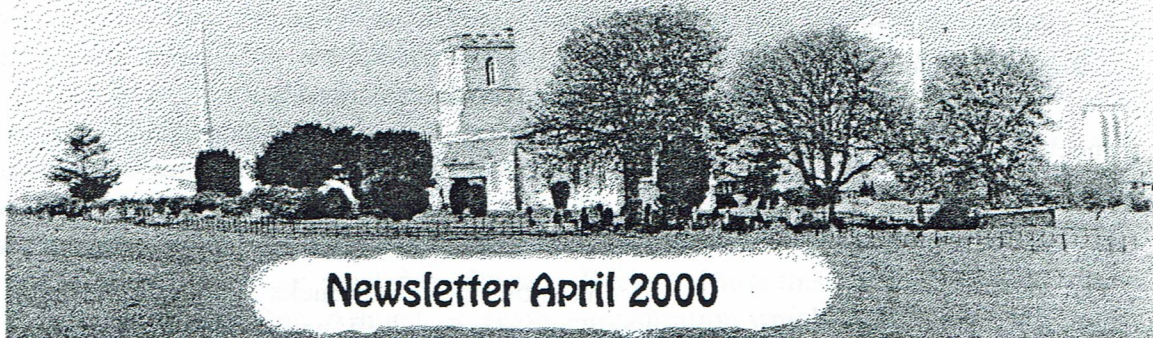


PITSTONE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Newsletter April 2000

Subscriptions were due on 1st April
Adults £6; Family £9; Concessions £4.
Fill in the tear off form at the end of the newsletter and send it to Coral
Benefits of membership are:
Free entry to the museum.
Cheap photocopying 4p a sheet
Laminating 30p a sheet
These last two available on Tuesdays and Sunday mornings

The papers for the AGM on 18th May. are enclosed with this newsletter. Please make every effort to attend. The proposals set out by Mike Sear in the last newsletter will be discussed. The committee would like to thank all those who write to express their views on the name and composition of the society

MUSEUM REPORT

Although no new projects have been undertaken since the last Newsletter report many of those reported previously have either been completed or are well underway. We now have some very nice wooden gates from the roadway into our orchard, the hedge cut back so that we can see the museum sign and the area tidied up. Wider gates into the orchard at the museum end of the drive have been completed, giving easier access to the orchard.

The new print room is complete with all the printing equipment installed. Mike has even managed to run off a print using the small printing press.

Our biggest project is now underway, that of re roofing the Black Shed that contains our newly painted and restored farm

machinery and the magnificent well pump with its polished brass cylinders. It is hoped we can get the press down on one of our Open Days to take some pictures and give us some free publicity. As well as attending to the roofing problems the draining has been improved and we hope to create a better floor to the rather dusty and uneven chalk floor we have at the moment.

In line with our hope to make the museum more central to the society, we have been looking into the possibility of obtaining a grant to restore the remaining farm buildings that are due to be transferred to us this coming Autumn, into a meeting room. Preliminary costings are now underway and Mike Sear is presently working on the plans. If we can obtain a grant, it is hoped that work will start next year.

Our volunteer force has been very busy over the last few months completing many other smaller tasks but there is still much to do before the Open Days (Easter Monday being the first) and we are always looking for help on these days.

Norman Groom

WEA

Summer evening meeting 22 May 2000
7.30pm at Ivinghoe Village Centre. Tea and coffee at the beginning of the meeting. this is an opportunity to meet other students and get together with friends you have met on recent courses.

Information about the courses for 2000/2001 will be available and you will be able to put your name down for these

course. Courses planned are in film studies, Geology, Literature and History. In addition, we have invited some of the tutors to give a brief introduction.

The meeting will also include a short informal AGM

WEA Contact Marjorie Connelley 668719

Programme

Saturday 6th May

Visit to Halton House. Meet in the car park outside the Officer's Mess at 2pm. We will be shown round by Squadron Leader J. Walton RAF. The tour will take approximately 2 hours. You are most welcome to bring a camera if you would like. For directions ring Mike Sear on 01296 662221 622221

Thursday 18th May

A.G.M to be held in Pitstone Green Museum.

Do please come and support your society and listen to David Lindsay as he talks about "Ubiquitous wire".

Thursday 15th June

History in Weston Turville.

Tessa Taylor came to PLHS in October 1991 to talk about Weston Turville reservoir. This time we shall be listening to her "in the field". She will meet us at the lay-by alongside the reservoir in World's End Lane at 7p.m. Her guided walk will include the southern part of Weston Turville village and the eastern edge of the reservoir. Tessa suggests that everyone should wear walking shoes and have arms and legs covered as protection against midges.

Thursday 20th July

Cheese and wine Party at Pitstone Green Museum. We will have the company of members from Cheddington, Tring Launton and Cholesbury cum St Leonards

History Societies. £2 will include food and one glass of wine.

Thursday 21st September

The Buckinghamshire Machine Breakers Jill Chambers has written books about these riots concerned with the introduction of the threshing machine in a number of counties including Bucks

This meeting will be held in the usual venue - **Ivinghoe Town Hall**



BESS - ON THE MILL (2)

My contribution to the last 'Newsletter' seems to have gone down well - must say, I like being famous! I know I'm a good dog, now YOU know it too!

The big news from the Mill this time is that at long last we have a hut of our own. You'll remember, Richard Jellis let us borrow an old hen hut, but when Paul Jellis' wife wanted to keep hens in it, we were 'evicted'. The hut is 8 feet long and 6 feet wide, and Paul let us erect it on his land adjacent to, but outside the mill compound. It is very convenient as we have made an access to it from the compound.

We keep all the spare timber, paint, bitumen, brushes, pick, spade, buckets, hovermower, vacuum cleaner and countless other things in it. When all these were in the mill, they took up a lot of space and made the place look untidy and cluttered.

Last time I told you the Boss wasn't very happy at only opening the mill on National

Mills Day, Sunday May 14. He's a bit happier now that it's been decided to open on 4 more days. They are Easter Monday and the May, Spring and Summer bank holidays. Sufficient wardens and helpers have come forward and the rota has been sent out.

We will be milling on National Mills Day - good, there'll be more meal dust for me to lick up! - and Ron Ashurst is again displaying his portable grinding machine driven by a stationary engine. For Mills Day we are putting up the admission charges to £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. The Boss is not so sure about the wisdom of this, but John the Treasurer said what was on offer was worth more than a £1, so let's try it and see what happens. On the bank holidays, the old charges of £1 and 30p are being kept.

Some more good news, touch wood we seem to have rid the mill of rats and most of the mice, although one or two of these wee beasties are still leaving their give away signs behind. Paul complained that

the rats are now in his grain barn. Tough! When John and the Boss go ratting, they use a torch, and I cannot resist chasing the circle of light the beam makes and the shadows. The Boss calls these 'fairies' and tells me to 'forget', which is one of his less obvious commands..

The Boss has been involved with the Bucks Museums Network, a new organisation which has replaced the Bucks Curators' Group. The Network, loosely put, is all the museums in the county working together to promote themselves collectively and individually. Sounds a good idea to me but it's still early days so we'll have to wait and see how it works out.

That 's all for the time being BESS

APRIL NOTES

Mike Sear has found these most interesting government papers among his aunts possessions. We thought you would like to share them. they begin with a letter from Jonas Rowbottom

JONAS ROWBOTTOM,

ORDERS FOR MILK
PROMPTLY
ATTENDED TO.
FAMILIES SUPPLIED.



DAIRYMAN & COWKEEPER,

17, Rosebud Cottages,

EDDISFORDE,

Cheshire.

April 1st 1918

Dr. to Mr.

Minister of State Control

QUARTS. PENTS. L S. D.

Dear Mister,

My cow cake is run out and Fattenham Brothers
Bhester the firm I get it from say its governments orders that this
time I must send an order certificated by your Ministry before
I can order any more I want $\frac{1}{2}$ ton at once as I have some
nice beasts fattening up for the Fat Stock market and when
the market comes off, I want them beasts to be in prime condition so
please send the order for that $\frac{1}{2}$ ton quick so that it will come in
plenty time to get them beasts in prime condition for the market and wishing
you my best respects.

I remain

yours obediently,

Jonas Rowbottom
(dairyman and keeper of own cows)

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The letter was received by the Department of State Control and opened by Miss Neverina Hurrey who sent it to her boss Sir Tainly Passiton. He sent it on to Mr Dallymore. as he was concerned that *it has never been satisfactorily proved that the met value accruing directly as a result of the fattening process bears the favourable ratio that is often assumed to the added cost of maintenance plus the cost of fattening food..*

Mr Dallymore took the matter seriously and in his small neat hand wrote a long minute as follows: *In view of your doubts which I am bound to say have communicated themselves also to me. I would suggest that although, according to usual practice, an applicant owning cattle who sought to obtain cattle food might not be expected to meet with contravention of his view that fat cattle were better than thin, considered from the viewpoint of economic value... and in face of your expert statistical opinion it would seem reprehensible to proceed further in this matter without first making adequate investigation. He suggested a Special Commission with terms of reference as follows " to consider and report as to whether (1) in view of the fact that all cattle must sooner or later come to decease by means of the axe and (2) having regard to the indisputable truth that all cattle, whether fattened or not, must before death have attained to a certain degree of body-build and therefore of edible flesh (3) considering also the unknown and unproven ration added value which fattened cattle would bear to the same cattle unfattened (4) taking also into consideration the moral and spiritual ill-effects likely to accrue to the owner or his servants of day by day offering to*

animal edible matter having as its sole function that of distending the animal to a degree greater than its then - and presumable therefore, its normal condition - it were not better both for man and beast, physically and morally as well as better economically and materially for the nation that the east were slain out of hand without any fattening process being attempted" He also reminded Sir Tainly that he was about to finish work as Secretary to the Commission investigating the texture of Rubber best suited to the manufacture of Hot-water Bed-warmers. Their nineteenth report would soon be published. He would be free to take up another Commission (with Commission Secretary's allowance of £150 p.a.)

Sir Tainly referred the matter to his boss Mr Longsins Dunn who asked for the Opinions of the Directors of Cattle Axe production, the Beef Inspectorate and Shippon Workers' Moral Welfare Department. By now it is the 23rd April. The head of Cattle Axe Production Mr J Done Turtem takes a month to decide that in his experience in charge of Hackney Coach Regulation including Knackerling, "the trend in modern method in slaughtering cattle killer is in the form of a pistol firing a cartridge, or gas shell or aerial bomb." He intends to take a few more months to inquire into the matter and report back He ventures to suggest that Mr Dallymore's proposed Commission be deferred till then.

Meanwhile Mr Rowbottom writes again "What about my cow cake. Is it ever coming? My cattle are losing condition so please hurry up!

Editor's note: Think about it!

Subscription renewal form / membership form

Subs for 2000-2001 are: Adults £6; Family £9; Concessions £4.

Please send this form and cheque made out to Pitstone Local History Society and send it to Coral McCormack, 32 Maud Janes Close, Ivinghoe, LU7 9ED

Name:.....

Address:.....

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