

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society Newsletter



Museum Report – January 2013

The bad weather this year has not only affected our income throughout the year but also progress during the winter months. Fortunately our replacement building for the old Green Shed, which we are erecting near our pond had reached a stage that when the weather became really cold and wet, we had the walls and roof completed allowing us to work under cover. At the time of writing the doors are now fitted, all the power is laid on and lighting and power points fitted. Some small amount of wall cladding and painting is yet to be carried out and some attention given to the floor such that it can be easily cleaned. Just about the last untidy area on the site, which was behind our new building, has been completely cleaned and tidied. Scrap metal and other unwanted material disposed of and what remains left in an accessible and organised state. The intention is to fence off this area such it cannot be seen by the visiting public.

Some months ago we were offered a large two wheel trailer. It did need a lot of work doing on it before we could use it and we ended up in a complete rebuild, with virtually nothing left of the original trailer. The basic structure of our new trailer is now complete, just awaiting the wood decking which is about the only item salvaged from the original trailer. We are hoping to store the trailer in our newly cleared storage area.

We are, at the moment, re-applying for our Accreditation status. With government cuts last year, the old Museum and Libraries Archives organisation was disbanded and the Museums now come under the Arts Council. Unfortunately this has led to more paper work (saving money?) which we have had to contend with. All this work has been handled by Peter Keeley who unfortunately has been going through a bad patch regarding his health in recent months. He had to go through a series of radiotherapy treatments which has left him very weak.

One requirement of the Accreditation process is the need to ensure that the museum artefact database is updated. Our database started in a very primitive form back in the late 1960,s with simple entries in a book. It has gone through many stages and handled by several individuals since those early days, ending up with our latest computer based program, Modes Compact. However recent checks have shown that numerous errors, omissions and incorrect location details and descriptions have occurred over the intervening years and Peter started a programme of photographing every item on site, room by room, to ensure details on the data base were correct and each item was correctly described and could be easily identified. The time scale for this project is two years but we are hoping to reduce this. Peter's involvement with this work will probably be working at home

for a few weeks but hopefully it will not be long before we see him back at the museum.

Norman Groom Museum Manager.

"MURAD"

Does this mean anything to any one of our members? Murad was a significant manufacturer of machine tools in Aylesbury just after World War II. The firm did not start up in Aylesbury, and had moved on yet again when it closed some years later, but much of its factory output came from the Aylesbury Works, particularly turret lathes.

A smaller model maker's lathe by Murad has been acquired by the museum and will be on view in Jeff's Workshop this year. It is a quite unusual machine and well worth a visit to view, so do please call and see it. The intention is to write a potted history of this for inclusion in the Newsletter later this year. They even made a Murad car; yes, imagine Aylesbury as a car manufacturing centre.

Peter Keeley, Secretary.

The Aldbury Murders (Continued from last issue)

These debates followed the hanging of two of the poachers, **Frederick Eggleton** and **Charles Rayner**. **Walter Smith** received 20 years hard labour but lived to come out after 18 years.

Sandra Barnard Editor.

Hansard 17 March 1892

THE TRING MURDER CASE.

HC Deb 17 March 1892 vol 2 cc1074-5 **1074**

§ **MR. CONYBEARE** I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary whether he can now oblige me by giving an answer to the question which I put to him last night? It was as to whether, in the statement of Eggleton, who has been hanged this morning—which has been referred to in this House—Eggleton stated that he had himself been struck senseless to the ground, and that he remembered nothing that took place after having been struck senseless?

§ **MR. MATTHEWS** I am sorry that the hon. Member did not inform me that he was going to put that question, so that I might refer to the document in order to see whether it contains this statement. But perhaps I may be able sufficiently to answer it by saying that in all the previous statements sent to me by the prisoners each of the men disclaimed any participation in the death of either of the keepers.

§ **MR. CONYBEARE** With all respect that answer does not meet the question which I put to the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman referred yesterday to a statement which he said was the only material statement except the Judge's; and I want to know whether in that statement Eggleton did make the statement, and reiterated the statement, that he was senseless from the moment that he had been struck by the keeper

and knew nothing about what subsequently passed, because it will be observed this has a very important bearing upon the question. ("Order, order!") I want further to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in considering all the matters relating to the death of these men, he had regard to the case in which the late Lord Chief Justice Cockburn gave his decision upon facts almost similar to those in this case—"Order, order!"—and which decision was practically diametrically opposite to that given by the Judge in this case. I took the trouble myself—"Order, order!") I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he had that case under his revision, a matter which I took the trouble to bring under his notice myself personally after this House rose last night, and I wish to know whether the right hon. **1075** Gentleman referred to that case before he decided upon the fate of these men?

§ **MR. MATTHEWS** With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's question, the hon. Member desires me to state precisely what are the contents of a long written document. After such short notice I am unable to answer it fully. My clear general impression is that the statement of Eggleton, like the statements of the other two men, disclaimed all participation in either of the deaths. Whether the particular statement that he was knocked senseless is repeated in the second letter to me or not I will not assert positively; but, certainly, there is nothing in the letter inconsistent with the inclusion of that statement. With regard to the latter part of the statement of the hon. Member, the hon. Member did me the honour to write me a note last night, in which he alluded to a case which he gave me no means of identifying, and which he said was tried by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn; but I was unable to find the case.

§ **MR. CONYBEARE** Did the right hon. Gentleman take the trouble to look for the case? ("Order, order!") If he did not, I think this was a judicial murder.

§ **MR. HUNTER (Aberdeen, N.)** I beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, with a view to prevent the constant recurrence of judicial scandals, whether he will bring in a Bill to amend the legal definition of murder, so as to bring it more into harmony with the moral sentiment of the community?

§ **MR. MATTHEWS** I really must have notice before I could answer that question. The hon. Member asks me without notice whether I will introduce a Bill to alter what has been the law for centuries in this country. I think the hon. Member must feel that that is a case which requires consideration.

THE TRING MURDERS. HC Deb 18 March 1892 vol 2 c1198 **1198**

§ **MR. CONYBEARE (Cornwall, Camborne)** I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in the written statement to him made by Eggleton before his execution the convict reiterated that he was knocked down senseless and remembered nothing that subsequently occurred; and whether any, and what, evidence has been submitted to him tending to contradict that assertion?

§ **MR. MATTHEWS** I must take the opportunity afforded by the hon. Member's question to express my strong protest against being asked in this House to give an answer upon an isolated and selected circumstance which is presented by itself to Parliament apart from a great mass of other facts and circumstances, all of which should be kept in sight if any just estimate is to be formed of the weight which ought to be attached to the circumstance in question. It is impossible that I should in answer to a question adequately present the result of a great body of evidence which has received the close attention of the jury, the Judge, and myself. The hon. Member is aware of the conclusion to which all three have

arrived; and I must respectfully decline to enter upon any partial discussion of the evidence.

§ **MR. CONYBEARE** Perhaps I may be allowed to explain that I only put down this question on the Paper in response to the expressed willingness of the right hon. Gentleman to provide the information. I have no intention to enter into a discussion now, but if I see fit I shall renew the discussion at a later period.

<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/>

Museum Quiz held on 17 May 2012

Local History

1. Pitstone church is dedicated to which saint?
2. In which year did the cement works in Pitstone cease production? (1/2 mark for a near miss at one year either side of the true date).
3. What was the name of the now defunct public house along Vicarage Road (Stank Lane), the sign to which is to be found in the museum?
4. To what use was the bungalow at 64 Marsworth Road originally put before it converted to residential use sometime in the 1920's?
5. Where is the summit, marked by locks, of the Grand Union canal through The Chilterns?
6. What do Robin's Eggs, Black Jacks, Admirals and Monarchs all have in common in the local area?
7. The parish boundary between Pitstone and Ivinghoe is marked by the site of an old water mill (Mill House/ Brook End Mill). Along the line of which stream does the boundary run?
8. In which year did the *first* Memorial Hall open in Pitstone? (1/2 mark for a near miss at one year either side of the true date).
9. Local fruit baskets, made of willow, carried half a bushel of fruit. What were these baskets known as?
10. Where in the parish of Pitstone did an aircraft on a training flight crash-land on 18/11/1942?

Transports of Delight

1. Which driver holds the World Land Speed Record?
2. How many carriages are there comprising a London Underground Met Line train?
3. Which high profile cruise liner was used as a troop transport in The Falkland Islands campaign?
4. Britain's nuclear bomber force of the 1950's and 1960's was known as the V Bomber Force. Name the three aircraft types that began with V. (1/2 mark for two correct).
5. Which popular British car of the 1960's and 1970's was named after an Italian ski resort?
6. The BSA company made motorcycles amongst other products. What did the initials stand for?

7. What, specifically, was a Routemaster?
8. Britain's fastest steam powered locomotive was The Mallard. Who designed it?
9. Which vehicle company, wholly British owned, is currently the most successful in terms of value and output?
10. TSR2 was cancelled by the Wilson Government in April 1965. What did the initials stand for?

Ditloid Fun and Games

In this round, try to decipher well known phrases from the clues. A Ditloid, as a name, derives from a famous novel which was one of the first ever to be suggested for this new puzzle – (A) Day In The Life Of Ivan Denisovitch. So now you know!

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A S in T S 9 | 6. 12 D of C |
| 2. 40 D and 40 N in the W | 7. and 20 BBB in a P |
| 3. 18 H on a GC | 8. AB and the 40 T |
| 4. 88K on a PK | 9. 6 B in an O in C |
| 5. 4Q 1 H, 20 H 1 T | 10. 7 DS |

Dennis Trebble Archivist.

Answers on page 11

Pitstone Green Farm

Who were those people of another era? The cowmen, plough boys, stable lads, and so many more in those far off days of the last century. Life would have been hard, hours long and the wages poor.

We today have little idea of the sounds to be heard on a mixed working farm of so long ago. The slow rural voices of the people, cattle, geese and chickens, all adding their own chorus to the symphony.

Sheep were also part of the working farm. "James Coker" was the shepherd. He must have spent many hours during lambing time in the "Shepherds Hut" caring for the flock and in the time honoured way, giving an orphan lamb to a ewe that had produced a dead one.

In Pitstone church there is a brass plaque with the names of two of "Jims" sons who were both killed in the 1914-18 war. They could also have received their wage on a Saturday morning from the farm owner. All these things from another time are waiting to be discovered. Was there a resident "Blacksmith" on the farm, the working horses would need the service of a smithy, re-shoeing and trimming hooves?

Many of the workers suffered from chilblains during the winter. One well known remedy was the cold liquid from boiled ivy leaves. Did it cure the discomfort? Quite possibly. Many of those country remedies were passed down through the generations.

How many times when being stung by stinging nettles have we eased the irritation by rubbing the area with a dock leaf or dabbing vinegar on an area after the visit of a very angry wasp.

Today Pitstone Green Farm is a museum showing visitors how life once used to be in those days gone by, from the mole catcher to the harvesting of the "Damson Prunes".

The successful television series the "Victorian Farm" gave us an insight of how life used to be. All the characters wearing the clothes of the day adding to the reality of that long ago time when everyone wore a hat.

In this cut throat era, we all have to sell ourselves. It can be done it is known as survival. There are many stories waiting to be told without a doubt of people now long gone.

Ena Elliot Ashurst

Find My Past

Below is an advert I found for the sale by auction of Pitstone Green Farm in 1878. This relates to a second farm with the same name as the Hawkins farm.

By Messrs. WOODMAN & SON.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,
In the Parishes of PITSTONE, IVINGHOE, and
MARSWORTH, also in the Parish of TRING, Herts.

**A VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE, AND SMALL
PART COPYHOLD,**

KNOWN as the PITSTONE GREEN FARM,
situate in the above Parishes, comprising about
90 ACRES of ARABLE LAND, of the most fertile
description, with SOUND PASTURE, and FINE OLD
ENCLOSURES; comfortable DWELLING HOUSE,
and well-arranged FARM HOMESTEAD, 2 unusually
well-built COTTAGE RESIDENCES with GARDENS,
near L. and N. W. Railway, a neat DWELLING
HOUSE with GARDEN and FRUITFUL ORCHARD,
and several choice PLOTS of BUILDING GROUND,
near the Town of Ivinghoe,

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
Messrs. WOODMAN & SON,**
At the BELL INN, PITSTONE,
On **MONDAY, MAY 20th, 1878, at Two for Three
o'Clock in the Afternoon,**
By direction of the Executors of the late Mr. Humphrey
Williamson, in various Lots, arranged to suit the
convenience of all classes of buyers.

This desirable Estate is bounded by the Properties of
the Right Hon. Earl Brownlow, the Countess Rosebery,
Mr. John Williamson, the Vicar of Marsworth, the late
Mr. Moses Blinco, and by the Grand Junction Canal.
The Timber on the various Lots will be included in
the Purchase-Money.

Particulars, with Plans and Conditions of Sale,
can be obtained Three Weeks prior to the Sale, at the
Bell Inn, Pitstone; of Messrs. Grover and Son, Solicitors,
and of the Auctioneers, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

PITSTONE GREEN FARM.
One mile from IVINGHOE, and two miles from the
CHEDDINGTON STATION on the London and
North-Western Railway.

**THE VALUABLE LIVE AND DEAD FARMING
STOCK,**
INCLUDING a VERY USEFUL TEAM of
4 CART HORSES and a NAG MARE: 9 Head
of well-bred and good coloured IN-CALF HEIFERS,
HEIFER with CALF, DOWN-CALVING COW, and
YEARLING STURKS; 46 famous HALF-BRED
COUPLES; 22 STORE PIGS, 2 In-pig SOWS; and
60 Head of POULTRY; together with a small STUMP
of MEADOW HAY; and about 20 ACRES of
LUXURIANT GRASS, to Michaelmas next, in con-
venient and well Watered Enclosures, which can be
Mown and taken off, if desired,

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY
Messrs. WOODMAN & SON,**
On the PREMISES,
On **MONDAY, MAY the 27th, 1878, at One o'Clock
precisely,**
By direction of the Executors of the late Mr. Humphrey
Williamson.

The DEAD STOCK comprises 4 capital Farm Carts,
Market Cart, Spring Chaise Cart, Weighing Machine
and Weights; iron Chain Harrows, by Brown; 6-row
Corn Drill, with Turnip Box, by Brown; 2-knife wheel
Chaff Cutter, by Brown; 5 Sets of good Thill Harness;
Dressing Machine, by Roby; a ditto, by Kempster;
Turnip Mincer, by Brown; iron Ploughs, by Brown;
iron Scarifier; 2-horse Cambridge Presser, by Brown;
sundry iron Troughs, about 5 dozen Hurdles, Gardner's
Turnip Cutter, Sheep Troughs, and many other Effects

May be Viewed the Morning of Sale, and
Catalogues may be obtained on the Premises; at the
Bell Inn, Pitstone; at the usual Inns in the Neigh-
bourhood; and of the Auctioneers, Hemel Hempstead
Herts.

The website www.findmypast.co.uk (subscription required) now contains searchable newspapers dating from 1710 to 1950. This includes the Bucks Herald which has issues from 1833 to 1908.

Out of interest, the full title of the Bucks Herald in 1878 was:-

“The Bucks Herald, Uxbridge Advertiser, Agricultural Journal, and Advertising Chronicle for the Counties of Bucks, Beds, Herts, Berks, Oxford, Northampton, and Middlesex: With which is Incorporated the Windsor and Eton Journal: also, the Bucks Chronically and Bucks Gazette. Established 46 years.”

Bill Barnard, Membership Secretary.

Two Pitstone Green Farms

In the past there were two farms in Pitstone with this name. One owned by the Hawkins and the other in the sale advert. When the censuses were prepared, the enumerators gave the properties a schedule number as they walked around. This gives a clue as to where they were at the time.

In 1871,

Schedule 31 shows Mary Ann Hawkins from Slapton aged 40, the widow of John Hawkins (Jeff’s Great Grandfather). She is shown as the owner of Pitstone Green Farm. The census gives her occupation as “Farmer of 319 acres employing 10 men and 8 boys”. With her are two sons, 4 daughters, housekeeper and a servant.

Schedules 32 to 34 are cottages near the farm and **35 to 41** are Bell Row. **42** is The Bell Inn. The description given here shows it not only as an inn, but also a farm. The farmer is Thomas Jellis 59. He is a farmer of 48 acres employing 2 men 1 boy and he is also an innkeeper. He has a wife and 3 children and a grandson. **43 to 44** are Pitstone Mills. **Schedule 45** is Little Barley End and **46** is Duncombe Farm. **47 to 48** are Albion Cottages and **49 to 63** are Plumtree Cottages (now on Cheddington Road).

Schedule 64 is given as Pitstone Green Farm (the farm in the Bucks Herald Sale Advert). The farmer is Humphrey Williamson born in Pitstone a farmer of 90 acres employing 3 men and 1 boy. He has a wife and 4 sons. **Schedule 65** is Coles Green. From this we can guess the farm was between Plumtree cottages (Cheddington Road) and Coles Green (shown on old maps near the old Chequers Inn). Today the location would be, in Cheddington Road between Plumtree Cottages and after Chequers Lane and to the right hand side (going towards Cheddington). This is now called Orchard Farm.

In 1881,

Schedules 1-4 are Cheddington Road. **Schedule 5** is Pitstone Green Farm (Humphrey Williamson’s old farm) now owned by Charles Frederick Horn born

in Ivinghoe. He is a farmer of 55 acres employing 2 men and 1 boy. With him is his Mother Elizabeth 55 a widow and three brothers and a cousin.

Schedule 70 the Bell Inn, has Thomas Jellis, now a widower. He is now a farmer of 46 acres employing two men and one boy. With him are a son, granddaughter and a housekeeper. **Schedule 73** shows Pitstone Green Farm with Mary Ann Benson (previously Hawkins) now farming 330 acres, employing 11 men and 5 boys. Her husband who was Edwin Benson is away from home, but his son Richard is shown as a visitor at the farm. there are also 4 of her Hawkins children.

Edwin Benson can be seen in 1871 in Kings Norton Worcestershire with his family and a visitor Frederick Hawkins. In 1881 Edwin was visiting William and Ann Marchbank owners of a Worsted Manufacturing Mill and farmer of 18 acres of Cowling Yorkshire .

Sandra Barnard

A Recent Acquisition to the Museum



Singer Sewing machine. The person that gave us it told us it was 1903 dated from the serial number but I have doubts about that, it looks like 1930's design.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SINGER MOTOR?



One screw attaches it to your machine

Cuts out all fatigue !

Both hands free to guide work !

Makes sewing a pleasure !

Better work done in half the time !

And then, after dark, there is the

SINGERLIGHT

**which, by showing the stitching more
clearly, prevents eyestrain and saves time
and annoyance when threading the needle**

*Any Singer Shop or Singer Salesman
will tell you all about them*

This is a picture from one of the manuals which suggests 1930's. The serial number is EE536027.

Norman Groom

Programme 2013

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

Thursday 21st February '13 **Johannes Gutenberg & the Story of Print**

After 50 years in the printing industry, Peter Balding, our speaker, volunteered to be a tour guide at the newly opened Apsley Paper Trail, situated in

the historic Frogmore Mill on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead. Those of us who visited the mill recently were lucky enough to meet up with him. His talk starts with the invention of paper in 105AD and follows the major developments that took place, right up to the Kindle of today, but emphasising Gutenberg's invention of moveable type in the mid-fifteenth century as the major contributor.

Thursday 21st March '13 **The Royal Collection**

Peter Smith began making state coaches back in 1977 and will bring with him a selection of one eighth scale models of coaches used during the latest Royal Wedding and at the recent opening of parliament. Each model takes up to two years to complete. His models have won 49 cups, trophies and medals over the

years and he is the only person who is allowed to take measurements of the coaches at Buckingham Palace!

Thursday 18th April '13

The Ashridge Estate – its History & its Deer

Brian Barton is a long standing volunteer on the Ashridge Estate who has a particular interest and knowledge of the mammals there. He will talk about the history of the estate, the monastery, the royal connections and the influence of the Bridgewater and Brownlow families. He will show us features of the landscape which link with its history as a deer park. Finally he will tell us about the deer on the estate, both those in the past and those which are there now.

Sue Lipscomb Programme & Minutes Secretary

Note: - If you would like to be put on Sue's email reminder list, so that you receive an email about a week before each meeting, please send her an email –

Sue.Lipscomb@btopenworld.com

Front Cover

Rob Barber and Nigel Thompson working with the Rosebery Racksaw.

In the past, the racksaw was used on the Earl of Rosebery's Mentmore Estate to saw up large tree trunks to provide a source of timber.

ANSWERS

Local History Round

1. St Mary the Virgin 2. 1991 (August) 3. The Ship Inn 4. Salvation Army Barracks 5. Bulbourne 6. All forms of daisies/plums grown in 19th century 7. The Whistle Brook 8. 1922 9. Skips or Sieves 10. Pitstone Green farm orchard.

Transport Round

1. Andy Green 2. 8 3. Canberra 4. Valiant, Victor, Vulcan 5. Cortina 6. Birmingham Small arms 7. London double decked bus 8. Sir Nigel Greasley 9. Triumph 10. Tactical Strike Reconnaissance

Didoids Round

1. A stitch in time saves nine 2. 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness 3. 18 holes on a golf course 4. 88 keys on a piano keyboard 5. 4 quarts 1 hundredweight, 20 hundredweight 1 ton 6. 12 days of Christmas 7. 4 and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie 8. Ali Baba and the 40 thieves 9. 6 balls in an over in cricket 10. 7 deadly sins

Open Days 2013

Easter Monday **April 1st**

Early May B.H. Monday **May 6th**

Whitchurch Morris Men

Spring B.H. Monday **May 27th**

Sunday **9th June**

Sunday **14th July**

Tappalachian Dancers

Sunday **11th August**

B.H. Monday **August 26th**

Sunday **8th September**

Towersey Morris Men

Sunday **13th October**

Opening times from

11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Admission charges adults £6 children

£2. Members free.

Committee Officers:-

Chairman &

Museum Site Manager

John Childs **01582 833501**

Vice Chairman &

Museum Manager

Norman Groom **01582 605464**

Treasurer

John Youngs **01582 833678**

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