

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society Newsletter



Summer 2018

MANAGER'S REPORT- Summer 2018

Work continues on all our major projects and the electricians are still slaving away rewiring the site.

We have a steady trickle of new volunteers showing interest in helping out and more asking about it at Open Days. We could do with someone interested in painting to appear, as we have a lot of work to do in this area.

I am having some dialogue with the local scouts groups to see if we can be of use to each other as I would like us to become more integrated with village life than we are at present.

We have a group coming on Saturday using the meeting room and looking round the museum. They are from the Chilterns Conservation Board with the project "Beacons of the Past - Hillforts in the Chiltern Landscape" and they should spread the word of what we have on offer here.

Some of our volunteers and their spouses seem to have been unlucky recently with health issues and accidents; our thoughts go out to anyone involved and wish them a speedy return to form.

My discussions with Dunstable Men in Sheds seem to have borne fruit, with them asking for some metalwork to be done for a Dunstable School which could result in a school visit to look at the museum and watch the work being done by the blacksmiths.

Chiltern Open Air Museum have offered us some artefacts which I have accepted more as a means of opening a relationship with them, rather than us actually needing them. I will arrange to pick them up in the next week or two.

We are still looking for someone to take over the job of editing the quarterly PIMS newsletter. There must be many people out there who could take on this job that Sandra has done so well for so long. Please get in contact if you are interested. Sandra has agreed to assist whoever takes over.

PUBLICITY REPORT

As usual we have had the usual ups and downs with the attendance figures which cannot be attributed to anything in particular. Bank Holidays seem to be popular. June and July seem to be slack. We have a leaflet drop in Aylesbury this month so it will be interesting to see its effect. We had a stall for 2 days at Great Gaddesden Church as part of the tribute to the late Gordon Benningfield, a local naturalist and artist who is buried in the churchyard there. We also had our usual stall at Eaton Bray Carnival and a possible one at the Dunstable Downs Kite Festival later this month. Our rather aged gazebo has given up the ghost so we are looking to replace it.

We are trying to arrange an April Fools Run for 2019 with the Model T Ford Club of G.B. with about 50 cars likely to come. Negotiations are on-going.

We are still talking with the people from Ford End Water Mill about joint publicity; they already show Pitstone Museum on the map on the back of their guide book.

Pete Farrar -

Museum Manager, Publicity and Programme Secretary

Membership

As usual some members will have reminder slips with this Newsletter
Bill Barnard Membership Secretary

Following on from the last newsletter's first instalment of this article, we continue with parts two and three. Please remember this is written in the English of the early 1900's.

The Bucks Herald, Saturday July 27, 1918.

SOME BUCKS LOCAL NAMES:

The Personal Element (2).

KIMBLE.

Geoffrey of Monmouth in the 12th century - he became Bishop of St. Asaph in 1152 - gives us in his romantic "Historia Britonum" some few scanty particulars in reference to King Kimbellin, whom he describes as a great soldier, and states that he governed Britain for ten years. From the fanciful material thus furnished Shakespeare wrote his play "Cymbeline." Our Kimble hero was the son of Tasciovanus, and had three sons, Arviragus, Caractacus (the Latinised form of the British Caradoc), and Togodumnus, and a daughter, who became the wife of the Roman general, Aulus Plautius, who had defeated Kimbellin. According to a tradition, which is generally considered reliable, the famous British chieftain, Caractacus, was born at Kimble. He was taken at his stronghold, Caer Caradoc, and sent a prisoner to Rome A.D. 52. Togodumnus was slain in battle by the Romans under Aulus Plautius, but whether at Kimble or on the banks of the Ouse in North Bucks is an undecided point. Kimbellin issued coins in gold, silver, and copper, and some of them are of a beautiful type. Several specimens in each metal have been found at Kimble, Leagrave, Sandy, Biggleswade, Arlesey, Langford, Baldock, etc. His name occurs under various forms - Cuno, Cunobelin, Cunobelinus Rex, and the designs on the reverse vary also - a horse trotting, a bull butting, figure of Victory seated, Vulcan forging a helmet etc. Some of his coins bear Tasc or Tascio, and others are inscribed Camu, that is, Camulodunum (Colchester), which was his headquarters. It was captured by the Roman general Aulus Plautius, the Emperor Claudius, who spent about a fortnight in Britain, being himself present, which shows the importance attached to the capture of the royal residence of Kimbellin.

These very brief and disjointed notices of Kimbellin are gathered from Roman writers - Tacitus, Dion Cassius, Suetonius, etc.; and I daresay many of us would like to have a few more particulars respecting the brave young King, who has given his name to one of the most picturesque and historical spots in Bucks, and furnished the title to one of Shakespeare's plays. I wish William had not spelt it with a "C." I have just called Kimbellin "young," because when he appears on his coins he is represented as a beardless youth.

CHEARSLEY.

But Kimble is not the only Bucks place-name in which is enshrined that of an ancient hero and a king, for Chearsley is the modern representative of Cercelai, the

field of Cerdic, who here gained a victory over the Britons A.D. 527. Almost five centuries had past since the time of Kimbellin, and the Britons had now to face another foe in the Anglo-Saxon, who had come to stay. The Romans had occupied the country as part of their vast empire; the Saxons came to make it their own, and, without knowing it, to found an empire that should become greater and more powerful than even that of Rome. It is unfortunate that we know very little of the renowned Saxon chieftain and founder of the kingdom of Wessex, for, beyond his name and the names of a few places at which he fought against the Britons, no particulars of his life have been recorded and preserved to us. Our Bucks chronicler, Roger of Wendover, under the 494, thus records his landing:- "At this time Cerdic and his son Kineric arrived in Britain with five ships, and landed at a spot which was afterwards called 'Cerdicshore,' or the port of Cerdic. They were attacked the same day by a great multitude of the people of the country, and an obstinate engagement ensued. The Saxons manfully maintained their position before their ships, until night put an end to the conflict. Finding the Saxons so resolute, the Britons retired and the Saxons began by degrees to extend their dominion over the sea-coast of the neighbourhood, not however without many conflicts with the natives."

In 528 Cerdic and his son passed over to the Isle of Wight with a large body of armed men, made a great slaughter of the natives, and subdued the island. "In the year 533 died Cerdic, the first King of the West Saxons," and with this brief obituary notice Wendover dismisses the subject. Other chroniclers give some of the same particulars, but in no fuller detail. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle thus records the battle of Chearsley:- "A.D. 527. This year Cerdic and Cynric fought against the Britons at the place which is now called Cerdic's-lea." The "d" sound in the name was retained for a long time, for Johan de Cherdesle, who was Abbot of Notley, died 1389; but it gradually dropped out of use, and at length disappeared altogether.

Now let us see what some modern authors have to say about the Battle of Chearsley. Speed observes that the memory of Cerdic, who subdued this part of the country, and included it in Mercia, is partly continued in Chearsley, where, "in sharpe and bloody battle he was victor over the Britaines;" but Cerdic was the founder of Wessex, not Mercia, which had no existence as a separate and independent Kingdom till nearly a century after this date. Bishop Gibson, in his Glossary to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, says that he "should rather have sought for the site of this action in the Kingdom of the West Saxons, if any place of the name could there be found; since the name commanders (Cerdic and his son Cynric) obtained a victory over the Britons eight years before at Cerdice-ford, now Charford in Hampshire." A battle had been fought there still earlier, A.D. 508, when Natan-leod, the powerful British King, was slain. The reason assigned by Bishop Gibson rather makes against than for his suggestion. If the part of the country about Hampshire had already been conquered, it is only reasonable to expect that the Saxons would push their conquests further inland, which would give Chearsley a preference over a town in the neighbourhood of Cerdic's former victories.

There is another fallacy underlying the learned historian's remarks. He takes it for granted that Bucks was within the Kingdom of Mercia, which, as I have already pointed out, had not yet been established. That kingdom was consolidated by Penda in 626, who extended his territories southwards from the Ouse to the Thames, and included this county with the rest of the Midland district in his newly-formed Kingdom. But that both Bucks and Oxon were at first part of Wessex is evident from the following facts, among the many which might be adduced. In 556 Cynric of Wessex defeated the Britons at Banbury; in 571 Cuthulf of Wessex fought against them at several places in Beds, Bucks and Oxon; in 614 Cynegils and Cuichelin of Wessex defeated the Britons at Bampton; and Dorchester (Oxon) is mentioned as the principal residence of the West Saxon monarchs still later, and three of them who reigned in succession were baptised there by St. Birinus-Cynegils in 635, Cwichelm in 636, and Cuthred in 639. I think, then, that we have just grounds for concluding that Chearsley is the place mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as quoted above.

I think, too, we may feel a little proud of the fact that we have enshrined in the name of a village of this county the memory of the sturdy founder of the most powerful and vigorous of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms, who so firmly established his sway here that a descendant of his, our present King George, now sits upon the throne of that Engel-lond, of which Cerdic was more than any other Saxon chieftain the founder.

SIGMA

Bucks Herald, Saturday August 24, 1918

SOME BUCKS LOCAL NAMES:

The Personal Element (3).

AMERSHAM.

This is another word derived from a personal name of great interest, which is found in old documents variously written Elmand, Alhmund, Alemund, and Agmond. The first form being the most usual, I shall adhere to that in these notes. I may, however, mention in passing that these different ways of spelling the name will explain the variations of Amersham - Agmondesham and Elmondesham - as met with before the word assumed its present form. The meaning of the name is simply "the ham or home of Elmund," Elmund's-ham having become, in process of time, shortened into Amer's-ham, a change similar to that which a great many of our local names have undergone. Elmund was, according to the genealogy given by the old chroniclers, the son of Bafa, who descended from Ingild, the brother of Ina, King of Wessex, so that he was of the royal line of Cerdic, the founder of that kingdom, and therefore an ancestor of our present King, Elmund was the father of Egbert, of Wessex, who is often, though erroneously, styled the first King in 800 and reigned till 837.

I am sorry to say that I can discover but very little respecting Elmund, although I have searched several of the old chronicles for particulars; but there can be no doubt that he was a man of some importance in his day, as he is described as being Lord of Wycombe, Reading, and Thame, three of the chief outposts of Wessex

against the encroachments of the South Anglians of Mercia. The only references to Elmund which throw any light upon the subject are the following:- Anno 784. At this time King Elmund reigned in Kent. This King Elmund was the father of Egbert.-(Anglo-Saxon Chronicle).

Anno 800. Brihtric died in the fifteenth year of his reign, and was succeeded by Egbert, the son of Alhmund, the sub-king.-(Florence of Worcester).

At this period both Sussex and Kent had become subject to Wessex, and were ruled by princes connected with the royal line of that kingdom, and that circumstance explains how it was that Elmund of Wessex was King of Kent. Amersham appears in Domesday Book as "Elmodesham," and Leland, temp. Henry VIII., writes it Hagmondesham, Homersham, and Hamersham. On 17th century tokens it is spelled Amersam, which represents what is really the correct pronunciation of the name - Amer's-ham, not Amer-sham. The Continuator of the Chronicle of Florence of Worcester, under the year 1291, tells us that Walter de Agmondesham, Chancellor of England, was appointed by Edward I, to act with the Bishop of Caithness in the matter of the succession to the Scottish throne consequent upon the death of Alexander III., and of his grand-daughter Margaret, "the Maid of Norway."

DOUBLE NAMES

There are in this country a large number of places - between 30 and 40 - bearing double names, in which the personal element is conspicuous. They are for the most part compounded of the name of the parish and the owner of the manor in early times. In those cases where the same appellation had been bestowed upon more than one locality, the personal addition was a necessity in order that they might be readily distinguishable. For instance, there are in Bucks four places named Stoke, four Aston, two Drayton, Lillingstone, and Risborough, etc. Some of the pairs are distinguished as Great and Little, but with them we have no immediate concern. I will now proceed to give a brief account of some of the double names in Bucks.

ASTON ABBOTS. This parish obtained its distinguishing affix from its having been part of the endowment of St. Alban's Abbey, upon which it was bestowed by a certain Dane, named Tolf, and consequently the abbot was Lord of the manor of Aston until the Dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. The Abbots had a country house there, which, however, never became the residence of subsequent owners of the estate. It stood in a pleasant position overlooking the fertile Vale of Aylesbury, and the present building, of brick and stone, is known as The Abbey.

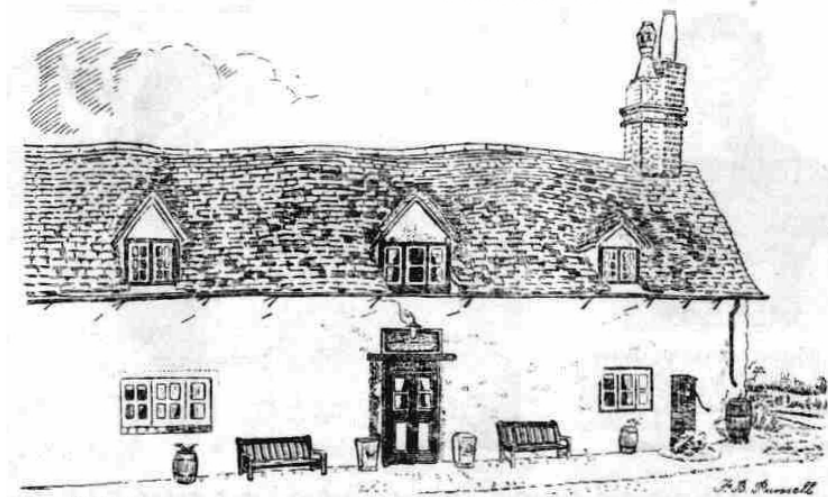
ASTON CLINTON. The latter part of this name is derived from the family of Clinton, who held the manor in Norman and early Plantagenet times.

ASTON SANDFORD was held by the De Sandford family as part of the Barony of Wolverton at the close of the 12th century, and they continued in possession until about the middle of the next century. Roger de Sandford, in the time of Henry II., founded at Sandford-on-Thames a nunnery of the Benedictine order, and Thomas de Sandford was Chamberlain to King John.

ASTON MULLINS is a small hamlet in Dinton about two miles from the Parish Church, and passed into the possession of Sir John de Molins, Knt., in 1335. It was held of the King by the service of being marshal of the King's hawks and falcons,

and presenting to the King one sparrow-hawk annually. De Molins also held Ilmer, Stoke Poges, and Weston Turville.

"HERALD" SKETCH BOOK



THE DINTON HERMIT, FORD, NEAR AYLESBURY

CLIFTON REYNES. The manor was brought into the family from which the place obtained its distinguishing appellation about the year 1275 by the marriage of Joan, heiress of the Borards, to whom it previously belonged, to Thomas Reynes, and that family held it for nearly 300 years.

DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP was so-called from the family of De Bello Campo, more generally known as Beauchamp. They held the manor at the beginning of the 13th century, and although they possessed only a small part of the estate for two generations, yet their name became attached to it to distinguish it from other Draytons, of which there are about a score in different parts of the country.

DRAYTON PARSLow. The latter part of this name was derived from that of the Passelews who held the manor as early as the time of Henry I. Robert Passelew, who flourished about the middle of the 13th century, was a prominent figure in the reign of Henry III., a weak king who allowed the affairs of the country to drift into a state bordering on anarchy, chiefly owing to his following the advice of bad, unscrupulous counsellors, who were for the most part foreigners. Robert was one of the king's clerks, and succeeded Walter, Bishop of Carlisle, as the royal treasurer. Being charged with serious offences he was summoned to appear before the King; but, instead of attending on the day appointed, he fled and concealed himself in a secret cellar at the New Temple and feigned illness. To show the condition into which the country had come I may mention that during Easter week, 1234, Richard Seward, who was of the opposite party, accompanied by several of his associates, made a raid into Bucks, and burned Swanbourne, a manor belonging to Robert Passelew, and Ivinghoe, belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, together

with crops, cattle, buildings and other property. By his tyrannical inquisition concerning the royal forests Robert amassed a large sum of money for the Crown, and through the influence of the king he got himself, although only a layman, elected to the See of Chichester; but his election was set aside by Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury. At length, being weary of the Court and its intrigues, he turned his thoughts in another direction, and being ordained priest, the Bishop of Ely presented him in 1249 to the richly endowed Church of Dereham. Subsequently, he became Archdeacon of Lewes, and died at Waltham, June 6, 1252.

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

100th birthday

At Sunday's Open Day we had a group visit by some lovely people who came to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mary Griffiths who was brought up on a farm and they thought would appreciate a day at Pitstone. Here is a copy of the letter they sent us afterwards.

Just a short note to say Thank You so very much for the wonderful reception that my Nan received today at the museum to celebrate her 100th Birthday.

She was truly made to feel like royalty by each and every wonderful volunteer that you have there.

Her trip down memory lane seeing all the old farming machinery that she grew up with was truly magical and I know that she will be reminiscing about this lovely day for a long time to come.

Thank you again for helping to make this day so very special for her and for our friends and family, who all thoroughly enjoyed spending the afternoon at Pitstone Green Museum.

We look forward to visiting you again in the future.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to the rest of the team.

Very best wishes

Alison

Pete Farrar

IMPORTANT PITSTONE MUSEUM DATES FOR 2019

These are the dates particularly relevant to the continued running of The Museum. We would not exist without open days and we cannot run open days successfully without our loyal volunteers. Nobody is expected to go to all the events, but it would be appreciated if all volunteers could do their best to get to at least 5 out of the 9 open days. It should also be pointed out that the week before each open day; we should all make an effort to ensure that everything is ready for the opening to the public.

Thursday 24th Jan. PIMS talk

Thursday 28th Feb PIMS talk

Thursday 28th March PIMS talk

Tuesday 16th & Thursday 18th April last volunteer day before open days begin.

Monday 22nd April Easter Bank Holiday Monday open day.

Thursday 25th April PIMS talk

Monday 6th May Bank Holiday open day

Thursday 23rd May PIMS talk

Monday 27th May Bank Holiday open day

Sunday 9th June open day

Thursday 27th June PIMS talk

Sunday 14th July open day

Thursday 25th July PIMS talk

Sunday 11th Aug. open day

Thursday 22nd Aug. PIMS talk

Monday 26th August Bank Holiday

Sunday 8th Sept. open day

Thursday 26th Sept. PIMS talk

Sunday 13th oct. last open day of the year.

Thursday 24th Oct. PIMS talk

Thursday 28th Nov. PIMS AGM and talk.

Thursday 19th Dec. Christmas PIMS talk evening.

Programme Report

Still disappointing numbers coming to talks, I suppose not choosing evenings when England are playing in the World Cup Football Tournament would be a good idea! The next two evenings are ticket only and are well supported, so we look forward to a good autumn.

In September we have our own Museum monitor, Stephen Barker, talking about Buckinghamshire in the Civil War and in October we have Hugh Granger talking about deception in WW2

Pete Farrar

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.

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.

October 25th

Hugh Granger - Deception in WW2

The Second World War was ended by the superiority of the allied forces but only after some amazing feats of deception by some very clever, ingenious people working away behind closed doors. Come and find out what actually went on.

November 22nd

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society - AGM

Come and see how the museum has been doing. Come and volunteer too do your bit. Listen to a talk, the subject of which will be arranged nearer the time.

December 20th

Frank Banfield - Film night

By now you will be thoroughly fed up with being implored to buy the latest high tech gadget that you will never find a use for, so come and escape to a world of old films provided by our old friend Frank and his vast library of scenes from the past.

Pete Farrar, Museum Manager, Publicity and Programme Secretary

Date for your diary

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day

Saturday, 28th July 2018 - 10.00 am-4.00 pm

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

FRONT COVER

Reproduction of Elliott's Shop in progress. The motorbike originally owned by John E Brantom (Jack)

BACK COVER

Tractor rides on an Open day

Both photographs by Bill Barnard

Open Days 2018

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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Tractor Rides on an Open Day



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