

# Nov 2016

Notes of the Meeting 5 Oct 2016

We had a tantalising talk from Ron Karley, headmaster Milton Abbas First School from 1985 to 1992, about his early days at the school. He had a display of just some of the many photographs and documents that he collected during his time at the school. Ron will be editing his extensive diaries and sorting his vast collection in memory of John Fifield and Ron will be giving us more information when he has completed the task.

Our World War 1 group have reformed and will be meeting to complete their researches and publish their findings on the impact of the Great War on Milton Abbas, especially on the soldiers from the village. Talking about wars did you know that two men from Milton Abbas were at the Battle of Waterloo! Now that takes you back a bit - to 18 Jun 1815 to be precise.

The Old Town Project researching Middleton is making good progress on both the families that were living in Middleton in the 17th and 18th centuries and the social history of that period including costume, Poor Law and its effect on the people, common lands, etc.. Because we have a small exhibition and our own Visitors Book in St James we now have contact with people who have ancestors from Milton Abbas and are now living in Lytham St Annes and Surrey - they have given us useful information and one of them is even helping with the Old Town Project.

Helier Exon gave us an update on the archaeology during the work on the Abbey. Also a licence from 1907, has come to light, which allowed banns to be read and weddings to take place in the Abbey. Interestingly the attached map confirmed that residents on the north side of the Street could marry in the Abbey, but not those on the south side - a strange arrangement. It seems that the Abbey was licenced specifically so that Angus Valdemar Hambro and Rosamund Maud Kearsley could be married in the Abbey in 1907.

Bryan Phillips began his series of short talks on the History of Milton Abbas. The inaugural talk was on King Athelstan who was responsible for the founding of the Abbey in 934. Next month the talk will be on Milton Abbas in the Domesday Book of 1086, which should be very interesting and give us an idea of how much the place had grown in 150 years.

We are always seeking help so if you would like to boost your skills, explore historic records, and join in our excitement, please get in touch with Bryan on 01258 880385 or email [bryan.phillips2010@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.phillips2010@gmail.com)

Our next meeting is

**Wed 2 Nov 2016, 19:30 Reading Rooms**

Please come along to see what we are up to.