



Barndoor Bulletin

Autumn 2017

View from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends

I think it is true to say that we have had a very exciting year. An expanded events programme, development of the HLF Project and finally starting work on the Cart Shed.

This year's programme had an increased number and range of events, reported elsewhere in this Bulletin, many of which have sold out and which have attracted new audiences. The old favourites like Orchard Harvest Day, Opera and Shakespeare continue to be popular with Orchard Harvest Day attracting record numbers. We have also had greater publicity with events featured in national publications. We have also had new events such as Jazz in the Barn which was a resounding success.

In the meantime work has continued on development of detailed proposals for refurbishment under the HLF Project. Many of you attended a series of presentations where I presented the detailed proposals for the Building Refurbishment, Activities and Interpretation. These have now been submitted to the HLF for approval of the Part 2 Application with the decision expected in March 2018. On the assumption that the proposals are approved physical refurbishment will commence in 2019. Meanwhile fundraising is ongoing for the Match Funding the Trust needs to secure.

The HLF project has also enabled us to run some trial events such as "Go Wild at Winterbourne" where local children got involved in a range of activities. We have also surveyed over a thousand people to find out what they would like to see in future. A number of those surveyed have subsequently attended events. As a result of all this work we have been able to develop a wide range of future activities.

Work has finally commenced on restoring the Cart Shed as a Reception and Education Facility. There were a couple of delays whilst we cleared planning requirements and ensured that the area was "Bat free". The work is due to be completed by the end of January 2018 and the facility can be used for a variety of purposes.

We are busy developing proposals for the 2018 programme and a taster can be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. Full details and dates will be available in the New Year. We are aiming to build on the success of this year, and retain the new audiences.

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. Volunteers have the opportunity to help to shape the future of this magnificent building at a crucial point in its history.

Thank you for all you do.

Sue Parsons – Chair
sue.parsons6@btinternet.com

A Holiday in His Ancestor's Footsteps

Trevor Pontz from Florida discovered a couple of years ago that his ancestor Anthony Sturges, was born in Frenchay in the 1640s and was baptised and married in St Michael's church, Winterbourne, before moving to Philadelphia in 1683. Until then, Trevor had always thought that his roots were entirely German. His ancestor Julius Sturgis, who founded the first commercial pretzel baker in America in 1861, is credited with "inventing" the hard or crunchy pretzel.

It turns out that Anthony Sturges was a feltmaker in the south Gloucestershire hatting industry, and a Quaker, who was given a land grant from William Penn in 1683 for a plot in the new city of Philadelphia. Anthony and his wife Ann sailed for the New World on the Bristol Factor ship, landing in Philadelphia on 4th October 1683 with four of their children. Sadly four other children had died in childhood – Mary in 1668, Hannah 1669, Joseph 1671, and William 1672 – and while records are inconclusive, it is likely that they were buried at St Michael's church, Winterbourne.

As a descendant of a Winterbourne family, Trevor Pontz embarked on his first ever visit to the UK in November, to walk in the footsteps of his own history and that of the early Penn Quakers.

Trevor had heard about Winterbourne Medieval Barn online when WMBT was running a Crowdfunding appeal in June as part of the bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), and he made a very generous donation to this appeal. Trevor was welcomed last week by members of both St Michael's church and trustees of Winterbourne Medieval Barn, who showed him around these buildings which in some ways have changed little since his forefathers knew them in the 1600s. Trevor describes feeling quite overwhelmed with just how powerful that moment was. He clearly enjoyed his experience of Winterbourne with its "one



lane roads, tiny cars, stone walls and hedgerows, confused weather, an equal amount of pubs and churches, and the kindest people one could ever meet," and said he will certainly be coming back.

Trevor, 38, is Chief Operating Officer of two medical facilities in south Florida and an avid philanthropist who was thrilled to be able to contribute to the Crowdfunding appeal. "I truly believe that each person can make a difference in this world and little by little we can inspire others to do the same" he said. What a great reason to take a holiday. The Trustees of WMBT were delighted to be able to welcome someone with such an ancient connection to Winterbourne, and are very grateful for Trevor's donation to the HLF project.

Jazz in the Barn – The University of the West of England's Centre for Performing Arts Big Band



A full house, which had sold out three days before the performance, the UWE Big Band did not disappoint their audience as they got the 2017 programme of events off to a terrific start.

Cool, relaxing swing and Latin classics with silky smooth vocals encouraged foot tapping and dancing on the threshing floor.

With delicious food and drink also on offer others simply relaxed and enjoyed listening to the music.

A perfect bank holiday weekend event which is set to return to the Barn in 2018.

Sue Fox



The Medieval Fayre with the Company of Chivalry

On 30th January 1393 'grant by special grace' was made to Lady de Bradeston and her heirs to hold two yearly fayres in Winterbourne and so the tradition continues as two community events are held in June and October each year at the Barn. The Medieval Fayre and Orchard Harvest Day.

Blanche de Bradeston graced us with her presence this year and rode her steed majestically through the local lanes and into the grounds of the Barn. Blanche declared the Fayre officially open to huge applause from a crowd of over 700 people who had come to witness this annual spectacle.

Children were kept busy all day as they were trained as knights by the Company of Chivalry in the Squires School. They joined in drill with the soldiers, launched projectiles from the trebuchet before trying their hand at archery.



The highpoint of the day is always the challenge between the soldiers and the newly qualified knights — you'll have to come along on Sunday 10 June next year to see how it nearly always ends.

Sue Fox

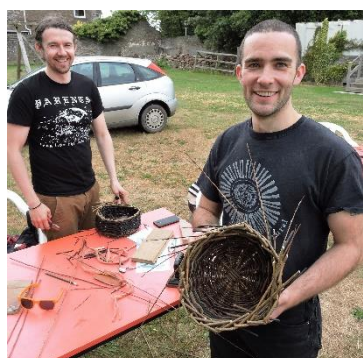
Basket Weaving Workshop

On a good June day we held another basket weaving session in the most perfect setting of The Barn. It provides such an appropriate backdrop for this quintessentially country craft.

We had as usual a variety of learners. Some were complete novices interested in trying out something entirely new, some had been before and were looking to improve on previous years and increase their skills. There were male as well as female participants and all ages were represented. A grandfather, daughter and grandson within one family demonstrated the range catered for! One group had come to celebrate a birthday It

makes a really good present in case anyone is looking for inspiration in that direction as they read this!

At the beginning of the day things were a little tense until everyone had got started.



Getting a basket going requires a lot of concentration to begin with. Then things began to warm up and people's personalities started to show through. As usually happens when people began to see some signs of achievement, a collective sense of humour started to become evident, which set the atmosphere for the rest of the day with plenty of chatter and comparing of each other's cherished efforts.

The results at the end of the day were really as impressive as I have seen since

I have been involved with these sessions and everyone produced a pretty good basket to take home. It was particularly nice that this happened this year because it is the last year that Jenni Humphris will lead the group. Over quite a number of years The Barn has benefited from Jenni's wide experience in this craft and her generous donations each time of a considerable amount of her fees to The Barn have been very much appreciated. The fact that the best bit of lemony flapjack in the West of England came too was always a lovely bonus!!!



We all thank you very much Jenni.

We are, however, very lucky indeed that Tanya Bartlett — herself an experienced basket maker who has assisted Jenni over several years at The Barn — has agreed to take over the courses so I am very happy to say that we shall be back in action again next year. Keep an eye out for the advertisements.

Angela Davies

Story of Early Music

On a lovely Sunday afternoon in June, the Barn was filled with visitors aged 0 — 90 to listen to the sort of music that would have been heard in the days when the Barn was newly built. Tom Harrison, Sophie Creaner, and Elisabeth Flett entertained us with medieval dance tunes and songs from across Europe, playing on the kind of instruments that would have been used 600 years ago.



Sophie played a selection of recorders and explained how dance music gradually changed across the medieval period. Essa joined her on recorder and also played a medieval-style fiddle.

She talked about how medieval musicians would have learnt tunes by ear and improvised on the melodies and harmonies, just as modern folk musicians still do today, and she treated us to a tune she recently wrote in honour of the mouse she could hear scratching away in her flat!

Tom explained that brass tubing could not be bent smoothly enough in medieval times to make the compact brass instruments we know today, and valves been not invented, so trumpets were just long straight pipes which could only play a few notes and did not feature much in medieval music apart from fanfares. He therefore played the cornett, a strange instrument he lovingly called a "black banana", which he explained died out in the 1600s because it was too difficult to play well. With little for a trumpet player to do in this medieval recital, Tom also entertained us singing some medieval songs and playing tiny cymbals!



During the interval, Sophie worked with the children in the audience who had brought their own recorders along, and we were then treated to a rendition of the 13th century English round "Sumer Is Icumen In" with the children playing the part of the cuckoos. And as a further treat, Linda Hall brought along another strange old instrument, the nykelharpa, which visitors were able to hear and try out during the course of the afternoon. All in all, it was a very entertaining and relaxing afternoon, and very fitting for a wonderful medieval barn.

Louise Harrison

A Miller's Tale

Pete Morton is a modern-day troubadour, well-known throughout the folk world for his self-penned songs and engaging performances. His version of Chaucer's *The Miller's Tale* had the audience hanging on his every word. The tale, with his rapid change of headgear to denote the different characters (the mob cap with attached plaits was particularly fetching!) was interspersed with songs, ranging from Rock Around the Clock, All My Loving and Moon Shadow to Jerusalem. The excellent acoustics in the barn meant that not a word was lost and the audience joined in with enthusiasm, both singing the choruses and clapping along to the music. Come back soon Pete; we love you!



Linda Hall

West Gallery Workshop

This is the third year that the Bristol Harmony West Gallery Quire, led by Esther Steward, has led a workshop teaching people to sing and play the sort of music popular in churches in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Four-part harmonies and instruments ranging from a bassoon to concertinas, fiddles and flutes create distinctive and lively music which is huge fun to perform, and this event has become a firm favourite. This year we had 28 participants, 18 of them coming for the first time, as well as members of Bristol



Harmony. Esther is a very enthusiastic workshop leader and soon had everyone joining in, even if they hadn't done this sort of singing before. We even had a session outside in the north yard to give us some fresh air and a change of scene! We have already booked a date for next year, Saturday 21 July, so put the date in your diary and come and join us!

Linda Hall



Opera in the Barn - The Barber of Seville



Tessitoura have been bringing their productions to the Barn for 7 years now and we are never disappointed. This group aims to take music which will appeal to all ages into the community and to encourage young performers in their opera singing careers. This year they brought us the Barber of Seville, an outrageous tale of love, deception and disguise. Rossini certainly knew how to write a good tune and the young (and not so young) singers of Tessitoura know very well how to keep an audience enthralled. What a treat we all had!

A picnic in the Barn grounds, in Glyndebourne fashion, is part of the Tessitoura experience but this proved challenging this year with a rather wet afternoon, though a few hardy souls were not to be denied! For the less intrepid, the skies cleared at just the right time to allow everyone to enjoy a drink in the interval in the Barn yard.

We await next year's production with eager anticipation....

In the meantime, Tessitoura are performing a short (50 minute) opera "Puss in Boots" at the Mackay theatre in Bristol Grammar School on 26th November 2017 at 2 & 4 pm. All details are on the Tessitoura website.

Gill Greef

Alice in Wonderland - Ian Kennedy Productions

Adults and children alike followed Alice down the rabbit-hole this summer as she met the weird and wacky residents of Wonderland.



From the novel by Lewis Carroll, this new adaptation delighted families who enjoyed this unique brand of fast-paced, quick-witted story telling of the classic British novel.

Mad Hatter's tea party picnics were enjoyed under blue skies before the show. Children, some dressed in character, delighted in the complimentary treats from the Mad Hatter's Tea Party table during the interval.

D'Artagnan, Athos, Aramis and Porthos arrive at the Barn in August 2018 – The Three Musketeers is the next IK production.

Sue Fox

Go Wild at Winterbourne

A partnership event with Avon Wildlife Trust brought over 100 visitors to the Barn to take part in a day of nature and history based exploration including bug hunting, making a mini beast hotel, meeting Lord and Lady de Bradestone, willow weaving and the very popular colouring competition.



For many of the young families this was their first visit to the Barn and grounds. Children made nettle bracelets and bird boxes before setting off to explore the nature reserve, Bradley Brook and the Monks Pool.

The two winners of the colouring competition were congratulated by Lord de Bradeston and were presented with complimentary family tickets to Orchard Harvest Day in October.

We look forward to inviting Avon Wildlife Trust back to the Barn in 2018.

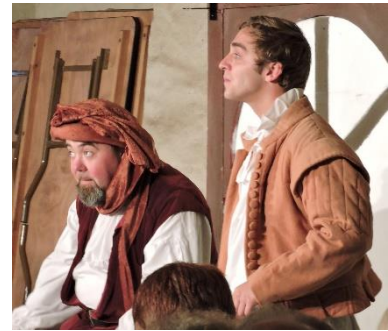
Sue Fox

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare – The Festival Players Theatre Company



This hilarious and colourful comedy from an all-male cast brought a summer feast of farce to a warm summer evening at the Barn.

A capacity crowd enjoyed picnics in the grounds before the tale of the roguish and foolish Knight, Falstaff. Scheming to woo two married women to get his hands on their husband's money, only to discover the wily Wives of Windsor were more than a match for him.



The Festival Players tour the UK and Europe with their productions and we feel privileged to welcome the Company back to Winterbourne each year and look forward to their production of A Winter's Tale on Tuesday 28 August 2018.

Sue Fox

Heritage Open Days and South Gloucestershire in the First World War Exhibition – 9 & 10 September

The Barn opened its doors to welcome some 200 people over the Heritage Open weekend as old friends and new visitors came to view the fabulous building. They had the chance to take a guided tour of the grounds and garden and spend some time looking at the South Gloucestershire in the First World War Exhibitions.



Many combined their visit with a walk to the spectacular St. Michael's church next door.

Amanda Vobes

Orchard Harvest Day 2017

‘A’ is for apple.

And they were in abundance at Orchard Harvest Day 2017.

Over 1500 visitors enjoyed every aspect of Winterbourne’s own festival of All Things Apples at this annual event which has now become a main feature of the ‘what’s on’ regional calendar.

A mix of both celebration and education the emphasis was definitely on reminding people of the huge diversity of traditional apple varieties, their values and uses.

A re-brand of the popular Winterbourne Cider Company’s cider as ‘Haythorn Cider’ was launched to great approval and given star ratings by all who tasted it.

Pressed and brewed at the Barn the team that regularly produce this amber nectar were on hand to demonstrate the traditional cider making process and to share the history of cider making through the ages.



Apple-bobbing was enjoyed by the youngsters in the crowd and an amazing display of apples in the Barn showed the many varieties available from established orchards in the area.



The origins of the naming of Flaxpits Lane and the prior use of the ‘duck pond’ in Winterbourne became clearer as Simon and Ann from Flaxland introduced to all the methods and skills which were required to enable the growing and processing of flax to make fibre. Once a cottage industry it was a surprise to most to learn that carts of freshly harvested flax were regularly cleansed in the waters of the purpose-made pond in Flaxpits Lane. Who knew?!

Amazing artisan crafts were demonstrated in the Barn and Byres and in the grounds an assortment of games and activities challenged all who were brave enough to take them on.

Squeals of delight from the south side of the grounds proved the ferret racing was as popular as ever with bets coming fast and furious — how many lost their shirt this year?

Llamas, pigs and geese also added so much enjoyment to the whole day as families engaged with the animals in a safe environment.

It was a bit of a squeeze in the car park due to the large number of people attending — apologies if you were in the queue. The stewards managed it magnificently and also raised £473 in donations for the Alzheimer’s charity.





An amazing variety of song, dance, local food and drink was enjoyed throughout the day and as the road locomotive 'Independence' steamed away from the Barn the day drew to a close.

With weather that was more reminiscent of mid-summer, memories of Orchard Harvest Day 2017 will hopefully stay with us as we shiver through the coming months.

Sue Fox

Growing Group

It has been another largely successful year for the barn garden despite the odd weather.



We had lots of climbing French beans of varying varieties, "Fasold" and "Golden Shrimp" (which lived up to its name!) were particularly tasty. We also had a good crop of potatoes, shallots, red onions, sweet corn, leeks etc plus tons of courgettes.

As we didn't grow tomatoes this year we grew more flowers so we had a very pretty display of sunflowers, cornflowers, calendula, poppies and nasturtiums which made the garden very colourful and attracted lots of insects.



We also now have 4 very neat wooden slatted compost bins thanks to Bob and his efforts which makes access to the compost much easier.

Orchard Harvest Day was another glorious day this year and we successfully sold a selection of our produce to raise some funds for the Barn. Val's lovely courgette cake went down a treat and tempted people to take some of the large courgettes to try it for themselves. Lots of visitors also looked around our garden and it was great to have a chat and show them what we have been growing.



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

We have met regularly since our spring news. There have generally been rather few of us at each meeting, but while we may not have achieved quite as much as I would have liked, we have had some very good sessions and are still on top of the site. This has been greatly aided by the kind gift from Terry Webber of his old sit-on mower. This has now greatly helped the mowing effort and Richard Spalding and I have been able to keep the grass in check in what has been a wild growing season. We are preparing for the last cut as I write. There is now a gate in the new fencing round the ditch. We were able to clear this area thoroughly at our October meeting; the gate will now facilitate access so that we can tidy up this part of the site on a regular basis.

There are two major tasks ahead; we need to take off a lot of hawthorn from the hedge with our neighbour, Tony Skuse, and this will be a winter or very early spring task before birds nest. Following the archaeological excavations in the south paddock several areas are still quite uneven and it would be good to attempt to even these out by use of the light roller that we have on site.

As always I thank all those who have assisted this year. We would very much welcome new volunteers. Please get in touch with me on 0117574921 if you would like to join us, meetings are usually held on the third Saturday morning of each month from 10 to 12.30 and we always have a break for refreshments and a catch-up.

Robert Beetham

Upcoming Events

December

Creating Your Own Christmas Door Wreath Workshop: Saturday 9 December 10 am – 12.30 pm – Workshop Full but a waiting list in place – please book direct with Organic Blooms.



Enjoy a morning creating a beautiful festive wreath to hang on your front door this Christmas. Florists from Organic Blooms at Latteridge will share their expertise at this workshop to help you produce a fabulous wreath full of seasonal colours and foliage that will last throughout the holiday season.

Cost - £45 to include all materials and seasonal refreshments.

<https://www.organicblooms.co.uk/contact-us/>

Carols in the Barn

Saturday 16 December and Sunday 17 December 3.30pm

A group of busy angels are making sure everything for the birth of Jesus goes to plan but does it? Members of St Michael's Church, young and old, will again present their own light-hearted dramatic take on the familiar Nativity story, in what has become a very



popular annual community event in a very atmospheric setting. It is not hard to imagine the biblical stable when you



are gathered in a wonderful medieval barn! The drama will be interspersed with traditional carols for everyone to join in, so come along and let the harmonies float up into the magnificent medieval roof timbers. The afternoon is suitable for all ages. Ticket prices include a cup of mulled wine or fruit juice and a mince pie to enjoy before the drama begins.

Gates open at 3.30pm and the carols start at 4pm.

Tickets cost £2 adult, £1 child, and are available from Daisy's Coffee Shop on Flaxpits Lane, or ring Gill on 01454 774479. There *may* be some tickets available on the gate, but numbers are limited so it is advisable to buy in advance.

Please remember the Barn is an unheated medieval agricultural building so wrap up warm, and wear shoes/boots suitable for uneven floors. Parking is very limited so please walk along Church Lane if you possibly can. If you do need to bring a car, please enter Church Lane *from the Beacon Lane end* only (i.e. one-way system) to avoid congestion.

February 2018

Apple Grafting Workshop: Saturday 3 March 2018

This apple grafting workshop will again be offered in 2018. 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 sharpen knives, cut the wood in the correct way and prepare 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, Head of Horticulture at the Soil Association who is a very experienced horticulturalist and from personal experience an excellent tutor. All participants on the 2017 course rated all aspects as excellent.

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 scion wood. The only equipment you will need will be a very sharp knife, e.g. a Stanley Knife.

The cost will be £45 which include provision of three rootstocks and tea, coffee and biscuits at various intervals during the day.

This course would make a very suitable present.

The workshop is limited to 8. If demand is sufficient, it may be repeated the following weekend.

For enquiries, please telephone 0117 957 4921

Full details of events and workshops: www.winterbournebarn.org.uk

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**

**WMBT (Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust) is Registered Charity No. 1112908 and is
registered in England as a company limited by guarantee no. 04797256**