

Shepherdswell & Coldred History Society



Meetings and Activities 2024

The History Society

Formed in May 2014, Shepherdswell and Coldred History Society is a friendly and welcoming group of people interested in the long and varied history of our communities, from the Bronze Age to the Second World War, and everything in between and later.

The Society meets monthly – the last Thursday of the month – at 7.30 in Shepherdswell Village Hall.

Our programme is a mix of informal meetings, expert talks and presentations, virtual ‘walks’ and exhibitions.

Speaker evenings have a reputation for being informative and entertaining.

Open Evenings are devoted to talking about and researching aspects of the history of Shepherdswell and Coldred. It is rare not to learn some new and interesting facts about past life in our villages!

The society has an increasing archive of local images, photographs and documents.

We also collate oral history interviews with longer-standing residents and offer opportunities and advice about doing online research about family history.



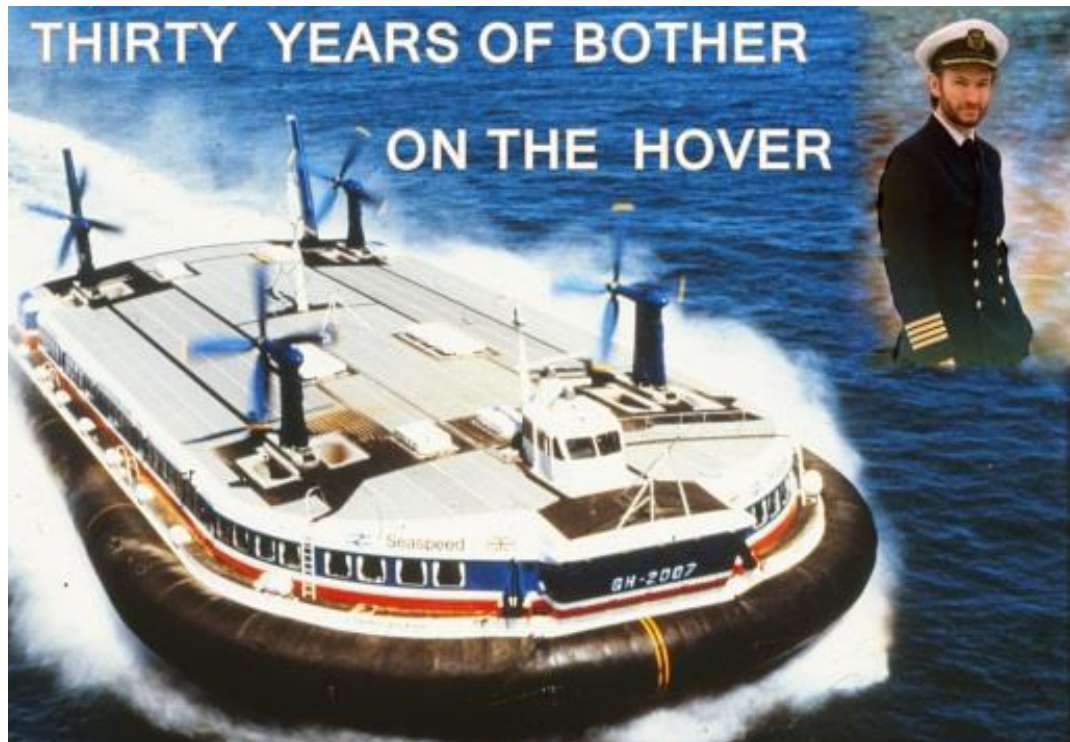
Our meetings are free to members; £3.00 for non-members (unless otherwise stated):

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

Thursday 25 January: Open Evening.

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

Thursday 29 February: ‘Thirty Years of Bother on the Hover’ with Brian Laverick-Smith, former cross-channel hovercraft pilot.



The title is a rather tongue-in-cheek description of Brian’s career driving the world’s largest Hovercraft across the channel.

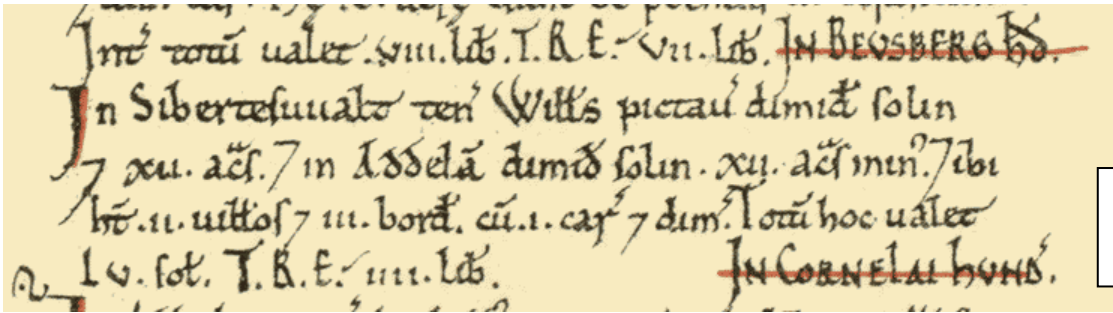
Set against its history in Dover from 1968 till its demise in 2000, the talk focuses on people he met and the experiences that occurred – erring distinctly to the lighter side of life.

A humorous, fun-packed talk illustrated with slides and videos.

Thursday 28 March: Open Evening.

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

Thursday 25 April: The Domesday Book

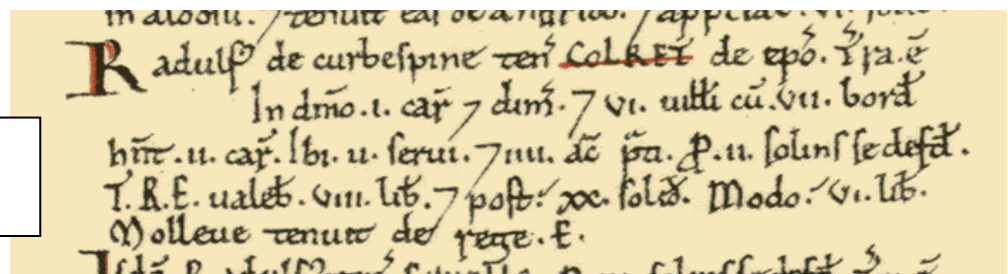


Entry about Sibertswold

After his previous well-received talks on the Bayeux Tapestry and Coldred Castle, **Paul Dalton**, an expert on the Norman Conquest, returns to Shepherdsweil to talk about the Domesday Book.

This great survey of England and parts of Wales was completed by William the Conqueror in 1086.

After explaining the background and creation of the Book, Paul's talk will outline what it tells us about life in our part of East Kent



Entry about Coldred

Thursday 30 May: Open Evening.

Exploring and researching local history: topics to be announced nearer the date.

Thursday 27 June: A 'Walk through Time' with Keith Roberts.



Now a Shepherdsweil tradition, this year's 'Walk through Time' explores Halfway Street and Cox Hill. In a 'virtual walk' using photos and maps, **Keith Roberts** will, in his usual entertaining style, tell the story of people, buildings and events.

Thursday 25 July: Open Evening.

A meeting looking at aspects of the history of Shepherdsweil and Coldred. Topics to be announced nearer the date.

Saturday 7 September

Big History Day 24

11.30 – 2.30, Shepherdsweil Village Hall

Admission £1



‘Shops, Traders and Businesses’

After last year’s theme of farming and the previous year’s of pubs, this year’s BHD devotes attention to other trades, businesses and shops that played important roles in historic communities of Shepherdsweil and Coldred.

As usual, there will be exhibits and talks, food and refreshments, including an opportunity to indulge in some fantastic home-made cake.

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



Scenes from Big History Day 2023

Thursday 26 September: Kent Folksong and Singers with Geoff Doel

According to Wikipedia, there are 'relatively few traditional songs' from Kent. Tonight's talk by Geoff Doel will prove that wrong! Geoff will introduce us to a rich Kentish folk tradition – songs such as: *The Oyster Girl*, *The Dark Eyed Sailor*, *Love is Pleasing*, *The Whitstable May Song*, *The Nutting Girl*, *The Folkestone Murder*, *Hopping Down in Kent*, *Keys of Canterbury*, *All Men of Kent*. And there may well be a chance to join in a sing-a-long.

The Sporting Magazine, Nov. 1809



Folk Song: *Petition of the Pigs in Kent*

Geoff Doel lectures on literature, medieval culture and traditional culture. He has written, with his wife Fran, 16 books on aspects of traditional culture, particularly about Kent and Sussex. He has made several TV appearances including 'Time Team'.

Thursday 31 October: Open Evening.

Exploring and researching local history: topics to be announced nearer the date.

Thursday 28 November: Special Event

The award-winning documentary film producer, Peter Williams MBE, presents his film: *A Century of Coal*, a unique history of the Kent coal field.

Peter's film outlines how miners were recruited from all over industrial Britain, to dig coal, discovered by accident in the Garden of England. They brought with them traditions of brass bands, choral singing and whippet racing. But like other migrants, they were strangers in an established community – largely one of folk who lived off the land rather than eaking out a living beneath it.

A Century of Coal is a story of love and hate, great triumphs and crushing disappointments, team spirit and laughter.



Peter Williams has produced documentaries for the BBC, ITV and Channel Four and won awards at Television Festivals across the world. A Kent Ambassador and former president of the Canterbury Festival, he was awarded his MBE in 2007 for services to the arts and television.

Visit our Website

www.shepherdswhellhistory.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:

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