



# REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

**Friends of the Museum Newsletter**

**Summer 2016  
Issue 113**

## IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

Currently we have 28 Museum Friends who have not renewed their memberships. This is a surprisingly high number and we hope that everyone is intending to re-join and that the relevant paperwork has simply got lost in your respective "IN trays".

If you are not sure if you have paid, please contact John, the membership secretary - details on back page - who will gladly check the records for you. We really don't want to lose anyone!

### Museum Re-opening on 28th May

We made it! After a lot of hard work by the trustees, we got the two downstairs rooms ready to open to the public as planned.

The far walls in the 'office' and Occupations Room are back to bare brick to let them thoroughly dry out. The plan is to check for dampness in around a year's time and then to re-plaster once more. However...the "bare brick look" is now beginning to appeal to us and we may suggest leaving it like that to save more upheaval - and money!

Come and have a look and see what you think?

### *Voluntary Assistants Required*

*Sadly, four of our  
voluntary assistants  
have decided to retire  
after many years of  
wonderful service.  
This means our rota is  
rather depleted.*

*If you enjoy meeting  
people and can spare  
a couple of hours now  
and then, please do  
contact Alan Lindfield,  
who will organise  
training although you  
will always be on duty  
with another steward.*

*Tel: 01582 792159  
Alan will be delighted  
to hear from you!*

**Email: [RedbournMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:RedbournMuseum@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.RedbournVillage.org.uk](http://www.RedbournVillage.org.uk)**

## Roy Craske's Talk - Saturday 30th April

Once again, Roy gave a very well constructed talk, this year featuring the 1600's. In addition to the talk Roy had also prepared a quiz involving identification of the main characters of the century with clever clues alongside the pictures of the people.

As usual the talk was very well attended and we thank Roy for the many hours of research he must have done to cover the topic so expertly.



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## Village Trail & Quiz For Children (& Adults)

We have a new village trail available at the museum (only £1) which involves a stroll around Redbourn answering clues at various locations. Initial response has been encouraging with very positive comments being fed back to us. We intend to persuade a willing volunteer to go round the trail to check the exact distance, and estimate the time needed to cover it.

In the Occupations Room, as many of you will know, we have a multi-drawer cabinet from the old village pharmacy. This is now full of weird and wonderful historical objects collected by our trustees for a few pounds each item. We have a quiz sheet for children to try and identify what the objects were originally used for. It's as well that we have an answer sheet as there are certainly more than a few very obscure things in there!

## Steam Day At The Museum - Sunday 10th July

It rained. For the first time in its 14 year history we had some serious showers during the early afternoon. Serves us right for moving it from its traditional Fathers Day slot?

The second half of the afternoon was sunny and brought out the crowds so that although we had fewer visitors than usual, the day was certainly not a disaster, with everyone enjoying themselves.

The trustees thank Tring Brewery for generously supplying beer for the engine drivers and the exhibitors from St.Albans Model Engineering Society. We also thank Colin and Debbie at The Cricketers for storing the beer in their cellar for us until the day.



Finally, a huge "THANK YOU" to Sandy Ross and his friends for bringing their engines to the museum, and to the great team from St.Albans Model Engineering Society for all their hard work setting up their exhibits and providing train rides throughout the day even during the showers. Hope to see you all again next year.

## Visit By The Brownies - Monday 13th June

We were delighted to welcome Redbourn Brownies to the museum for an evening visit. The girls were split into two groups with one group seeing some of Mr Heather's films of Coronation Day with sports on the common, while the other group found out about straw plaiting, and then explored the new discovery boxes in the pharmacy cabinet. After orange squash and biscuits, the two groups swapped over.

Thanks go to Penny Dear for arranging the visit which we hope we can repeat in the future.



Matt the monk enjoying Mr Heather's film



Washing day demonstration



Dressing up - of course!



Your Editor explaining the difference between stocks and pillories

(Thanks to Penny for taking the photograph and arranging for permission to publish it)

## Open Gardens Weekend - 18th/19th June

A rota of volunteers manned the museum to sell programmes over the weekend of the Open Gardens scheme. Around £600 was taken which made the whole thing worthwhile.



Not quite Wimbledon - but not a bad effort by our gardening team?

The groundsman's reward can be seen on the table.

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## Anglia In Bloom Judging - Wednesday 6th July

The judges came to the village and visited the museum where they were welcomed by Stan Hunt, one of the gardening team. Results to follow later in the year...

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## Afternoon Of Dance - Sunday 11th September, 2 pm - 5 pm

The dance group English Miscellany will be coming to the museum to perform Playford Dances from the 17th Century, and will be in spectacular 17th Century costumes as well.

We are delighted to welcome them, and we have the added attraction of musicians from the Redbourn Folk Club performing in between English Miscellany's dancing.

Tickets available on the gate: Adults £2, Friends of the museum and children £1

# Redbourn Tea

Article from Common Round - December 1961

A dull autumn morning was enlivened for the Parish Councillors recently by a note, in verse, from their Clerk, summoning them to visit the premises of Messrs. Brooke Bond on East Common. Whether the hope of a free 'cuppa' was the incentive will never be known, but the council turned out almost to a man (which term includes woman), plus a selection of wives.

The visitors were welcomed by Mr. David Brooke (a genuine "Brooke Bond" Brooke), and split into small parties, each in the care of an official guide. Whatever criticism may be levelled at the outside of the factory, it would be difficult to find fault with the interior.

One has the immediate impression of a spaciousness and light and even in some parts, an aesthetic touch, surprising in such a strictly utilitarian building.

The new factory is essentially a tea blending and packing station. The many grades of tea, of which no fewer than twenty-six make up a typical blend, arrive on the ground floor in the familiar plywood cases, which are attacked and beheaded in lightning fashion by a small band of men working with almost Dervish-like frenzy. The opened cases are conveyed by hoist to the floor above, where their contents after being freed from dust and foreign bodies of all sorts, are placed in proper proportions in huge mixers, which do their stuff for a 'statutory' nine or ten minutes.

The now blended tea is conveyed in great pipes to packing machines occupying the central part of the ground floor, and attended by brightly clad girls. These machines form the packages from the paper blanks, place therein an exact quarter pound of tea and, not forgetting to insert a picture card of the current series, deftly fold the mouth of the innermost bag, close and seal the packet and apply one of the well-known 'brand' wrappers.

The keynote of the whole series of operations is automation. For example, any stage of a packing machine will refuse to accept a package coming to it in imperfect condition, even if the imperfection is merely the omission of the picture card; and the huge sliding doors of the loading bay are power operated and fitted with safety devices. But the human touch is preserved! The packages are assembled into parcels by hand.

The proceedings - and the visitors - were rounded off by a repast of Brooke Bond tea and coffee accompanied by satisfying sandwiches and delectable sticky cakes.

Only a feeling of shame at having kept a willing staff at work so long finally stimulated the visitors to move from the attractive canteen.

Many thanks to both management and workers who made possible such an interesting occasion.

## Outing To Stratford On Avon - Thursday 15th September

All 49 seats on the coach have been sold, and we have a waiting list of 7 people!

Thank you to everyone for supporting the trip so enthusiastically. We hope for good weather especially for the afternoon canal and river trip.

Here's a few expressions in current use originated with the man from Stratford - on - Avon.

Shakespeare - isms:

Wear your heart on your sleeve. Spotless reputation. Come what may. Mum's the word. For goodness' sake. Neither here nor there. Eaten out of house and home. In stitches. Knock knock Who's there? With bated breath. A wild goose chase. A heart of gold. Too much of a good thing. Dead as a doornail. Not slept a wink. The world's mine oyster. Send him packing. Vanish into thin air. Own flesh and blood. Refuse to budge an inch.

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## New Display Cabinet

The Occupations Room has a glorious new display cabinet following the disposal of a couple of very old and damaged wooden display cases.

It was quite a job to assemble in the confined space - and is very heavy once in one piece.



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from:

Redbourn Parish Council



Adviceworks Ltd



Aubrey Park Hotel



Austin Trueman Associates



Changing Views

Country Styles

Dane End Farm

Halls Vehicle Services

Halsey (Builders) Ltd

HausKraft Ltd

J & P Dairy Ltd

Hertfordshire County Show



Little Revel End Kennels



Phillips Funeral Services Ltd

Print Force

R. S. Harding Ltd



Redbourn Cars

Redbourn Electrical Contractors

The Bike Loft



The Cricketers Public House

The Miller Group of Companies



Tring Brewery



Wall Street Interiors

## Contact Us

Redbourn Village Museum  
Silk Mill House  
The Common  
Redbourn  
Herts. AL3 7NB

Patron: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon

Museum open February to November  
Saturday & Sunday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Last admission 4:30pm

Tel: 01582 793397

Email: [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at:

[www.redbournvillage.org.uk](http://www.redbournvillage.org.uk)

(Website under construction at present)

Museum Trustees:

Peter Fox:	Chairman
VACANCY:	Deputy Chairman
Pauline Allcroft:	Secretary
Maria Maynard:	Curator
Diane Whiskin:	Assistant Curator
Sandra Langstone:	Treasurer
Ian Caldwell:	Parish Council Liaison
Alan Lindfield:	Exhibits Display Advisor
Geoff Webb:	Local & Family Historian
Susan Aldridge:	Procurement Officer
Pauline Ridgwell:	Minutes Secretary Events Committee Chair
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