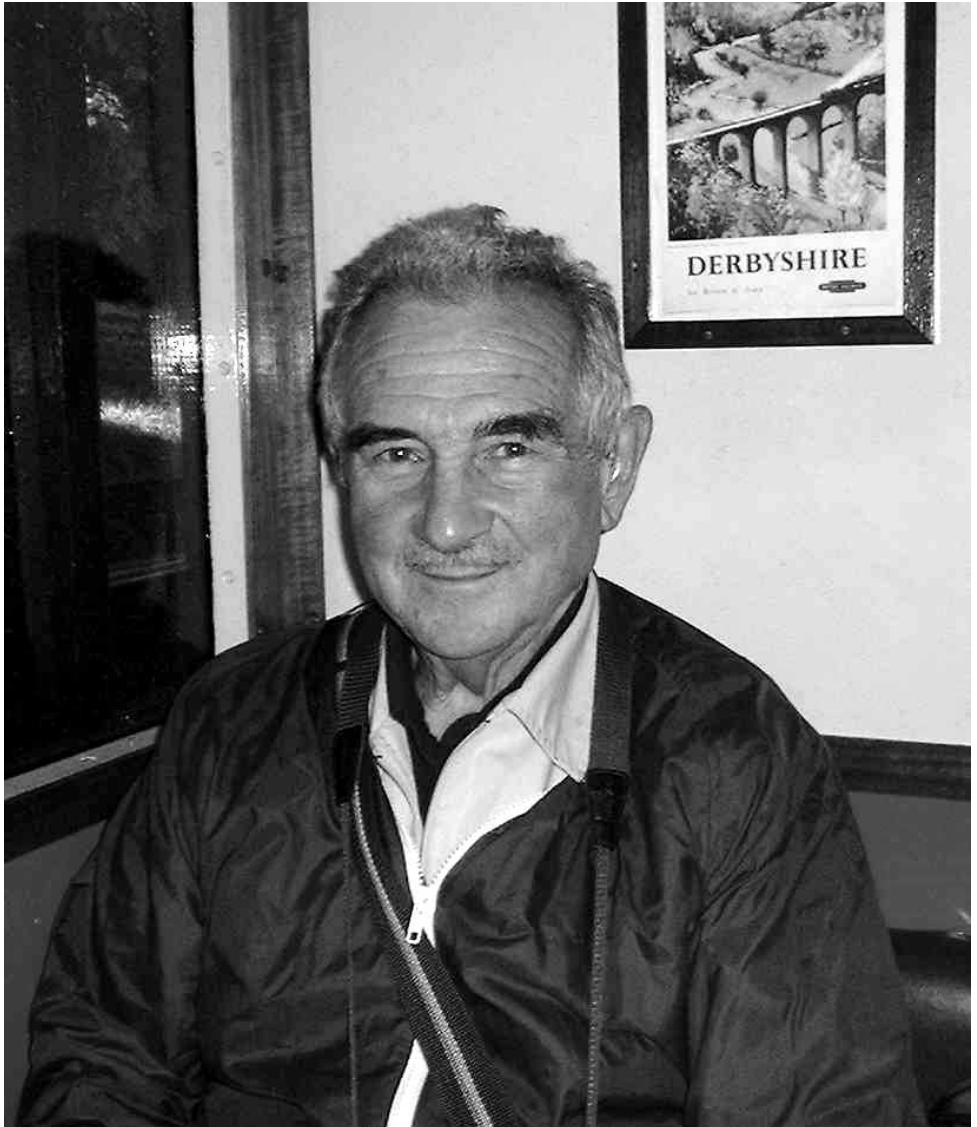


***Pitstone and Ivinghoe
Museum Society Newsletter
Autumn 2014***



Peter John Keeley 21 February 1930 - 29 September 2014

Museum Report – October 2014

The last few months have certainly had their ups and downs; the biggest blow has been the death of Peter Keeley who will certainly be missed at the museum. Another of our volunteers, Roy Cutler who operates the 1940's room has been in poor health and at the time of writing this report is due a heart bypass operation at Harefield Hospital. Everyone at the museum wishes him the best and look forward to seeing him back at the museum soon.

Another loss, although not personal, has been the model railway of the Chilterns Group of the 3 mm Society that has now closed its doors after some 30 years. Started in the 1980's by Andrew Comben, it has been open to the public on all our open days during that time. In recent years Andrew has had help from a number of other volunteers and we thank them all for their efforts in supporting the museum during this time.

Another person we must thank is Jeannette Wallis, who for many years has run the trading side of the museum. Both Jeannette and John have served the museum over a period that extends back to the time before the 99 year Lease was signed from Jeff Hawkins. Jeannette now wishes to retire from this task and her job will be taken over by Ronnie Farrah who joined the society about eighteen months ago with her husband Pete. Ronnie, I am sure will be looking for people to help in the shop on open days.

One problem that has reared its head recently is a cracked purlin in the Big Barn. Purlins are the massive timbers that run from one bay to the next supporting the rafters, which in turn hold the battens and tiles. An adjacent purlin was added some 25 years ago to take the load, but the old crack has recently shown signs of movement. This is another ongoing project to reinforce and stabilize the old cracked purlin. This may turn out to be a major project and we are looking into the possibility of obtaining professional help.

Better news has been the success of monthly evening events at the museum, the first being the Cheese Wine and Antiques, the second the hobbies evening and thirdly the preview of the Cook collection. Both were extremely well attended. (See Sandra's reports)

The open days this year have had their ups and downs. In the early part of the season we had several days when it poured with rain or was very cold. Even when the weather was reasonable, visitor numbers were down on the previous year. I attributed this to the new road signs which advertised the place but not the attractions. The road signs were quickly changed mid season to include the attractions, but bad weather intervened making it difficult to come to any decision as to their effectiveness. That is, until the last two open days in September and October when the weather was acceptable and the signs were out for two weeks: we had the two best Sundays ever.

As a result of the 3mm model railway closing, the adjacent rooms are being reorganised. The Archaeology room has always been isolated at the far corner of the museum so the contents have now been relocated in one of the alcoves in the Big Barn. The display is now both more compact, well lit and a greater attraction to the public and is adjacent to

the craft fair in the barn. The original Archaeology room will now be used for book binding and other similar paper type activities with the advantage that it will be next to the print shop. The print shop now has several enthusiastic volunteers operating it and provides demonstrations on the open days.

Peter Keeley, in his Will, left the contents of his engineering workshop to the museum, together with many very fine model engines and engineering tools he made. Amongst the equipment is a Myford ML7 lathe and substantial pillar drill. We are going to use these, together with his vast collection of tools, to create a model engineering workshop that can be used both as a quality workshop and for working demonstrations on open days. It will also display the models that Peter made and hopefully some of these can be presented in running condition. Recent surveys indicated that the most popular exhibits were those where demonstrations could be given.

A considerable amount of restoration work is underway and includes the ongoing work on the massive chaff cutter, restoration of a funeral bier that has been neglected for many years and improving the performance of our sand blasting facilities. Other restorations include a number of stationary engines recently donated, and a Teletype machine that can hopefully demonstrate how data could be transmitted around the world before modern computers and the internet existed.

Grass mowing is a major task during the season and a problem if we get a lot of rain. However our new Topper mower is proving a great success and we will probably sell on our previous towed cylinder mower.

The work is never ending but it can be very interesting. Every year that goes by we think of new projects and come up with new ideas but we do need more volunteers to carry out the work. It is not just a working environment at the museum; it is as much a social gathering where individuals enjoy the company of other like minded people. If you would like to help in any way just call in, we are at the museum on Tuesdays, Thursdays and most Sundays.

Norman Groom, Museum Manager.

Peter Keeley 1930-2014

Through life one meets a variety of individuals, some talk a lot of what they are going to do but often achieve little, whilst others are quiet and retiring and leave it to others to do what is necessary. Peter was one of those individuals who did not stand out from the crowd but who behind the scenes led a remarkable life, much of it for the benefit of other individuals or organisations. His skills and knowledge were quite outstanding.

Peter was born in Birmingham but the family moved to Southport where his father ran a general store. He would often talk about these times when he was at the museum. He obtained a degree from Liverpool University and spent three years in Hong Kong doing extended National Service. He was taught Mandarin Chinese and spent much of his time listening to and reporting on the contents of broadcasts from China. Peter loved playing

the trumpet in the Traditional Jazz Band in Southport where they used to play for dances and even played once with Acker Bilk, the famous clarinettist.

Peter was a physicist at Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station for a number of years before moving to Redbourn where he worked for Marconi at St Albans. He joined a small group of enthusiasts who built a replica of the 14th century St Albans Abbey clock, the Richard Wallingford clock. He became very much involved in the local Redbourn community serving on many committees and organisations and together with his wife, Helen, raised a huge amount of money for the Redbourn Recreation Centre. He was a member of two Stationary Engine Clubs and became extensively involved with Redbournbury Water Mill and their big diesel engine during the rebuild phase following the disastrous fire that destroyed the mill.



**Peter on
Fordson S Major**

**(Photograph by
Rob Barber)**

Peter first became involved with Pitstone Museum in about 1990. The Beds and Bucks Engine Club had been asked if they would consider restoring the two Crossley engines at Pitstone to working condition; one being the big gas engine, the other the one

that powered the Rack Saw. Peter led the team that investigated the possibility and reported back favourably to the club with the result that Peter and others started what was to become a major step in advancing the museum. Unfortunately during the restoration project he lost his wife Helen, a disastrous blow to him. However he did eventually return to the project and played a major part in getting the Big Crossley Gas engine running. His two passions at the museum were engineering and ground work but later became the Business Manager and then the Secretary where he pushed through the Museum Accreditation programme. His final major task was to undertake the cataloguing and photographing of every artefact on the museum site, some 3000 items. Even during the later years of his illness when he had little strength he would struggle to complete the task which eventually he did within a dozen or so items.

He will be sadly missed at the museum by everyone and especially so for his vast amount of knowledge and experience gained during the twenty five years or so he spent here. He gave so much of his time, effort and experience to building the museum up to the standard it is today that it is fitting we should have some permanent reminder of his efforts here and will be working to that end in the near future.

Norman Groom

Pitstone's WW1 War dead

Throughout this Land of ours there are memorials to the War dead, but it is the 1914-1918 War which began one hundred years ago and still affects many of us to this day. A sepia photograph of a young man in uniform, or a V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Nurse, all someone's son or daughter, no town or village escaped the loss of many of its young people.

Pitstone mourned the loss of eight young men from the village; two were the brothers Alfred and Samuel Coker, my own relatives. Their Father was a Shepherd at Pitstone Green Farm so Jeff Hawkins told me. But what of his two sons' were they employed on the Farm? Also the remaining men, I feel sure there must be records regarding their employment and where they lived. The 1911 census gives a great deal of information on the subject.

What were their lives like at the outbreak of war? Very different to ours today, no computers, mobile phones, telephones, a luxury for the wealthy. Women cooked on the kitchen range, lighting for many in the village would be by paraffin lamp, some fortunate to have gaslight in their homes.

The pace of life would have been very different, so were the people. A true countryman at that time spoke slower, rushing here and there was for the city dwellers. As the old Bucks saying goes "us ol country folk ent as daft as they think we are", believe me there is a great deal of truth in that saying.

To do our best in having an idea of how those people who lived a hundred years ago went about their daily lives, we have to search our own memories, those of our parents and grandparents, then just like a Jig-saw puzzle each piece begins to make a picture.

When you next read the names of Pitstone's eight men who died in the war of 1914-1918, just stop and wonder "who were they?"

Ena Elliott Ashurst

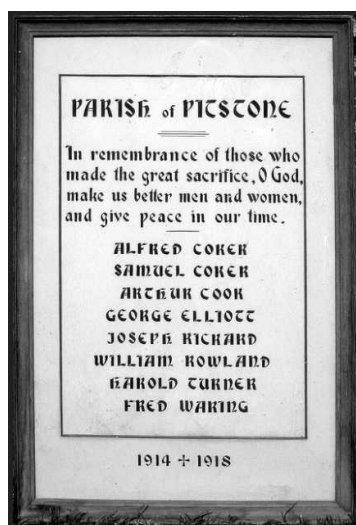
Pitstone St. Mary's- Memorial

This memorial is dedicated to the residents of the parish of St. Mary's, Pitstone, Buckinghamshire who died in the First World War.

The Soldiers...Who they were

Alfred and **Samuel George Coker** were two of the sons of **James Thomas Coker** and **Sarah (nee Shillingford)** who had 12 children altogether, 7 daughters and 5 sons.

In the census of 1901 they lived at the Town Houses



by the Ship Inn in Pitstone. James was a shepherd on a farm, son **Alfred** 17 described as an “ordinary farm labourer”. Two daughters Mary Ann 19 and Edith M. 13 were both straw plaiters. Richard 11, Elizabeth S. 9, Samuel G. 7, Ellen I. 5 were scholars, Minnie and Francis E. were aged 4 and 2. Also with them was their grand daughter Ethel aged 2 months. Next door was George Jellis publican of the Ship Inn. The eldest daughter Emma 20 was probably married and sister Florence 15 working away from home.

James’ wife Sarah died aged 43 in 1902 registered in June Quarter in Berkhamstead.

In 1911 on the census **Alfred Coker** is now 27, a shepherd on a farm and married to Sarah Emily 21. They had been married for 3 years and they have one daughter Christiana Kathleen still a baby.

Alfred died on the 9th October 1917. He was killed in action in France and Flanders.



In 1911 **Samuel Coker** a general labourer on a farm, is living at home with his father James now a widower and still working on a farm as a shepherd. His sister Edith M. 23 is there too called Maud and his two younger brothers Frank 12 and now, Willie 9 (William Jesse). Samuel died on the 5th March 1915.

Picture from our archives.

James Coker with Sarah Willis (his neighbour)

Pitstone Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-1919 Transcriptions

Category Military, armed forces & conflict

Record collection First World War

Collections from Great Britain

Soldiers Died in the Great War database © Naval and Military Press Ltd 2010

First name(s) ALFRED

Last name COKER

Service number 7716

Rank PRIVATE

Regiment Bedfordshire Regiment

Battalion 1st Battalion.

Birth place PITSTONE, BUCKS

Residence PITSTONE

Enlistment place TRING, HERTS

Death year 1917

Death day 9

Death month 10

Cause of death Killed in action

Death place France & Flanders

Theatre of war Western European Theatre

Supplementary Notes FORMERLY 190602, R.E.

First name(s) SAMUEL

Last name COKER

Service number 10594

Rank PRIVATE

Regiment Welsh Regiment

Battalion 1st Battalion.

Birth place PITSTONE, TRING

Residence TRING, HERTS

Enlistment place AYLESBURY, BUCKS

Death year 1915

Death day 5

Death month 3

Cause of death Died of wounds

Death place France & Flanders

Theatre of war Western European Theatre

First name(s) GEORGE
Last name ELLIOTT
Service number 205894
Rank PRIVATE
Regiment Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line (incl. Yeomanry and Imperial Camel Corps)
Battalion the Royal Bucks Hussars.
Birth place PITSTONE
Residence -
Enlistment place AYLESBURY
Death year 1917
Death day 26
Death month 12
Cause of death Died of wounds?
Death place Egypt
Theatre of war Egyptian Theatre

First name(s) WILLIAM JOHN
Last name ROWLAND
Service number 220024
Rank PRIVATE
Regiment Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment)
Battalion 2nd Battalion.
Birth place PITSTONE, BUCKS
Residence TRING, BERKS
Enlistment place WATFORD, HERTS
Death year 1917
Death day 1
Death month 8
Cause of death Killed in action
Death place France & Flanders
Theatre of war Western European Theatre
Supplementary Notes FORMERLY 7351, OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.

First name(s) HAROLD
Last name TURNER
Service number 120791
Rank GUNNER
Regiment Royal Garrison Artillery
Battalion -
Birth place TOTTENHOE, BEDS
Residence PITSTONE, BUCKS
Enlistment place AYLESBURY, BUCKS
Death year 1918
Death day 20
Death month 5
Cause of death Died of wounds
Death place France & Flanders
Theatre of war Western European Theatre
Supplementary Notes -
Category Military, armed forces & conflict

First name(s) FREDERICK
Last name WARING
Service number G/3751
Rank PRIVATE
Regiment Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)
Battalion 8th Battalion.
Birth place ASTON, CLINTON
Residence TRING, BUCKS
Enlistment place WILLESDEN, MIDDX.
Death year 1917
Death day 11
Death month 4
Cause of death Killed in action
Death place France & Flanders
Theatre of war Western European Theatre
Supplementary Notes -
Category Military, armed forces & conflict

On the 1911 Census **George Elliot** was only 15 living with his family at Pitstone Road Ivinghoe. His parents were George a butcher and Alice who had been married for 27 years and had 10 children but one died. With George were 3 sisters and 2 brothers, still living at the home.

William John Rowland lived near the Ship Inn Pitstone. In 1911 he was aged 15 and at school, living with parents William an engine man at the canal works and Minnie. They had been married for 13 years and had 4 children all living at home.

Harold Turner can be seen on the 1911 census aged 13 and a labourer on the farm. He was living at home with father Arthur William a cowman on the farm and mother Sarah

Ann. They had been married for 21 years and had 8 children but 2 had died. Two other siblings were still at home an older brother and younger sister. The family lived at 14 Plumtree Cottages, Pitstone

Frederick Waring In 1911 was aged 19 a general labourer on the Farm living with his parents Philip also labouring on the farm, and Caroline, three sisters and two brothers at Church End Pitstone

Arthur Cook can be found on the 1911 census married for five years to **Louisa** (nee Wesley), living at the home of **Emma Wesley** her 79 year old widowed mother in Pitstone. They had no children. He describes his occupation as a road mender (*for the council*).

He joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry on the 9th December 1915. His war record shows he was wounded in France seriously ill with dysentery, influenza, teeth problems to name a few. He returned to England on 7th February 1919 to the Birmingham War Hospital. He finally died on the 12th June 1920 from his illnesses. He received the B W V medal. (*British War Victory Medal*)

Joseph Rickard in 1911 was born in 1874 and was living in Wingrave with his wife Martha 28, who was from Pitstone. They had been married for one year and had no children. He was aged 37, a bricklayer journeyman, builder and house decorator. His Father George 83 a retired bricklayer from Wingrave was living with them. Joseph died at sea 28th October 1915. He is on the Lodge Roll of Honour at Wingrave. This below was recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in "The Helles Memorial Register" which contains the names of certain Sailors, Soldiers and Marines from the United Kingdom, Australia and India, who fell in the Gallipoli Campaign and have no known graves.

Transcription UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Name: Joseph Rickard

Birth Place: Aylesbury, Bucks

Residence: Tring, Herts

Death Date: 28 Oct 1915

Death Place: At Sea

Enlistment Place: Gillingham, Kent

Rank: SPR.

Regiment: Royal Engineers

Regimental Number: 2207

Type of Casualty: Died

Theatre of War: At Sea

Comments: 1/3Rd Kent Field Coy., R.E.

RICKARD, Spr. Joseph, 2207. 1st/3rd Kent Field Coy., Royal Engineers. 28th Oct., 1915. Age 42. Son of the late George and Ellen Rickard; husband of Martha Rickard, of 8, Plumtree Cottages, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Research by Sandra and Bill Barnard

Note: Ena Ashurst wrote an article on the Coker soldiers for the 2008 (Winter) Newsletter.

Pitstone 1800 – 1850 a Report by WEA.

The following is an extract from our historical documents held on our computer at the Museum. This long report was prepared from a WEA course-project on local history in Pitstone, 1971-72. (The report begins in Summer 2013 issue)

Part 6 Continued from the last Newsletter.

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

General

Nationally, this was a period of great activity in the field of popular education by voluntary effort. For Pitstone our earliest detailed information is gained from a printed survey made in 1846-47 by the National Society. It shows that a total of 85 children were receiving some form of education within the parish (the total number of children between 5 and 14 in 1851 was 113). This does not include children who may have attended the Baptist Sunday School which we know to have existed at Ivinghoe in 1853 (Mussion and Craven's Directory of Bucks).

As regards duration of education, we have evidence for one individual, **George Coker**, and agricultural labourer born in Pitstone c. 1800. In 1854 he stated that his education consisted of one year at Church Sunday School and one winter at night school. The reference is presumably to the period c. 1804 - c. 1814, **Coker** could read and write.

Sunday Schools

These aimed at teaching children to read but not necessarily to write.

Plait Schools

These were a peculiarity of the straw-plaiting districts. They were really work-shops rather than schools (See Dony p.73ff). The "week school" mentioned in the 1846-47 Report (see below) may possibly have been a plait school but a directory of 1847 distinguishes "an infant school, a Sunday school, and a plaiting school".

References Found

April 1829 (Vestry Book) Ann Treacher to have £2 for teaching Sunday school in the last year but her future payment to be by voluntary subscription "to be appropriated according to circumstances by the Minister and Churchwardens". All persons who receive relief from the Parish who do not send their children to some Sunday school are to be refused further benefit "so long as they continue thus negligent".

1846-47 (National Soc. Report) Total of 45 children (20 boys. 25 girls) at Sunday and week schools (5 at week school only). Evening schools 35 (20 boys, 15 girls.). One "gratuitous" teacher. Accommodation; 2 rooms in a cottage, very over-crowded. "As many as 50 or 60 children are crowded in the small area of a cottage. The funds are so small that the course of education is very limited".

1848 (Bucks. Record Soc. Series vol. 16 The Letter Books of Samuel Wilberforce p. 142) Plan of Lady Bridgewater to build a parsonage and school in Pitstone frustrated by non-cooperation of the incumbent.

1851 Census. 8 "scholars" (3 boys, 5 girls.). 1851 Census of Religious Worship. Average attendance of 45 children at Church Sunday School recorded.

1853 Inclosure award. Site for a "National School" allotted.

1866 School built at expense of Earl Brownlow. Endowment of £10 p.a.

Literacy

An analysis made of the marriage registers of Pitstone and Ivinghoe shows that the percentage of persons unable to sign their names c.1850 was;

Pitstone	Men 55%	Women 80%
Ivinghoe	Men 65%	Women 85%

The Registrar General's estimate for the country as a whole in 1838-39 was

Men 42%	Women 55%
---------	-----------

RELIGION (1) THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH

General

Pitstone from medieval times was a perpetual curacy; it was in the gift of the Egerton family of Ashridge who also owned the tithe. There was no glebe, during the period under study the incumbents were non-resident, the living being held in plurality with other neighbouring benefices. In 1848 the Countess of Bridgewater expressed the desire to provide a separate, resident, incumbent for the parish. The scheme was favoured by the bishop but eventually fell through owing to the refusal of the incumbent to resign as promised. (See The Letter Book of Samuel Wilberforce, Bucks Record Society, Vol. 16 p.153). In the 1853 inclosure award, 2 acres was allotted for the site of a parsonage house and the 1861 census shows a resident curate.

Incumbents

- 1819	Rev. Isaiah Blythe
c. 1822 - 1837	Rev. William Shepherd
c. 1840 -	Rev. J.C. Robertson
c. 1846 - 1853	Rev. John Weighell

Rector of Cheddington, 1846 - 1853. Previously Vicar of Marsworth. Described in Bishop Wilberforce's notes as "Very active man - very earnest good man rather Evangelical School - not very extreme". (Letter Books p. 142).

Churchwardens

Vicars	Parish
1802 James Stephens	1802 John Tompkins
1814 William Newman	1830 Moses Williamson
1829 Thomas Woodman	1832 Thomas Jellis
1833 Peter Parrot	1843 Humphrey Tompkins
1848 John Proctor	1850 Moses Blinco

Attendance

The average congregation during 1851 was given as 40 mornings and 140 evenings. Sunday scholars 45. (1851 Census, of Religious Worship).

The Church Fabric

In 1827-29 extensive repairs were carried out to the church. The expense was met by a loan of £330 repayable in 10 years which the churchwardens were empowered by the vestry to raise on security of the church rates.

RELIGION (2) NON-CONFORMITY

General

The tradition of non-conformity in the area goes back at least as far as the 17th century. The 18th century, however, was a period of decline in non-conformity generally. Between 1750 and 1800 no houses were registered for Protestant worship in Pitstone. In Ivinghoe the house of Reuben Gurney was registered in 1773 and that of George Griffin in 1792.

The Evangelical movement associated with the rise of Methodism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries brought about renewal in all the non-conformist churches. In Pitstone and Ivinghoe the period after 1800 saw the growth and consolidation of Baptist and Methodist congregations centred on Ivinghoe.

The Baptists

The building of the Grand Junction Canal which commenced in the late 1790's was the occasion of change. Among the "navigators" employed on the enterprise was George Clark of Braunstone, Northants, a former weaver who had been licensed as a Baptist preacher in 1797. Clark arrived in Tring in search of employment about the year 1799 being then aged 37. A chance stop at Ivinghoe on his journey led to his being called to preach there by the few Baptists of the place who were then

attached to the New Mill meeting. In 1804 a congregation was formed with Clark as pastor, and in 1813 a meeting house was erected on property purchased from William Watts, the cost of £300 being met by voluntary subscription, Clark died in 1831 and was succeeded as pastor by W. Collier. In Pitstone meeting places which can be identified as Baptist registered prior to the erection of the Ivinghoe chapel were

- 1804 Room in house of Robert Kerr
- 1808 House of John Butterfield
- 1811 House of Jonas Simmons

Numbers

Between 1806 and 1837 (when civil registration began) 32 different couples resident in Pitstone recorded the birth of their children in the Ivinghoe Baptist register. Not all of these necessarily became, or remained, members. A return made by the incumbent of Pitstone parish in 1829 to a government circular estimates the number of Baptists in the parish at 14.

Social Composition

The majority of members were agricultural labourers but membership included other classes also. George Clark was befriended by Mr. Meacher, a brewer, of Ivinghoe, who encouraged him to preach in the surrounding area and apparently arranged for licensing of houses. Robert Kerr and Jonas Simmons, mentioned above, were farmers while John Butterfield was a wheelwright. Samuel Hawkins, who succeeded Kerr as tenant of Pitstone Green Farm about the year 1808 was a Baptist also, though he later became a Methodist.

The Methodists

Methodism appears to have established itself in the area in the early 1820's, the source being Leighton Buzzard. In 1822 the house of Joseph Wells in Ivinghoe was registered and the name of J. Williams, "Wesleyan Minister, Leighton Buzzard" given as witness. In 1837 a "New Building or chapel" at Ivinghoe was registered. No reference to registration of houses for Methodist worship at Pitstone, but the 1829 return mentioned above refers to "a private assembly of Wesleyan Methodists".

Numbers. The 1829 return gives the number in Pitstone as 10.

Social Composition No details.

To be continued

PITSTONE GREEN FARM AND THE HAWKINS FAMILY PART 4

One would imagine that roads must have been pretty bad at the time as bricks were brought most of the way by canal which involved an extra loading and unloading operation., Perhaps it was influenced by the Bridgewater's interest in canals and the fact that the Slapton brickworks was close beside the canal. One can tell that the bricks were made from the gault clay from the north of Pitstone as they are yellow in colour and not red as the clay contains little iron, unlike bricks that come from the south near Aldbury which fire red due to the iron they contain. One can also tell that they were made after the canal had been built because they have been fired with coal. Bricks fired with the more expensive wood used before coal was available, are often partly glazed, due to the wood ash combining with the clay of the white hot bricks to form a glaze.

The house consists essentially of three parts. Entering by the front door one comes to the first, the kitchen quarters, which open directly from the entrance hall. The kitchen had a large open fire place. At first, all cooking was done in pots hung on a pot crane over the fire, hanging on a clockwork bottle jack in a Dutch oven, on a spit turned by hand supported on fire dogs or in a cooking screen which was like a metal lined cupboard with

a shelf but no back. All this old cooking equipment is still kept at the farm. Another room was built on to the kitchen soon after the house was built so as to make room for a brick oven, a brewing copper and a pump over a sink.

Built under the same roof as this extension was also a pantry, a woodbarn, a harness room, an earth closet, a hen house and a duck house. It seems strange that all these necessary items were not included in the house from the first. A door in the original kitchen gives access to stairs into a cellar. A three inch copper pipe ran underground from the second kitchen or scullery to convey beer brewed there to barrels in the cellar.

Another door is at the head of a short flight of steps down into the dairy which was built half underground on the north-east corner of the house so that it should be cool in summer for butter making. A Well was dug under the steps down into the dairy to provide plenty of cool water. Frames were built round the walls to carry shallow lead lined wooden boxes where the milk was put for the cream to settle for butter making. They were also used for salting the bacon subsequently to be hung on the hooks attached to the beam across the ceiling of the kitchen. Two brick culverts were built for drainage to the brook about seventy yards away. One went from a drain in the floor of the dairy and had a connection to the scullery. The other at a lower level was dug from the well in the dairy in order to drain the cellar from which it communicated. A short flight of stairs leads out from the kitchen to a room above the dairy. This was the room where the farm servants slept. Farm servants were the young unmarried men who used to live in the farmhouse and work on the farm; a practice apparently common in those days.

The second part of the house, cut off from the kitchen by a communicating door, was for the farmer's family. Downstairs were dining and a sitting room. The dining room communicated with the kitchen by a serving hatch. Both rooms had bell pulls that rang bells in the kitchen to summon the domestic servants who with the farm servants lived separately from the farmer and his family. Upstairs were five bedrooms - room for the farmer and his wife and a large family of children.

The third part of the house was the attic where the domestic servants slept. This was equipped with a bell which could be rung from the master bedroom, so that the mistress of the house could wake the maids when it was time for them to get up in the morning, without having to get out of bed herself. Soon after Samuel and Sarah Hawkins came to Pitstone, Sarah and her children joined the congregation at the Ivinghoe Baptist Chapel, but Samuel, who was a Deacon at the Dunstable Baptist Chapel did not formally transfer to the Ivinghoe Chapel until later.

They and their children continued to worship there until they were censured by hierarchy. The minute book of the chapel records shows that Sarah was "set aside for advocating arminianism". That was to advocate non-belief in the doctrines of original sin and predestination. Samuel was "set aside" for "a disorderly act". One wonders whatever this could have been as no clue is given as to the nature of the "act". But considering the strict attitude of such congregations in those days, it was probably something we should think

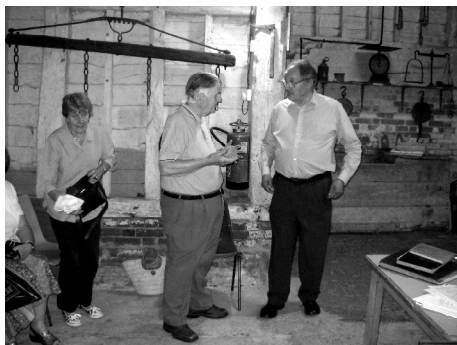
of as quite inoffensive today. Being "set aside" seems to have caused Samuel and Sarah and their family to leave the Baptists and join the Methodists in Ivinghoe instead. It was at the Methodist Wesleyan Reform Chapel that the family continued to worship until 1918 the death of Samuel's grandson, John Henry Hawkins.

*Note:- **ARMINIANISM** is a teaching regarding salvation associated with the Dutch theologian Jacob Arminius (1560-1609).*

To be continued

Summer Meetings

In **July** we had our annual Cheese Wine and Antiques evening. As in previous years we were treated to Stephen Hearn's wit and knowledge as he talked about all the artefacts brought to the evening by members. We all went home sustained by the lovely supper and with our prized possessions valued.



Norman welcoming Stephen Hearn and Jean Morris with her article

In **July** Bill and I exhibited at the Bucks Family History Society Open Day in Aylesbury. We were helped by Brenda Grace and Sue Lipscomb. Several members attended.



Our Table at the Open Day

August was our hobbies evening. Once again we were all impressed by the skill and talent of our members who displayed their wares.



We were also treated by Dennis Trebble as he sang and played his guitar. Again we enjoyed a supper prepared by Sue Lipscomb and her helpers.





September we had an introduction to the Cook Collection in its newly created exhibition space in the loft above our Meeting Room. The late Colin Cook of Luton accumulated an enormous collection of artefacts which he carefully restored and which his wife Georgina has donated to the Museum. This is a remarkable collection which has been wonderfully displayed and catalogued by our members Sue Lipscomb and Sue Denty.

Sandra Barnard

Georgina Cook above and with Sue Lipscomb right.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam Editor

Norman's report July 2014 raises "advertising is still the major obstacle". The problem really stems from the fact that the opening days are infrequent and only during part of the year.

I have long thought that the museum should invest in brown "tourism" road signs. Even though it is not open every day Leighton Buzzard Railway has brown signs from every direction.

Also, the fact that the museum covers such a wide range must make it difficult to target advertising effectively. What if we had "themed days" for each opening day – craft show – jazz/country/music - model railway exhibition – 'antiques roadshow' – First world war [Pitstone at war would surely get in a lot of locals] - military vehicles – classic cars – tractors – etc. – etc.? The advertising could then be directed at interest magazines, local clubs, etc. as applicable to target the biggest possible audience. What about a "Christmas Fair"? There must be lots of other possible themes but I cannot think of any more at present! Just some thoughts that may be helpful.

*Best wishes, **Geoff Evans***



Reply from Pete Farrar

I'm one of the volunteers at the museum and I am on the committee, your letter to the editor has passed to me and others for consideration. I completely agree with you about the brown signs and brought it up at the last meeting. I will pursue the idea and investigate the facts of the matter, including costs. I also agree with the idea of specialist

days, and recently circulated a list of possibilities. We will be doing something on these lines next year, the important thing being to make sure that any date chosen by us, does not coincide with a major event in the specialist field chosen! Do not take any notice when they say that there is no one to do something, that is always the response to new ideas. I think that if we are more open to original thought, we may attract more, new, younger volunteers. What we really need is suggestions on how to recruit new people to work in the field of publicity and particularly the internet options such as Facebook, twitter, etc.

Thanks for your feedback, suggestions are always welcome. **Sandra Barnard (Editor)**

Membership News

We have a total of 173 members to PIMS. This newsletter will include a FINAL membership renewal skip for those who have still not remembered to pay. Those not paying will not receive the next newsletter.

Bill Barnard (Membership Secretary)

Programme 2014

All meetings are held in the Meeting Room in the Pitstone Green Museum at 8.00pm. ALL VISITORS VERY WELCOME. Fees £2.00 members £3.00 visitors.

27.11.14 AGM + It's sedimentary, my dear Watson! 7.30 start

Dennis Trebble has been persuaded to return after his short debut talk a year ago. After this AGM he is returning to talk about why we have gaps in the Chilterns and how they relate to past geomorphic processes. The escarpment between Princes Risborough and Wendover is a classic location that displays many of the usual landforms together with one or two surprises. The chalk scenery, whilst seemingly simple, depends in its current form upon the passage of geological time and the slow processes of weathering and erosion under different climatic conditions.

Please note the AGM starts at 7.30pm and there is no charge for this meeting.

18.12.14 Christmas with Films from the Archives (NB 3rd Thursday)

Frank Banfield will be returning once again with his amazing film archive. He has a vast collection of 16mm cine films, and will choose a selection, mainly of local interest, dating from the 1930s to the 1970s. These films will be interspersed by our usual mince pies and mulled wine.

22 1 2015 Monthly Meeting

details for this and others in 2015 to be advised.

Sue Lipscomb

All Photographs and Cover Page (except those separately noted) **by Bill Barnard.**

Cover page, Peter Keeley enjoying the Museum's trip on the Leighton Buzzard Light Railway in August 2004.

Open Days 2015

Easter Monday **April 6th**

Early Spring B.H. **May 4th**

Spring B.H. Monday **May 25th**

Sunday **14th June**

Sunday **12th July**

Sunday **9th August**

B.H. Monday **August 31st**

Sunday **13th September**

Sunday **11th October**

Opening times from

11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Admission charges. To be

confirmed in the next newsletter.

Committee Officers:-

Chairman &

Museum Site Manager

John Childs **01582 833501**

Vice Chairman &

Museum Manager

Norman Groom **01582 605464**

Treasurer

John Youngs **01582 833678**

Acting Secretary

Dennis Trebble **07738786210**

Committee Members:-

Archivist

Dennis Trebble **07738786210**

Programme &

Minutes Secretary

Sue Lipscomb **01296 630578**

Publicity Secretary

Anne Ball **01442 822672**

Other Committee Members

Paul Chapman...email

paulthemower@gmail.com

Peter Farrar **01525 221583**

Non Committee Posts:-

Computer Records Officers

Sandra Barnard and

Norman Groom

Craft Co-ordinator

Brenda Grace **01296 668167**

Dancers

Margaret Elliott ..email

MEchippie@aol.com

Membership Secretary

& Technical Adviser

Bill Barnard..email

w.f.barnard@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Barnard ..email

alexrose42@btinternet.com

Trading Secretary

Jeannette Wallis **01296 661997**

Holding Trustees:-

Don Levy

John Wallis

William Hawkins

John Youngs

Museum Website:- www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society

Pitstone Green Museum, Vicarage Road, Pitstone

Leighton Buzzard LU7 9EY

Registered Charity No 273931