salary was increased by 10 shillings to £2.

One wonders why the Clerk's salary was 10 shillings less than it was six years previously. Was the Clerk not worth £2.10s per annum or was the cost of living less in 1901 than it had been in 1895? We probably shall never know.

*Pearl Teasdale*

## **Interview with Philip Smith, recorded in 2002**



*This is an extract from a transcript of an interview with Philip recorded in a car outside Sherington Place in 2002. The interviewer is not named.*

### **Sherington Place**

*Interviewer:*

Do you remember who lived there when you were a boy?

*Philip Smith:*

Yes. There was a Doctor Evans. And he was what they used to call a DD and no-one knew what a DD was. We now learn it was a Doctor of Divinity.

He was an old man. He would be in his sixties. And he ran a staff. He had a companion and they had a housekeeper.

Before that ...

We had then a superintendent of the police, Gallagher.

Then there came a person far more renowned, far more reputation, by the name of Robert Fraser, later Sir Robert. He came here because he was a socialist, although he was of upper-class stripe. He was a socialist and he was adopted as the prospective candidate for Wellingborough - Labour candidate, that was. He wanted a house outside of the constituency of Wellingborough but en route to London. So they moved into Sherington Place, say 1937-1939, because by the time the next election came up, or would have come along, it was wartime, and so his prospective candidacy never bore fruition. He was called for something in the forces, but in any event, no, he was a cabinet minister, because this is where the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day, Hugh Dalton, came and spent his weekends with the Frasers.



Hugh Dalton wrote a book, a biography, and he mentions Sherington Place quite a deal in it. And the Fraser's daughter, Rosalind. Rosalind became a journalist, and then became private secretary to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Howe, in Margaret Thatcher's government. Then Sir Robert became the Director General of

the Independent Television, when that came out in the fifties, by which time they had left Sherington Place and had gone to live in London. But Lady Fraser and Sir Robert Fraser's mother lived on in Sherington for many years.

Then we had Don Brown, and Don Brown went to Sharnbrook.

Then a local girl who went to school here, was born in the council house, a local girl bought it and her husband.

Then it went on to a young Nouveau Riche, a fellow named Gordon, and he came and he sold it on, and now we have a lady doctor and her husband is the chief executive of a brewer's company in London.

## **Two semi-detached black and white timber-framed faced houses, corner of Gun Lane opposite Sherington Place**

They are unusual. They are in what some people call the Tudor style. There were thatched houses adjoining the property.

When I was a boy there was a man there called Mr Bull and his forbears were farmers in the Chicheley area, and at Chicheley they still say, "We will go up Bull's." But there is no trace of the farm now. It has all gone.

This man, who lived here in my boyhood, was I think the grandson of the original Mr. Bull. He had a cancer of the ear. And he always wore a bandage round his head. And his daughter was to tell me in later years, she said, "My Dad had a shammy leather, and it was saturated in a certain spirit, and they used to take this shammy leather and





clean it of a morning and saturate it in this solution, and then it would be bandaged tight to his ear.” I don’t think he ever worsened. He was quite an old man. When I was a boy he was seventy.

In the lean-to that is annexed to the second house, there was old Tommy Walters and he worked in Wolverton Works. Very simple man.

If we talk about the Tudor pair. The Fleet family were our butchers and dairymen, and this man was a brother in that family, and the Fleets were a Sherington family. He was Bert Fleet. You see, my sister was ten years older than me, and Bert Fleet had a son Reg, he was as old as my sister and went to school with her. He would be 85 if he were alive today (2002), and so Bert Fleet would have been in his forties or fifties when I was a boy of seven or eight. He worked at Wolverton Works. All those Fleets bore responsibility, one was mayor of Boston, Lincolnshire. We used to call his son, he had a lovely crop of hair, we used to call him Brushy.

### **House that Jack Ivester Lloyd lived in (on left as you enter Yew Tree Farm Entrance)**

When I was a boy the Lloyds no longer lived there. I don’t remember the Lloyds living there and yet I remember the people moving in there that followed them. When I was a boy all the talk was about the Lloyds. They had gone to Leighton Buzzard. Jack, the writer, the son of Tom, had joined the Navy and had gone away years before then. In our church there is some work by Tom. And he was recognised as a war artist in the First War. And on the equestrian side he was much in demand.



## Stone carvings discovered at Bradwell Abbey

Historic items have been discovered during conservation work at Bradwell Abbey, including a head carving believed to be Eleanor of Aquitaine, contemporary to the 12th century construction of the Abbey, along with medieval paintwork.

The site has suffered from ageing since the 16th century, with only the chapel remaining in its entirety from the priory site. Milton Keynes Council is now working with Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre and other partners to restore the Abbey.

In mid-September it was announced that the project will benefit from an additional



*Stone carving at Bradwell Abbey*

© Cliveden Conservation



*Stone carving at Bradwell Abbey*

© Cliveden Conservation

half-a-million pounds in funding from the Council. Historic England has also provided a grant towards the 14th Century Pilgrim Chapel repairs.

Following the completion of the project in 2020, the portable finds will be deposited into the Council's collection at MK Museum.

Conservation experts are working to ensure that the finds in situ can be on display as part of a new Visitor Interpretation Centre at Bradwell Abbey.

# Sherington Choir and Churchwardens - September 1894

Taken on the occasion of the visit of The Bishop of Lincoln.



Boys: O. Hickson, H. Gardner, R. Fleet, T Graves, W. Nursaw, H. West, B. Fleet, H. Pikesley, A. Bonner, F. Line, J. West, F. Smith (or J.), Urban (Jock) Gardner.

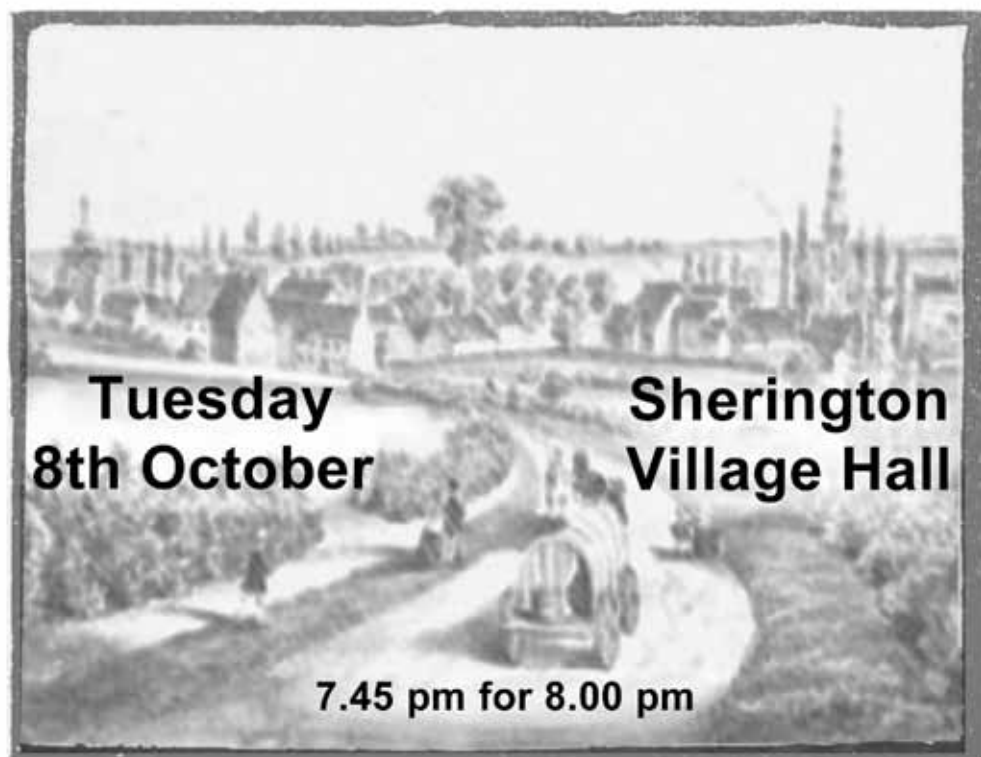
“Bannerman”: W. T. Hickson, H. G. Rose, Schoolmaster: T. Collet, Rev H. Elton (son of Sherington Rector), Churchwardens: H. Gardner, W. Makeham.



presents

A talk by Tom Jones

# **The History of Olney**



Refreshments available  
Raffle

Entry: £2.00/£3.00 for members/non-members

Web: [www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs)  
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