

# Barndoor Bulletin Spring 2017

#### View from the Chair

**Dear Members and Friends** 

We are at the start of what I hope will be an exciting year for the Trust, and one which will determine our future. In the meantime we have an expanded events programme and full details are shown in this Bulletin.

The 2017 Events programme contains old favourites like Orchard Harvest Day, Opera and Shakespeare as well as new events such as Jazz in the Barn and Medieval Instruments. We also have a new way of buying tickets through Ticketsource and full details are on the website.

Those of you who have visited the Barn recently will have noticed changes. The Cow Byres have been converted into Rural Craft Units and are currently occupied by a Nano Brewery, a Forge and a Woodworker. As well as making better use of the site, these crafts will provide additional attractions at major events such as the Medieval Fayre and Orchard Harvest Day.

Another change on the way is the long awaited refurbishment of the Cart Shed as an Education and Reception Facility. In addition to a generous legacy, a donation and an SGC grant we have been fortunate to receive an EU Grant of £41K which will enable us to complete the refurbishment. As well as providing an additional facility, this will prevent further degradation of a building in poor repair. We will still require some additional funds in due course for fitting out. The initial surveys have been completed and planning consent has been received. It is anticipated that work on site will start in June this year after the Medieval Fayre and should take approximately four months.

Work on the HLF Project is also proceeding and a fuller report is contained elsewhere in this Bulletin.

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.

Thank you for all you do.

Sue Parsons – Chair sue.parsons6@btinternet.com

### **Heritage Lottery Fund Update**

It is just about a year since we received confirmation of the Part 1 Development Grant and a lot has happened since then. It would probably be useful if I set out the various elements and how the process works. In addition to the main building refurbishment element we need to demonstrate that the future activities engage a wider range of people whilst remaining consistent with the heritage, as well as demonstrating that we have a sustainable Business Plan. We also need to put in place appropriate Interpretation to tell the history of the barn and surrounding area. All these elements need to be combined into a cohesive plan to be submitted in November 2017 to apply for release of the remaining funding. The final element is the requirement for the Trust to raise £400K Match Funding.

We now have a full team of Consultants in place and a lot of research and consultation is taking place to develop the detailed plan. The key elements are:

**Activity Planning** – many of you have been involved in either carrying out research or participating in surveys. This will inform the planning of our new activities programme, ensuring that we have the right mix to make the heritage of the barn as accessible to as many different people as possible in ways that are appropriate to the site.

**Business Planning** – there needs to be a sustainable Business Plan to ensure that the complex can be maintained going forward. The Business Plan needs to reflect the activities identified above as well as any more commercial uses required for sustainability

**Interpretation** – the Barn has many stories to tell and we need to put in place appropriate means of telling visitors about the complex and the surrounding landscape.

These need to be brought together in **Building and Landscape Refurbishment** proposals which support the various aspects. Underpinning the overall project is the need to obtain additional **Funding** to deliver the overall project.

The detailed building proposals are currently being developed although it is, by necessity, an iterative process to ensure that the Business and Activity Plans and interpretation proposals are integrated and can be achieved with the funding available.

Unfortunately we are not yet in a position to provide details of how the future will look, due to ongoing development work. It is still a very fluid situation, as we need to be confident that we can sustain the Barn going forward, whilst making the most of its unique character. As soon as we have final proposals the intention is to present them to Volunteers, Members and Neighbours as part of the consultation process. All of the feedback can then be built into the final HLF Submission. In the meantime we will continue to update you via Barndoor and other Bulletins. We are also proceeding with a number of fundraising initiatives, and intend to launch a public campaign this Summer.

### **Events and Workshops 2017**

#### Jazz in the Barn – UWE Big Band. Saturday 20 May 2017 – 6.30/7.00 – 9.30 pm.

Members of the University of the West of England Big Band perform for the first time at the Barn. Enjoy cool, relaxing swing and Latin classics with silky smooth vocals and foot-tapping grooves. There may even be the opportunity for a dance or two during the two sets, or just simply relax and enjoy the music.

To accompany the jazz delicious locally sourced food and drink will be available to purchase from 6.30pm and throughout the evening. Relish Old Sodbury lamb burgers, vegetarian options, beers from The Bolthole Brewery and Mad Hatters Cider brewed at the Barn.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £10.00. Children under 16 yrs – £5:00

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 8 May 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

#### The Medieval Fayre. Sunday 11 June 2017 – 11.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Experience the vivid displays of daily life in a medieval encampment as the living history group, the Company of Chivalry, return to the Barn for the Medieval Fayre.

Find out how people lived, worked and fought whilst on campaign during the 100 years' war as they portray life in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Re-enactments of medieval military combat will take place, common soldiers, fighting knights and displays of medieval canon with a live demonstration at 12 noon.

Children's activities run all day in the Squires School and include training to be a knight, joining in drill with the soldiers, launching a projectile from the trebuchet, a treasure hunt before trying their hand at archery. Let Cats Whiskers Face Painting Team transform you into a knight, a princess or a mythical creature for the day.

Displays will include medieval cookery, crafts and trades with replica 14<sup>th</sup> century items for you to buy, including medieval coins.

Learn about medieval falconry and witness these beautiful birds in flight as Raptor care return to the Barn to thrill with their static and flying displays – you can even take a selfie with a bird on the glove.

Come along and cheer for your favourite knight or simply relax in and around the Barn and listen to talks about Medieval Life and How to Dress a Knight.

Music, dance, food and drink available all day from The Barrescrapers madrigal group, Bygonz Minstrels, Old Sodbury Lamb, Beer, Lorraine's famous sweets and savouries, Devon Ice Cream from Icicle tricycle, and Mad Hatters Cider brewed at the Barn.

Come early and stay all day.

Purchase tickets on entry.

Adults £3.00. Children under 16 yrs – FREE

#### Basket Weaving Workshop. Saturday 24 June 2017 - 9.30 am - 4.00 pm.

To the uninitiated basket weaving may, at first glance, appear complex and difficult to do. However the basket making workshops at Winterbourne Barn will enable you to successfully complete a small to medium sized round basket using willow of various natural colours to take home, and give you some idea as to whether it is a craft skill that you would like to acquire.

It is, however, just one day, so if you are a beginner who perhaps is not used to using your hands, please don't expect too much of yourself, it is just a taster session that it is hoped you will enjoy.

Tea and coffee are provided liberally throughout the day, but please bring a packed lunch and dress according to the weather. All tools and materials are provided, but if you have a pair of secateurs that you are particularly comfortable with please bring them.

Cost: £45.00 in advance to include all materials and tea/coffee provided throughout the day. Tel: Angela on 01454 778436 to book your place.

#### A Story of Early Music. Sunday 25 June 2017 – 2.30 pm.

A story of music and period instruments, suitable for all ages

Top musicians Tom Harrison, Sophie Creaner, Elisabeth Flett take you on a light-hearted historical journey with their period instruments.

You will have seen medieval paintings of angels playing long trumpets and huge recorders, or village bands with curved horns and bagpipes, but what did these old instruments actually sound like? Well, we certainly can't promise any angels, but this fun afternoon performance will give you an idea of the kind of music that would have been heard hundreds of years ago before king Henry VIII started chopping off heads or King Charles I lost his own.

Talented multi-instrumentalists Tom Harrison, Sophie Creaner, and Elisabeth Flett studied together at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. While their professional engagements now cover a wide range of musical styles from folk and jazz to musical theatre and orchestral work, they all share a passion for historical performance and re-creating some of the sounds of the past.

Enjoy the sounds of the late medieval and renaissance period in the perfect setting of the Medieval Barn, and see how musical instruments have changed.

Children are welcome to bring their recorders along and take part.

The grounds will open from 1.00pm so why not bring a picnic to enjoy before the performance in the Barn.

Drinks will be available to purchase before the performance and during the interval.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £10.00. Children under 16 yrs – £5:00.

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 12 June 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

# Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust Annual General Meeting – in the main Barn. Tuesday 4 July 2017 – 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm.

The AGM will be followed by a ticketed event.

The Miller's Tale. A musical comedy of Chaucer's "14th century Carry-On" told as never before by the evergreen song and dance man Pete Morton

#### The Millers Tale. Tuesday 4 July 2017 - 7.30 pm.

A musical comedy of Chaucer's "14th Century Carry-On", told as never before! Starring Pete Morton as the evergreen song and dance man, The Miller.

Acclaimed folk singer Pete Morton is a songwriter and performer with a wealth of great songs and stage presence – this unique one-man theatre show is just one strand in his multi-faceted performing career.

'You've taken a gem of a story and re-worked it so brilliantly for a contemporary audience, you've blown the dust off Chaucer's language and made us hear it afresh, you've made us laugh, sing, listen ... you made me cry with laughter. You were brilliant!' **Vivien Ellis** of the Dufay Collective, the international ensemble Sinfonye and Dartington Music Summer School. The Guardian described him as "Not only original, but a revelation".

Pete has been touring the folk circuits of Europe, North America and beyond since the late eighties. With his energetic and passionate style of performance, he brings together his love of the tradition with contemporary social commentary and writes "formidable songs that move the soul" (FolkWords).

Drinks will be available to purchase before the performance and during the interval.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £8.00. Children under 16 yrs – £5:00

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 26 June 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

West Gallery Workshop/Bristol Harmony West Gallery Quire. Saturday 22 July 2017 – 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

The West Gallery Music Workshop will be led by members of Bristol Harmony West Gallery Quire.

West Gallery music is the type of music sung in churches during the C18 and early C19, led by the village choir and the village band.

Thomas Hardy, himself a fiddle player, wrote about the old choirs in a number of his books, notably Under the Greenwood Tree. You can find extracts on the West Gallery Music Association website (www.wgma.org.uk), along with a mine of information about this type of music.

Above all, this music is FUN! It was such fun that the Victorians strongly disapproved and threw out the choirs and bands in favour of barrel organs, or pipe organs and robed choirs, producing the sort of church music which many of us grew up with.

If you like singing, do come along and join in; the music is accessible to all and you can learn by ear or read the music. The music is sung in four parts, so whatever your voice range, there is a part for you. Instrumentalists are also welcome - strings and woodwind are suitable, but not brass instruments or guitars. If in doubt, please ask. Instrumentalists please bring a music stand if you have one.

Music will be supplied in hard copy on the day but can be emailed if you would like to look at it beforehand.

Tea and coffee will be available from 10.00 am ready for a start at 10.30 am prompt. Parking will be available on site.

Cost: £15, payable on booking (cheques to WMBT please), which includes tea, coffee and biscuits; please bring a packed lunch. There will be a small additional charge for the music, payable on the day.

Booking form and further information available from Tuesday 2 May 2017.

Please book by Friday 30 June 2017 (sooner if possible) so that we know whether we have enough participants to make the day viable. As long as we have enough people booked by Friday 30 June, we may be able to take late bookings after that date.

Please contact Linda Hall at lindajhall61@googlemail.com.

Tel: 01633 889019 or 07891 688581

The Barber of Seville by Rossini – Tessitoura Opera Group. Sunday 23 July 2017 – 6.00 pm.

Two hundred and one years old, but still as light and fresh as candy floss! Rossini's take on the story by Pierre Beaumarchais revolving around Figaro. His opera is lively and vivacious, pouring onto the staves from his pen in under a month.

A recycled overture? A disastrous premier? A mob of thugs to cause trouble from the start? Is that the plot? No, a glimpse of the reality of the first production in Rome. But the opera is a triumph from the first beat of the baton to the last glittering notes, a musical delight with a plot as sticky as spun sugar!

All the elements are there: a noble count who loves a lady but wants her to love him for himself - not his money. A grumpy Dr, guardian to the lady, who desires her for a bride and for her dowry. A canny factorum or 'jack-of-all-trades' who is no fool. A dour hypocrite to help the Dr in his quest but who's easily bribed. And, the lady herself, a feisty ragazza trapped in the house with just a pen and paper for weapons! Climb aboard the rollercoaster ride, pull faces in the hall of mirrors, grab a candy floss then take your seat. Enjoy!"

The grounds will open from 4.30 pm so why not bring a picnic to enjoy before the performance in the Barn. Drinks will be available to purchase before the performance and during the interval.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £13.50. Children under 16 yrs – £10.00

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 10 July 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

9

#### Alice in Wonderland - Ian Kennedy Productions. Sunday 13 August 2017 – 2.30 pm.

Follow IKP down the rabbit-hole this summer and join Alice as she meets the weird and wacky residents of Wonderland.

Adapted from the novel by Lewis Carroll, this new adaptation for all the family promises to entertain young and old alike.

So bring along a picnic, as the Mad Hatter invites you to his tea party, and experience Wonderland like never before as Alice's world becomes curiouser and curiouser, until you think you've gone mad. But let us tell you something – all the best people are!

Following their previous summer successes with *A Rip-Roaring Summer Adventure* and *The Wind in the Willows*, IKP return with their unique brand of fast-paced, quick-witted adaptations of classic British novels, which promise to entertain all the family.

The grounds will open from 1.00 pm so why not bring a picnic to enjoy before the performance in the Barn.

Drinks will be available to purchase before the performance and during the interval.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £10.00. Children under 16 yrs – £8.00

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 24 July 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

# The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare – The Festival Players Theatre Company. Tuesday 29 August 2017 – 7.00 pm.

The Festival Players Theatre Company is a professional theatre committed to presenting the very best in touring theatre. Directed by Michael Dyer and music by Johnny Coppin.

The roguish and foolish Knight, Falstaff, schemes to woo two married women to get his hands on their husband's money, but the wiley Wives of Windsor are more than a match for

him. The Festival Players Theatre Company brings you this hilarious and colourful comedy in an all-male, fast-paced, costumed production. A summer feast of farce.

The grounds will open from 5.30 pm so why not bring a picnic to enjoy before the performance in the Barn. Drinks will be available to purchase before the performance and during the interval.

#### Purchase tickets -

Adults £14.00. Children under 16 yrs – £10.00

- Online <u>TICKETSOURCE</u> A booking fee will be applied.
- Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne from Monday 14 August 2017.
- On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn subject to availability.

Heritage Open Days – South Gloucestershire in the First World War Exhibitions. Saturday 9 September 2017 – 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm and Sunday 10 September 2017– 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm.

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties across the country that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

Winterbourne Barn is an outstanding and unique building of national importance. All other surviving medieval great tithe barns were built by the monastic estates, universities, or the Knights Hospitallers, but Winterbourne Barn was built by Thomas de Bradeston in 1342, just a few years before the Black Death first hit in England.

Only three barns of this scale are recorded as built by gentry' families, and Winterbourne is the only survivor. The Barn was built using the green-timber construction methods which were the cutting-edge technology of that period. It is a fine example of a raised-cruck construction and one of the largest and earliest raised-cruck barns.

In addition to touring the Barn and its grounds you will be able to view the South Gloucestershire First World War Project Exhibitions.

The exhibitions concentrate on what happened in the different areas of South Gloucestershire during WW1.

The first exhibition commemorates the First World War by focusing on how the different areas of South Gloucestershire were affected. Whilst the men went off to fight, the factories at home turned their production to vital war work, country houses became convalescent homes and women came into the world of work as never before.

The exhibition also connects us to some of the experiences of <u>our twinned towns</u> in France.

This second exhibition focuses on the social impact of the war in South Gloucestershire, displaying photographs and information about the war's effects on local women, scouts and even animals, along with information about some of the entertainment and sport that was enjoyed at the time.

Visitors will learn about the contribution made by the women left at home in South Gloucestershire, the local animals that were requisitioned and sent in to battle and there are pictures of local people entertaining themselves with theatre productions and concerts.

The banners tell these local stories using copies of original material from the archives of organisations belonging to the South Gloucestershire Museums Group and twinning associations.

#### www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1

Assistance and well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome. Dogs remain the responsibility of the owner within the grounds of the Barn.

Free entrance.

Orchard Harvest Day. The most popular annual event at the barn! Sunday 8 October 2017 – 11.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Visit this wonderful medieval barn which dates from the 1340s. See traditional cider making demonstrations using a Victorian stone apple mill and taste the results!

We will celebrate the Great British Orchard with an apple display and an expert on hand to identify varieties of apples – so bring your mystery apples along.

Let Cats Whiskers Face Painting Team transform you into a butterfly, a flower or a wild creature for the day.

Something for all the family. Skittles, archery, local crafts, rural skills, llamas, geese, apple bobbing and a variety of children's activities and games to choose from.

Learn about medieval falconry and witness these beautiful birds in flight as Raptor care return to the Barn to thrill with their static and flying displays – you can even take a selfie with a bird on the glove.

Music, dance, food and drink available all day from Bygonz Minstrels, Winterbourne Down Border Morris Dancers, Old Sodbury Lamb, Lorraine's famous sweets and savouries, Devon Ice Cream from Icicle-tricycle, Iocal Beer, and Mad Hatters Cider brewed at the Barn.

Assistance and well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome. Dogs remain the responsibility of the owner within the grounds of the Barn.

Purchase tickets on entry.

Adults £3.00. Children under 16 yrs – FREE

Creating your own Christmas Door Wreath Workshop – Organic Blooms. Saturday 9 December 2017 – 10.00 am – 12.30 pm.

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 - £45.00 to include all materials and seasonal refreshments.

Booking – direct with Organic Blooms from October 2017. www.organicblooms.co.uk/courses-and-workshops

Carols in the Barn. Saturday 16 December 2017 and Sunday 17 December 2017

3.30 pm - 5 pm.

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 4.00pm.

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).

Purchase tickets from Monday 6 November 2017.

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

• Tel: Gill – 01454 774479

Daisy's Coffee Shop, Winterbourne.

• On arrival at Winterbourne Medieval Barn – subject to availability.

Spring 2018

Apple Grafting Workshop - Saturday 3 March 2018

If you want to find out why we graft, how to acquire the skill or have a favourite that you wish

to propagate then this workshop is for you.

Full details of this popular workshop will be published at <a href="www.winterbournebarn.org.uk">www.winterbournebarn.org.uk</a>

October 2017.

14

## Apple Grafting Workshop February 25th 2017

Our second apple grafting workshop took place at the end of February, led again by Ben Raskin, a very knowledgeable and able teacher in many aspects of horticulture, particularly fruit growing.

After a warming cuppa and introductions in the warm office, Ben took our seven learners through the main reasons we graft fruit trees as a means of propagation, the various ways in which it can be performed, and the biological basis of the technique. There then followed a session on knife sharpening, a very sharp knife being a prerequisite for effective grafting. This was coupled with some brief but necessary words on safety when using sharp knives.

After more drinks, we continued in the office to begin the practical work by first practising the cuts in wood that would form the essential part of the grafting process. This is a session that is not to be rushed as in all such matters practice makes perfect.



By this time, everybody was ready for lunch, once we had cleared the office floor and surfaces of myriad different shapes and sizes of cut apple growths.

We then migrated to the South Range of the barn for the grafting session, a very appropriate setting for performing a technique that is much older than the barn itself. This is where the section of new wood from the tree that one wishes to propagate (known as a scion) is joined to a rootstock to form a new tree. Under Ben's

careful and patient tuition everyone in the group was able to make at least three grafts which we hope will spring into life in the coming weeks.

This was, as always a very rewarding group to work with. To judge from feedback, they all had a fulfilling and enjoyable day and have hopefully learnt a new technique that they can put into effect in the years to come. We are again grateful to Ben for spending his time and sharing his valuable expertise with us.

Robert Beetham

# Carols in the Barn – Saturday 10 December 2016 and Sunday 11 December 2016

Not even the torrential rain on Saturday could dampen the enthusiasm of all who attended or took part in Carols in the Barn 2016. Mulled wine and mince pies lifted spirits as the audience retreated to the Barn to enjoy their refreshments.

Congratulations to the congregation of St Michael's Church on yet another successful performance of the Christmas Story which has now become a Winterbourne tradition.





Told in a Barn, it attracts huge audiences including some people who may be reluctant to enter a church building to hear the story. St Michael's commitment to this annual production is hugely appreciated during a very busy time of year for all.

A slight improvement in the weather on Sunday led to a maximum capacity audience who were able to linger in the grounds but still needed to avoid the puddles.

Well done to all Barn volunteers for ensuring the success of the two events over such a wet weekend.

Thank you to the visitors who participated in a survey which has helped Winterbourne Barn Trust collect meaningful information towards planning future events and activities.

Many of you indicated that you may be interested in joining the teams who organise events and other activities at the Barn. A volunteer visit day is being planned for after Easter and we will be in touch shortly with full details.

A change of date for 2017 - closer to Christmas. Carols in the Barn 2017 will be held on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December 2017.

Sue Fox

### **Barnforce Spring 2017**

Barnforce has met regularly through the winter season, come weather fair or foul. In addition

to our usual tidying around the barn, in January we cleared the cow byres of all contents so that the byres were ready for new tenants. This forced us to take effective action and ditch a number of objects that had been earmarked for throwing away on at least two previous occasions. Two historic items, a winnower and a butter churn now have



refuge (temporary only!) in the cart shed. The end cow byre still contains a number of pieces of timber removed during the restoration of the barn at the beginning of this century and we still need to find a home for these or dispose of them.

The grass has all now received its first cut. I am still looking for somebody to share in this task; without a regular grass cut the barn would very soon revert to the wilderness state as portrayed in some of our archive images. Please get in touch with me if you could offer some help.

Robert Beetham 01179574921



#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For further details of events, or information on any aspect of the Barn project see our website <a href="www.winterbournebarn.org.uk">www.winterbournebarn.org.uk</a> 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