

OLD WARDEN HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue 4: April 2018

OUR AIM

We aim to promote interest in and knowledge of the history of Old Warden and surrounding area, including buildings, landscape, people & community and items of historical interest.

We want to support the preservation and security of items of historic interest and to assist the community in carrying out historical projects.

NEWS FROM YOUR SOCIETY:

We may have been quiet in recent months but rest assured that we have been busy with research and planning events for 2018. The major focus is Warden Abbey and completion of our commitments to our sponsors in this project.



13 Oct 2017: Visitors examine our display of the Warden Abbey Geophysics results.



10 Sept 2017 Warden Abbey Vineyard Open Day – a talk in our history tent

OWHHS WEBSITE

Our website is expected to be launched around 1 June 2018. It will initially be quite simple but we will be adding items and enhancing features as we go along. New skills to learn in website management!

WARDEN ABBEY PROJECT

The second major part of the project is nearing completion, an aerial view reconstruction painting to show what the Abbey complex may have looked like around the 1370's. We have been very lucky to receive subject expert advice and support plus the experience and skills of a fantastic specialist artist.

There will be a 'Grand Unveiling' of the painting this Summer – see Events for details. **Save the date and don't miss out – we'd love to see you!**



Greensand Country, stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay



St Leonard's Church: The Sacred Monogram

*OWHHS will be participating in the first **Greensand Country Festival** taking place from 26 May to 3 June 2018. A full guide to events is being published and is also now available on the following website.*

www.greensandcountry.com

“Greensand Country is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside in the heart of Bedfordshire.”



OWHHS ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Sun 27 May 2018: Greensand Festival Event at St Leonard's Church, Old Warden, 10.00am – 16.00pm.

Pop in to see our display of the Warden Abbey geophysical survey results with interpretation panels of the monastic features to be seen in the church such as the C14 stained glass window given to the church by Abbot Walter

Clifton, a monastic grave slab, a sacred monogram, and more. Members of OWHHS will be on hand to answer questions. **Donations for church restoration funds very welcome.**

Sat 16 June 2018: (Closed Event) OWHHS and Warden Abbey Vineyard host the Young Archaeologists Club at the vineyard to share insights into the results of last year's geophys survey. The club is run by The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford.

Fri 20 July 2018: Grand Unveiling of the Reconstruction Painting of Warden Abbey.

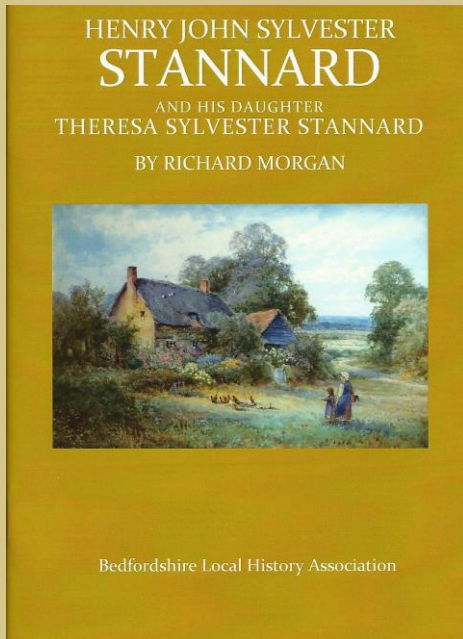
Enjoy being among the first to see an aerial view of Warden Abbey as it may have looked in the latter half of the C14. Our artist, Peter Dunn will explain how a reconstruction is created and the challenges involved. Margaret Roberts will provide a virtual 'Guided Tour' of the claustral complex. Our geophysical survey results will also be on display.

Venue: The Garden Room at The House (Shuttleworth), Old Warden Park, SG18 9EP

Time: 19.00pm arrival for 19.30pm start.

Tickets – advance purchase: £5.00 OWHHS Members, £7.50 non-members, £10.00 at the door (includes Tea / Coffee & Pastries). A secure online ticket purchase system will be announced soon plus facilities for members not online.

Sun 8 Sept 2018: Warden Abbey Vineyard Open Day 11.00am – 4.00pm. OWHHS will again provide a history tent in the Great Vineyard focusing this year on displaying the results of the geophysical survey and our new reconstruction painting. Plans for a talk are also being developed.



PUBLICATIONS

Bedfordshire Local History Association (BLHA) has published its first booklet and member societies including OWHHS has received one free copy to make available to its members. Please contact Christine Hill, OWHHS Secretary, if you'd like to see it. The Stannards unfortunately did not get to paint Old Warden!

BLHA sponsored the production of a booklet to celebrate the lives and achievements of Henry John Sylvester Stannard and his daughter Theresa to coincide with and complement the unveiling of blue plaques on their houses in Bedford.

The Stannard dynasty of artists were larger than life characters in Bedfordshire between 1860–1951. The best-known was Henry John Sylvester Stannard, whose work fell out of favour immediately after his death, but interest has now revived. His daughter Theresa was also an able artist.

There are a limited number of copies available for purchase from the BLHA website at £5, plus p & p.

OWHHS MEMBERSHIP AND HOW TO JOIN

If you know anyone who would like to join the society the membership fee is £10. Payment by bank transfer is preferred, with a confirmation email to the secretary providing your name, address and contact details which will be held securely in our records. Alternatively cheques payable to Old Warden History & Heritage Society may be sent to the treasurer at Orchard Grange, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9HB.

OWHHS Bank Account Details:

Lloyds Bank | Sort Code: 30-90-79 | Account No: 31653668

There will hopefully be something to interest anybody who is curious about Old Warden's past; events, talks, site visits and newsletters. Being a very small society at present people who would like to be active within the society, helping with research, organising events etc, would be very welcome.

Enquiries & Main Contact:

Old Warden History & Heritage Society

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