Leagrave Cottages

What is it?
Leagrave Cottages are two cottages and a cobbler's shop. One cottage is styled to be the 18th century and the other cottage is styled as 1920s. The cobbler's shop is presented as it was in the 1940s.

How old it is?
The cottages were probably built at the beginning of the 18th century and built to be a barn. In the 1770s the building was converted into two cottages.

Where did it come from?
Leagrave Cottages were originally situated at 57 Compton Avenue, Leagrave, Luton, Bedfordshire.

What is it built from?
The cottages are an oak timber-framed building which sits on a low brick plinth. Very few of the timbers are straight as many were re-used. The roof is thatched with long straw.

Why is it here at the museum?
In 1982 the cottages were declared as unfit for human habitation, the cost of restoring the cottages would have been more than the value of the building. Permission was given to demolish the cottages however the museum offered to take them and the owner agreed.

Experiment
Can you make our simple scone recipe from the Victorian 'receipt'? These scones are normally cooked in a skillet over the open fire in the 18th-century side of the cottage. Can you experiment and make them using your modern oven? How about trying some different ingredients?

Receipt for Griddle Scones

4 oz flour
1/2 oz butter
pinch baking powder
1/2 tblsp milk
Handful of raisins

Rub the butter into the flour and baking powder.
Add the raisins and stir in.
Make a well in the mixture and gradually add the milk.
Mix to a dough consistency.
Divide and roll mixture into balls then flatten.
Cook until golden brown

Home Learning

Imagine
During research for our WWI Bow Hut one of our volunteers discovered that a past resident of the house, Harry Marks, who features in the 1914 census, fought in World War One. Can you imagine would it would have been like to fight in the war?
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/t-is-for-trenches/z4hmhbk

Research
Can you research about life in the two different time periods the cottages are based on? Find out 5 facts about life in Britain in the 18th Century and 5 facts about life during the 1920s. Which time period would you prefer to live in?

Create
Until the 1940s the tenants of the cottages had to get water from a well in front of the building. Can you design/make a well or pulley system?