

No:71



# Newsletter

# Sherington Historical Society

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**March 2011**

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

## Special dates for your diary this year

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Open Meeting: “Happy Easter” – speaker Janet Dineen. A return visit for Janet who gave us a very interesting talk in April last year about May Day Festivals. This year she’ll be telling us about some Eastertide traditions. The meeting will begin as usual at 8.00 pm. Please bring your friends. See back page for more details.

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May

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

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Members’ Picnic. Bring a nibble for an informal get-together. Venue to be announced.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

The Village Fete is to be held on the Sports Field, Perry Lane. The Historical Society will have a display of artefacts and items from the archives. We’ll also be selling notelets, cards and the newly reprinted “Murder Booklet”.

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

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



### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August

No meeting, but perhaps a session or two in the Churchyard photographing the Monumental Inscriptions.

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Members’ Meeting, preparation for Open Day.

## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Sherington Historical Society Open Day, Sherington Village Hall, 12.00-4.30 pm.  
(Setup from 10.00 am.)

## **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Open Meeting: “The Clatter of the Stage Coach” – speaker Anne Leaver.

## **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

“Members Can Talk”. An open meeting where one or a collection of members can present something of interest to the group. We hope you'll all come with short stories of family and/or friends to share.

## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Members' Christmas Party. A fun evening with games, wine and nibbles.

## **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Mid-January**

January Jolly - the Society's New Year outing. More details nearer the time.

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Fall in love with Sherington again. For your delectation, a cinematic extravaganza, or some much loved films, to show how we all used to have a good time.

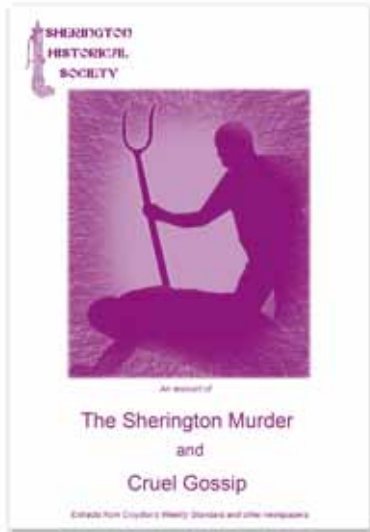
## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Annual General Meeting.

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

There will be other activities during the year. We'll keep you up to date with these in future newsletters and on our website at:

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



## Murder Booklet

The latest edition of our Sherington Murder and Cruel Gossip booklet is now available at £2.00 per copy. Thanks to Keith and Giles at The White Hart for sponsoring the booklet. Keith has said that he's going to put a copy in each of the B&B rooms, so there will be some good bedtime reading for the guests!

If you'd like to buy a copy, they'll be available at our meetings and events during the year or see a member of the Committee.

## January Jolly

We held our Annual Dinner at The White Hart again in January. The numbers were down a little this year, but 27 members enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, followed by teas and coffees, provided by Giles and his team.



## AGM

This year's AGM was held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Reports were given by the Chairman and the Treasurer. An audited Balance Sheet will be presented for acceptance at the next Members' Meeting. The Secretary and Webmaster's reports were read out in their absence. The Committee stood down and because there were no new nominations, last year's Committee were again nominated and voted in

as a block. Pearl mentioned that this would be her last year as Treasurer, so if you fancy taking over the job next year, please let a member of the Committee know. An increase in membership fees was suggested (see the item later in this newsletter) and the Constitution was duly amended to account for this.

## Highlights from the Chairman's Report

Mark gave his Chairman's report at the AGM looking back over events through the year. He said that during this past year we've had a lot of fun re-enacting the past with trying to reproduce classic postcards. There are still more photographs to take, so this series could run and run. Caroline's new painting showing four areas of the village in different seasons may well be used in future notelets, tea towels, cards etc, so the legacy of this year will be seen well into the future.

We had some good talks and events last year, and thanks were given to the speakers: Gordon Abbot who spoke about his experiences as an evacuee and Janet Dineen who talked about the rituals and the history of May Day; thanks were also given to Richard, Diane and Phyllis who provided a lovely setting for our spring picnic, to Enid who managed to get to work on our grey cells at the Christmas event, and also to John and Jill Burgess who brought along their handbells for members to try at our Christmas party. Thanks were given to Philip Smith and Ray Bailey for their expeditionary skills with walks around the village and beyond. (Thanks also to Mark for his talk, Dunkirk 1940-2010 - Ed.)

The Scarecrows was another success story with just less than 30 'crows with some very interesting and imaginative ideas being displayed. The worthy winner was the entry by Thumbsticks (with more than a passing influence from Philip Smith).

The archives were opened during the Saturday of the Open Gardens weekend. It was an extra event and was a little quieter than expected, but there was a good connection made with Lynda Jefferson whose family used to farm in the village, and she returned to us on our Open Day in September wanting to know more!

The normal Open Day was a great success with an exhibition hailing all the previous Open Days' exhibition themes, as well as displaying the whole archive.

The Committee have planted an oak tree in Stonepits Copse in celebration of our 10th year, and when last viewed it was starting to show signs of growth. If you want

to know exactly where it's planted so you can go and take a look, please check with Kay or Sheila.

The Society is trying to cover the new shop as well as this year's fete. If anyone is interested in covering either of these activities please come and talk to any member of the Committee.

Mark made mention of the website, thanking Ian Collinge for his dedication and hard work - the website is something for us to be proud of. See below for highlights from Ian's report. From the communications we get via the website, most are highly complementary about it. The majority of emails seem to come from Australia or New Zealand with most being family history related.

## Highlights from the Webmaster's Report



The website continues to attract a significant number of visitors. In the 12 months from 1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011 there were 49,209 page loads, an average of 135 every day. Of the 13,871 visitors, 885 had visited the website before. The number of page loads is slightly less than in the previous two years when the figures were 59,020 (2009/10) and 59,384 (2008/09). This may be because the amount of new material which hasn't already been read

is less this year, and so people are using it more as a reference source.

This year the main website updates have related to the Society itself, ie the Open Day, the Scarecrow Competition and three Newsletters. Little new historical data has been added this year, simply because the backlog of material waiting to be put on the website has been almost exhausted. It's known that there are some errors in the St Laud's Monument Inscriptions data which needs correcting. However, this is dependent on the results of the Society's project to photograph and record the

churchyard gravestones being published first. One of the main uses of the website is by people researching their family history, so it would be particularly useful to have the complete Parish Registers available online. This is dependent on the availability of a transcription.

Members may have noticed that the 'What's On' Diary on the village website has changed recently and is now presented using Google Calendar, with a section devoted to the Historical Society. When the Society's Programme for the coming year is added, this new format will be available on the SHS website too. Google Calendar has various advantages over an ordinary web page. Apart from it being interactive, you can now get reminders about events sent by text to your mobile or by email to your PC. It's also easier to maintain as information automatically appears on both the Village and the Society's websites.

Thanks to everyone who has provided information for use on the website during the year. More ideas and suggestions about how the website can be developed would be welcomed from members.

## **Increase in annual membership fees**

The increase in annual membership fees was discussed and voted on at the AGM. The committee recommended changing the constitution to state that annual fees should be increased from £5.00 for individual membership to £6.50 and dual membership to be increased from £9.00 to £12.00. We've already increased charges for non-members to Open Evenings from £2.00 to £2.50, but the monthly charge for members will remain at £1.00 per session attended. The recommendation was carried. PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. Cheques to be made out to Sherington Historical Society and sent to the Treasurer, 33 Crofts End, Sherington, MK16 9ND.

## **Welcome to our new Editor - from the Committee**

The present Committee members are delighted to welcome Liz Revell as Editor of our SHS Newsletter. We're sure you will agree this edition is an excellent beginning. Liz will be co-opted as a member of the Committee. Thank you Liz for offering to help in this way. Thank you too, Dave, for the photographs.

## Opening of new extension at Sherington CE School

The official opening of the new extension of Sherington CE School was held on 22nd March. The Opening Ceremony was performed by Alan, Bishop of Buckingham, who was welcomed by the new Headteacher, Ms Anne Shedden. The extension has been named after Charles Stephens who was the first Headmaster at the new school when it was opened in 1957. Mr Stephens had been appointed Headmaster of Sherington Junior School in 1956. The building (now The Old School House in School Lane) was condemned as not being fit for purpose, so whilst the new school was being built the older children met in Emberton School and the younger ones in the Wesleyan Chapel on The Knoll. Mr. Stephens retired in 1976, after 20 years of dedicated service to the children of Sherington School. This was also an end of an era, as Mr Stephens was the last Headmaster of the complete village school. Following the passing of the Education Act, Sherington only had a First School, with children being transferred to a Middle School in Newport Pagnell at the age of seven years and a Headteacher being appointed. The photo shows the school pupils and teachers in 1970 with Mr Stephens standing at the back.



## Scarecrows

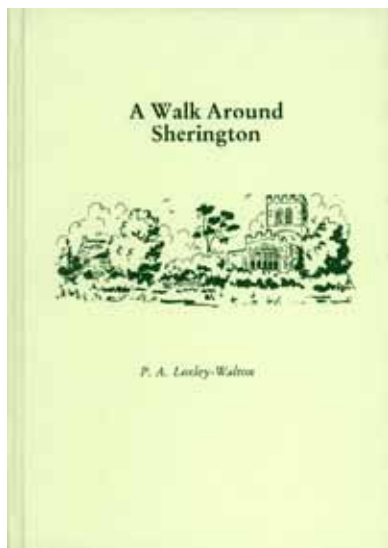
The Committee has agreed to hold the Scarecrow Competition in alternate years, in conjunction (it's hoped) with a Church Flower Festival and Open Gardens in the village, as in 2010. Therefore, we won't be holding a Scarecrow Competition in 2011, so you've got plenty of time to think up some good designs for 2012.

## Welcome Pack

The Welcome Pack now needs updating because so many changes have taken place in the village during the last few years, ie loss of the Post Office, Virginia Stores and



The Swan. There have also been many changes of secretaries, chairmen etc of local societies and clubs. If you know of particular changes in personnel for any local clubs, please email us at: [sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk)



## **New member**

We welcome new member Phyllis Loxley-Walton to the Historical Society. Many of you will know Phyllis who was born in Sherington, and through the book that she compiled, “A Walk Around Sherington”, first published in 1988. The book is a record of the village: its people, buildings and activities at the time - a bit of the past and present in the form of a walk around the village. If you haven't read the book, it's well worth a read. It's now sadly out of print, but there is a copy which can be borrowed from Newport Pagnell Library.

## **Mrs Nita Smith**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Mrs Smith early on Christmas morning. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Philip Smith and his family. A donation in memory of Mrs Smith has been sent from the Society to the United Reformed Church in Olney.

## **Putting names to the faces**

On the following pages you'll see photos of two football and cricket teams and a school photo from 1983. We've managed to put names to the first football photo.

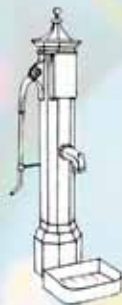
Can you identify anyone in the other photos? If so, please tell a member of the Committee or email us at: [sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheringtonhs@yahoo.co.uk)



(Above) Standing left to right: Roland Smith, Bernard Haynes, John Simons, Ian Stewart, Adam Rickett, Steve Drew, Frank Lowe, Ian Simons, Robert Smith and Adrian Busby. Seated left to right: Lin Harper, Peter Croke, David Grant.







# **Sherington Historical Society**

presents

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An illustrated talk

# **Happy Easter**

by

**Janet Dineen**

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In Sherington Village Hall

on

# **Tuesday, 12th April**

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

Refreshments available.  
Raffle.

Entry: £1.00/£2.50 for members/non-members

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

Email: [SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk)