

# Chedham's Yard

## Supporters Newsletter No 3

### October 2019

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from Chedham's Yard. We have had an interesting year and just two events to go. The Halloween event with face painting and pumpkin carving and the traditional Christmas with carols, cake and of course Santa with his bag of toys.

### Tyre Bending Machine

When attempted to use the bending machine earlier this year it quickly became evident that over the many years the threads had worn on the tightening screws.

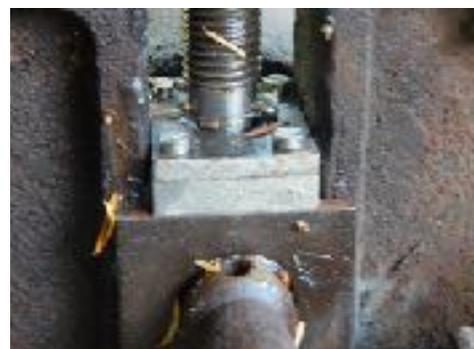
Consequently we could not use it. Since then new threaded screws have been produced and new parts made for the lower ends of the screws to bring it back to life.

Replacing the screw threads was not without it's problems. Being a very old machine they were imperial size, 7/8" Whitworth.

Fortunately, some stockist still have this size available. To retain some of it's past the square ends were transferred to the new parts.

The nuts are also worn and corroded, and these will be replaced during the winter months. A local engineering company has offered to help.

The machine will be re-fixed more securely to the mounting post to enable it to be used for demonstrations.



For safety reasons the exposed gearing will be locked when not in use.

The end of the threaded portion and rebuilt bearing block

### **The Photo Competition**

The competition attracted a lot of interest this year, we had 45 entries. The photos have now been judged and vouchers awarded to the winners.

The photographs have now been posted on the web site in the News Section. And a few are reproduced here :-



John Wharam



Jo Sinclair



Janet Hall



Jean Nightingale

A full display of the photographs is planned for the Halloween event on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### **'On Fire at Chedham's' the Tying Event**

On 7<sup>th</sup> Sept a new metal tyre was fitted to a rebuilt wooden wheel at the Yard.

The circumference of the tyre was about 25mm



smaller than the wheel. Without heating it could not be fitted. This is standard practice.

The metal tyre was heated to about 1000 degrees centigrade over an open wood fire to expand it and then carried 30 meters to where the wheel had been clamped to a metal platform.



The hot tyre was placed over the wooden wheel and tapped into place. Due to the high temperature of the tyre the wood starts to burn. Once in place the tyre is cooled with a large quantity of cold water.

Fitting the Tyre amid smoke & steam

This not only minimises the burning but also causes the tyre to contract onto the wheel pulling all the joints tightly together.

The work was carried out by, Robin Hill and John Everton, both are experienced wheelwrights and friends of Chedhams Yard. The event was well attended with a capacity crowd including visitors from outside the region.



Ideally the fire and platform would be closer together, but the Fire Department would not allow this due to the potential fire risks.

John and Robin with finished wheel

## **New / Old Tools**

We are always willing to seek new tools and equipment to the collection providing they represent the period of the Yard. We have recently been given a horse drawn furrowing plough.

The plough was made by R&J Reeves of Bratton nr Trowbridge in about the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. From the design of the main frame it is possible that it could have been used for other functions such as conventional ploughing, hoeing or cultivating. At the moment we have little further information. If any visitors/readers can add to what we already know we would appreciate the input.



New wooden hand grips will be made by the wheelwrights

We also have a conventional sack truck which has lost two of the 'cross support rails', this will be repaired during opening times without taking it apart. This could be a young person project for 2020.

How will it be done?

Recently we have been offered a wooden seed drill, which like many pieces of old farm equipment has been used as a garden ornament.

From what we know of this tool it has not been modified but is in need of some repairs. If suitable this could be another rebuild project for 2020.



Our policy on accepting such equipment is that it must be of the period of the Yard i.e. not newer than the early 1990s and we reserve the right to pass it onto a third party if it is subsequently deemed unsuitable.

We do however collect tools for the '**Tools With A Mission**' charity who refurbish tools for third world countries. For TWAM anything is considered for refurbishing and re allocating. We will be having a specific day allocated for TWAM during 2020 but we are willing to accept tools for them throughout the season.

## **Presentations**

These remain popular and we are now receiving bookings for 2020. If you know a group or club who would like to know more about the Yard and it's evolution from dereliction to the current active attraction then call the Yard on 01789 842 770 and leave a message or e-mail Eric Lawley on [e.lawley@ntlworld.com](mailto:e.lawley@ntlworld.com)

It was an interesting and challenging journey and we are now working with others to help them over some of the obstacles renovating their facilities.

## **Year End Events**

There are just two more events at the Yard before the end of the year namely

**26<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween** with pumpkin carving and face painting, although entry to the yard is free we would welcome a contribution towards the costs of the pumpkins.

**14<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party** with Carols, Santa, Christmas Cheer and an opportunity to buy those rare Christmas presents.

## **2020**

It is hard to believe that 2020 is just around the corner with an ever decreasing number of shopping days until Christmas..

For us at the Yard the priority over the next few months is maintenance and planning for the year ahead. It seems only yesterday that we were preparing for 2019.

We will be repeating some of the activities from 2019 and hope to be able to secure some new ones. Our new volunteers have brought new skills to the team which we plan to harness.

We will have a new redesigned leaflet for 2020 and will be using a leaflet distribution company in an attempt to reach out to a wider cliental.

The Trustees and Volunteers at the Yard would like to thank you for your continued interest in our activities and we hope to see you in 2020.

In the meantime we wish you a

Happy Christmas and a Happy &  
Healthy New Year.



For more information call us on 01789 842770 or 01789 555678 and leave a message.