


Christingle Service

At the beginning of the Christingle Service we sang our opening song which I liked. Peter Hart explained what Christingle is - the orange represents the world, the ribbon symbolises the blood of Jesus who died for us, the fruits on the cocktail sticks show all the good gifts God gave us and the candle shows the light (Holy Spirit) God gave the world.

Towards the end of the service, me, Lotte, Gabi, Katy, Sophie and Tom helped Peter light and give out the Christingles and we stood in darkness with the church looking magical from the light of the candles. Then at the end of the service Peter asked us all to blow out our candles and relight them at home at 5.30 pm (without setting fire to net curtains or anything flammable!). I put my lighted Christingles in the study window and the landing window and Peter says he saw lots. Did you see any Christingles around Sarratt on Sunday evening?

Elizabeth Mitchell

Cancer Research Campaign

cancer research
campaign 

On Boxing Day, Mrs. Brownsell from the Woodyard, and her "team" had her usual collection for Cancer Research Campaign at the occasion of the Steam Engines and Vintage Car meeting near the Cricketers. She raised £164.08 in spite of the appalling weather conditions that day.

A wonderful result. Well done Mrs. Brownsell. Thank you very much on behalf of the committee.

Mariet Bramall

Sarratt Local History Society

On Wednesday November 25 the Society was privileged to have a talk on the history of their home, Sarratt Mill, by Sir Anthony and Lady Colman.

Sir Anthony started by giving a detailed and fascinating account of the River Chess and the various mills known on it in Roman times, placed at the points where the straight Roman roads crossed rivers. A major road from Verulamium to Silchester was confirmed by 1954 by

aerial photography. This road crossed the Chess at the site of the present road bridge at the bottom of North Hill, continued up North Hill (a great deal wider than the present road), and then on to Chalfont St. Giles to cross the River Misbourne. While no remains of a Roman mill have been found at Sarratt, it would seem likely that with the abolition of slavery in the Roman empire in 318 AD there would have been a need for water power to take over work previously done by slaves. The discovery of Roman coins and oyster shells around Sarratt Mill suggest that there was at least use of the river there, perhaps for "picnics".

Under the feudal system all villagers had to have their corn ground at the Lord of the Manor's mill and he sublet the right in later years to the miller. The earliest reference to Sarratt Mill is in 1528 and 1554 when the millers were fined for stealing corn and charging the peasants too much for grinding their corn. Records then show the conveyance of the mill and manor to a series of owners from the XVI century until the present day. The oldest part of the millhouse dates from the second half of the XVI century.

In 1740 comes a mention of the conversion of the mill from grinding corn to making paper. This was happening to all the local water mills and was due to an increasing demand for paper for the London printing houses. The water was used both to power the paper-making machinery and to wash the rags from which the paper was made. In 1775-9 the mill was rebuilt following a serious fire. By 1851 there were 34 people employed at the mill and as the demand for paper increased, John Dickinson began to buy up local mills.

But in 1859 a huge increase in the import of cheaper paper from abroad and the imposition of a heavy duty on home produced paper caused many mills to close. By 1871 it was no longer a working mill. In 1882 the Duke of Bedford bought it as a fishing lodge. All the buildings except the house were demolished, and the bricks used to add a new wing. Between the wars the Duchess of Bedford went to live there and older villagers can recall her landing her aircraft in adjacent fields. During the second war evacuee children from London were housed there. In 1854 following the death of the Duke the house was sold to new owners who planted the orchard.

After a series of questions and comments from the large audience a vote of thanks was proposed by Margaret Stratford and passed with acclamation.

Robin Gain