

I found out about the above whilst visiting the Historical Society 'Hatch, Match and Dispatch' open day in the village hall. As ever it was well attended with lots of interesting pictures and documents on display. One of the archives there has the history of the Burying of the Hatchet. No doubt quite a few of you will be familiar with this event but if you are not I will give you a brief resume of this historic day in the story of our village. Back in 1934 the universities of Oxford and Cambridge were at loggerheads and their traditional rivalries were getting out of hand and threatening to do harm to both establishments. It was decided that peace should be made and the hatchet buried for good. This having been decided upon the question arose as to where to carry out a ceremony. It was sensibly decided that this should happen half way between the two places. A map was produced and the point was found to be Sherington and so it was decided that on 24th February 1935 they would all meet on The Knoll to affirm a vow of peace and wash away all animosity under the waters of the village pump that is still there today, although sadly no longer working. This event achieved national publicity and was front page news in the Daily Mirror and Daily Sketch and made it into most of the other national papers. 60 years later we re-enacted the ceremony on 25th February 1995 with the help of the editors of Isis and Varsity and this drew a large crowd of onlookers who watched the proceedings with interest, many repairing afterwards to The Swan to sample the ale, and, of course, Ellie's Hatchet Pie. You may wonder why I am rambling on about this but there is a good reason. A couple of months back I was asked about the event by Councillor Debbie Brock, former mayor of Milton Keynes, and I told her that I had had a bit to do with the re-enactment and that there was quite a bit of archive material to be found. Debbie is very involved with the MK Rose project. This is a new and spectacular public place being built on the site of the old pond in Campbell Park and will eventually have 140 granite pillars, each of which will celebrate a particular event. She asked if she could bring the artist, Gordon Young, round to talk about what went on and he duly came to see me. Surprisingly he had found out about the original event through on-line research and he wanted to know what we would think about having this celebrated as part of the MK Rose. I am delighted to say that 'Burying the Hatchet' will be on one of the pillars. The Rose will be completed shortly and be officially opened on Saturday 9th November. If you want to know more about the Rose then just put in MK Rose to Google or another search engine.

Mike Bowley