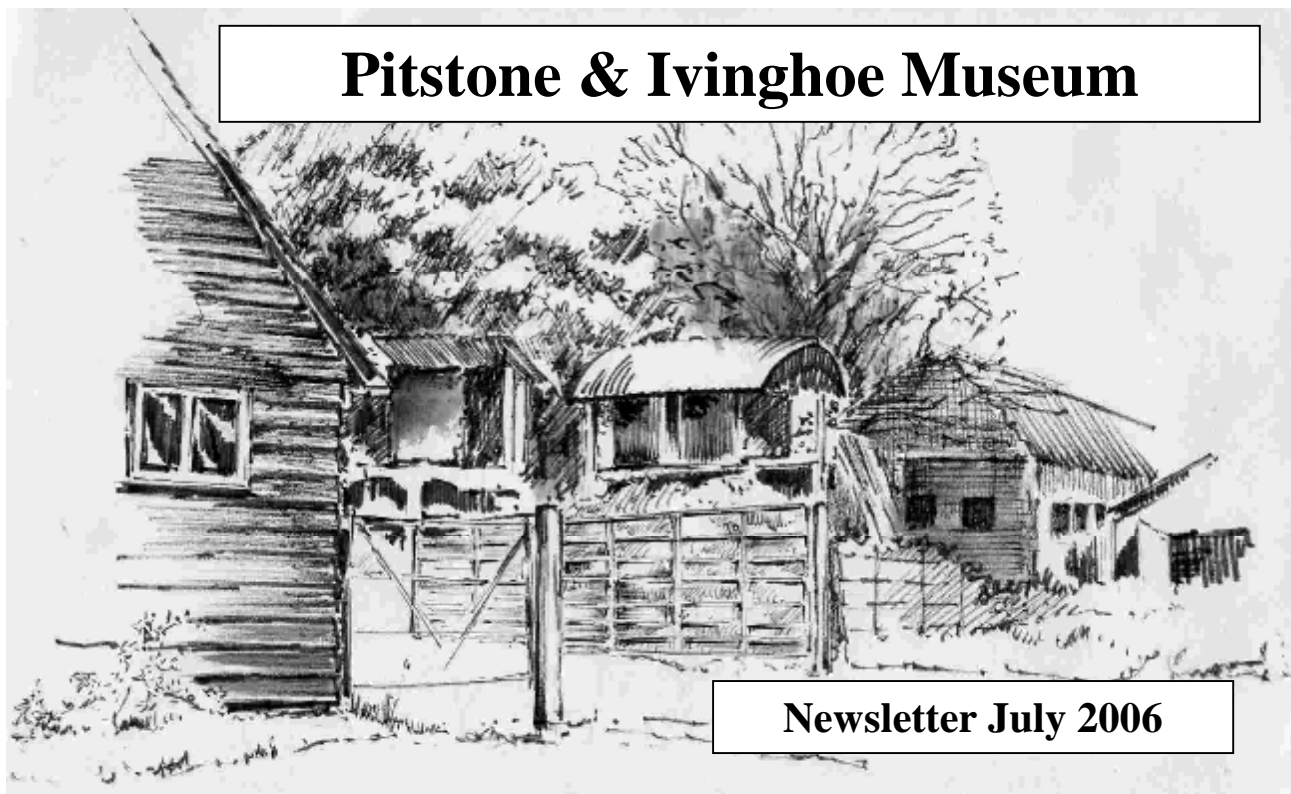


Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum



Newsletter July 2006

Picture by B. Wright (01296 668083)

From the Chairman

Thank you to all those involved in the Open Day on Sunday 9th July.

What a day! Peter turned up at Honeysuckle Lodge with the salad to be washed (we still cannot use the water at the museum for drinking) earlier than expected only to be met at the door by me in a bath robe; Jilly had to dash to move her car to let Ron pass in the driveway and, as it was raining, she put her head down and jumped into the back seat instead of the front; Norman managed to drop the plug into the urn – which was full – and Peter had to mend it before we opened and, for once, the wind was in the wrong direction so the food counter was too wet to put out the refreshments until later!

However, after a very wet, quiet and rocky start, despite the competition of Wimbledon, things improved after lunch and we had 115 adults and 20 children visit us. Everyone pulled together as usual and the atmosphere was wonderful.

Kit Kite

Museum Report –July 2006

The New Archaeology Room (ex Ron's Workshop) has been declared to be finished.....at least by the two who have done the bulk of the work. What remains to be done now is to move the display cabinets in there from their present location in the 'Old'

Archaeology Room. What do we do with the old room when this has been done ? We are still talking about it. Any ideas anyone ?

The outdoor Gauge '1' model railway track is progressing well; there is still a small chance we shall see steam coming from that area before the end of the open season.

John Nigel and Ken have found themselves a big job repairing the lower part of the roof and guttering of the cart sheds. There was some quite advanced wood rot lurking under the tiles and this is being renovated; then the gutters will be restored and replaced.

The first three open days of this year (the Bank Holiday Mondays) were very successful. All were better than the same day last year, and in particular the Easter Monday open day easily broke all previous records. Then the second Sunday of June was a dismal failure; if you allow for inflation attendance and takings were worse than last year, and last year was bad. At one time it seemed as if we might have a good day as there were quite a few people about by 12 noon; but then they just stopped coming and by 3 pm the place was almost deserted. Maybe we shall have to consider abandoning the 2nd Sunday of June as an open day. Fortunately the dancers who had been booked to perform had had to cancel, otherwise they would only have had Museum volunteers for an audience. We hope for something better on the next open day, 9th July.

Regarding a possible expansion of the museum buildings, we know what we would like to do but we have not produced any plans as yet. We have approached the District Council for their preliminary views on what we want to do and we are awaiting their response.

Now that there are no longer any sheep in the orchard we have been making an effort to keep the grass mown more frequently and generally keeping it tidier. Over the last 7 or 8 years about 10 or 12 trees have died (we have not kept count). These are mostly old trees, probably at the end of their life, but if we want to have an orchard for the future we must start propagating from the trees that still remain in the near future. At present we have some seedlings we are growing on in pots but it will be a few years before they can be planted out. We will take some cuttings also from the suckers growing up beneath healthy trees.

Manager Norman has been demonstrating his artistic abilities in the cowshed. No! He is not the next Van Gough or Picasso, but he has done a creditable job of restoring some of the murals in there which were looking very sad in places. I am trying to coax him into restoring the lot, but so far he is resisting my effort. If we all tell him what a fine job he is doing (whether we believe it or not) maybe he will change his mind.

Otherwise life at the Museum goes on. Restoration work is progressing, cataloguing our huge photograph collection proceeds, and other things are moving forward slowly. Why not come and join us and give us a hand ?

Peter Keeley, Deputy Museum Manager

Membership

The 2006/7 subscriptions were due on 1st April and some 30% of the members still have not paid. We realise that each year some members will drop out while others join us. If for any reason you wish to cease your membership of the society a quick phone call or a message passed via any committee member would be welcome, as it avoids unnecessary wasted time and effort in sending out Newsletters and renewal slips. The next Newsletter will come out at the end of October, if we haven't received your subscription by then we will assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership. For those who have not yet paid a renewal slip is enclosed. Any query please contact Norman Groom on 01582 605464.

Hobbies evening **Thursday 17 August**

After a very successful Hobbies evening last year we are holding another at our August meeting this year (see Sue's list for details). The meeting will again be held in the Big Barn with lots of table space available. There is no entrance charge for this meeting. Please come along and bring something to exhibit, if you have nothing new then bring what you exhibited last year, it all makes for an interesting evening. If you have nothing to exhibit, no matter come along, bring a friend and meet and talk to other society members.

Norman Groom

Wine Cheese & Antiques

On Thursday 15th June we had our annual wine, cheese and antiques evening.

Once again Stephen Hearn delighted us with his expert knowledge and amusing anecdotes. He started the evening telling us about the antiques market, explaining how it fluctuates. Using some items of china, he told us that markets are affected by collectors who create a demand for a particular item and the price then rises. He also explained how the popularity of TV programmes have also had an effect on the market not always for the good.

There were many interesting items brought to the evening. A wooden tray with brass handles made at St Dunstan's. There were two broken dolls worth money even in this state. A valuable china plate. There was a violin, that might be of some value, it shows the name of Stradivarius.

I learnt a new word TREEN. This word was thought to have been invented by Edward Pinto to describe "The Pinto Collection of Wooden Bygones." It means "made of wood". This was the description of the wooden item brought in which was originally used in "straw plaiting". It used to hang on the walls of cottages of workers and was used to flatten the straw.

There was an old silver cup belonging to my husband Bill. He thought it was his Grandfather's for tent pegging in India and had the inscription ILH which he thought meant "Indian Light Horse" dated 1907 and his name. Further investigation since the evening has shown that ILH means "Imperial Light Horse Regiment" and was formed in 1899, raised in Johannesburg South Africa for the Anglo-Boer War. Checking my family tree program I find that it was his Great Grandfather

who was in South Africa proven by the birth of his son in 1907 in Pretoria, South Africa, Bill's Granduncle. Tent-pegging originated from India.

There were pictures and a wonderful Victorian scrap book containing several valuable items including watercolour paintings. A Doll's pram, watch, no cuddly toy this time!

Note:

The Equestrian sport of tent-pegging - the noble sport of Lance and Sword was introduced to Britain from India by members of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, during the 19th and early 20th Century.. Apparently, as a mischievous pastime, members of the regiment in India would gallop in among the tents at camp and cut the guy ropes with their sword or uproot the tent pegs with lances causing the tents to collapse (not to mention the indignation of the tent's occupants!). The officers decreed that the pegs be put into the ground separately and the pastime could continue with out disrupting the camp. Thus the game of tent-pegging was born.

Thanks also to the caterers who provided the excellent supper.

Sandra Barnard

How Pitstone & Ivinghoe Used To Be

When coming up Cheddington Road to the museum Christmas party, although there was plenty of light and cars parked everywhere, it took me back to when I was a boy delivering around Pitstone and Ivinghoe after school and to out lying farms on my carrier bike.

Although Pitstone in particular was only a tenth of the size and there was not more than ten vans and cars in the village, and only about six street lamps. Three along Ivinghoe Road, one on the end of the post office row,

one on the then cross roads and one in Vicarage Road. The villages were much more alive both by day and night with people going about their business and looking after their livestock, poultry, etc.

In Chequers Lane you may meet Harold Blake from Yardley Farm going out to deliver potatoes in his old Lanchester car. Before the sewer came to Pitstone, Harold used to go around with his horse and cart emptying lavatories which he tipped part of in the field where Chequers Close now stands. After the Lanchester he had a new Ford 8 car which after few months he painted by hand, with what I think was a 3" brush, there were runs everywhere, he said he had been told

new cars rusted away so he thought he would preserve it; he also painted his tractor the same.

Or you may see Ken Hallett coming back from the allotments with his wheelbarrow, he used to have several. I would be down there feeding the cattle we had in the barns next to Robin Cottage. There would also be Humphrey and Mark Williamson. Humphrey would be riding with one hand and pulling his handcart in the other - like the one in the museum, always loaded with something or other.

Wilfy Rogers also known as the midnight milkman would be on his bike; a four gallon can on each handle bar, in which he would carry milk, delivering between eight and ten o'clock at night.

During the day Sid and Will Harrowell from Seabrook would deliver the milk on their horse and milk float. That was until their horse was killed in an accident with a lorry in the Tunnel Cement entrance, following this they had an old EXWD Standard Tilly. As well as this other milkmen included Tommy Wright from Seabrook in his old Morris van; his business was taken over by John Groom, and Harold Cook who sold milk from his smallholdings in Cheddington Road. In Ivinghoe you would see Ted Simmons walking down from his buildings in the warren off Beacon Road, with his pails of milk on a yolk and then Nellie Claridge would deliver this to customers with a churn and dipper in an old pram for him.



The Harrowell Family Seabrook Farm

Whose Who:-

Back row left to right:- Sid, John, Ernie, their father Alfred, Herbert, Will, Jim.

Front row:- Kate, Maud, their mother Kate, Florence, Doris

Then there was bakers boy Peter Waring would be on his three wheeled bakers trike delivering for Stallards, previously the baker had been Mr

Howlett (a relation to Brenda Grace). There would also be Bert Horwood whose bakery was in Grooms yard, Back Lane, in Ivinghoe; he had an old pony and bakers cart.



The Howlett Family Pitstone

Whose Who:-

Standing left to right:- Winfred, Don, Albert(Bert), Horace and Mabel. Seated left to right:- Olive, Henry William, Annie Elizabeth and Doris. (picture Pitstone 2000 book)

On a Friday night when I was with my father and grandmother delivering meat in the van we would finish up at The Swan public house, at Ivinghoe Aston. My father would be in the bar for a drink and my grandmother would go in the kitchen and have a gin and orange with Ada Wibden, the landlord's wife. Bert would also be in there after having had one too many to drink he would have to be helped into his cart and the pony would take him back to Ivinghoe across the bridle path.

Another baker was Slee Turney, again his bakery was in Back Lane, in a cottage next to the Old Manor where museum member Nigel Thompson now resides. Slee also had a pony also identical to Bert's; you could easily mistake one for the other. Porter brothers Joe and Bernard from Cheddington would also be delivering bread in their old Trojan van, later with a Bradford Van.

Percy Roper from Back Lane would go around on his Francis Barnet autocycle as a rep. for Pearl Insurance Company travelling to all the local villages to sell his product.

Groceries would be delivered by John Horn on his trade bike for the Ivinghoe Co-op, the business did belong to Mr Lodge from Albion Road and before him Edwin Horn from the mill near the Bell. Billy Elliot would also be on his bike distributing his meat and groceries for his mother and father, they owned a shop in the High Street.

Billy Dell was known for his various motor vehicles and you could usually tell he was coming down the road from the cloud of smoke; some of them lasted little longer than a week! He lived in a small holding in Brook Lane and would sell fruit and vegetables, second hand furniture and anything else he might make a few bob on.

Mrs Prudence and her daughter Vealy would be going from place to place delivering newspapers, neither of them could have been more than five feet tall and they would walk miles with full sacks on their shoulders, the sacks were so big they were almost dragging on the ground. They lived in a small house where Station Road met Back Lane; it no longer remains today.

An old chap from Berkhamsted often used to come around, he only stood about five foot and had an enormous basket in which he would have cotton, buttons, knicker elastic and other sewing materials, he would walk everywhere with it. I can remember vividly his baby face and he was always smiling. He would usually sleep under the elder tree near father's building in Chequers Lane and one filthy Monday night after he finished his round in Pitstone we saw him as we were feeding the cattle, father said he could sleep in the barn whenever he liked for which he expressed his eternal gratitude. The next day he would move on to Cheddington, Slapton, Northall, Edlesborough, Dagnall and then back to Berkhamsted.

There was always hammering and banging coming from George Moores' forge, it used to glow especially on a dark evening; I would sometimes help pump the bellows for him. Willy Rogers lived in Plum Tree Cottages and had a small holding where the May Fu now stands - previous to my father's butchers shop, you would often meet him going to or coming back from tending or shutting in his chickens. Under the cart shed there seemed to be a meeting place where Willy, my grandfather Reg and an old boy called Will Moores (brother of the blacksmith George Moores), there they sat talking for hours. I sometimes sat with them and wish I had listened more to the tales they told of the village and village folk.

Other characters you would often see about included Dudley Ambler, he would regularly paint his bicycle different colours and lived in a hen house (enus), in Uncle Fred Jellis' orchard, he use to follow the thrashing drum gang about hoping to find farming work with them, he was usually given the very dirty jobs such as raking out and bagging the cavings. George Turney also lived in an 'enus' in his brother Albert's orchard in Albion

Road. He was always about but I never did know what he did, he'd often have an old hen under his coat that he would try and sell to someone outside The Bell public house for a shilling, so that he may go in and buy a beer. Of course there were always the workers from the cement works going on and coming off their shifts, day and night. All of these people had time to stop and talk, whereas today we just pass by in our motorcars.

Reg Jellis

P.S. Apologies to those who have escaped my memory - maybe another time.

Note:-

Back Lane, Ivinghoe (as it was known) is now Vicarage Lane as far as the 'Rose and Crown' and then it becomes Ladysmith Road to where it meets Station Road.

From The 1901 Census by Sandra

Below are some of the people mentioned in Reg's article. Some of these people may of course be their fathers and the person mentioned not born yet.

Ivinghoe Road Pitstone

(Public record office, Ref RG 13 / 1330)

James Cook, head, 43, occupation - Horse keeper at Brewery, worker, born Ivinghoe

Mary Ann , wife, 46, b. Marsworth

Annie, daughter, 22, occ. – housework, b.

Marsworth

Charles, son 14, occ.- ordinary farm labourer, b. Ivinghoe

Alice, daughter, 11, attends school, b. Ivinghoe

Noah, son, 7, b. Pitstone

Harold, son, 5 b. Pitstone

Seabrook Farm Cheddington

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/ 1510)

Alfred **Harrowell**, head 39, occ. Farmer and produce merchant, employer at home, b.

Cheddington

Kate, wife, 36, b. Tring

Maud J, daughter, 16, occ. draper's assistant, worker, b. Ivinghoe

Ernest W, son, 14 , occ. Farmer's son, worker, b. Ivinghoe

Herbert C, son, 12 b. Ivinghoe

Florence E, daughter, 9, b. Pitstone

Walter G, son, 6 b. Ivinghoe

William A, son, 4 b. Cheddington

Wilfred C, son. B. Cheddington

Harriett Harrowell, 75, mother, b. Appleton, Oxon.

Upper Well Croft (Prospect Place) Ivinghoe

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/ 1510)

William Howlett, head, 36, occ. Baker on own account at home, b. Horton

Annie, wife, 32, b. Cheddington

Mabel, daughter, 8, b. Cheddington

Albert, son, 7, b. Ivinghoe

Winifred, daughter, 6, b. Ivinghoe

Horace, son, 4, b. Ivinghoe

Donald, son, 1, b. Ivinghoe

2 Chapel House Ivinghoe

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/ 1510)

Edwin Horn, head, 28, occ. Grocer on own account at home, b. Ivinghoe

Elizabeth, wife, 30, b. Limehouse London

Edwin, son, 3, b. Ivinghoe

Ernest, son, 3, b. Ivinghoe

Violet E, 8 months, b. Ivinghoe

There are several other families of "Horn" in the villages.

Ivinghoe Road Pitstone

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/1330)

Charles **Moore**, head, widower, 54, occ.

Blacksmith, at home on own account, b. Pitstone

George, son, 28, occ. Blacksmith, worker b. Pitstone

Mary Ann, daughter, 22, occ. Housework, b. Pitstone

Beatrice, daughter, 14, occ. Housework, b. Pitstone

Ivinghoe Road Pitstone

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/1330)

Henry **Rogers**, head, 45, occ. General (cattle) dealer (livestock), on own account, b. Ivinghoe

Mary Ann, wife, 46, b. Ivinghoe

William, son, 23, occ. ordinary agricultural labourer, worker, b. Ivinghoe

Thomas, son, 19, occ. ordinary agricultural labourer, b. Ivinghoe

Elizabeth , daughter 16, occ. Housework b.

Ivinghoe

John, son, 14 b. Ivinghoe

Joseph, son, 12 b. Ivinghoe

Ivinghoe Road Pitstone

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/1330)

Frederick Turney, head, 38, occ. Poultry Farmer on own account at home, b. Ivinghoe

Mary, wife, 36 , b. Marsworth

Amos, son, 14 b. Marsworth

Mabel, daughter, 5 b. America US (British subject)

Near the Railway Arch Pitstone

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/1330)

Jesse **Williamson**, head, 48, occ. ordinary farm labourer, worker, b. Pitstone

Sarah Ann, wife, 44, b. Marsworth

Lionel, 20, occ. Carpenters apprentice, worker, b. Pitstone

Mark, 10, b. Pitstone

Amy E, 7, b. Pitstone

92 High Street Berkhamsted

(Public record office, Ref RG 13/1329)

Humphrey Williamson, head, 25, occ. Butcher manager, b. Pitstone

Harriet, wife 25, Rymer Intrinsic? Dorset

Cyril Hubert, 2, b. Weymouth Dorset

Edna Ruth, 11 months, b. Weymouth Dorset

Sandra Barnard

Programme 2006

All meetings are held in the Education Room in the Pitstone Green Museum at 8.00 pm.

Thursday 20th July

History in the Field

Tony Rook lives in Hertfordshire and is an archaeologist, local historian, author and broadcaster who has had an on-going involvement with the Time Team. He will be talking to us about fields, their boundaries and what lies beneath the surface.

Thursday 17th August

Hobbies Evening

This will be our second hobbies evening and we hope that it will be just as successful as the one last year. It is your chance to set up a small display in the Big Barn and then talk to others about your items as they browse around. If you participated last year, don't let this stop you bringing the same items again as I missed the event last year, and heard so many good reports about it all!

Thursday 21st September

High days and Holidays – the Autumn Months

Janet Dineen has come to speak to us before on this subject, but then she focussed on an earlier season including May Day celebrations. On this occasion she will begin with St James' Day and continue through to November 5th, with much information about harvest traditions in between.

Thursday 19th October

William Ellis of Little Gaddesden

John Smith will be coming to give us a timely extension to Professor Mead's talk earlier in the year, since Pehr Kalm visited William Ellis in the year 1748. William Ellis farmed at Church Farm, Little Gaddesden for about thirty years, during which time he wrote several books including 'The Country Housewife's Family Companion'. John will be looking at this fascinating book in some detail and talking about the man who reputedly wrote more successfully than he farmed!

Sue Lipscomb, Programme Secretary
Open Days 2006

Sunday August 13th

Bank Holiday Monday August 28th

Sunday September 10th

Opening times from 11.0 a.m. to 5.0. p.m.

Adults £3 Children £1.50.

Members of PIMS free

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Newsletter

Sandra Barnard

School Group Visits

For information on school visits, please contact

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Museum Website:-

<http://website.lineone.net/~pitstonemus>