

Shepherdswell & Coldred History Society

Programme of Meetings, 2023



Meetings are at 7.30 in Shepherdswell Village Hall, unless otherwise indicated.

Talks are delivered by a range of speakers and have a reputation for being informative and entertaining. Our Members' Evenings focus on local history. It is rare not to hear some new and interesting facts about past life in our villages. There is an opportunity to do online research about family or local history, aided by genealogists.

Talks are free to members; £3.00 for non-members (unless otherwise stated):

You can join the Society on the night for an annual membership fee of £10.

Thursday 23 February: The colourful life of Thomas J Williams, landlord of the Bricklayers Arms, 1904-1926

As the landlord of the Bricks and a stalwart of the Cricket Club, Thomas J Williams was one of the most well known and popular members of the Shepherdswell community.

His life – and that of his wife Annie – sheds light on life in the village one hundred years' ago. Thomas' story is also part of the history of mining communities, of the army, British colonialism, the First World War and the pubs of Dover district. **John Bulaitis** will introduce this colourful and important local personality. Thomas' great granddaughter, Maxine, has helped with the research and will join us digitally on the big screen.



Thursday 30 March: Members' Evening.

A meeting devoted to talking about and researching aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred.

Topics to be announced nearer the date.

Thursday 27 April: 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 25 May: Members' Evening. A meeting looking at aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred – topics to be announced nearer the date.



**Thursday 29 June: A 'Walk through Time' with Keith Roberts.
An exploration of Outlying Areas and Hamlets**

Now a Shepherdswell tradition, this year's 'Walk through Time' will be a 'virtual' experience in the Village Hall.

Using photos and film, Keith Roberts will focus on the history of a number of hamlets – some, such as Beaufield, long forgotten. Along the way, Keith – in his usual entertaining style – will tell the story of people, buildings and events.

Thursday 27 July: Members' Evening: A meeting looking at aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred – topics to be announced nearer the date.

Saturday 2 September: Big History Day, 2023

11.30 – 2.30, Shepherdswell Village Hall

Farms and Farming



Agriculture shaped the villages of Shepherdswell and Coldred and dominated the lives of its people until relatively recent years. This year's Big History Day focuses on the history of local farms and the lives of those who worked on them. As usual, there will be exhibits and talks – and the opportunity to buy a wholesome

ploughman's lunch. We welcome guests from Brook Rural Museum, who will be displaying and demonstrating farming techniques and implements from a bygone age.

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



The Historic West Court Farmhouse

Thursday 28 September: The Dregs of the People Remain: The Black Death and its Aftermath with Imogen Corrigan.



Around 50% and perhaps 60% of the population of Europe and beyond perished in the first wave of the Black Death. The disease then recurred over the next 130 years. In this talk, Imogen Corrigan explains how this prompted a distinct increase in interest in the macabre, but also in explorations of what will happen in the next life; some of it surprisingly optimistic and amusing.

Thursday 26 October: Members' Evening.

A meeting looking at aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred – topics to be announced nearer the date.

Thursday 30 November: The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show Part 1, with Alan Haines



Memories of the 1950s, 60s and 70s are dredged up in these hilarious reminiscences. You'll laugh at the old days and be in stitches with modern times.

Alan is an experienced guest speaker who has performed his hilarious presentations to clubs and societies throughout the South East as well as appearing in his own shows at The Edinburgh and Brighton Fringes.

Thursday 14 December: Christmas Meeting



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

Visit our Website

www.shepherdswhistory.org



The History Society website has a growing collection of photographs, archives, information from past censuses and about birth, deaths and marriages.

If you have something pertinent to village history, please consider donating to our archive. We will scan old photographs and documents and return them to you. Help us to preserve the past!

For more details about the History Society, please contact: shepherdswhistory@gmail.com