

# Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society Newsletter



**Autumn 2018**

## **MANAGER'S REPORT - OCT 2018**

As I write this, we are almost at the end of another very successful season of open days. I don't think that the figures quite match up to last year but are not far behind which, considering the extremes of weather we have endured this summer, is something for everyone involved to be very proud of. We have lost some long standing friends and supporters and gained some new keen volunteers to continue the never ending work that this sort of organisation generates. People seem to group together naturally to form working parties to carry out the various projects that are being carried out around the site, so it is difficult to keep an eye on what's happening, without interfering or coming across as bossy or nit picking. For most of my life I have been both a jack of all trades and self employed, so my natural instinct is, when I see something that needs doing, I get on with it. As manager at Pitstone, I am realising that I can only do so much, without many other things losing out or getting forgotten.

To try and achieve the best results for all, I am starting a tradition of a manager's meeting to take place twice a year, before and after the Open Day season. The first one will be on Tuesday 23 Oct. At these meetings the manager can set out his ideas of how things are going, what needs doing, how the work should be carried out and who should do it, at the same time agreeing who should be in charge of any sub group working together. The meetings will also be an opportunity for the volunteers to air any worries or ideas they may have or suggest ways we can improve the way we work.

When we finally close down for the winter, apart from our usual maintenance of existing exhibits, I would like to renovate our two main workshops, the Concrete Workshop and the Sheep Yard Workshop as they have both got rather out of hand. Many people end up bringing their own tools because it's so difficult to find what you need on the site, this could be avoided if the workshops were better organised.

I have been trying out a new system of introduction, for new volunteers, and would welcome any feedback from our newest members as to how best to educate them in the ways of the museum; it's difficult to create a good balance between being too formal or ignoring them completely. It's nice to let people find their own way round so that they can spot jobs that they would like to tackle.

**Pete Farrar - Museum Manager**

## **PUBLICITY REPORT**

The time is fast approaching when the new leaflets have to be designed and printed, I am of the opinion that the format we have adopted over the last few years has been well received by the public and should not be altered too much, other than the dates, prices etc. One alteration will be the map which will be more localised and will show Pitstone Museum in the centre but Ford End Water mill and Pitstone

Windmill in their respective positions. I hope this will encourage people to the area for the day and encourage those two locations to publicise us.

We are slowly getting organised so that we can cover as many local towns and villages as possible to publish articles about the Museum, it's difficult during the open day season to keep pace with all the deadline dates for publication in local magazines. This is a job that could be done by someone at home so, give it a thought, it is one of the most important jobs to be done and anyone with a good grasp of English and a working internet link could do it.

While we are on the subject of English and jobs to be done, we are still on the hunt for a replacement for Sandra, for the job of compiling this quarterly newsletter. Sandra has done a fantastic job over many years and provided us with all sorts of varied stories and history on a huge range of topics. These things don't happen automatically, there must be many of you out there who could spare some time to do these sort of jobs, they can always be done at home, at your convenience and you will find it enjoyable and satisfying, so get on your computer, send me an email and volunteer, you know it makes sense!

*manager@pitstonemuseum.co.uk*

**Pete Farrar - Museum Manager, Publicity and Programme Secretary**

### **Norman Groom Resignation 11 09 2018**

Norman Groom has, as from 11th September 2018, resigned from his posts of Vice Chairman and Computer Records Officer of the Museum and as a result any active management of the Society.

In view of his many years of commitment to the Museum he has accepted the title of President and has been made a life member of the Society.

**John Childs Chairman**

### **Norman Groom retires after 29 years of service to the museum**

As you will see from our Chairman's note Norman Groom has decided to retire from active management of the Museum and the Society.

Norman first came to the museum via the Beds & Bucks engine club to help with the restoration of the Crossley gas engine about 1990. Initially he was a volunteer until he was asked to take on the role of Museum Manager in 1996. This is a role he enjoyed until late 2017 when he resigned due to health issues. Norman gave the museum an enormous amount of his time being available almost 24/7. He undertook many projects himself designing, building and restoring storerooms and similar plus restoring many of the artefacts on display. He is known outside the museum for his knowledge of WW2 radio and radar systems and in particular for the full-size Lancaster bomber cockpit which took him six years to build and install at the museum, it has attracted many visitors.

Over the years Norman took on several vacancies until a permanent replacement was found, it may surprise some members to hear that he held the offices of treasurer and membership secretary from 2005 until 2008. He became Deputy Chairman in 2008 and has held that post until his recent retirement.

Under Norman's managership the museum has progressed from a slightly disorganised collection of rooms and artefacts to the successful and popular rural life museum we have today. Open day visitor numbers back in the early 2000s were 900 a year with an income of £6k, now in 2017 we had 3200 visitors with an income of £30k.

All Norman's colleagues at the Museum thank him for his tireless work and the help and guidance he has given over the years and we are sure that all the Society's members wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

### **John Youngs**

### **Joan Double 1931 – 2018**

Joan and I started helping in the catering department at Pitstone Green Farm Museum nearly 20 years ago. Joan knew Mike Sear who was chairman and also lived in Buckland and he asked if she would like to help out. She then asked me and so we started together. At the time Helen Hickson was in charge and she was quite strict about the way things were done. We are more relaxed these days.



Although we were unable to attend many of the Thursday evening meetings as we both had other commitments we always came to the antiques and hobbies evenings and the Christmas social.

Joan had a hip replacement in 2017 which meant she was unable to help for much of the year. She was hoping to return in 2018 but sadly was diagnosed with cancer, although she did manage to bring the hard boiled eggs and make the rolls for the first few open days.

Joan led a very full life and had many interests including singing, amateur dramatics, tennis, swimming and had recently started playing canasta. Over 150 people attended Joan's funeral. She was very popular due to her kind nature and happy personality. She is very much missed by her family and friends.

### **Cathy Terry**

## **Arthur John Davis of Aldbury (known to us as John) 1925-2018**

We are reporting the passing of John who died in May. He was a long standing member of the Society which originally was called Pitstone Local History Society.

**Brenda Grace**

## **Murray Fieldhouse (1925-2018)**

I learned today of the death of Murray Fieldhouse, an important figure in post-war studio pottery who edited the magazine Pottery Quarterly, the first periodical on the subject, which came out irregularly from the mid-1950s to the early 1980s. He was also one of the founder members of the Craft Potters Association.

Murray was born in 1925, and after an unconventional wartime national service, when he became a pacifist, he alighted on the crafts as a way of living out his Utopian and anti-establishment ideals. The choice of pottery came later. He served an apprenticeship with Harry Davis in Cornwall, who was also an anti-establishment Utopian, but more austere in his habits than Murray, who was well-known for his enjoyment of life.

In the 1950s, Murray ran Pendley Manor, an education centre in Hertfordshire to which he invited most of the top names in studio pottery to demonstrate. When I was researching the life of Dora Billington, he gave me some photos of her demonstrating there.

Pottery Quarterly in its early days contained reviews of everything that was happening in British pottery and it is an important record of the period, but Murray was a fierce advocate of the Leach style of pottery and his reviews of exhibitions by potters who didn't follow it became harsher over the years. Nevertheless, he was a close friend of William Newland, who was not in the Leach circle and didn't like his artistic dominance.

Another of Murray's initiatives was the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild, of which he remained honorary president until 2009, when he retired and the job passed to Mervyn Fitzwilliam.

**Marshall Colman (28/08/2018)**

(Wordpress site:- <https://marshallcolman.blog/2018/08/28/murray-fieldhouse/>)

## **Membership**

Membership of PIMS stands at 163. There are just a handful of people who have not renewed this year and I have inserted a form in this newsletter to remind you. Thanks to GDPR, PIMS cannot store your personal details without your permission, so this will be the final reminder as, without your approval, we will have to delete your information from our database.

**Bill Barnard Membership Secretary**

## **The Bucks Herald**

Following on from the last newsletter we continue with parts four and five of this interesting article.. Please remember this is written in the English of the early 1900's.

### **The Bucks Herald, Saturday, August 31, 1918**

#### **SOME BUCKS LOCAL NAMES:**

The Personal Element (4).

Simon Passelew is chiefly noted for his deceitful, underhand proceedings in endeavouring to obtain for the King a large sum of money from the Abbots of Westminster. St. Albans, Reading, and Waltham, in which, however, he was unsuccessful.

LILLINGSTONE DAYRELL. This name supplies us with an instance of a double personal appellation, Lillingstone being the "tun" or settlement of the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon Lillo. The Dayrells were connected with Lillingstone from Norman times to within recent years. They were at first sub-tenants of the Manor, which came into their own possession about the end of the 13th century; but they appear to have exercised the rights of owners for at least a hundred years before that time.

LILLINGSTONE LOVELL, another portion of the original settlement of the Lillings, was, until 1844, a detached portion of Oxfordshire. The Manor came into the possession of the Lovells about the middle of the 14th century, before which it had been known as Lillingstone Dautesy, from the family to whom Edward I. granted it in the early years of his reign. The Lovells also held the Manor of Deyncourt in Wooburn, and gave their name to Minster Lovell in Oxfordshire, which was their principal seat.

MAIDS MORETON. This village derived the distinguishing prefix to its name from two maiden sisters of the Peyvre or Peover family, to whose munificence we are indebted for the most beautiful Perpendicular Church in the county.

MARSH GIBBON. The manor here was held by the Gibwen or Gibbewine family in the 12th century, but they do not appear to have retained it for any length of time.

MILTON KEYNES. The manor came into the possession of the family from whom it obtained its distinguishing affix by the marriage of Hugh de Keynes with Amabel, heiress of the Beverills, who had previously held it. The Keynes, like Fitz-Count of Wycombe, were among the staunch supporters of the Empress Matilda in her struggle against King Stephen. At the battle of Lincoln, in 1141, the King was defeated, deserted by his troops, and left alone on the battlefield. He defended himself bravely against his assailants, whom he repulsed with his battle-axe, and, says Roger of Wendover, "if there had been a hundred like him, he would not have been taken captive, since even he alone was with difficulty overcome by a host of foes." he was taken prisoner by William de Keynes, but he haughtily refused to surrender himself to a knight, so Robert, Earl of Gloucester, the leader of Matilda's forces was fetched, and to him the King submitted himself. He was sent first to Gloucester, and then imprisoned in Bristol castle. Milton remained in possession of the Keynes until the beginning of the 14th century.

NEWPORT PAGNELL. At the time of the Domesday Survey Newport belonged to William Fitz-Ansculf, and the Manor passed by the marriage of his daughter, Beatrice,

to Fulk Pagnell. His grandson, Gervase, was another of the Bucks knights who upheld the cause of the Empress Matilda, and he fortified the castle of Ludlow against King Stephen. At the beginning of 1139, Stephen invaded Scotland, and by fire and sword compelled the King of that country to come to terms, and to give his son Henry, Earl of Northumberland, as a hostage. Stephen then returned to England, and on his way laid siege to Ludlow Castle, which under Gervase Pagnell made an obstinate and successful resistance. In one of the attacks the Scottish Prince, approaching too near the walls, was caught by an iron hook thrown out from the castle, dragged from his horse, and almost captured; but King Stephen with his characteristic bravery, rushed to the spot, and rescued him with his own hands at the imminent peril of his own life. The castle, however, soon after fell into the hands of the King. Newport was carried by the marriage of the heiress of the Pagnells, Hawise, daughter of the above Gervase, to the family of Somery.

NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE. The Blossomvilles held the Manor in the reign of Henry I., but it passed from them about 1264, by marriage, to the Druels.

CHESHAM BOIS. The family of De Bosco or Bois possessed the manor from very early times down to about 1445. The personal is gradually ousting the local part of the name among the inhabitants of the village and neighbourhood.

ISELHAMPSTEAD was the Anglo-Saxon homestead along the valley of the stream which is now generally called the Chess. Being divided into two separate Manors they obtained their distinguishing names from the families which owned them - the Cheynes and Latimers - hence we have the double names of Iselhampstead Chenies and Iselhampstead Latimer. In each of these instances the personal part of the name has entirely superseded the local and the villages are now spoken of as Chenies and Latimer.

### **The Bucks Herald, Saturday, September 7, 1918**

#### **SOME BUCKS LOCAL NAMES:**

The Personal Element (5).

PRESTON BISSET. The family from whom this village acquired its distinguishing affix became possessed of the manor upon the forfeiture of Bishop Odo's estates, and they held it for about 200 years, when it was sold by William Bisset, in 1290, to Hugh de Broc. One or two members of the family figure in English history. In 1238, while the royal family was residing at the Old Palace of Woodstock, an assassin named William Marsh, who pretended to be insane, made an attempt one night upon the king's life. Margaret Bisset, one of the ladies in attendance upon Queen Eleanor, not being able to sleep, was sitting up reading the Psalms by the light of a candle. Hearing the intruder searching the private rooms for the king, and seeing him pass from one apartment to another, she raised a great outcry, which awoke the king's attendants, who seized the would-be assassin. The king was at first inclined to let him go, believing him to be really insane; but on the fact being established that he was one of a murderous gang, he was put to a terrible death at Coventry. Margaret founded a nunnery, of which she became the patroness, but where I have not been able to discover. She died in 1242.

Henry III., like other weak monarchs, had many favourites, chiefly foreigners, and by his influence it was arranged that some of them should be successful at a tournament which was to be held by Peter of Savoy, Earl of Richmond. In this scheme he was supported by John Bisset and Gilbert Basset and many others, but wiser counsels prevailing, the king forbade the tournament. Bisset died in 1241. In 1242 Walter Bisset was worsted in a tournament by his antagonist, Patrick Fitz-Thomas, of Galway, upon whom he took unjust vengeance by setting fire to the building in which he was sleeping. Fitz-Thomas and many of his friends who were then with him were burned to death.

STANTONBURY. This is an instance, in which, if I may so express it, is contained a hidden personal affix, for "bury" has been evolved from Barré or Barry, the name of the family descended from Ralph, the subfeudatory of Milo Crispin, on whom the Norman Conqueror bestowed the Manor. They held the estate for over 300 years, and they also had possessions in Great Billing, near Northampton; but their place of residence was in Bucks, of which, however, there are now no remains. The old Manor House of Stanton stood not far from St. Peter's Church. Some members of this family deserve to be briefly noticed. Robert Barre was Knight of the Shire for Bucks in 1296; and for Northants in 1318. Another Robert represented Bucks in 1361. Petronilla, daughter and heiress of William Barre, the last male held the Manor, carried the estate by marriage to Hugh Boveton, of Yardley Gobion, in Northants. Richard de Barre was, perhaps, the most illustrious of the family. He was in high favour with Henry II., who commissioned him to proceed to Rome as a special messenger to carry a letter from the king respecting his struggle with Archbishop Becket. He was also instructed to explain by word of mouth other matters which Henry wished to be communicated to the Pope. After the murder of Becket, Henry sent another letter by the hands of Barre to the Pope, but he met with a different kind of reception this time. The king's messenger was neither admitted to an interview with the Pope, nor did others show any kindness or civility to him, treatment which caused him great anxiety and trouble.

In 1189 the Kings of France and England took the cross, and Richard Barre was as an ambassador to the Emperors of Rome and Constantinople, respecting a free passage for those two monarchs, who arrived at Messina in the October of the following year.

WESTON TURVILLE. The Turvilles are presumed to have been the descendants of that Roger who was subfeudatory to Bishop Odo, and become owner of the estate after the forfeiture of Odo's property. The family remained in possession of the Manor till late in the reign of Henry III.

BOW BRICKHILL. The distinguishing member of this name is supposed to have been derived from the family of Boel or Bouel. The parish is called Bolle Brickhill in early documents.

STOKE. As nearly as I can ascertain there are no less than 54 places in England known by this name, of which four are situated within this county, while there are several others in which it forms a part, and it occasionally appears under the form of "stock." The frequency with which this term is found among our local names is plainly indicative of the fondness of the Anglo-Saxons for the stockade as a protection for their settlements. Our four Buckinghamshire Stokes received their personal appellations from the families of Goldington, Mandeville, Hammond, and Poges respectively.



I think I have now noticed all the double local names of Bucks in which the personal element is prominent and is derived from post-Conquest owners of the Manors. They are for the most part Norman-French origin; but there are several other places the names of which are to be traced to those of the Anglo-Saxon settlers, in some cases to an individual, in others to a clan or family.

**(Old County Gaol in Buckingham, now the Buckingham Old Gaol Museum)**



BUCKINGHAM. It is only right to begin this part of the subject with the name of the town from which the county obtained its designation when Mercia was divided into shires or shares about the commencement of the 9th century. The word Buckingham, although its etymology is very obvious, has given rise to many speculations in reference to its derivation and meaning. It may, perhaps, be of interest to enumerate the different opinions which have been advanced in regard to it. Camden, the learned antiquary, who flourished towards the close of the 16th century, derives the name from Bucken (Ang.-Sax. *boc*=beech trees). This, however, is erroneous; for, although beech trees do abound in some parts of Bucks, yet they are found remote from the old county town, and the soil in its neighbourhood is not favourable to their growth. Sir Henry Spelman derives the name from "Buccen," signifying bucks or deer. This, although far from being a satisfactory solution, is a much better conjecture than Camden's, for the town was once doubtless surrounded by an extensive forest, well stocked with deer. The Messrs. Lysons, while expressing a preference for Spelman's opinion, offer what they consider a more satisfactory etymology. They observe "that charter lands were anciently called by the Saxons 'bock-land,' in contradistinction to copyholds, which were called 'Folk-land.'" In Domesday Book and other records, they continue, "the county town is called 'Bockingham.' Many villages of the name of Buckland occur in various parts of the kingdom, all of which are called in old records 'Boch-land,' that is, literally, charter-land."

**SIGMA (Research by Bill Barnard) (to be continued)**

**The Bucks Herald, October 7, 1848** Elizabeth Rolfe was charged by John Hawkins, with taking away some cow dung, from Pitstone Common.-Mr. Hawkins said the parishioners and vestry had come to a resolution of punishing any one they found taking any dung away from the Common, as it impoverished the land.-The defendant said she only took two or three pieces of dry cow dung to burn, and thought it no harm, as others were allowed to do so.-Mr. Hawkins said he did not wish to press the charge.-She was allowed to depart on promising to pay the expenses, which were 7s., before the next meeting.

## **Programme Report**

### **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. Please note the November AGM starts at 7.30.

#### **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 to do your bit. Jeff Travis has agreed to talk to us about his experiences during his stint of National Service. .

#### **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**

### **FRONT COVER**

Pete Farrar welcomes Stephen Hearn to Our Antiques Evening.

### **BACK COVER**

Pitstone Green Museum's table at the Buckinghamshire Family History Society's Open Day held in July.

**Date for your diary**  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Model T Owners club

**Open Days 2019**

Easter Monday 22nd April  
Early Spring B.H. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Spring B.H. Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August  
Summer B.H. Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October

**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.

**Committee Officers:-**

**Chairman**

John Childs **01582 833501**

**Deputy Chairman**

Position vacant

**Treasurer**

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**Secretary**

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**Programme Secretary**

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Tony and Jill Baxter

**Computer Records Officer**

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**Dancers**

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**Holding Trustees:-**

**John Wallis**

**William Hawkins**

**John Youngs**

**Sue Lipscomb**



**Pitstone Green Museum's table at the Bucks Family History Society's Open Day held in July 2018**

*Picture Bill Barnard*

**Left, Brenda Grace. Right, Bill and Sandra Barnard.**

*Picture by Aylesbury photographer Ron Adams*



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