

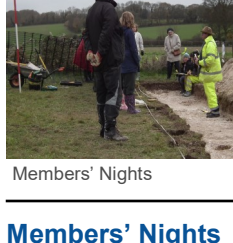
# SHEPHERDSWELL & COLDRED HISTORY SOCIETY

The monthly newsletter for Members and Friends of S & C H S

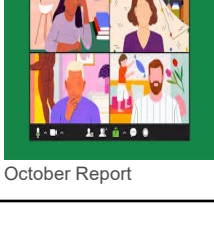
VOL. 2020, ISSUE 4

31/11/2020

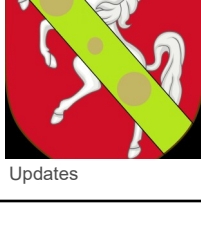
## Top stories in this newsletter



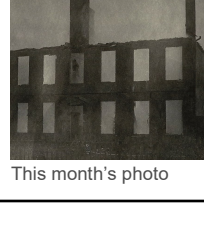
Members' Nights



October Report



Updates



This month's photo

## Members' Nights

Starting in January, the Society will start broadcasting short presentations about local history for all to see. There will be a follow-up discussion online on Zoom. More details soon!

## November Report

As last month, the work done by the Committee has been largely focused on Three Barrows Down. More news on this to follow soon.

The 2021 Village Calendar is now available. You can purchase yours by either emailing [keithbryanroberts@gmail.com](mailto:keithbryanroberts@gmail.com), phoning 01304 832143 or seeing Christina Roberts at the Village Outreach Post Office (Monday & Friday). Prices are the same as last year, £10 - but members receive their usual 15% discount making it £8.50.

## History Updated!

Jean Wooldridge has provided us with another news article from 100 years ago. This is from *Dover Express*, dated 20 December 1920.

### SIBERTSWOLD PLACE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

On Wednesday morning, at about three o'clock, fire broke out at Sibertswold Place, Shepherdswell, the residence of Admiral Sir Ernest Rice, K.C.B., which ended in the complete destruction of this old residence, which dates from 300 years ago and said to be built from the design of Inigo Jones. It appears that in the house there were Admiral and Lady Rice and four domestic servants. At about three o'clock Lady Rice's maid heard in her room a noise under the floor, which was at first taken 'to be rats', but smoke was found to be filling the passages, and just as she raised the alarm the floor burst into flames, and the room was soon ablaze. Two of the maids at once ran to the Shepherdswell Post Office, from which the calls for assistance were sent out. The occupants of the house had very hurriedly to leave the upper floors. A good deal of assistance came from the neighbouring houses in the village, many helpers being miners, and as it was at once seen that the house was doomed every effort was made to save the furniture in the lower rooms. Meanwhile, the assistance of the Dover Fire Brigade was sought, the call being received by telephone at 3.20 a.m. As there was a long and difficult journey from Dover on the frost-bound roads, it was advised that assistance should be sought from Eastry, and this was done. The Eastry Fire Brigade at once set out, and after a very rough journey arrived at the scene at 4.15 a.m. The house was then well ablaze, lighting up the whole countryside, and the roof fell in with tremendous crash. The efforts of the villagers had been so successful that most of the furniture and pictures, including many valuable ones, had been saved from the lower floors and placed on the lawns. Only one valuable painting, which was fixed to the walls, was lost. The plate chest was also lost, defying the efforts of eight miners to shift it. There was considerable difficulty getting water. The East Kent District Water Company's mains supply the village, but, unfortunately, there are no fire hydrants, the Parish Council not having gone to the expense. The only large quantity of water obtainable was from a pond on the road near The Terrace, over 200 yards away. There was a small tank at the back of the house, and the Eastry engine, feeding from there, managed to save the kitchen and the scullery at the back of the house, which had not caught fire when they arrived. There was a very strong wind blowing, but, fortunately, it was from the east, and blew the fire away from the farm and stacks at the back of the house. An hour later the Sandwich motor fire engine arrived. This is an up-to-date and powerful engine, and took on the supply from the pond. Admiral Rice, although now of the venerable age of 80, directed and helped in the removal of the furniture and in the fire fighting. The Dover steam fire engine was sent when the call was received, but as the horses had to be studded on account of the road conditions it was delayed in starting and had an extremely difficult journey up the steep and slippery hills and did not arrive until after the Sandwich brigade, and as it was not then required returned to Dover. The fire is still smouldering.

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It later transpired that according to the locals the Rice family had been hoarding coal, during and after the First World War, in the cellar and this was why the house burnt so hot and fast.

The photo above shows the house 'still smouldering'

### SHEPHERDSWELL.

CHAPEL.—The jubilee celebration of the Shepherdswell Chapel and the reopening service after renovation of the Chapel, took place on December 8th. In the absence, through illness, of the Rev. T. Dixon, the Rev. T. D. Corlett preached and conducted the service at 3.30.—Tea was provided in the school at 5 o'clock, to which over 80 sat down.—The evening thanksgiving meeting took place at 6.30. The Chairman was Mr. David Fox, formerly a scholar in the Sunday School. Mr. E. C. Patmore, Mr. Benjamin Coveney and Mr. F. Best gave excellent addresses. A solo was rendered by Mr. E. V. Bowles. Old Methodist hymns and tunes were sung. Mr. G. Washford gave a very interesting account of the early days of Methodism at Shepherdswell, of the building of the present Chapel, and of the old friends long since gone to their reward, who bravely held the fort amid much opposition in the spiritually dark days at Shepherdswell.—The meetings were a great success, thanks to the assistance of numerous friends.—Collections were taken for the Repairs Fund.

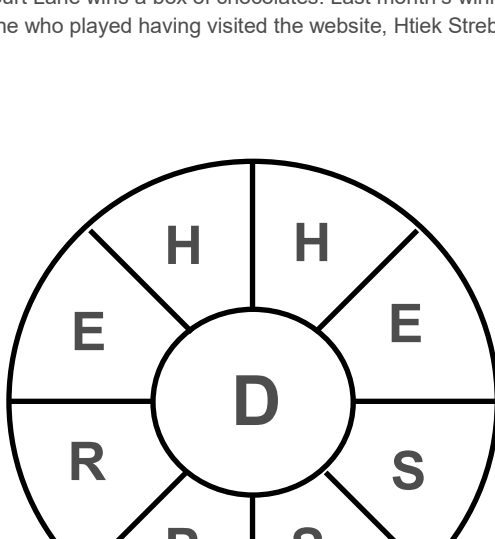
## Puzzles

This month, a word wheel puzzle. The object is to make as many words as possible from the letters in the wheel. Each word must be at least 4 letters long and every word must include the central letter. Plurals are allowed. According to the Scrabble dictionary there are 39 words to find.

Here is your scale:

- Less than 10 words = Poor
- 10 - 20 words = Good
- 20 - 30 words = Very Good
- 30 - 35 words = Excellent
- 35 words + = Deity

The first person to correctly identify the 9-letter word and send it to [keithbryanroberts@gmail.com](mailto:keithbryanroberts@gmail.com) or drop it through my letterbox at 47 Westcourt Lane wins a box of chocolates. Last month's winner was someone who played having visited the website, Htek Strebor. Congratulations.



## Projects

This year is the 150th Anniversary of the Methodist Chapel. Many of you would have seen all the hard work that resident Joe Slavin has been doing on the chapel. The History Society planned to have a talk to mark the anniversary. It will now take place in 2021.

Are you doing any research at the moment or do you want to start?

It would be great if you had something to share and if you want some help starting or help along the way, we have some gifted minds who might be able to help. So just ask.



## This Month's Photo & Quote

This month's photograph is of Sibertswold Place still burning.

"History is a people's memory, and without a memory, man is demoted to the lower animals."  
— Malcolm X

Check out our website at [www.shepherdswellhistory.org](http://www.shepherdswellhistory.org) and our Facebook page *Shepherdswell & Coldred History Society*

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Email - [shepherdswellhistorysociety@outlook.com](mailto:shepherdswellhistorysociety@outlook.com)