



CHILTERN
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Museum *Update*

Spring 2010



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What's on in 2010

MARCH

27 - 28 Campaign '45 - Meet 1940s Soldiers

APRIL

2 - 5 Hands-on-Spectacular

10 - 11 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder*

17 - 18 Victorian Soldiers' Training Camp - The Diehards

24 - 25 Best of British Craft - Highlighting local craft talents

MAY

1 - 3 For King or Country - *English Civil War Society*

8 - 9 Join in on the Farm - *Lambing as it used to be*

15 - 16 Guide Camps through Time

22 - 23 Join in on the Farm - *Traditional Working Horses*

29 - 31 England v Scotland - Red Coat Soldiers, Dragoons and Jacobites - *Lace Wars re-enactment*

JUNE

5 - 6 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder*

12 - 13 Medieval cooking and weaponry - *Pelican in her Piety*

19 Traditional toys and games

20 Heavy Horse Show and Fathers Day Special - *Hertfordshire Heavy Horse Association.*

26 - 27 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder*

JULY

3 - 4 Bog Standard - *Early Privies and Public Conveniences*

10 - 11 Join in on the Farm - *Harvesting the corn*

17 - 18 Chiltern Art Weekend

24 - 25 Classic Vehicles Show

31 Skill at Arms Display - *Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company*

AUGUST

1 Skill at Arms Display - *Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company*

7 - 8 Meet the Roman Army - *Roman Military Research group.*

14 - 15 Medieval Pageant - *Lion Rampant Medieval Display Society.*

21 - 22 Victorian Times, Explorers and Discoveries

28 - 31 Soldiers, Ship Taxes and Skirmishes - *17th Century Life and Times*

SEPTEMBER

4 - 5 The Celtic Home

11 - 12 Join in on the Farm - *Cultivating the fields*

18 - 19 Traditional Crafts

25 - 26 Knit One Purl One - Knitting Weekend

OCTOBER

2 - 3 Traditional Harvest Festival

9 - 10 The Big Draw - *Family Art Activities*

16 - 17 Traditional toys and games

23 - 24 Building Blocks - *Be a traditional builder*

29 Halloween Spectacular (6.00 pm - 9.00 pm)

NOVEMBER

20 Annual Charity Auction

www.coam.org.uk

Information Line : 01494 872163

Museum Office : 01494 871117

If you are able to help at any of these events, please let Autumn Acker or Melissa Maynard know.

News from the Boss

One evening in late December I emerged from my office at some unspecified time of night and was horrified to find several feet of snow and a blizzard outside, which had managed to accumulate in a matter of just a few hours. These Alaskan conditions welcomed in the new year and continued for most of January. Even February has had threatening flurries of snow virtually every week. The Narnian like appearance of the Museum site was attractive for the first few days but the difficulties of operating and caring for the animals soon put paid to such fairytale views!

As things returned to normal, we were delighted to welcome two new staff members with Autumn Acker as the new Visitor Services Officer and Sara Wright as the new Administrative Officer, both of whom have been a great help in their first month of employment at the Museum. We also welcome a number of new volunteers and would encourage you all to spread the word to all your friends and acquaintances to help particularly with the tickets and shop functions at the Museum.

The winter has been as busy as ever here



Henton Mission Room and Legrave Cottage in the Snow

with the continuation of the erection of a new steel storage building behind the PortaKabin at Wood End, and the hope of a donation of much needed shelving from Maidstone Museum to help store some of the larger artefacts not currently under cover.

The snow did not deter comedy duo Mitchell and Webb from filming sketches for their new show at the Museum during January. I was even invited to join one of the sketches as an extra while they filmed in Thame Vicarage Room, so I look forward with eagerness to see if I have made it into the final cut and to my equity card.

Jennie Booth and her volunteers have been continuing to work throughout the cold winter on the documentation plan to locate and document all outstanding artefacts around the Museum. This year they are hoping to occasionally open up Gerrards Cross Hut for an hour or two during holidays or weekends to allow visitors a chance to look round our stores.

John Hyde-Trutch, Melissa Maynard and some of our 1940s re-enactor contacts have been working to create an RAF Briefing Unit in the first two bays of the Nissen Hut



Mitchell and Webb filming in Marsworth Stable

from Sewell opposite the Prefab. This will be in place for the first weekend of the season for visitors to enjoy with some interactive elements to the display. Building volunteer David Knight has also constructed a dormer window for the exhibit bays as a common feature of Nissen huts at this time. It has led to the creation of a new feature known as a “Nissen Dormer”.

For much of the winter building volunteers have relocated to Northolt Barn using it as a workshop space to carry out much needed repairs to the living van, which has previously been used as a work hut beside Haddenham Cottage.

The new cherry orchard is resplendent in Thomas’s Field with crown top Victorian style tree guards protecting the new cherry trees planted in December a few days before the snow began. Thank you so much to all those who participated in the sponsorship of the trees –there has been a terrific response but there are more trees still to come when they are ready so there is still time to donate towards this wonderful Chilterns site project! We are grateful to the Chilterns Conservation Board for a grant awarded in December

last year to support this project too.

Planning for the completion of Astleham Garden has continued over the winter and the better weather in the spring should see the completion of the brick paths, fabrication of period gates and the planting of appropriate shrubs, bushes and plants in the prepared beds. Our wonderful volunteer blacksmiths have undertaken the task of manufacturing some metal benches suitable for the Edwardian period. Some of the farm team have been restoring an Edwardian Aviary for the garden and work on a shepherds hut has begun to create a shed for storage in the garden.

The local Scouts from the 2nd Denham troop have also created a new attraction for visitors behind the Maidenhead Pavilion, the Friends Centre by clearing the overgrown Copse area and digging and laying a new path during two weekends in February and March this year. Leader Guy Jenkins and volunteer Robert Mackenzie, have also put in much preparation time to ensure this area is now pleasant for visitors to use. The Friends kindly paid for the tree surgery to be done in advance to ensure the safety of the area.



Guy Jenkins and the Scouts creating the new path in Jenners Copse



Site volunteers building the new brick path to the Volunteers room

There have been some significant improvements to the car park too thanks to a generous donor. This year the old tarmac at the entrance gate has been completely removed and replaced with the same road stone used in the rest of the car park, considerably improving the overall appearance.

Some of you may be aware that we would like to build a new themed playground to replace the current one. During the latter part of last year, designers from different companies were exploring ideas for new play equipment that reflect the historic and rural environment of the Museum site. We have selected a company which is now working on developing ideas and costings to allow the Museum to seek appropriate funds to realise this project in the future.

The Museum Family and Education leaflets have been completely redesigned with clever use of the logo to make a striking leaflet and our advertising this year will also be based on this template. We are most grateful to all those who help us by distributing these leaflets to different locations. Please let Jacky Brookes know the areas in which you can help distribute



Autumn and Sara promoting the new season's leaflets

leaflets and posters.

The Museum site map is also being redesigned as there are now many new site and building features not marked on the present map and we hope that we will also be able to use the back of the map to promote the forthcoming events in the same publication for visitors instead of the welcome leaflet this season.

We are delighted to offer our award winning audio tour for the start of the season as a new and exciting interpretation feature for our visitors. The content has been improved over the winter by Melissa and Volunteer Emma Parsons with new technical content by John Hyde-Trutch coming soon. There is much to look forward to in the 2010 season with a packed timetable of special events and new family and schools activities, especially focusing on the Iron Age House thanks to the efforts of the Education team. Congratulations to the Education team too on the receipt of another quinquennial Sandford Award for Excellence in Heritage Education in 2009.

As ever your time, hard work and enthusiasm for the Museum is crucial to the success of the operation of the Museum and our invaluable traditional projects. We are grateful to the Friends for supporting our events and developing their own event programmes with new ideas to raise money to support the work of the Museum. Thank you so much to you all for what you do for the Museum.

*Sue Shave,
Museum Director*

Buildings News

Now **that** is what I call a winter! Some decent snow at last and some interesting journeys to and from work.

The major project for the winter was to repair the Living Van we have been using at Haddenham as a site hut. We knew there were some problems with it and it definitely needed a coat of paint – but we weren't quite prepared for what we actually found. So much so that we have been unable to complete all the repairs—we will have to have another go next winter. We also soon discovered that the builders had never intended that it should come apart.

The entire cill running the length of the van on one side was completely rotten and has been replaced, and in the process we have had to put new ends on nearly all of the wall studs, and replace one entirely. Two corner posts were replaced – and I can tell you that was not easy! – a third needed a new bottom. On all three corners we had to splice on new sections to the end cills. The fourth corner also needs extensive cill repairs, but not this year.

The long side cills are supported on three transverse bearers and a large beam that contains the pivot for the steering bogey, all of these were rotten at the end, and had to be cut back to allow the new cill to be fitted. It was then a matter of crawling underneath to carry out in-situ repairs to scarf on new ends to support the new cill – all good fun! Interestingly, two of these were of ash and the third elm. The pivot beam had been sawn off historically, and a piece of 3 x 2 nailed on to provide support. We were unable to repair this beam – it needs to be removed entirely – so a section of 3 x 2 oak was fixed on as a replacement splint.

We've replaced a lot of the cladding, and sections of the floor boards. I had no intention originally in doing anything with the windows, but as we ended up removing two of them, we decided to return them to their original form as sash windows. At the time of writing the rear window has yet to be fabricated and may not be completed before we open.

We put the van in Northolt barn, and everyone involved will tell you how complicated that was –not a lot of clearance!



Repairs on the Living Van in Northolt Barn

The weather of course did not help, even in the barn we were snowed on, and it was often so cold we couldn't glue the repairs.

We would have got more done, but we also needed to repair and re-paint the Toll Gates. These were put in the Kabin where they could dry out and there was a chance that the paint would actually dry. They look nice and smart now, and should be good for several years – especially if the Toll House Stewards wash them occasionally!

While we were at it, we rebuilt the backing frame for the Toll Board and gave it a coat of paint as well, so it all looks really good. We just need to get the front doors repainted and the whole area will be pristine.

While I'm writing about the Toll House, we have replaced the range in the kitchen. It is still incorrect for date, but this one can be used. Thanks to Brian Hale who has carried out the few necessary repairs.

I have also done some work on the clock housing, including adding a levelling device, hopefully I can get it to run for



Nissen Hut from Sewell now completed

longer than 5 minutes this year – watch this space.

Still in repainting mode, we had to remove and repaint the Mens doors on Caversham as the paint had peeled in places.

Mel had been complaining about the state of the floor in Thame, amongst other things, so just to keep her quiet the floor was sanded and recoated; and just to keep it in the family Chris seemed to think the rotten set of steps at the Tea Room ought to be replaced. Well, they were, and one side of the post and rails on the bridge for good measure – I shall expect beer and bacon butties!

The Nissen Hut from Sewell was completed at the end of the season, with the sixth and final bay being erected and clad and the repaired end fitted, this time with new doors. Hopefully by the time you read this the exhibit end will be completed. It will be fitted out as a WW2 RAF briefing room.

David Knight has gone into operatic mode this winter; he has been making a window for the hut – a “Nissen dormer” – which will be fitted during March.

So, what else is there to do before we open?

Must put the new stove in the Shepherd's Hut before the lambing starts; the roof of the Iron Age House needs some extensive repair work; need to replace the ramp at Maidenhead, which reminds me that we haven't fitted the replacement porch floor side yet; now who else is complaining?

.....

*John Hyde-Trutch
Buildings Manager*

Site and Farm

'That Book'

It started with a simple enough suggestion by Verena, while we were discussing interpretation of the new cherry orchard- 'Why not look in that book of yours and see if you can find something about cherries in there?' It was a good idea, and one that yielded a couple of results, but it just seems to keep getting more interesting and more involved than that.

'That book' is entitled The General Acco.^t Book 1758, (they say you should never judge a book by its cover). I acquired it a couple of years ago, and despite being constantly drawn into short forays, I have never really gone through it steadily and systematically.

Armed now with a definite reason why I should, I started dragging it to bed with me as my bedtime reading. (I say dragging as it measures about one by one and a half feet and must weigh a couple of pounds) My partner commented that I looked like some latter day Scrooge, pouring lovingly over my records of accounts late at night!

There are two different parts to the book. There are whole sections of neatly drawn (and rather dry) accounts records in a beautiful copperplate hand. Then scattered in a rather chaotic manner throughout, filling in sections of blank pages in between these, are a series of more notes and account records in a casual and somewhat harder to read hand. These mostly relate to activities directed from the Newland Park Estate from the 1770's to the early 1800's.

My earlier incursions into the book had been fascinating, but I was unclear about

who had actually written these notes. I had pictured some kind of bailiff or steward on the estate, just using up the blank bits of paper in an old ledger, for what appeared to be casual notes on his activities. There were records of the names of the hounds, household servants and their terms of their employments, quantities and prices of timber and wood loads sold and so on; then here or there a few notes with a slightly more personal ring- what flowers were out and when, the odd chance remark on the weather.

Then I came across one note, which stood out even before I finished reading it- not only a date had been recorded, but a precise time, such as we only really take note of in the most personal of our experiences:

"1787 Aug^t-29 Wednesday 20 minutes past four o' clock a.m. My Dear Daughter Sarah Whitcombe was safely deliver'd of a daughter and named Ann"

Finally, here was something that with a little bit of genealogical research, I knew could tell me who the person was who had written all this. Half an hour later, and kicking myself for having skimmed the



notes that a previous owner of the book had left in it, which had some of the family's details on it, I realised that the author was actually Sir Henry Thomas Gott himself, owner of Newlands Park from 1770 to his death in 1809. In this one personal note and the revelation it held, I had suddenly crossed the divide of over 200 years. I now had some kind of vision of the man who scrawled on these parchment pages. I could feel the presence of someone who knew this land that I work every day, and who cared for it. I could almost picture him writing in this calf skin bound volume, in the late evening by candlelight in some room of that huge and currently rather forlorn looking manor house just by the Museum.

Thoreau in his inspiring essay 'Walking' talks about one of the possible roots of the word 'saunterer' as coming from the French 'sans- terre', without land; something about this always struck a deep chord in me. I fear that I am firmly of another, second camp who feel the need to attach to the land under ones feet, to be 'avec terre' perhaps, to stay in one place long enough to root in its sense of place. To be 'grounded' in a wholly other meaning of the word. Here now was grounding.

It was sobering to stand in our front car park at dusk inspecting the excellent repairs done by Agripower, to turn round to the pond there and almost feel Sir Henry striding back to the house to record:

"May 23rd 78 Fish put in Island Pond 100 Pearch, 10 Carp, 20 Tench} All Small"

To think back to that stillness at the Museum on those many snowy days this winter, where the silence and numbing cold of it all brings a timeless quality to

the place, some kind of stilling of the restless and ceaseless activities of mankind levelled by the basic facts of nature. To know Sir Henry probably walked out here across this same land to see how his deer were faring in the snow (That's red deer by the way, must have looked grand roaming around this place!) and recorded:

"Jan^y 5th 76 a deep snow fall and frost which lasted one month (the snow as high as the Park Gate about 6 feet and in many places as high as the Pales)"

I cannot help too but feel an affinity for his lack of continuity in all but the most essential record keeping. I know my keeping of a work diary almost waxes and wanes with the moon, so to see that (other than some accounting information) one of the few records for the year 1774 is

"Nov^{er} 10th 74 We had a plate of our nice green peas but no flavour"

made me feel better (and I mean he had servants and I'm guessing something like 6 tenanted farms on his estate!). The affinity goes further too- I have spent long evenings this winter revising planting plans for the new garden at Astleham which is pacing on to completion. Sir Henry came from a line of esteemed gardeners (though I think it predates his Newland days), and must have spent many long evenings filling out those neat copperplate accounts that form the 'drier' pages of the book. My though! He really did gardens in style; those accounts are for the King's gardens at Windsor, Kensington, Brentford, St. James's and Richmond which he was 'keeper of' until around 1770.

How much more mundane then must it

have felt to be filling in pages and pages with the likes of

“Shrubs Wood March 17th 81 [Shrubs wood is near the entrance to the Museum] To Rich^d Iden (miller) at Chalfont S^t P One L.^a of billets 0=12=0 One Hundred of Faggots 0=4=0 Carriage of A^o 0-5-0 £1 = 1 =0”

I think my long suffering volunteers will have felt this sense of repetition of toil as they help load up the umpteenth trailer load of firewood this winter and flog on with the never ending chores that make a wood managed. How one longs for the satisfaction of the end of a job; a feeling painted in this little vignette for a local place that many of you will know, Gott’s Obelisk outside the NSE in Chalfont Common

“27th May 1785 Finish’d the Obelisk and Stephen drank a pint of ale sitting on the Ball”

Standing in front of Gott’s Obelisk and picturing this moment, is a strange experience.

The landscape is somewhat like a tablet of stone, that each generation carves its own particular meaning onto. So many of our individual memories are hung on places, by which action we each hieroglyph our own personal meanings on to the stone. As a society collectively, we also physically constantly remodel it to suit our present needs. Nature then, and the passing of time, constantly wear away at it, and succeeding generations carve on the top, over and over, thus the stone seems on the face of it to be exclusively ours, and of the present and show no other

meaning than that we invest it with. And suddenly a text like this, albeit fleetingly, wipes away all our current writings, and shows us those of a past generation.

Two things become clear. How quickly the messages that mean everything to one generation can become eclipsed by all that follows, and yet how strangely they persist, every subtle bump in its contour carrying its own import , so that this tablet of stone, our landscape, holds a record, a memory of everything it was before. The insignificance of our present concerns is laid out before us, yet at the same time the immortality of our actions becomes clear.

And thus back to the simple suggestion that started all this, ‘something about cherries’:

[clearly 1778, but undated:] *“Graft Codling on a crab stock pigh[?] the spring next abbots grove and Kentish Cherries”* [Abbots Grove is just to the north West of the Museum]

And for me the mysteries and sense of kinship only deepen. In checking some facts for this article tonight, I found that



Sir Henry Gott was born Henry Thomas Greening, changing his surname to Gott by deed poll in 1769.

orchard. Two of which are for my late grandparents Frank and Marjorie Greening...

Tonight, I will finish sorting out the name and dedication plaques for the new cherry

Conway Rowland
Site and Farm Manager

New for 2010

Chiltern Life Audio Tours

Enjoy a visit to the Museum with one of our new award winning audio tours. Learn more about the history of our historic buildings and the lives of the people connected with them.

Coming soon: *How our buildings were constructed*

These are tours for you and we really want to know what you like and don't like about them.

Over the summer we would like to record further entries to add to the existing tour. To do this we need your help to create a wish list of ideas, scripts and even voices.

If you'd like to help or have any suggestions just ask for me or Autumn when you are next at the Museum.

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer

Education News

A fun packed year ...

Whether you want to just enjoy a slice of cake and a coffee or have the opportunity to fire a cannon there is plenty for you to see and do this year.

Come and try the new audio tour and listen to some of the stories that came with our buildings. Then enjoy the discovery of uncovering the past in our new displays.

Of course our ever popular Holiday Club will continue this year with a day in April exploring the Chilterns and four days of fun in the summer holidays taking part in traditional childhood activities.

This all takes place nestled in a full programme of weekend events, where you can talk to villagers as they prepare for

battle or just go about their everyday lives. This year we have invited many of our favourite groups back to the Museum as well as inviting new groups to join us.

And don't forget we can always help with a school visit, a family day out or a party – Sara and I will be happy to help so just give us a call or email us.

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer

MP3 PLAYERS & 1940s MUSIC WANTED

**Do you have either a working MP3
player or docking station spare?
We would like to use it to run memory
recordings or period music
in the Prefab**

You can now follow the Museum on:

facebook

Classic Vehicles Show

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 July

Last year we had rows upon rows of gleaming, sparkling classic vehicles, lined up in the sun. We all enjoyed seeing these beautiful vehicles so thank you to everyone who brought them along.



We are now taking bookings for this year's show. If you would like to bring your vehicle along please contact Sara at 01494 875542 or officecoam2@btconnect.com

We are also able to offer advertising space in the programme and on our website as sponsorship for this event. If you have a business that you would like to advertise please let Sara Wright know.

You are invited to join in the fun
this Easter 2—5 April

Hands on Spectacular - Good Friday to
Easter Monday



See how people used to live in our cottages and visit Sharpe's rifles on Easter Sunday and Monday. Take part in the Easter challenge to win a chocolate egg with lots of activities for you all to do. You may even see lambs born if you are lucky!

Family activities every day of the holiday

- ◆ Help to build a model barn or make a rag rug.
- ◆ Visit our new displays and play some games.
- ◆ Become a Victorian child and go to school.



For King or Country? Saturday 1 - Monday 3 May

It is the height of the English Civil War, and no-one can escape the choice between the King or Cromwell's Parliament.

As the Royalist troops camp within the village there are rumours that the Parliamentarians are close by with a skirmish bound to happen by the end of the afternoon.

Visit the kitchen workers to find out what the officers and soldiers will be eating today. And if you are brave enough, the surgeon will be happy to talk to you about the gruesome injuries suffered by the soldiers and the ways that he might be able to help them.

Then, as the beat of the drums gets ever louder, you know that the men are marching to battle.



England v Scotland Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May



The red-coated officers are billeted in one of our cottages that looks out at a camp full of soldiers. Rumours abound of Jacobite rebels being close by. As the soldiers practise their drill, the cavalry help them train by trying to break through their defences.

Visit the cavalry's magnificent horses as they rest. Then see the difference between life in the camp for the soldiers and their families, and life for the officers.

And of course you mustn't forget to visit the feared Scots who, if the spy's word can be taken as truth, will be attacking the English at 3 o'clock (but don't tell anyone!).

Sovereign the Shire Horse 1991-2010

Very sadly we lost Sovereign early this year and he will be sorely missed by everyone who visits, and works at, the Museum.

How can I describe him? “Outstanding in his field and a model volunteer.”

On site 24/7, although he was sometimes rather elusive and not visible. He only required the occasional day off in the year, but was always happy to use those days to go out on Museum business.

Sovereign didn't eat cake or drink coffee or tea (probably only because Robert did not allow him to), but looked forward to his occasional visits to the café for lunch and a chat. He only drank water, ate carrots, adored parsnips, needed grass and more grass. He did enjoy a good birthday party, especially his own, and would enter into the spirit of it as long as the party games involved carrots.

He was sometimes rather muddy, (like many other farm and buildings volunteers), but scrubbed up well, although the new COAM fleece didn't fit him.

Whilst he also excelled at ‘Meet and Greet’, because he loved interacting with the public, he did need to improve on getting Gift Aid forms completed when near Blythe Road.

He always considered himself to be extremely helpful and always liked to know what was going on.

As a farm volunteer, Sovereign was versatile and efficient at carting, rolling and harrowing. Also, a keen hedge trimmer and strimmer of verges, but he specialised in digging trenches (in the wrong place) and could often be found leaning against a fence, unfortunately to its detriment.

An occasional buildings volunteer, although ‘hadn't got much clue’, according to the Buildings Manager. However, it was universally acknowledged that he was a steady worker and didn't require many tea breaks.

He was an enthusiastic fundraiser, who was willing to sell his old shoes for the benefit of the Farm Equipment Fund. Most of all, Sovereign loved being at the Museum and we loved having him here.

Verena Clark



Sovereign conducts an official inspection of Henton Mission Room

Bill the Goat (a few years ago – 2009)

I was Bill's closest and most trusted friend and I have to say that Joey, Tom and I are all very sorry to lose Bill. His swan song (or should that be goat song?) was his starring role in the last series of Horrible Histories, where he had to endure hours of eating his favourite hedgerows while waiting in the "green room" to be called for his 0.2 seconds of fame. Other indignities included wearing a wedding dress and posing in a Greek shopping channel. Of course I am far more experienced in media starring roles as I was the poster goat for the Volunteering England exhibition a few years ago, along with the Assistant Lord High Farm Manager Mr Howell. But it was my beautiful white coat and attractively curly locks that they really wanted. I cannot think what possessed the Farm Manager to choose Bill instead of me for the television series. Perhaps he felt sorry for him because Bill was always being goat pecked by Tom. Everyone said how good Bill was on set and the Producer Caroline just loved

Bill to pieces. Only one take each time apparently. Of course, I would have looked much better in a wedding dress – it would have matched my coat. Well now the Farm Manager can't help but choose me and I will humbly oblige my adoring public. Just to prove a point, the film crew from Mitchell and Webb just loved me when they filmed in the farm yard in January. Well no, I wasn't actually in the sketch, but the crew could not tear themselves away from admiring me and I don't think they paid much attention to the human stars. Bill – we all miss you but thank goodness I am still here to console the visitors.

*Oscar
(the REAL star)*



Best of British Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 April

Join us as we welcome British craftspeople to the Museum this weekend. This small crafts show highlights the skill and creativity of our local area. With pickles, treen and jewellery there is something to interest your whole family.

With the backdrop of our beautiful landscape and buildings we will also show you the traditional crafts of the Chilterns. Try your hand at lace making, rag rug making and furniture making, amongst many others.

Volunteering

I shan't be saying this again...

I said last October that this would be my last season as Stewards organiser, so hello to whoever is going to volunteer to take over from me. I hope to hear from you soon, so that we can run the season together and I can leave without any qualms.

But first, welcome back to all of you who are going to steward the buildings, man the ticket office, and help in the café and in the Friends' Centre and do a thousand and one jobs around the site over the next seven months.

As last year, we have a special activity every weekend through the season; we will have a new building open to the public – the Nissen hut from Sewell. Perhaps the steward in the Prefab can keep an eye

on that bit of the 1940s too. The Toll House has a new working kitchen range, so the steward there can light three fires! (We do appreciate fires in the Toll House, for the good of the fabric of the building). And you can admire the bright shiny re-painted toll gates, and the refurbished site caravan at Haddenham – we didn't realise just how decrepit the woodwork was till we started work on it.

A steward in Leagrave, one in the farmyard, in the Iron Age House ... you volunteer, we'll find you a job.

Hope to see you often through the season, especially the 75% or so of our readers who have not volunteered yet – it's you I'm after!

Tom Crosby
Volunteer Liaison

Young Volunteers Club

2010 DIARY

Saturday 10 April
Saturday 8 May
Saturday 12 June
Saturday 10 July
Saturday 11 September
Saturday 9 October
Saturday 13 November

NEW TIMES: 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Parents will be asked to complete a consent form before anyone can take part in the activities. All young people taking part will be supervised by a Museum volunteer.

We would like to ask for a small voluntary contribution of £2.50 per child to cover a snack from the Museum café (to include a soft drink; a packet of crisps & a chocolate bar or fruit & biscuits) & other equipment.

Melissa Maynard, Education Officer, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park,
Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. HP8 4AB
Tel: 01494 875542 Email: education@coam.org.uk

Pity – it was a nice story!

Section 7.3 of Haversham in the Fact Pack reads as follows:

“William and his wife, Charlotte, had no children. They brought up a relation of Charlotte’s as their son. His name was Henry Pike, and he inherited the farm from William – hence the name Pike’s Farm.”

Indeed Henry Pike did inherit the farm from William Greaves;

Unfortunately it was not the people mentioned above – nice story, shame it’s absolute drivel!

Confused? Well pay attention and read on.

In the 1841 census for Haversham there is indeed a William Greaves and his wife Charlotte with no children, and living with them is Henry Pike.

However, whereas William, aged 45, is listed as a farmer, Henry is also 45.

Now, move on a few pages in the census return and lo and behold, at Field Farm, is another William Greaves, also a farmer, living with a 75 year old woman of independent means, possibly his mother.



Interestingly the previous entry is for the Manor House, where one Edmund Greaves – Grazier – is living; also with a lady of independent means of 75, but also with one of 70 years as well.

With it so far? Good, well done.

Now, in 1851 we find Edmund, aged 45, still at the Manor House, farming 600 acres, but with his nephew – Henry Pike aged 14; and at Field Farm is William Greaves, now aged 48, with two older sisters; farming 240 acres. Now both Edmund and William were born in Abthorpe in Northamptonshire, whereas Henry hails from Atworth in Wiltshire. The other William and Henry are no longer around.

1861 sees Edmund still at the Manor House, though now he is married – to Charlotte! He is now only farming 316 acres.

Meanwhile over at Field House, just next door, William is still there farming 230 acres, this time with a younger widowed sister.

Just a few pages further on we find one Henry Pike, married to Emma, farming 316 acres. Henry is from Hatworth in Wiltshire. The farm is not named. He has a young son John.

Still with it? Questions will be asked at the end!

In 1871 Henry is now living at the Manor House farming 632 acres. (clue – $316 + 316 = 632$). He is still with his wife Emma, but no mention of his son.

No mention of William this year, but over at Field House – now known as

“H. Pikes Field House” is William Sharp – a shepherd with his wife and daughter.

We move on to 1881 – Henry and his wife are at the Manor House, and his son John Henry is back with them. Henry is still farming 632 acres.

Field House is now occupied by a new tenant - Alfred W. Greaves (confused? So am I) farming 205 acres. Now this chappie hails from Fritwell in Oxfordshire and has a wife and three young daughters and an unmarried sister. He also has in the house a young governess, whose name just happens to be Alice Greaves from Caldicote in Bucks. Are they related? Answers on a postcard please.

It is now 1891, and there is no sign of Henry or his son. The Manor House is occupied by James Hollis a Farm Bailiff. Alfred William Greaves is still there, with his wife and now four daughters, a son and a brother, but the address is now Haversham Fields

In 1901 Alfred has died but his widow Anabelle is running the farm, the address

is: Field House; but by 1911 it has been taken over by the son Alfred Alexander Greaves living at Haversham Fields.

Well, you are going to have to wait another ten years for the next instalment, though we know that Pikes Farm, comprising five farms, was bought by Buckingham County Council in 1910.

So maybe it should have been ‘Edmund and his wife Charlotte’ or maybe an earlier researcher got mixed up, but then we are told that William Greaves inherited the farm from his uncle Alexander in 1835, in which case where does Henry come into it? It would appear that Henry had taken over the farm by 1871. Presumably Edmund and William were related, but how? In which case, Henry and William were related.

Fascinating; just goes to show, never accept research without checking, and never ever try to sort it out.

*John Hyde-Trutch
Buildings Manager*

Chilterns Vernacular Building Skills Courses

Working With Lime

17 September 2010
9.00 am—4.30 pm

Working with Brick

24 September 2010
9.00—4.30 pm

Working with Flint

15 October 2010
9.00 am—4.30 pm

- ◆ All courses cost £95 per person per day
- ◆ Lunch & Light refreshments included
- ◆ Max Number: 15 on each course
- ◆ Tools and Equipment will be provided
- ◆ All courses may be subject to change

For more information and bookings phone 01494 875542 or email office-coam2@btconnect.com

Arborfield Adventurers Holiday Club



Join us this year for activities, trails and lots of fun.
Each day there will be a different theme so choose a day or come to all.

Chiltern Wonderland

Thursday 15 April
10 am until 4 m

For 5 to 12 year olds:
£25 per Child

Children's Pastimes

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 August

5 to 7 year olds 9.30 am until 12.00 pm
each day: £10.50 per Child

8 to 12 year olds 1.30 pm until 5.00 pm
each day: £12.50 per Child

Melissa Maynard, Education Officer, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park,
Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. HP8 4AB

Tel: 01494 875542

Email: education@coam.org.uk

The Museum Shop

A warm welcome awaits all visitors and volunteers to the Museum Shop, situated in Blythe Road and organised by Beryl Howell and Hazel Howe.

They have both been volunteers for many years and have helped previous shop managers prior to taking over their duties approximately 8 years ago.

Our range of goods extends from wooden hand-made flowers and vases, wooden jewellery and artefacts to cast iron doorstops and paper weights from Ironbridge Gorge Museum. During the 2009 season we introduced Sheep Poo stationery, which caused much amusement and interest. Also can be found home made jams and chutneys and

local beer all of which proved very popular.

If you are an avid reader—then choose from a large selection of books by Shire Publications, Countryside or Silver Star Books. For rambles—we stock a selection of footpath maps for many areas.

To start the 2010 season we propose to introduce toiletries, soap, hand and body lotion, bath salts etc. For the children our most popular purchases are reproduction helmets, swords, shields, bows and arrows, daggers through the ages, these in addition to pocket money choices.

Please do visit us and help support the museum, we shall enjoy your visit as much as we trust you will.

*Beryl Howell and Hazel Howe
Volunteer Museum Shop Managers*

Friends

200 Club & Friends Events

If you have not sent in your 200 Club form (the orange one that came with your renewal papers) then you need to do so before the end of March to be part of this year's draw.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sid Kipper has been booked to make a repeat appearance in Chalfont St Peter on Friday October 1st - more details later but put the date in your diaries!

Beth Neill



Beryl Howell and Hazel Howe

Volunteers' Social Evening

**Saturday 3 July at the Museum
6.15-9.15 pm**

Hazel Howe and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, with your families/ friends in July, so please mark your diaries to come along and enjoy a delicious buffet supper with an opportunity to meet other volunteers, members of the Board of Trustees, members of staff, as well as catch up with your regular chums.

We are planning more seasonal temperatures than in 2009. However, please remember that whilst we may be a Museum of buildings the event takes place

FRIENDS

Costumed Sponsored Walk!
"TRAVEL THROUGH TIME"

Come along and help raise money for Chiltern Open Air Museum. Take part in a family fun sponsored walk in historical costume.

- Children under 12 years invited to take part with an adult carer to walk from the Iron Age House visiting other buildings along the time line and finishing at the 1947 Prefab, covering 2000 years of history.
- Participants to wear historical costume from any period with a prize for the best costume.
- Costumed tour guide
- Meet the English Civil War Society re-enactors

Refreshments and certificates for all time travellers.

Contact Anne Ratcliffe via the Museum on 01494 871117 or enquiries@coam.org.uk for details

largely in the open air and therefore warm clothes are recommended.

More detailed invitations will be sent out in April to volunteers, (although to save on postage please endeavour to collect your invitation from the specifically labelled box in the Volunteers Room), as well as the letters to those fine cooks among you. Hazel has kindly agreed to undertake her usual masterpiece of organisation and donations of £6 per adult (£3 for children) will be sought for the supper. Drinks will be supplied on the night for cash donations.

We will be raising funds for the new benches in Astleham Garden.

Verena Clark

People News

Autumn Acker



In September 2008 I moved from California to London in order to pursue a Master's degree in Sustainable Heritage at University College London. Prior to my move here, I received a BA in History from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, and went on to work in San Diego, California for the next 7 years as both a Private Contractor and Park Ranger. As a Private Contractor for Save Our Heritage Organisation – San Diego, California's non-profit historic preservation advocacy group - I assisted in the organization of special events, weekends and lectures, trained volunteers, and worked in their Museum Shop. As a Park Ranger for the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, my duties included: the preservation and protection of historic buildings, archaeology sites, and cultural landscapes; monitoring and assisting in restoration projects; working with a multitude of organisations; facility maintenance; training volunteers; and emergency response. I was stationed at two historic sites: Heritage Park, a 7.8 acre

Architectural Preserve and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, a 3,600 acre multi-agency National Register Historic and Archaeological District within a Wildlife Preserve.

Resigning from two such wonderful organisations and moving far from my friends and family was an extremely difficult choice, but keeping in touch with everyone back home has made the transition easier. Plus my experiences here have been amazing. A year and a half later, I am absolutely thrilled to be the Visitor Services Officer at the Chiltern Open Air Museum! In late February I moved from London to Rickmansworth and am enjoying the area immensely. I am so thankful to be a part of such a fantastic Museum and team, and look forward to meeting all of the various individuals involved in this special place in the months to come.

Autumn Acker
Visitor Services Officer

Help us to get free resources!

Do you shop in Tesco? If you do we are now collecting the vouchers for schools.

The more we get then the more free resources we can get from them.

Please could you collect the vouchers on our behalf and either leave them at the ticket office or in the volunteers room.

You can also post them to us at the Museum.

Thank you for helping us to get free items.

Sara Wright



in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. I am a keen gardener and despite having a tiny plot I enjoy reading about, looking at and buying as many plants as possible – much to the dismay of my husband and daughter.

Sara Wright
Administrative Officer

Hi, I am Sara Wright and have recently joined the Museum as Admin Officer. I have over 20 years experience of organisational and secretarial roles and am enjoying the challenge of learning new systems and responsibilities, together with the names and faces of the many volunteers.

For the past 8 years I worked for Buckinghamshire County Council's Culture & Learning Service, which includes Libraries, Museums, Local Studies and Adult Learning. The Museum setting is a lovely place to work and a complete change to the concrete egg box of County Hall, Aylesbury!

I was born in Chalfont St Giles and have spent most of my life living and working

Progress at last

The new storage building at Wood End has at last been constructed, and is ready to be filled up with the contents of the old "swimming pool" building.

There are still some more ground works to do but it is weather tight and ready, and I can finally park the Fork Lift under cover.



Casual Café Staff Wanted

The Museum urgently needs several paid relief staff to help run outlets for the café in the Village Green area and assist in the café when required on busy days such as Sunday and Mondays on Bank Holidays and occasional Sundays and weekdays during school holiday periods.

Flexible hours and availability required, previous experience an advantage but not essential. Ring Museum Office on 01494 871117 or email enquires@coam.org.uk for an application form (also available from the Museum Website)

Diana Gomme

My first recollection of Diana was during the 1930's when we both attended Bishopshalt Grammar School, during which time I greatly admired her skills in the sports field, mainly hockey and netball—I believe later this included golf.

Although at that time we both lived in Hillingdon, imagine my surprise when in 1987 I met up with her once more at the Museum from which time we became good friends.

In those early days Diana helped with stewarding, and working in the cafe, she could always be relied upon to assist in any way, attending functions, helping at Friends fund raising events and selling cakes, as well as helping to supply some. During the last few years Diana worked in Blythe Road with Valerie O'Leary and Ken Morrison helping on ticket and shop sales, which she really enjoyed.

I shall always remember Diana, with her ready smile, for all her years as a COAM volunteer and as being a true friend. I am sure that the staff and volunteers who knew her will feel the same.

Hazel Howe

David Cotterell

David passed away during the winter, after a long illness. For many years, he was a twice-a-week steward, manning the Toll House on Monday afternoons then the Prefab on Fridays. At the Prefab, he would, weather permitting, trundle out the 1940s lawn mower from the tool shed and give the front lawns their regular going-over. If the mood took him, he'd go

across to the Vicarage Room and cut the grass there, too.

After his first bout of treatment, he cut back his exercise, but would once a week drive round to Wood End and steward the Toll House. Not only did he give of himself, but he had the knack of involving others: I remember a phone call along the lines of "There's this chap I play golf with who might be interested in helping ..." – and he'd got me another steward. He will be sadly missed from this year's stewards list.

Tom Crosby

Peter Tate



2009 was a dreadful year for the Museum in terms of the number of past and present volunteers who passed away. The last of these was Peter Tate, who died shortly before Christmas.

Peter was born on a farm in Essex, and there developed his passion for birds which was to last the whole of his life and led indirectly to his involvement with the Museum. He left school in the 1940s and, being unfit for active service due to his asthma, joined the Royal Observer Corps, with which he remained involved until the 1990s, going twice a week to Northwood HQ. His "day job" was as a stock jobber

with Lazarus Bros., until he retired in 1977.

In 1953, he married Anne, who had been living on a nearby farm – we heard a story at Anne’s funeral of Peter’s astonishment as she rode her horse through the front door and out of the back, as the shortest way to the stables. Their Christian faith was very important to both of them, and at his funeral, the vicar recalled Peter as a regular “eight o’clocker”.

Anne was the first to be involved with the Museum, as a demonstrator, and Peter (already a member of the Hawk and Owl Trust) came along to help, and was always pleased to pass on to children his great love and knowledge of birds. Later, he and Roy Thomas became the regular Tuesday morning team in Blythe Road. At this time we had a loop tape running in Blythe Road which included a short clip of Anne speaking about her work, and after her death, Peter asked for a copy of the tape as a remembrance of her. Peter is also remembered by the building team as champion tea-boy, and it was always a pleasure to have him at the annual Builders’ Lunch.

Peter’s great love was anything that flew, he had the most amazing collections of books on ornithology, considered to be definitive on the subject, and on aircraft. In his retirement, he travelled the world, both bird-watching and as a tour guide. Not only did he collect books, he wrote on ornithology, including a definitive literary history; his final book, “Flights of Fancy” was dedicated to Anne’s memory.

In recent years, his legs defeated his desire to help at the Museum, but he still made his weekly shopping foray, and we would regularly meet in Rickmansworth

High Street. His first question was always the same: “How’s the Museum doing?”, followed by his regret that he could no longer work there. He was a gentleman who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Tom Crosby (with thanks to Dawn Tate, Sylvia & Roy Thomas and John H-T)

Neville Thomas

Neville died in February, a couple of months short of his 90th birthday.

He lived as a youth in Pinner, seeing service during World War II as a sergeant in the RAF. In 1946 he went to Cambridge, reading Modern Languages, and subsequently travelled widely before moving to Chipperfield. After the death of his wife, he moved to Wales but could not settle and returned to Chipperfield, living in the same road as Gladys Taaffe.

About this time, in the late 1980s, he started stewarding at the Museum and was a regular helper until *Anno Domini* forced him to retire; towards the end of his time with us, when he gave up his car, Gladys used to bring him in. Following a fall he had been living in a care home for his last two years.

Tom Crosby

NEW Building & Farm Sponsorship Scheme



Museum and Farm Annual Costs :

<i>Animal feed</i>	<i>£1000</i>
<i>Building maintenance costs</i>	<i>£6000</i>
<i>Linseed oil historic paints</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Traditional vehicle costs</i>	<i>£2000</i>

***Join us in
keeping our Heritage alive!***

The work of the Museum is only possible with the support of our dedicated volunteers. We need to raise around £300,000 a year. You can help us by joining our sponsorship programme. It's a great way to support us.

You will receive:

- News three times a year about the Farm or Museum buildings according to your special interest
- 'Update' newsletter three times a year
- A free child or adult ticket to the Museum so that you can visit the site
- An invitation to a 'behind-the-scenes' event once a year
- Perhaps most important of all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to support all the work that goes on at the Museum and Farm.

***Minimum donation
just £5 a month***

It's a great gift for friends and family.

Your sponsorship today helps us:

- ◆ take care of rare breeds
- ◆ keep traditional farm and building traditions alive
- ◆ preserve our beautiful Chilterns heritage for the future.

Thank you!

Whether you choose to receive news about the Farm or Buildings, your gift makes a big difference to **everything** that we do.

***Ring the Museum Office to request a copy of the sponsorship form
or email Sally on fundraising@coam.org.uk***

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

Leaving a Legacy – Remember the Museum in your Will

Pecuniary Gift	A fixed sum of money
Residual Gift :	The whole or part of your Estate, after all your specified wishes have been allocated (“the Residue”)
Specified Named Item	A piece of jewellery, shares, bonds etc.

You may want to specify how you would prefer your gift to be used, i.e. building projects, improving facilities or education. Alternatively you could just leave the Trustees to decide how best to use your bequest.

We would strongly advise that you have your Will drawn up by a solicitor to ensure your wishes are carried out.

Payroll Giving:

If you earn a salary, or if your pension is paid via PAYE, payroll giving is one of the most simple and tax effective methods of making regular charitable donations.

Your donation will be taken before tax and therefore you can give more money to the Museum without it costing you more.

For more information or to find out whether your employer currently offers payroll giving go to www.giveasyouearn.org. If you are an employer you can register your company for payroll giving by going to www.hmrc.gov.uk/payrollgiving.

The Museum is very grateful to you for offering us your invaluable financial support. Your donation will enable us to re-erect the historic buildings in store and develop our traditional Chiltern landscaping plans.

Acknowledgements

Waitrose Beaconsfield	£260
Waitrose Chesham	£200
Car Park	£2500
Radios	£2500
Ayletts Nursery	
<i>Discount on plants for Astleham Garden</i>	
Chilterns Conservation Board	£1600
<i>Cherry Tree Orchard</i>	
Cherry Tree Donations	£3000
Chalfont St Giles Show Committee	
<i>Traditional fencing</i>	£500

New Iron Age House Workshops	£300
Mitchell Trust Paddock Creation	£500
Xmas Gifts	£270
<i>(Site and Building Projects)</i>	
Garfield Weston	£5000
<i>Haddenham</i>	
Frognaal Trust	£1750
<i>Astleham Garden</i>	
GE Healthcare	£3000
<i>2010 leaflets and new site map</i>	

Who's who at Chiltern Open Air Museum

Patrons of the Museum

Lord Carrington - President
Cheryl Gillan MP
Eric Knowles
James Elles MEP
Lady Wilson
Paul Daniels
Sir John Johnson
Sir Frank Gibb
Sir William MacAlpine
Viscount Norwich

Museum Board Chairman

The Reverend Derek Upcott
01494 837505

Vice Chairman and Company Secretary

Verena Clark

Treasurer

Sarah Fitzpatrick

Additional Board Members

Cic Upcott
Cris Claxton Stevens
Gill Cassidy
Jenny Mulholland
Lawford Thomas
Tom Crosby
Keith Bagdaley
Adrian Marsh

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John Hyde-Trutch
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Farm and Site Manager

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Friends of COAM Charity no. 286534

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01494 675419

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