

*Pitstone and Ivinghoe
Museum Society Newsletter*



Summer 2012

Museum Report – July 2012

In a nutshell, the Museum is just ticking over at the time of writing. We have had 4 open days so far; that leaves 5 still to come with one of them next weekend. We have hosted one wedding reception, with another to come in September (and maybe yet another next April). We have had one private visit, with just one more booked. There is nothing major going on working days at the Museum; various volunteers just getting on with routine tasks. My report this time will, therefore, be short, and perhaps the autumn one will have more content.

The first three open days this year were wet and cold; attendances were very much down as a consequence. These first three days are usually our best for visitor numbers and for takings. The fourth open day was better weather and visitors were just about what we expected, or perhaps slightly higher. But traditionally the fourth open day of the year is our worst for numbers, so on the whole we have had a disappointing year so far.

The wedding reception went very well, I am told, but unfortunately I was ill that day and couldn't be there. I understand all went according to plan and the volunteers present were not overstretched. The visiting party was the Standard Motor Club one Saturday afternoon. There were some magnificent old cars present on a rare fine day and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

The replacement "Green Shed" has been ready for its concrete base to be poured for quite some time now, but for one reason or another we just haven't been able to do it. Still, no desperate hurry at the moment and we don't want to lay a concrete floor just before a torrential rainstorm. And there are plenty of those about at the moment. It is making it extremely difficult to keep the grass mown and looking good and this is not helped by the main mower being out of order for want of a spare part for well over a month now, and us having to use the ancient stand-by machine which is slower, harder to drive, and never cuts as well.

Dennis is starting to really get his teeth into his work as our new archivist, but I hope the enormity of the task will not put him off. And as a "stop press" item of news, Norman has just succeeded in making his Teletype machine work. How many of you know what a Teletype is? Norman will be pleased to tell you if you ask him.

Peter Keeley, Secretary

Pitstone and Royalty, 1902

We are currently experiencing something of a revival of royalist tendencies as we approach the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Not only do we see

and appreciate the role that she has played since her ascendancy to the throne, we also have seen a younger generation of the royal family more in tune with the general public than has been the case for a long time. With these thoughts buzzing around my head I thought that I would search the archives for any evidence of the way that people in the past viewed royalty. I came across the following hand written document from 1902. The reason for there being two dates referred to in terms of the coronation was because the king had to undergo an emergency appendectomy operation that caused the cancellation of the June date in favour of the later one.

Dennis Trebble, PIMS Archivist

The Celebration of the Coronation of King Edward VII at Pitstone, June 26th 1902 and August 9th 1902

The Managing Committee consisted of the Parish Council, viz. Mr J.H. Hawkins (chairman), G. Mardell (vice chairman), J. Reeve, G. Jellis, S. Mardell and C.Coker, with others added.

The Sports Committee – Mr. J Hawkins, T. Gurney, G. Reeve, G. Short, M. Williamson, F. Turney, J. Burch, H. Green, G. Harrowell, G. Elliott and D. Payne.

The Ladies Committee – Mrs. Kerr, Miss Reeve, Miss Hawkins, Miss Williamson, Mrs. G. Elliott and Mrs. G. Harrowell.

The Trustees of Pitstone Town Land Estate (with the permission of the Charity Commissioners) granted a donation of £20 toward the expenses and Rt. Hon. Earl Brownlow kindly sent a subscription of £4 and other amounts collected by Mr. G. Mardell brought up the total to the sum of £11.16.6

It was decided that the money should be spent on giving a Meat Tea to all the parishioners and in providing prizes for sports.

The sad news of the King's illness and the postponing of the Coronation having been received almost at the last moment, the Sports were deferred but the provisions being purchased and cooked, the Meat Tea was held on the 26th. Between 300 and 400 sat down to a capital tea presided over by the vicar, Rev. W.J. B. Kerr. After tea the National Anthem was sung and the vicar kindly presented cigars to all the men who smoked – which was highly appreciated.

After all the expenses were paid in connection with the tea and sports, a balance was left of £1.4.10. It was therefore thought well to have another collection to provide a plain tea upon Coronation Day, August 9th. Several persons volunteered

to canvass the village and their efforts met with a ready response, collecting over £5.

Between 300 and 400 again sat down to tea and the vicar again presided and distributed cigars to the smokers, for which he received hearty cheers, to which he replied and called attention to the way prayers had been answered in the restoration of the King, for which all loyal subjects were truly grateful.

The sports took place in the Recreation Ground and consisted of flat races, hurdle races, bicycle races, egg and spoon races, potato races, perambulator races, stepping matches, three legged races etc. Many of them were well contested but for some of the events there were no entries. There were therefore a number of prizes left on hand which were sold and the proceeds amounting to £2.0.2 sent to the Royal Bucks Infirmary and 1/- each distributed to all those in the parish in receipt of Parish Relief.

Thus ended two very enjoyable holidays only marred by the illness of the King.

The provision of a meat tea (note the use of capitals in the 1902 document) was clearly an important decision and must have provided an unusual and welcome addition to the daily diet. The vicar's decision to hand out cigars (twice) could not have been taken lightly and would have represented a significant cost to him. Linking the King's health to prayer and the singing of the national anthem both point to a time when villages were not only more communally minded but also more spiritually so. The very parochial nature of people's lives would have emphasised these qualities. Unfortunately these minutes were not signed, so it is not easy to identify the writer, though the older families of the village are well represented in the committees outlined at the beginning.

Dennis Trebble

The Aldbury Double Murder

This is the title of a book written by **Ruth Lady Craufurd of Brightwood, Aldbury, Tring** in March 1963. It tells the story of the events that took place in 1891 in **Aldbury** Hertfordshire three miles from **Tring**.

On the evening of that day the quiet and peace of the village was shattered by the brutal murder of two gamekeepers at Aldbury by three poachers from Tring. The village lies in a valley surrounded on the South and North by low wooded hills. About a mile outside the village along the valley towards **Ivinghoe** stands the great house of **Stocks** (now a private house and golf club).

The Stocks shooting was let to **Mr Joseph Williams** of Pendley and it was his men who were involved. Shots had been heard in the wood known as **Aldbury Nowers** the previous week and because of this the **Head Keeper James Double** took it in turns with the second **Keeper William Puddephatt** to patrol the woods in order to catch the poachers. **Joseph Crawley** was the night watchman and went out every night with one of them.

On the 12th December 1891 it was **Puddephatt's** turn to patrol. **James Double** saw them on their way and remarked on the stormy weather. "Yes master, it's a rough night" were **Puddephatt's** last words before he and **Crawley** set out. They said they would report on their night's work to **Double** at 10.30 next morning.

Next day **Double** arrived at **Stocks Park** as arranged to meet his men but no one came. He thought the storm may have injured them so he set off with **Willmore** one of the gardeners to find them.

They searched first **Howlett Wood** where there was a hut that held a corn bin for feeding birds. This had not been opened. They continued their search of the wood and found the two greatcoats belonging to the men 40 yards apart. They made their way towards **Marlin Field**. This was at the edge of **Nowers Wood** where they first thought they had seen a fallen tree limb. This had been seen earlier by **Farmer Jellis** and **Farmer Waterdown** and had been mistaken for a scarecrow. The body of poor **Crawley** was then found in a pool of blood. The men then found the body of **Puddephatt** further up the field. The Head Keeper cried "Billy, you're done for I fear".

One of the men sent for to help move the bodies was **James Collier**. The news upset his family and especially his son who went with him. His wife Becky rushed off to tell **Mrs Crawley (Sophie)** that her **Joe** had been killed. Another family in Aldbury could not eat their dinner that day.

Who were the three poachers? They were **Walter Smith**, **Frederick Eggleton** and **Charles Rayner**. All were from Tring and well known as poachers. They had been seen in several pubs in the area including one by the canal at Bulbourne. They were recognised by a bargeman on the canal who had heard a splash in the early hours of the morning. This was where the stock of the gun had been thrown.

Smith declared he had left the other two before the murder. For this he received 20 years hard labour but lived to come out after 18 years. It is said he confessed on his death bed that he had in fact committed one of the murders. He probably

killed **Crawley** as the broken gun barrel near his body fitted the stock recovered from the canal and this was in **Smith's** possession at the beginning of the evening.

Rayner and **Eggleton** were found Guilty at **Aylesbury Assizes** and condemned to death.

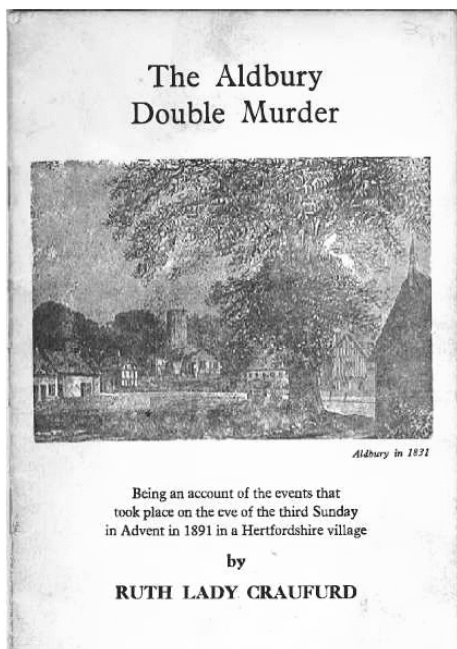
The Book by **Lady Craufurd** can be found in local libraries and has also been documented in the **Dacorum Heritage Trust's Newsletter**, No. 63 June 2011, available on line, where they offer to sell copies.

email:- office@dacorumheritage.org.uk

Lady Ruth Crauford died in February 1998 and is buried in **Aldbury Churchyard**.

Highlighted names and places show some recognised names of local people.

Picture on the book shows Aldbury 1831



*Note: - Some members are connected!
The second Great Grandfather of myself, Sandra, was James Newman from Paddington, who married Elizabeth Crawley. She was born in Great Gaddesden on the 14th July 1812. This place of birth was detailed on the 1851 census for Paddington.*

Elizabeth Crawley's father was Thomas Crawley born circa 1790 baptised in Great Gaddesden and Nettleden. He was married to Elizabeth and they had at least 8 children. Elizabeth was the eldest, then Sarah, 1819, George, 1821, Martha, 1823, Thomas, 1825, Sophia, 1828, Elisha, 1831, James, 1836.

I have traced Sarah Crawley on the 1851 census where she can be found in the Union Workhouse Hemel Hempstead with twins Joseph and Mary 14 days old. She was an unmarried mother aged 29. Sarah can be found with father Thomas in Great Gaddesden in 1841 and 1861. I guess she was sent away to have her children!

I have further traced Joseph through the censuses. 1861, with Uncle and Aunt Thomas and Sophia Fensom (nee Crawley) in Great Gaddesden aged 11.

Sophia was My 2nd Great Grandmother's sister. One of our members Roy Cutler has a cousin Dennis Fensom. He is distantly related to the Thomas Fensom who married Sophia.



In 1871 Joseph Crawley was an unmarried servant working and living at the Bridgewater Arms Inn at Little Gaddesden. This still exists today.

In 1881 he can be seen with wife Sabina (Sophie in the book) and two daughters Frances & Clara and his Father-in -Law Jesse Thorne, Living in Aldbury.

The Bridgewater Arms **Little Gaddesden**

Aldbury Pond

In 1891 Joseph & Sabina have 5 more children and are still living in the same house at Aldbury, 21, (looks like) Seated /Slated Row.

Joseph Crawley died on the 12th December 1891.

The deaths can be seen online registered in Berkhamstead.

Deaths Mar 1892

Crawley Joseph aged 42 Berkhamstead 3a 532

Deaths Mar 1892

Puddephatt William aged 37 Berkhamstead 3a 542



When I moved to this area and joined the Museum, I had no idea that I had any local Ancestors! The murdered victim, Joseph Crawley was my 1st cousin 3 times removed! If any other member has any connection, please let me know.

Next issue: - the report of this case that was debated in parliament.

Sandra Barnard

The Gentle Giants

*Once Horses pulled the plough.
Their harness jangled in play.
These powerful gentle shires
were the tractor of the day.*

*They wore their brass ornaments
that glistened in Autumn sun.
Ploughman and the powerful giants.
Working together as one.*

*In Winter each horse wore a magic star.
Sun shone on the forehead brass.
To blind the devil and his evil ways
of spoiling the winter sown seed.*

*Large feathered feet planted on soil.
The ploughman calls, "walk on Prince",
at times, "whoa Bess", his rough hand
on her rump, she snorts in reply.*

*Time now for their nosebags.
There is water from the field trough.
Man sits by the plough, eating his
"Bucks Clanger", and swigs cold beer.*

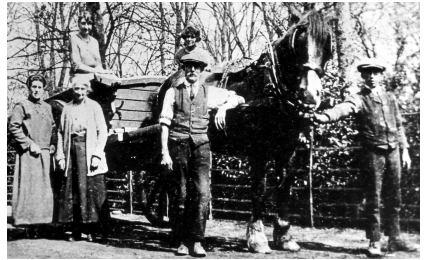
*At the end of the day, the ploughman
sat side-saddle on one "Giant's" back.
Back to their stable to be groomed
and fed. The slow plod known in the country.*

*It was the stable lads who gave care.
To feed and groom each day.
The bed in the stable loft for the boy.
He had no time to play, or idly stare.*

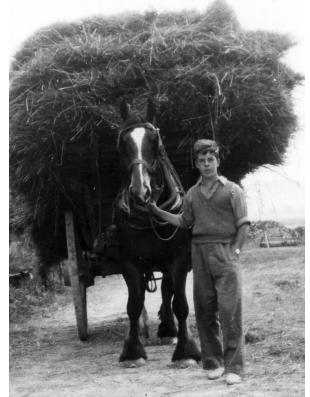
*In days gone by, sounds were different then.
That only the countryman knew.
No cars or aeroplanes, just the rattle of
a passing cart, and voices, in a dialect few today know.*



Two horse mowing machine 1920-30



Family with Horse & Cart



Lee Hawkins c. 1920

**Below: - Woodcutting logs are
moved with ropes and pulleys**

**Lead horse captain is eating
from his nosebag now in the Museum**



*Although these “Gentle Giants” had their day,
and machines took over the task.*

*Is there not another part for them to play?
Their power one day to be reclaimed? I ask.*

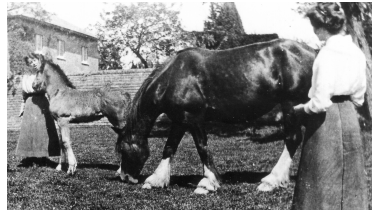
*Now many landowners have seen
the worth of the large horse.
Hauling felled logs through woodlands.
Man and beast working as one of course.*

*As you pass an empty stall.
See old harness, chains as old lumber.
Once a “Gentle Giant” was there.
Perhaps “Bess” or “Prince”, just stand and wonder.*

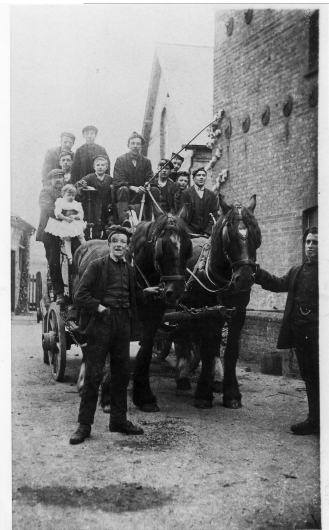
Ena Elliott Ashurst



An Open Day in the past



**Horse and foal in paddock
with Al Hawkins and Bessie Smith**



Brewery outing with horse and wagon



**Wood cutting at Beaconsfield. Captain the lead horse of three in a row.
All these Pictures of Horses are from the Museum Photograph Archives
Sandra Barnard Editor**

Programme 2012

All meetings are held in the Meeting Room in the Pitstone Green Museum at 8.00pm.
ALL VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Thursday 16th August '12 Hobbies Evening

This is a great occasion for putting yourself and your hobby on display! All are welcome however quirky and unusual your collection (nothing has been censored yet!). If you have brought a display to a previous hobbies evening, please don't let that stop you from coming again and if you truly have nothing to bring, then do come and learn more about other people's hobbies. If you have friends who would like to show us their hobby or simply enjoy the evening, please bring them along. This will not be held in the meeting room but instead we will have the use of the big barn.

Thursday 20th September '12 King Zog of Albania

Neil Rees who previously spoke to our members in 2008, returns again. He has recently published a book entitled 'A Royal Exile' and will bring copies for sale. In April 1939 when the Italians invaded Albania the Royal Family fled into exile and the period from 1941 until 1946 was spent in Buckinghamshire, mostly in Parmoor House near High Wycombe. Do find out more by visiting www.albanians-in-exile.org

Thursday 18th October '12 The Rise of Dunstable

Paul Heley, one of the Town Guides of Dunstable last visited us in 2009 when he focussed his attention on the four treasures of Dunstable. In this talk Paul considers the development of the town from the early Middle Ages as it became prosperous and includes the development of the Priory and its relationship with the townsfolk and the story behind Dunstable's Eleanor Cross which stood on the crossroads for 350 years.

Thursday 15th November '12 AGM ... Bees

Nigel Thompson, a long time volunteer and supporter of the Museum has been keeping bees for over 10 years now. He still describes himself as a 'keen amateur' and has joined both the Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association and the British Beekeepers Association. After our AGM Nigel will give us an illustrated talk about bees and show us the working of a beehive.

Thursday 20th December '12 Films from the Archives

Once again we are delighted to welcome Frank Banfield and his amazing film archive. He has a vast collection of 16mm cine films, and will choose a selection, mainly of local interest, dating between 1937 and the 1970s. These films will be interspersed by our usual mince pies and mulled wine

PIMS visits

First let me just report the mixed success of the visits I have planned so far this year. The visit to the Bucks Museum Collection planned for June had to be cancelled so apologies once again to the six people who wanted to attend. Sadly I needed at least ten to make this trip viable. However July's visit to Halton House and the Trenchard Museum did go ahead as planned and I hope the fifteen people who attended experienced a thoroughly enjoyable and informative morning.

Visit to the Paper Mill at Apsley

I am going to try to organise one more visit this year for members and their friends. I know some of you attended the 'Paper Trail' talk back in April when we were told about

the thriving heritage and education centre at Frogmore Paper Mill and several said they would love a visit. I have made a provisional booking for a group visit on the morning of Wednesday 29th August arriving by car at 10am. We would have refreshments when we arrive together with a short presentation, followed by a paper making demonstration, a talk about the letter press process and then a tour of the mill, in all lasting 2-2½ hours. Those who attend are welcome to eat their own packed lunch either by the canal or in the cafe where drinks and snacks may be purchased. Alternatively fish and chips can be ordered to be delivered to the cafe for our consumption at a cost of £6.00. There is even an opportunity to have a 40 minute boat trip on the canal for an additional £3.00. The cost for the group tour itself is £9.00 per person. If you are interested in booking this please contact me by the end of July. I can then give you more details.

Sue Lipscomb Programme Secretary 01296 630578

Sue.Lipscomb@btopenworld.com

Membership

A small number of members have not renewed this year yet, so I enclose another membership renewal slip for them inside this newsletter as a reminder. We have had a few new members join at a couple of our Open Days, so this is very encouraging. If you have changed your email address please email me with the new one.

Bill Barnard (Membership Secretary)



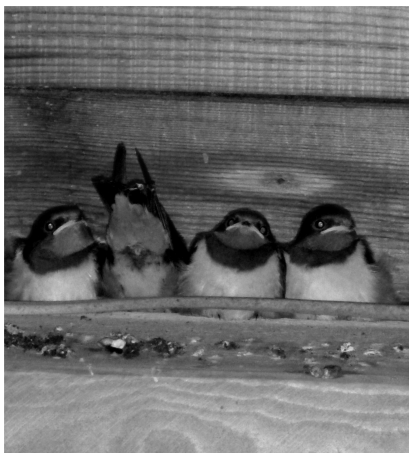
The Alan Pell 30 Key Organ.

This was demonstrated at Spring Bank Holiday Open Day, by owner Ernie Thomas from Bletchley.

Front Cover,

Teddy Bears with Miniature Organ.

With owner Brian Goldsmith from Luton. This was played at the Open day on Sunday 17th June.



Wild Life at the Museum

We had 4 House Martins hatch successfully, one was rather camera shy!

Norman Groom

Open Days 2012

Sunday **12th August**

B.H. Monday **August 27th**

Morris Dancers- Wicket Brood

Sunday **16th September**

Sunday **14th October**

Tappalachian Dancers

Opening times from

11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Admission charges adults £5

children £2. Members free.

Committee Officers:-

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Museum Site Manager

John Childs **01582 833501**

Vice Chairman &

Museum Manager

Norman Groom **01582 605464**

Treasurer

John Youngs **01582 833678**

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Don Levy

Bob Morgan

John Wallis

Museum Website:- www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk

Website Hits to 10th July 2012 ...42139

Total for last 30 days ...352

**Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society
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Leighton Buzzard LU7 9EY
Registered Charity No 273931**