

## **Evenley Village History Society**

This month I am launching the Village History Society which aims to compile an encyclopedia of historical facts, figures, maps and images concerning this lovely village of ours.

This will be available as a 'Wikipedia' style web site to which all villagers can access and contribute.

Simple encyclopedic form e.g. A for Addingtons, S for School, C for Civil War, R for Roman Villas, G for Green, etc.

A few demonstration pages are now available to give people a flavour of what is proposed, and these are less than 1% of what has already been written into the archive I hold on behalf of the village.

Go to: <https://design.beachsure.co.uk/evevilhist>

Without being too prescriptive we welcome all historical research, long or short, which after checking and editing, (not censoring too much!!), will be entered into the web site.

Members will be tasked with research into different topics of their own choosing or pick from a list of topics yet to be researched, e.g. the 1940 'Domesday' type National Land Use Survey, something as simple as dates and times the Flying Scotsman went through the parish, family names and where those families are now, e.g. Toy, Painter, Hopcraft, etc.

Local research can be very worthwhile. For example, I've long been exercised by the overwhelming evidence of a lost village in the parish which has been erroneously named since its discovery in the late 1940s as Astwick. With the help of 18th century maps and Magdalen College Estate records from the 13th century I have proved that the deserted village site in the parish near Croughton is in fact the remains of Eastwick with a population of around sixty to a hundred at its peak, and that Astwick is the shrunken village on the z-bends to the east of the air base. There is now an accredited substantial note and reproductions of the Eastwick Maps on the Historic England web site.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/profile/331872/PHILLIPSCAYSBROOK>

People who have already given considerable time on research include myself, Jaqui Simpson, Gina Harvey, Jane Gibb, Charles Woodgate, the late Les Buggins and Cathy Ellis, but ideally we would like two other editors to share the reading and checking. We propose ten meetings a year, monthly but with breaks in June and December. Volunteers to host with coffee and cake needed. A list of shovel-ready projects with recommended sources is available from me, Phillip Scaysbrook, by contacting me at [philscaysbrook@gmail.com](mailto:philscaysbrook@gmail.com)

Our first 'house' meeting to discuss future projects and elect Society posts such as Treasurer, Chairman, Research Officer, Finds Officer, Social Media Officer, Secretary, will be in June. Those of you who have expressed an interest will be contacted by email.

A longer term aim would be to secure a room or decent space in a building open to the public where artefacts, coins, images, etc could be displayed, off the top of my head, the Pub, (again), the Village Shop, Church, Evenley Wood Garden, come to mind. My wife is getting a little tetchy at the amount and space my collection is taking up at home; nearly 50k of Roman pottery from the main villa site, 40 odd maps, earliest 1624, Roman coins, musket balls and cannon ball from the Brackley Bridge Skirmish in 1642, Victorian clay pipes and pattens, military buttons from Evenley Hall, Iron Age spear tips, auction posters, school photos, etc, etc.

Membership fee will be £15 per annum, £25 for 'corporate' sponsors, mainly to cover web site running costs, but also some help towards research at Northamptonshire Archives, National Record Office etc.

Finally, as an incentive to kick the society off, Nicola Taylor at Evenley Wood Garden has given permission for us to conduct a drone survey in the field at the village side of the Mill Lane/Mixbury Road junction, tantalisingly named "Toy's Grave" on the 18th century Enclosure Map. It is hoped to reveal shadow remains of prehistoric burial mounds which abound in this part of the parish.

This would happen sometime in June or July. Please fill in the form if you want to be involved and indicate the financial contribution you would be willing to make to the equipment hire, though this has been covered by generous donations already. Thank you for your time and consideration. Fill in the Form!!  
Phillip Scaysbrook