

July 2016

Notes of the Meeting of Milton Abbas Local History Group 1 June 2016

Our Milton Abbas Local History Group is gathering momentum. We are now in touch with people who are interested in, or have ancestors who have lived in, Milton Abbas. Recent correspondence has been with Lytham St Annes and new South Wales, Australia. We have also had requests for information from Blandford 14 - 18 group and Radio Solent. If any of our readers can remember the drought of 1976 and the impact on Milton Abbas, please get in touch.

Conversely we have requested information from Hackney Archives and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. We have launched a big new project with research on the Old Town of Middleton or Milton Abbas before it was swept away by Lord Milton and Capability Brown. It was once one of the largest towns in Dorset and a hub of the road network. Lord Milton changed all that of course, and made the new village a quiet backwater. This research will lead us into community and family history, that is the lives and deaths of ordinary people. We already have good records available and there are more to digitize. If any of our readers are interested in this social history do please get in touch - you don't even have to join the history group! - but why wouldn't you? - at £5 per year membership it is the best value history group in Dorset.

Our recent expenditure of over £1000 on a camera, display boards and exhibition in the last two months has been covered by grants received. Thanks again to the Street Fair Community Fund, Valley News, and the Milton Abbas Community Fund.

There is always plenty to do and Michael McAvoy reminded us that he needs more volunteers from Milton Abbas to steward the CB300 exhibition at the Abbey from 10 July for 6 weeks. The duties will be similar to the Abbey stewarding which has been going on for the past few years, e.g. meet people inside the entrance to the Abbey. Literature and briefing will be provided to stewards to answer the visitor's questions. If you can manage a few half day sessions please get in touch.

We were excited when Michael Coleman reported on a metal detectorist's find of a silver bodkin on his land. It is now in Dorset County Museum.

Also if any of our readers or their relatives have photos or documents concerning Milton Abbas please don't throw them out - get in touch with Bryan on 01258 880385

We are now taking a summer break, and our next meeting will be on 7 Sep, 19:30, Reading Rooms.