



A Grand Day Out

On Sunday 22nd July a group of members descended on a quiet corner of Buckinghamshire to visit the Chiltern Open Air Museum. We were treated to another gloriously hot and sunny day, and certainly made the most of it.

The museum was originally opened in 1981 by a group of volunteers who wanted to rescue endangered buildings and restore them to their former glory. Today the museum has 35 buildings in its collection, spread out over half a mile of Buckinghamshire countryside.

Some of the buildings, like the Caversham Public Convenience, are still used for their original purpose. Whilst others, like the Garston Forge, have been restored and displayed as they would have been in their heyday.

It was a really interesting day out and well worth a visit if you were unfortunate enough not to go on the day.

Some of the highlights include:



Haddenham Croft Cottage - Originally built in the 1830s. The walls are made of a special type of local earth called Wychert.



Iron Age Roundhouse - Built using data from an archaeological dig near Dunstable.
High Wycombe Toll House - Originally built in 1826 for the Collector of Tolls on the London to Oxford road at High Wycombe.



Sewell Nissen Hut - Donated to the museum from a farm in Sewell, but the original location, use, and age of the hut remains a mystery.

- Matthew Hathaway

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Dates For Your Diary

- September Newsletter Submissions Deadline
31st August
- Heritage Open Day
8th September
see page 5
- Chesterton Village Walk
9th September
- AGM & Extraordinary Women Talk
17th September - 7:30pm
see page 6
- Aynho Village Walk
23rd September

AVAILABLE NOW!

Our latest DVD, **Bicester's Buildings**, is on sale now. See the website for more details.



AGM Notice

Our AGM is on Monday 17th September at 7:30pm at the Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. If you would like to add an item to the agenda or make a nomination for the committee (or find out more about committee membership or membership of our volunteers groups), please contact Chairman, Bob Hessian (01869 350662) or chairman@blhs.org.uk by 3rd September.

Bygone Bicester (Taken from the Bicester Advertiser)

11th August 1882

TAKING A LIBERTY - In olden times the greatest possible liberty existed in and around Charlton-on-Otmoor as to the depasturing of cattle, and it seems as if the remembrance of the "good old times" had hardly faded from the memories of some of the Charltonians, for we find two of them appearing before the Bicester bench of magistrates this week on a charge of allowing their cattle to stray.

The Bench did not find it in their hearts to fine one hapless farmer - the Otmoor farmers have been hapless enough of late years - and after a strict caution he was allowed to depart in peace, and graze his herd in his oft-flooded pastures as best he could.

Unfortunately, however, for the other horse-wandering-owner, he was to be plucked, and there is hardly a shadow of a doubt, that his wife was quite prepared to receive him with good grace although not so rich by some eighteen shillings as when he left home in the morning. The better half is sometimes the more shrewd half, and when the Police Constable appeared she at once rushed to a conclusion which Friday evening's information proved to be too true.

The path of life is often strewn with thorns, but Charltonians may learn this lesson, that their parish is now inclosed, and that a Police Constable often passes through, whose duty it is to keep domestic cattle from wandering too far from home.

28th August 1908

NEW CATTLE MARKET - Subject to the approval of the Board of Agriculture a site for the new market has been selected by the Urban District Council. It is situated near Victoria Place, and when the suggested alterations are made it is considered an admirable one, being about equi-distant both from the North-Western and the Great Western Stations.

The vendors are Messrs. Wells Brothers, who have accepted the offer of £300 for the field containing two acres, and a portion of their yard premises for the widening of the entrance.

The Board of Agriculture have extended their order for the holding of the markets in the streets until the 1st of December next.

5th August 1932

HAPPY TIME AT BICESTER - Browninged by the sun and glorying in the open air, 62 London children are spending a perfectly happy holiday in Bicester for a month under the care of Mrs Mattie Cohen, Miss Anne Royce and Mr Saul Amias.

The youngsters have been very fortunate in having the

assistance of Mr Fred Hudson, the local correspondent, who has been of great help to the party in looking after their comfort generally. They have also received special kindness from Mr and Mrs Tom Busby, of Buckingham Road, who have given them the use of two extensive private fields and have erected a tent on their lawn which is made the headquarters for distributing the milk, of which every child has half-a-pint each morning, fish and meat.

Mr and Mrs Busby have also helped considerably with tea parties and are happy to be of every possible assistance to make the children contented; which is much appreciated by the Country Children's Holiday Fund. Mr C.T. Hoare, J.P., of Bignell Park, has again kindly given a generous donation, which has enabled the children to go to Oxford - an outing thoroughly enjoyed by all - and to have a big tea party.

At Oxford Station the other day the party was met by Alderman Brown, who conducted them through some of the colleges and then, with Councillor Skipper and Mr Brown jnr, took them across the river to bask in the sunshine on a University house-boat where a sing-song was conducted. Snapshots were taken with the camera which Mr Brown jnr presented to Mr Amias last year. The party then visited some more of the colleges and were delighted to feed the deer in Christ Church meadows, they then had a sumptuous tea at the Oriel Restaurant.

Yesterday, through the kindness of Squadron-Leader Allingham George, M.C., the party visited the Bicester RAF Station and an instructive morning was spent by all. Flying-Officer Johnson took a machine up specially for the children's benefit and had a parachute opened and shut, a sight which the kiddies will long remember.

Mr and Mrs Tom Hudson, the Misses Hudson, Dr Montgomery, Miss Mountain, Miss Ada Berridge, and a host of other kindly Bicester folk gladly participate in giving the children a splendid holiday each year, so that they may return to their London homes fit to withstand the coming winter. It has been remarked that during the past two years the children have been very orderly and are making a good impression in the town. Bicester people gave a cordial welcome to the juveniles, who are looking much healthier already and the country air is doing them a great deal of good.

9th August 1957

HIGHFIELD FETE A HUGE SUCCESS - Nothing daunts the determined, enterprising committee and members of the Highfield Social Club. After two unfortunate years their hard work and determination has paid off with this year's fete being a huge success. Nearly 1,400 people attended during the afternoon.



The show and fete were officially opened at 2pm by Christine Archer (Miss Lesley Saweard of the BBC series “The Archers”) who was supported on the platform by Mrs M. Coker (President) and Lord and Lady Kilmarnock.

Mrs Coker said she had been in from the start of the Club, started as a result of the success of the Coronation celebrations in 1953. She was delighted with the progress that had been made, and with the good spirit which prevailed.

As Miss Saweard rose to prolonged cheering to declare the fete open, the signature tune of “The Archers” was played on the public address system. She said she was mostly certain that the weather would be good, it always had been at other fetes she had opened, and felt sure her luck would hold for that day.

She amused the company with her description of some of the characters which took part in the series “The Archers”, making special reference to her two “dreadful” brothers! She said she intended to have a go at all the sideshows and urged everyone to follow her example.

Tribute to Pam Chivers

Pam Chivers passed away on Monday 6th August after being diagnosed with a terminal illness in February this year.

Pam was well known to many a BLHS member for over ten years. She was well loved and respected and made a large contribution to the society helping out at monthly meetings serving tea and coffee, assisting at events and on occasions as speaker at the monthly meetings. She was particularly active in contributing to note taking at Bicester Oral History recording sessions.

I first met Pam when she and Pete became my next-door neighbours in 1982. At that time she was a teacher in Tackley Primary School but later moved on to work at Oxford University. She loved learning new things and had many hobbies. She belonged to several associations in Bicester, fitted in and gave her best with her good organising skills. She was secretary to Bucknell WI until moving to Derbyshire two and a half years ago. Her well thought out plans for their new home came to fruition and they were very happy there. She told me it was a good move.

Pam will be sadly missed by so many. I value the memory of my years of friendship with her; that warm welcome

into her home to so many, her kind hospitality; her advice and her sense of humour and fun - her enthusiasm for all life brings. She was taken away far too soon.



- Marjorie Dean MBE

Roll of Honour

The following are the local men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month.

Private Richard James House, of Stratton Audley.

Died: 08th August 1918 Aged: 28 Served in: Norfolk Regiment

Bombardier Bertram Kirtland, of Merton.

Died: 10th August 1918 Aged: 28 Served in: Canadian Field Artillery

Captain Horatio Alfred Fane, of Bicester House.

Died: 11th August 1918 Aged: 34 Served in: Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars

Private Edwin Edmunds, of Ambrosden.

Died: 12th August 1918 Aged: 23 Served in: Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars

Private Alfred James Neal, of Bletchingdon.

Died: 12th August 1918 Aged: 19 Served in: Royal West Surrey Regiment

Private Ernest George Butler, of Weston-on-the-Green.

Died: 24th August 1918 Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment

Private Christopher Walton, of Kirtlington.

Died: 24th August 1918 Aged: 20 Served in: Royal Lancaster Regiment

Private John Walter Fathers, of Hethe.

Died: 26th August 1918 Aged: 18 Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment

Private Albert Edward Mitchell, of Ardley.

Died: 26th August 1918 Aged: 20 Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment

Private Walter George Hathaway, of Chesterton.

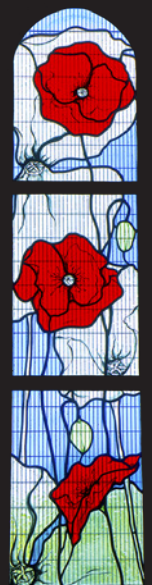
Died: 28th August 1918 Aged: 19 Served in: Worcestershire Regiment

Private William Joseph Jeacock, of Bicester.

Died: 29th August 1918 Aged: 20 Served in: Devonshire Regiment

Private George Marriott, of Launton.

Died: 29th August 1918 Served in: Royal Berkshire Regiment



Summer Walks

We have now completed our two countryside walks for this year. A circular route from Chesterton to Wendlebury and back on the 5th August and a slightly more hilly circular walk from Aynho to Souldern and back on the 19th August.

In contrast to previous years both days were blessed with warm, sunny and, above all, dry weather. We're all very grateful to John Roberts for leading the two walks, his experience with the ramblers once again proving invaluable.

After working up quite an appetite it's always nice to sit down for some refreshments, and both walks ended with delicious cream teas that we are all looking forward to re-visiting next month with the village walks.

Places are still available on our two village history walks so if you are interested in joining us the please get in touch.

We will be visiting Chesterton on Sunday 9th September and Aynho on Sunday 23rd September.

- Matthew Hathaway



St. Edburg's Church

Heritage Open Day

Saturday September 8th 2018

10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The Extraordinary Women of Bicester

Refreshments all day

A FREE EVENT

friends, workers, daughters, pioneers,
mothers, neighbours, sisters, grandmothers
come and help celebrate the extraordinary
women of Bicester by sharing their stories

ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that we hope will prove very interesting.

Monday 17th September

Our AGM is followed by a talk by St Edburg's Heritage Group on **The Extraordinary Women of Bicester.**

Monday 15th October

Mark Davis tells us about **"The Bicester Gang" and Other Stories of Oxford Castle.**

Monday 19th November

Stephen Barker comes to talk us through **Oxfordshire in 50 Objects.**

Godington & Poundon's WW2 Secrets Talk

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) was launched by Winston Churchill in July 1940. It was a secret force whose purpose was to conduct clandestine operations behind enemy lines with the help of local partisans. A method of communicating with its agents in occupied countries was established by equipping agents with portable Morse radio sets and by setting up secret radio stations in England.

The first of these radio stations was in Grendon Underwood. A large house had been requisitioned by the Secret Service, but was handed over to the SOE in October 1942 and became known as Station 53(a).

As the war progressed, Grendon became inadequate to deal with the SOE's increased activity. Consequently, a new receiving station was sited at Poundon (53b) and housed Morse code operators and coders. Its transmitter was at Godington (53c), a position chosen for its isolation. The remains of the transmitter building still exists.

These facilities were conveniently placed for London and Bletchley Park and controlled from headquarters in Baker Street. Agents were recruited and trained in special units which gave them expertise in unarmed combat, explosives and wireless communication. The radio stations were staffed by army signallers and by women who were technically part of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANYs), but who were, in fact, highly trained coders.

The idea of the SOE was, in Churchill's words, "to set Europe ablaze", but it was not without its detractors:



1. There was opposition from MI6.
2. Exiled foreign governments, operating from the UK, wanted exclusive control of activities in their own countries. This was particularly true of General De Gaulle in France.
3. The RAF and other military groups mistrusted the SOE.
4. The effect of reprisals was often counterproductive. Agents worked in conditions of extreme danger and could only transmit/receive for short periods and at agreed times, to avoid detection by the enemy's direction-finding equipment.

The effectiveness of the SOE is hard to evaluate, but it had notable success with the destruction of the Telemark heavy water plant in Norway and the Peugeot factory, which was producing aircraft parts.

Poundon closed on 6 July 1945, and although it was manned by the Royal Signals during the Cold War, records from that period are not available. - Sally James

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