



Barndoor Bulletin

Autumn 2016

Full Steam Ahead and Cider Sales go through the Medieval Roof! – 2 October 2016

October 2nd 06.00 hours Cromhall South Gloucestershire. James Buchan lifts the latch of his back door and walks through the cold autumnal morning air across the yard to his 1905 Burrell Steam Engine. Feels in his pocket for a lighter and ignites the diesel soaked rag he prepared the previous evening, throws it into the back of the firebox and slams shut the door. OHD 2016 is underway.

Once again the South Gloucester saying of 'don't pack the shorts away until after Orchard Harvest Day!' was bang on!

This is the first time we have booked a steam traction engine for this show and didn't it look at home chugging away there in the north lee of the barn wall. It would have been a familiar autumn site around farmyards from the turn of the last century through both WW years and into the late 40's when the stationary threshing machines it would have driven were replaced by the combine harvester.



UWE Jazz Band supplied us with the perfect music for a laid back Sunday afternoon and were no doubt warming up for their appearance here at the Barn next year (look out for dates).

The Frampton Shanty Men were welcomed back this year and rousinglly proving the point that you don't have to be sat along the harbour-side to appreciate the lyrics and harmonies they entertained with.

Winterbourne Morris Dancers once again put on their wonderful display and were thoroughly enjoyed by both old and young.



Away from the music the queue for local food producers was starting to build by mid-day and the ice-cream vendor had a steady flow of customers under a cloudless blue sky.

Once again our own Barn Garden had a wonderful display of produce and unsurprisingly sold out during the afternoon.

Winterbourne Mad Hatter Cider makers using the old barn press had a phenomenal day selling an incredible 95 gallons of cider. You may have watched the demonstration with the apple pulp being wrapped up into 'cheeses' ready to be pressed and make it this look very easy. I can assure you it ain't! After 5 years of practice if the BBC come up with the 'Great British Press Off' Winterbourne Medieval Barn can be proud to field a team that would hold their own with the best from Somerset and Hereford.



Mathew who has worked our cider mill famously for the past 3 years has now retired on his owner's farm in Wickwar. Ian Coward from Awkley stepped into the breach and brought along his Welsh mare Tuppence. She is still on a learning curve as far as working the cider mill is concerned and put on a lovely exhibition of log pulling for us which is actually her specialist subject!

Ferret Racing: what can you say! Terry joined us from his Exmoor home and was first to arrive at 7am fresh from entertaining the crowds at Widdicombe Fair which you may have seen on BBC's Countryfile on Sunday 9th October.

A lady admiring the geese congratulated us on putting on such a lovely show and commented 'the effort to pen the geese (around the pond) looks wonderful – I think you should leave it as a permanent fixture'. 'You're right' I said 'perhaps we will'. Again thank you to one and all who made this event happen, volunteers, traders and entertainers and everyone who came along.



Rob Govier

View from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends

It seems hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another year. 2016 has been notable in many ways. We have had an extremely successful Events programme with 'Carols in the Barn' still to come on 10 & 11 December. In addition to the normal events like the Medieval Fayre, Opera and Shakespeare, we have held new events such as the "Wind in the Willows" and "A Day's Work". The recent Orchard Harvest Day has probably been the best ever with over a thousand people enjoying the day. I would like to thank the Events Group for their hard work in developing the events as well as all the Volunteers who have helped to make them a success.

The programme for 2017 is currently being developed, and details will be made available as soon as they are available. I hope that you are finding the monthly Newsletters helpful and informative. As I am sure you appreciate there is a lot going on at the moment, and the Newsletter provides a means of keeping you up to date with developments as they occur.

The other major development has been the HLF Development Grant. We have a number of Consultants already on board, and details have been included in the Newsletters.

Arrangements are currently in hand for the remaining members of the design team, including Architects and Interpretation Consultants. The next steps are to develop the detailed proposals for refurbishment in conjunction with development of detailed Activity Plans for the future. Obviously we would be delighted to hear from any of you who have ideas for potential future activities. Work is also in hand on the acquisition of the £400K Match Funding required.

As ever, we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers. Volunteering will give you an opportunity to meet new people as well as helping the Trust and the wider Community. Please contact me if you wish to get involved either for the first time, or to change focus onto a different area of interest. We are very flexible both in terms of the time that you may have available to give us, and the commitments that you are able or willing to undertake. We can also offer a wide range of potential activities. You can get involved as much or as little as you want; and all contributions, whether great or small, are both important and valued. Volunteers have the opportunity to help to shape the future of this magnificent building at a crucial point in its history.

We have also made progress on site refurbishment projects. We obtained a Premises Licence to facilitate future events and there was a condition that fencing be provided around the pond and soakaway. The Planning and Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of the Cart Shed as an Education Centre has been granted and work is in hand to secure the remaining funding required. Similarly we have received Listed Building Consent to provide doors to the Cow Byres to provide secure areas.

Thank you for all you do.

Sue Parsons – Chairman

sue.parsons6@btinternet.com

A Day's Work – 18 September 2016

This performance, variously described as a 'folk opera' or a 'musical drama', told the story of a group of farm workers, who were also members of their village mummers, and what happened when the young men were called up to serve in The Great War. The title comes

from a remark made in 1794 by a dying soldier to his commander the Duke of Wellington, who was visibly moved to see him terribly wounded; "It's all right sir; it's all in a day's work."

The powerful songs, written by Mick Ryan, were sung by Mick Ryan, Paul Downes, Pete Morton, Heather Bradford, Greg Russell and Matt Quinn, and the story carried everyone along with it due to the very convincing performances of the cast. They are all top performers in the



folk world, and their talent was evident throughout. Matt, Pete and Greg even managed to do a broom dance in the confines of the not very big stage! The theme of the mummers play, when the dead man is brought back to life by a magic potion administered by the doctor, is cleverly contrasted with the real death and destruction of WWI, when no magic potions could redeem the awfulness.



In this case the death was not on the battlefield; the young conscientious objector, forced to fight against his principles, met his death at the hands of a firing squad. Man's inhumanity to man was not just between enemies, but was all too evident between the high-ups and the ordinary Tommies of the British army. Greg Russell gave a very poignant

and wholly convincing performance as the young conshe. His talent was recognised when, in a duo with Ciaran Algar (who normally performs in A Day's Work but was unavailable this time), he won the Radio 2 Young Folk Award in 2013 and the following year the Radio 2 Horizon Award. I was certainly in need of the Kleenex by the end of the show and I don't think I was the only one. Seeing the show in an agricultural setting just heightened the poignancy. It was a shame that only 50 people turned up to see this wonderful show; I would certainly see it again and again if I get the chance.

Linda Hall

Heritage Open Days at Winterbourne Church and Barn

10 & 11 September 2016

Visitors to Winterbourne Church and the adjacent medieval Barn enjoyed a feast of bell ringing during Heritage Open Days weekend, as well as exploring the history and architecture of the two buildings.

In St Michael's church, CCTV cameras were installed so that visitors could simultaneously watch the ringers in action in the ringing room and the bells themselves up above. The Barn was host to the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry (LDMB), a set of small bells (80 pound tenor), which arrived on a trailer and was set up in the middle of the Barn. Phil Gay, one of the Trustees of the LDMB charity, transported the bells from Crewe and also supervised the assembly of the belfry by an enthusiastic group of ringers. Ringers from local towers



were on hand all weekend to demonstrate ringing on both sets of bells, to give visitors the opportunity to have a go, and to talk about what a wonderful hobby we have.

Non-ringing visitors were fascinated to watch the bells rotating in response to the ringers pulling on the ropes below, quite unlike the popular perception of monks flying up and down on the ends of the ropes! And after the visitors had left on the Saturday, the ringers continued to enjoy a social evening. They rang the bells, both in the tower and the LDMB, had a good chat and tucked into a fish and chip supper from the local chippie in Winterbourne. Ringing is really a very sociable occupation!

The weather on Sunday was better and this seemed to attract more visitors. There were several lapsed ringers who had a go and admitted that they could get drawn back into ringing again, plus a number of non-ringers who



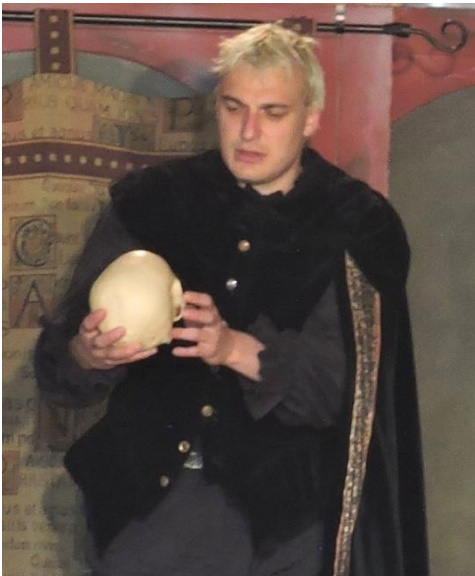
were intrigued by the possibilities. We hope to see some of them again at one of our towers!
If you are interested in learning to ring, please contact Chris Greef 01454 774479 or email cgreef@btinternet.com.

Hamlet – The Festival Players – Sunday 28 August 2016

As part of the many events which are marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death we were delighted to host the Festival Players again this year with their presentation of the Bard's most famous play *Hamlet*.

Fine weather encouraged visitors to bring picnics to enjoy in the grounds before this acclaimed performance.

An all-male company brought the excitement of this great thriller: intrigue, ghostly visitations, passion, a play-within-a play, a gripping dual, and humour, in a crystal clear and fast paced production.



The packed audience were stunned into silence before rapturous applause filled the barn as the final moments of the play unfolded.

Good night sweet prince:

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

The Festival Players will return to the Barn with 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 7:30pm as part of their European and UK tour.

Sue Fox

Wind in the Willows – Ian Kennedy Productions – Sunday 21 August 2016

"Weasels--and stoats--and foxes--and so on. They're all right in a way--I'm very good friends with them--pass the time of day when we meet, and all that--but they break out sometimes, there's no denying it, and then--well, you can't really trust them, and that's the fact." said Rat.

And as it proved during this fantastic outdoor performance of Grahame Green's 'Wind in the Willows' you can't trust English weather either. A stoic audience under umbrellas watched



six actors play a variety of characters, animals and woodland creatures in this brilliant, hilarious and breath-taking production full of

excellent storytelling and including mesmerising puppetry.

From the moment Kathy Dean appeared as *Mole* our imagination was stirred and Elise Heaven as *Toad* was magnificent leaping from one side of the 'stage' to the other enthralling the audience with her amazing mimicry of a twitchy, impatient Toad. Poop-poop!

IK Productions will return to the Barn in 2017 with their production of '*Alice in Wonderland*'.

Sue Fox

Basket Weaving Workshop – 18 June 2016

Once again this summer the Barn played host to a day of Basket Weaving. A bunch of enthusiasts – some of whom were so keen that this was a second visit – arrived on a very pleasant day (always a good start) and after a nice hot cuppa they got down to work. Basket weaving is a concentrated day so it's full on from the start. Jenny Humphris, our tutor, is a

real expert, bringing many years of experience to the task, and our guests can tell they're in safe hands right from the start .Everyone is guaranteed to take home their own basket (some more magnificent than others !!!) and I felt there were a lot of baskets this year which were a real quality job. Our Beautiful Barn provides, as ever, the unique atmosphere to the day. It never fails. Our group can relax and start to reveal a little of their interesting characters as the day evolves and little victories (and challenges!!!) of the day become apparent. Some are patient, some not so, some humorous, some very serious, etc. So roll on next year - it will definitely be happening again. So to anyone reading this keep your eyes peeled for future information. Even if this is not for you it makes a lovely unusual gift. There you are: I've solved this year's Christmas present problem for you!!!!

Angela Davies

West Gallery Workshop – 16 June 2016

This was the second workshop run for us by the Bristol Harmony West Gallery Quire. For those who haven't come across it before, West Gallery music is the style of church music common in the 18th and early 19th centuries, performed in four-part harmony by the village choir and the village band. They were usually stationed at the back of the church, either on raised pews set in tiers like theatre seats, or more often from the west gallery which has given its name to this type of music. The congregation would turn to face them during the singing, hence 'facing the music'. There is a very lively West Gallery Music Association, website www.wgma.org.uk, and numerous quires (that is how they spell it!) around the country.

Assorted singers and musicians assembled at 10am on 16 July, some coming from as far afield as Exeter and Carmarthen, and a mixture of experienced West Gallery singers and complete novices. Altogether we had 27 participants plus quite a few members of Bristol Harmony to help us along. We had flutes, fiddles, clarinets, a bassoon, a concertina and a double bass, a



pretty typical mixture of the instruments which would have been used at the time, although cellos were more common than double basses and concertinas weren't invented until rather later.

Esther Steward led the day and her expertise and infectious enthusiasm ensured that we both learnt a lot and had a wonderful time. After lunch she assembled us outside the barn for some singing in the fresh air before we went back inside for the afternoon session.



We had a fabulous day, everyone enjoyed themselves hugely and we have all agreed that this will become a regular fixture in the barn's calendar of events. Next year's date has already been agreed, so put Saturday 22 July in your diaries and come along and join us. Even if you have never sung this type of music before, you are guaranteed to have a most enjoyable day. Thanks as ever to Millie and Angela for providing tea and coffee throughout

the day, and to Sue Fox and Robert Beetham for organisational assistance.

Linda Hall

Medieval Fayre – Sunday 12 June 2016

Thomas de Bradston, Lord of the Manor from 1328 returned to Winterbourne this summer to join the medieval encampment and oversee displays of medieval military combat.



The Company of Chivalry welcomed visitors to civilian life in the 14th century with displays of medieval



cookery, archery and crafts - made more authentic by the minstrels playing music from a bygone age on instruments of the time.



Children followed clues to find St Anthony's owls hidden in and around the Barn and many joined the 'Knights School' and received a certificate from Sir Thomas for taking part alongside their favourite Knight.

We enjoyed 14th and 21st century refreshments and experienced vivid displays of how people lived, worked and fought whilst on campaign during the 100 years' war. The Company of

Chivalry will return to the Barn for the annual Medieval Fayre on Sunday 11 June 2017.

Sue Fox

La Cenerentola: Rossini – 10 June 2016

With a subtitle, "Cinderella, but not as you know it", we knew we weren't expecting a



traditional fairy tale.... Tessitura's picture of a harassed Reality TV executive searching for "just the right girl" for his show brought the story right up to date and kept us enthralled throughout. Cinderella was a perfect simple and unsophisticated girl whereas the "ugly sisters", desperate to catch the executive's eye, could not have been more outrageous, could they? Their mobile phones, latest

(unsuitable) fashions and makeup were guaranteed to impress! We knew too, from previous productions from Tessitura, what we were expecting - a musical treat and in this we were not disappointed. If you missed Tessitura this year, make sure you are there next year. We may not laugh as much at the next production, but we're sure we'll enjoy it!

Gill Greef

Growing Group

We had another successful time at the Orchard Harvest Day where we sold all the squashes we had picked. The large red onions and Spaghetti squash also proved popular. Lots of people visited our garden and it was great to be able to show them around and get them interested in what we were growing.

This year we tried some companion planting so we grew some French Marigolds, Calendula,



Borage, Nasturtiums and some very pretty Tobacco Plants to attract the bees and act as a decoy for pests. We think they helped and they certainly made the garden very pretty. Sadly the squirrels took a liking to the sweet corn this year and scoffed the lot! During the summer we have had a few ex-students from the Winterbourne Academy join us as volunteers. We really appreciated the help

from these enthusiastic young people and wish them every success in their future careers. New volunteers of all ages are always welcome to join the group. It's not only an opportunity to grow lots of great things to eat but to also exchange ideas and advice. We normally meet on Friday mornings at the barn between 10.00am – 12.30pm to work on the garden and have a chat. Gardening knowledge is not essential as we would be happy to teach you. If you are interested please contact Liz Smith on 01454 775306.

Barnforce, Autumn 2016

Barnforce has met regularly since our last bulletin, although the weather has not always been kind and, for a variety of reasons, there have been few of us meeting on several occasions. Despite this we managed to complete grass sowing in the spring, although one of the areas did not take very well. The area round the pond can now be cut effectively; the sloping sides of the pond and the section between the pond and the road wall will always present a challenge for maintenance. Otherwise we have managed to keep up with vegetation management, be this grass cutting, hedge trimming or keeping tidy the edges where the mower can't get. Thank you to all the volunteers who have supported us this year and enabled the barn to look at its best during the summer months when we put on most of

our events. There is always a warm welcome for anyone who wishes to join us for work, refreshments and a chat on our regular meets, usually the third Saturday morning of the month from 10am.

Robert Beetham 0117 9574921



‘What’s on’ 2017

An exciting programme of events, workshops, concerts and performances are scheduled to take place during 2017 and here are details of those confirmed so far:

Apple Grafting Workshop – Saturday 25 February 2017

Jazz in the Barn – May 2017

Medieval Fayre – Sunday 11 June 2017 – 11:00am - 4:00pm

Basket Weaving – Saturday 24 June 2017

West Gallery Workshop – Saturday 22 July 2017 – 10:00am - 4:00pm

Opera in the Barn – Sunday 23 July 2017 – 6.00pm

Alice in Wonderland – Sunday 13 August 2017 – 2.30pm

The Merry Wives of Windsor - Tuesday 29 August 2017 – 7.00pm

Heritage Open Days – Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2017

Orchard Harvest Day – Sunday 8 October 2017 – 11:00am – 4:00pm

Carols in the Barn – Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December 2017

Full details of all events and how to buy tickets will be available on the WMBT web pages from the New Year.

Carols in the Barn – The Barn’s final event of 2016!

Saturday 10 December 2016 and Sunday 11 December 2016; 3:30pm – 5pm

These dramatic performances of the Christmas story by members of St Michael's Church are suitable for all ages and we can all join in to sing well known carols.

Gates open at 3.30 pm so that visitors can collect a cup of mulled wine or fruit juice and a mince pie in advance of the Carols at 4 pm.



Please remember, the Barn is an unheated medieval agricultural building so wrap up warm. The grounds are uneven so wear suitable footwear. A torch maybe useful.

Parking is limited so please walk if you possibly can. If you do need to bring a car please enter Church Lane from the Beacon Lane end only (ie.one way system exiting onto Winterbourne High Street).

Cost: Adults £2.00. Children under 16 - £1.00

Tickets available from Monday 7 November 2016 – from:

- Tel: Gill - 01454 774479
- In person from Daisy's Coffee Shop
17, Flaxpits Lane, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1JY
Open: Mon-Fri – 8:30-16:00. Sat 9:00-16:00. Sun 10:00-14:00
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

Apple Grafting Workshop Saturday 25th February 2017

10am-4pm

This apple grafting workshop, run for the first time last year, will be run again this year. The course will explain why we graft, how it works and illustrate some of the techniques involved. It will then involve individual hands on work in learning to cut the wood in the correct way

and preparing the cut wood for grafting. Then comes the key moment that of making your own graft from start to finish, ending up with a new apple tree. There will be the opportunity to make at least three grafts, there may be additional root stocks on which to make further grafts at a small cost.

The workshop will again be run by Ben Raskin of the Soil Association who is highly experienced in fruit growing and from personal experience is an excellent tutor. The photo shows an apple grafted after learning the technique from him on a similar course.

Once you have learnt to graft you will have the whole world of varieties available to you to be able to grow yourself.

We will provide some common varieties for grafting. If you have a favourite that you wish to propagate then bring your own wood to graft. If you know of a particular variety that you wish to propagate, but do not have wood, please let us know and we will attempt to procure some wood (£1 extra on the day). The only equipment you will need will be a very sharp knife, e.g. a Stanley Knife.



This course would make a very suitable present. Cost £35 in advance plus £7.50 on the day for materials. The workshop is limited to 8. If demand is sufficient, it may be repeated the following weekend. To book, please download the booking form from the website, complete and return as indicated. For enquiries, please telephone 0117 957 4921

Fundraising Opportunity

WMBT have been selected to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund. It means that WMBT will get a contribution towards our project. But WMBT needs your help. The more support WMBT gets, the more funding we could receive. So if you're a Co-op Member log in to your Co-op Membership account (www.coop.co.uk/membership) and choose Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust. If you're not a Co-op member, please join and support us!

WANTED!

TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS FOR WINTERBOURNE MEDIEVAL BARN



INTERESTED?

Contact Chairman by email: sue.parsons6@btinternet.com or snail mail
to address below

REWARD

FEELING GOOD!!

CONTACT DETAILS

For further details of events, or information on any aspect of the Barn project see our website www.winterbournebarn.org.uk or email wmbtrust@gmail.com

**Registered Office: Winterbourne Court Farm Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne
BS36 1SE**

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