



REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

Friends of the Museum Newsletter

**Summer 2017
Issue 117**

Alan Featherstone

The trustees regret to announce the death of Alan Featherstone who was a founder member of the museum and was Honorary Curator for a great many years. Further details on Page 3.

Subscription Reminder

Is this your last newsletter?

Subscriptions are now overdue.

Unfortunately we have a number of museum friends who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2017 - 2018.

Museum Friends - 14 Not renewed

Museum Business Friends - 5 Not renewed

We don't want to lose your valuable friendship and support.

If you have renewed your membership you will have received a new membership card by email if you receive the newsletter electronically, or with this issue if you subscribe to a paper copy of the newsletter.

If you are not sure if you have renewed, or have mislaid your renewal form, please contact John Ridgwell whose details are listed on the back page of this newsletter. Many thanks.

Parish Council

Liaison Officer

We are delighted to welcome Cllr. David Mitchell as our new Liaison Officer and thank Cllr. Ian Caldwell for his years of service to your museum.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- This year's outing
- A new exhibition
- Trip Advisor comments
- Recent events
- Future events!

Email: RedbournMuseum@gmail.com Website: www.RedbournVillage.org.uk

New Email Programme

I have just changed my email programme (not my email address), for those who might be interested - from Windows Live Mail to Windows Office 365 Outlook. I was fed up with Live Mail randomly deleting email addresses from my distribution lists. All seems to be well with Outlook but it was a mammoth task to re-enter all your addresses into the new system.

Hopefully I have them all correct and you've received this newsletter. If you haven't received it, please let me know. **Now that's not going to work is it!** Fingers crossed it is then.

Museum Chimney

Thanks to help from Nish Khanna at the Parish Council, the chimney cap has been refitted and despite recent high winds, all is well. Our jackdaws will have to find somewhere else to nest in future.

Skillman Gallery

The upstairs Skillman Gallery has been redecorated and will be open to visitors by the time you read this. This completes our programme of decorating the inside and outside of the museum - so it must be about time to start all over again.

Guiding Exhibition

The first new exhibition in and around our Community Cabinet in the Skillman Gallery will be one celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Redbourn Guides, one of the oldest groups in the country. As this will probably occur between newsletters, we will send an email to let you know when the exhibition is open.

STOP PRESS - The exhibition is unexpectedly in place already! See page 8 for details...

King Charles I Medal

We have it! It's at the museum! Our Procurement Officer is sourcing a suitable display cabinet for the medal and two further items discovered in Church End. One is a medieval reckoning counter or jetton dating from AD1325 and the other is a post-medieval button with glass inset dating from AD1600 - 1800.

Alan Featherstone

We were very sad indeed to learn that Alan had passed away at Orchard House nursing home on Sunday 18th June. Alan had lived in Redbourn since 1954 and he and his wife, Mary downsized from their home in Crouch Hall Gardens to accommodation in Pondsmeade a few years ago. Alan remained cheerful but struggled after Mary passed away and he eventually moved into residential care as his health deteriorated. He enjoyed many visits from his friends in Redbourn, including pastoral care from Rev. Will Gibbs and Rev. Tim Vickers of St. Mary's Church. Alan was a fount of knowledge on the history of the village and St. Mary's Church.

A thanksgiving service was held at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 28th June which was attended by several Trustees and former Trustees from Redbourn Museum.

Alan's contribution to the museum was immense, not only helping to realise a dream for those that had long campaigned for a village museum, but also steering the management through registration and accreditation. Alan was a prolific researcher and author and we are fortunate indeed to have several publications available, including Redbourn's History, which was so popular that it was reprinted a few years ago. He also produced a number of booklets on various topics, including History of Redbourn Priory, St. Mary's Church, Mills of Redbourn, Silk Mill to Museum. Alan will be fondly remembered and greatly missed in Redbourn. The Trustees extend their sincere condolences to Alan's family and friends.

Enlightenment, Education, Enterprise...

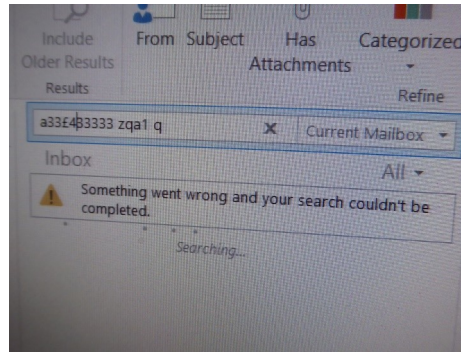
Redbourn and the Nation in the 18th Century - Saturday 29th April

If you missed this talk by Kate Morris, you missed a most interesting afternoon. Knowing that Kate has been researching Georgian St. Albans, we invited her to speak about that era as part of our "Redbourn Through the Centuries" series of events, this year centred on the 1700s. Kate discovered much more about Redbourn than we (or she) had expected and as a result, found that she had too much material to cover in an hour. To our delight, she has published the extra information as a booklet, which promptly sold out to members of the audience!

Kate has kindly organised a limited reprint and we have about 10 copies remaining at £2.50 each. We recommend it to you, especially if you were unable to come to the talk in April.

During her research Kate also discovered some 18th C sketches of Redbourn by Thomas Baskerville. The originals are in a private collection, but the Trustees are very grateful to the owners who have given permission for the museum to display copies. We will be having these professionally printed and mounted for display in the future.

Think It's Easy Compiling This Newsletter?



This is my secretary "Saffie". She's a great help. Thank heavens for the 'undo' button on the screen to retrieve my work. The middle photo shows one of her absolutely genuine searches.

Latest Trip Advisor Comments On The Internet

"Just managed a brief visit whilst visiting other attractions in the area. The museum consists of 2 rooms on the ground floor of a building that was once used by Brooke Bond as they packed their tea here. A couple of very helpful volunteers showed us around, but they apologised that the upper floor is currently closed due to necessary repairs to one of the walls. The gardens are absolutely beautiful, with a splendid show of tulips and other bulbs in full flower. The gardener should be congratulated on his work. Probably another unpaid volunteer. Where would we be without them? For certain, many attractions that are open to the general public now, would not be if it were not for their dedication. Well done to one and all for keeping such an important place open."



(Editor's comment: **THE** gardener! We are lucky to have a **team** headed up by Barry Welch)

One of this year's window boxes

"This is a very small museum which is housed in 2 rooms of the Manager's house of the old silk mill. It is very comprehensive and gives you a lot of detail about the archaeology and history of the village. It is only open at certain times, but we were lucky enough to be in the village when it was open and were given an excellent guided tour. The museum is free and run by volunteers. Well worth a visit."

It's Good To Have Friends!

Our good neighbours at The Cricketers generously donated the proceeds of their pub quiz on Sunday 28th May to your museum. We were absolutely delighted and amazed to be given £430 by Colin and Debbie Baxter. Huge thanks to you both, and all who supported the quiz.

Our annual steam day on Sunday 18th June was also supported by The Cricketers who very kindly stored the beer donated by Tring Brewery, which kept our "Steam Men" and the "Model Engineers" well oiled throughout a very warm (hot) day.

The Cricketers and Tring Brewery are valued Business Friends of Redbourn Village Museum.



Here's to next year's event!

Visit To Gorhambury House - Thursday 22nd June

24 museum friends were privileged to visit Gorhambury House a week before it is closing for up to three years for extensive building works. We had a fascinating guided tour of the house and learned a great deal about its history. My favourite fact was that it was the first house in St Albans to be lit by electricity and when the servants entered a particular room by their doorway and switched on the lights, only four of the twenty lamps illuminated. However, when the family of the house entered by their doorway, all the lights came on!

Unfortunately no photography was allowed inside the house.



Gorhambury House - Magnificent!



View from the front door



Old Gorhambury House - as it was in 16th C



Old Gorhambury House - as it is today

From Redbourn Common Round - March 1965

REDBOURN REMINISCENCES - III

by Greensward

I was a growing lad by this time (about 1908), eating as much as my father and not earning a penny piece. My father only got 15/- a week on the farm (beer and tobacco came out of that too), and my mother, poor soul, had a job to make ends meet. She used to go out to work in the fields all weathers, potato picking, picking stones to be used on the roads, hoeing the root crops, weeding the young corn, and "garlic bashing", which meant knocking off the heads of the garlic with a stick.

I must tell you about an incident during hay-making time: my mother and several women were working for Mr. G. Farr (who lived at the Aubreys, before it was altered), turning the hay in the meadows next to the house. Mr. Farr discovered that he had not enough hay forks to go round, and after considering for a moment, he set off for the farm-house. He returned a few minutes later with two crutches, and handed them to the women, who set to and turned the hay with them! (The crutches were his wife's: she was a cripple, poor woman).

Now I must turn to a very necessary period in village life - gleaning time. Failing to go gleaning meant empty stomachs. News would go round that a field was ready: that meant that the crop had been carted and the field dragged. If a field was not dragged, the farmer would leave a stook of corn in the middle and we dared not glean there until that stook was removed. The whole family except for father used to set off in the morning with bottles of cold tea and lunches of bread and lard. One soon got to know where the most ears of corn lay, and we would glean all day, stopping about mid-day for a snack. This would go on until the harvest was finished and we would store our wheat in the barn tied in bundles. One day, later, my mother would say that the threshing machine was going to thresh our corn. We would load it on the perambulator and trundle off to where the machine was at work. Each family's corn had to be kept separate - no easy task for the man feeding the machine. We would stand and watch as the corn went through the drum and then run around to where it was tumbling into the sack at the other end. When everybody was satisfied and each family had got its own corn, the next step was to take it to the miller for it to be ground into flour, at the Little Mill. Then we took the flour to the baker's where it was baked into great loaves of lovely home-made bread. When I look back on those days, I would not have missed them for worlds, although we were very often hungry.

Future Events

Jazz at the Museum - Wednesday 9th August - 1pm to 3pm

We are delighted to welcome the Redbourn Jazz Club to the museum who will be performing in the museum garden for the first time.

Bring a chair (and a picnic?) Entry is free and you are welcome to visit the museum as well.

At the museum, Silk Mill House, The Common, next to The Cricketers pub.

Saturday 2nd September - 18th Century Redbourn - 10am

Local 'Blue Badge' guide, Mario Violentano has very kindly agreed to lead a walk lasting 60 - 90 minutes around Redbourn focussing on buildings of the 18th Century. Booking is essential as the maximum number of people he can comfortably take is 20. The walk begins and ends at the museum and there will be a charge of £5 per person.

If you would like to attend please contact Pauline Ridgwell (Tel: 01582 626055)

(Email: Pauline-R@ntlworld.com)

Redbourn Classics Motor Show - Saturday 16th September

Museum open from 12 - 6pm

NEW EXHIBITION - NOW ON!

We have a great new exhibition in the newly redecorated Skillman Gallery

“100 YEARS OF GIRL GUIDING IN REDBOURN”

The Redbourn guides are one of the oldest groups in the country and this exhibition shows the history of them to great effect.

The Community Cabinet is full of memorabilia, the display boards to the right of the cabinet are full of information and there's lots to read in the literature on the long table in the room.

Please come and take a look - entry to the museum is free as always!

Coach Outing to Museum of Docklands

Monday October 2nd

This year we are taking to the air with a flight on the Emirates Cable Car before continuing by coach to the Museum of Docklands, East India Docks, London. If you are not keen on heights, there is the option to stay on the coach which will be collecting the passengers on the other side of the Thames.

A 200-year-old warehouse is the home of this fascinating museum telling the story of the London docks from mediaeval times until the present. Included in the ticket price will be an introductory talk or tour specially arranged for our group, followed by free time to visit the themed galleries at your own pace.

The area surrounding the museum has been transformed and there are a great many varied cafés, restaurants and pubs in the immediate vicinity, as well as eating and drinking facilities at the Museum of Docklands itself.

Booking is now open for Friends of the Museum and their guests, and will be open to all from 1st August.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone: Email:

Tickets required:

Museum Friends (No. Req'd) @ £30 Sub Total £

Guests (No. Req'd) @ £32 Sub Total £

Cheque payable to "Redbourn Village Museum" please for: **Grand Total £**

Pick-up Point (please tick)

Fire Station 8:45 am

Gertrude Peake Place 8:50 am

St Mary's Church 8:55 am

Kindly return this form to:

John Ridgwell, 10 Lybury Lane, Redbourn, Herts. AL3 7HU

(Tel: 01582 626055)

(Email: John-R@ntlworld.com)



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from the following:

Redbourn Parish Council



Adviceworks Ltd



Aubrey Park Hotel



Changing Views

Halsey (Builders) Ltd

Hertfordshire County Show



Little Revel End Kennels



Print Force

R. S. Harding Ltd



Redbourn Electrical Contractors

Redbourn Physiotherapy Clinic

The Bike Loft



The Cricketers Public House

The Miller Group of Companies



Tring Brewery



Your Company?

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

Visit us on the web at:

www.redbournvillage.org.uk

Museum Trustees:

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

John Ridgwell: Membership Secretary
Newsletter Editor

Email: John-R@ntlworld.com

Tel: (01582) 626055

