

Spring 2017



THE
BYZANT

The Shaftesbury & District
Historical Society

Gold Hill Museum, Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JW

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Chairman's Chat

David Silverside

A great deal of water has passed under the bridge since January when I last wrote in the *Byzant*. The loss of Marjory was a terrible blow to us all and the standards she set will be a hard act to follow. Ken Howe has willingly stepped up to the plate and after selection of new software and some time in post, has mastered the day to day operations of a treasurer with great skill. Year's end has passed and I am sure he will ably manage next year when it is his turn to prepare the annual statement of accounts

In mid-March I lost my wife after an exceptionally short illness. Not only have I lost my wife but also the Society has lost the editor of *The Byzant*, a job she undertook for the last edition issued January 2017. The Trustee team has worked around the difficulties we encountered admirably and I thank them all for the extra effort they have put in to keep the Society afloat. I apologise for the late delivery of this edition of *The Byzant* but I am sure you will understand the reasons

Year's end is a very busy time but can summarise some of the operations of the team since January:

- The lecture programme has been completed with great successes all round. The Tea and Talks was also very much enjoyed. Please see the blogs on the Society website for more information. Next year's programme is well under way
- Newly installed in the centre of Room 8 is a case displaying a fascinating range of objects collected during the Heritage Lottery Funded Shaftesbury and the Great War Community Project. The project is now drawing to a close and the website will soon be going live
- The Large Exhibition Room hosts In 'Praise of Wood', an exploration by Janet Swiss of the multiple uses of timber in human and especially British history. The unique characters of native British trees are illustrated, while hidden in the colourful panels are drawings of 10 wood mice for the child in all of us to find. 'In Praise of Wood' has been kindly sponsored by Peter and Judy Westgate
- Janet has also completed another temporary exhibition called Who is Sarah Taylor? You are invited to come to see and find out for yourself!

Unfortunately, our call for more historical content for *The Byzant* from the membership

has gone more or less unheeded and it is becoming difficult to produce a newsletter on such a frequent basis as formerly. The Trustees are considering a complete change of strategy which will mean the publication of fewer copies of *The Byzant* in future; a great pity but the workload put on the Trustees by the authorities mean that something must give and *The Byzant* may well be one of the casualties. Finally, and once again, I thank all members and volunteers for their tireless efforts in keeping the S&DHS interesting and viable

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES 2017

As of May, 2017 there are nine Trustees active in the management of The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society. In addition there are two *ex officio* Trustees, the President, Jo Rutter, and the Dorset Museums Adviser, Vicky de Wit. Twelve full committee meetings have been held since April 2016. The Trustees for 2016-17 were as follows:

Elaine Barratt	Vice Chairman, Stewards, Shop
Lavender Buckland	Lectures, Members' Visits [Resigned November 2016]
Sheena Commons	Collection Care
Ken Howe	Treasurer [co-opted 2017]
Ian Kellett	Secretary, Garden
Marjory Kellett	Treasurer
John Parker	Buildings
Claire Ryley	Education
David Silverside	Chairman
Ray Simpson	Archive, Library
Janet Swiss	Temporary Exhibitions [co-opted 2017]

Each year a third of the Trustees must retire in rotation, as required by the CIO constitution, though they may stand for re-election. The co-opted Trustees must also retire at the AGM next following their appointment and seek election if they wish to continue. This means that three of the Trustees first elected in 2014 must also retire and offer themselves for re-election. Sheena Commons, John Parker, and Ray Simpson have agreed to do so. In theory, three more Trustees [i.e. a total of six could also be elected in July, up to a maximum of 12. **Anyone with professional experience in the historical and museums worlds would be most welcome.** However, it is the ethos of The S&DHS that all our Trustees take responsibility for particular portfolios and are actively involved in the management of the Society and Gold Hill Museum.

We have identified the need for support and possible **new Trustee appointments** in the following areas:

Publicity, Marketing and Fundraising – These roles could be separated. The profiles of the Society and Museum need to be maintained in the local media, while another regular task is to generate and place posters for exhibitions and lectures. South West Federation of Museums' training and mentoring may be available for someone willing to take on the role of fundraiser.

Administrator – An important role involving some preparation and completion of reports for bodies such as the Charities Commission, Heritage Lottery Fund etc. Also the general administration of the Office and administrative computer records.

Information Technology Manager – Our computers and digital display screens all need updating, and fellow Trustees would benefit from training in their use.

Lecture Co-ordinator - This role involves identifying and arranging speakers, usually a year in advance, for our winter talks programme. The talks should be historical and not necessarily of a local subject. Advice and co-operation is always available from fellow Trustees.

If you think that you can offer an interest and expertise in these areas, or are prepared to learn on the job, please complete the **Application Form** enclosed/attached with this Newsletter. It should be forwarded to the Secretary at Gold Hill Museum, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JW by no later than **Friday 2 June 2017**.

Check List of essentials

A candidate for Trustee must be

- a paid-up member of the S&DHS
- nominated by two paid-up members
- contactable by email
- available for monthly committee meetings
- willing to be active in the management of the Society and Museum
- willing to sum up their candidature in no more than 250 words

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Howe

We are pleased to report that the Business Rates Bill for 2017-2018 is £74.70 less for the year than last year.

I have an accounting system up and running and proving useful. We have had 2 large expenses Locksmith on the cabinet locks and repairs to gutter on Sun & Moon cottage total £2184, but good to see the sign back up. Shop purchases have contributed to our expenses but necessary as a look in the shop will prove, well done Elaine £1670

with sales to date £775 Donations so far are £1330. So while there is no need to be complacent we are managing to stay afloat.

ARCHIVE/LIBRARY REPORT

Ray Simpson

A few books of general interest were added to our bulging library. The Historic Local Houses display outside the library has been delayed due to my involvement in other areas of the Society needing attention but should be up by the end of May. File information continues to grow as and when it presents itself. An interesting photograph and information about the Donhead Home Guard was donated by a descendant of one of the Home Guard.

If any member has old documents etc. relating to Shaftesbury and surrounding villages we would be delighted to add them to the museum's collection. Also photographs pre 1960 are always welcome. We do not need to retain the documents/photographs as we will digitize them and return.

Those of you who may have been present at Tea and Talks this year will have heard my talk about Nos. 1 & 2 Gold Hill during the latter part of the 19c and the first half of the 20c. Here is just one incident, not mentioned in my talk, which illustrates how you might not have wanted to spend a relaxing evening at No. 1 (the Sun and Moon).

A SHAFTESBURY SENSATION THE CORONER POINTS THE MORAL November 1906



A Sensation has been caused at Shaftesbury by the death of a woman named Brown, wife of a market gardener, who was found dead in the stables of her husband's house early on Monday morning last week. A number of sordid details were brought out at the inquest, which was held at the Cottage Hospital, before Dr. Comyns Leach.

John Brown, husband of the deceased, said he went to the Sun and Moon Hotel on Sunday night. His wife joined him about 7.30, and they had a glass of beer each. A man named James Roberts then came in and began having some words over some plants, Roberts hit Brown who fell to the floor. And his wife cried shame on him. Roberts then hit Brown's wife off her seat twice. She said, "I will make you pay for this," and

then Roberts said, "I will give you something to pay for." He then knocked her down again. She got up and went to the kitchen with her husband and the landlord to wash blood off her face. They had some beer while in the kitchen and went home about ten o'clock. She was able to walk home all right and they had no more beer.

On Sunday She complained of pains in her head and side. The same night Brown went to Mr. Feltham (Landlord of the Sun and Moon) at six o'clock, and his wife joined him at eight. They had some beer there and got home about ten o'clock. They had no words after they got home. Brown went to bed, and his wife said she would soon follow him. But she did not come to bed that night. She was in the habit of not coming to bed, as she would sometimes sleep indoors, and sometimes out, when she had had drink. About four o'clock Brown went downstairs to look for her, as she had not come to bed. He went into the stable and got some matches, and when he went in he fell over her. She was lying on the ground near the window. He tried to wake her but found she was cold. He then fetched two men named William Arnold and John Jenkins, who were sleeping in the stables. He and Jenkins fetched Dr. Harris. When found she had a folded piece of newspaper under her head, and a bottle half full of beer by her side. She had been sick after Brown went to bed, as she generally was when she had any beer. He was in the habit of going down to look for her if she did not come to bed. She did not eat anything on Sunday.

John Jenkins, of Shaftesbury, said he was at the Sun and Moon Hotel on Saturday night. He saw James Roberts strike Mrs. Brown and then she calling shame on Roberts for so doing. Roberts then struck her on the side of the head and she fell off the stool she was sitting upon. After she was struck she got up and went out with her husband. He was positive Roberts did not strike her a second time. He went home with Mr. and Mrs. Brown that night. There was no quarrelling after they got home. He was at the Sun and Moon again on Sunday night, and the deceased came to fetch her husband. They left between eight and nine, and Jenkins went home with them and slept in the stable. He did not hear any quarrelling. He was called by Mr. Brown just after four o'clock in the morning and went in and found deceased on her side, dead. He went with Brown to fetch Dr. Harris. The mark on her nose was there on Sunday morning. She did not have any beer after she got home.

Dr. Harris said he was called by Jenkins on Monday morning just after five o'clock. He found deceased lying on the floor between the table and the window, with her head towards the window. The body was semi-prone, and under her head was a newspaper. She was cold. He reported the matter to the police, but he did not see any blood or any signs of injury on her. He found that death was due to a clot of blood weighing about three ounces near the brain and indenting it. There was no fracture of the skull. He thought the clot was due to spontaneous haemorrhage of a ruptured blood vessel. All the other organs were healthy, but the stomach was empty. The clot had been formed since Saturday night.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

Roberts was then called in and the Coroner said it was a cowardly thing to do as he had done, and he might have found himself in a very serious position if a verdict of manslaughter had been returned. He advised him and Brown to keep away from

Public-houses in the future.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Claire Ryley

Shaftesbury Remembers - The Great War Heritage Lottery Funded Project Final Report

In March 2015 Gold Hill Museum received £6,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project to research the personal stories and experiences of people from Shaftesbury and the surrounding villages during the Great War.

The project has focused on how the war affected daily life, individuals and communities in the Shaftesbury area, working with as many local sources of information as possible. We asked people to share their family and other stories, building a unique archive to be made available to all, either on-line or on the dedicated computer terminal in the museum. A new permanent display in the museum shows objects donated during the project, and copies of the stories we have collected.

We involved a wide range of organisations and individuals, including local schools, retirement homes and the British Legion. Everyone was very welcome to take part in the project, as we needed volunteers for a range of interesting and diverse roles. There were opportunities to learn new computer, research and interviewing skills; and cataloguing and organising materials for the archive. We employed professional trainers so that volunteers could learn new skills, and produce the best results.

We held Open Day events to recruit volunteers and contributors, and have shared the results of our research by giving talks to a number of groups. We linked up with other groups working on similar projects, to provide the most extensive record possible of the effect of the Great War in the local area.

We felt it was very important to collect these stories before they are lost forever, and to share them with future generations. They will give local communities a much fuller understanding of the part that local people played in the Great War, and help us all appreciate the significance of names on war memorials, and the sacrifices of the individuals they represent.

During the two years we have put on 3 exhibitions, 2 temporary and 1 permanent; held 17 reminiscence sessions in the library and retirement homes; run 10 Ancestry sessions in the library; held a commemorative event with 50 participants and 130 attendees; arranged 14 training events; commissioned and entered data on a new museum website; and most important of all, recorded the stories of nearly 400 people listed on local war memorials.

The website will be available in mid-May, and we hope to have a formal opening in June, when all those involved in the project will be invited to see how the website operates, and celebrate our joint achievement.

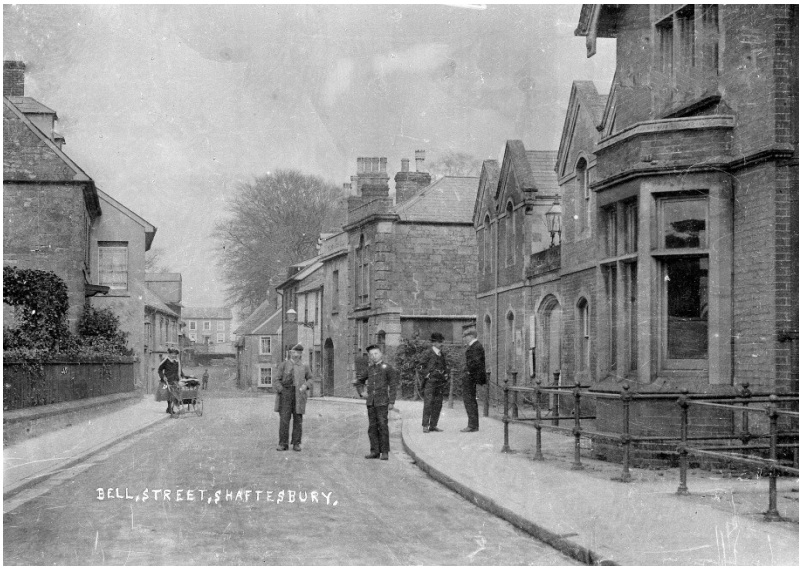
Claire Ryley and Ann Symons, project co-ordinators

Police and Court Matters

Claire Ryley

Shaftesbury was fortunate to have Superintendent Richard Hussey in charge of law and order in Shaftesbury during the Great War.

Richard Hussey had been promoted to the rank of Superintendent in October 1913, and shortly afterwards left Dorchester to take charge of policing in the town and district. He was a widower with two daughters, and his sister-in-law, whom he later married in 1919, came to Shaftesbury with him to look after the girls. The family lived at 29, Bell Street, and the police station was further down Bell Street where the library is now. The white posts topped with crowns are all that remains of the police station today.



Bell Street Police Station, beyond railings

Superintendent Hussey took great pride in getting to know his 'patch' and was supported by a deputy and 11 men.

Initially much of his time was spent in dealing with outbreaks of cattle disease and quarantines, but with the outbreak of war in August 1914, his responsibilities increased greatly.

His first major task in late summer 1914 was to arrange the billeting of six to seven hundred new recruits, ensuring that their temporary homes met the required standard, and that the recruits behaved themselves. He managed this with tact and efficiency and was commended for his ability to liaise between the town and its large intake of men.

His task was made more difficult when some of his constables joined up, but he managed splendidly, as after the billeted men had gone in 1915, he was thanked warmly for his efficiency and effectiveness as billet-master.

At the monthly Petty Sessions held in the Town Hall, Superintendent Hussey often gave evidence, covering crimes such as: failing to send children to school; men not paying

maintenance to their wives; having no lights on vehicles; breaking rules on the movement of animals; cruelty to animals; and dangerous driving. Two typical cases in 1917 are as follows:

Two men were summoned for cruelty to a pig being brought to Shaftesbury Market. The pig fell from the cart in which it was travelling and broke its leg. One man was fined 10/-.

- Driving vehicles without lights was a crime which came up regularly in the courts, and one offender, William Coward was fined 7/6d.

Several cases involved the apparent misappropriation of H.M. Army property. In one case, John Gray of Shaftesbury was summoned for being in unlawful possession of a pair of Australian military boots. He claimed that they had been thrown out to be burnt by the Australian army. At least four other men were similarly charged, but the defence solicitor, Mr Rutter, argued that there was no proof that they had acquired them unlawfully, and all the cases were dismissed.

All visitors to the town had to register at inns under the Aliens' Restrictions Act, and failure to do so resulted in a fine. In 1917 a visitor from Weymouth and his 'wife' failed to register when they stayed at The Mitre Inn. When the woman absconded in the night after robbing the man, he reported it at the police station the following day, and was subsequently fined 10/- for failing to register. History does not record if he ever came back to Shaftesbury after his unfortunate experience.

A special children's court was held for minors, usually dealing with thefts and anti-social behaviour. Parents could be fined as well as their children. Superintendent Hussey reported serious complaints concerning young people obstructing footways in the High Street, particularly on Sunday evenings. The magistrates supported police efforts to stop this anti-social behaviour and fined three boys from Enmore Green. In April 1920, Superintendent Hussey was transferred back to Dorchester to take over the Division where he had started his career. He retired in 1923, and the Dorset County Chronicle published a fulsome article on his career, writing "*As to Superintendent Hussey's work in the police courts, nothing but the highest praise can be written*".

BUILDING CARES

John Parker

The Story of a Door



The door on the Sun and Moon cottage that leads into the Beadster shop is getting rather tatty. It is a modern off the shelf soft wood door, but the paint is peeling, it's beginning to rot and there is a built up concrete threshold that trips up the unwary. The cottage is a Grade 2 listed, so anything other than straight replacement has to be put for approval by Historic England, via our local Planning Department in North Dorset District Council. We might have got away with just putting in a new door, like for like, without asking permission, but, as a charity, we need to be on the right side of the regulations.

So my story starts with getting some good advice from my carpenter friend, Tom Whiteford, and then a deep dive into the innards of the Dorset For You website. This search proved somewhat frustrating but, some Emails to the Planning Dept. eventually came up with a seven-page application form with even more pages of notes on how to fill it out. Ploughing through the form soon revealed that I needed to provide all sorts of plans, a location and block plan diagrams, a description and specification of the proposed works, elevation drawings and floor plans , a heritage statement and, last of all a design and access statement. Then, to cap it all, 6 copies of each!

Well, I did my best using some plans and diagrams that we had used for the Museum renovation and putting in some photographs as well, marked up with the alterations to the tripping hazard threshold. I posted off the lot in a large envelope and went away for a week to recover.

On my return I got a very polite letter with a list of the things that were wrong with my application. I hadn't ticked one of the many boxes, mainly because I couldn't understand or see the sense in the question. My fault but I really had no idea as to whether or not the building had ever been protected from listing. My location and block plans were at the wrong scale as they were A4 copies of an A3 plan. I thought they were a perfectly good indication of where the cottage is and I'm sure they know where Gold Hill is.

I hadn't done a Heritage Statement. They had done the listing so I thought they might know and, in any case it's all on the Internet. I hadn't put in a floor plan. For replacing an external door? I had not included a scale drawing of the elevation of the building and the replacement door that I was proposing. and, last of all, I hadn't put in a design and access statement. I wasn't thinking of altering the access unless there are plans for a new one-way system around the Town Hall.

Feeling somewhat amazed and a little annoyed, I phoned the lady who had written to me. She was very pleasant and understanding of my feelings and was sorry, but, it's the "National Regulations" and she suggested that some people employ surveyors to put in these applications and draw up all the plans! I pleaded poverty as a charity who could hardly afford the door, let alone a surveyor.

So I start again. I do a measured drawing of the new and old door, all to the regulation 1 to 20 scale, enlarge the A4 plans back to A3, tick the last box that I forgot last time, copy the heritage listing from the internet and do a few sentences to describe the unaltered access arrangements and confirm that we will not be altering the floor plan.

The good news is that I don't have to send six copies of it all. That was a requirement on the old application form that hasn't been altered on the web site yet. As a result it only costs me £1.20 to send off the application this time.

A few days later I get a cheerful phone call from the helpful lady. My 16th Feb. application is fine and the forwarded Email tells me that my application will be dealt with as quickly as possible but, if I don't hear from them by 13th April, I can go ahead.

I awaited in trepidation and hope the Beadster will understand why they still haven't got their new door.

However, all is sort well as I got an Email just before the deadline to tell me that I have a grant of listed building consent but subject to five pages of conditions and notes. In particular I have to submit a method statement (unscrewing the hinges etc.?) and minute details of the joinery, glazing and door handles. So now I have to find a willing carpenter who can write down all those details and give us a reasonable quote.

The good news is that I have 3 years to get it done. I sincerely hope it won't take that long!

John Parker

The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society Annual Outing, Tuesday June 6th 2017

This year's outing will take place on Tuesday June 6th. We will be visiting two locations. The first is a private visit to Tisbury Tithe Barn, once an important property belonging to Shaftesbury Abbey and recently restored to its former magnificence.

Our second location, by kind permission of Mrs Morant, is Fonthill Old Abbey, whose history was the subject of a fascinating talk in 2016. Sidney Blackmore of The Beckford Society will talk to us about the history of the Fonthill Estate, both in the tower room and in the grounds. Energetic members can also walk down through the grounds to the lake, which is normally not accessible to the public

We have arranged to have tea at The Angel pub in Hindon.

The cost for the outing, including tea, is £10 per person, and the timetable is as follows:
2 pm Meet at Tisbury Tithe Barn, leaving at 2.40pm

3 pm Meet up again at Fonthill Old Abbey in the tower room for Sidney Blackmore's talk. Maps and books will also be on display.

4-4.15pm Tea will be served (with scones and cake) at The Angel pub in Hindon.

**Booking form for SDHS Annual Outing Tuesday June 6th 2017
May 2017**

Please book by 31st

Number of places booked

Names and telephone number(s)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

Payment is by cash or cheque, and cheques should be made payable to **The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society**

Booking forms can be left at the museum, or posted to:
Gold Hill Museum, Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8JW

Car sharing: If anyone is able to offer a lift, or would like to be offered one, please indicate this on your booking form. Thank you

There is a limit of 45 members for the outing, because of space considerations at the Angel pub.



The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society
Gold Hill Museum, Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, SP7 8JW
Email: secretary@goldhillmuseum.org.uk
Trustee Nomination Form

Name of Nominee:	
Area of interest	

Please explain below in no more than 250 words why you would like to apply for the voluntary position of Trustee of the SDHS and what you feel you could bring to the Society.

Please complete your details and the details of two members of the Society who would be willing to nominate you for the voluntary position of Trustee of the SDHS.

Nominee

Name			
Address			
		Post Code	

Email		Telephone	
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Proposer 1

Name			
Address			
		Post Code	
Email		Telephone	

Proposer 2

Name			
Address			
		Post Code	
Email		Telephone	

Please return the completed form by email or return a hard copy to the Secretary by

2 June 2017



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