

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society Newsletter



John Edwin (Jack) Brantom 1919-2018

MANAGER'S REPORT- Spring 2018

This never ending winter has been getting us all down, as it has severely hampered a great deal of the work we have been trying to do around the site. The outside of the shop and the new builders shed have both ground to a halt and we have been unable to do much maintenance of the farm grounds by way of tree pruning, grass cutting and weed control.

The trend continued for the first open day of 2018 as nearly 50 mm of rain overnight turned the site into a mud bath more suitable to Glastonbury Pop Festival than Pitstone Green Museum, however around 200 intrepid souls turned up and had, by all accounts a good day. With major changes of personnel there were bound to be a few hiccups but all seemed OK eventually and it was great to see all the volunteers pitching in to get the site ready in the last few weeks before Easter.

Much work has been needed on the alarm system as it was systematically attacked by a squirrel in the big barn; we hope this is now fixed. We have bought a couple of new picnic benches and some new tables for the pottery and it looks like we may need a new belt for the rack saw, as the present one is in very poor condition.

We now have our own skips for rubbish which are kindly serviced by a benevolent local company who do not charge us for their use. Our thanks to Debbie at April George Services for this. After much hassle we now have a working landline and Internet system working, which will not change us overnight but as years go by will become more important as people move away from cash payments to card and phone systems. We will continue with our current projects aiming to get the builders tools and materials moved to their new home during the summer.

We have made a start at rearranging the open barn adjacent to the meeting room to make more use of it as a display area and the lads are doing a great job of renovating the small farm and garden machinery in that area which will also serve as another open day attraction.

We have had problems on open days with fumes from the black shed getting into the Big Barn and the Colin Cook collection we are looking at a number of possible solutions to this.

I have been approached by the management from Ashridge with regards to some cooperation in allowing open day visitors to visit Pitstone Windmill,

which I am very much in favour of, as it could provide very valuable publicity for the museum at very little expense and no inconvenience to us.

We look forward to some long sunny days at The Farm when we can get some much needed maintenance work done by our increasing and enthusiastic team of volunteers.

Pete Farrar - April 2018

Museum Manager, Publicity and Programme Secretary

Membership

This year's membership forms will be different from previous years. Due to new data protection regulations we must inform members of what personal data we collect and how we use this data. So we will need a signature at the end of the form to allow us to store and use your personal details.

Through membership application forms we collect your names and addresses and optionally your telephone numbers and email addresses. These are held securely on computer and none of this information is shared with 3rd parties or other organisations.

We use your data to manage your subscriptions and Gift Aid claims, we also use your data to post out quarterly newsletters and we may use your telephone and email addresses to inform you of upcoming meetings and events.

The form also has a Gift Aid form attached and we ask that, if you are a UK tax payer, you complete this form to allow PIMS to reclaim the tax on any qualifying donations you make to us. It is also important that the person paying the subscription and completes the Gift Aid form is also the member joining. We cannot claim money back if someone else pays your subscription.

Bill Barnard Membership Secretary

PIMS Website

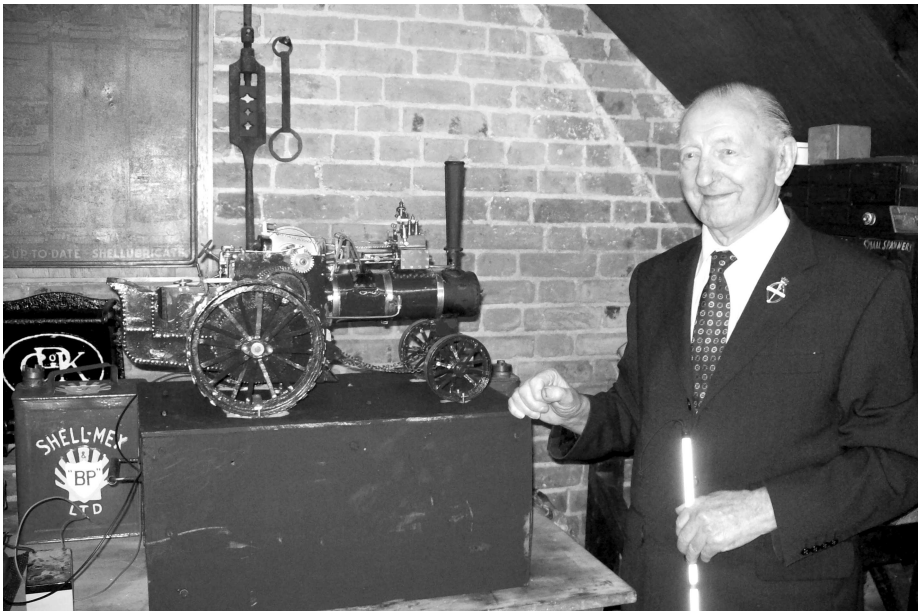
The main PIMS website will be changing its appearance and content very soon. It will have a more modern style to it, updated pictures and videos and additional information. It will have information on our monthly meetings and events, membership and volunteering, also accessibility information for disabled people.

Some web pages will stay the same, notably Norman Groom's Lancaster Bomber Site, and the tour of the museum via a site map. The new "Menu" structure will have links to our display rooms and, when viewing a room, there

will be links to the previous and next rooms to allow for a logistical tour around the museum site.

So please keep an eye on <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk>

Bill Barnard Webmaster



Jack's Traction Engine

JOHN EDWIN BRANTOM (known to all at the Museum as Jack)

I was trying to find a word that best describes Jack and the word that comes to mind is a Gentleman. Jack was always treated with respect and in turn he would respond the same to others.

Jack was also an accomplished engineer and made many model engines and a model traction engine in his earlier days. Jack started at the museum in the late 1990's. He was previously involved in making and running model locomotives at Quinton but travelling that distance became too difficult so Jack joined us at Pitstone. He lived in Leighton Buzzard and came to the museum in a Morris Traveller which was in mint condition.

7.30am was Jack's starting time and that was three days a week. The rest of the volunteers would turn up from 8.00am and find Jack hard at work. Whatever the problem he was faced with he always found an answer to it,

sometimes in a most inventive and unusual way. We fitted up Jack with his own little working area which he always kept organised ensuring that any tools removed would be returned by the end of the day.

In the early years he was also looking after his wife Eva who was ill and eventually she ended up in a nursing home. Jack continued with his model making but in the end his failing eyesight prevented this and also stopped him driving.

Jack had many friends at the museum and they continued to help him in any way they could. Brenda Grace in particular would look after him like a mother and Brenda, Bill and Sandra Barnard would ensure that he was brought to the museum on our Open days. Pitstone was his whole life and he could often be seen in the latter years with his white stick being taken around the museum. Sadly last year he could no longer live alone and ended up in Claremont Care Home in Leighton Buzzard where he died on the 27 February aged 98.

Norman Groom

Jack was born on **16 July 1919** in Sandy Lane Leighton Buzzard, one of two children; he had a sister, Cissie. This is one of the cottages just as you enter round from the shop on the Heath and Reach Road.

His Mother was unfortunately ill when he was a small child and she died when he was about 4. He and his sister were taken to Sparham in Norfolk for a while, to be with the Muttock Grandmother. At some point they came back to Heath and Reach to be brought up by the Brantom Grandmother.

His Father Edwin had two Lorries, a Halford and a Guy and was involved with collecting Sand from the Sandpits. Edwin died in 1936 aged 41.

Jack served an Apprenticeship for the Leighton Buzzard Observer in the Print room. He served 6 of the 7 years and then he was called up due to the Second World War, and he joined the Army. He was on the Hospital Ship the 'St Andrew', working on the medical side, as a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he thought he was going to be involved with the Mechanical side. He travelled to many places to include Italy, and as far as Australia.

We think he had met his 'Wife to be' before being called up and then married her in the mid 1940's. Her name was Eva (nee Fountain) and David his son was born in 1950.

Jobs post war were, Pratt's (Agricultural Engineers) Cattermoles (Blast Grit Manufacturers), Browns (Agricultural Engineers) and Scanray and Bix (Off shore pipeline X-ray equipment).

Hobbies included being a brilliant Engineer, making many models. He also owned three plus Motorbikes. He was also one of the pioneers of the "barn engine" movement at Steam Engine Rallies during the 1960's and '70's, mainly with Herts. Steam Preservation Society organised events.

Around the 90's he looked after his wife for a few years following her stroke, then could not cope and she went into 'Elm Lodge' where he visited her regularly. She died in 2004.

Jack used to love cooking, cakes, his famous Cheese Pastry, and Bread. Bread from hand kneading (no bread maker!). He was doing this up to two years' ago.

He was an active member of the Vale of Aylesbury Model Engineering Society during its formative years at the Quainton Road Heritage Steam Railway site. (The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre)

Following this as he thought it was a long journey over to there he helped over many years at the Pitstone Green Museum, restoring many artefacts. Usually arriving at 7.30am. three times a week. Jack has always looked smart; had to have a suit on and of course white short sleeved shirt and tie, and black shiny shoes. He was going for a walk up round the Close up to maybe two years' ago.

When he was able to see the Television, programmes he liked the 'Time team', also 'Open all Hours', 'Dad's Army', 'Last of the Summer Wine' and also 'Songs of Praise'. When he could not see the programmes anymore he would put his Radio on (supplied by Sight Concern) and listen to Classic FM as he loved Music.

St Dunstan's (now called Blind Veterans UK) were very good to him in loaning him equipment to help his failing eyesight. Sight Concern Bedford were also very supportive.

Jack also known in his Close as 'The Dahlia Man' as he always had a wonderful display every year in the front garden of his home, also had

some planted in the back garden and they were painstakingly looked after over the Winter and came out over many years.

Brenda Grace

Some Bucks Local Names

In July 2016 I researched and presented an article on Moated Mansions originally written for the Bucks Herald by R.S.Downs who wrote under the pseudonym SIGMA. I have researched another of his articles, this time about some of the local names in Bucks. It was published in 1918. This will take a few issues of this newsletter to complete, but I hope you enjoy it. Please remember this is written in the English of the early 1900's.

Bill Barnard

The Bucks Herald, Saturday July 20, 1918.

SOME BUCKS LOCAL NAMES:

The Personal Element (1).

Words, like persons and places, often possess a deeply interesting history, and to trace them to their origin and primitive signification is not only an agreeable but also a profitable pursuit. This is true of many general terms and personal appellations, but it is peculiarly so of local names. There is no history of any inanimate object more interesting than that of words; nothing that so vividly recalls the past and bears it along the stream of time into the present. The pursuit, indeed, derives its chief interest from antiquarian associations, and in the unravelment of the early history of Buckinghamshire the names of places occupy no unimportant position.

The designations of a large number of places have been acquired from the personal or family names of their early Saxon occupants; and recent researches have demonstrated that this element in our local nomenclature is more widely diffused than was formerly thought to be the case. The names of persons, especially of princes, great landholders, and heads of clans constitute indeed a very considerable and important element in our local nomenclature. The family or clan did not invariably take its name from the chieftain to whom the land was allotted upon which the town or village called after them was subsequently erected; but it was in many instances only a branch of a much more ancient family in the land from whence the settlers had come. Hence we find the same patronymic entering into the composition of local names in different parts of England, which seems very clearly to indicate that members of the same original family shared in various separate incursions into Britain, or had previously formed a settlement in some other part of the country. This consideration will explain how it is that some of the local names of Bucks derived from personal appellations are met with also in other counties. For

example, the Scearingas of Sherington are found in Sherrington (Wilts); Sharrington (Norfolk); Sheering (Essex); and Scarrington (Notts). The Blecingas, who gave their name to Bletchley, may in like manner be traced in Bletchington (Oxon), and Bletchingley (Surrey); the Bucingas of Buckingham at Bocking (Essex), and Buckenham (Norfolk); and the Addingas of Addington at villages of the same name in Kent, Gloucester, etc.

The Anglo-Saxons ranged themselves in clans, and emigrated from their former home on the Continent under petty chieftains, and apparently settled down in this country as families bearing a common name. The settlements thus formed are distinguished by the genitive plural *ing* being found before the terminal syllable. It has been conjectured that where the patronymic stands without any suffix besides the genitive ending of which Oving and Wing are the only instances in this county - we have the first settlement of a clan; but that where *ing* forms the medial syllable of a name and is followed by the suffix ham, ton, hall, etc., such names indicate the extension of the Saxon rule by settlements of filial colonies sent out by the parent settlement. In confirmation of this hypothesis I may remark that it is noticeable that the former class of local names abound in those parts of the country where the Saxons first established themselves, while they are but sparsely represented in other parts, and in the counties last occupied, such as Bucks, they scarcely occur at all. It is impossible to trace all local names to their origin, and as regards those derived from personal and family designations it would prove a hopeless task to endeavour to glean any particulars relative to the individual history of the person or family who gave its name to any particular place, except in a very few instances; but, fortunately, these few are among the most interesting and historical names in the county.

One of the oldest place names in Bucks is also one of the most interesting from an historical point of view. I refer to Kimble, the name of the twin villages at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, both situated on the ancient Icknield Way. The designation of this road may be considered a kind of personal appellation, for in it survives the name of a Keltic tribe, the Iceni, within whose territories it had its origin. In a charter of 903, preserved in the British Museum, under the form of "Icenhylt," it is mentioned as forming part of the boundary of some lands at Princes Risborough - "Hrisanbeorgan" - and as running under the Chiltern eaves.

To return to Kimble. The charter above mentioned has a further local reference of great interest as it contains the name of a place on the old trackway - "Cynebellinga-gamaere" - the earliest record we have relating to Kimble. A brief explanation of the term may, perhaps, not be out of place. The latter part signifies a mark or boundary; "inga," as I have already pointed out is a grammatical inflexion indicating the genitive plural, so that the whole word

means the boundary of the descendants or tribe of the British King Cynobellin, who had a seat on the Chilterns within the bounds of what is now Chequers Park, not far from the well-known Velvet Lawn, and, according to tradition, he was buried there A.D. 43. The name clung to the spot, and when the Anglo-Saxon settlers fixed their home there by the side of the Icknield Way they adopted it, and thus it has been handed on through the centuries to our own day. Kimble is called in Domesday Book Chenebella, and in the Taxatio of 1291 Kenebelle.

In the neighbourhood of the Kimbles numerous traces of ancient mounds and entrenchments are to be found, remains, no doubt, dating from the time of Cynobellin, one of them being called Kimble Castle, the word "castle" being used, as it is also in Desborough Castle, to indicate an entrenched position or camp (castrum). Many coins inscribed "Cuno" have been found here and at several other places along the Icknield Way.

SIGMA (To be continued) (Research by Bill Barnard.)

Programme Report – 2018

We continue with our Thursday evenings which are very enjoyable but still find it sad that more people do not show any interest in supporting the society's efforts. Ronnie and I get very good response from the people who go, but very little from those who do not, which is very frustrating.

Our last speaker was one we have had twice before, of proven quality and the subject The Affairs of British Prime Ministers, was very interesting and amusing but the attendance was very poor.

Our next speaker Colin Oakes has a talks list of over 300 subjects which makes it difficult to decide on the most suitable topic for the society. We chose *tools through the ages*. We hope you enjoy the evening; I will endeavour to find some suitable videos to introduce the evening. The following month we have Malcolm Ferris-Lay educating us about all aspects of our daily drink of tea and the month after that we have Nick Hill talking about Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway.

If you would like to come to the Antiques Evening or visit Tring Park Mansion in July and August, Please fill in the booking sheet as soon as possible.

Pete Farrar - April 2018

PIMS TALKS – 2018

Most talks take place in the meeting room at the Museum. They start at 8pm sharp but there are interesting videos showing from 7.30. The cost is £2 for

members and £3 for non-members. The visit to Tring Park and the antiques evening need to be booked in advance and please note the November AGM starts at 7.30.

May 24th

Malcolm Ferris-Lay - Tea

Malcolm is coming to tell us all we need to know about tea, from the bush Camellia Sinensis to the drink of builders' tea we consider as our national drink. We may even get a demonstration and a tasting.

June 28th

Nick Hill - Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway

Tonight we look forward to learning all about one of our local successful tourist attractions which in the past was part of a huge and profitable industry which even managed to sell sand to the Arabs.

July 26th

Stephen Hearn - Antiques Evening

Tickets need to be purchased in advance for this annual event which includes refreshments. Bring your prized possessions to be described and valued by one of the county's leading antiques experts.

August 23rd

Guided tour of Tring Park Mansion

Another ticket only event. **Meet at the house 4 pm.**

A guided tour of Tring Park mansion including a short talk on the history of the house, now used as a school for performing arts.

September 27th

Stephen Barker - Buckinghamshire in the Civil War

Most of us know that we had a civil war, but how did it affect life in Bucks and were there any significant events in the county? Come and find out from Stephen who is actually our official Museum Mentor and gives us advice on anything we see fit to ask him.

Pete Farrar, Museum Manager, Publicity and Programme Secretary

FRONT COVER

Museum Volunteer Jack in his front garden. He planted these flowers every year. He was known locally as the "Dahlia Man"

BACK COVER

Easter Monday 17th April 2017

All pictures Bill Barnard

Open Days 2018

Easter Monday 2nd April

Early Spring B.H. Monday 7th May

Whitchurch Morris

Spring B.H. Monday 28th May

Sunday 10th June

Sunday 8th July

Sunday 12th August

Haddenham Bell Ringers

Summer B.H. Monday 27th August

Sunday 9th September

Tappalacian Dancers

Sunday 14th October

Wicket Brood Morris

Opening times from

11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Admission charges.

Adults £7, Children £2, under 5

free. Concessions over 65, £6.

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Easter Monday 17th April 2017



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