

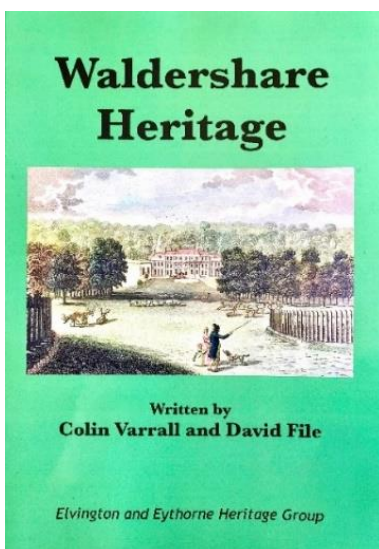
Shepherdswell & Coldred History Society



Programme of Meetings March 2022 - February 2023

All events begin at 7.30 in Shepherdswell Village Hall, unless otherwise indicated. Entrance (unless otherwise stated) is free to members, £3.00 for non-members.

Thursday 31 March 2022: **Waldershare History and Heritage with Colin Varrall**



Waldershare has a rich and ancient history, which can be traced from the Norman invasion through to the establishment of the Waldershare Estate. Earlier, Waldershare was on the route of the thoroughfare built by the Romans between St Margaret's and Canterbury, which we now know as Long Lane. **Colin Varrall** is a local historian and member of the Elvington and Eythorne Heritage Centre. Together with David File, he has recently produced a book of fascinating information and photographs of the history and community of Waldershare. Using old prints and images, he will outline Waldershare's history and talk about the people who lived and worked on the Waldershare Park estate.

Thursday 28 April 2022: Dover's Maison Dieu – Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy with Martin Crowther



The Maison Dieu has been at the heart of community life in Dover for over 800 years. It began as a medieval hospital, providing accommodation for poor pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury. It became a victualling yard, supplying ship's biscuit and beer to the Royal Navy, before becoming Dover's Town Hall in the 1830s. In Victorian times, it was extended to include a courtroom, prison cells, council chamber, Mayor's Parlour and the impressive Connaught Hall. Now an ambitious scheme is underway to restore the building and extend its use for the community. In tonight's talk, **Martin Crowther**,

Dover District Council's Maison Dieu Engagement Officer, will sketch the history of Maison Dieu, and explain the conservation programme and plans to bring in new audiences – and how you can get involved.

Thursday 26 May: Family History Night with Carol Howell.

Family
History



More and more of us are researching our family history. In an informal setting and with a chance for everyone to get very practical, Carol will be sharing some of her experience and giving useful tips. Where to begin? What are the best sources? What is the best way to access censuses, marriage and death certificates? What can we learn from military service records, criminal records, newspapers, trade

directories, church records etc? But perhaps you have some questions relating to your own family history? Carol will do her best to answer them.

Thursday 30 June: A Walk through Time – Cox Hill, Botolph (Butter) Street and Halfway Street – with Keith Roberts



Now a Shepherdswell tradition, our 'Walk through Time' will again be a 'virtual' experience in the Village Hall. Using photos and film, Keith will take us from The Cross (Bricklayers Arms) along Botolph Street (the road to Halfway Street and Cox Hill) towards Place House then onto Halfway Street and along to Cox Hill/Green Street. Along the way, he will tell the history of people and buildings, particularly highlighting Place House and the hamlets of Halfway Street and Cox Hill.

Thursday 28 July: The War in Dhofar, with Mark Watson

The war in Dhofar (Oman) (1965-1975) has been described as Britain's 'unknown' war. Though involving a relatively small number of military personnel, it was significant from the point of view of British influence in the Middle East. The war is an important part of the history of the RAF and Special Air Service (SAS) and a



British special forces in Oman, 1970

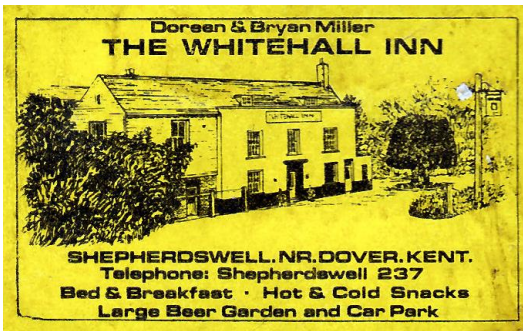
'triumphant success' for counterinsurgency methods. In his illustrated talk, Shepherdswell's **Mark Watson** will outline the origins of the war, the Battle of Mirbat (1972), the contribution made by British officers on 'loan service' and Iranian and Jordanian involvement in 1972-75. Mark has a personal connection with this history and flew in the fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, which made a decisive impact to the war's outcome.

Saturday 3 September: Big History Day, 2022

11.30 – 2.30, Shepherdswell Village Hall

Our Village Pubs

Pubs are an important part of the social history of Shepherdswell and Coldred. This year's Big History Day will have exhibits and talks tracing their histories, including stories about their licencees, customers and general role within the communities.



Pubs to be featured include: The Bricklayer's Arms, The Whitehall, Leather Bottle, The Blacksmith's Arms, The Bell, The Carpenter's Arms and Hazling Dane Country Hotel. You will be able to buy a Ploughman's Lunch and – licence permitting – to taste some local ale. Tea, coffee and cake will also be on offer.

As usual, other aspects of local history will be on display and we will be welcoming stalls from local heritage groups. More details nearer the date.

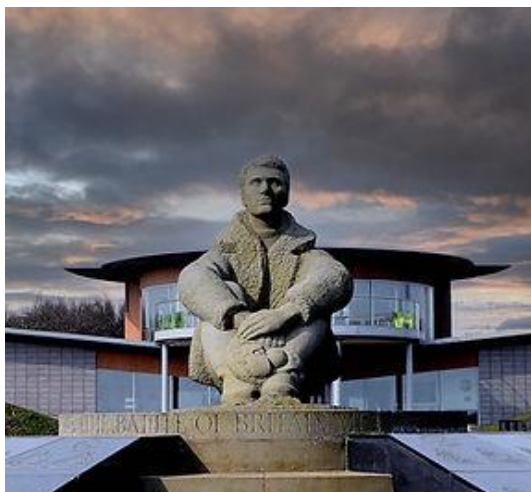
Thursday 29 September: Jane Austen: Who She Was and Why She Matters.

Speaker: Susan Civale

Our speaker tonight, **Susan Civale**, argues that Jane Austen is 'not just about tea parties and love stories', but her writing has real importance for our modern world. Much of Susan's research and information comes from time spent as a Research Fellow at Chawton House Library, the home of the author's brother, Edward. The talk will discuss Jane's links with Kent and her wider literary significance.



Thursday 27 October: The Battle of Britain and its Memorial at Capel le Ferne with Andy Simpson and Barry Duffield



Our speakers this week are from the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, which manages the Memorial Site and Visitor Centre at Capel. They will speak about the Battle of Britain and the work of the Trust in researching its history, its participants, and keeping its memory alive.

Thursday 24 November – Making Sense of ‘Pre-History’ with Dr Lindsey Buster

Prehistory starts at about 3.3million years ago (800,00 years ago in Britain) and lasts up until the Roman Conquest. **Lindsey Buster**, an archaeologist who specialises in Pre-History, will explain the methods and techniques used to understand and interpret this period. She will give examples of her research using DNA and explain how she has built a five-generation family tree of a Neolithic family.



_Thursday 15 December: Christmas Meeting



History with a Christmassy feel, along with some Christmas fun and games, accompanied by wine and snacks.

Thursday 26 January 2023: Shepherdswell’s Methodist Chapel – 150th Anniversary.

Tonight’s meeting focuses on the ‘old chapel’ on Church Hill. The Chapel opened in July 1870 – exactly just over 150 years ago. In the early days, the local press reported services ‘so densely filled that several were literally unable to get in’. Until its closure in 1995, the chapel played a major part in village life. We will be joined by **Joe Slavin**, the present occupant, and **Reverend Harvey Richardson**, both of whom have lots of knowledge about its history.



Thursday 23 February 2023: Annual General Meeting. A meeting to plan the year ahead and elect our officers. We will also be looking at some aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred – details nearer the date