

No: 95



# Sherington Historical Society

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# Newsletter



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**June 2017**

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

## **Special dates for your diary**

### **11th July**

Outing - Broughton Church. Come and discover this history of St Lawrence's Broughton, with a guided talk that will cover such topics as its medieval wall painting (see the back of this newsletter for further details).

### **8th August**

No Meeting.

### **9th September**

Open Day. No specific theme this year, but the archive will be open to all to view during the Heritage Open Days' weekend.

### **12th September**

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

### **10th October**

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.

### **14th November**

The Gunpowder Plot. Chris Rowe , who came a couple of years ago to talk about the Eleanor Crosses is returning to talk about the Gunpowder Plot.

## **12th December**

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

## **9th January**

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

## **Mid January**

January Jolly. More details nearer the time.

## **13th February**

Wolverton Works. Philip Marsh is coming to talk to us about the Wolverton Works, Philip will talk about life in the Works, the royal train and what was special about the 1838 London to Birmingham train.

## **13th March**

AGM, 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)**

Sometimes life just isn't fair! We are now coming into summer with one of the warmest and driest springs and I am sat here with a cold sniffing at the screen while I write this.

It seems that we have had a busy spring with a number of things going on. and we have resumed into the familiar

pattern of events. The last newsletter was sent out at about the start of our new season, just after the AGM and we announced our new programme. We are now well into it with having had two speakers already with Roy Smart talking about the life and times of Amy Johnson and Hugh Granger talking about the Reeve from his village of Haddenham, rather than basing it on the Canterbury Tales' Reeve as we thought he might. Both talks were very entertaining and informative, very different in style but both enjoyable.

Our next meeting is at Broughton's St Lawrence Church where we will be given a tour of the Church with its medieval wall painting and the village, as I understand it by the Friends of St Lawrence, or FoSL as they call themselves. More about this later in the newsletter.



The SHS were there again on The Knoll for the May Day celebrations with the children dancing around the maypole, as well as the folk band treating us to some more of their fine music, with Philip Smith performing the Master of Ceremonies and introducing the Mayor of Milton Keynes during the course of the events. It was good to show support to the event with our stall, and by lunchtime all was gone and it was like nothing had happened.

One of the year's key events happened over the weekend of the 17/18 June at Campbell Park. The event was the MK Festival of History, celebrating the fiftieth year of Milton Keynes. More details about the event within this newsletter.

The Society's computer that has been up in the office we think might have come to the end of its useful life, although I think it has lasted much longer than most home computers, as we collected it from the computer people in Warrington (the one just north of Olney) back in, I seem to remember, 2005 with Norman and Oliver. So we think it has done quite well, but we are still thinking what is the best approach of how we move forwards with this. Do we get a replacement as it now gets used so infrequently? We could store the digital archive on "the cloud", which would make it more accessible, but then who would maintain the management of it? If you have any opinions, I would be glad to hear them.

MKHA visits Sherington: On Tuesday 27 June, the Milton Keynes Heritage Association held their quarterly members' meeting in Sherington. They try and move it around to different locations to try and engage the local groups, and I was due to go up and welcome them to the Village and take note of what was happening for our members. However, life got in the way and I got called into work due to another ransomware outbreak, but Kay very kindly covered this meeting for me and you can read her report of the event later on.

We have a request from the editor, as we seem to have been a little light on members' submissions in the newsletter of late, so if you have a something you want to share with the members, then please drop it into Liz or myself and we will add it to the next edition. It doesn't need to be long or detailed.

*Mark Vale*

## **11th July - Outing: Broughton Church and Village**

As I said in SCAN, mark the date in your diary, as the members have been invited for a specially organised tour around St Lawrence's Church and Village by the Friends of St Lawrence. The church has rich Victorian stained glass that sheds light on one of the greatest medieval treasures in the area - a series of stunning medieval wall paintings. These exquisitely detailed pictures remained hidden behind plaster for 300 years before being rediscovered during a restoration. We will meet at our Village Hall to leave by 6.30 to be there before 7.00 when the evening will start, if you are wanting to come then please contact Kay about travel arrangements.



A little history of the church to help put the visit into context:

St. Lawrence's Church is no longer in regular use and is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, which maintains the building, including the magnificent wall paintings which need specialist attention that no small struggling parish could afford.

The church was built in the early fourteenth century in the Decorated style. The chancel was extended eastwards later in the century and the tower added. There would originally have been a rood screen, and the spiral staircase which provided access still remains behind the organ.



The wall paintings are the most interesting feature of the church. They probably date from the fifteenth century and were originally teaching aids to reinforce the messages of sermons for the poor and uneducated. They were obliterated at the Reformation and presumably painted or plastered over, and only rediscovered during the 1849 restoration of the church. They themselves were restored by Professor

Tristram in 1932, perhaps over-enthusiastically, and have received attention on at least two occasions since. Other decorations are also still visible. They date from after the Reformation in the late sixteenth century when text only and not pictures was permitted.

*(Words taken from the Two Village Archive Trust Website, pictures from Friends of St Lawrence Facebook page and The Churches Conservation Trust website)*

## Milton Keynes Festival of History

### June 17/18 - Campbell Park



Apart from it being one of the hottest weekends of the year, one the year's heritage key events for Milton Keynes happened over the weekend of the 17/18 June at Campbell Park. The event was the MK Festival of History, celebrating the 50th year of Milton Keynes. The Milton Keynes Heritage Association was very keen that all of



its affiliated members got involved and tried to show off their history of Milton Keynes.

The event itself ran over two days in two areas of Campbell Park, with the top, flat part being taken over by Roman, Medieval, Tudor and British Red Coat re-enactment groups, showing how they lived and fought, as well as allowing you to take part in such things as axe throwing and archery. The re-

enactments also included gunpowder from what I could hear, as there were bangs all afternoon. Then in the Amphitheatre there were events on all the time from WWII songs to Georgian dance demonstrations, as well as a series of marquees where we were located.

If we wanted to attend this event we needed to submit what we would do/show. As we had just printed our second circular walk leaflet with the help of another very generous grant from the Milton Keynes Heritage Association that covers the lower half the village, we presented both walks giving out the pamphlets to anyone who was interested. We also displayed the Burying the Hatchet display, which is really our key event. As we were attending we were given the opportunity to have printed banner (see above in the picture of our stall), which Liz very expertly oversaw, and we will be showing this off at our next meeting in the Village Hall.

Within the MKHA marquees, in which there were three, all the big names were there including Bletchley Park, Cowper and Newton Museum, MK Museum, Buckingham Old Gaol, as well as smaller groups like Grafton Regis, Buckingham Canal Society, Deanshanger Village Heritage Society etc. So we showed the village off well.

The stall was manned on Saturday by Jackie, Kay and Helen and on Sunday by Dave, Liz and Mark, where we spoke to anyone willing to talk to us. A big thanks goes to all who helped in this event. It was really worthwhile.



*This and the previous article by Mark Vale*

# MKHA Members Meeting

## 27 June, Sherington Village Hall

I did a short intro by welcoming everyone and thanking the Milton Keynes Heritage Association for the grant to produce the circular walk no. 2 leaflet. I also mentioned how delighted we were with the banner, which was put up by Neil Loudon of MKHA and was prominent at the front of the Hall.

The talk about the war memorials was of interest and the Festival feedback very positive. The Festival may happen again in 2019.

We have been given some maps that were thrown out by MK Library and we will need to look at them more closely.

Their next meeting is the AGM at the MK Museum in September. They are desperate for new members!! Where have I heard that before?

MK Council have awarded the MKHA another £3,000 plus grant for the next two years, so more money will be available for projects. Also, MK Community Foundation are looking to support projects that involve older people and children.

*Kay Turrell*



## The Knoll Self-guided Circular Walk Leaflet

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we now have the second self-guided circular walk leaflet to complete our walking tour of Sherington. We were able to produce it with a grant from MKHA and have 500 copies of the leaflet to give away to anyone who wants to take an interesting walk around our Village. The leaflets are available free of charge at our monthly meetings or from St Laud's. The second leaflet starts at The Knoll and goes along the south end of the High Street to The Manor, Water Lane, the north end of the High Street and ending up back at The Knoll.



Whilst taking photos for the second leaflet I met our new PCSO outside the Village Hall. She came to Sherington that day with the mobile library. I told her about the leaflet we were putting together and showed her our first self-guided walk leaflet, which she was very interested in looking at. See the photo on the front cover of this newsletter.

At the end of June Philip Smith led a guided walk around the Village in aid of the Church which was very interesting. Some of the information he gave is included in our self-guided walk leaflets.

*Liz Revell*

## Milton Keynes Heritage Association weekly email

**MKHA**

We picked up a leaflet at the MK History Weekend about the MKHA weekly email newsletter. It states as follows:

“Do you live in and around Milton Keynes? Are you interested in history? Do you know about heritage events in Milton Keynes? Why not sign up to the Milton Keynes heritage weekly email newsletter. This gives details of a wide variety of fascinating talks and other events such as Archaeology day and Heritage Open Days. Whether you are interested in family history, local history or military history; meetings take place at venues in and around Milton Keynes every week.

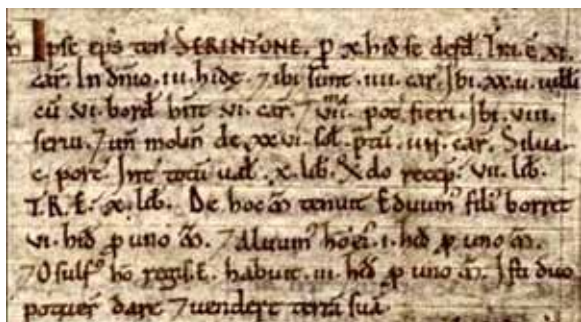
Visit <http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/email-newsletter/> and sign up. You're sure to find something of interest.”



## Domesday Book

*Information taken from AC Chibnall's book "Sherington, Fiefs and Fields of a Buckinghamshire Village" reproduced on the Sherington Historical Society website.*

Sherington is recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 as 'Serintone'.



The translation is as follows:

“The bishop holds Serintone himself. It is assessed at 10 hides. There is land for 11 ploughs. In the demesne are 3 hides and on it are 4 ploughs. There 22 villeins with 6 bordars have 6 ploughs and there could be a seventh. There are 8 serfs and one mill worth 26 shillings,

meadow sufficient for 4 plough teams and woodland to feed 100 swine. In all it is worth 10 pounds; when received 7 pounds; TRE 10 pounds. Here Edwin, son of Borred, held 6 hides as one manor and his man, Alwin, one hide as another, and Oswolf, a man of King Edward, 3 hides as a third manor. These two could give and sell their land.”

## Notes

The bishop is Geoffrey de Mowbray, the bishop of Coutances.

A ‘hide’ is approximately 120 acres and was used as a measurement of how much tax (or ‘geld’) was to be paid. A ‘plough’ team would have had 8 oxen. This suggests that the area under cultivation was of the order of 1320 acres (840 in the open fields and 480 in the desmesne), whilst the size of the woodland indicates that le Hoo Park (the area south-east of Perry Lane) was still woodland.

Villeins and bordars were the two classes of peasant, whereas serfs were not free.

TRE stands for ‘Tempora Regis Eduardis’, i.e. at the time of King Edward the Confessor (in other words, before 1066). The 30% reduction in value after the Norman Conquest may have been the result of destruction caused by the invading army. However, it is also possible that the loss had been caused by the Danes, who raided the area from their base in Northampton in 1065.

Borred (also known as Burghaed) held 3½ hides in north Bedfordshire and about the same number of hides in Northamptonshire, as well as Olney (10 hides), Weston Underwood (7½ hides) and Lavendon (5¾ hides) in Buckinghamshire. His son Edwin held 17 hides in Lathbury, as well as the 6 in Sherington. Edwin was allowed to keep 1½ virgates of land in his own Northamptonshire village of Stanion, as an

undertenant of the bishop. A 'virgate' is a quarter of a hide, or approximately 30 acres.

The value of the mill (26 shillings) was more than any other in Buckinghamshire, indicating its relative importance and size.

## Grafton Regis - 1,000 years in 100 minutes

On Saturday 7 October experience the dramatic history of Grafton Regis brought to life on a leisurely walk through the beautiful village. Meet, in authentic costume, some of their most famous and infamous inhabitants.

The event begins at 2.30 pm at the Village Hall, then they visit the Church of St Mary the Virgin and finish back at the Hall, where tea and cake is served. The cost is £8.50 for adults, under 16s £1.00 and under 5s free.

All profits are divided between the funds for the maintenance of the Village Hall and of the Church of St Mary the Virgin. Booking is essential. For further information and to book, please phone Kathy on 0791 009 2132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com. Twitter @GRWhiteQueen. Facebook @GraftonRegis1464, website: [www.grafton-regis.co.uk](http://www.grafton-regis.co.uk).



*Henry VIII*



*Elizabeth Woodville*



**Sherington  
Historical Society**

**Tuesday 11th July 2017**

# **Summer Outing to Broughton**



**Meet at  
Sherington Village Hall  
(lifts available)**

**Leave at 6.30 pm**

**or meet at Broughton Church at 6.50 pm**

**£2.00/£3.00 for members/non-members**

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

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