

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group



NEWSLETTER No. 10

2006/07

Chairman's Introduction

I am pleased to report that our Group continues to thrive, encouraging an interest in the local history of the area through talks, research and education all written about in this our tenth Newsletter. With membership standing at well over 80, once again it has been a most successful year for the Group. We also welcomed many new visitors to our meetings throughout the year. Those attending the recent AGM heard that our finances remain in good health, which is important for the Group's continued success.

Unusually, I find myself referring to two Summer Outings, one at either end of the season just passed. The first took place later than is usual on 17 September 2005 to enable the Group to launch its commemoration of the bicentenary of Horatio Nelson's death and the life of our local hero David Newton. The visit to the Trafalgar Exhibition at the Maritime Museum Greenwich incorporated a look behind the scenes and a chance to see and hear about the archives containing first-hand accounts of those who served under Nelson.



Photo - David Barnard

This was a most enjoyable day out for the 45 members and friends and, later in the newsletter, we have included a small selection of snippets from those who attended.

Our second Summer Outing this June, to herald the end of the season just past, was again to London. The morning was spent on a tour of the back streets of the City in search of the haunts of Samuel Pepys with Colin Oakes as our guide. Colin, who last November, had transfixed his audience with his talk on the man and his, at times saucy, journal, led us on a mystical journey back to the 17th century. He brought to life the sights, sounds and smells of London with graphic illustrations drawn from the daily observations of England's most famous diarist. Our afternoon was spent at the Museum of London with Jonty Stern, one of the curators, who introduced us in his unique style to the breathtaking range of exhibits now on show at the museum. An account by Caroline Coates of this second trip to London is included later.

Our season of talks got underway in October with a talk on "The Men at Trafalgar" by Derek Ayshford, who has also kindly supplied additional information about "our" Mr Newton. This was soon followed with the most enjoyable Trafalgar Weekend, comprising church service, exhibition and Trafalgar Lunch, jointly organised with members of St Laurence's Church, and held over the weekend of 21-23 October, to mark the 200th anniversary of the battle. Congratulations to all who made the weekend's events such a success. In a season of excellent talks, if I am allowed to single out a few highlights, I would mention, in addition to the talks on Pepys and Nelson, the illustrated panorama of the life of Capability Brown, most capably drawn to our attention by Russell Bowes, and Barry Horne's excavation of the story behind Tottenhoe Stone Mines. Thanks to all our speakers, including Windsor Thomas recalling, uninterrupted this time, his art deco excursion to New Zealand.

Within this Newsletter you will be able to read about the work led by Shirley Blomfield, our Archivist, to continue to catalogue our collection and to respond to enquiries locally and from beyond. Over the last two years or so I have been particularly pleased to see how our little library of books and pamphlets has thrived under the stewardship of Paddy Thomas, who has written about some of the accessions this year. Each year our programme of events goes from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of George Cobby who, as a treat for us all, will be providing the first talk of the new season. Some of us heard the introductory remarks a few years back when our speaker booked for the evening was delayed.

As Chairman, my task is made easy by having such an experienced and hardworking team of fellow committee members. In addition to the aforementioned, I would like to thank Sandy Clarke who looks after our finances, Brian Rice who keeps our ageing equipment running and Sylvia Watson who ensures our committee is kept on its toes and who works with me to get this Newsletter put together. I would also like to thank all those who help in the preparation for and clearing up after events and most of all you, the members, for making the meetings a success. In conclusion I am sure you would wish to join with me in expressing your best wishes to our Hon. President Mrs Money, who has sadly not been able to be with us at meetings recently. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings during the year. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to attend as well.

Chris Brown

2006 – 2007 PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2006 8.00pm for 8.15pm Cholesbury Village Hall	THE MAN WHO WAS FIGARO George Cobby
FRIDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2006 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	REFURBISHING HISTORIC GARDENS: WADDESDON and HUGHENDEN MANOR Frank Parge
FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2006 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	THE HISTORY AND WORK OF THE BOXMOOR TRUST David Stevens
FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY 2007 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	LOCAL WORKHOUSES AND THE RIOTS OF 1835 Colin Oakes
FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2007 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	THE TEN CINEMAS OF CHESHAM Clive Foxell
FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2007 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	THE MADNESS OF PHOTOGRAPHY John Credland
FRIDAY <u>13</u> APRIL 2007 8.00pm for 8.15pm St Leonards Parish Hall	WOBURN ABBEY: THE HOUSE AND ITS OWNERS Christopher Gravett
FRIDAY 4 MAY 2007 8.00pm sharp Cholesbury Village Hall	AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING
<p><i>Please note that the April meeting will be on the <u>second</u> Friday, 13 April as 6 April is Good Friday</i></p> <p>MEMBERSHIP £6.00 PER ANNUM – VISITORS WELCOME: £2.00 PER MEETING</p> <p><i>Coffee and Biscuits are served and a collection is taken</i></p>	

www.cholesbury.com

If you are connected to the internet, why not take a look at the local history pages on the website, which contain articles about the local history of the villages, and where all the walks can be accessed and downloaded. Elsewhere is a diary of parish events, information about the churches and other groups and societies in the four villages. We continue to receive enquiries from other parts of the UK and overseas, asking for help about the history of the area and whether we have any information about ancestors who came from these parts.

Our Slide Projector

After many years hard labour our old slide projector finally gave up the ghost last year. We were delighted that our urgent plea for help in Hilltop News was answered by Carol Delaney who, together with her husband David, very kindly donated to the Group their no longer needed projector. It is in magnificent condition, and is a generous gift for which we are very grateful.

About the Speakers

George Cobby has taught at every level from primary to postgraduate. France is one of his passions.

Frank Parge is on the staff of the National Trust. He was involved with the renovations at Waddesdon and is now based at Hughenden Manor.

David Stevens is a Chartered Surveyor and sometime Trustee of the Boxmoor Trust.

Archaeologist, Colin Oakes, follows up last year's general talk on workhouses with a local study of the subject.

Clive Foxell is known to us principally for his authoritative books on the Metropolitan Railway, and especially "our" local branch.

Professional Photographer, John Credland, makes a welcome return to entertain us with more highways and byways of his subject.

Christopher Gravett has also entertained us twice when he was Curator of Armouries at the Tower of London. He is currently Curator of Woburn Abbey.

Members' Evening - Finally, it is up to us to entertain ourselves, and we all look forward to sharing fellow amateurs' enthusiasm on any subject of their choice.

George Cobby

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group Committee

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Committee Member:	Mr B Rice , 13 Chiltern Cottages, Buckland Common, HP23 6NQ	(01494 758131)

Website: www.cholesbury.com

Founder's Prize

Chris Brown was the recipient of the Founder's Prize, voted on at the last AGM. We look forward to hearing about his choice of book, which will be presented to him at a meeting during the year.

Summer Outing on 24th June 2006 – Pepys and the Museum of London

Those who were unable to come on the outing to "Samuel Pepys's London" missed a terrific day. Our intrepid band rendezvoused at Aldgate Station where our guide Colin Oakes swept us up – almost literally: readers might recall his energetic style from his talk "Pepys, Plague and Fire" last November. As a City of London guide he was well able to project his voice above traffic and deter dawdling as we set off on a winding route towards our destination (the Museum of London). Highlights included St Olave's Church, opposite the old Navy Office, in which the church wall still showed the entry point where the raised footbridge from the Navy Office enabled Pepys and colleagues quick access to their pews. Close by in Seething Lane was the bust of Pepys aged about 20,

outside the site of his house. A short walk took us to the charming 'secret' garden of St Dunstan in the East church, created within the walls after the Blitz left only the tower standing. Passing the old Billingsgate fish market in Lower Thames Street we reached Pudding Lane and The Monument, where our guide threw new light on the origins of the Great Fire (apparently it was thought to be the Catholics (or was it the French?) - you paid your money and took your choice!). Then via Gracechurch Street to Ship Tavern Passage and the nearby very first of the Coffee Houses which evolved into the commodity exchanges of the eighteenth century – the origins of The City as we now know it.

Continued on the next page.

The spaciousness of the Victorian Leadenhall Market contrasted with our next dive into tiny narrow passages, almost unchanged since Pepys described them, before we emerged into Cornhill opposite the Royal Exchange. Down into the Bank Station underpass where a pit of plague victims had been discovered during the recent renovations, and we surfaced in Poultry and Cheapside. Off Old Jewry we sidetracked into Frederick's Place, where seventeenth-century houses still boasted original lanterns over the gates and old plaques indicating which fire insurance companies they had paid their dues to. Gresham Street led us to Guildhall Yard and thence to Love Lane by the City of London Police HQ before we

climbed the steps to the Alphege High Walk above London Wall and reached the Museum of London. After a quick snack in the café we were taken on a guided tour of the galleries to show us the range of the Museum, impressive in their imaginative displays and ephemera, so that we could then browse later through whichever era had appealed to us. But by the end of the tour most felt their feet had done enough for the day so we went our ways. In our zig-zag from the eastern edge almost to the western wall we had glimpsed some of the architectural treasures and hidden historical gems in the Square Mile; the excellent Museum of London merits numerous visits to absorb details of the City's rich history in context.

Caroline Coates

Notes from the Archivist

Work on the Black Box project has continued throughout the past twelve months and, as the information held on the Catalist database has expanded, so have the number of Black Boxes increased. There are now seven containing photographs and documentation, along with the Grey Boxes which hold pamphlets and booklets and other documents not in A4 format. Much time is sometimes taken up with reading through the information to hand before we put it onto the database, having in mind always that retrieval for research purposes is essential. The text search facility is a very useful tool but we have to ensure that we are consistent with what we enter!

My thanks go to Paddy Thomas for continuing to work away at this project and to Chris Brown for scanning the items onto the system.

Most recently we have been looking at the information which we have on local families: Brackley, Sills, Batchelor and Baldwin are well-documented, together with the Bishop family of The White Lion. At the end of July we had a stand at the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day in Aylesbury, where we featured the archives which we hold relating to David Newton. This event is reported on elsewhere in the Newsletter.

While the work of cataloguing the Black Box continues, we also receive new items which will be added to the archive. I keep cuttings of local interest from the newspapers and short articles extracted from websites have also been given to me.

Mr Keith Fletcher has produced a monograph entitled "Chesham's Bricks - A Brief History of Brickmaking in the Chesham Area". A limited number of copies have been produced and I am very grateful to him for very kindly sending one to me. This has been added to the library collection.

Mr Fletcher is now working on "The Pubs of Chesham and the Surrounding Villages" and I hope that our archives can provide some useful information and photographs of the public houses (present and



past) in these villages to assist him in his researches. We have information which was put together by Mr F K King in September 1968 - Mr King lived at The Potteries (not a public house) in Buckland Common, and we also have a history of the Old Britannia which was written by past chairman of the Local History Group, the late Mr Bert Gomm.

We also have a number of photographs of local inns and for The White Lion we have photographs of the Bishop family, landlords at The White Lion for a considerable length of time.

The photographs above are of Mr Henry Bishop (landlord 1878-1916) and Mrs Myra Bishop (his widow, who after his death, continued as licensee until 1933).

The boots were found under the flooring at The White Lion. The information which we have is that they are two children's boots, not a pair, and were found at different times, unfortunately no dates are given for these finds.



Shirley Blomfield

The History Group Library

One of the pleasures of looking after the History Group's Library is getting first look at books that are given to us. At least three have entered the Library List this year and they could not contrast more in size, style and content.

'I am Horatio Nelson' by Richard and Daniel Worsley was donated by Brian Rice. This small, lively, paperback is full of pictures and maps and written as though Nelson himself is telling the story of his life and battles.

Our most recent gift has a rather more serious look but is also well illustrated and interesting and has a very local theme. 'Chesham's Bricks' is sub-titled 'A Brief History of Brickmaking in the Chesham Area'. It is a useful addition to the information and photographs on brickmaking which we already have in the archives. We feel very privileged to have been presented with our copy by its author, Keith Fletcher. In what must have been a real labour of love, he produced fifteen copies of his monograph himself, using an ink jet printer. Apparently they were all snapped up so he printed 10 more. Perhaps ours will become a collector's item.

David Ridgwell, our previous Chairman, arrived at my front door with our third book. He found it while browsing in a second hand bookshop in Norfolk. It must have caught his eye straight away because on the front cover is a familiar photograph of Gilbert Cannan, the author, who came to live at Cholesbury Windmill in 1913.

Visit to the Maritime Museum – September 2005

On 17 September 2005, in anticipation of the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar and as part of the celebration of our own 'Trafalgar hero' from Cholesbury, David Newton, 45 members and guests set off for Greenwich. Here are some observations from some who went.

George Cobby: I enjoyed all of the exhibition, but my choice of exhibits is dictated by two particular interests. I had read that one exhibit was 'a piece of wood' from the French flagship "L'Orient", which exploded so cataclysmically at the battle of the Nile in 1798. I found it, some piece of wood! An artisan had worked it into Nelson's portable writing box.

Gill and Clive Fleckney: An excellent exhibition that showed how the careers of Nelson and Napoleon intertwined. "One lived for his Empire, One died for his Nation". The boy from Norfolk joined the navy at 12 years old, Vice Admiral at 42 and killed in battle aged 47. His body brought home in a brandy barrel for a state funeral. A visit to the Archives to see and read first hand accounts of life, battles and hopes from sailors of various ranks. We could sense the absence from home, the isolation, the terror, the patriotism and enthusiasm that the men and women



Members will remember David's talk and articles about the Mill and its literary connections. 'Gilbert Cannan, A Georgian Prodigy' is written by Diana Farr who is related to Cannan through her mother, novelist Joanna Cannan. In 1955 the author made up her mind to visit her cousin in Holloway

Sanatorium, but he was too ill to make new acquaintances and she regrets that she missed the opportunity to meet him. Borrow this book and you can discover even more about life in Cholesbury when DH Lawrence and Frieda were down the road at Bellingdon, Mark Gertler came to stay and Katherine Mansfield and Middleton Murry lived at The Lee. There in Chapter Six you will find bowls at The Full Moon, cricket on the Common and even a description of the interior decorations in the Mill.

All the books in the History Group Library are available for members to borrow and this year a list of the main titles is included with the Newsletter to make it easier for you to choose. You can contact me on 01494 758460 or see me at a meeting. At most meetings there will be a small selection of books from the library. Ideas for new titles will be very welcome.

Paddy Thomas

onboard were feeling. Perhaps David Newton was feeling the same.

George Cobby: My second choice was the work of another genius, but could not be more different. The title page of Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, with the composer's famous crossing out of the original dedication to Napoleon. A sheet of glass and some thirty centimetres separated me from something which also had a cataclysmic effect – on classical music forever.

Paddy Thomas: Who could forget Napoleon in his gorgeous red velvet suit, the delightful gauzy dress for a lady or the size of Nelson's uniform? Who could forget reading some of the letters? Something written in the person's own hand really brings the moment and a character to life.

Brian Rice

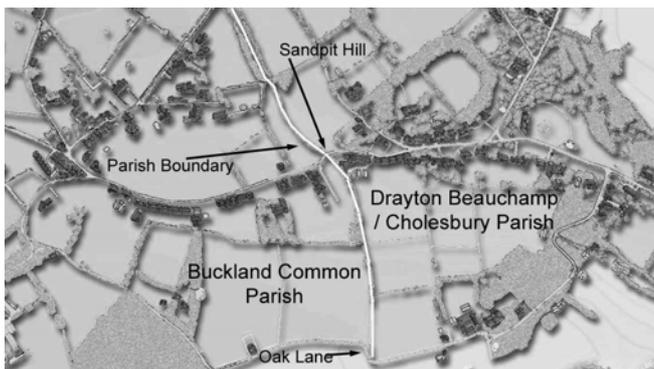
Every bend in the road has a story to tell

Even the most casual visitor to the neighbourhood would notice we are not short of the odd twist, sudden dip or climb in the roads and lanes around here. Even where a road seemingly heads off purposefully in one direction there is a good chance that it will deviate from the straight and narrow before long. These features are not confined to roads, many footpaths, bridleways and tracks have similar seemingly unexplainable features.

We take all these quirks for granted but without them the Chilterns just wouldn't be the same place. How have these unique features of our roads, lanes and tracks come to pass?

One example which displays many of these features is Arrewig Lane (OE: 'Errewig' meaning way bounded by hawthorn hedge). The suffix '-wig' gives away the fact it is an ancient hollow way, which historically was part of a long distance track way rising up from Great Missenden, joining the Abbey there with lands it owned and the chapel or hermitage where St Leonards Church has since been built, possibly being on a well trod route all the way to St Albans. Today the lane still marks, by twist and turns along its length, the boundaries between The Lee, Chartridge and St Leonards parishes, which all meet by the appropriately named Three Gates Farm. Other hollow ways, such as The Hale (Hayle), which runs up from Wendover, and The Twist (Tring- Wigginton), Merlin Hill (Tring) and The Crong (Aston Clinton), also approximate the boundaries between the strip parishes which run up from the Vale of Aylesbury. I say 'approximate' as the roads we know today run alongside the original straighter hollow ways which are still visible in some places. Originally they were kept clear of invasive scrub by sheep drovers and cattle or pig herdsmen moving their livestock up to and down from hilltop meadows each season.

Over the passage of time the trace of an old parish boundary may have been all but forgotten but their course may still be demarcated where they cross roads or tracks.



Intersection of parish boundary at Oak Lane & Sandpit Hill

Before becoming a separate parish in the 1600's Cholesbury was part of Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland Common part of Buckland. These historic parishes shared a common boundary along which ran a track with double ditches and hedges.

This crossed the present day Cholesbury Lane, hence the 'S' bend at Sandpit Hill, and further on left its mark as the double bend on Oak Lane, itself marking the Chartridge parish boundary. Until at least 1883 the parliamentary constituency ran along this line.

The widths of roads vary too. In some places, the frontages of houses or walled front gardens may define the road edge, whilst in other cases there is often a wide verge between road edge and hedge on one or both sides of the road. In the former, the properties were built on the edge of Commons owned by the Lord of the Manor and sometimes they may have encroached a few feet. One of many examples mentioned in the Court Rolls is Tall Chimneys, the owner being fined for encroachment onto Cholesbury Common.



Tall Chimneys – after garden encroached onto the Common

Many of the long front gardens bordering Hawridge Common are also encroachments. Where there are wide verges on both sides of the road, a particular feature in this part of the Chilterns, this may originate from the time of the Enclosure Acts which took effect around here in the 1820's and 1830's.

The surveyor would mark out the subdivisions of common land, usually into straight-edged plots, and where these bounded a track they would be aligned with each other and set back far enough to cope with meandering lanes. This resulted in wide verges and over time the straightening of the winding lanes. Bottom Road and Chapel Road which border St Leonards Common are a good example of this.

Today it is difficult to imagine not being able to travel with ease to Wendover, Tring or Chesham but as late as the early 20th century these roads would be often impassable during the winter, and even when dry would have been an uncomfortable ride at the best of times.

Continued on the next page.

To make this point an account of the condition of the Hawridge to Chesham road in the 1930's, referred to by Teresa Matthews in the Village Directory of 1965, informs us that it was almost impossible to travel along the roads without tyres being ripped apart by the flints which comprised much of the road surface.

Roads were normally only maintained where they were regularly used. In the hilltop villages beyond the outlying hamlets of Lanes End, Heath End and Braziers End tracks could become impassable. Until the mid 19th century the upkeep of roads was left to individual parishes and landowners. For example, in 1679, as part of the settlement that enabled St Leonards to be ceded autonomy from Aston Clinton, an obligation was placed on the new parish to maintain the road to Halton as far as the gateway to the Hengrove estate. The Highways Act in 1846 placed the onus on parishes for the upkeep of roads and, although poverty-stricken Cholesbury initially reneged on this, they were forced to contribute to the upgrading of the 'highway' to Tring which we know as Shire Lane. Today it may not be considered the most direct route to Tring but the number of straight sections on this road hint that a surveyor has left his mark on this ancient and no doubt previously winding byway. Not all such 'road improvements' came to pass. A surveyor's map drawn up at the time of the enclosure of Buckland Common shows the subdivision of land creating plots on which new houses could be built. Potential buyers from Tring were enticed with the promise of a new road, to be called Drayton Road, to run from Buckland Common through Drayton Wood to Shire Lane and on to Tring. Although Little Twye Road does extend up to the edge of Drayton Wood there is now only a bridleway through the wood itself. Quite possibly, the Rothschilds subsequently put pay to having a public highway across their estate.

Parrotts Lane, which appears on the earliest maps, derives its name from Perot's Farm dating back to the 1300's. Until relatively recently it was a farm track running to the side of the Fort at Cholesbury, the section running to Buckland Common only connecting up after around 1840 but remaining a rough track until well into the 20th century despite petitions to have it mettled.



Ray's Hill around 1910 showing the new road layout

There is other evidence that the rich landowners influenced the layout of the roads. Today vehicles can cope with the vagaries of Ray's Hill; 'en route' to and from either Braziers End or Cholesbury Common, the steep descent and ascent across the valley is offset by zigzags. Until at least the mid 19th century a traveller arriving from Bellingdon would have found this route uncompromising. It passed to the right and not, as today, the left of the pond at Braziers End and continued without deviation perilously downhill on a line to the left of the current road. A sunken hollow in the woods is still discernable today. Once at the bottom there was an even steeper climb upwards to the left of Common Ley, the line the present bridleway follows. This would be too steep for a loaded cart, which would instead have followed a track straight across the open fields and up to where the row of Post Office Cottages now stands, and then out onto Cholesbury Common. It is understood that the then Lord of the Manor, residing at Braziers End, did not favour this track and had instead a new road constructed to accommodate both his carriage and those of his distinguished visitors. This, it is assumed, is more or less the route followed by the present Ray's Hill road.



Cholesbury Common c1920 and a car. A rare sight for the time!

The arrival of the car, which required a mettled road, had a dramatic effect on the road layout. No longer maintained, the least frequented must have quickly become less favoured, although many survive to the present day. Improvements to the roads to Chesham left tracks, such as Hawridge Lane, (the route to Chesham via Bellingdon) no longer being maintained as a road, although to this day it retains its status as a track. When the new road from Wigginton to Chesham was constructed, Hill Farm Road, which was the route to Berkhamsted, lost out to the lane running through Heath End. When Dundridge was owned by Missenden Abbey, Broad Street Lane, which bisects the estate, would have been the equivalent of a main road and not just the bridleway it is today. A track ran across Cholesbury Common from near Shire Lane to Rays Hill. Another track, used in 1815 but completely lost now, ran aside Chambers Green Farm from Chapel Lane north to Taylors Lane, where it was known as Bucketts (or Burketts?) Lane and then onto Chivery where it met a track (which has also disappeared) that ran down to Halton.

Why not enjoy our heritage of ancient byways? Make use of one or more of our map leaflets and do some discovering of your own. And let us know if you have information about other forgotten tracks.

Chris Brown

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day – 29th July 2006

Two members of our Group, Lyn and Brian Horridge, are very heavily involved with the Buckinghamshire Family History Society and the success of the Trafalgar Weekend in October 2005 prompted them to enquire whether we would be interested in putting on a display of our David Newton archives at their Open Day on 29th July. The Society wish to encourage local history groups to participate in this important day in the calendar of the BFHS.

Accordingly, Saturday the 29th saw Paddy Thomas and myself loading up the car again with the Black Box and the Grey Box, together with the laptop and a spotlight and also display stands kindly loaned by David and Sandy Clarke. The venue was the Grange School in Aylesbury and we were soon unloading (memo, remember to take a collapsible trolley next time, to make life, and lifting, easier!) and setting up our display ready for the doors to open at 10am.



There were two large halls full of stands representing family history societies from around the country, even as far away as Manchester, together with the One-Name Society, the Thames Valley Police (who have a museum at Sulhampstead) and the Society for Romany and Travellers, and other local history groups, book stalls and teams on hand with computers to advise on genealogical research. There was also a dedicated room with banks of microfiche readers for individual research, a room where the Wooster family tree was displayed in great detail, and at various times announcements were made for a number of talks which were being given.

Beer, Boots, Brushes and Baptists! – Chesham Museum

What does this eclectic assortment have in common? Well they are collectively known as ‘the four Bs of Chesham’ and represent the key features of the town’s history, which have contributed to its growth between the 18th and 20th centuries. Until the industrial revolution, despite its closeness to the Hilltop Villages, Chesham would have had little bearing on life here. However, that all changed in the subsequent 200 years. To capture the essence of the town and celebrate its character was the inspiration of two Town Councillors, the late Dr Arnold Baines and

The morning passed very quickly - we met friends and acquaintances and new faces who had interests in our villages. One a lady with Collins relatives who were living at Chambers Green Farm at the time of the 1851 Census, others who are related to Betty Gomm, one of our members whose late husband, Bert, was our Chairman for a number of years.

We had taken along John Horn's book of photographs of Buckland Common and St Leonards, and this was very popular, with a number of people browsing through it. We had hoped that at such an event we might meet descendants of David Newton but sadly no-one introduced themselves.

The afternoon was rather quieter with fewer people in the hall, though we were pleased to see two of our members, Mr and Mrs Fred Skinner. We understand that the Open Day would usually have many more visitors. We took the opportunity to take time to look at the other displays and gather ideas, and to admire how stylish committee members of BFHS were in their blue polo shirts, and we noticed how other societies were also wearing coloured shirts as a means of distinguishing themselves.

We are very grateful to Lyn for her donation of two recent publications by the BFHS. These are the records of Baptisms, Marriages, Banns and Burials from the Parish Registers for Aston Clinton St Leonard, including an index. I have seen the names of the children born to the family who lived at Buckland Wood Farm in the 1890s and early 1900s (two spellings mentioned, Trubridge and Trowbridge). I met Mrs F. Fuller (nee Trowbridge/Trubridge) in 1977 when her son brought her on a surprise outing from Southampton. She wrote to me afterwards and said that the family left Buckland Common in Michaelmas 1902, when she was eleven years old. To my great regret, I did not take a copy of the photograph of the family outside Buckland Wood farmhouse in 1897, which she sent to me and I returned! Any further information about her family would be gladly received.

Shirley Blomfield

Mora Walker. Mora took the idea forward after Arnold's death and in 2004 opened Chesham Museum. It is located at The Stables, behind the Gamekeepers Lodge in Bellingdon Road. It is an excellent way to spend an hour or so learning about the heritage of the town or to research for a school project, and Mora is on hand to help. Entry is free but do make a donation on your way out. Open Sun, Wed & Fri March-October, from 2 – 4 pm (5pm Apr-Sep). www.cheshammuseum.org.uk.

Chris Brown