



CHILTERN
OPEN AIR
MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Museum *Update*

Autumn 2010



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

MARCH

27 - 28 Campaign '45 - Meet 1940s Soldiers **441**

APRIL

2 - 5 Hands-on-Spectacular **942**

10 - 11 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder* **321**

17 - 18 Victorian Soldiers' Training Camp - The Diehards **341**

24 - 25 Best of British Craft - Highlighting local craft talents **339**

MAY

1 - 3 For King or Country - *English Civil War Society* **650**

8 - 9 Join in on the Farm - *Lambing as it used to be* **110**

15 - 16 Guide Camps through Time **258**

22 - 23 Join in on the Farm - *Traditional Working Horses* **404**

29 - 31 England v Scotland - Red Coat Soldiers, Dragoons and Jacobites - *Lace Wars re-enactment* **888**

JUNE

5 - 6 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder* **183**

12 - 13 Medieval cooking and weaponry - *Pelican in her Piety* **252**

19 Traditional toys and games

20 Heavy Horse Show and Fathers Day Special - *Hertfordshire Heavy Horse Association.* **480**

26 - 27 Building Blocks - *Be a Traditional Builder* **118**

JULY

3 - 4 Bog Standard - *Early Privies and Public Conveniences* **260**

10 - 11 Join in on the Farm - *Hay Making* **233**

17 - 18 Chiltern Art Weekend **197**

24 - 25 Classic Vehicles Show **703**

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

AUGUST

1 Skill at Arms Display - *Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company* **360**

7 - 8 Meet the Roman Army - *Roman Military Research Society* **562**

14 - 15 Medieval Pageant - *Lion Rampant Medieval Display Society* **537**

21 - 22 Victorian Times, Explorers and Discoveries **348**

28 - 31 Soldiers, Ship Taxes and Skirmishes - *17th Century Life and Times* **990**

SEPTEMBER

4 - 5 The Celtic Home **202**

11 - 12 Join in on the Farm - *Cultivating the fields* **196**

18 - 19 Traditional Crafts **265**

25 - 26 Knit One Purl One - Knitting Weekend **162**

OCTOBER

2 - 3 Traditional Harvest Festival **163**

9 - 10 The Big Draw - *Family Art Activities* **212**

16 - 17 Traditional toys and Games **152**

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

29 Halloween Spectacular (6.00 pm - 9.00 pm)

NOVEMBER

20 Annual Charity Auction

Visitor numbers in red

www.coam.org.uk

Information Line : 01494 872163

Museum Office : 01494 871117

News from the Boss

Recently a group of hardened museum professionals visited the Museum for a meeting and took part in a guided tour afterwards. All of them reacted in a different way to the buildings but none were left unmoved by what they had seen. Our visitors have the same reaction to our collections - I recently met a couple in the Prefab who had been visiting as members of the Friends for a while. They told me how lovely all the volunteers had been to them that day, how much they loved the buildings, how beautiful they thought the surroundings were and how their whole experience here was always magical. It was a wonderful moment to hear how all our efforts are truly appreciated and what an incredible experience the Museum provides for our community. Their greatest regret was that we don't open in the winter!

As our visitors noted, the contribution of our volunteers is essential to the visitor experience. Recently the Museum was nominated as a finalist in "The Beautiful South, Awards for Excellence 2010" run by Tourism South East and the judge

particularly praised the warm welcome from volunteers both on reception and round the site, including at the Friends Centre. This nomination is a great testament to the quality visitor experience we provide. At the awards ceremony on 21 October the Museum was delighted to be awarded a silver certificate – I would like to thank you all for getting us this far and congratulate you all on your achievements.

Part of this magical experience is the outstanding special events programme over the summer to include centenary celebrations of the death of Thomas Crapper with the assistance of Thomas Crapper and Co.'s artefacts on loan, an art weekend provided by local artists and a summer of colourful groups including the Roman Army, Lion Rampant Medieval Display Society and the return of the Light Cavalry from the Honourable Artillery Company. Our popular annual Classic Vehicle Show was generously sponsored by Volvo, Aston Martin and the RAC and involved key contributions from several of the Museum volunteers. Our Victorian Weekend was organised by Laurie Watson and Richard Payne and depicted a Victorian shooting party and travelling



The Beautiful South Awards nomination



The Light Cavalry display team

museum of curios. The August holidays ended with a new Bank Holiday Event from 17th Century Life and Times, which involved the visitors in local rebellions against King Charles 1 and the subsequent trial of those involved afterwards!

I am delighted that funding from the Renaissance Volunteers in Museums Project is providing training opportunities for our volunteers. These have included sessions for building stewards and artefact volunteers, on historic buildings, conservation and pole lathing. Also, in order to deliver food related activities for the Museum, there will also be a food hygiene course for 20 volunteers and Friends. The same funding will enable the creation of a new volunteer recruitment leaflet and we will be reviewing our management procedures for volunteers.

I am also extremely pleased that it has allowed the employment of a project officer to work with Chiltern Open Air Museum and Wycombe Museum to promote our collections to the local black and Asian communities, exploring our different cultures and encouraging both visiting and volunteering on their part.

Further Renaissance funding has also enabled the Museum to have Sponsorship and Legacy leaflets professionally designed and printed, copies of which will be sent out with this publication. Please do encourage your friends and business contacts to support the Museum in this way, as we rely very much on such contributions.

We continue to be very grateful to our corporate sponsors and volunteers. Visits from GE Healthcare, GE Money, Marks and Spencer, Midcounties Co-operative and Intercontinental Hotels have provided funding for materials and people to help with the hard work of digging holes for the fencing posts around the Toll House over the summer. We are most grateful to the Chilterns Conservation Board for their recent grant to support the creation of pales for the new fence from wood on site. These groups have also assisted in the construction of a new brush wood fence for the Iron Age House compound.

Film crews have been much in evidence over the summer filming of sketches for the Impressions Show with John Culshaw and Debra Stephenson, CBBC's



Artist Cathy Read's paintings of the Museum's buildings in Thame Vicarage



John Culshaw and Debra Stephenson filming the Impressions Show

programme “Scoop”, a week long shoot with the third series of “Horrible Histories” and plans for filming for a new murder mystery production from “Hat Trick” in November.

We regretfully say goodbye to Rhona Taylor and the Hawk and Owl Trust who are leaving the site by the end of this year. Rhona has been almost considered a member of the Museum staff and will be much missed. Plans for the use of Skippings Barn in 2011 are being considered during the winter.

We look forward to recruiting our first two trainees to join us from the Heritage Lottery Funded “Skills for the Future Project”. Recruitment will begin once permission to start is given by HLF some time in November and we hope our trainees will start with us around February. They will be joining the team as temporary members of staff for 12 months learning about volunteer management,

education and interpretation, and sustainable buildings, working under the direction of the Education Officer and Visitor Services Officer. Training Consultant Peter Ross has been assisting us with the creation of our training plan.

The Museum is as busy as ever during the winter with Christmas Victorian workshops for schools, building and site work and the care of the artefact collection, all of which still need your support. I can’t thank you all enough for what you have done for us this year – the Museum is a very special place and it would not be the same without you!

Sue Shave
Museum Director



Lawford Thomas pressing apples at Harvest Festival in October



Mid Counties Co-Op. working on the Iron Age House fence

**30th ANNUAL CHARITY
AUCTION**

At
Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre

On

Saturday, 20 November 2010

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

Buildings News

Work continued on the Living Van until the beginning of March when we had to clear out of Northolt for the schools. Unfortunately we didn't finish all the work; one corner still needs repair and we didn't have time to do the roof, but it went back to Haddenham in a much better condition than it left, and with a fresh coat of paint – I really don't like that colour! The new end window, however, didn't get finished until June.

Meanwhile, down in the storage area, the new storage building was being completed by contractors. We then had to put in drainage and a soak away and a concrete ramp at the far end. This has all been done and we were able to start filling it; some of the timbers left in the rear car park have gone in, but others remain to be moved. We shifted a lot of stuff into it from Glory Mill, giving us a much larger work space. There is still a lot more to do which will be done this winter, when we will finally be able to get rid of the old large artefacts shed, hopefully before it falls down.

Some of the windows in the Furniture Factory were showing signs of rot, so we have been slowly working our way round replacing them, a job which is still ongoing.

Once again the main work this season has been on Haddenham, getting up to eaves level fairly quickly. The eaves posed quite a problem, as did the roof for that matter; having not been recorded or photographed we had a few problems just trying to work out how it all went together and where the wall-plates should go, and what exactly was going on at the eaves.

After many hours studying the few photos we had, and playing around with tiles and bits of wood we worked out that there was a course of bricks at the eaves with the wall-plates on top, but how did you get an overhang when the rafters stopped at the edge of the wall-plates? By version three we got it as right as we ever will – had to move the tie beams once, and re-position the wall-plates – but we finally got a roof built. As for the eaves, well the less said about them the better, what a ridiculous way to do it!

The ridge pieces went up on August 2nd, which is when we “Topped Out” – and we had a little party to celebrate. “Topping Out” is when the highest structural point is reached, and is celebrated traditionally by putting a flag and/or a small tree on top of the building.

We had an official “Topping Out” ceremony for the Press and Visitors on September 15th – but more about that somewhere else in the newsletter.

The roof is now almost complete, and should be finished by the time this is being read, we have just a little more to do on two of the gables, if the weather will allow it. Of course, losing the Fork Lift for two weeks didn't help, while it was being fixed we had to haul the witchet up by the barrow load on a chain hoist.

The upstairs partitions either side of the stair well have been constructed, and are being in-filled with wychert. With any luck we will be tiling the roof in the spring.

I did finally manage to get the thatch repairs on the Iron Age House done, but we will need to put a new roof on fairly soon.

*New steps into Gerrards
Cross Artefact Store*



*Haddenham Croft
Cottage roof under
construction*

*Internal wall on the
first floor of
Haddenham Croft
Cottage*



The ramp at the Friends Centre had turned up its toes over the winter, so we had to construct a new improved one.

Access to Gerrards Cross Hut has been improved with the addition of a set of steps to the side door. These have been made in oak and incorporate a viewing platform so that visitors can look inside on occasion. They were made by a new volunteer: John King

Brian Hale made a new oven liner for the range in Leagrave, allowing Davina Watson to cook in it the following weekend for a Living History event.

One of the classroom windows in Skipplings got broken, probably by one of the horses, but that's ok, they all helped me to repair it.

*John Hyde-Trutch
Buildings Manager*

Haddenham Croft Cottage Chronicles

The official 'Topping Out' ceremony for Haddenham was held on the 15th September in the afternoon. It was a glorious day and well over fifty people attended to enjoy the fun.

Most of the Kew family came along. They were the people who gave us the house in 1977, and the opportunity was taken to recreate some of the press photographs taken at the time. The owners prior to the Kews were the Small family, and they were represented by their daughter Wynn and her husband; and just to keep the lineage going Juliet Moore, nee Rose, was there; her grandparents lived in the cottage before the Smalls, and her great grandparents before them, taking the line back to 1909.

Many of the people who had helped us with practical advice, research and general information about wychert and its use also came along, together with others who had expressed interest in the project right from the start.

There was also a good representation of people who have worked on the project – both past and present, and of course the people who had donated or raised the



*Left—The Kew Family
Right—The Wilmot Family*

necessary money.

Everyone had a chance to look round the building, seeing the bare bones of it, most of which will be hidden behind plaster and ceilings once it is finished.

Mercifully the speeches were kept short, and there was enough champagne to go around.

The Press were represented by the Bucks Herald, who not only took photos and recorded interviews, but also took video footage for their website.

They have been very good to us, we have had articles and photos in the paper the last two years, and they very kindly gave us copies of the photographs taken in

1977 – without which it would have been impossible to have built correctly.

*John Hyde-Trutch
Buildings Manager*



“John’s Slave Gang”

Competition Winner

The nearest date and time for the internal Museum topping out ceremony for Haddenham Cottage was won by Ken Watts (please note a buildings volunteer, but he entered the competition in January 2010) guessing the 1st August and the ceremony was held on the 2nd August. The prize was 3 bottles of grumpling beer and the competition raised £34 for Haddenham funds.

Haddenham Roof Tile Appeal and Shopping List

After several years and many hours of hard labour rebuilding the original cottage from the heap of wychert on our Village Green, work has started on the roof. The gables and rafters are being rebuilt and over 4000 tiles are being made by local brickmaker, H G Matthews. We need your help now to finish this amazing building. Please donate £1 per tile towards the fund for the roof, to help us complete this unique example of Chilterns vernacular architecture.

In addition to the tiles, John Hyde-Trutch, our Buildings Manager, needs many other materials. Here are the main items on his shopping list to finish the building:

- Battens and tile pegs - £2100
- Floorboards - £3000
- Floor bricks/tiles - £5000
- Glass- £800
- Plaster/render - £2000
- Plaster laths - £1400

*Beer for the Buildings
Manager - £500 (ed)*

Thank you so much for your generosity.

*Sally McIver
Development Manager*

Events



*Soldiers, Ship Taxes and
Skirmishes*

*17th Century Life and Times
August Bank Holiday*

Classic Vehicles Show

24 & 25 July



Medieval Pageant

*Lion Rampant
Medieval Display
Society*

14 & 15 August

Dates for your Diary in 2011

2011 SEASON 2 APRIL - 28 OCTOBER

We are still in the process of arranging the events for next year however the following have now been confirmed:

26 & 27 March - Campaign '45 (this is a pre-season FREE weekend with 1940s re-enactors and some Museum buildings open to the public.)

2 & 3 April - A Mother's work is never done ... (we open for the Mothering Sunday weekend).

11 - 26 April - Family Holiday Fun

22 - 25 April - Medieval Pageant

28 - 30 May - Prelude to D-Day

31 May - 3 June - Family Holiday Fun

19 June - Heavy Horse Show

23 & 24 July - Classic Vehicles Show



25 July - 31 August - Family Holiday Fun

13 & 14 August - A Tudor Household

20 & 21 August - The Roman Army

27 - 29 August - The English Civil War Society

1 & 2 October - Traditional Harvest

Friday 28 October - Halloween Spectacular

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer

**If you are able to help at any of these events,
Please let Sara, Autumn or Melissa know.
Your ongoing support is crucial for the
Success of Museum events.**

Education News

Last year we received an Ernest Cook Grant towards our education and learning programmes, for which Sally and I had to write a report. And so I thought that I'd use parts of this report to tell you about everything that has happened this year.

But first a huge thank you to the team, the young volunteers and all the other volunteers who've helped with everything throughout the year – you know who you are.

Jane & Tommy's bedroom & Nissen Hut displays

Two new displays were created over the early part of 2010 and launched in March. These covered the World War Two period and were designed to be more interactive and accessible to all our visitors, but in particular school groups and family visitors. Jane and Tommy's bedroom is located in the second bedroom of a 1947 Prefab which had previously been used as temporary exhibition space. The new display includes a period child's bed and bedside table as well as a mixture of replica and original toys and games, suitcases to pack, clothes to try on and memory boxes to explore.

The second display is in the Nissen Hut and is portrayed as a pilots' briefing room emphasising the long association between the RAF and the Chilterns. Period files are located on the desk containing Top Secret documents and there is also a typewriter for visitors to use.

"The World War II house: well, that's something else! I loved looking at what World War II children would have played with and wore, I found the clothes fascinating; the toys were too!" a Year 5 student from Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

School Review

The schools programme is being reviewed. In December 2009 the learning objectives were reviewed and updated. Work also began on creating new interactive workshops for the Iron Age House interpretation that had previously been highlighted for revision. These new workshops were launched in March 2010 and so far 431 students from Y1 to Y6 have participated in this workshop.

"The Iron Age house is so much more hands-on and all the better for it ..." A teacher from Buckinghamshire.

The Museum's entire school programme of workshops is currently being reviewed to ensure that they are fun, inclusive and interactive and support our revised learning objectives and the National Curricula. We have also started a consultation process with teachers to ensure that developments meet their needs.

New activity workshops to support apprenticeships in carpentry

We have just entered a partnership with two colleges to develop new workshops to support their apprenticeships in carpentry. These workshops will concentrate on the Museum's collection of timber framed buildings and the importance of carpentry skills in the built heritage. The first of these were delivered in September 2010.

New Explorer Sheets

In June 2010 we launched new Houses and Homes Explorer Sheets to aid adult helpers on school visits to support their pupil groups. Each sheet concentrates on one house in the collection and provides a short description linked to a child that lived there. There are then six questions that can be asked outside the home, six questions that can be asked inside the home and some suggestions of things that the children can do or see in the homes. The

questions that are suggested are designed to encourage the children to think about a concept and come to their own conclusions, for example at the Victorian toll house one of the questions encourages the children to think about why there are bars on the windows.

“Adults like the Explorer sheets. They identified the buildings with the most interest (more domestic) and were more child friendly than the main information boards” A teacher from Hertfordshire.

Educational workshops and activities have been delivered covering many areas of the curriculum including History, Geography, Science, Numeracy, Literacy, Design and Technology, Personal and Social Health Education, Travel and Tourism and Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

Story Workshops – over 300 children aged between 2 ½ and 4 years old have attended a story workshop this year. In our woodlands we have made The Three Little Pigs’ houses and the bears’ porridge from Goldilocks and The Three Bears. Whilst in our 1940s home they have helped Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle with the washing and planted Enormous Turnips. The children have been on Treasure Hunts throughout the Village.

“we made a stik [stick] house. I held the wilf [wolf]. We tried to bloa [blow] the houses down. We poat [put] the pig in the house We plae [played] in the woods it was fun” a 4 year old pupil from Buckinghamshire writing a thank you letter about the Three Little Pigs Workshop.

Forest School – approximately 80 children (aged 4 years) from our local village, Chalfont St. Giles, have visited the woodlands at the Museum once a week for

10 weeks in the term before they start in Reception. During these weeks they have developed tool skills and confidence within their natural environment. They also have gained knowledge of risk taking and fire safety (with an open fire lit every week).

Hands-on Activity Workshops – from making bricks to making butter, day trip visitors were given the opportunity to experience hands on activities in a range of domestic, building and rural crafts. In total 354 activity workshops were delivered to school groups during the 2009/10 academic year, and approximately 100 activity workshops offered to other visitors during holiday periods (excluding special events).

“I loved our activity, making scones, because I have never made or tried scones



Toby Rutter making a wooden stool

before, it was exciting to see how the scones were made, especially as we were using old fashioned equipment. Luckily, we got to do some of the cooking which I found fun. Moreover, when our scones were cooked we got to eat them!" a Year 5 student from Harpenden, Hertfordshire describing cooking drop scones over an open fire in our 18th century cottage.

27 Themed Experience Days – 800 children have taken part in the Museum's themed experience days, with almost half of these children taking part in the Houses and Homes themed day for Key Stage 1 children.

Building Construction days were held for approx 100 Children KS 3 with new partnerships developed with further education training colleges

Outreach has become more popular during the recession. Using the Museum's buildings and their stories as a starting point, we are now able to deliver three new outreach sessions for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils.

Children's holiday club & craft workshops. This year we ran the holiday club for 6 days for children aged 5 to 12 years old. For one day we organised activities looking at the biodiversity of the Museum's site. For the other 5 days we organised scout and guide activities from the 1930s and 40s, helping children to use tools safely and understand the lives of children in the past. We have also provided the opportunity for 7 children aged 10 to 16 years to attend a short carpentry workshop to enable them to start to use tools safely and to learn new life skills.

Support for school history projects

"thank you for showing me the chiten open air museum it was FantastiC and very fun" a year 3 student from Kings Langley, Hertfordshire

"Our only problem was that the children wanted to do everything and we only had one day." A teacher from London



"Superb staff who understand how to talk to children of a specific age and bring history to life. Workshop leaders answered questions very thoughtfully." A teacher from Middlesex.

Other projects ...

This doesn't even begin to cover the hands-on holidays, family weekends, birthday parties and adult workshops that we've worked hard on all year, with support from so many other volunteers.

What the autumn and winter holds ...

Over this winter the education team will be working on a range of developments and training, looking at the Audio Tour contents now that our visitors have tried it

out, reviewing even more workshops and practising our own skills in lighting the ovens or cooking over an open fire, tool care and traditional skills. With the loss of our partners, The Hawk and Owl Trust, we will also be working on developing our own environmental science workshops.



We also hope to work on the adult workshops and how we should offer these in the future – so please let us know what you would like.

The past year has also seen some members of the team and partners leave us and so I'd like to say thank you and goodbye to Ginny Simpson and Helen O'Hara. With a special goodbye and thank you to Rhona Taylor, it's been lovely working with you with Forest School and the shared school visits. But now we welcome back Richard Tyson and welcome new members of the team Elizabeth Rutter, Adrian Matthews, Hazel Piggott and Katie Townsend.

Melissa Maynard
Education Officer

Delightful letters

It is always wonderful to be pleasantly surprised when opening the post at the Museum for sometimes nestled amongst the invoices, booking forms and day to day business letters is something very special.

Today it was a letter from a visitor which I have transcribed (**but not tested**) below:

Dear Friend,
I've recently returned to NZ after visiting England and your Open-Air-Museum. Having been born in Chesham, but emigrating as a 4 yr old, it was my first visit to see the "Pre-Fab" that me and my family lived in. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and was talking at length to a young woman baking traditional scones in one of your old houses on site. Could you please see if you can find out who she was and give her this Scone Recipe, I promised her. It is so very popular in New Zealand, and so very different to the Eng Scones. I

told her I'd send it, We've only just returned home as we did a cruise after departing England.

Kind regards to all, keep up the marvellous work you're all doing.

Mrs. Lintern

Lemonade Scones

1 Cup Lemonade (NOT flat)
1 Cup cream
3 Cups Self Raising Flour
1/3 Cup Sultanas

Mix flour, sultanas and liquids to make a soft mixture.

Flour tops lightly to enable cutting

Bake at 220 degrees (A HOT OVEN) for approx. 10 minutes until softly golden.

This is just one example of the reason why we do what we do so thank you to everyone working that day who made such a lasting impression for just one of our visitors.

Site and Farm

Chapter 11 *In which a Petipittition is drawn up and Rabbit finds a new home*

It was a blowy sort of day, when the clouds scudded around here and there, one minute it was raining and the next it wasn't. Pooh and Piglet were sitting on the stile at the top of the Enchanted Meadow trying to count the sheep. Pooh had made 41 three times and piglet 39 twice, then Pooh's number had started to go down to 38 while Piglet's went up to 43. ".....34, 35, 36, 37.... Bother..." said Pooh, "if only I weren't a bear of very little brain then I would be able to count them", but he knew that he wouldn't ever be able to really, because it was an enchanted meadow, and however many there were just now, then there would three times ... twice as much as ... too many in just a moment. "It all comes of having Too Many Lambs" he said out loud, to nobody in particular. He made a mental note to take the matter up with Christopher Robin later and began to wonder if perhaps the time was getting on to eleven o' clock, in which case it must be time for a little smackerel of something; but his thoughts were interrupted by Piglet, who was leaning around the corner of the stile to count the last few sheep again "...40, 41, 42 43, 44 ..Ow!" yelled Piglet as he jumped in the air and fell off the stile. "It all comes" said Piglet, "of putting up electric fences", as he dusted himself off and crept out from under the stile. "Pooh" he said, "Do you think we might go to a different spot to count the sheep? Its not that I'm afraid of the electric fence, but it does sting so behind the ears when you are just a Very Small Animal." Pooh thought this was an excellent idea, and suggested they go and ask their good

friend Rabbit if he had managed to count the sheep today, as Rabbit was an Intelligent Sort of Creature, and what he didn't know about numbers was not worth writing down, if of course one was an intelligent enough sort of creature and could write it down, which of course Rabbit was, being one of the few animals in the forest that could write. Before he could finish saying all this, however, he realised that Piglet was already disappearing out of sight on the path to Rabbit's house. Piglet was thinking that perhaps if he ran all the way there, no one would actually realise he had been running away from a fence, and they would all think he had just been in a hurry to see his good friend Rabbit, as befitted such a friendly small animal on a breezy day.

Rabbit lived in a particularly fine house, with a large pair of white gates, and a big sign, that said 'Table of Tolls'. Christopher Robin had once asked Rabbit what this meant, and Rabbit had said that his grandfather's grandfather's grandfather had had something to do with putting it up, or at least had dug the first hole next to it, or some such, and he told Christopher Robin to ask 'the Stewart' what it meant, but as Christopher Robin never found out who Stewart was, he never did find out.

Anyhow, when a rather breathless Piglet and a slightly peckish Pooh arrived there this morning they found Rabbit engaged in deep study of what appeared to be a new fence around his house.

"Morning Rabbit," chirped Piglet, with a slightly nervous air as he eyed the fence, "Is that one a bit electricy too he asked?.. Not that I mind", he added hastily, "but one likes to know these things".

"What?" barked Rabbit, drawing up and turning to face him "Oh it's you Piglet,

please be quiet, can't you see I'm busy?" "Sorry" squeaked Piglet, and he and Pooh stood there and watched Rabbit, who continued to stare at the fence. After some time had passed in this manner, Pooh, who was beginning to feel a sort of empty feeling in one corner of his tummy ventured to break the silence. "If we might, as it were, come past, without ..er.. disturbing your business, then perhaps I could just..um.. check that the jar of honey in your kitchen was keeping quite so".

"What?" said Rabbit, " Ah.. Hello Pooh.. Yes.. dear Pooh well you might, only, well I couldn't possibly expect you to understand, there is as one might say.. an.. er .. hitch. A ..um.. technical difficulty what."

Pooh who didn't know what a technical difficulty thing was but thought it sounded rather nasty, made a sympathetic sort of noise, at which Rabbit continued.

"You see I say it's all down to the specification you see. All quite right in the round of course, a fine construction in fact, one might say, but the problem clearly lies in the specification.....No entrance for rabbits you see Pooh. Of course I could get in, but.. um.. one doesn't like to feel one could not invite ones friends in, like you and Piglet here, for a little bite or some such. You see Pooh?"

Pooh did see, he could see the fence clearly left no way in for Rabbit, and he thought it seemed quite unfair that Rabbit was unable to let them in for a little something; of course he was mainly concerned for Rabbit, but obviously this 'specification' thing had no concerns for the consumption of little somethings, whether for bears or rabbits.

Piglet meanwhile, hearing the word specification, and thinking that it sounded a bit electricy for his liking, had decided

that discretion was the better part of valour. So headed off at speed up the track towards Christopher Robin's house, calling behind him "I'll fetch Christopher Robin for you", somehow knowing that if Christopher Robin was there to take on the specification thingy then he, Piglet, could show how unafraid he too was of such things.

Pooh felt that Piglet might have the right idea, particularly as he remembered that Christopher Robin usually had one or two rather fine boxes of cakes lying around, and that he, Pooh, could provide good service in keeping the Little Brain of a bear turning over in such a manner as would come from eating a bit of cake and would be of great service to his friend Rabbit in his hour of need.

"Let us go and see Christopher Robin, and see if he can't put it right, and as a help I may find time to devise some little hum on the way, which should be of great cheer to you Rabbit, in the face of such a specificaty sort of thing." Rabbit acquiesced and set off beside Pooh up the track to the Cattle Byre where Christopher Robin was often to be found. When they arrived at the Cattle Byre, they were somewhat surprised to find Owl there sitting at the table puzzling over a note.

"Oh Rabbit..I am pleased you have come, I.. er, came to see Christopher Robin on the matter of this seed drill, and I found this note, which of course I have read, but I was just saying to myself how nice it would be to have Rabbit or another creature here, particularly one without fluff between the ears; no offence to you Pooh intended, of course at all, but I was in fact just saying that perhaps if Rabbit were here he would be of great help in confirming the veracititiousness of the said missive which I have of course perused at full.. Could you.. er.. Rabbit, be .. um so kind as to confirm the facts are

as I have of course discerned them?" Rabbit took the note and studied it. On the little square of paper was written:

AT OPS, SEE YOU LATER
"At Ops see Eeyore later." read Rabbit.

"Just as I had surmised, added Owl", feeling somewhat relieved, that he now had some idea what the note read. "But what does it mean?" asked Pooh, who was beginning to feel a little more like a bear again as he munched his way through a second cake.

"Well clearly," said Rabbit "Christopher Robin has gone to see this Ops fellow, whoever he is, and then is on his way over to Eeyore's after that." "Well," said Owl ponderously, "it doesn't alter the circumstance that I had a perfectly good seed drill to perch on in the farm, which had lain undisturbed quite since the time of my great uncle Ernest, when without warning Christopher Robin suddenly seems to be pulling it all over the place, sowing crops and leaving no suitable perch to replace it, quite without consideration. In fact, I remember once my great uncle..."

"Quite," interjected Rabbit, who had suddenly now regained his usual composure and felt once again like an Important Animal, like one who had Something Important to do. "Yes, quite, well, it's no good Christopher Robin going off to see this OPS fellow and leaving things in such a pickle."

"In fact," he continued, feeling quite full of Things to Organise, and was never quite so happy as when he had Things to Organise. "In fact, we must write a Petipitation."

" Bless you!" said Piglet, thinking he had sneezed.



"No, no little piglet, a Petipitation, we must write one of those and form a Depitpitation.."

"Bless you!" said Piglet again.

But Rabbit was too busy now writing An Important list of Grievances to give to Christopher Robin. Pooh, after his third piece of cake, felt quite revitalised, but somewhat at a loss as to what Rabbit was talking about, but he felt that really, it would be a Grand Thing for a bear to do, to help sort it all out... before he could so much as say a suitably bearlike Helpful Thing, Rabbit was chivvying them out of the door to go and find Christopher Robin at Eeyore's house.

Eeyore, the Clydesdale, was in his usual spot under the Lime tree, in a gloomy part of the forest

"Good Morning" hailed Rabbit to him and paced straight past Eeyore and round the back of the tree to see if Christopher Robin was there. He wasn't.

"Is it?" said Eeyore, "Fine for a rabbit perhaps, but I do find myself wondering these days."

"Wondering what?" asked Rabbit, who really wanted to ask where Christopher Robin was.

"Well not so much Is It? As Is It Not?" said Eeyore.

"Is it not what?" said Rabbit, feeling that

the importance of his Important Tasks were being somewhat side-lined.

“Oh quite fine for you dear Rabbit, rushing here and there, never a care in the world, easy come easy go, but when I wake up and find there’s now three where there was only one, then I can’t help but think to myself well Is It Not...” he tailed off.

“Three, one what?” asked Rabbit, feeling quite perplexed and not at all like a Rabbit leading an important Depitpitation with a Petipitition.

Eeyore continued munching on a rather choice thistle he had started to eat, and waved a hoof in a desultory manner at two rather bright and skippy young Shire Eeyores cavorting around in the corner of the field.

“I mean not so much as with by your leave. I’m not blaming it on anyone, only there it is, if Christopher Robin needs to get two new ones, well there you go, but why he had to get such tramply ones...” Eeyore said, watching as the other two Eeyores flattened another choice patch of thistles, and he added, before Rabbit could get a word in “... and they will keep strimming them these days.”

Rabbit interjected, “Look, I’m sorry about your thistles Eeyore, but really we’re looking for Christopher Robin.” and he explained all the various woes of all the animals in the forest that morning to Eeyore, finishing with his own little problem. “...just a minor hitch for an Intelligent Rabbit like me you understand, it’s the others of course that I’m concerned about.” he added.

“Well,” said Eeyore munching gravely. “If only you’d said straight away...I think I may have the answer...Follow me.”

The animals crowded excitedly around Eeyore and followed him up the track. By this time word had got about the forest about the Depitpitation, and many more had joined them on the way.

“Must you all jostle so?” exclaimed Eeyore, “ I mean it’s awkward enough having three, but one takes the opportunity of a walk away from it all only to find the forest seems such a crowded place, all this jostling...” he added with feeling, “... whatever next, they’ll be inviting visitors in here, before you know it.”

By and by, Eeyore led the party to the front of the manor cottage and stopped. “There you are” he said proudly, waving a hoof.

And there in front of them was a brand new garden, with a lovely iron fence full of all the things that a rabbit could want, and what was more, a perfect little hole, clearly designed for a rabbit.

Rabbit was for a moment quite overcome. Clearly Christopher Robin had not forgotten about him, but had built a whole new garden for him and had kept it up here as a surprise.

And that is how Rabbit came to have a lovely new garden all to himself right at the entrance to the forest.

Christopher Robin emerged from his meeting in the office, blinked in the sunlight and stretched. There was still quite a bit of day left. Just the day he thought, as he looked at the clouds fleeting by, for being quite busy doing nothing so very much, and he went off to the Enchanted Meadow to look for yellow meadow ants.

P.S. History does not record what became of the Petipitition; though Pooh says it was found by one of Rabbit’s friends and relations, a small yellow meadow ant named OPS who live in mounds in the Enchanted Meadow, who gave it to Piglet, who sent it to DEFRA with his movement report when he went home, where it is said to have caused quite some consternation.

By the Farm Manager, CR.

The subject of Hay – Art or Science?

With the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (SOED) citing only 6 definitions for the noun 'Hay' (some of which are entirely unrelated to animal husbandry such as dancing and the military), I don't feel that this esteemed publication has really grasped the finer points of the subject, particularly with regard to the Museum's livestock.

If the copious correspondence (comprising letters, notes, epistles and epics) written in Borehamwood Cattle Byre over the winter of 2009/2010 from (or to) the Farm & Site Manager to (or from) farm hands involved in animal husbandry had been saved for posterity, there would be ample documentary evidence to satisfy the keenest palaeographer and glossologist of some future century of the existence of a Chilterns dialect. They would be further challenged by the need to decipher the penmanship of the various farmhands, who all claim literacy (some even a university education), but whose hands are too wet and/or too cold by this stage to produce anything above barely legible, let alone a fine example of calligraphy. I

quote briefly from one such comprehensive epistle (240 words about hay and food for animals) to give you some idea

'Harvey, as normal, I have left what I reckon is roughly tomorrow's hay for him under the blue sheet.

Ewes.....suggest (but use your judgement) that about 1 ½ trusses between all 19 is about right per diem (split per capita), suggest 1 truss of June hay and ½ other, have tried to leave some part trusses to make this easier.'

The response to this was a 100 word note, which was neatly summarised in the final 4 words: *'...so all is well.'* How reassuring for the recipient on the following day.

Glossary of Museum terms:

Hay (n): Grass cut and dried for use as animal fodder. ('handled' a minimum of 10 times between the field where cut and feeder where consumed.)

June Hay: relating to the month of being cut, carted and stacked in the hay rick, found in the bottom third of the 2008 rick and classified in 'the gourmet range' by the sheep.



Join in the Farm Weekend - Hay Making



Hay! Truss me. I know what I'm doing!

Other Hay: any hay which is not ‘June’, i.e. has been cut, carted and stacked in any month of the year, other than June, classified in ‘the essentials range’ by the sheep and not nearly as delicious as June hay.

Truss (n): quantity of hay, cut by Farm and Site Manager from the rick and tied up. Size/weight of truss varies considerably. – Museum descriptions see below. (Refer to the SOED which defines as: of old hay 56lbs, of new hay 60lbs, of straw 36lbs)

Large Truss: can only be moved by Farm and Site Manager, weighs upwards of 60lbs. Even he appears to have some difficulty in lifting it over the hedge

Regular Truss: can be moved and lifted by Farm and Site Manager with ease. Can be carried by 2 females, who wish to preserve their backs for another day.

Tuesday Truss: cut specially, and labelled accordingly, by the Farm and Site Manager for the use only by the Tuesday farm volunteers (mostly female), who can not only carry such a quantity of hay individually, but can also lift it over the hedge into the hay feeder with relative ease and without either imperilling their backs, or dropping it onto the sheep and thereby imperilling their backs.

The abiding memory of the hard winter of 2009/2010 will be hay and the twice daily toil involved in feeding 28 livestock. The effort never went unrewarded by the appreciative sheep and the 19 ewes were particularly anxious to help on all occasions, usually misguidedly charging into the legs of the hay carrier, in an earnest desire to relieve said person of the burden before it had arrived at the hay feeder. It all added to the absolute joy of

being an out of hours’ farm hand.

The science is to ensure that the pregnant ewes get the right quantity of dry matter to maintain their body weight in order to produce strong lambs, but not to get fat and then have a difficult lambing. The art is to guess how much hay to give the animals twice a day to ensure that it is not wasted, considering all the time and effort associated with getting it from field to feeder.

The successful outcome of the foregoing toil was 22 healthy lambs in April 2010.

On behalf of all the out of hours’ farm volunteers with grateful thanks for all the Tuesday trusses cut from the rick.

PS – if the reader should feel either the urge or need to consult the SOED as a result of this article, a copy (in 2 volumes) is to be found in the Museum library along with another 2000 or so books and periodicals of diverse interest.

*Verena Clark
Farm Volunteer*



A “Large Truss”

Visitor Services

Wrapping up Season .1

Here it is suddenly October and we are on our final push for the end of season event, Halloween – a word not to be spoken when near John Hyde-Trutch! Sara and I have almost made it through our first season. It has been incredible to see the immense variety of events, activities, workshops, and training that the Museum has to offer to not only its visitors, but also to its staff and volunteers.

One of the training highlights has been the current building steward training sessions made possible thanks to a grant from Renaissance South East. Robin Mitchener, a re-enactor and historic builder, has done an excellent job planning and delivering these sessions over the past couple of weeks with a few more to come. Specifically, he has put together some discovery boxes with handling artefacts for the Iron Age House, Legrave Cottage 18th Century and the Toll House. The artefacts are a wonderful catalyst for engaging visitors of all ages and create discussion points for the historic social, economic, and environmental context of the buildings. Robin will also be leading sessions on traditional building techniques, utilising Building Blocks, and on the 1940s Prefab.

Additionally Rebecca Gilchrist, a Conservator for Historic Royal Palaces, has led an excellent session on the conservation of museum artefacts. As our volunteer Stewards observations are the first line of defence in

detecting the agents of deterioration – fire, loss, water, physical, chemical, biological, light, wrong relative humidity, wrong temperature - this training hopefully reinforced individuals previous knowledge on the subject and/or built up the confidence of those not familiar with collections care to help the Museum routinely monitor their building environments.

If any volunteers were unable to attend the training this round, not to worry! We will be running them again in February mostly on weekend days for those who work during the week!

On a final note, Sara and I would like to once again thank all our volunteers for all their time and dedication in filling up our rota's each month. A special thank you must of course be extended to TCEB. Even though we are closing to the general public soon, there is still lots to do over the coming months, so if you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact me!

Autumn Acker
Visitor Services Officer



People News

Joy Viall
1921 – 2010



This remarkable lady lived in Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles all her life and I can do little more than scratch the surface of what she did for the Museum (let alone in the ‘village’ and for the Catholic Church).

Joy started volunteering at the Museum about 10 years ago (records are regrettably hazy on this point) and her contribution over the years was significant, regular and loyal. She was a longstanding and staunch member of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers and this was the craft that she most enjoyed. However, that did not stop her from being extremely accomplished in, and enthusiastic about, a whole range of crafts. She was also a keen and knowledgeable gardener, a good cook and great company and it goes without saying that she will be sorely missed.

Her skills were immensely valuable to the Museum and she worked on the fleeking mats for Arborfield Barn roof in 2005 and over the years repaired many of the chairs in the café, and Henton Chapel. She also repaired many individual items for other volunteers. Joy taught visitors and volunteers basket making, rush matting and strawplaiting of hats and she was always generous with her time and took

great delight in passing on her skills to the next generation. She even attempted one afternoon to teach the Director to knit. She also knitted some of the fluffy scarves to raise money for Astleham Garden.

As an all year round volunteer Joy would turn her hand to most things. In the Autumn she planted bulbs. In the Winter she helped with conservation of the Museum artefacts. In the Spring she cleaned buildings before the Museum reopened. In the Summer months she was a regular on the tombola stand. Having retired from the rigours of the ticket office to the more graceful environs of the Friends Centre, she also found time in 2009 to help at “Join in on the Farm” weekends by demonstrating an associated craft in the farmyard. I am very proud of the 33 yards of raffia which I plaited under Joy’s critical eye and made into a hat, which has featured in many photos around the farm. It was not up to her exacting standards, but she was tolerant of my desire to achieve a rustic finish.

Her last visit to the Museum was in August on a wet Tuesday afternoon when she came particularly to see the 3 horses and to admire the progress on Astleham Garden. She was thrilled with them all.

Joy’s generosity continues even after she has left us, as she left instructions that donations in her memory should be sent to the Museum, in addition to the retiring collection at her funeral, and to date the sum amounts to more than £400.

Remember Joy when you walk around the buildings as many of them contain tangible reminders of what she did for the Museum; I certainly will.

Verena Clark
Museum Volunteer

Daffodil Forbes
Volunteers in Museums



The Renaissance Volunteers in Museums Project has appointed Daffodil Forbes to assist Chiltern Open Air Museum and Wycombe Museum in attracting black and Asian audiences as volunteers and visitors to our Museums.

I was originally employed by HMCS at Wycombe and Beaconsfield Magistrates High Wycombe as a legal adviser to Magistrates. I took the opportunity of early retirement from this position when it was offered in March this year. My intention, since I had always been a working Mum, was to devote more time to my children before they leave for university, and for myself I knew I wanted to record the voices of the Community I loved and their recollections and stories before it was lost.

I have always been an active member of the local Caribbean Community, helping out with the local Caribbean Saturday School, and becoming a founding member of Black Diaspora 1990 (a Black history study group). I am at present helping with the recording of the Oral History of Black and Asian people who settled in the Wycombe area from 1960's onward for Wycombe Museum, which I began as a volunteer.

I am learning a great deal about both Museums and what they have to offer our

communities and have been round Chiltern Open Air Museum a few times now to explore any possible cultural links such as similar historic buildings and rural crafts such as wheel wrighting or military / domestic experiences during the second world war. I look forward to working with you all.

Alison Gieler
New Honorary Librarian



When I arrived at the Museum earlier this year, Sue Shave asked me if I would cover for Pat Lindsey, the Museum's Honorary Librarian, who has unfortunately been unwell for a while.

After a lifetime of working in public libraries and with volunteers, I am enjoying volunteering at COAM, and supporting and co-ordinating the work of the half dozen library staff.

We aim to have all our material - books, pamphlets, articles and photos indexed and available for researchers and we hope to have a new page on the Museum's web site outlining our services.

The library is open for all our COAM volunteers- you can find out more about the way of life, times, history and structure of our buildings and traditions.

I look forward to sharing our heritage with you and all the visitors we welcome to this very special Museum.



*Farm Volunteer Margaret Clark
knitting Christmas trees with the help of
the lambs*



The Phoenix Rising (see Ode)



*Volunteer Shepherd Steve Stone giving a
working sheep dog demonstration at the
Knitting Weekend*

Ode to a Shepherd's Van

One Thursday morning after dawn, no sun to see, a gloomy morn,
Con says to me "You're just the man, to resurrect my Shepherd's van."
"What Me?" says I a-working steel, (I try to side-line his appeal)
"I like to work in here all day, and from your projects steer away!"
"What's wrong with it?" I had to say, "it's in the field all painted grey."
"It looks OK from all around, sitting quietly on the ground."
His face it crinkled in a smile "Come walk with me a little while,
Down the road into the farm. It won't do you any harm."

What do I see against the wall, a sight that really does appal,
Four wheels, some tin, a pile of planks, for *This* I'm s'posed to give him thanks?
Wheels are rusty, axles bent, Roof is rotten, sides are rent.
From piles of lumber does this man expect *another* Shepherd's Van?

The answer's YES! I do declare, even though I stand and stare,
"I'll find a team." He promised me, and wandered off with sounds of glee.
"I've found some men, - here are their names." and teamed me up with Chris and James.
It looks as though my forging time has gone into a steep decline,
The weeks ahead I really should apply myself to bashing wood!

The first requirement of this van is sit and organise a plan,
How big is it? What size the floor? Rotten window? Where's the door?
Drawing plans, sit up late, quantities to formulate.
Of nuts and bolts and screws in packets, (and up the forge to make some brackets.)
As we practise arcane arts, Chris is busy sourcing parts.
Which goes where? and what comes first? "James! The kettle! - We have a thirst!"
James is busy, doesn't flag, (Until he nips out for a fag!)

Made a chassis twelve feet long, for to put the sides upon,
Wheels and axles fitted under, (Managed that without a blunder.)
The ends are fitted, eight feet wide, we look upon our work with pride.
The window frame is pretty rotten, this will not be left forgotten.
The awkward bit that I must mention; the inside roof – requires attention.
Needs a scaffold and a trestle, as up aloft we twist and wrestle.
But there it is! It's in its place! A smile is seen on every face,
As our progress we compare, we must be almost halfway there?
We've morticed, tenoned, dowelled and routed; Screwed and bolted, levered, clouted,
Sawn and chiselled, bent and drilled, task by task 'till they're fulfilled.
With hammering, bashing, squeaks and clanks, Phoenix rises from the planks!

The job's not finished, it's plain to see, the outside skin is yet to be,
Inside cladding, fit the floor, Change the hinges on the door,
The finishing touches it does lack, (but we've made a towbar for the back!)
The major question? "HOLY Darn! – Will we get it out the Barn?"

Bryn the Bard

Friday, 09 July 2010



Museum Volunteer Audrey Hughes at the Classic Vehicles weekend



Thomas Crosby and Thomas Crapper collection!

New Layout for Shop and Ticket Office

Be prepared for a new look in the ticket office and shop when we reopen for the 2011 Season. Plans have been developed behind the scenes over the last few months to make better use of the space in Blythe Road and to improve the layout and welcome of the admissions area. We are very grateful to the Association of Independent Museums for an initial grant for work to be carried out to alter the layout including moving the stock cupboard to the existing ticket counter and creating a new central podium opposite

the entrance to greet customers as they come in and to take shop purchases. New floor plans are being explored including possible new catering options to encourage local produce and other shop purchases to be made. Work will be carried out during the winter by local contractor Richard Morris under the direction of John Hyde-Trutch.

*Sue Shave
Museum Director*

Signage for the Museum

We are desperately in need of more prominent advertising in the local area. One solution would be to commission a new set of brown tourist signs leading from the M40 at Beaconsfield back to Chalfont St Giles. This is likely to involve a number of signs and each sign may cost up to £300. Please let Sally McIver know if you are able to help sponsor a sign to encourage more local visitors. We also need signs in farmers' fields and the costs of such signs would also need to be

covered. Estate Agents are being approached at the moment to help with Event signs for 2011 but if you can help with any contacts or sponsorship of these signs, we would be most grateful. This would make a huge difference enabling us to catch the attention of all those people who live locally but don't seem to know we exist!

*Sue Shave
Museum Director*

Friends News

2010 has been a “normal” year for the Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum as we have done our usual business of supporting the Museum both on and off site. We have continued to steward the Friends Centre, meeting and greeting visitors, explaining the original functions of the Pavilion and its journey to Newlands park, while raising funds for the Museum by selling home made jam, books or bric-a-brac. Friends have also continued to work throughout the year in other parts of the Museum, both inside buildings as ticket sellers or stewards or in the Café, or preserving exhibits, and outside on the gardens, allotments and on buildings. I know the full time Museum Staff appreciate all our efforts and acknowledge that the Museum could not function without us and the Volunteers but I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, effort and expertise this year. Whether you have baked a cake, wood wormed a chair or welcomed a visitor you have been a true Friend to the Museum – thank you.

Off site Friends have again arranged fundraising events and thanks must go to those responsible for the Quiz, Coffee Mornings, the evening with Sid Kipper and the Auction. The total amount raised by the Friends is amazing especially at this time of economic uncertainty and a great deal of hard work is put into all our fundraising.

Friends have also helped to raise the profile of Chiltern Open Air Museum by having stalls at local events, handing Museum leaflets and telling people how wonderful a visit to the Museum is. Again I would like to thank everyone involved in these activities.

So 2010 has been another very successful year and we are now planning to celebrate 2011 as the Year of the Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum. Besides our “usual” events we will be hosting a Friendly Family Fun Day on Sunday 15 May for both longstanding and new Friends, which will include family games, a tea party on the Village Green, and end with some Scottish Country Dancing.. Please put the date in your diary and come to celebrate! And if for some reason you are not yet a Friend do please join us in 2011. We really are a friendly lot.

*Anne Ratcliffe
Friends Chairman*



*Friends out and about at the
Chalfont St. Peter Feast Day*

200 Club

The monthly draws for the 200 Club have taken place and the lucky winners were:

June : Mrs A Lister (Number 52)
July: Mrs B Glover (Number 47)
August : Mrs E Johnston (Number 21)
September; Mrs A Mitchell (Number 122)

Winter Talks 2010 - 2011

Unless otherwise stated, all talks are in the Mary Smithells Room, Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, Gravel Hill, commencing at 8.00 pm.
All are welcome – charge of £2.00 for Friends, £2.50 for others. No booking required, but any enquiries to Jenny Ogden on 01494 793017, or Email richard.ogden@btinternet.com. Light Refreshments available.

27 October – Wires Across the Sea - The Laying of the First Transatlantic Telegraph Cable - Don Scott

24 November - Cooking and Tasting Traditional Bucks Recipes - Janet Dineen. Friends £2.50, Others £3.00 *Please note additional charge to cover ingredients!*

8 December - (*Chiltern Room*) Traditional Christmas Celebration

26 January 2011 - History of the Co-operative Movement - Keith Fletcher

23 February – Talking to the Walls: Latimer and Interrogation, by well known speaker, Colin Oakes

23 March – Friends AGM, followed by talk by Chess Valley Archaeological & Historical Society speaker

27 April - TBA

Charity Auction

Do you realise this is the first time for umpteen years that I haven't started my piece by complaining about the lack of stewards? I have had that privilege taken over by Sara and Autumn and a fine job they have done of it, albeit with too many gaps still in the rota – come on those of you still lurking in the background!

No, my message this time is the AUCTION on Saturday 20th November, at Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre.

Last year we raised nearly £2,300 for the Museum, and this year we aim to do better. The catalogue closes on October

31, so if you have anything to offer, please let me know before then – glass, china, silver, furniture, pictures, books and all those strange items which go under the heading of “Collectables”.

Then, of course, we expect you to bring your cheque book along on the day, and go home with someone else's family treasures. As ever, Cris Claxton Stevens will be the auctioneer, Verena will be in charge of all-day refreshments, and yours truly will be looking forward to retrieving the spare bedroom, which is already filling up.

*See you there,
Tom Crosby*

Archivist News

I have had a disappointing and frustrating time just lately. I was fortunate enough (I thought) to meet members of the King and Ferris families, both previous occupants of Astleham, and looked forward to gleaning some additional information on the cottages. However, it was not to be. Mr and Mrs King's daughter had lived there in her early teens, and how many of us were avidly interested in where we lived at that age? However, she was convinced, as was her police officer father, that the building was haunted by a child, and added that she and her sister often felt very uncomfortable in the area at the bottom of the narrow back stairs.

My second visitors were Mrs Ferris and her son, she being the widow of one of the sons of the family who lived in Astleham prior to the Kings. This was even more disappointing. She had never been upstairs and had scant recall of the ground floor, other than to remember a long case

clock and a spit across the fireplace in the Meeting Room.

Now to the real purpose of this note. I was able to show Mrs Ferris a photograph which we have at Chiltern Open Air Museum of a wedding party taken, we were told, in 1913. We do not know the identity or relationship of the individuals and Mrs Ferris, sadly, recognised very few of them. "We must get that box of photos out of the loft and have a look at them" she said.

This is my plea. Could you get your box of photos out of the loft and identify everyone before they're forgotten? My mother disposed of every photo in her house before she died. My husband's parents left unidentified pictures of Victorians which he had never previously seen and certainly couldn't name.

Don't let it happen to your family, please.

Marina Long
Archivist

Fundraising Update

£2,000	John Spedan Lewis Foundation— Astleham Garden
£4,300	AIM Sustainability Fund – Refit of shop and ticket office
£1,600	Thea Murray Books (Haddenham Roof Tiles)
£410	Haddenham Roof Tiles Appeal
£432	Farm Equipment Fund
£3,038	Astleham Garden (Including £1038 from the Volunteers Social Evening held in July)
£4,600	Cherry Trees
£400	Donations to Museum in memory of Joy Viall
£150	Intercontinental Hotels Group—Excellence in England Awards
£4,000	Renaissance Volunteers in Museums

HALLOWEEN SPONSORSHIP

The Party Shop, Chalfont St. Peter	Activity Chest, Chalfont St. Peter
The Book Shop, Chalfont St. Peter	House of Cards, Chalfont St. Peter
The Co-Operative, Chalfont St. Giles	Sainsbury's, Beaconsfield
Fun Junction, Beaconsfield	Temptation Gifts, Amersam
M&S Simply Food, Gerrards Cross	Waitrose, Rickmansworth
Peterley Manor Farm Shop, Great Missenden	

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
Lady Howe

Museum Board Chairman

The Reverend Derek Upcott
01494 837505

Vice Chairman and Company Secretary

Verena Clark

Treasurer

Sarah Fitzpatrick

Additional Board Members

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Cris Claxton Stevens
Gill Cassidy
Jenny Mulholland
Lawford Thomas
Tom Crosby
Keith Baggaley
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