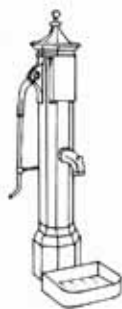


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Newsletter

Sherington Historical Society



April 2013

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 14th May 2013

Crime, Sex and Retribution in English Folk Song. A musically illustrated talk with Steve Harrison and Annie Dearman (further details later in this newsletter).

Tuesday 11th June 2013

**** Members only**** Picnic! The members' picnic this year will be at Knoll Cottage. Please bring some food to share. Soft drinks will be provided. If you want anything else to drink, please bring your own. *7.30 pm start.*

Saturday 22nd June 2013

Village Fete. Join us at the Village Fete, where we'll have an exhibition on families of Sherington. Also, please look out your favourite recipe and bring a copy along to show to others. If we receive enough recipes we may put together a recipe book later in the year.

Tuesday 9th July 2013

Members Meeting/Churchyard. Those who can, join us at St Laud's churchyard at 7.00 pm where we continue to record/validate the monumental inscriptions, or come to the Village Hall at 8.00 pm for archiving, and then all joining for tea at the end of the evening.

Tuesday 13th August 2013

No meeting.

Tuesday 10th September 2013

Members Meeting. Please come for a low key evening archiving and chat, where we will be preparing for Open Day.

Saturday 5th October 2013

Open Day. Subject to be decided, any ideas welcome. Sherington Village Hall 12.00 noon to 4.30 pm (set up from 9.30 pm)

Tuesday 8th October 2013

Drovers and Ancient Routes of the Area. Bruce Smith to give a talk about the story of our local roads.

Tuesday 12th November 2013

Members Can Talk. A chance where we can talk about something we care about.

Tuesday 10th December 2013

Christmas Party. Games, wine and nibbles.

Tuesday 14th January 2014

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

Mid January 2014

January Jolly - more details nearer the time.

Tuesday 11th February 2014

Magic Lantern Show. Come out and beat the winter blues with a Magic Lantern Show with Kevin Varty.

Tuesday 11th March 2014

Annual General Meeting.

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

News Snippets

You may have been wondering where your quarterly newsletter for March had gone. Apologies that it's been delayed this quarter to the end of April/beginning of May. This is due to the fact that I've been working on putting together a book for the Society, "A Little Bird Told Me ..." by Philip Smith. The book is now finished, it's at the printers and will be published soon. Copies will be on sale at SHS meetings soon.

We were very sad to hear about the death on Friday 12th April of one of our members, Eileen West. Eileen was a member of the Society from early on, and she often helped with the raffle on our open days. She was very involved in village life, and worked for Rogers Engineering - see the article on page 7. The photo on the right shows Eileen with her late husband, Albert. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.



Our next meeting will be a musically illustrated talk given by Steve Harrison and Annie Dearman, a folk duo based in Yorkshire. Further details are on the back cover and on page 5. It should be a very interesting evening, so please come along if you can.

SHS events - January to March 2013

Our January Jolly took place at the Chester Arms again this year. We had a good turnout from members and an enjoyable time was had by all - the food was very good again this year.

We had a guest speaker at our February meeting - see Caroline's report below. We had a good turnout despite the cold weather.

The Annual General Meeting took place in March where last year's Committee were voted in again - there were no other nominations. We amended the constitution as follows:

Membership shall be open to anyone who has an interest:

a) The annual membership fee shall be £6.50 (individual) or £12.00 (dual). The fee to be paid during the first quarter of each year.

b) Members are to pay an admission fee for each meeting attended. This fee to be reviewed and set by the committee and agreed at the AGM for the following year.

c) Visitors are to pay an admission fee for events; this fee to be set by the committee prior to the event.

It was decided not to increase entrance fees to meetings this year, so they will remain at £1.00 for members and £2.50 for guests. We will also keep the Donations pot by the refreshments for those who want to donate anything further.

April saw our Members Meeting, where there was much archiving and chat. We also put together some more notelets for the Mayday celebrations where we'll have our usual stall.

Liz Revell

Tuesday 12th February - The History of Lace Making

Julian Hunt held our rapt attention as he described the huge scale of the hand made lace industry in this area. Newport Pagnell was the largest producer in the UK of this very valuable commodity. Girls in the work house were taught the skill of making lace as early as the 17th century, it was then sold to fund their tuition and living expenses. The audience was intrigued by the vast number of people involved in this cottage industry in many local villages and the logistics of distribution and payment for their work.

Caroline Leslie

A performance proposition: Crime, Sex and Retribution in English Folk Song

Written by Steve Harrison. Performed by Annie Dearman (voice) and Steve Harrison (melodeon, mouth organ, banjo).

The show uses songs that were popular in England in the 19th Century to illustrate aspects of British social history. The evening presents songs that illustrate

- true histories of murder and mutiny;
- experiences of the penalty of transportation to the colonies;
- stories of slaving and piracy;
- stories of naval pressgangs and army desertion; and
- attitudes to true and false love and sex

The songs are linked by a commentary and visuals that explain the historical background to the songs and their sources in 'broadsides', ie cheap popular printed song sheets.

The show comprises 12 songs with a total running time of around 90 minutes with a refreshment interval at the halfway point. The show uses Powerpoint projection for the visuals. The show is not suitable for young children.

The performers: Annie Dearman (voice) and Steve Harrison (melodeon, mouth organs, banjo) perform songs in a robust and firmly rooted English style, taking their repertory from traditional singers, the folk song collectors of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, printed ballad sheets, and songs and tunes that they happen to hear and like. They have a particular love of songs that tell historical stories. Their performance style is direct and straightforward, with uncomplicated accompaniments that always give priority to the words of their songs.

Annie and Steve are true community musicians, performing not just in festivals and in folk clubs all over England but for history societies, community groups, political events, weddings, birthdays and funerals. They are residents at the Ryburn 3-Step folk club in West Yorkshire and also perform with Vic Gammon as Dearman, Gammon & Harrison, whose CD *Black Crow/ White Crow* was released by the English Folk Dance & Song Society in 2005 to enthusiastic reviews. Annie also performs locally with Chris Coe, whilst Steve is also a member of the ceilidh/barn dance bands *The Black Box Band* (www.theblackboxband.co.uk) and Rod Stradling's *Phoenix*. For more information, see the website at www.dearmanharrison.co.uk and their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AnnieandSteve.

Rogers Engineering



We received an email from Mervyn Wood about his memories working at Rogers Engineering. We felt it was worth sharing, so have reproduced it below. This prompted a look back in the archives and we've found some photos and articles from our website which we've also included. The front cover of this

newsletter shows an aerial view of Rogers Engineering. It was taken in the Spring of 1963, by Neville Rogers flying his own aeroplane.

“Having just found and read the piece on Rogers Engineers Sherington, it brought back memories of my time there. I joined there in late 1962 as a parts man. The Ferguson TE20 was very popular and the new MF35 & 65 was taking its place, combines were MH726 & 780. Locally the Lane brothers were still going around with their threshing tackle.

One of my first jobs was stock taking and counting rivets and fitting the rings onto lynch pins. I remember being scared to death of Jack Cook, Dennis Phipps, Bruce Dainty, all for no reason.

The manager at the time was John Williams, the workshop was staffed by the foreman Ken ?, Bert ? outside service engineer. Sam Bates, Rex Lines (Rastus), Gordon Smith (Smiffy), Warwick Line (Puffer) and reps Milton Pears and Ray Milsom. Later on John Anderson (Tongwell Farm), Leslie Boulton (Thickthorn Farm), who later emigrated to Australia, Jennifer Brown, Brian Holpin, Rod Stanley (both Brian and Rod worked for Coopers in Newport Pagnell), an apprentice Steve emigrated to Australia I believe (his father worked for Mr Robeson at Tyringham). Work was carried out on not only MF equipment but Mr Farrer's single cylinder Marshall, Bruce Dainty's Cat D2 and later on MF Industrial equipment.

There was a number of Managers came and went. Mr Davies, Bill Montgomery, Bob Wigg. Workshop staff changed with Maurice Thorpe, Robin Clarke (Olney), Ken Newton (Turvey). Mrs Whitlock used to clean the offices.



Transport for tractors etc were made by Roy Sadler, and after his sudden death his son Richard, demos made by Robin Clarke and Graham Wooding (Yardley Hastings).

It wasn't all fun, as in many places there were differences of opinion but also fun? times like greasing Warwick's brakes, seat post and handlebars on his bike, melting Rex's plastic beaker on a light bulb and putting a chicken's foot painted MF Red and Yellow in his lunch box.

Rod Stanley couldn't get used to the Massey system and returned to Coopers, but not before he was tied up with wooden reel battens and sellotape. We still have a laugh over this even now.

I was always envious of the motorbikes. Rex had a Velocette and Gordon a Norton Dominator, who took me on my first 100mph ride down the Emberton bypass.

Rogers at this time had depots at Sherington, Weedon, The Head Office was at Great Barford. They then took over Central Motors, London Road, Kettering, who hired agricultural equipment, then had a new depot made at Telford Way, Kettering.

Rogers were one of the many agricultural engineers in the area with names like WJ Cooper; Sowmans of Olney; Castells, Northampton; Browns of Leighton Buzzard; Walter Pratt, Bedford; TB Page, Wellingborough, and more who like today have succumbed to the many changes and loss of farming and manufactures."

Mervyn Wood

The following is taken from the article written by Brian W. Holpin (Parts and Service Manager), 13th November 1987 for Phyllis Loxley-Waltons book, "A Walk Around Sherington". It is also reproduced on the Sherington Historical Society website.

"The 'Rogers' depot was located on the western side of the High Street, opposite the Knoll, the premises were built partly on the site of an old blacksmiths shop, and to the day that the company closed, some of the correspondence came addressed as 'The Old Smithy'.

The company was engaged in the sale, maintenance and repair of agricultural, horticultural and industrial machinery over a very wide area.

The company was formed by Michael and Neville Rogers at Great Barford, just outside Bedford. Michael ran the agricultural engineering side & Neville had an aircraft business in Cranfield.

The Sherington depot was built in 1956 as their second depot, with a Massey-Ferguson agency. Up until closure in 1994, the company was part of the same family group, with eight depots stretching from Stamford in Lincolnshire to Coleshill, Birmingham.

As well as the Massey-Ferguson side of the business, the company undertook- repairs on most makes of farm machinery and sold a very wide range of implements and equipment. Horticultural machinery was catered for by special workshops at four of our depots, which covered most makes available.

Over the years a large number of Sherington people have worked in the depot, Fred West, who lived at 18 School Lane for a number of years, actually helped build the premises then stayed on as a fitter for some years afterwards. He was joined by Rex Line, who lived with his parents in the High Street. A number of Sherington lads started their working life with an apprenticeship there, as a start to their careers.

Mrs Eileen West, who lives in School Lane was employed there for 21 years, commencing work in the office in March 1970. Warwick Line, who lives just across the Knoll, worked in the workshop from August 1963.

Gilbert Brown, from Perry Lane, worked there for many years. At the time of his retirement in 1985, he was driving the spares van which circulated the depots daily, moving parts as instructed by the computerised stock control system. Maurice Thorpe, who lived in Church Road, worked here for many years and helped extend

the workshop at the rear, in the late 1960s, before joining the Anglian Water Authority.

Changes took place over the years to meet the needs of the times and in 1986 part of the stores was altered to form a small retail area, which sold work and leisure wear clothing, footwear, oils, paint and tools, etc. in addition to sundry items needed around the farm or garden.”

Further to the above article, Brian Holpin spoke to the Sherington Historical Society and also divulged to us the following:

“The house to the north of Rogers engineering, (ex-Hickson’s butchers, still with its bay (shop) window and shop door entrance in the front garden) was owned in 1963 by an Italian, Signor Travigoni, an ex-prisoner of war, from the POW camp in Sherington. He married a local girl and stayed on in Sherington to turn the area behind the house into a small market garden.

Mrs Travigoni died of cancer circa 1964. The daughters of Signor Travigoni still live in the locality, but he returned to his native Italy. Mary and Vince Pipes moved into the property next, from there they ran their one lorry haulage company.



Harriets End had its thatch roof burned off in 1981/82. They were to have a small repair done to the thatch that hot dry summer. A load of dry thatch had been unloaded onto the side of the road, and the thought is that a cigarette end from a passing car set fire to this dry straw and the wind fanned this to a flame. The

men from Rogers saw this happen but before anything could be done the flaming straw had blown up into the air and landed on the roof of Harriets End, where, in the words of Brian Holpin it seemed to “explode into flames”. It went up with “an explosive whoosh”. Many of the local villagers and the workers from Rogers rescued as much furniture from the house as was possible and the fire engine from Newport

arrived very quickly. Bill Norton, landlord of the Swan, provided the firemen with refreshments. It was a hot disastrous day.



On the south side, in 1963 the Crown and Castle was in the hands of Mr Owen Lawrence, landlord, who kept pigs on the lower floor the building, that is now David Byrne's house and studio, and chickens in the top floor.

Further information

The depot closed in 1994, when the whole business was taken over by a new owner and moved to a site in Newport Pagnell, most of the existing employees moved with the company. The application to build four dwelling houses on the site was approved by MK planning, and was published in the local press on August 11th 1994. The four new houses were built during 1995 and the road is now known as Maryot Close. The whole business was asset stripped and totally closed by 1998. The photo below shows one of the houses in Maryot Close.



ANNIE DEARMAN AND STEVE HARRISON

CRIME, SEX AND RETRIBUTION
IN ENGLISH FOLK SONG



Tuesday,
14th May 2013
8.00 pm

Sherington Village Hall
Church Road
Sherington
MK16 9BP

A musically illustrated talk

Refreshments available
Raffle

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

Web: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs
Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk

