

No:91



Newsletter

Sherington Historical Society



June 2016

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th July 2016

Black Propaganda Radio - a talk by Michael Kushner. The Germans believed programmes were coming from Germany. It was Britain's greatest hoax of the war.

Tuesday 9th August 2016

No meeting.

Tuesday 13th September 2016

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

Tuesday 11th October 2016

Northamptonshire Witches - a talk by Kevin Varty.

Tuesday 8th November 2016

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 13th December 2016

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

Tuesday 10th January 2017

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

Tuesday 14th February 2017

We'll be showing the MK Heritage DVD 'MK Through The Lens'.

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

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



As I write this, we have just had the Flower Festival/Open Gardens as well as the Scarecrow competition. I was pleased that this year our Judges were Caroline Ellis and Janet Gamlen from the parish of Emberton. I was most glad that I made it to the Village Hall before they arrived, if only just, but Philip was there already in attendance with his straw hat. I was able to walk around most of the Village with them and Kay and Oliver before I needed to depart for another commitment I had made (ringing for a wedding in Olney). As we were walking around, it was quite evident that the quality of the 'crows this year that were out on show were going to give Caroline and Janet quite a task in trying to work out a winner, as in my eyes they were all good enough to win. So I have to say 'Thank You' to Caroline and Janet for being our judges this time - you did a great job. The results, I am sure you will find elsewhere in this publication (Page 5 - *Ed*). As Kay and I were walking around, we were trying to work out how many times the SHS has run the competition, and we came up with this being the ninth time we have had the Scarecrows, so maybe next time we should try for an anniversary themed competition.

On the Sunday I wandered around to see the gardens, and although there seemed not to be too many detailed on the map, we had to be a bit smartish round towards the end to ensure that we saw every one. One of the highlights for me was coming to Dave and Liz's garden and getting the live music. That was a great treat.

The programme that Caroline Leslie has put together is working well. In May Julian Hunt came and talked to us about Coaching Inns. It now means that wherever I go I am looking at buildings that might have been Coaching Inns. For the June meeting we had the trip to Gayhurst Manor, where we were led around by the Chairman of the Residents' Association, Nick Brand, and long-time resident Andrew Turner gave us a great talk which everyone who came enjoyed (see photos on Page 11 - *Ed*) For those that could not make it due to the limited numbers, you will be heartened to hear that they have agreed to come and talk to us at one of our meetings.

Next month we have the Black Propaganda talk from Michael Kushner, which looks to be a great talk, then in August we have a break, and then in September we have a members' meeting where we can catch up on some of the filing.

News snippets

The photographic competitions are going well. At the moment we have 43 entries for the Wild Sherington competition and 32 entries for the Sights and Seasons competition. You can see all of the submitted entries on the Historical Society website (links from this page to both galleries - www.mkheritage.org.uk/sherington). Thanks to those who have sent in their photos. Keep sending your entries, either by email, or contact me if you want to submit a hard copy. Remember that the photos need to be taken within the Village boundary. Both competitions close on 31st December, so you've got plenty of time to go out with your camera, tablet or phone and get snapping.

At the beginning of May we had an email from Brian Dooley which is reproduced below:

Hi- I am a descendant of Philip Kirtland who left Sherington in the 1630s for Lynn, MA. I live in the UK now (Essex). My parents are coming over at the end of May, and I would like to show my mother where her ancestors came from. We have been to Sherington before, but it was a very cursory visit. I see on your website that Philip was a tenant farmer on the Mercers Manor Farm. I can't seem to find it on a map, could you possibly help me out as to its location? Any other thoughts/hints/ideas would be most welcome.

We sent Brian details of Fiefs and Fields by AC Chibnall - he had already bought the book and sent it to his mother - and we also sent him the transcript of the section from Nathaniel Kirkland's grandfather's book. This confirmed everything Brian's mother had found out about the family. We think that Brian and his mother visited Sherington in early June.

The Village BBQ for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations took place outside the Village Hall on Saturday 11th June. Quite a few villagers, including SHS members, brought along food and drink and had a picnic. Luckily the rain held off until everyone had finished eating.



Liz Revell

Scarecrow Competition 2016: Results

There were 24 scarecrow entries to judge this year and a further 3 which were made by members of Sherington Historical Society. The judges this year were Caroline Ellis and Janet Gamlen from Emberton - both were impressed with the very high standard. The Committee of Sherington Historical Society would like to thank everyone who took part in the competition.

Listed below are the winning scarecrows and those that were highly commended.

Winner

The White Hart - Gun Lane. Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat (see photo of the scarecrow on the front cover of this newsletter).



Liz accepting the winner's certificate for the White Hart's scarecrow



Bill Oddie goes wild in Sherington



The Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Runner up

Thomas Family – 53 High Street. The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party (see photo on previous page).

Best Individual Scarecrow

Carter family - 37 Carters Close. Bill Oddie goes wild in Sherington. (see photo on previous page).

Highly Commended

Turnbull Family – Entrance to Village close. Paralympic Crower.

Bower Family - 55 High Street. John Lennon: Strawbelly Fields for Heather.

Mayes Family – 14 Gun Lane. Waiting! Westie on Crow Watch.

Sherington Pre-school – c/o 50 Carters Close. Sonny.



Paralympic Crower



John Lennon: Strawbelly Fields for Heather



Waiting! Westie on Crow Watch



Sonny

BATTLE OF THE SOMME - JULY 1916

July 2016 is the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Somme. This battle in northern France, was one of the bloodiest of the First World War. For five months the British and French armies fought the Germans on a fifteen mile front in a brutal battle of attrition. The aims of the battle were to weaken the German Army and relieve the French Army fighting at Verdun. But the Allies were not able to break through German lines, and there were more than one million dead and wounded on all sides.



The first day, 1st July 1916, was the bloodiest day of the battle and a disaster for the British. The Germans weathered the artillery fire in deep trenches and came up fighting. As the British soldiers advanced, they were mown down by machine gun and rifle fire. In total 19,240 British soldiers lost their lives. It was the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army. The



French soldiers had more success and inflicted big losses on German troops. In spite of heavy British losses, Douglas Haig, the British general, agreed to continue the attack.



Three men from Sherington lost their lives in the first month of the battle, one on the first day. They are mentioned in the Roll of Honour in St Laud’s Church together with the other men who died in battle at the Somme and at other places during the First World War. Those of you who have passed the Mound at the end of Bedford Road recently may have noticed the appearance of a poppy on Friday placed in remembrance of those who fought in the Battle of the Somme.

Below are details of the three soldiers from Sherington who died in July 1916.

16474 Private Arthur James Brooks was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, aged 27. Son of Mr. A. Brooks of 17 High Street, Filgrave, Bucks. Born and resident Sherington, enlisted Oxford. Husband of Susan Ellen Bennett (formerly Brooks) of 1 Hill’s Yard, Sherington. Arthur joined the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916 and is buried in the Beaumont-Hamel British Cemetery, Somme, France, Grave A.82.



11706 Private Henry (Harry) Stimpson Norman, Died July 18th 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. Stretcher bearer with the 1st Battalion, Gloucester Regiment. Buried in Contalmaison Chateau Cemetery, Somme, France

9112 Private Francis Barrett Bailey died 30th July 1916 age 26. Francis was born in October 1889 in Olney, Buckinghamshire to Clara Keziah Barratt, aged 24, and Thomas Bailey, aged 25. The family lived at Oak Villa, Water Lane (with Francis’ brothers, who also fought in WW1 - Percy who died and Albert who survived). 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Francis was killed in

action Sunday 30th July 1916 in France and Flanders. Enlisted Wolverton, resident Sherington. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 10 A and 10 D. On 18th July 1916 he wrote to a friend in Newport Pagnell: "We are out of the trenches. Our last turn in was a bit rough for our people sent a mine up and we had three strafes (*attacks by machine-gun fire from aeroplanes*) that night. It was a little hell while they were on and the trench mortars that Fritz sent over were bigger than any of us had seen before. They made us dodge about like rabbits. I am afraid it will be some time yet before it is finished." (reproduced in Bucks Standard 26 August 1916)

Four other soldiers from Sherington who were also later killed and buried at the Somme.

14781 Sergeant Frederick Herbert Line. Carpenters apprentice. 28 Church Lane. Died of wounds, aged 25, at the Battle of the Somme on Monday 9th October 1916. Eldest son of Frederick and Emily Line of the Royal Oak, Church End, Sherington. Enlisted Newport Pagnell with 6th Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme. Sisters: Florence 23 years old (ladies maid), Norah 16 years old. Brother: Richard, aged 13.

103422. Private Percy John Bailey, died of wounds 15th October 1917 aged 18. Born in Olney. Enlisted at Bedford with the 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters. Buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt Cemetery, Somme, France. Son of Thomas and Clara Bailey of Oak Villa, Water Lane (with Francis who died and Albert who survived). Formerly 10955, Bedfordshire Regiment.

522004 Sapper Edward Stanley Moore. Resident Newport Pagnell, son of John and Ada Moore of Mill House, Sherington. Killed in action on 13th March 1917. Husband of Gertrude of High Street. 483rd Field Company, Royal Engineers. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France (memorial to the missing of the Somme - it bears 72,000 names of officers and men of the UK and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before March 1918 and have no known grave.)



390353 Rifleman Alfred Jefferson. Killed in action on Monday 15th July 1918, aged 33. 9th Battalion, London (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Buried in Bavelincourt, Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Parents: Joseph and Mary Eliza, Mercers Farm, brother Private Charles Jefferson (killed in action Easter Sunday 1917).

Poem: A Soldier's Funeral by John William Streets

John William Streets (Will) survived the initial assault on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 with just a wound to his hand. But on hearing that a comrade was wounded and needing help, he returned to no man's land in search of him. Sadly he was never seen alive again. He is buried in one of the many cemeteries on the Somme battlefield.



No splendid show of solemn funeral rite,
No stricken mourners follow his bier,
No peal of organ reaching thro' his night,
Is rendered him whom now we bury here.

'Tis but a soldier stricken in the fight,
A youth who flung his passion into life,
Flung scorn at Death, fought true for Freedom's might,
Till Death did close his vision in the strife.

No splendid rite is here – yet lay him low,
Where the sweet brook doth babble by his side.
No splendour, yet we lay him tenderly
To rest, his requiem the artillery.



Lest We Forget

Visit to Gayhurst - 14th June





Sherington Historical Society

presents

A talk by Michael A. Kushner

Black Propaganda Radio

The Germans believed radio programmes were coming from Germany.
It was Britain's greatest hoax of WWII.



Sherington Village Hall
Tuesday 12th July 2016

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

Refreshments available
Raffle

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

Web: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk