

THE SWINDON SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017



36 Commercial Road
Swindon SN1 5NS 01793 487777
www.thepropertyshopswindon.com

Welcome to the March edition of the Swindon Society Newsletter.

This evening one of our members, David Bedford, is going to be taking us for a stroll around Swindon. Who knows where we will end up. David has recently had an operation so we are really glad that he is able to be here and pass on his knowledge and findings.

Don't forget to bring your money along next time to get our tickets for the summer outing. We don't want you to be disappointed if you are unable to get a ticket.

The Society was approached by the Austin-Healey club of New England for pictures of Pressed Steel as they wished to write an article regarding the Pressed Steel 60th anniversary in the Healey magazine. The article has been published and we have a copy of it, unfortunately it would take up too much room to reproduce in our Newsletter. If anybody is interested in reading the article, then please contact either Jennie Bridges or myself and we will be only too happy to pass a copy on.



British Road Services transporting Austin Healey car bodies

Radnor Street walks are commencing on 12 March 2017, please see page 4 for more details regarding these.

SWINDON SOCIETY SUMMER OUTING

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017

6.30 FOR 7.00 PM

Come and join your Committee and Friends for a trip on a steam train at the Swindon and Cricklade Railway, Blunsdon

Tickets will be £10.00 per person

Refreshments will be available

Easy access to the train

This outing is extended to your friends and family and not restricted to Society members Tickets will be available at monthly meetings or by sending a sae with your cheque to Nicky Shackell, 7 Claremont Court, Whitworth Road, Swindon SN25 3AS



***GUIDED WALKS AROUND
RADNOR STREET CEMETERY***

There are 33,000 Swindon people buried here. Find out about some of them on our monthly Sunday walks.

They last about 90 minutes

No need to book Just turn up at the Chapel at 13:45

March 12th
April 9th
May 14th
June 11th
July 9th
August 13th
September 10th
October 8th

The Swindon Heritage & Swindon Society Team

Find us on websites, Facebook and Twitter/Phone 07968 246792

ON THIS DAY IN SWINDON AND DISTRICT

- 4 March 1931 Swindon Town Supporters' Club was formed. Its motto is
To help and not to hinder.
- 7 March 1833 27 year old Isambard Kingdom Brunel appointed resident
engineer to the Bristol Committee of the new Great
Western Railway
- 9 March 1912 14,000 spectators watched the Swindon Town victory in
the Quarter Finals against Everton 2-1
- 14 March 1948 Last meeting of the GWR General Meeting, presided over by Chairman Lord Portal
(1945-1948) was held before nationalisation began
- 15 March 1969 Don Rogers scored two extra time goals for Third Division
Swindon Town FC beating Arsenal 3-1 in League Cup Final
at Wembley
- 16 March 2006 Swindon born (23 March 1981) British Olympic athlete, Shelley Rudman, won silver
medal at the Winter Olympics in Skeleton Bobsleigh in a record breaking 2 mins 1.49
secs
- 17 March 2011 BBC Wiltshire presenter Sandy Martin died of a brain tumour aged 53
- 21 March 1928 HM King Amanullah and Queen Sourita (Soraya Tarzil) of Afghanistan visited the GWR
Works in Swindon
- 27 March 1986 GWR Swindon Works doors finally closed after 145 years of business

MEETING WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2017

For our February meeting, Clive Ody, one of our members, brought his cine films showing Swindon in the 1970s. In one of the films shot in the town centre we saw the building of the Brunel Centre and in another he borrowed the Hambro girls and they were shown in various locations in the town centre including the Wyvern and footbridge. The Hambro girls came about from the Summer festivals in which Hambro Life sponsored various concerts and a carnival parade through the town. Does anybody have any memories of either these concerts or being in the parade? Or where you a Hambro girl?

He also brought along a film showing Haymaking in the 1930s this showed it being done with horses not mechanically as today. It all seemed so laborious and dangerous. Whilst watching the film it got me thinking is the advance in technology all for the good?



You now see a lone combine harvester in a field before you would have seen a team. I appreciate that speed is of the essence and that they are always working against the elements and do not want the crop spoilt. The community spirit of haymaking appears to have been lost. At the end of the harvest there would have been the harvest supper.

Technology has affected everybody in all walks of life. For instance, when was the last time you sat and wrote a letter to somebody? With pen and paper? Now it is too easy to send an email and perhaps you will receive a reply instantaneously. Writing a letter, you would sit and tell your friends and loved ones what you had been up to. Remember the joy and excitement of receiving a letter plopped through the letterbox and for it not to be a bill. An email doesn't seem the same somehow. Saying that if you are lucky enough to be able to use skype you can talk to your family and friends face to face to have the chance to see your grandchildren growing up, seeing them grow up in this way outweighs the photograph which doesn't grow as they do.

For research purposes technology can speed the process up. Now you can type the keywords into your search engine on your computer and if you are lucky what you are looking for comes up which saves you the time of going to the library and saves you all that time of looking to get the same answer. Family history research in the past did at times seem tedious but do you remember the thrill of actually researching from the actual document and finding the answer yourself and maybe something more? Looking at the original document may have told you a bigger picture about your family and their neighbours. Also you may have wondered what the person was like who completed the documents.

Technology maybe for the better but it can take over our lives and we forget the values of the past. Who knows a hand written letter written on some lovely stationery chosen by you to a family member or friend may brighten somebody's day. If you have some news to share the old fashioned way may be the best way. I for one will make more of an effort.



THE SWINDON SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

ARE YOU A WEB DESIGNER, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

We are looking to either improve our existing website, or to create a new, more dynamic, one.

As we don't have the necessary skills, knowledge or time at Committee level. Before looking further afield, we would like to give the opportunity for a member, or members, to become further involved with the continuing success of The Swindon Society. The role will entail making regular updates to the website, allowing our members and visitors to keep abreast of events, talks, historical information and photographs etc.

If you are able to offer your services, in this voluntary capacity, please contact any of the Committee in the first instance (you will find our contact numbers at the back of this Newsletter).



Tornado at Swindon Station 1 March 2017 as seen by Nicky Shackell

A Man with a Pic

How long since it last ticked, and where is it?



Written, Verbal, Text answers please to Andy on [07968246792](tel:07968246792) or email ambamwas@yahoo.com

Last month's answer



High up on the Glamo Rose bun shop in the High Street is the "Royal Liver" fire plaque.
At one time if you had no plaque the fire brigade would take no action

EVENTS MARCH TO MAY 2017

Rodbourne Community History Group 7.00 pm

- 29 March *'A Job for Life'* a BBC film about Swindon Works and *'Swindon through the Years Part 6'* a film using excerpts from Swindon Cable presentations
- 26 April TBA

Chiseldon Local History Group – 7.30 pm

Church Hall, Butts Road, Chiseldon SN4 0NN

- 15 March *A History of RAF Lyneham* – by Barry Compton
- 19 April *Lawrence of Arabia 'The Man behind the myth'* by John Winterburn
- 17 May *Salisbury Cathedral* the making and unmaking of a masterpiece by Christophe Rogers

Highworth Historical Society – 7.30 pm

- 27 March *Edward Loveden Loveden* by Nick Shippobotham and Judy Craddock – The story of the life of the founder of Buscot Park
- 24 April *The Mat Factory in Highworth* by Dr Bryan Lawton
- 22 May *The Frome Hoard* by David Crisp

Wiltshire Family History Society – 7.15 pm

- 9 March Members' Evening – Bring an old photograph
- 23 March *The Great Western Railway Village and Cottage* by Michael Stubbs
- 13 April *The Cravens and Ashdown House* by John Farrow
- 27 April AGM
- 11 May *Courtesans, Carrots and Culture* by Mark Collisson
- 25 May *One Place Studies* by Kirsty Gray

SWINDON SOCIETY

PROGRAMME FOR 2016-2017

2017

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|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 8 Mar | A Stroll around the Town in Time | David Bedford |
| 12 Apr | Denis Bird's Swindon Archive | Graham Carter |
| 10 May | AGM followed by Swindon's Finest? | Your Committee |
| 14 Jun | Summer Outing | TBA |

We meet at 19.30 on the second Wednesday of the month at Goddard Park School, Welcombe Avenue, Swindon, SN3 2QN (except June, July and August).

The Swindon Society would like to extend a big thank you to The Property Shop for the printing of this newsletter and their continued help and support

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman

Andy Binks 487922

Vice Chairman

Treasurer

Tony Shackell 694344

Secretary/Contacts

Jennie Bridges 873298 info@theswindonsociety.co.uk

Committee Members

David Bedford 643570

Kevin Bizley Mobile 07769 685931

Kelly Blake Mobile 07786 391997

Diane Everett 613981

Gina Deyager 695546

Angie Phillips Mobile 07759 240776

Nicola Shackell 694344

Bob Townsend 845295

Paul Williams 542111

Newsletter Editor and Website Co-ordinator Nicola Shackell

Email nickyshackell@btinternet.com

www.theswindonsociety.co.uk