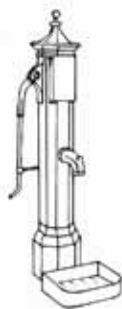


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Newsletter

Sherington Historical Society



October 2013

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th November 2013

Members Can Talk.

This is an opportunity for anyone from the Society to take the stage and present an informal talk of approximately 10 minutes. The subject can be of your choosing as long as it has some historical relevance.

Come along and enjoy the evening where the unexpected tends to occur! A little bird tweeted that we might have some music this month.

Tuesday 10th December 2013

Christmas Party. Games, wine and nibbles. Please bring some nibbles for everyone to share.

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

Our Open Day this year on Saturday 5th October was based on the subject *Hatch, Match and Dispatch*. We had visitors from as far away as Cornwall. The highlight of the day was the splendid display of wedding dresses (see the picture on the front cover) - thanks to Betty for all her hard work putting together this amazing display. There is a report of the event by Betty at the bottom of this page and more pictures at the end of this newsletter.

We received the reprint of *A Little Bird Told Me ...* in time for the Open Day and sold a few copies on the day. They have been selling fast. There are still some available, so get your copies in time for Christmas. We'll be selling them at the Sherington Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall on Friday 29th November, 6.00-8.30 pm.

Also at the Christmas Bazaar you get another chance to take part in our Silent Auction for the original watercolour of the cover of *A Little Bird Told Me ...* painted by Caroline Leslie. You write your bid on a slip of paper and place it in a sealed box. At the end of the auction, our Chairman, Mark Vale, will open the box, and the highest bidder gets the framed painting in return for the amount of money they bid.

There are still some copies of the framed Crump print of the High Street available - a limited edition of 20 prints at £35 each. If you would like a copy of the print or the book, you can buy them at the Bazaar or direct from Liz on 07941 403492.

Past SHS events

Open Day - Hatch, Match and Dispatch

Saturday 5th October 2013, 12 noon – 4.30 pm

Our friends in the Sherington Short Mat Bowls Club had barely finished rolling up their mats on the evening of 4th October, when the Historical Society arrived in force. In a very short time (with the help of some willing extra hands) the Hall was filled with lines of trestles, tea tables, chairs, stage blocks and lots of bags, boxes and shrouded figures. Finally, Kay locked the doors on the chaos and all was tranquil.

Saturday dawned and the transformation began. File upon file of archive material was carried down the stairs by helpers and displayed ready for perusal. The piano was

heaved aside and the corner filled with a charming collection of old toys, childhood memorabilia and christening pictures. The boards held untitled photographs of babies - Who's Who?. The refreshment ladies arrived, led by Pearl and Sheila, and work on the displays was helped by very welcome cups of tea and coffee. A presentation showing wedding pictures through the decades covered two boards. The shrouded figures revealed dress display stands of various shapes and sizes and these were soon resplendent in their wedding regalia, standing opposite the more sombre pictures of monumental inscriptions, and parish registers. As noon approached the village pump was put in place with a well known bicycle leaning comfortably against it. Computers were set up and visual displays connected. The amazing raffle table was laden with an impressive array of prizes, all kindly donated to the Society.

People began to arrive and the satisfying buzz of interesting conversation filled the hall. Happy memories and stories were shared and previously unheard anecdotes garnered. Exhibits were admired and archives keenly examined. Guessing the identity of the babies caused much amusement; the raffle was drawn and refreshments enjoyed.

THANK YOU to all our visitors and everyone who took part, donated prizes and exhibits, provided refreshments and helped in any way to make the whole afternoon a very successful event.

Betty Feasey

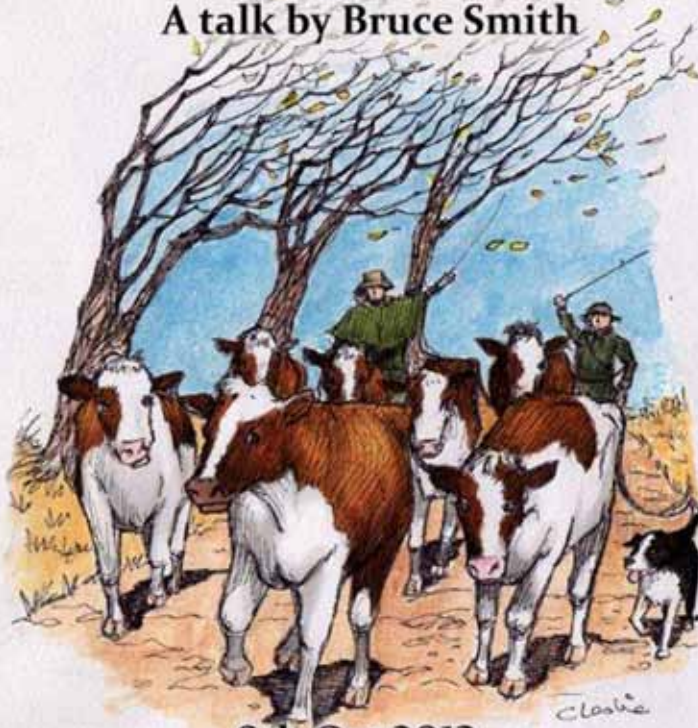
Drovers and Ancient Routes ...

... was the title for the October meeting. Members and guests were entertained and informed by Bruce Smith whose talk retraced the movement of animals, including cattle, sheep and even geese, across the British countryside over hundreds of years.

The destination of cattle from the Welsh hillsides was usually the London market after being fattened on the grazing lands of Essex. Some were bought, others sold on the way. However, Bruce suggested that large houses such as Castle Ashby were also served by the drovers.

The talk was illustrated with maps and photographs and a rare example of a shoe was passed around as Bruce explained that the cattle were shod for their journey. The impact of this way of life ranged from the institution of Drovers Banks to the more

**Drovers
and
Ancient Routes of the Area**
A talk by Bruce Smith



8th Oct 2013

8pm Sherington Village Hall

tangible one of the muck spreading of inn keepers' fields along the route. We learned that drovers avoided the expensive and busier toll roads and that we can trace these ancient routes from the clues still visible today.

This seasonal way of life, the droves took place in Spring and Autumn, ended with the expansion of the railways, but droving and drovers are embedded in the story of British farming as well as in the wider social and economic history of our country.

Richard Morgan

Buckingham Canal - Grand re-opening

The Buckingham end of the canal now holds water for the first time in nearly 100 years! This milestone will be celebrated on Saturday 26th October when the Rt. Hon. John Bercow will re-open the canal. This marks the most important achievement to date for the Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) with the first section of the canal restored, re-lined and re-watered.



*The photo above is of the Bourton Meadow site in water
© Richard Lewis*

The opening will be at 2.00 pm, Bourton Meadow, Burleigh Piece, Buckingham.

Bourton Meadow is a section of canal just outside the Buckingham ring road. This is readily accessible via the former towpath which is now part of the Ouse Valley Way. This section became silted in the late 19th Century due both to leakage and its use as

Buckingham's sewage outlet. This was, therefore, one of the first sections of the canal to run dry and saw its last boat around 1900.

With the landowner's permission and co-operation BCS has been given access to this length. Volunteers have cleared undergrowth and brush so that the line is fully visible and the tow-path fully functional. In 2004 a spill-weir, which will permit excess water to run off down to the adjacent River Great Ouse, was rebuilt. The site has been regularly maintained since then and an interpretation board was sited at the Buckingham end in 2008.

It had always been identified as a priority for re-watering and in preparation for that an ecological study was undertaken in 2011 funded by a grant from Luton and Bedfordshire Community Foundation. This was an essential precursor to a planning application for re-lining, re-watering and environmental enhancement of the site.

The site was rewatered in August 2013 and continues to be maintained in line with the ecological recommendations of the report. A planning application was approved in April 2012 enabling the work which involved re-profiling the canal to a navigable depth, lining it with a waterproof material, reinforcing the water margins with “soft” edging of coir rolls to encourage aquatic habitats and improving the hedges on either side of the canal. Grants were awarded from WREN and AVCC enabling the work to be undertaken.

By completing this project, it will act as an exemplar of what a restored canal will look like and of what BCS and its volunteers have and can achieve.

For more information visit www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk or contact Richard Lewis on 07708 969116.

Made in Milton Keynes

Made in Milton Keynes is an exhibition which is in Milton Keynes Central Library until 7th November. It showcases organisations and businesses that made their products in the Milton Keynes area, such as McCorquodales Printing Works in Wolverton, the Hayes Boatyard in Stony Stratford, the Royal Train at Wolverton Works, the London Brick Company, Marshall Amplification and many more

MK Rose

The MK Rose is a new and spectacular public place in Central Milton Keynes which will be available to everyone for celebration, commemoration and contemplation from November 2013.

The MK Rose is available for use by the citizens of Milton Keynes and visitors for many different reasons. You might want to gather to meet like-minded others on ‘Valentine’s Day’ or attend a gathering to celebrate the sunrise on ‘Midsummer’s Day’. Or you may have a more personal day where you wish to remember a loved one or remember those who have given their lives in war on Armistice Day. Or you may want to visit MK Rose, as a place where you are safe to just ‘be’. The Rose, designed by internationally renowned artist, Gordon Young, has been commissioned by a partnership of the Milton Keynes Cenotaph Trust and Milton Keynes Parks Trust

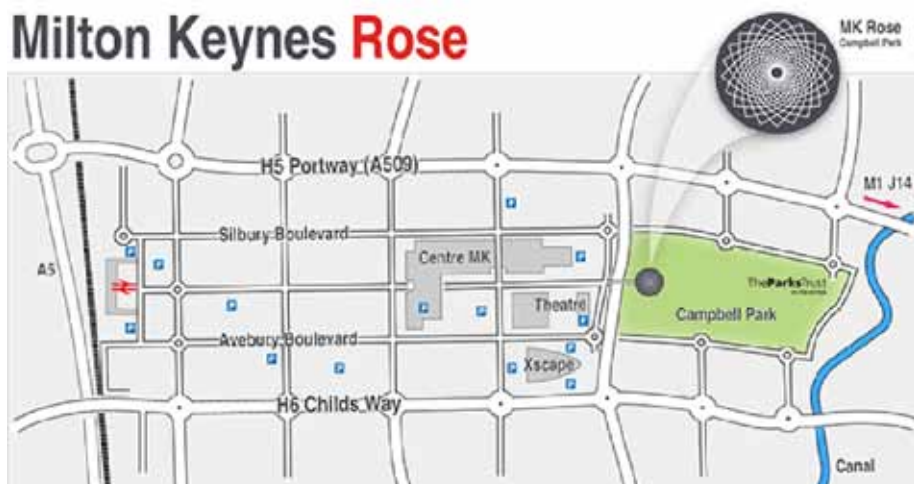


with the support of Milton Keynes Council. MK Rose includes a calendar of days important to the people of Milton Keynes, which are represented by 140 pillars arranged in the geometric design of a flower. 106 pillars will be installed prior to launch and others will be left for future dedications.

Mick Inskipp tells us that Sherington will be featured in the artwork with a pillar dedicated to the Burying the Hatchet ceremony. Mick will be representing Sherington at the opening of MK Rose on Saturday 9th November.

The Rose is located in Campbell Park, adjacent to the Shopping Centre, and is built on the site of the former fountain.

Milton Keynes Rose



Milton Keynes Archaeology Day

Saturday 9th November

This popular and free open day includes talks and activities for all ages plus stands and displays by local societies, archaeological units, metal detectorists, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Held from 10am to 4pm in Milton Keynes Central Library, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 3HL.

The day's first speaker at 11am is medieval pottery expert Paul Blinkhorn, a well known face from his appearances on TV's Time Team, Pub Dig and many other shows. Paul will be presenting his talk *Carry on Trowelling* which will be a light-hearted look at the history of archaeology in the media.

During the interval (12 – 2pm) the Council for British Archaeology, South Midlands Group will be hosting an archaeology and heritage book stall.

At 2pm Cecily Cropper of MFL Archaeology will speak on the subject of Forensic Archaeology: UK and International. Cecily has worked on crime scenes in the UK in addition to post-conflict and disaster exhumation/excavation programmes in Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq and beyond. Her talk will explore the development of this branch of archaeology from the 1980s onwards and look at its application through a number of case studies. Please note: This talk is not suitable for younger children.

Don't forget to bring along any finds or artefacts to be identified by Ros Tyrrell and Julie Cassidy of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, who will be joined by displays from members of the Magiovinium Metal Detector Club and friends. Displays of recent work by the CLASP Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project, Wing Heritage Project, and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society will complement a new *Discover MK* exhibition on Archaeology in Milton Keynes.

Upstairs in the Lending Library a team from ASC Ltd will be hosting Hands-On Archaeology Workshops featuring a range of activities for ages 8+. These practical sessions are on a drop-in basis from 10am to 3pm, come for 5 minutes or 35 minutes.

There will also be *Digging Dinosaurs*, a themed story time for age 7s and under in the children's library at 11am.

For more information contact Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer on 01908 254259, website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology

Photos of Open Day, 5th October

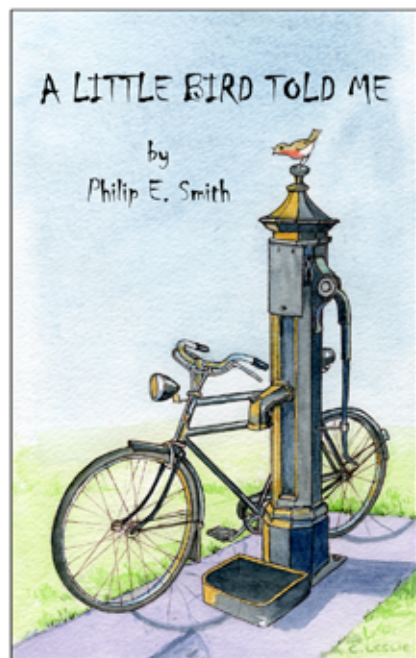




**Sherington
Historical
Society**

A Little Bird Told Me

by Philip E. Smith



Philip Smith's long-awaited book "A Little Bird Told Me ..." is a unique look at a way of life which has almost disappeared, covering the years from the 30s to the present day. Packed full of fascinating anecdotes, characters and events, Philip's own voice recalls with humour and affection an era where toffee apples, horses and thatching were the hot topics.

£12.00

(+ £2.00 postage and packing)

To order your copy phone Liz on 07941 403492
or email SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk