

# Museum *Update*

It has been a season of extremes so far this year. Phenomenally good weather during April with scores of visitors to the Easter Fair and holiday visitors.

Then, phenomenally bad weather during May leading to the cancellation of the Bank Holiday Monday Prelude to D Day event. By contrast, however, I am delighted to say that the Heavy Horse Show had more visitors than ever before despite the constant rain! So far this season the general numbers of visitors are higher than last year and I am sure that this is mainly due to the continuous programme of activities and demonstrations every weekend provided by many volunteers, Friends and supporters. We are very grateful to you all for giving up your time

to help us offer such an attractive programme.

The project achievements of the year to date are second to none. In the first six months of this year the Museum has completed the fit out of the Mid Site Loos and initiated their use by grateful visitors, re-enactors, volunteers and staff (!), repainted Caversham Public Convenience, reerected the shell of the hut from St James Church, Gerrards Cross and begun the foundations for the Haddenham Cottage re-erection!

We are also working towards establishing the Museum as a Chilterns Heritage Training Centre offering vernacular building skills courses in brick, flint, lime, timber conversion, medieval thatching and eventually witchert building. Some of these courses will be taking place in October



Director and Buildings Manager working on the grumplings of Haddenham cottage together.



John Hyde-Trutch firing a historic firearm.



Henry Russell and Robert Manger peg-making.

of this year, with the generous assistance of a grant from the Chilterns Conservation Board Sustainable Development Fund. We will also be offering a five day cleaving and splitting course with Henry Russell validated through Bucks Chilterns University College sometime next March. Henry also ran a taster course in peg making funded by the College in May for

Six staff and volunteers and this was enjoyed by all the participants, including the Director! My skilfully crafted pegs are available to purchase at a modest sum of £20 per peg, which, I am assured, is a bargain!

Huge strides are being made elsewhere in our education programmes with a grant to install video conferencing opportunities for some of our school



Henry Russell hard at work.



GE Healthcare volunteers rebuilding the palisade around the Iron Age House.

sessions later this year and the increasing take up of new programmes in Key Stage 3 and nursery education. Please also support the remaining craft courses for adults later this year as the courses are a great opportunity to learn a new skill relevant to the Museum collection.

Much comment has been made about the appearance of the site this year. The winter hedging work has transformed the fields around the Museum and the new fencing and gates beginning to appear have made

a real difference to the grazing and hay production. The new hedging plants are doing well too. Hill Farm Barn now displays a repaired threshing machine, which is being painted in salmon pink and red colours. The Iron Age House is also being improved with the compound fences being replaced with the help of GE Healthcare volunteers and the Site volunteers.

The Friends have been as busy as ever fundraising at various fetes and occasions over the summer, as has Thea Murray's book stall and the tombola and we are very grateful to them all for promoting the Museum and raising much needed funds for our building projects.

We all have great reason to be very proud of the achievements of the Museum and I thank you all for your continued efforts and invaluable support.

Sue Shave  
Museum Director



Councillor Pam Bacon and children from Robertswood Nursery taking part in the new Bucks County Council funded story workshops.

## The Mid Site Loos: The Conclusion. The Opening Ceremony

The need for toilet facilities in the middle of our long site was realized by Len and Esme Baker (the Eternal Optimists) in 1992. They started fundraising and made a profit from the sale of Christmas cards of £50 which started the MSL fund. Fourteen and a half years later their dream has been realized and the opening ceremony took place on the 31st of March, 2007.

Some 60 guests attended, including our patron Sir William McAlpine and his wife, District and Parish Councillors, College officials, and representatives of GE Healthcare, Estate Agents, the Chiltern Society and local schools. Museum past and present volunteers, building and site workers and staff

COAM Chairman the Rev Derek Upcott (praise ye Biffaward) welcomed the guests followed by Roy Thomas (another problem solved) who thanked all those who had worked for or contributed to the fund and he associated this with all the problems and successes that have taken place over this extended time period. Besides Len and Esme, other contributors to the fund have included Chiltern District Council, the Friends of the Museum, the tombola team, Thea Murray with book sales, Hazel Howe with garden parties, and Gladys Taaffe and Helen Law helped with the new water main. There are many others (please let me know). And of course we are very appreciative of



Len and Esme Baker outside the Mid Site Loos at the opening ceremony.

Biffaward and the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts in funding and overseeing the second largest grant we have ever been awarded for a building.

Thanks are also due to the Project Team, to John Hyde-Trutch (the Perfectionist) and his building workers for the shell and to Sid Hill and his team for fitting out the interior to create this “Rolls Royce” of a building project, and finally to Melvyn Rutter and Agripower for constructing the reedbeds.

Vice Chairman Verena Clark (flushed with pride) was delighted to celebrate this new building at the Museum and thanked Roy Thomas and Sue Shave for their contributions to the project.

She also looked to the future and to the rebuilding of a witchert cottage from Haddenham involving techniques not used for over a century and suggested those present might like to contribute to that fund.

The ceremony was completed (before the buffet) by inviting Len and Esme to cut the ribbon and unveil a carved plaque, but not to the ‘Chiltern Open Air Museum Mid Site Toilets’ but to the .....

## BAKERLOOS

Roy Thomas  
MSL Project Team Leader



The Mid Site Loos — now known as the Bakerloos — just prior to opening.

## Gerrards Cross.

The volunteers have been beavering away on re-erecting this new building all year, and progress has been excellent.

The site for the hut was levelled by Agripower on March 13<sup>th</sup>, this included pulling up a number of tree stumps. We had previously cleared the undergrowth and cut down the trees that were in the way.

The footings were put in on 16<sup>th</sup> March, and a small retaining wall was built between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April.

The thirty six brick piers were constructed during the week 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> April by which time we were ready to start building.

The floor sections were set out on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one wall laid out ready to sort out the joins. Unfortunately the Caversham re-paint had finished so we had to abandon the Hut to put all the fittings back in Caversham, and get it working again. Not to mention painting the lampposts.

We were finally able to start putting the wall sections up on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, and got completely carried away and put them all up, including the intermediate roof trusses, bolted together and nailed to the floor, and still had time for afternoon tea. The gables were fitted the next day.

We would have put the roof on as well, but we hadn't actually prepared them, so a slight delay while the roof sections were cleaned and repaired.

Roof day was 17<sup>th</sup> May. Fortunately two potential volunteers had come for a look, and agreed to help, otherwise we would not have had enough people.



Erecting the Gerrards Cross Hut.

The next stage was to work along the roof, fitting the loose boards between the sections, and putting the felt on. Scaffolding had to be set up either side of the building, and this had to be moved along as each section was fixed and felted. This started on May 21st and finished on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The building has now been painted, with help from a group of people from the DTI. and we are in the process of insulating and lining out the interior.

John Hyde-Trutch,  
Buildings Manager



DTI volunteers painting the hut.

## Haddenham Croft Cottage



David Knight making the new windows.

Work began in June on the foundations of Haddenham Croft Cottage in the Village Green area. We have been working very closely with IJP, a company who work with wychert repair in and around the Haddenham area. Visits to one such repair project in Cuddington in June answered many of the questions we had regarding the construction of such cottages.

For the building of the foundations or Grumplings, as they are known locally, we have asked Tim Amsden, son of one

of the founders of the Museum, Dick Amsden, to assist us. Tim is a professional flint worker and has similar skills that will be useful in our experimental building of the lime stone grumplings. IJP were instrumental in helping us to find a quarry which produced closely matched lime stone block to existing examples (the Museum does not have the original grumplings). 12 tonnes of stone were delivered to the Museum and several tonnes of rough lime mortar in July.

We were delighted that the newly formed young volunteers club was able to take part in the first day of construction with the underground grumplings and they all did a fantastic job! It is hoped that we will be able to make a start on the first wychert layer before winter sets in and work has to stop. IJP have offered further help and advice on the use of the wychert material and we are grateful to them for their support.

David Knight has made some excellent box sash replacement windows over the last few months for the Cottage and work still needs to be done on the external doors to get them ready to insert into the wychert build.

We are also very grateful to the Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust for their recent award of £4000 towards the re-erection of Haddenham Croft Cottage and to all the Friends and volunteers who have been raising money towards this historic building.

**More Wychert is Needed! Please let us know if you are aware of any sources of wychert from the Aylesbury Vale area.**

Sue Shave  
Museum Director



Tim Amsden laying grumplings.

## Events at the Museum



Diehards Victorian Soldiers weekend — 28th and 29th July.



Heavy Horse Show — 24th June.



Richard Payne and Laurie Watson demonstrating historic firearms in June.



Meet our Norman Conquerors — 6th and 7th May Bank Holiday.



Ethel Brant in the Prefab during filming in

If you have visited the Prefab recently, do not be afraid, it is not a ghost — you really are hearing voices! The voices of the Brant family to be precise, who I am sure many of you will know lived in the Prefab for a number of years since 1948. One of the Museum's former Directors, James Moir, recorded an interview with Ethel and Robert Brant and their daughter Joan when the Prefab was being re-erected at the Museum in 1992. These recordings had been gathering dust in the Museum archive until this season. They are now playing for the public to enjoy.



Volunteer George Bunney recording the voiceovers

It was a slow and rather frustrating process editing the tapes, as the original recordings were fairly poor quality, and the conversation rather rambling to say the least! However, we managed to pick out some interesting bits, and mixed them in with a narrative read by one of our volunteers, George Bunney, a long-standing resident of Amersham. The Brant family discuss life in the Prefab in the post war period, reminiscing about moving into their new home, food and gardening, schooling, transport, home entertainment and community life. The piece also includes some popular music of the era.

This oral history project is part of a wider project based on reminiscence in the Prefab. We hope that by hearing the Brant's tales, visitors will be encouraged to record their own memories. The project was funded by the Chilterns Conservation Board. I would like to thank everyone involved for their contributions.

Jenny Simmonds  
– Visitor Services Officer

## Volunteers Social Evening – 9 June 2007

On Saturday, 9th June 2007, we were blessed with another lovely evening for the Volunteers Social evening, which was attended by 98 people who came and ate and drank and enjoyed the Museum.

The amazing sum of £960 was raised for the Marwood Yard project and we would like to thank all those who attended for their generosity. To those who cooked, prepared food, helped set up and remove furniture many, many thanks for your willingness to apply yourselves to a variety of tasks. Lastly, we must extend our gratitude to those of who were regrettably unable to come, but who very kindly sent a donation to the Project.

See you all next year!  
Hazel Howe & Verena Clark

## Fundraising

It never stops, as you all well know, as money is always required for one project or another. So far this year the Tombola team raised £281 to the Gerards Cross re-erection and that continues through the summer months at outside events.

Scarf production and sales continue for the Astleham Garden project and the total number of scarves sold to date is 127 ( in 12 months ), which has generated an incredible £896. Many of the knitters have been diverted off to childrens' cardigans and pullovers for Mel, but they will be recalled when stocks get low!

The Farm Equipment Fund has been boosted by £277 in 2007, which has been generated by a variety of creative schemes including donations inexchange for Sovereign's old horse shoes – thanks to Robert Mackenzie. (Even more pleasingly those funds are being spent on capital items to improve the farm equipment).

Many thanks to all of you who help in a variety of ways and donate items, time and money to these enterprises. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Verena Clark

The Volunteers Social Evening this year.



## Out of the mouth of babes!

Iron Age House School Sessions

“If there isn’t a chimney, how will Father Christmas get in?”

“Is this hole in the ground (Iron Age fridge) hotter or colder at the bottom?”  
“Hotter because it is nearer the centre of the earth”

A 4-year old was jumping up and down trying to pull her trousers up saying, “builder’s bum, mummy, builder’s bum!”

Recent comments from school children from a London school on seeing Sovereign in the field:  
“Donkey – Donkey – Donkey!”

During a candle making workshop we show the children the use of the flint and steel to make sparks. When we ask how they think we turn the spark into a flame one answer was, “drop it into gunpowder”.

On seeing the besom broom and cauldron standing next to the small cupboard in the 18th Century side of Leagrave Cottages a 10 year old girl wisely told her brother, “This is where the wizard lives and that’s where he keeps the children to cook in the cauldron”.

I recently received some thank you letters from a school where one child thanked us for the Life 2000 years ago workshop we run in the Iron Age House. She said it was really good and that “I learnt that the fence

around the house was to keep animals out, but before I came I thought it was to keep cannibals out”.

Wash Day School Sessions

“When we have cleaned the clothes with soap, what do we have to do next?”

“Debubble them”

“ We can’t use that water. It’s got a dead fly in it”

“ What do we need if we are going to do the washing without a washing machine?” “Water, soap and a tumble dryer”

“What is a granary?” “Where you keep the old people”

“What is chicken wire?” “Lots of empty squares with metal around them”

“What do we have to do to our bricks to make them hard?” Put them in the freezer”

“Do the bees mind if you take their wax?”

If you hear any gems like the ones above then please record them in the Alternative Comments Book, which can be found next to the Signing-in Sheet in the Volunteers Room or email me at [educationcoam@btconnect.com](mailto:educationcoam@btconnect.com)

Melissa Maynard  
Education Officer

## Adult Craft Workshops 2007

Join us this year for some hands-on fun for grown-ups!  
£5 off each of the workshops for Museum Friends and Volunteers!

### Herbal Christmas Gifts and Decorations

**Tutor:** Christina Stapley

**One day course:** Sunday 16

December 2007.

Christmas is a time of tradition, folklore and gift giving. Spend a day making herbal Christmas gifts and decorations using natural materials. Up to five items are chosen from a possible ten and all of the ingredients and materials are provided. Decorations and gifts that can be made during the day include:- a decorated Yule log with candle; a festive basket containing a selection of

herb teas, confections, seasonings, spices and decorative goodies; a herb swag covered in sprays of dried herbs, seed heads and spices, trimmed with ribbon bows; and a Christmas door wreath. A full choice of items to be made is available on request from the office and included in the booking pack. **Cost:** £40.00 per person plus the cost of materials.

Up to 12 delegates per day

Call Melissa on 01494 875542 or email to book your place and remember to say if you are a Friend or a volunteer to claim your £5 off!



Joy Viall teaching students at the Museum

## Young Volunteers Club

This year has seen the start of our new Young Volunteers Club for 12 to 16 year olds. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month 1pm until 4pm. So far this year we have

- Created a small garden at the Iron Age House planting beans, wild garlic and Good King Henry. We are hoping to enlarge the garden at some point and plant more varieties that would have been used by people living 2000 years ago.
- Cleaned and preserved artefacts in the Drying Oven at the High Wycombe Furniture Factory before the new oven arrives.
- Created a new patio area behind the café to help Chris on special events when he has a barbeque (availability of café staff depending!).

During the next few months we hope to do the following:

- Saturday 13th October 1pm until 4pm – Help us around the site (activity tbc).
- Saturday 10th November 1pm until 4pm – Put the Iron Age garden to bed for the winter.



Mixing mortar for grumplings.



Young volunteers at work in the Iron Age garden

If you would like to join the club, we meet at 1pm in the Ticket Office, you need to

- be aged between 12 and 16 years old,
- wear old clothes and sensible footwear,
- have one of your parents complete a Parental Consent Form,
- pay a voluntary contribution of £2 (this goes towards a snack and an equipment fund).

I hope to see you there!

## Events Organised by Friends of COAM

### Special Scottish Evening,

Saturday 10 November, 7.00 pm at the White Hill Centre, Chesham. Display by Berkhamsted Scottish Dancing Club — chance to join in if desired.

For more information, or to book for any of these events contact Jenny Ogden on 01494 793017, or  
E Mail richard.ogden@btinternet.com.

## Friends Shop Recruitment

Our Friends Shop is a valuable fund-raising venture, and also an opportunity to recruit new Friends. Our organisation provides the Museum with staple funds. We desperately need people to serve in the Shop for 2 or 3 hour periods, either on Thursday or Friday or at weekends. (Usually the other days are manned by regular cover.) During the Summer months we hope to have the Shop open full time, and any Friend or Volunteer is welcome to help.

Please help us if you can — ring Jenny Ogden on 01494 793017 (after 6 pm, please).

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## Friends News

### 200 Club

The winners of the Friends 200 Club draw were, for June Mrs J Hoar and for July, Mrs S Marsh — who each win a prize of £32.

### Life Membership

At a recent committee meeting of the Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum it was agreed that not only partners of Full Life Members can join as Associate Life Members, but also other members (ie children) of their immediate family living at the same address should be eligible. One copy only of the Friends Newsletter, Museum Update etc goes to the family address in the name of the Full Life Member.

Bear it in mind when thinking of birthdays and Christmas! Just a reminder, life membership is £180 and additional names at the same address are £120 each. Gift cards (if the subscription is required as a gift) are available from the membership secretary, Beth Neill, via the Museum.

Best Wishes  
Beth Neill  
Membership Secretary

## Thank You!

Thanks to all Friends old and new this season who have helped at events, given out publicity about the Museum, made cakes and jam, raised plants for sale and given their support in every way to keep us going. Without you our task would be much more difficult.

We do sometimes find that it is impossible to man the Friends Centre every day. This is due to unforeseen circumstances; or simply, no-one is available to be there. Can I appeal to you, if you sometimes have a half day to spare, to think of the Friends and consider helping either as a regular helper, say, one day per month, or to be willing to be called on to help out from time to time? The Friends Centre does make a regular contribution to the overall money going to the Museum. When the Centre is closed when visitors are on site we lose potential sales and cumulatively the Museum loses money. Please contact me on 01844 344461 in the first instance, or Jenny Ogden on 01494 793017 if you have helped before.

Gill Cassidy  
Chairman of the Friends

## Gift Aided Subscriptions to The Friends

Gift Aid is the scheme whereby the Friends are able to claim back the standard rate income tax on subscriptions and donations to the Friends from UK taxpayers. Last year this was worth well over £3000 to the Friends and hence to the museum. Thanks to all the Friends who have completed declarations – over 75% of our subscriptions now qualify for gift aid.

Completing a Gift Aid declaration is simple and once completed remains valid so you do not need to redo each year. The simple form is included as part of the membership application.

If you are not sure whether you have or have not completed a Gift Aid declaration and you are a UK taxpayer then send an e-mail to the treasurer ([dickandaveril.lister@btopenworld.com](mailto:dickandaveril.lister@btopenworld.com)) or write to him at 69 Sandelswood End Beaconsfield Bucks HP9 2AP quoting your full name and address and he will check the records and if you have not yet gift aided your subscription, he will send you the form .

We would also take this opportunity to remind Friends who have already completed a Gift Aid declaration that if at any time they cease to pay income or capital gains tax in the tax year sufficient to cover their subscription then they must let the Friends know.

Dick Lister  
Friends Treasurer.

## Programme of talks arranged by the Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum — 2007-2008 season

### 2007

Wednesday 24 October

*Shakespeare With Music*

a welcome return by our good friends, those excellent and entertaining speakers, John and Jo Brewster – a brief biography of William Shakespeare, with some of the great variety of music that his works has inspired.

Wednesday 28 November

*History of Farming in the Chilterns*

Tracy Adams, Chilterns Conservation Board. Another welcome return – Tracy is bound to be thoughtful and thoughtprovoking as usual.

Wednesday 5 December

*A speaker from the Pendon Museum, near Didcot.*

A fascinating place, with wonderfully detailed model railway layouts. (Seasonal refreshments at a small extra charge.)

### 2008

Wednesday 23 January

*“John Milton’s Time in Buckinghamshire”* by Colin Oakes.

Yet another welcome return of a very accomplished speaker, whose great knowledge is combined with a spell-binding style of delivery.

Wednesday 27 February

*The Ffestiniog Railway,*

Richard Ogden relates the amazing story of the birth, growth, decline, death and rebirth of “The Little Railway the Whole World Talks About”.

Wednesday 26 March

*“Talk About Turning”*

Colin Turney talks about, and demonstrates woodturning. He shows examples of exotic woods and the tools he uses, and makes something before our very eyes. He also brings a display of the sort of things he makes, which are for sale.

All the above meetings take place in the Mary Smithells Room, Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, commencing at 8 pm and lasting no more than two hours. All are welcome to attend – a small charge of £2.50 per person is made - £2.00 for Friends of COAM. Light refreshments are available. No pre-booking required – just turn up on the evening. However, any enquiries may be made to Jenny Ogden on 01494 793017.

## People News

Brian Hill, volunteer blacksmith, has had an accident at home and broken his hip. He had had to have an operation to repair the damage and is recovering at home for a few weeks. His presence and regular smithing work at the Museum is sorely missed and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to our Forge!

Alan Cornell and David Cotterell are also unwell at present and are in our thoughts.

We congratulate Conway Rowland on the birth of his baby daughter Chloe in late April. She will be joining the farm volunteers shortly!

Laura Smith left the Museum on 20 July to take up a new post at a local school as school secretary at Heather-ton House. Laura has been a tremendously enthusiastic member of staff and we are grateful to her for all her hard work and commitment to the Museum during her time here.

Paul Hannon, the Events Officer, left late July due to increasing personal commitments and we wish him well for the future.

Jen Simmonds also left us in July for a new post as Information Assistant at the Tate Gallery. Jen has really made her mark as Visitor Services Officer, combining her work with our present volunteers, recruiting and training new volunteers and working on a range of projects including Museum displays

in local libraries and the development of visitor consultation surveys. We wish her the best of luck in her new job. Phil Holbrook will be covering this role until the end of the season. We will be recruiting in the winter for the new Visitor Services Officer to begin in January.

The present, Treasurer, Helen Hall, is also regretfully stepping down due to new employment opportunities. The Museum is grateful to her for all her hard work in this past year and her financial leadership. She has, however, agreed to remain on the Board. The Treasurer Elect is Robert Kerr, who has been of invaluable assistance to the Museum over the summer period.

Ethel Brant sadly passed away in August and the Museum would like to extend our condolences to the family.

Now recruiting — Admin Officer and Visitor Services Officer. Details to be posted on the Museum web site and available from the Museum Office from mid October

## Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Estate Agents — WR Beck, Wilson Heal and Ashington Page for their invaluable support for our special event programme with their provision of road side advertising boards for Museum special events and support with other media advertising. Their generous assistance has very much helped to raise the profile of Museum events and the presence of the Museum locally.

Black Horse Pub — Fulmer — we are grateful to Kay Keane and staff for continuing to raise money and support the Museum throughout the year.

## Funding Update

### Grants

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, South East  
Video Conferencing  
£7600

Bucks County Council  
Community Leadership Funding  
Nursery Story workshops  
£666

Bucks Historic Buildings Trust  
£4000

Haddenham Cottage Re-erection  
Awards for All Lottery Funding  
£6300  
for education development including new 1940s workshops and interpreter training in child protection and food hygiene.

## More new faces!

Since the last issue of Update, the Museum has been joined by a total of 22 new volunteers up to July! These include six stewards, three volunteers training with education, two with the building team, two for the ticket office, two for the site and farm team, one for the office, two in the Friends Centre, one new blacksmith and three students on placements!

We are very pleased to welcome them all to the Museum and hope that they are enjoying their time here so far.

Jen Simmonds  
Visitor Services Officer

**One of our Update Editors Kate Abbott, who works on the editing of the articles is sadly resigning this role, although Alastair Alexander will continue to work on the production side. If anyone is interested in becoming one half of this editing team, please contact Sue Shave at the Museum.**

**We are grateful to Kate for her invaluable contributions to the previous issues of Update.**

**END OF SEASON MEETING  
ON SATURDAY 27th  
OCTOBER AT 2PM IN KABIN,  
WOOD END.  
(Assistance with the clearing  
up after the Halloween event  
greatly appreciated in the  
morning from 10am.)**

## Seasonal Round

When Summer comes the world is bright, the day is long, and short is night,  
The roads are dry the people smile, it's no trouble — that extra mile.  
The forge is open, doors swung wide, the visitors a welcome tide;  
Progress slows, there's time to chat, on various subjects: this and that.  
The job's not simple, takes some time — should I use Borax? Try the Lime?  
An interruption stops me dead, a little voice outside my head:  
Says: "what you doing Blacksmith man?" (Quite a lot whenever I can!)  
But there's no chance of finishing it, when visitors around they flit.  
But that's the way it has to be from ten o'clock 'till half past three,  
Don't look for progress making bends, it will be that way till season ends.  
It's not appropriate to make — complicated gate or rake,  
This is the time for simple things, twisted hooks and tent peg pins.  
Heat it, bend it, cut it, twist; into the water, flick the wrist.  
To work the metal, swift and sure, that's how t'was done in days of yore.  
It's visitors we like to see — a group around the village tree,  
Two or three (or even ten) running hoops with Uncle Len  
In the prefab, in the school, being taught with cane and rule,  
In the houses, in the barns, entertained with tales and yarns,  
The folks they gather one by one, around the green to see the fun.  
A Celtic man with wooden lyre, a juggler breathing gouts of fire.  
Victorians and Roman legions, Knights in armour from the regions,  
Easter, Harvest, Hallowe'en, (Ghosts beyond the woods are seen!)  
Then comes the winter — grey days dawning, even though there's global warming,  
Or cold and gloomy, frozen toes — that's the way it often goes.  
The site is closed the gates are shut, locks, alarms on every hut.  
The only sound of cheerful chatter- from volunteers (who really matter).  
They work amid the winter freeze laying hedges, planting trees,  
Digging trenches, banks and holes, some look like professional moles,  
Administration's always in, lest animals should find it thin,  
The horse, the chickens, and the sheep, need dedication to upkeep.  
Gates and fences, water main, annual progress? Loss or Gain?  
Plotting, planning new events, more new buildings? Pigsties? Tents?  
Ah! The winter, time of calm, when I can work a good right arm  
Bending, riveting, welding — Smite! The forge is warm the fire bright!  
And if it is your lucky day, a bacon sandwich comes your way  
To warm away those winter blues while we exchange the farming news.  
It's very busy, winter season; does not lack in rhyme or reason  
Only time; its time we lack! Might be better when summer's back!  
When Summer comes the world is bright,.....

Brian the Iron

# Kids fun pages



## 1) Under 5's

The Shepherd has gone out to look after the sheep. While he is away the mice have been very silly and have hidden around the shepherd's living van. There are six of them. Can you see if you can find them all. When you have found them all, why not colour in the picture?

R	E	I	D	L	O	S	O	M	B
T	M	A	N	G	L	E	X	S	L
Q	W	L	T	M	P	U	A	T	I
W	V	U	E	O	R	B	I	O	M
W	A	M	V	R	E	L	R	D	P
M	Z	R	A	A	F	I	R	L	S
D	Q	L	C	T	A	Q	A	I	P
D	O	L	U	I	B	L	I	T	Z
A	O	U	E	O	C	D	D	Q	A
Y	W	P	E	N	W	B	O	M	B

## 2) Words for Wordsearch 6 – 11 yrs

Mangle  
Ration  
prefab  
war  
air raid  
soldier  
d day  
blitz  
blackout  
evacuee  
bomb  
blimp

### 3) Last updates solution

I	P	L	F	H	A
P	L	F	A	I	H
L	A	P	H	F	I
F	I	H	P	A	L
A	H	I	L	P	F
H	F	A	I	L	P

1950		1920	1930		1940
	1940		1900	1920	
1900		1930		1940	
	1950	1900	1910		1920
			1950	1900	1930
1920	1930		1940		1900

**4) Over 12 yrs – 1900s sudoku**  
Solution will be in the next up-

#### Photo Competition for Children aged 6+

Do you enjoy taking photos? Would you like to see your photo on our web site? Then come along to the Museum and take a photo of your favourite building or place at the Museum. If you have people in your photo, we will need their written consent for us to use the photo if it is selected as a winner. Send your entry to Sue Shave at the Museum with a caption telling us why this is your favourite building or place and the winning photo will be printed in the next edition of Update next year and displayed on our web site.

Laura Smith, Admin Officer

## **Who's who at Chiltern Open Air Museum**

### **Museum Board Chairman**

The Reverend Derek Upcott  
01494 837505

### **Vice Chairman and Company Secretary**

Verena Clark

### **Treasurer**

Robert Kerr

### **Additional Board Members**

Cic Upcott  
Cris Claxton Stevens  
Gill Cassidy  
Helen Hall  
Jenny Mulholland  
Roy Thomas  
Tom Crosby  
Peter Quinn

### **Museum Director**

Sue Shave

### **Buildings Manager**

John Hyde-Trutch

### **Farm and Site Manager**

Conway Rowland

### **Visitor Services Officer**

Phil Holbrook (Temporary position)

### **Education Officer**

Melissa Maynard

### **Catering Manager and IT Manager**

Chris Maynard

### **Press and Marketing Consultant**

Phil Holbrook

### **Administration Officer**

(Vacant)

### **Museum Assistant**

Jennie Booth

### **Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Tom Crosby  
01923 774637

### **Hawk and Owl Trust – Education Officer**

Rhona Taylor  
01494 876262

### **Museum Update Editor**

Alastair Alexander

### **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

## **Friends of COAM**

### **Chairman**

Gill Cassidy – 01844 344461

### **Treasurer**

Dick Lister – 01494 675419

### **Membership Secretary**

Beth Neill  
(Contact through the Museum)  
Charity no. 286534