

No:87



# Newsletter

# Sherington Historical Society

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**June 2015**

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

## **Special dates for your diary**

### **Tuesday 14th July 2015**

Philip Smith - Bygones: Come to an open evening being hosted by Philip with one of his infamously Bygones evenings, where we will be regaled with stories of Sherington of old.

### **Tuesday 11th August 2015 - no meeting**

### **Tuesday 8th September 2015**

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

### **Saturday 26th September 2015**

Open Day. Subject: Sherington Authors. Sherington Village Hall 12.00 noon - 4.30 pm (setup from 9.30 am).

### **Tuesday 13th October 2015**

Stephen Kennedy's Return: Stephen to give us a talk about another member of his family. Last year's story was truly fascinating. We're sure this one will be just as amazing.

### **Tuesday 10th November 2015**

Members Can Talk: A chance where we can talk about something we care about. Please contact Caroline to let her know what you want to talk about.

### **Tuesday 8th December 2015**

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

### **Tuesday 12th January 2016**

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

## Mid-January

January Jolly: More details nearer the time.

## Tuesday 9th February 2016

Ox and Bucks on the Somme, 1916: Very topical we think this year. Stephen Barber is coming to give a talk about what the local light infantry got up to during WW1.

## Tuesday 8th March 2016

Annual General Meeting: 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)



Well the Summer weather has now set in, so in the short term it looks like we are in for a good few days, although knowing the British weather, by the time you are reading this it will be cold and raining again.

As I said in SCAN, our visit to the Cowper and Newton Museum was very successful, with a good number of members risking a trip into Olney. This was my first visit to the museum and I was very impressed, Paula and Tom who showed us round as William Cowper and Mrs Unwin were very informative.

I knew that the town was very popular with the Americans, as they have taken Amazing Grace as their unofficial national anthem, as was seen just the other day when President Obama sang it at the funeral service for the black pastor shot dead in a Charleston church alongside eight of his fellow worshippers. What I was not aware of was that most Americans seem to be more aware of John Newton, and not so much of William Cowper, so we got the William Cowper tour, after all it was

he who was taken in by Mrs Unwin and it was through correspondence that Mr Newton came to Olney.



I am sure that this will be mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, but our photographic competition is underway, so can I encourage you all to enter, as we want to try and build up a record of the flora and fauna of the parish of Sherington. For this reason, we have extended the deadline to the end of the year, as Autumn is such a great time for different activities, for example the BBC have the ever popular Autumn Watch. There will be a small prize to the best as judged in three categories, under 11, 11 to 17 and 18+.

We have set the subject for the Open Day exhibition, although the title is to be penned, but the content will be about the Sherington Authors this time. Although we have now sold all the copies of *A Little Bird Told Me* we had printed (300) so we are looking to get more and certainly hope to get some for the open day, but this got the committee pondering about all the other authors we have in the village, some may be a surprise to us all, so can you let the committee know of some of the less well known and we will try and get an interesting exhibition together.

We had an Open Day suggestion from an eminent member for a time-line exhibition. The committee thought this was a great idea but wanted to do it justice, and we thought that to get it done for this year would not do this justice, so for the Open Day 2016, we are looking to have this as our theme.

As mentioned on previous newsletters, I have a Google alert set up for the word Sherington and some time it pulls up interesting things. The other day I got an alert “John Jebbor Sherington takes charge of Sierra Leone” so it was worth taking a look. It seems that this gentleman is a former football player and is currently the Technical Director of the National Association, stepping in to coach the Sierra Leone National Team until a replacement is found. Never thought I would be looking at African football with a link from Sherington.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

*Mark Vale*

# COSGROVE CANAL FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR WITH THE COSGROVE FEAST



**SAT 11th - SUN 12th JULY 2015**  
**COSGROVE LOCK, GRAND UNION CANAL  
& COSGROVE VILLAGE HALL, COSGROVE**

**FREE ENTRY! FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**

**Historic & Trade Boats • Cake & Craft Stalls • Games  
Entertainment • Feast Events • Fish & Chip Supper\***

*The Buckingham Canal Society's restoration plans and progress for re-watering the Buckingham Arm of the canal will be on display!*

Sat 10am - 6pm, Sun 10am - 4pm (Later for Sun's Feast events)  
Cosgrove Lock, Lock Lane, Cosgrove, MK19 7JR  
Cosgrove Village Hall, Bridge Road, Cosgrove, MK19 7JA  
For boat or stall bookings tel: 01908 661217 or  
email: [events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk](mailto:events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk) (\*must be pre-booked)



Registered Charity Number 1156662  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

## News snippets

Congratulations to Philip for being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours. It states in the Birthday Honours list - BEM. Philip Edward Smith. For services to the community in Sherington Buckinghamshire. (Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire). Don't forget Philip's talk in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th July to find out some great historic stories of Sherington - see the poster on the back page.

As Mark mentioned in his Musings, don't forget to submit your entries for the Sherington Wild Photographic Competition. We've extended the deadline until the end of the year to hopefully get some autumn/winter shots. Further information is on page 8.

There's an exhibition on at Milton Keynes Library until 23rd July to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day, the end of the Second World War - see the poster on page 10.

There's also a new exhibition at Buckingham Old Gaol, Piecing Together The Past - how and why does Maids Moreton 'dig archaeology'? This exhibition runs from 11th July to 15th August 2015, 10 am-4 pm Monday to Saturday, free entry. Further information about location etc. of the Old Gaol can be found on their website - [www.buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk).

We had an email about the Buckingham Canal Society Canal Festival, which takes place along the tow path next to Cosgrove Lock on the Grand Union Canal over the weekend of 11th-12th July. There will be trade boats selling items and a Craft Fair, with cream teas in Cosgrove Village Hall. See the poster on page 5 for further details.

We've recently sold the last copy of *A Little Bird Told Me* to Colin Brown who lives in France. He sent the following email:

"I am related to the Watts and Wright families and a little bird has told me that I might find some interesting tales about the Watts family if I purchased a copy of the book "*A Little Bird Told To Me*" by Philip Smith. Is it possible to purchase a copy of this book and have it posted to an address in France? I have found the various Parish records very helpful, thank-you. Please keep up the good work."

We are looking into ordering further copies, so don't worry if you haven't bought your copy yet - you may still be able to get your own.

## Cowper and Newton Museum Trip



The June meeting was a very interesting trip to the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. William Cowper (aka Tom Jones, trustee of the Museum) and Mrs Unwin (aka Sherington's very own Paula Noble) took 12 members/2 non-members on a guided tour of the gardens and the Museum. They were dressed in the costumes of the day and gave us a very interesting talk as we walked around the gardens and Museum.

Highlights for me were the wonderful, tranquil gardens and William Cowper's Summer House. The weather was kind to us and after our tour we had tea and biscuits in the marquee.



The Museum is well worth a visit, and if you haven't been, buying an entry ticket entitles you to go back to the Museum and gardens anytime in the year following buying your ticket.

*Liz Revell*



## WILD SHERINGTON



We are organising a photographic competition to run until the end of the year (closing date 31st December 2015). The subject is to be “Wild Sherington”. The aim is to build up a record of the wildlife and wild plants of Sherington for the Historical Society, which can be added to in the future, to create a historical record of flora and fauna in the village.

There are 3 categories of entry – Under 11, 11-18 and Over 18. Take as many photographs as you want of any wild animals, insects, birds, reptiles (no domestic animals, eg dogs, cats, pet rabbits etc. or farm animals, eg sheep), or any wild plants (no cultivated garden plants). Each photograph must state the time, date, location, subject (put ‘not known’ if you can’t identify the

subject), and the category it will be entered into (Junior entries to include the age of the photographer). All images should be emailed to the following email address: [shs\\_photos@mediadrome.co.uk](mailto:shs_photos@mediadrome.co.uk) or passed onto a committee member. Any queries

should also be sent to this email address or phone 01908 612306.



*Barn owl hunting in Mason's Field*

You don't have to have a good camera to take a good photo. Composition is the important thing. Entries will be accepted from all devices capable of taking still images –



eg mobile phones, tablets, compact cameras, DSLR cameras – in any standard digital format.



*Lesser celandine*

The photos will be uploaded to this website, and a final shortlist will be exhibited as prints in the Village Hall on a specific day for public viewing. The winners will be chosen by a photographer from the village. The winner in each category will receive a trophy.

The copyright of each photo will remain with the photographer. However, as a condition of entry into the competition, the Sherington Historical Society will have the right to publish the photos for Historical Society purposes.

This map shows the Sherington boundary. Your photos must be taken within this boundary.

Please remember that it's your responsibility to know where you're allowed to roam. A lot of the land within the Sherington boundary is private, so make sure you don't go here unless you have the landowner's permission.

We've had a few entries so far which will be put on the website soon - link from the Society's front page at [www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs/](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs/). We hope that you'll support this venture and submit your photographs before the end of the year.



# HOME FRONT 1939 1945



**An exhibition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 8th May 1945), which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.**

The exhibition contains artefacts and memorabilia. It also features photographs and extracts from recorded interviews held in the World War II People's History collection at Living Archive Milton Keynes.

It shows a snapshot of life on the 'Home Front' at that time in the Milton Keynes area.

We hope this exhibition will inform younger generations as well as preserve and celebrate individual contributions to the war effort.

## **Discover Milton Keynes Showcase**

First Floor, Milton Keynes Central Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 3HL

**Runs until 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015**



## Ash Cottage

The photo below was passed onto the Historical Society from the previous owner of Ash Cottage. The photo was taken in about 1913 outside Ash Cottage, 81 High Street, Sherington, and the people featured in the photo are as follows:

Man on motorbike - Harry Fisher (1873-1947).

Man in sidecar - not known.

Woman - Elizabeth Hilda Fisher (nee Walsh) (1880-1963).

Boy on right - Harry Cuthbert Fisher (1904-1987).

Boy on left - Donald Hordley Fisher (1906-1971).

The Fisher family were living in Ash Cottage at the time of the 1911 Census, and Harry Fisher Senior, a school attendance officer, is mentioned in the 1915 Kelly's Directory of Buckinghamshire. He is also mentioned in the 1920 and 1924 Kelly's Directory as living in Ash Cottage, but by then his occupation was stated as "mentally deficient officer". Harry served in WW1 and is mentioned on the Roll of Honour in St. Laud's.



*Sherington Historical Society*  
*Presents*

# BYGONES

A talk by **Philip Smith BEM**  
Renowned raconteur and local author  
of 'A Little Bird Told Me'

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
7:45 for 8:00pm  
Sherington Village Hall  
Entry: £2 members  
£3 visitors  
Refreshments and raffle

