



REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

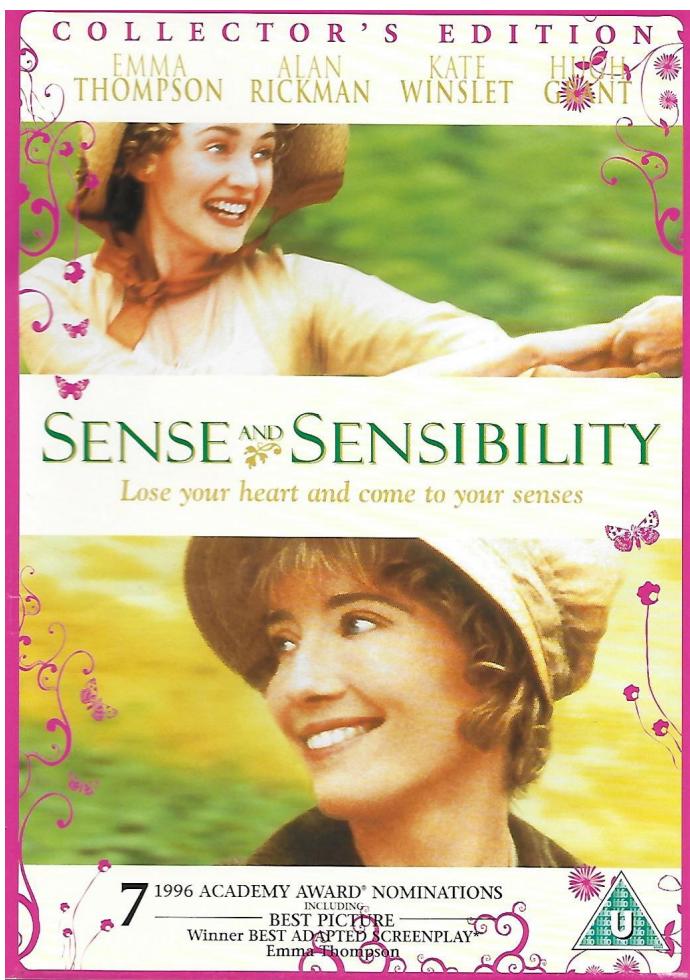
Friends of the Museum Newsletter

**Autumn 2017
Issue 118**

Last Event - Another Busy Year!

Saturday 2nd December 2017 @ 2:30 pm

Redbourn Parish Centre



Annual Film Show

Tickets at the door

£6 (Friends £5)

Ice creams during the interval and mulled wine and mince pies after the performance.

Advance booking:

**Pauline Ridgwell
(01582 626055)**

Pauline-R@ntlworld.com

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- Toilets!

Stage Coaches Through Redbourn

In the 1850 Post Office Directory for Redbourn it says "*Previous to railway being opened upwards of 80 coaches passed through, and now there is not a single conveyance.*"

At one time there were 44 public houses and beer houses in Redbourn and stabling for twice the number of horses as there was "stabling" for coach passengers.

Redbourn is on Watling Street, which was a Roman road which became the main road out London for the North and North West. With the coming of the turnpike roads in the 18th century, which supported far better services than had previously been possible, the stage coach came into its own as a means of passenger transport, and by 1830 Redbourn was a busy coaching town. Travel was "fast" with the *Peveril of the Peak* taking 44 hours to carry passengers from Edinburgh to London, an average speed of nearly 10 miles an hour.

The coming of the first mainline trains from London to Birmingham in 1837 caused a devastatingly fast decline in the trade, as it was now possible to travel significantly faster and more cheaply.

The 1839 Pigot's directory records the transport at, or just past, its peak as the entry for St Albans reports a coach leaving the Blue Boar Inn, Market Place every morning at half past seven to catch trains at Watford for London and Birmingham, returning at seven at night. The Redbourn entry includes the nearby villages of Flamstead, close to Watling Street and Harpenden - on the road from St Albans to Luton - which was less busy than Watling Street but still carrying a lot of traffic.

COACHES

To LONDON, - the *Royal Mail* (from Derby) calls at the White Horse, every morning at half past three - the *Swallow* (from Birmingham) calls at the Red Lion every morning at six - the *Times* (from Dunstable) calls at the Bull every morning (Sunday excepted) at a quarter past eight - and the *Express* (from Leeds) calls at the White Horse every morning at half past nine - a coach (from Northampton) calls at the White Hart, and one (from Wellingborough) calls at the Red Lion, every afternoon at two - the *Defiance* (from Manchester) calls at the White Horse, every afternoon at three - the *Star* (from Liverpool) calls at the Bull, every afternoon at four.

The following coaches are from London.

To AMPHILL & BEDFORD, a coach calls at the Bull, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoon at five.

To BIRMINGHAM, the *Swallow* calls at the Red Lion, every evening at nine.

To DERBY and HALIFAX, the *Royal Mail* calls at the White Horse, every night at half-past ten.

To DUNSTABLE, the *Times*, calls at the Bull, every evening at half-past seven.

To LEEDS, the *Express*, calls at the White Horse, every evening at half past seven.

To LIVERPOOL, the *Star*, calls at the Bull, every night at a quarter before nine.

To MANCHESTER, the *Defiance*, calls at the White Horse, every night at ten.

To NORTHAMPTON, a coach calls at the White Hart, every afternoon at half-past three.

To WELLINGBOROUGH, a coach, calls at the Red Lion, every afternoon at one.

Redbourn Classics Motor Show - Saturday 16th September

The museum was delighted take part in the show by making the car park available for use by vehicles to be exhibited. Not any old vehicles - Ferraris!



With grateful thanks to Penny Allen for supplying the photographs. There were about 100 visitors to the museum and many more in the grounds admiring the cars.

18th Century Redbourn Walk - Saturday 2nd September

Our guide, Mario Violentano, led a thoroughly enjoyable walk around the village concentrating on the buildings of the 18th Century. The walk was so successful that he has generously offered to lead another walk on Saturday 14th October! The walk finished at Cumberland House and you can find a timely article about the house on page 5 of this newsletter - it's from a "Common Round" and dates back to 1988.

Jazz At The Museum - Wednesday 9th August

Despite it being August, the weather was awful and everyone felt it best if the venue was changed to The Holly Bush pub.

A large number of museum supporters swelled the numbers at the pub and everyone had a great time listening to the music and consuming a few 'shandies'.

There have been calls for us to host more events in our lovely museum garden but this proves that it could be problematic as we have no permanent shelter in case of inclement weather, which is not too unusual in Redbourn, as well as the rest of the UK!

A Few New Things & A Couple Of Reminders For Stewards



This is the banner on the fence which stays out all the time as a permanent advertisement



This is the banner which goes over over the top of the permanent one when we are open



This is the new flag recently purchased. As you can see, there are metal 'eyes' in the first (and second) tree stumps to take the mounting rod and it can be secured in place using an elastic strap as shown.

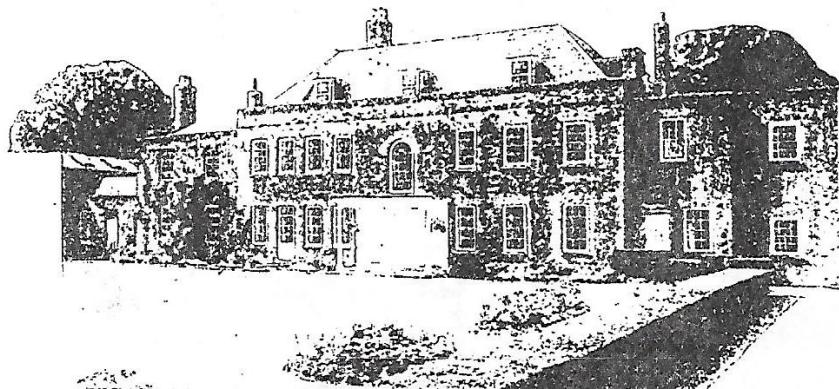


Please remember to always use an admissions form when you are on duty as a steward because, now we don't charge admission it's the only sure way of recording visitor numbers.

Finally...there is a new check list on the admissions desk just to remind you what needs to be done in each room - and outside - to get the museum ready to receive visitors.

CUMBERLAND

HOUSE



as researched by

MRS. JANE BIRD

for a college
assignment in 1988.

The Duke of Cumberland has placed his name in local history at the house in Redbourn called Cumberland House, which stands on the east side of the common. It is assumed to have been built in 1743, three years before the battle at Culloden. It was built as a hunting box for the Duke of Cumberland, who also kept his dogs at Dunstable Downs. The house had stabling for 120 horses. At the back which met Redbourn High Street there was a paved courtyard. The back of the house as it is today was believed to have been the front in the Duke's day. Redbourn village was the first stop for the London mail coaches and once had eighteen inns in the High Street. There they would change horses and continue on their route. This would perhaps explain why the house's front was then facing the High Street and not the common as it is today.

The house is built of red brick with Georgian windows. The assumed date (above) for the building of the house was found on a chimney by the Peake family who once occupied it. Some of the timbers used to build the house are as thick as a man's body. It is believed that the Duke of Cumberland shipped all the timber from broken up ships to Redbourn to build the house, instead of selling the timber. The Duke was controller of the Royal dockyards at that time!

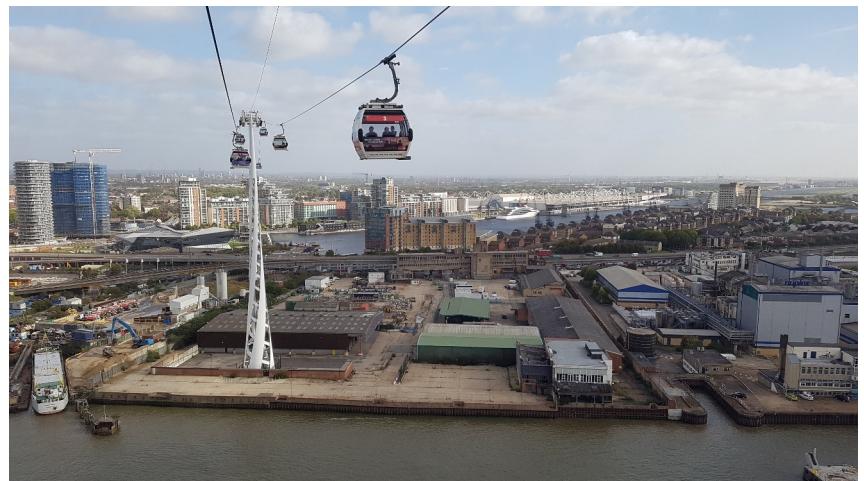
Most of the first floor was a banqueting hall with a cooking stove at one end. On the stove chops and steaks were cooked. Another stove survived into the 19th Century. It is recorded that one owner, Mrs. White, had a stove in her bedroom. There were double doors leading on to the gallery to the staircase but the Peakes removed these as they interfered with their billiards. The arch is still there.

The recorded history of the house's owners is unclear but it is estimated the Duke built Cumberland House in 1743. The house was used as a school at one time. The property fell into the hands of John Hodgkiss in 1830. Mr. Hodgkiss let the house to Lord Boyle who was succeeded by Mr. Brendell Hawkes. Mrs. White's daughter said in her statement which is held with the deeds of the house that they succeeded Mr. Hawkes in 1869. The house now being leased from J. Hodgkiss to William Thompson White who paid the rent every six months to the owner's solicitor in the nearby Bull Public House in Redbourn. When his wife was widowed she became the leaseholder and then sent the gardener Harry Miller to the Bull with the rent. She told him to buy Cumberland House outright and the cheque was delivered and the sale completed the same day. Many books report the Whites as occupying the house in 1881, so perhaps this was the year the house was bought outright. In 1890 Mrs. White sold to the Peakes. Mr. R.C. Peake was a mining engineer and colliery manager in Staffordshire and came to Redbourn in 1890. He was Justice of the Peace from 1892 until 1929 and was president of the cricket and football clubs, president of the Conservative Association, Church Warden and School Manager. R.C. Peake lived at Cumberland House until his death in 1933. Gertrude Peake, his daughter, continued to own the house. Miss Peake came to Redbourn as an infant when her family moved to Cumberland House.

Museum Outing To The Docklands Museum - Monday 2nd October

Luckily, compared to weather for the jazz at the museum in August, we had a fine day!

We started by travelling from the Greenwich Peninsular across the Thames to 'the other side'. It was unfortunate that our coach driver was unable to get us very close to the cable car terminal so some people who felt the walk a little too long were unable to make the crossing, for which Pauline and I sincerely apologise.



We were extremely lucky as the final gondola full of our party was the last one allowed across the river as subsequent cars were cancelled due to high winds.

Unfortunately the cable car beat the coach across the Thames by about half an hour so we had to wait in the icy winds for it to arrive. The bonus for those who stayed on board the coach was that they had a trip on the Woolwich ferry which was a 'first' for the majority.

We had a guided tour of the museum's galleries by very enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff and all in all, we hope everyone enjoyed the day.



Guided tour No. 2

Our party gathered around Thomas Fowell Buxton's table (1823 - 1833). He was an M.P. responsible for steering the bill for the abolition of slavery through the House of Commons.

Museum Outing P.S.



This is the Wetherspoons pub next door to the Museum of Docklands.

"The Ledger Building" where the ledgers were stored for the West India Docks.

I don't encourage taking cameras in to public toilets but I thought you might like to see the Ladies (left) and the Gents (right) below! Palatial.



Friends Of The Museum

As I said in the last newsletter, "It's good to have Friends". We are indebted to Rita & Gerry Green who have very kindly donated 14 white garden chairs to the museum - complete with a waterproof cover. When we hold events in the garden we have a problem as we don't have many chairs, and those from within the museum have very thin metal legs which quickly sink into the lawn. These chairs have larger legs and will be perfect for our future summer events.

Thank you Rita & Gerry.

If you are reading this newsletter and are not already a Friend of the Museum, why not consider joining us? You will receive four newsletters a year, concessionary rates to our events and priority booking for our popular (I hope!) annual outing.

Further details and a membership form from John Ridgwell (Contact details on back page)

Redbourn Reminiscences by Stella Williamson

You may remember some time ago that I said Mr & Mrs Editor purchased their house from Stella Williamson and that her father used to write for Common Round under the pen name of "Greensward" - the name of our house. I've found this article, written by Stella in 1988:

I was born on 26th September 1924 to Edith and Walter Coote who lived in a cottage on West Common. When I was 3 we moved to 7 Beaumont Terrace, Hemel Hempstead Road, now renamed 89 Hemel Hempstead Road. My memory takes me to a particular day when my mother was pushing me along in a pushchair taking me home to No. 7. In those days the road used to flood with storm water and this fascinated me as the water came over the wheels of the pushchair.

Hemel Hempstead Road is different today from what it was in the 1920's. Where the bungalows are built part of the land was a gravel-pit where my friends and I used to catch newts and frogspawn and put them into jam-jars and watch the frogs develop as they stood on top of our rainwater butt. We had an enormous wooden water butt and my mother used to tie an old sock to the drainpipe which fed the butt and this would filter the rainwater which was used for washing my hair (Making it very soft).

On the same piece of land adjoining the gravel pit were four cottages built at right angles to the road and next to St. Mary's Church stood a larger cottage which was originally a Public House called The Cherry Tree.

We were always happy in our games - whipping the top, hopscotch and spinning the hoop which was so large I could stand up in it. We played these games in the road for there was no fear of traffic. There was only one car in the whole village, owned by Mr. Tulloch, who lived at Tullochside, Hemel Hempstead Road, about three quarters of a mile away. If we were playing in the road we had plenty of warning of Mr. Tulloch's car as it has a big brass motor horn which he blew all the way down Hemel Hempstead Road, meaning "Everybody out of the way, Mr. Tulloch's coming".

Statham's garage was a very different venue from today - there once stood a soap factory and later a timber yard where we used to play hide and seek among the logs and timber. My father was digging the garden for Mr. Stanley Brooks, who had bought the soap factory and was going to change it in to a bakery, and he found layer upon layer of soap buried there. I used to call on Mr. Brooks on my way home from school and watch him at work in the bakery; he always gave me a cake before I left. I often wondered how the jam got into the middle of the doughnuts, and after watching Mr. Brooks all was revealed - while the doughnut was still hot he used a sort of gun and pump the jam in.

In Autumn and Winter our treat after Sunday School was roasting Chestnuts at home by the fire.

Many thanks to museum friend and volunteer James Millers for this:

Recycling Boxes - 70 years on and still going strong!



As you can see from the pictures, I use these boxes for storing my potatoes.

There is also a label:

Extracts Ltd.,

In addition:

Returned Empty To:

There is a 12/- (60p) deposit which must be £5 or £6 or more in today's value.

The Mill

From the stencilling on the inside they've been made from old boxes in the first place.

Redbourn

I think we have a lot to be learned from the past about recycling.

St.

Now for the big question, "What were they used for?"

I have my ideas, what are yours?

Albans

Herts

FRAGILE WITH CARE

Note from the editor, John:

The best I can come up with is this photo from Geoff Webb's collection showing coffee being dispatched from the warehouse in around 1946, but they're obviously not the same



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from the following:

Redbourn Parish Council



Changing Views



Halsey (Builders) Ltd

Hertfordshire County Show



Little Revel End Kennels



Print Force

R. S. Harding Ltd



Redbourn Electrical Contractors

The Cricketers Public House

The Miller Group of Companies



Tring Brewery



St ALBANS
CHOOSE YOUR STORY

10

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

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Email: redbournmuseum@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:

www.redbournvillage.org.uk

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