

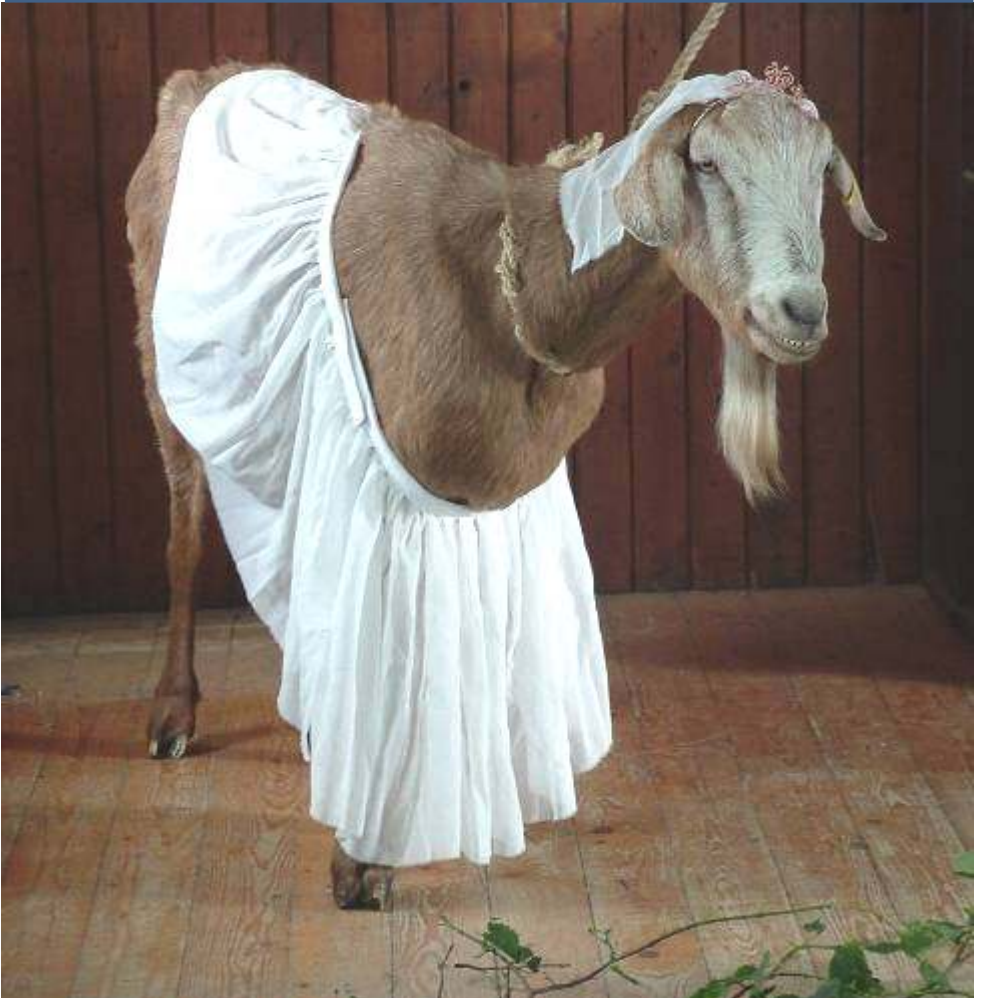


CHILTERN
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Museum *Update*

Autumn 2009



**REGISTER AT WWW.COAM.ORG.UK TO RECEIVE THE
FULL COLOUR ONLINE VERSION**

2009

March

28 - 29 Campaign '44 - Meet
1940s Soldiers and The
Great Penny Trail **305**

April

4 - 5 Grymms Tooms **281**
Museum of Victorian
Curios

10 - 13 Easter Family Fun Days **1282**

18 - 19 Chilterns Country Show **2415**

25 - 26 Vikings and Saxons in
Training **407**
The Dark Ages Society

May

2 - 4 For King or Country **1016**
English Civil War Society

9 - 10 Join in on the Farm -
Lambing as it used to be **216**

16 - 17 Traditional Toys and
Games **134**

23 - 25 Romans vs. Britons **826**
The Vicus

30 - 31 Flappers, Frolics and
Fun in Metroland **273**

June

6 - 7 Join in on the Farm -
Horse vs. Tractor vs.
Man **97**

13 - 14 Medieval Cooking and
Weaponry **283**
Pelican in her Piety

21 Heavy Horse Show **490**

27 - 28 Meet the Napoleonic
Soldiers **234**

July

4 - 5 Join in on the Farm -
Harvesting the Corn **134**

11-12 Saxons vs. Vikings **441**
Valhalla

18 - 19 Meet our Norman
Conquerors **277**
Conquest

25 - 26 Classic Vehicles Show **683**

Visitor numbers

August

1 - 2 Meet Sharpe's Rifles **371**
*The Sharpe Appreciation
Society & 95th Rifles*

8 - 9 Work, Rest and Play with
the Tudors **442**
Hungerford Household

15 - 16 17th Century Crime and
Punishment **331**
The Siege Group

22 - 23 England vs. Scotland - Red
Coat Soldiers Dragoons
and Jacobites - *Lace Wars* **435**
Meet the Roman Army

29 - 31 *The Roman Military
Research Society* **1157**

September

5 - 6 Join in on the Farm -
Cultivating the Fields **144**

12 - 13 Traditional Crafts **283**

19 - 20 Traditional Toys and
Games **211**

26 - 27 From Sheep to Jumper -
Knitting Weekend **298**

October

3 - 4 Harvest Festival &
Join in on the Farm **289**

10 - 11 The Big Draw **176**

17 - 18 Traditional Toys and
Games

24 - 25 Be a Traditional Builder!

30 Halloween Spectacular **1017**
(6.00 pm - 9.00 pm)

www.coam.org.uk

Information Line : 01494 872163

Museum Office : 01494 871117

What's on in 2010

March

27 - 28 **Campaign '44 - Meet 1940s Soldiers**

April

2 - 5 **Hands-on-Spectacular**

10 - 11 **Building Blocks**

17 - 18 **The Diehard's - Training Camp**

24 - 25 **Best of British – celebrating St. George's day we highlight the wonderful craftsmanship from our own shores.**

May

1 - 3 **For King or Country? with the 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 - meet the horses**

29 - 31 **Prelude to D-Day – meet British and American troops as they prepare for the big offensive.**

June

5 - 6 **Building Blocks**

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

19 **Traditional toys and games**

20 **Heavy Horse Show - with the Hertfordshire Heavy Horse Association.**

26 - 27 **Building Blocks**

July

3 - 4 **Bog Standard**

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 with Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company**

August

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

7 - 8 **Meet the Roman Army with the Roman Military Research group. Try on Roman armour and see the siege engine at work.**

14 - 15 **Medieval Pageant with local group The Lion Rampant. Watch the arming of the knight, the hand-to-hand combat and the hilarious medieval play**

21 - 22 **Victorian times Visit our Victorian village and meet members of the 'shooting party' as well as the travelling explorers displaying their wonderful 'discoveries'.**

28 - 31 **What was it like before the English Civil War? Find out with re-enactment group 17th Century Life and Times.**

September

4 - 5 **Sharpe's Rifles with the 95th Rifle Battalion**

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

18 - 19 **Traditional Crafts**

25 - 26 **Building Blocks**

October

2 - 3 **Harvest Festival**

9 - 10 **The Big Draw**

16 - 17 **Traditional toys and games**

23 - 24 **Building Blocks**

29 **Halloween Spectacular (6.00 pm - 9.00 pm)**

If you are able to help at any of these events, please let Tom Crosby know on 01923 774637

**29th ANNUAL CHARITY
AUCTION**

At
Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre

On

Saturday, 14 November 2008

View from 10.45am
Sale commences 1.00 pm

Refreshments available all day

*The Sale will include glass, china, clocks, furniture,
jewellery, books, paintings, antique sewing machines,
silver & plate*

For further details please contact the Friends of
Chiltern Open Air Museum
On (01923)774637

Friends of COAM is a registered charity, no. 286534

News from the Boss

"I'm delighted to be starting my visit today at Chiltern Open Air Museum. It's one of England's hidden gems – it's simply sensational." Mike Beddingfield, the new Chief Executive Officer of Tourism South East, during his visit to Bucks on 11 September.

During his VIP visit Mike added some wychert to the construction of Haddenham, prepared straw for the thatching of the rick (yealming) visited education activities, the café and the farm, where Sovereign and Robert his owner gave Mike a carriage ride back to the entrance. Jacky Brookes arranged the visit as part of the new marketing and PR strategy to raise awareness of the Museum and Bucks as a tourism destination. We are delighted that there has been a definite increase in the amount of PR coverage of the Museum over the summer with excellent pictures of most of the summer events and project achievements. The presence of Sharpe's Rifles actor Jason Salkey at the Meet Sharpe's Rifles event in August also ensured excellent publicity in this period. Similarly Haddenham was

a TV star with articles in the papers and another filmed piece from BBC Oxford news in August.

The summer events have definitely been a sensational gem! Visits from the Valhalla Vikings and early medieval group Conquest were very popular as visitors were keen to see the combat displays and the demonstration of the trebuchet siege engine. The Classic Vehicle Show again produced a variety of different cars, motorcycles, vintage bicycles, farm vehicles and this year for the first time, a red bus! New events over the summer included Tudor group Hungerford Household, who laid out a country gentleman's household around Arborfield Barn and which proved to be an enormous hit with the visitors. So, too, was the crime and punishment weekend with the Siege Group including a hanging on the Sunday! (no people were harmed during the making of this event but the Buildings Manager had a long list of suggestions!)

The Roman Army invaded with their military tactics and siege engines again during the August Bank Holiday to the delight of the visitors. The craft weekend



Mike Beddingfield with Director and Sovereign



Jason Salkey outside Leagrave during the Sharpes Rifles event

proved to be very popular in September, as did the knitting weekend, during which visitors knitted a nose bag for Sovereign.

This year the farm team has provided Join in on the Farm weekends for visitors to participate in farming activities. The newly restored Massey Harris Reaper Binder was used to cut the acre of rye that was grown in the arable fields, while visitors helped the farm team to stook the crop in the traditional way. For the first time since the restoration of the thrashing machine, the Museum was able to use it to thresh the rye crop to produce straw for rick thatching in the future.

We were delighted that Lion Television chose to film the second series of Horrible Histories in early September, using much of the Museum site. Highlights of this year's filming included the rise to stardom of Bill the Goat, who was asked (nicely) to wear a wedding dress in the Vicarage Room and to appear in two other sketches around the Iron Age House and Arborfield Barn! Why a wedding dress? You will have to wait for the series to be screened next year. In July with Brian Hill in the forge, the BBC also filmed part of a

History of Science documentary about early science experiments.

Recently the Museum was the proud winner of the Audio Antenna audio competition with a fantastic recorded tour put together by Melissa Maynard and volunteer Emma Parsons. This involved the young volunteers and many other volunteers, staff and visiting celebrities in the making of the tour. As a result we have won £5000 of equipment and software to make the tour available to the public next season.

We were pleased to welcome members from the Chilterns Conservation Board in late September to view the amazing progress and achievements of the Museum. Barbara Wallis was delighted to view the new display of timber joints in Northolt Barn, funded by the Chris Wallis memorial fund with Barbara's kind permission. The Chilterns Conservation Board has given around £40,000 in grants towards the enhancement of both site and buildings over the last five years and we are very grateful for their support.



Cluny Chapman and Anne Mary with Verena Clark at the Knitting Weekend.



Barbara Wallis and John Hyde-Trutch with the new timber joints in Northolt

The Friends have continued their staunch support over the summer with the very successful fundraising event at Bledlow Ridge by kind permission of Lord Carrington, our President. I would like to thank everyone involved, especially Gill Cassidy, who organized the event. Several Friends have also attended local events to raise awareness of the Museum including the Feast Day at Chalfont St Peter.

The Friends also “saved the day” in the middle of summer when the condition of our playground deteriorated so badly that it had to be closed. The committee generously gave £3,000 for the necessary repairs and new pieces of equipment, so that visitors could enjoy the playground during the summer holidays. We are most grateful to them for all their support.

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions towards the success of the Museum. Do come along during the winter period to support our busy winter activities on site – your Museum still needs you!

*Sue Shave
Museum Director*



Chairman of the Friends and the Director admiring the playground repairs



Romans preparing their siege engine at the August Bank Holiday event



Harvesting the rye crop using the recently restored reaper binder



Tudor weekend with the Hungerford Household at Arborfield Barn

Buildings News

The main project for the year has of course been Haddenham. We managed to get started again in June, and commenced work on the first floor.

It took us a while to remember how to do it, but eventually we did, and then developed a better way of keeping the berries (or layers) reasonably level.

Once we had completed the ground floor (carrying on from where we left off last autumn) we were able to put some plywood down to create a floor to work from, but we soon found that we needed scaffolding in order to continue. This has enabled us to work more comfortably, but has also produced its own problems. I can only load bags of wychert in four places, necessitating the use of a wheelbarrow to move material to the point of construction, and the poles get in the way so we can't use our witchett forks.

Progress has been much slower than anticipated as a result. We now have all the upstairs windows in, and wychett two thirds the way up them. This time we used sieved witchert to bed them in, instead of lime mortar. First the stone cills then the windows on to the cills. This was actually better than mortar, but you have to be quick, it is extremely sticky and there is only one opportunity for adjustment.

We have stopped for the year now, with still a couple of feet to go to eaves level – this years target.

The incorrect kitchen window has been replaced with the correct style, and (I'm glad to say) you can't see that it has been changed. We reached a point where we really need to move up to the second lift on

the scaffolding, so this is a suitable place to stop.

We have done a little infilling in one of the ground floor partition walls, using the wychert left over and the few laths I had.

We also lit a fire in each of the fireplaces just to see what happened! Each chimney drew very well despite being only just over half its height.

We had the Bucks Herald/Thame Gazette round again for a follow up article, and similarly BBC South returned to film us (my apologies to anyone who saw my abysmal performance).

The heap has rapidly diminished, but I do have spare supplies, so we will be able to complete the building.

Work will re-commence in the spring.

The Sewell Nissen hut was re-erected during March and April, as far as we could, and as many large artefacts as possible were crammed into the storage section. A wooden partition was constructed leaving two bays at the front for an exhibit.

During the course of the year the inside of the front two bays has been painted and the exterior tarred, a screed floor laid and steps built. The idea is to set out the front two bays as a WW2 RAF briefing room. One of the WW2 re-enactors has been collecting suitable furniture and fittings during the year, so it should be ready for the next season.

We have now acquired enough extra parts to complete the building, and to replace some of the more rotten outer sheets. We have even managed to find the parts of a dormer which we intend to fit during the



Work recommencing in June 2009



Scaffolding erected around the building and work continuing on the windows



As far as we got this year!



Filling in the gaps! Internal partition walls being filled in with wicket



The replacement inner walls being fitted



Sewell with the outer sheets fitted and tarring underway- 5 bays nearly completed

winter. They will need some work done to them first though.

These came from some huts scheduled for demolition at Flamstead in Bedfordshire. We are extremely grateful to Lantern Demolition for allowing us to take the parts we needed.

Now that we have finished Haddenham for the year we will complete the construction of the hut, and move in the last few large artefacts. Just as well we did extend the foundations.

The storage area has changed considerably. The old wooden storage building (known as the “swimming pool”) has gone and the hardcore road has been ‘uncovered’.

The new building has arrived, all be it in kit form, but we still don’t know when the necessary ground works will be done to accommodate it. Contractors will erect the building, but we will have to put everything back in to it. We can then

demolish the other smaller wooden structure and move the small shed to where that was, where it will become the new paint and glass store.

As usual nothing has gone quite to plan; the building arrived with the wrong wall cladding, and we seem to have an extra roller shutter door – hmm! I feel a saga coming on!

The stove in Thame has been very temperamental of late so not worth the bother of lighting. Closer examination has shown that the flue pipes have corroded through, and were choked with soot.

These were enamelled steel pipes, and have been removed, and replaced with cast iron pipes. Hopefully now the stove can fulfil its function and keep the museum teachers warm. In return I expect regular blackleading.

When the Shepherd’s hut was moved to the new lambing fold a modern wood burning stove was installed to keep Conway and his volunteers warm during



GE Money volunteers tarring Sewell

The new storage building flat packed in the back car park

the lambing. This will be replaced with a period stove more in keeping with the date of the hut, and with a new cast-iron stove pipe.

Doors have finally been fitted to Northolt Barn. They were completed on the 8th October by Joe Thomson. We can now keep those owls out and we won't have to wash the floor again every spring!

The frames are of Oak, but the planks are Poplar to reduce the weight. They are hung on wrought iron pintles and hinges made here in the Museum forge by Robin Mitchener.

This is a project that has dragged on a bit, so it is good to see the doors finally hung. The Buildings Volunteers have set up the marvellous model joints made by tim Hallewell on two display boards. The visitors can now try them out to see how they work. The project was funded by Barbara Wallis as a memorial to her Husband Chris, who was responsible for the re-erection of the barn.

There is plenty of work to keep us occupied during the winter. The Apple Store needs some major repair work, as does the Living Van we are using as a site hut at Haddenham. There are a few windows to repair as well.

*John Hyde-Trutch
Buildings Manager*



Joe Thompson fitting the boards to the Northolt barn doors



Joe making wooden pegs on a shaving horse to peg the door frame together



Doors closed for business!

Events

We've had a busy season this year, with huge numbers of events both large and small. It's always great working with the re-enactment groups; however I must take this opportunity to thank Jenny Cassidy for all her hard work dealing with the administration, booking in everyone for the Classic Vehicle Show and helping to meet them all on the morning of the event.



Meet the Norman Conquerors

We couldn't run any of these events without the support of our volunteers, helping to steward the buildings and event fields, helping to run activities, clear tables at the café and also work in the ticket office.

Thank you all.

*Melissa Maynard
Education Officer*



Tudor Weekend



Classic Vehicle Show



Classic Vehicle Show

What about 2010?

The main event season for 2010 sees some old favourites return and new groups join us, so we hope that there is something for

everyone to enjoy next year.

Saturday 27 March will also see the launch of 2 new displays and the brand new audio tour of the Museum.

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 March	Campaign '44 – <i>members of 1940s re-enactment groups prepare for the wartime campaigns of 1944.</i>
Friday 2 - Monday 5 April	Hands-on-Spectacular – <i>a weekend of family fun with hands-on crafts and living history re-enactments.</i>
Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 April	Best of British – <i>new craft fair celebrating St. George's day we highlight the wonderful craftsmanship from our own shores.</i>
Saturday 1 - Monday 3 May	For King or Country? <i>the English Civil War Society</i>
Friday 29 - Monday 31 May	Prelude to D-Day – <i>meet British and American troops as they prepare for the big offensive.</i>
Sunday 20 June	Heavy Horse Show <i>with the Hertfordshire Heavy Horse Association.</i>
Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 July	Classic Vehicles Show – <i>local classic vehicle owners join us once again to show off their vehicles to their best advantage. But beware the 18th century highwayman!</i>
Saturday 31 July & Sunday 1 August	Skill at Arms Display <i>with Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company.</i>
Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 August	Meet the Roman Army <i>with the Roman Military Research group. Try on Roman armour and see the siege engine at work.</i>
Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 August	Medieval Pageant - <i>local group The Lion Rampant. Watch the arming of the knight, the hand-to-hand combat and the hilarious medieval play.</i>
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 August	Victorian times <i>Visit our Victorian village and meet members of the 'shooting party' as well as the travelling explorers displaying their wonderful 'discoveries'.</i>
Saturday 28 - Monday 31 August	What was it like before the English Civil War? <i>Find out with re-enactment group 17th Century Life and Times.</i>
Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 September	Sharpe's Rifles <i>Join the 95th Rifles Battalion to discover more about a soldier's life during the Napoleonic Wars.</i>
Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 October	Harvest Festival <i>Join us as we thresh our harvested crops and prepare a traditional harvest meal.</i>
Friday 29 October	Halloween Spectacular <i>This popular evening event is full of hands-in and hands-on activities for all the family.</i>

Education News

An award winning service ...

Well, the school's year is almost over! The academic year is slightly longer than the visitor season and lasts from February until November .

This year has seen many of the old workshops continue and some new themed days launched for our visiting school children. The most successful of these is the new Victorian Life theme day where the children spend an hour and a half with the Victorian school ma'am and then explore the type of job that they might have done on the farm and view the "salubrious" accommodations for the Brickwell family in our Toll House. It is always nice to see the children turn out in "costume" for the day, and I have the opportunity to wear my new dress!

We also had a wonderfully busy "Toys through the Ages" one day event in June, where the eight visiting classes had a chance to play with Tudor, Victorian and World War II toys and games and also

make some toys to take home. This was so successful that we are offering two days next June (and we already have a booking!).

The year has also seen us blessed with awards, earning our Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge in March and our 4th Sandford Award for Excellence in Heritage Education (which we have now held continuously since 1994) in July. These awards could not have been achieved without the hard work of like Elizabeth Sherman, Pam and David Linsey, Jane Cooper and, of course, the late Phil Holbrook and the late Jack Groves.

Our Forest School, which we run with the Hawk and Owl Trust, also received a glowingly report within Chalfont St. Giles Infants School & Nursery's OfSTED inspection, with the nursery receiving an excellent rating for their work.

This year however we have been busy with lots of other parties as well as



Toys and Games Special event



Victorian School Workshop

schools. The Arborfield Adventurers Holiday Club still keeps us very busy both at Easter and during August. We are all exhausted after an enjoyable day and this August we explored the theme of the Tudors. Once again I have to thank all those who give up their time to help run these activities each year and especially to John H-T who always manages to pull a rabbit out of the hat when I ask (usually at the last minute) if he and his team could just knock up a few items. This year they have made us wooden hobby-planes and tug boats (for the WWII toys) as well as a cross-staff and quadrat for Tudor exploration. The quintain John made us a few years ago has AN had an outing this year! This summer the money that we raised from the holiday club will be going towards the interpretation of the Nissen Hut as a WW2 RAF Briefing Room in memory of Jack Groves, who helped us run the activities for the holiday club over many years.

But what has been going on for all our other visitors?

The Audio Tour ...

This summer I saw a notice put up on one of the many professional groups, of which that I'm a member, about a competition that Antenna Audio were running during the summer. The "Create your own Audio Tour" competition was for small museums in the UK and Ireland and the winner would win 15 hand-held audio tour devices and related equipment, as well as 1 year's free licence for the software to upload the tour onto the devices.

So I printed out the information, went down to the Toll House knowing that it was a Wednesday and that Emma Parsons would be there. And with the old motto of "if you don't ask you don't get" going through my mind I asked if Emma would be interested in helping me enter this competition. We were both concerned about how little time we had to produce a tour and how we were going to record it – but looking back that was probably for the best.

With Emma nagging me about deadlines, and finding someone to lend us recording equipment for one weekend, we worked out what stories we could tell about our buildings. We were only allowed between 15 and 30 minutes of recorded information which meant that we couldn't tell the whole story at all the buildings, and we had to be "creative" and "innovative".

So with some ideas and 'scripts' in hand, and the recording equipment, we had a weekend to get lots of people telling the stories at each building. The Young Volunteers were called upon, reading a poem at the Vicarage Room with me as the Sunday school teacher, Emma's three girls Alice, Mimi and Rosie as straw plaiters in Leagrave Cottages, Cathy Simpson as the toll gate keeper's wife, Jim Parsons running the recording equipment and acting as the tram attendant at Caversham Public Conveniences. ... Then as we were walking past the toll house I spotted Edwin Moutrie, remembered that he plays the harmonium, and he very kindly agreed to come in the following morning to play for us. Emma and I got goose bumps as we listened to him playing in the Mission Room.

Later we were able to gain the help and support of many other volunteers, and this is where husbands come in very handy – mine for technical support and reading for the furniture factory and wood end café & Cathy’s for transferring the interviews on tapes onto the computer for us - for those that don’t know that’s Chris Maynard & Andrew Simpson! Members of the Mannered Mob (the re-enactment group who are with us for Easter and Harvest each year and who bring the Highway Man to the Vehicles Show), Brian Hill and even Jason Salkey ‘aka Rifleman Harris’ were coerced into being recorded also.

The last piece to be recorded was the narrative for Iron Age House – and as Emma said, children are just better at things like this – so thank you to Toby Rutter and Kit Valentine for saving that part of the tour at the last minute!

It all paid off and we won the competition, but the work is now to begin!

Hands-on Holidays and weekends ...

This year we’ve also had a variety of weekends and school holidays filled with afternoon activities and this year’s new resource *Building Blocks*.

I hope that those of you who have visited in 2009 have enjoyed taking part. Again I must say a big thank you to all who help make these—both the volunteers who run the activities as well as our visitors!

Melissa Maynard,



Ted Fox demonstrating wheel wrighting



Thea Murray demonstrating illuminated manuscripts



Building Blocks activities in Northolt Barn

Growing Up in the Shadow of the War ...

This winter we will be working on two new displays at the Museum. The first will exhibit part of the new Nissen Hut as a WWII RAF Briefing Room. The second will to replace the temporary display about rationing in the back bedroom of the Amersham Prefab.

This new display will look at how World War II affected the lives of children. We would like it to be shaped by the memories of those who were children during the War. If you have any childhood memories from WW2 that you would like to share with us we would love to hear them.

There is a notebook available at the Museum for memories to be added to or you can write to me at the Museum or via email. I will also be holding some coffee mornings and afternoons in December if you would like to come along and talk about your memories with other people.

We would love to be able to record these and use some of them in the new display. Due to the nature of these days I would very much appreciate it if you could let me know that you are coming.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01494 875542 or at educationcoam@btconnect.com if you would like to help.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer



Memory Days

Come and tell us your memories of growing up during World War II on

- ◆ Monday 7 December starts at 10am and 2pm
- ◆ Wednesday 9 December starts at 10am and 2pm
- ◆ Thursday 10 December starts at 10am and 2pm

Meet other people who grew up during the war and reminisce over a cup of tea or coffee. Each time we meet we hope to have a small group to make sure that everyone is able to speak about their memories.

Please let Melissa know if you are interested in coming along on 01494 875542.

We would like to record these memories and use them with the new display in our prefab next year.

Today I ... *Write a diary entry as someone living in the past!*

Did you know that Samuel Pepys started his diary 350 years ago? To celebrate this fact we will be launching a creative writing competition on Saturday 1st May 2010 with the English Civil War Society.

Using a diary as a starting point we would like to invite children to produce an entry as if they were someone living in the past. The entries can be about anyone, living at any time, being rich or poor, young or old. They can be about someone who is famous, an ancestor or just a made up person.

Rules:

- * Each entry should be no more than 1 side of A4.
- * Each entry should have the child's name and age written on the reverse.
- * All entries must be written by a child up to the age of 16 years old.
- * All entries must be the child's own work.
- * Entries may include illustrations to support their writings.
- * Only 1 entry is permitted per child.
- * All entries must be received by Friday 16 July 2010 (the winning entry will be drawn on Saturday 21 August 2010).

Sounding good for 2010

Did you know that 6 year old Caroline Woodward lived and worked as a straw platter in Leagrave cottage? Have you ever heard the harmonium in the Henton Mission Room belting out Onward Christian Soldiers? Do you know how to build a cottage out of Wychert?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no” then the Chiltern Open Air Museum has a fantastic treat in store for you. With the start of the 2010 season, in March, the Museum will be launching its prize winning audio guide. Despite being shown to greatly enhance visitor experience and being perfect for Museums such as ours, audio guides are very expensive and are therefore traditionally associated with much larger museums. However, as a result of winning a National competition run by Antenna Audio the Museum has been given 15 free handheld guides and the software to update them throughout the year.

The guide has been designed to bring the histories of the buildings alive and to tell some of the fascinating stories of the people who lived and worked in them. We hope that you will enjoy using the guide but we also hope that you will contribute your ideas and favourite stories to help it evolve.

A comments book will be available in the ticket office, which we urge you to make use of at the end of the tour.

A huge thank you to all the Friends, Volunteers and Staff already involved, whose knowledge and enthusiasm won us this amazing prize.

Wanted Digital recording equipment and microphone.

If you know of any company or individual who would be prepared to donate this to the museum please contact Melissa at educationcoam@btconnect.com

Young Volunteers Club

2009 DIARY

Saturday 9 November

2010 DIARY

Saturday 13 February

Saturday March

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 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) and other equipment.

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

Tel: 01494 875542

Email: Educationcoam@btconnect.com

Site and Farm

“Just to Make that Entirely Clear.....”

Some of you may remember my attempts of a few years ago (Museum Update October 2005) to demystify some of the useful words used around the farm. These were, unfortunately, rejected out of hand by The Oxford English Dictionary, Websters, and Collins, so I felt it was time to further the cause. I have particularly tried to focus on clearing up any confusion between some like sounding terms in common use on the farm here. I have also tackled some of the rather bewildering units of measurements of grain. These have been of particular relevance this year with the various arable tasks that have been on. I am pleased to say that I truly believe in doing so, I think I have succeeded in rendering the marginally transparent fully opaque.

Quarter (i): (*n.*) Unit of volume (usually for grain), equal to 8 bushels.

Quarter (ii): (*n.*) Unit of weight (usually for grain), equal to 28 lbs or a Quarter (iv) of a hundredweight; so for most

grains this will turn out (most usefully?) to be something like a sixteenth of a Quarter (ii).....or not, depending on the highly variable density of grain.

Quarter (iii): (*n.*) Unit of weight (shown on scales for weighing farm produce, such as grain) equal to a Quarter (iv) of a pound (4 ounces).

Quarter (iv): (*vb.*) To divide into 4 equal parts (usually for carrot cake) esp. when 4 farm volunteers present.

Quarter (v): (*vb.*) To divide into any number of parts (usually for carrot cake) esp. when cake is particularly good and rationing is desirable.

Quarter (vi): (*vb.*) To divide into any number of parts (usually a field) and search for Sovereign’s lost shoe, or Farm Manager’s Knife.

Caught ’er (!) (vii): (*interj.*) Exclamation given by Farm Manager after rugby tackling escaping ewe during routine ovine vaccination administrations; usually dropping Farm Manager’s Knife in field at same time, precipitating need for Quartering (vi).

Quart: (*n.*) Unit of volume (for dry goods, such as grain) equal to 2 pints or one eighth of a Peck (i).

Sack (i): (*n.*) Unit of volume



Conway Rowland demonstrating rick thatching to the Chiltern Conservation Board



Jane Cooper helping to stook the rye crop

(presumably derived from the size of a Sack (ii)) (usually for grain), of 4 bushels, i.e. half a Quarter (i), and somewhere around 8 Quarters (ii) dependent on the density of grain.

Sack (ii): (*n.*) Type of bag especially made to hold around a Sack (i) of grain, usually with at least one undiscovered hole to allow the grain to come pouring out everywhere upon lifting it, which doesn't really matter too much, as no mere mortal humans these days can lift these Sacks(i) anyway.

Sack (iii): (*n.*) Unit of weight for wool of 364 lbs.

Sack (iv): (*vb. tr.*) Threatened action by Director towards farm staff after yet another Inertia start (ii).

Peck (i): (*n.*) Unit of volume (for dry goods, such as grain) equal to 1 Quarter (iv) of a bushel.

Peck (ii): (*vb.*) Action of Cock (ii) when farm volunteers attempt to get him into Coop (ii) at night.

Yealming: (*vb.*) Preparing straw for thatching. Achieved by drawing straw into neat straightened bundles by hand. All too frequently performed in an uncomfortable position, in the wet or several inches of snow, and with a tendency to remove the outer layer of skin from one's hands by day 3 (if your back's still holding out and Coup has not occurred by then).

Yeaning: (*vb.*) Parturition of sheep or goats.

Yeanling: (*n.*) Young sheep or goat, i.e. lamb or kid.

Yearling: (*n.*) Animal between 1 and 2 years of age.

Thwaining: (*vb.*) Word used by farm volunteer for yealming when after a full day of it, he could no longer even remember the name of what he was doing.

Farm Manager's Knife: (*n.*) Apparently the only knife carried by anyone on the farm team, used frequently on sheep's

feet.

Carucate: (*n.*) Measure of land, as variable as Quarter (v), but generally around about what a team of 8 oxen could plough in a year.

Carrot cake: (*n.*) Particularly good victuals, usually provided by a member of the Clarke family.

Pre-cut carrot cake: (*n.*) Desirable state of carrot cake when only means available to otherwise Quarter (iv or v) Carrot Cake is with Farm Manager's Knife.

Prevaricate: (*vb.*) Action taken by farm volunteers when faced with Yealming.

Pleasant: (*adj.*) Used by most farm volunteers to describe Carrot Cake.

Pheasant: (*n.*) Rick ornament on this year's thatch.

Pleasant (prefix un-): (*adj.*) Used by most farm volunteers to describe Yealming.

Pheasant (prefix un-): (*n.*) What Pheasant is after strong winds.

Peasant (!): (*interj.*) Used by Farm Manager to describe farm volunteers when facing down Coup following Recoil Start (iii).

Cock (i): (*n.*) What the Farm Manager meant the rick Pheasant to be, but artistic skills were running low during fabrication at night whilst waiting for ewe Yeaning in Coop (i).

Cock (ii): (*n.*) Male chicken over 18 months of age, distinguished from Cockerel by temperament that most farm volunteers would describe as Pleasant (prefix un-).

Cockerel: (*n.*) Male chicken older than a chick, but less than 18 months of age, distinguished from Cock (ii) by voice which switches from tenor to contralto halfway through crow.

Coop: (*n.*) Small enclosed pen with shelter in a lambing fold, used to confine ewe and Yeanlings during and after Yeaning.

Coop: (ii): (*n.*) Small house for chickens, esp. for birds sitting on eggs.

Coup: (*n.*) Cart whose body can be tipped for emptying.

Coup: (*n.*) Threatened action of farm volunteers when faced with third day of Yealming and Carrot Cake rations are running low (N.B. Director- is this an omission from Museum's Disaster Plan?).

Coupe: (*n.*) Area of coppice or high forest to be annually felled as part of a woodland rotation.

Recoil Start (i): (*n.*) Device fitted to strimmer/ chainsaw etc to allow the machine to be started with an easy pull on a string.

Recoil Start (ii): (*n.*) Device actually fitted to most trimmers/ chainsaws etc that allows you to gain good exercise by pulling on a string with little or no risk of starting it, and then ensures you have to stop the machine to deal with the piece of string that remains hanging from it once it does start. When subsequently dismantled to rectify the problem, sends various small pieces flying to the furthest corners of the workshop.

Recoil (from) Start (iii): (*vb.*) Action of farm volunteers when presented with prospect of yealming after consumption of Quarters (iii) of carrot cake.

Inertia Start (i): (*n.*) Type of starting device often fitted to older vehicles, designed to progressively destroy itself.

Inertia Start (ii): (*n.*) Usual inaction of farm volunteers on sudden unannounced arrival of director expecting 'Jump Start' * (see below), during yet another unscheduled tea break.

Pre-engaged Start: (*n.*) Type of starting device invented to overcome problems of Inertia Start (i), in which pre-location of gear into work position happens before energising effect of motor, thus avoiding excessive wear on gears.

Pre-engaged Start: (*n.*) Action of farm

volunteers invented to overcome problems of Inertia Start (ii), in which pre-location of gear into work position happens before energising effect of approaching Director, thus avoiding excessive wear on volunteers.

Livestock: (*n.*) Generic word for living domestic animals used productively in farming.

Deadstock (i): (*n.*) Other equipment and tools of farmer's trade as distinct from livestock (e.g. tractors, implements, sacks (ii)).

Deadstock (ii): (*n.*) Alternative word for Livestock when things aren't going so well.

Decortication: (*vb. tr.*) Removal of husks from a seed (Decorticated seed cakes are an important constituent of livestock rations whereas any seed cakes seem to be appreciated by farm volunteers).

Dedication: (*n.*) What my farm volunteers have in spade-fuls, which keeps me going.

* **"Jump starting-** technique by which farm workers move rapidly into action upon spotting the approach of the Director." (-Museum Update October 05)

*Conway Rowland
Site and Farm Manager*



NEW ARRIVAL

In August a young Clydesdale horse called Harvey was introduced to Sovereign as a new companion. Harvey is Robert Mackenzie's new acquisition, and he will soon begin training alongside Sovereign for horse like duties such as carriage pulling for visitors and

demonstrations of horse drawn farm equipment. Harvey is currently 4 years old and has a lovely temperament, although observers will tell you that Sovereign is definitely the boss and keeps young Harvey in his place! I believe that Harvey is equally as fond of carrots.....

Sue Shave
Museum Director



VISITOR SERVICES OFFICER & ADMIN OFFICER WANTED

We sadly said goodbye to Doug Green in August, as he left his role of Visitor Services Officer due to continued ill health. The staff are very grateful to Cheryl Bristow and Hayley Smith, who each took on the temporary visitor services role in succession over the summer and early autumn. We also say goodbye to Jenny Cassidy at the end of this year as she finishes her temporary cover role for the Admin Officer. We are

grateful to them both for their contribution to the Museum.

Job Descriptions and further details for the posts available from Sue Shave.

Deadline for applications 27 November, interviews in early December.

Start Date : Late January / early February 2010.

Forge

The A, B, C, of X, Y, and Z.

Spending time at the forge is very therapeutic, and I am pleased to have been able to extend my skills into areas of long-held personal interest. Manipulating amounts of metal and forming them into useful articles is so far from my previous maintenance career with radio equipment. Radio was always so unresponsive in that it could rarely tell you what was wrong with it, you just had to apply an established routine of testing to find out where it had electrically 'died'. It was very rare that obvious physical damage was the cause. But that does not mean I have no interest in past communications matters.

Looking through some old papers of mine I came across articles dealing with ENIGMA¹ and ULTRA², and consequently this brings to mind Station 'X' or Bletchley Park (BP), all now familiar topics following the release of information under the Government's Thirty Year rule. It is now familiar to us that BP was instrumental in providing information on enemy movements by code breaking the radio messages intercepted. But where did the message information come from? It is most unlikely that ALL of the intercepted messages from stations in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and other theatres would just 'happened' to be picked up in Buckinghamshire, wouldn't it?

It perhaps gives the impression that all of the clever stuff happened in isolation at BP.

It was only in recent years hearing snippets of conversation between my

(prospective) wife and her mother, (something along the lines of "What did you do in the War Mother"), that it became apparent to me that Station X was only part of the story, and that this white-haired elderly lady had something of a story to tell. Even more intriguing to me as a communications man was the fact that she could talk to her cousin in Morse Code. At one point the only way to bring them in from the garden for tea, was to loudly whistle a 'Calling' sign and pass my own message in morse!

It would appear that both these unobtrusive ladies, along with many others, had been drafted into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) during WW2 and incorporated into the War Office 'Y' Group (WOYG)³. This was a wireless intercept group designated as part of MI8 Wireless Intelligence, and tasked with collecting the enemy radio traffic and passing it direct to Station X. Besides the ATS there were other service branches represented including the Royal Signals and the Intelligence Corps. After an intense period of training in wireless reception techniques, recruits would be posted to any of several strategic listening stations in the UK where there were large aerial systems and direction finding equipment. These stations worked a continuous 24 hour watch system throughout the year, and although the transmissions were generally made in code and a foreign language, listeners became proficient in recognising the style or 'Fist' of the enemy operators thus giving vital supplementary indications of unit movements in the battle zone to go with the recorded message sent to BP. Some 'Y' stations were tactical, and were positioned in the war zones. War Office 'Y' Group then, was the method by which information was gathered and fed to

Station 'X'.

I discussed this with former colleagues at an annual reunion, and was then pointed to a web site on Underground Britain⁴. To my amazement I was faced with a former place of my own employment at Harrow, which was originally built in 1938/9 and designated Station 'Z'. This building was placed on Government land near Harrow and Wealdstone station and was primarily designed as the Air Ministry Citadel. If circumstances required, the staff of the Air Ministry at Whitehall would be evacuated to Harrow where there were super deep bombproof basements and gas tight doors⁵. Post war the building became the headquarters for the organisation that supported communications for the emergency services, and today it is a level patch in the Kodak Ltd., car park alongside the main West Coast railway line. However, I suspect that the basements are still there!

Given that the wartime Admiralty was also to have a bombproof citadel in Cricklewood, perhaps that would have emerged as Station 'A'? I wonder how much of the alphabet was eventually used?

Brian the Iron.

Notes:

1. ENIGMA was the name given to the cryptographic equipment
2. ULTRA was the intelligence gained from breaking the enciphered messages.
3. England Needs You. The story of Beaumanor Y Station, *J Nicholls; Rother Valley Press, 2000*
4. Subterranea Britannica: <http://www.subbrit.org.uk>
5. http://www.geocities.com/noelcox/Continuity_of_Government.htm



BBC Science documentary filming in the Forge



The REME unit working with Brian Hill in the Forge during the Campaign '44 event

Visitor Services

Thank you Stewards

And so another season draws to a close – not a bad season compared with last, though numbers are still down on two years ago. Many thanks to all of you who have helped as buildings stewards, as ticket sellers and as duty managers, without your help the Museum could not function.

We've had quite a few new faces this year, and very welcome you are. Sadly, it's also been a season with a record number of funerals to attend, perhaps a measure of the length of time the Museum has been in existence.

I have been Stewards' Organiser for somewhere around fifteen years (I can't remember just when Len handed me the badge of office) and have decided that 2010 will be my last season in the role, though keeping on all my other work at the Museum. So I'm looking for a volunteer to run next season in tandem, so that I can hand over in a year's time. Qualifications: patience, a computer (though Len managed without!), and a cajoling telephone manner.

And now for a quiet four months till next March, which gives you ample time to fill the 2010 dates list which is with this Update..

Tom Crosby
Volunteer Co-ordinator

GLADYS TAAFFE

Gladys has had several stays in hospital this year "to be mended" and is back at home being looked after by her daughter.

Welcome to New Volunteers

We continued to welcome new volunteers this summer to help with all aspects of the Museum, including several new blacksmiths, as well as new stewards, ticket sellers, builders, site and office assistants.

Over the summer GE Money and GE Healthcare have all sent corporate volunteers to the Museum, mainly to construct the traditional fencing around the Skippings Field and Village Green area. GE Money returned again in late August to help with the painting of Sewell Nissen Hut, the wychert work on Haddenham and a different section of the traditional fencing opposite Haddenham. We are grateful to those companies for donations to support the cost of the materials too. GE Electric also sent some new graduates in August to help clear the Toll House garden with Marina Long and the Wood End site with Lawford Thomas. New corporate volunteers Mid Counties Co-op did a splendid job of weeding and clearing the Iron Age House garden beds ready for the main summer visitors.

Sue Shave
Museum Director



GE Money volunteers constructing traditional fencing by the mid-site loos

People News

JACK GROVES



Jack was a gentleman in every way. I was very lucky to have worked with him over the years in many capacities.

I remember that as Duty Manager, he refused to leave me on the site by myself when I was locking the buildings, making sure that he radioed me often to ensure that I was okay and as he said one day, ‘that was his job as DM to make sure that we had the support that we needed’. I also remember one time when the afternoon Duty Manager had phoned in sick and the first thing he did was phone home to say he was staying all day, even though he didn’t have to.

As a steward Jack was always welcoming to the hordes of school children, taking them around the Toll House or Prefab and showing them the artifacts that they wanted a closer look at. He was also a stalwart with the holiday club and at weekend events, always willing to come and help run the activities over most of the holiday club, and the children adored him. He was sorely missed this summer by both the rest of the team and the children he has worked with for many years.

I feel very honoured and thankful to have known Jack and to have been the recipient of his friendship, knowledge and kindness over the years. And I know that many other staff and volunteers feel the same way. There will never be another like Jack and we will miss him for a very long time.

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer

An Officer and a Gentleman

The phrase might have been coined to describe Jack Groves, who died in July at the age of 88. Indeed it was noticeable – but not surprising – how often that word “gentleman” occurred in the tributes to Jack from his Museum colleagues.

Jack was born in Dorset, the son of a stone mason, and after grammar school went to Bristol University to read geography. However, at the end of his first year, with the onset of war, he left to volunteer for the R.A.F. He trained in Canada as a pilot, and was so outstanding that he was made an instructor before he had actually finished the course. He was posted to India, where he flew Catalina flying boats. He finished the war as a Flight Lieutenant, and we remember the ribbing at the Museum between him and Pat Lapham, who finished with one more ring on his sleeve.

In 1946, Jack resumed his studies at Bristol, gaining a 2.1 degree. His daughter told us of the time at University when he broke his leg tobogganing and drove his car using his stick instead of his foot on the pedal! He became an Air Traffic Controller and subsequently Air Attaché at the Allied Control Commission in Berlin.

He then joined the Civil Aviation Authority, rising to become its Director before he retired in 1985.

Jack's support of the Museum was of a long and varied character: for some years until 1996 he was a member of the Board of Trustees, he was a steward, a duty manager, he helped at Halloween, with school groups and with the Arborfield Adventurers and he was a stalwart at the annual auctions. Wherever he could help, he did.

Those of us privileged to attend Jack's funeral will remember it for a dignity and for a lack of pomp and ceremony that was just typical of the man.

Tom Crosby

BILL GAYLER



Bill was a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer at the Museum in the 1980s and 90s. He spent years of weekends demonstrating spinning wool on his wheel, which he had made himself.

He was a qualified engineer who used his expertise to mend and maintain farm machinery which was donated to the Museum, himself making missing parts so that the machinery could be used on the site.

My husband, John Edmonds, used to say that Bill was a brilliant engineer who would turn his hand to any job that was necessary and he happily helped with John's dyeing experiments. Bill and John worked side by side at the Apple Store during the time that it was used as a dye house.

I am sure that his wife, Sheila, would be comforted knowing how much Bill's past work is appreciated by the Museum.

Kathy Edmonds

VAL GORDON



When I started at the Museum, many years ago now, Val and Russ were one of the first volunteers that I met and got to know quite well. I know that my predecessor, Janet Ahlberg, also appreciated Val's generosity of time and knowledge

demonstrating basket making for our visitors.

When the notice went up in our offices regarding Val's passing, it originally read "one of our refreshment ladies when the café was just an old caravan". Soon afterwards someone had added "and steward, activity helper & potter" and then another added "and basket maker". This is just a small way that Val helped us at the Museum and does not cover how kind she was to new volunteers putting them at ease. Nor does it mention the many who thought of her as a friend.

Although Val retired from the Museum some years ago now, her friends remember her and are still thankful for everything that she and Russ did for us and how they touched our lives.

Melissa Maynard

JOHN COLE



John Cole sadly died in August following months of deteriorating health. John has been coming to the Museum for three years now with Angela, travelling to and

from Borehamwood. Angela tells me that John absolutely loved the Museum and had visited the Museum many times before deciding to be a volunteer. John became a building steward at the outset and frequently looked after the Toll House and Prefab with Angela every Monday. For a short time John also learnt blacksmithing with Brian Hill and thoroughly enjoyed this new craft. He also cheerfully agreed to help with activities for special events including Halloween and sometimes helped Jennie Booth's artefact team in Gerrards Cross. He was very good natured, always cheerful with the public and had a great sense of humour. Even after his health declined he continued to come to the Museum either as a visitor or even a steward when he could. He still took a lively interest in the Museum when he was ill and I remember Angela and I explaining what was happening by mobile phone during the official opening of Gerrards Cross last year. We miss John greatly and our thoughts and good wishes are with Angela at this time.

Sue Shave

Winter Talks 23 September

"The River Misbourne, Past, Present & Future" - John Norris, Chiltern Society, Rivers & Wetlands Group

28 October

"Beginner's Guide to Fungi" - Chris Ryde, Woodland Ranger, Wycombe District Council

25 November

"History of Brick making in Chesham" - Keith Fletcher, Chesham Museum

9 December

"History of the Victoria Cross" - David Callaghan. *Please note that this is a fund raising event at the Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre.* Tickets available later.

27 January 2010

"Buckinghamshire's Rotten Boroughs; Bribery and Corruption in Local Elections before the 1832 Reform Act" - Julian Hunt, well-known Researcher, Lecturer and Writer on English Local History

Wednesday 24 February

"Birds of the Colne Valley"
by Steve Carter

Wednesday 24 March

"Past & Present"
Work of the CVAHS Chess & Misbourne Valley Landscape Characterisation Group
by Richard Hoyle



Mary Heslam at the Garden Event, Bledlow Ridge

Friends News

As the 2009 Season comes to a close the Friends have much to be grateful for. The weather was kind on all three of our new fund raising ventures: the Penny Trail in March, the Open Garden Event at Bledlow in July and the Drawing of the Raffle at the beginning of October. Many, many thanks are due to Gill Cassidy who organised both the Garden Event and the Raffle and whose hard work made both such a success. Our traditional fund-raisers have also been successful and we should raise about £10,000 this year. Many thanks to everyone who has been generous with their time and/or money this year, both longstanding and new “active” Friends. Zelia Reid and Jim Bowers have joined the Events Committee, Prue Bell and Anne Moutrie have joined the rota for the Friends Centre and Anne Saunders has rejoined the team. Some of the money we raised paid for the repairs to the Children’s Playground.

As in previous years Friends have supported the Museum in other ways too, providing man-power to publicise the Museum off site as well as working in various ways on site.

Next year we hope to have a sponsored walk with a difference as our big fundraiser: Travel Through Time is a chronological walk starting at the Iron age Round House and ending two thousand years later at the Amersham Prefab. Hopefully the walkers (in historical dress – prizes for the best.) will number about one hundred and will each raise about £50. To be successful we will need walkers, sponsors, marshals and people to do the paperwork. If you can help in any way please contact Travel Through Time c/o J. Ogden.

You will notice that we have not asked you to collect pennies this winter but please feel free to do so again and bring them to the Friends Centre at the beginning of next Season. There are some certificates left.

Finally please remember that Friends’ activities continue after the Museum closes. Please support the Auction on 14 November, the Winter Talks, our stall at the Chesham Victorian Evening on 27 November, a Coffee Morning in Uxbridge on Saturday 5 December, our Christmas Evening in the Barn in Amersham on 9 December and our two Spring events – the Uxbridge Coffee Morning and the Quiz.

I hope to see many Friends at all these events, details of which are given elsewhere in Update or on our Website or through the Museum. May I be the first to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very successful New Year.

*Anne Ratcliffe
Friends Chairman*



Chairman of the Friends, Anne Ratcliffe, at the Great Penny Trail event in Skipplings Barn

Bledlow Open Day

The afternoon of 4 July was hot and sunny. Friends and visitors had the whole afternoon to explore and admire the gardens and sculptures of Bledlow Manor. Those who ventured ‘across the road’ were rewarded with the sight of Bledlow’s secret garden, the Lyde ,where cool chalk springs feed vistas of water beneath a leafy canopy. Others admired views of an English country house garden on a perfect summer’s day.

Afternoon tea was served and visitors enjoyed an abundance of delicious cakes made by the Friends and their friends. We would like to thank Lord Carrington again for giving us the opportunity to use his garden on such a beautiful day. The event raised £ 1725 for Museum funds.

Gill Cassidy



The Lyde Garden at Bledlow Ridge



Friends Raffle Draw at the Harvest Event

Grand Draw

The Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum have been running a Grand Draw over the summer months to raise funds for the Museum .Winning tickets were drawn at the Museum on Sunday October 4th on the Harvest Festival weekend.

The winning tickets are

Ticket No.	WINNER	PRIZE
01384	D. Dearman	American Quilt
06838	K. Watts	£100
01375	M. Dykes	Champagne

04365	K. Quigley	Basket of Fruit
03344	G. Jeynes	Picnic Hamper

The Draw raised £1112 for Museum general funds after expenses were deducted.

The Friends would like to thank all those who generously contributed to the Draw, and all those who helped in the administration work, sold tickets and provided prizes.

Fundraising

Make History your Present this Christmas

Stuck for ideas for Christmas? Why not make a gift to the Museum and make a lasting impression.

All gifts can be acknowledged on site if you choose, on a donors' board, or a brass plaque, depending on the gift.

You will also receive a beautiful gift certificate to keep or to give, if you are making a gift on behalf of another.

There is something for everyone...you can choose from:

- ◆ tiles for Haddenham Cottage roof £8
- ◆ handmade Chiltern bricks for the path to the volunteers' room in Astleham Manor Garden £7
- ◆ Edwardian bench for Astleham Manor Garden - £350 or £500. A

very special gift.

- ◆ Cherry tree for new Chilterns cherry orchard. £200 each.
- ◆ Plants and shrubs for Astleham Manor Garden - £8-25

A Gift for all year round

Help support the Museum all year round with our new sponsorship scheme. Pick up a form in Blythe Road ticket office to find out more.

Simply place your order on the form included with this edition of Update or telephone 01494 871117. More information from Sally McIver or Sue Shave.

VIP Membership

Thinking big? The Museum is launching a new VIP membership scheme for those who would like to gift £1000 or more to our work. All donations will be of great value to the Museum. Contact Sue Shave or Sally McIver to find out more.

Competition results

The 'new' Silver Grey Dorking cockerel, who arrived in May with 6 hens, has been named Achilles and the competition was won by Sarah Lomas.

The new pedigree Oxford Down ram, who arrived in June, has been named Alfred, thanks to Ken Watts, who won the competition. Great things are expected of Alfred in readiness for next year's lambing season.

The competitions raised £70 for the Farm Equipment fund. Thank you to all who entered and had such fun selecting some interesting names.

The other competition still running is 'Guess the time and date of the Topping Out ceremony for Haddenham cottage'. 50p a go! Those of you who selected dates in 2009 were wrong and I will be round again to get you to put your money down for a date in 2010 and/or possibly 2011. Whilst John HT has suggested that he should enter himself (since he hasn't a clue either about the date), this proposal has been carefully considered but rejected in case of any subsequent accusation of malpractice or competition fixing.

Verena Clark

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 fundraisingcoam@gawab.com***

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.

Acknowledgements

GE Money Finance Dept – fencing	£500
David Austen’s Family – Memorial	£160
Phil Holbrook’s Family – memorial and other projects	£1000
Staff & Volunteers -Holbrook memorial	£175
Mr A Mazzitelli, Mrs M Quantrell, Mr I Weston in kind - tools for Farm Workshop	£1000

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.

Standing Orders for the Museum

Thank you to those of you who have kindly completed standing orders to support the Museum as introduced in the October Update.

Please note that this is NOT for the Friends for Membership and is a separate scheme to support Museum revenue and projects directly.

Museum and Friends	£5000
- Astleham Garden including :	
Thea Murray Books	£2607.71
- Astleham Garden	
Ernest Cook Trust	£12000
– Education Officer’s salary	

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

Museum Director

Sue Shave
directorcoam@btconnect.com

Buildings Manager

John Hyde-Trutch
buildingcoam@btconnect.com

Farm and Site Manager

Conway Rowland

Education Officer

Melissa Maynard
educationcoam@btconnect.com

Catering Manager and IT Manager

Chris Maynard
webmaster.coam@btconnect.com

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