

No: 98



Sherington Historical Society

Newsletter



April 2018

www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Special dates for your diary

10th April

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

8th May

Stowe House - Anna McEvoy. Anna looks at the past, present and future of Stowe House.

12th June

Out and about in Olney. Tom Jones is to guide us around some of the highlights of the town. Meet at the Village Hall. Times to be advertised nearer the time.

10th July

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

8th August

No Meeting.

11th September

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

29th September

Open Day - Bygones. This year the SHS will be working with Philip Smith to revive the Bygones events, where we will invite a good number of past residents, or people with connections to the Village, for a get-together.

9th October

The Living Archive Band. Come for a great evening of live music, when the Living Archive Band come back to Sherington after about 10 years.

13th November

Members Can Talk. A chance where we can talk about something we care about. Please contact any member of the Committee to let us know what you want to talk about.

11th December

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

8th January

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

Mid January

January Jolly. More details nearer the time.

12th February

Film Night. We will be showing June Corfield's film plus others, more details nearer the time.

12th March

AGM (Annual General Meeting). Time to review the year and appoint the committee for the next year.

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

News snippets

NB: The article in SCAN for April states that the Stowe House talk will be happening in April. This is not correct. April's meeting will be an archiving evening and the Stowe House talk is in May - see back cover for further details. All members will be told, but if you know of anyone else who was intending to come along, please let them know before April's meeting.

A strange coincidence happened recently. Robert Pipes who grew up in Sherington contacted us to say he had some photos that Ben Line had given him. One of the photos is of a school group including Rosemary Collicot's mother that we published in the last newsletter. The photo from Rosemary was damaged as her mother had been cut out. We now have the complete undamaged original, also the correct date (1924) and it's shown on page 11. So we can now send the complete photo to Rosemary. We were also given a group photo including Ben Line from 1923. This photo will appear in a future newsletter. See the email from Robert Pipes on page 8.

You may have noticed the new Village Hall sign (shown on front cover). This was designed by Diane Mole who designed the shop sign a few years ago. It includes drawings of poppies and contains the words: "Built in 1927 to honour those who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918."



Liz Revell

Mark's Musings (A ramble from the chair)



Happy Easter to you all, finally it's starting to feel like spring, the garden is full of daffodils and my son will be pleased that the grass has started to grow (not!).

So we're now into the new SHS season, with the new programme due to start next week with an archiving evening. Our first speaker is in May when Anna McEvoy is

coming to talk to us about Stowe House and more I am sure. So hope you will all be there. (Please note that this is different to the article in the April SCAN.)

Last season Philip Marsh came to see us and talk about the Wolverton Works. This was very interesting, as there was no prepared speech to give, it was just reacting to a series of photographs with his very great knowledge of the site past, present and future. I will take away the fact that Wolverton is the first railway town in the country.

We are also over the AGM and the new committee should be meeting soon to discuss the order of the day, but we are going to need to find a new way of doing this with Kay still with her Mum, so perhaps there will be more communication over email than previously - something that still needs to be worked out.

After the Photo Competition awards ceremony, Liz and I had a chat about how we could try and get more people to contribute to the photo competition and we hit on the idea of a Facebook group, so if you search Facebook for the Sherington Historical Society you can click the link and join us there. We will use this group to publicise this year's photo competitions as well as events, and who knows where this will end up.

Liz also forwarded me an email from a man by the name of Cliff Webster who has been researching his grandfather's history. He found that his grandfather was in the Tank Corps and was friends with Archie Hickson. Cliff has a letter with a drawing that Archie sent to his grandfather. We are in mid-conversation and I am hoping to write an article for the next newsletter telling all.

Mark Vale

The Petts Family of Sherington, Buckinghamshire

Here is the second part of the article from Rosemary Collict who emailed Sherington Historical Society a few months ago while researching her family tree. The first part of the article appeared in the last newsletter. We begin this section with the last of the Petts children, Rosemary's grandmother Beatrice.

Beatrice Mary Petts (1888-1961)

For the sake of completeness, particularly as Beattie was the only member of the Petts family whom I knew personally, I have included this account, partially taken from the story of the Unwin family.

My grandmother, Beatrice Mary Petts, was born in Sherington on 24th August 1888. In the 1891 Census she was only 2; by 1901, aged 12, she was still at school but by 1911 she was in service, working as a sewing maid for the Griersons at Walton Hall, near Preston, Lancashire. Frank Unwin worked at Salmon's in Newport Pagnell as a bookkeeper from August 1908 to February 1911, and it must have been then that he met my grandmother. In 1911, Frank changed his job, moving from Salmon's to work as a clerk in a pneumatic tyre manufacturing company in Leeds and living at 12 Mexborough Drive, Leeds, still single, but only just! He must have been crossing the Pennines regularly to visit my grandmother in Preston! I remember my mother being quite upset (so upset, indeed, that she destroyed their original marriage certificate) to find out that they were married in St Aidan's church, Leeds on 2nd March 1912 and my mother was born on 27th July 1912! On Beattie's marriage certificate (I have obtained another copy), she is listed as living at 1 Westfield Terrace, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, working as a nurse, whilst Frank was living at 25 Karnac Road, Leeds. I assume that when the Griersons found out that Beattie was pregnant, she was dismissed. They must have set up home in Leeds, however, as my mother was born at 8 Talbot Terrace, Leeds. I'm not sure if 'nurse' encompassed being a children's nanny, as she continued to do this right up to the time she died. I often felt, indeed, that she thought more of the children she looked after than she did of her grandchildren! I suppose as she saw much more of these children than she did of my cousin and myself, this was understandable.



The earliest photo I have of my mother was taken during the time they were in Leeds, so probably just prior to the outbreak of WW1. It is difficult to guess at children's ages but I would certainly think that Frances was not more than eighteen months to two years of age when this photo was taken. She looks remarkably like early photos of her aunt, Mabel Frances Unwin and like my cousin Wendy!

At some point after WW1 began, Frank moved his young family back down to Sherington to live with his parents-in-law and they remained there, as far as I know, throughout the period of the war and up till about 1919 or 1920,



Beattie Petts, one of a pair taken of her and Frank Unwin, probably around the time they were engaged, in 1911/12

certainly after my mother's sister Joan was born in 1917 and until after the war was over, when they left to set up home, first in privately rented accommodation near Hampton Court and then in a council house at Merton Park, which in those days was still relatively rural. Even in the time when I used to visit, there was open space at Cannon Hill, just behind my grandparents' house which ran from Cannon Hill Lane across to the Kingston By-Pass.

I suspect that there was little love lost between my grandfather and the Petts's - presumably on account of the circumstances in which Frank had married my grandmother. Frank did not attend the funeral of Joseph and Eliza.

Beattie was a wonderful cook: her pastry was second to none and her cakes were delicious. I have inherited her 'best' china, on which we used to have tea when we went over there and I bring it out on special occasions.

Beattie retained her Buckinghamshire accent right up to the end of her life and had a number of expressions which my mother maintained were Buckinghamshire ones: 'all round world's mothers' was one; she called the coalhole - a funny little building built into the side of the former quarry where we lived in Mayfield 'the dinghole' - a funny, descriptive name which stuck from the time it was thus christened!

The funeral of Joseph and Eliza Petts (January 1923)

I have mentioned previously that Joseph and Eliza Petts died on the same day, 8th January 1923 and were buried together in St Laud's churchyard. The funeral took place on a Saturday (sadly the St Laud's registers available online only go up to 1922 so I cannot check the date). However, the newspaper report says the funeral took place on a Saturday and lists not only all those who attended the funeral but also those who gave wreaths!

This completes Rosemary Collict's article. Thanks to her for allowing us to use it in the newsletters.

Taylor's Mustard Jar

Rosemary Collict sent us a photo recently with the following comment:

"You wouldn't believe where I saw this: a country pub at Arlington, near Polegate. Apparently Cecil Petts worked for this company." Thanks to Rosemary for sending this photo.



Recent Emails

Here are some emails we've received recently. The first one came from Robert Pipes and strangely enough one of the photos he mentions and has since given to the Society is the same as the photo Rosemary Collict gave us - the school group photo with her mother cut out (see News Snippets on page 4). Here's Robert's email.

"I have in my possession seven original mounted photographs, formerly the property of Benjamin Ward Line of Sherington (1913-96); they are of school groups (dated on the back 1923/4/5), Line's Timber Yard and a group of builders - labeled 'the staff of George Henry Rose'.

You might also be interested to learn that Ben gave me the entire collection of letters he wrote to his mother during World War 2 from Farnborough, where he was

stationed (it was a training establishment and Ben saw no action!). There are some 300 letters, from the time of his call-up in 1941 to de-mob in 1946. Even though I've had these letters since 1995 and have in fact catalogued them, I have yet to read them all ... at some point they will need a new home of course. I'm currently at a loss as to where might be the best place to lodge them, since much of the material relates to the military camp at Farnborough - and one only gets tantalizing glimpses of Sherington life (if only he had kept his mum's letters to him!). I imagine that either the Records Office for Farnborough or the MK Records office would be the best bet - but I'd welcome your ideas on this. *(Robert has started to now read the letters and is going to write an article for us for a future newsletter - Ed.)*

I enjoyed looking at the website; we were in Sherington from 1958 to 1995 (at 12 Church Road, then 45 High Street). My father (Vincent Pipes) was an owner/driver haulier and operated first from land in Park Road owned by the late Jack Burgess, then from 45 High Street from 1966 to his retirement in 1988; the firm was called 'Pipes Transport', the vehicles sporting blue and red colours, with gold or yellow lettering. With Haynes and Smith as well, an awful lot of HGVs operated out of Sherington in the 60s and 70s! He bought the house - which when Mr Travaglione and his wife left was still divided into two properties - for the princely sum of £6,000 ... he really just wanted the land for the lorry, then spent years trying to renovate the house!"



Ralph Mitchell

Penny Mitchell emailed us recently as follows:

"I am currently undertaking my family tree and came across your website which shows my great grandfather Edward Mitchell living at number 71 High Street. This is a photo of my own Grandfather Ralph Mitchell and then his father Edward with his wife Elizabeth. They appeared on the 1911 census as living at 71 High Street, Sherington. Would you be able to let me have any information about this and I notice several say Hill Trust. Does this mean they rented the property?"

Philip Smith replied to Penny as follows:



Edward Mitchell



Elizabeth Mitchell

“I refer to the most interesting note from Penny Mitchell and comment in reply. I was put of course somewhat by the reference of 71 High Street.

In those early days, even in my time there was never a “High Street”. It was always referred to as The Main Road. But after some study it was suddenly realised that The Hill Trust referred to would be the Mr Hill who built Hill’s Yard, commonly known as “The Jitty”, originally five cottages atop of a very narrow approach path and some 35/40 yards long. This narrow path was but $4/5$ feet wide, only suitable for cycles, wheelbarrows and perambulators.

The Hill family then married into the Bailey family and in my lifetime a man nicknamed “Tickle” Bailey always signed himself Hill-Bailey.

I have no documentary evidence at all to corroborate these notes. But they are not far out as they say in Sherington.

The Baileys were a very well-known family in Sherington.

Referring to The Mitchell Family, try as I might I can trace no knowledge of them in my lifetime, 91 years born last New Year’s Day. There is a four-generation Mitchell family in North Crawley and a couple of well-established families in Newport, but other than that I cannot help.

I knew Frank and I knew his son Colin. Colin had a son who was tragically killed in Olney. I know the later generation very well. Frank was a carpenter, lived at Crawley, I went to his house. Colin worked in Sherington for many years and died in Willen Hospice.” *(If anyone knows any more information please let me know and I’ll pass it onto Penny - Ed.)*

The final email came from Pamela Hider.

“Yesterday afternoon, my friend and I spent three happy hours strolling around Sherington on self-guided walks with the aid of your two leaflets – The Knoll Circular Walk and St. Laud’s Church Circular Walk. I can’t tell you enough how interesting it was and how much we appreciated the effort made in preparing them. Clutching our leaflets, we came across one or two locals who must’ve wondered what we were doing – they hadn’t known about the self-guided walks, but were interested. We showed them the leaflets and told them they were available in the church, so I expect the word will spread and more people will be seen walking around the village clutching leaflets! Back at home (Carlton) I complemented the walk by taking your virtual online tour. It’s wonderful that you make all this information about the history of your village available and you are to be applauded.

With many, many thanks.



Sherington School Photo - 1923



**Sherington
Historical Society**

presents

A talk by Anna McEvoy

Stowe House



Tuesday 8th May 2018

7.45 pm for 8.00 pm

Sherington Village Hall

Refreshments available
Raffle

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

Web: www.mkheritage.co.uk/shhs

Email: SheringtonHS@yahoo.co.uk