

# *Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society Newsletter*



*Autumn 2016*

## **Museum Report October 2016**

With our open season now over it looks as if our year's income will be close to that of last year. It was a poor start to the year with bad weather on Easter Monday and the last B.H. Monday in May. In spite of having an extra day in April our income to the end of June was less than in 2015. Things did improve from then on with August B.H. Monday around about equal to our best ever open day back in 2009.

Work at the museum has continued at a steady pace during the open season with one major project nearing completion and another about to start. The construction work on the office extension is now complete and the final coat of paint is now on. The final task is to get some form of floor covering down which will also extend into the current office, replacing all the odd bits now used to cover the floor. A lot of moving and sorting is still to do but the end is in sight.

The project about to start is the Elliott's shop rebuild. Over the last few weeks we have relocated the tractor and trailer used to give rides, leaving the space vacated for the new build. Power and temporary lighting have been installed, a set of dimensioned drawings created, timber from the rack saw cut into usable sizes and some investigation into materials for the build undertaken. This will be a long term project expected to take some two years.

When the museum site was first obtained back in 1991 we removed many tons of scrap metal in a skip almost big enough to drive a bus into. Over the intervening years rubbish has again increased and we have had another skip, not quite as big as the first one, but yet again filled with scrap metal. The idea is to have a second general purpose skip to remove non metallic rubbish we have accumulated. Our larger carpenters shop has had a major cleanup and you can now actually get in there to do some work. We have in that workshop a large circular saw for cutting the bigger pieces of timber. This creates a vast amount of dust in the atmosphere and we are going to try to re-engineer our dust extraction system to improve the situation.

Several of our volunteers have undertaken the task of restoring some of our farm machinery under what we call the Black Shed. Much of this machinery was cleaned and painted many years ago but rust and muck have taken their toll and things have started looking a bit scruffy. Several have been, or will be, stripped completely down and sent away for shot blasting and priming. By removing all the rust and getting down to bare metal and then painting, survival into the future is more likely.

Peter Keeley's workshop has proved both useful as a workshop and an attraction to the public. We have had several model engines working on

compressed air on open days and work is continuing to have more engines running and to improve the facilities even more for next season. The workshop is at the moment the home of several stationary engines in various states of rebuild. We were given three engines, all being very desirable in some way or another. Hopefully one or two can either be running or on display outside the room on open days.

The big Chaff Cutter, although complete has yet to be motorised such that it can be demonstrated to the public. Equipment and materials are available and we have had our first trial run but time and effort are still needed.

The Shepherd's hut is receiving further attention in that some furnishings are being added in the form of a bunk, items that a shepherd may have used and hopefully some form of stove, even if that turns out to be a replica.

Following the offer of some equipment and signs from a garage that once existed in Marsworth (not yet received) we have been thinking about creating a vintage garage at the museum. This may be a bit of a daydream at the moment but who knows?

All through the summer months a lot of time is spent on outside maintenance. Grass cutting is almost a full day's work every week throughout the growing season. Keeping the weeds down and attractive plants on display takes a similar amount of time.

We still seem to attract new volunteers on a regular basis, several following visits to the museum. Two new members arrived a few days ago and I am sure they will enjoy their time at the museum, as all our current volunteers seem to. However we still need much more support from the society members on our open days. Often locations are not open as we have no one to look after them.

Work on the Village and Country Life room is progressing slowly; photographs and information on three further boards are now complete and ready for mounting in their frames. Further photos and information will soon be available for other existing frames. We have a number of large framed pictures that will be mounted in the room but a lot of work is needed in cleaning and restoring the frames to a presentable standard. The re-organisation and new presentation of our photographic collection has proved invaluable during this period making easy to locate both suitable images and the information to go with them. Further work is needed in renumbering and sorting all the hard copy photographs we have stored in the office. A lot of unfinished work has been carried out on our vast collection of Cement Works

images but more time is needed to incorporate them within the existing photographic structure.

**Norman Groom Museum Manager**

### **Moated Mansions in Bucks**

*Please remember that the spelling and grammar in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century may differ from that of today.*

Before starting the second instalment of this article I thought a few words ought to be said about the original author "R.S.Downs" or SIGMA, his newspaper contributor pseudonym.

Richard Samuel Downs was born in 1845 in Evington, Leicestershire, to parents Samuel and Mary Anne.

He married his first wife, Jane Edwards, in 1870. His many siblings were also teachers or school masters and mistresses. After the last instalment of this article, which will be in a few issues time, I will write a longer appraisal of the life of this well liked person.

### **Bucks Herald, Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 1898, Page 7**

Near Brook End, about a quarter of a mile from the Parish Church of Pitstone, is an interesting spot, the ancient Erlai or Erley, which gave its name to one of the Three Hundreds now merged into Cottesloe. Here stood in early times a moated mansion, called Erlai House, of which only an insignificant fragment at present remains to indicate where once was the head of a civil division of the County. The name of the Hundred is still perpetuated in Yardley Farm—a corruption of Erlai. At a short distance eastward from the Church is an ancient house of brick, surrounded by a very broad and deep moat. The water is supplied by a spring called Cowhill, and abounds in fish. The residence was constructed out of the remains of an old mansion called Pitstone Place, now better known as Church Farm. Portions of the former edifice were removed to Aylesbury, and used in the erection of some of the principal apartments of the White Hart Inn.

The Manor House of Great Kimble is now a farm residence, which was erected about the beginning of the present century upon the site of the old mansion westward of the Church. The site is surrounded by an ancient moat, which may still be traced. In a field at the rear of the Manor House are some remains of entrenchments, and there is a large fish-pond in the vicinity. Another farm-house in this parish, called the Grange, also occupies a moated site.

At Painshill, in the parish of Boarstall, about a mile from the Church, there is an ancient farm-house belonging to the manorial estate, which is supposed to have been one of the Bernwood Forest houses. Near it are some traces of ditches, supposed to have been a moat. One of the most important edifices, from a historical point of view, among the moated mansions of Bucks, was Boarstall House. The site is surrounded by the ancient moat, spanned by a two-arch brick bridge, probably erected in 1785. The moat is very wide and deep; but one side of it has been destroyed. The area inclosed by it is about three acres in extent. The old mansion, a castellated edifice, which was fortified and embattled by Sir John de Handto, in 1312, was rebuilt during the Tudor period by the Denhams; but all that remains of it at present is the massive gateway with turrets at the angles, the residence itself having been demolished by Sir John Aubrey and the materials used in the construction of Wood Farm, at Worminghall.

During the civil commotions of the 17th century Boarstall, owing to its position between Aylesbury and Oxford, was an important post, and was possessed in turn by both of the contending parties. It was at first held by the Royalists, under the gallant Sir William Campion, Knt.; but in 1644 it was evacuated, and was then garrisoned by Roundhead troops from Aylesbury. Seeing that they had made a tactical blunder in relinquishing such a commanding position, Colonel Gage recaptured it for the King. In 1645 the vicinity of Boarstall was the scene of some skirmishes—one of the attacks upon the place being led by Fairfax himself—but the Royalists managed to retain possession of it. On 28<sup>th</sup> August of that year King Charles passed through Boarstall on his journey from Wing to Oxford.

The event is thus recorded by one who was in the King's train —“This day we marched to Bostoll House, belonging to Lady Denham. Sir William Campion is Governor. There is a pallazado, or rather a stockado, without the graffe; a deep graffe and wide, full of water; a pellazado above the false bay; another six or seven feet above that near the top of the curten.” The “deep graffe and wide, full of water,” I need scarcely say is our old friend the moat under a different designation. In 1646, Boarstall was the only garrison in Bucks remaining to the King. In that year it was again attacked by Sir Thomas Fairfax, to whom it was surrendered in June.

After the war was over Lady Denham returned to Boarstall, and the mansion continued to be occupied until pulled down by Aubrey as mentioned above.

### **Bucks Herald, Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> 1898, Page 7**

On the verge of the old Bernwood Forest, in the parish of Ludgershall, there is the site of a moated house, and in Dove-house Field, southward of the Rectory, is another moated inclosure. Here probably stood a mansion

belonging to Lady de St. Armand, that was destroyed during the Barons' wars of the 13th century. On the north of the Rectory in Friars' Mead there are traces of a moat which may have inclosed a cell to Santingfield Hospital, occasionally referred to as the Friary.

Within the parish of Waddesdon are several instances of these remnants of antiquity. About 50 yards' distant from the farmhouse, a little southward from the church, is a square piece of ground, three-quarters of an acre in extent, which is surrounded by a deep moat. At Westcott are the remains of the moated site of an ancient mansion, and a large circular fish pond; and in a field known as Farm Close are traces of another moated site. The Bury is also a field which contains a moat, which, when perfect, inclosed a square of about half-an-acre, and is accompanied by traces of a fish-pond. In Kitchen Close, near the farmhouse of Colwick, is a moated site inclosing about half-an-acre, and not far off, in Road Close, is a moated inclosure of the somewhat unusual circular form.

At Weston Turville, just behind the Manor, House, there is an artificial mound of considerable elevation and circumference, encircled by a moat. This was, in all probability, the site of the castellated mansion of the De Molyns, who held a manor at Weston in the 14th century. At the manor farm of Hyde there are traces of moats and other relics of antiquity which plainly indicate the existence here of a large mansion in olden times. At Broughton Farm the inclosure appears to have been doubly, if not trebly moated, but the lines of excavation have been in great part obliterated. The innermost ditch, however, is still plainly discernible, and its eastern side is wide and deep and contains a quantity of water. Here stood the ancient mansion of the Staveleys, Hollands, and Lovells, who held the manor in the 13th and 14th centuries. Extensive and interesting remains of the former house have, at various times, been discovered. Foundations still exist, and some of the materials of the old structure were used in the erection of the present farm residence.

**Bill Barnard (and SIGMA).To be continued**

### **The Old Shop (continued)**



**Rosemary Elliott** was the last Proprietor of the old shop in Church Road Ivinghoe.

Ancestors of Rosemary

**Name Daniel Elliott Gender Male**

**Burial Date 01 Sep 1831**

**Burial Place Cheddington, Buckingham,  
England (Source:-England Deaths and Burials.)**

**+Elizabeth**

The following chart shows details of some of the Elliott's businesses in Cheddington, Ivinghoe and Pitstone. (*See family tree in July Newsletter*)

### Elliott's Trading in Cheddington, Ivinghoe and Pitstone from Trade Directories and Censuses

Name of Directory	Date	Names of Elliotts	Trade-Occupation	Village	Notes
Census	1841	<b>Thomas Elizabeth</b> (Widow of Daniel?)	Butcher Grocer	Cheddington	<b>Thomas 1810</b> , son of * <b>Daniel &amp; Elizabeth</b>
Census	1851	<b>Charles</b>	Butcher	Ivinghoe	<b>Charles 1823</b> , Son of *
Musson and Craven	1853	<b>Thomas</b>	Farmer	Cheddington	Son of *
Post Office	1854	<b>Elizabeth Mrs</b> <b>Thomas</b>	Shopkeeper Butcher	Cheddington	Wife of <b>Daniel</b> Son of *
Post Office	1854	<b>Abraham</b>	Shopkeeper and Carrier	Ivinghoe	<b>Abraham 1821</b> , Son of *
Census	1861	<b>Charles</b>	Butcher	Ivinghoe (Back Lane)	Son of *
Post Office	1864	<b>Thomas</b>	Butcher and Shopkeeper	Cheddington	Son of *
Census	1871	<b>Charles</b>	Butcher	Ivinghoe (Back Lane)	Son of *
Harrod and Co	1876	<b>Daniel</b>	Butcher	Cheddington	Son of ** <b>Thomas</b>
Harrod and Co	1876	<b>Charles</b>	Butcher	Ivinghoe	Son of *
Census	1881	<b>Charles Philip</b>	Butcher Butcher and Grocer	Ivinghoe (Town)	<b>Philip 1855</b> , son of # <b>Charles &amp; Sarah</b> (nee Beilby)
Kelly's	1883	<b>Daniel</b>	Butcher	Cheddington	Son of **
Kelly's	1883	<b>Charles Phillip</b>	Butcher Draper and Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	There were 2 spellings of <b>Philip</b> given.
Census	1891	<b>Philip</b>	Grocer	Ivinghoe (59, High Street)	<b>Philip's</b> birth was registered as <b>Philip</b> and this was used on the censuses.

Kelly's	1899	<b>Daniel Elliott</b> and Sayell	Butcher Farmers (Town Farm)	Cheddington	Son of **
Kelly's	1899	<b>David Phillip</b>	Butcher and Carrier Butcher, Draper, Shopkeeper and Beer Retailer	Ivinghoe	Son of #
Kelly's	1899	<b>George</b>	Butcher	Pitstone	
Kelly's	1899	<b>Daniel Elliott</b> and Sayell	Butcher Farmers (Town Farm)	Cheddington	Son of **
Census	1901	<b>Philipp Maria</b> (daughter) <b>Phillip &amp; William</b> (sons)	Draper Draper's Assist. Grocer's Assistants	Ivinghoe (Corner Shop)	Children of <b>## Phillip &amp; Emily Mary</b> (nee Paradine)
Kelly's	1903	<b>Phillip</b>	Butcher, Draper and Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	Son of #
Kelly's	1903	<b>Charles George</b>	Bootmaker Butcher	Pitstone	
Kelly's	1907	<b>Edward</b>	General Dealer	Cheddington	
Kelly's	1907	<b>Phillip</b>	Butcher, Draper and Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	Son of #
Kelly's	1907	<b>Charles George</b>	Bootmaker Butcher	Pitstone	
Census	1911	<b>Phillip William &amp; Ernest</b> (sons)	Grocer&Butcher Butcher Grocer's Assist.	Ivinghoe	Sons of ##
Kelly's	1911	<b>Phillip</b>	Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	
Kelly's	1911	<b>Charles George</b>	Bootmaker Butcher	Pitstone	
Kelly's	1915	<b>Phillip</b>	Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	
1939 Register	1939	<b>William</b>	Builder and Grocer	Ivinghoe	Son of ## He was also an A.R.P.Warden
		<b>Rosemary</b>	Shopkeeper	Ivinghoe	<b>Rosemary 1939</b> , Daughter of <b>William, &amp; Winifred Mary</b> (nee Green)

**Sandra Barnard Editor**



## **Rosemary Elliott's Bicycle**

In the Summer 2016 Newsletter two items in particular caught my eye, one was an article about museum artefacts by Dennis Trebble, the other from Sandra Barnard entitled "The Old Shop" tracing the history of the Village Shop and the Elliott family, ending with Rosemary Elliott, the last proprietor.

This article kind of links the two together in that it is a museum artefact that was owned by Rosemary Elliott when she was at the shop. It is, as you might have gathered from the title of the article, Rosemary Elliott's Bicycle

The Bicycle came to the museum along with much other material back in April this year.

It seemed unlikely that it had been used since the shop closed a good few years ago, and it was covered in rust, to such an extent that it was difficult to tell what colour it used to be.

Despite that we thought we should try and get it back to a reasonable condition so it can be put on display at open days. As the plan is also to rebuild the Old Shop on museum premises the shop and the bike will be reunited.

The Bike is a 1954 Raleigh fitted with a Sturmey Archer 3 speed & dynamo hub. We know the year of make precisely as Sturmey Archer helpfully stamped on their hub the year it was made. There is a small plate on the rear mudguard that tells us the dealer who sold it was "Cycle & Wireless" of High Street North, Dunstable.

We like to keep items we renovate as original as possible rather than just buy and fit new parts so when dismantling the bike it was done carefully to preserve what we could and to identify what must be replaced. Mostly replacements related to perishable items, e.g. tyres, tubes and a few small items such as circlips that were thin metal and disintegrated when we tried to remove the rust.

Some of these items have been very difficult, if not impossible, to replace with the genuine article. Even if available genuine period replacements come at a prohibitive cost, so in a few places we are having to use non original parts.

The work is proceeding well now so hopefully we can get it rolling so that Rosemary's Bicycle rides again.

I'll update on progress next time. PS - Beneath the rust it was darkish green.

**Brian Davis**

## **Membership 2016-17**

We have 152 members of PIMS. This is the last chance for those of you who have not renewed your subscription to PIMS this year.

You will cease to be a member and not receive any more newsletters or get into the museum free this and next year.

I enclose a membership renewal form as a reminder to you.

**Bill Barnard Membership Secretary**

## **Sue Lipscomb**

After twenty one years as Programme Secretary, is standing down from the post. The programme of talks is booked through to February of next year. Sue has done a tremendous job over this time and it is certain that we have all benefitted from her attention to detail. However, we now need someone to take on the mantle of talk's organiser. Sue has an extensive file that she has built up over the years and would be more than happy to help ease someone else into the post. If you think you might be able to help in any way, please contact the museum secretary at [secretary@pitstonemuseum.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pitstonemuseum.co.uk). It would be a pity to let this very sociable and educational aspect of the society lapse.

**Dennis Trebble Secretary**

## **Programme 2016**

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

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October '16 \*\*\* The History of Royal Flying**

Sqd. Ldr. Graham Laurie joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot in 1964. He flew for 36 years amassing a total of 13500 hours and during the last 20 years of that career he flew members of the Royal Family and Senior government Ministers. In 1981 he was selected for The Queen's Flight and in 1995, after that unit's disbandment, he moved to No 32 (The Royal) Squadron at RAF Northolt, completing in all, over 2200 Royal Flights. He retired in Dec 2000. He will give us an illustrated talk in aid of The RAF Benevolent Fund, covering the early days of Royal Flying, the formation of The King's Flight and The Queen's Flight, up to the present day, together with some personal reminiscences.

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November '16 \*\*\* AGM**

#### **A Triumph of Form over Function**

**Please note the AGM start time will be 7.30pm.**

This talk by Dennis Trebble will trace the evolution of motorcycle design over the course of the Twentieth Century, whilst at the same time introducing the idea that the socio/economic impact of this type of transport has been far-reaching and has reflected more than just a narrow range of users.

From military machines, through "bread and butter go-to-work" machines right through the Rock'n'Roll era up to modern times - a real thermometer of society!

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December '16** \*\*\*

**Christmas with Films from the Archives**

**Please note that this is the third Thursday of the month.**

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.

**Thursday 26th January '17** \*\*\*

**Cordite, Castrol R and the 2012 Olympics**

Our speaker, David Butler was just 11 when a horrendous accident changed his life and future prospects dramatically. He went on to head a 750million dollar division of an International Company. He forced rule changes for the disabled in motor racing both nationally and internationally. David was awarded an MBE in the 2010 New Year's Honours List for years of service to disability sport and was also an Olympic torch bearer and took part in the Paralympics' Opening Ceremony.

**Thursday 23rd February '17** \*\*\*

**Infantry Training at Halton in World War One**

Francis Hanford, who works at the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton, will be talking about the training of Kitchener's volunteers on Alfred's Estate.

**Sue Lipscomb Programme & Minutes Secretary**

**Cover page**

Chaff cutter in the Sheep Yard. (*Picture, by Bill Barnard*).  
Plaque says:-

**The Silver Medal  
"Safety"  
Patent Self Feeding  
Chaff Cutter  
G.H. Innes & Co  
Patentees & Manufacturers  
Hitchin England**

### **Open Days 2017**

Easter Monday **17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Early Spring B.H. Monday **1<sup>st</sup> May**  
Spring B.H. Monday **29<sup>th</sup> May**  
Sunday **11th June**  
Sunday **9th July**  
Sunday **13th August**  
B.H. Monday **28<sup>th</sup> August**  
Sunday **10th September**  
Sunday **8th October**  
**Wicket Brood**

**Opening times** from  
11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
**Admission charges.**  
Adults £6 children £2.

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