

# Chedhams Yard Supporters Newsletter No. 4 – 2018



Welcome to the Chedham's Supporter's Newsletter..

Christmas is almost upon us and we are now all trying to get those last cards written and sent not forgetting the presents for the children and family and friends.

The Yard is now closed until Spring 2019 when we will probably open for a '*special event*' on Easter Saturday with a child orientated event. This will be decided over the closed period and details will be in the next Newsletter and on the web site.

Winter is a busy time at the Yard doing maintenance and tidying ready for the new Season.

Unfortunately, we have lost one of our long time volunteers who has left us due to changes in his personal circumstances. He had been with the Yard since its purchase in 2001 and had been an integral part of the running of the Yard we will miss his input but we respect his decision to move on.

On a more positive note we have also gained some more volunteers to join the team.

The challenge in the last newsletter to identify the metal toothed 'comb' has generated several responses, and we would like to thank you for your many suggestions. It could be used for wool or flax combing or thatch straightening. Which is the correct use?

The final events for 2018 were Halloween, Remembrance Day and our Annual Christmas event.

**Halloween** this year was a great success with more than 50 pumpkins carved and taken away along with a tea light to put inside to illuminate it after dark. We had a steady stream of families throughout the day. Once again this was run by Andy and Debbie who helped and guided the children to cut the pumpkins. No charge was made for the pumpkins.



## Pumpkin Mania

The **Remembrance** event was held on the Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> when the underlying theme was **those who returned**. It is not always recognised that the men and women returning from the war came home to a very different world to the one they had left a few years earlier. Many of the housewives and young girls had taken roles in the factories and the farms doing the jobs which had traditionally been done by men. They liked the independence this had given them and from an employers view point they were **cheaper labour** than men remembering that this was **long before wage parity**.

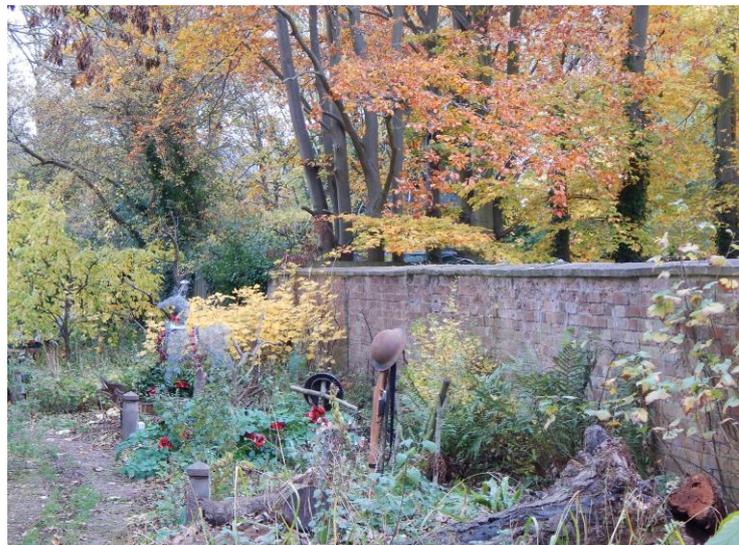
Many returning brought with them the horrors of war, many were partially disabled and suffered flash backs and mental problems.

Unlike today there was little if any support for the soldiers and they suffered in silence not talking about their experiences. It was very difficult for some to readjust and some made the ultimate choice and committed suicide.

The soldiers thought that they had fought the war to end all wars only to find that a few years later war would erupt across Europe once again in 1939. What a shock that must have been!

The event was supported by the Royal British Legion and others with stories to tell.

The garden was transformed to depict some aspects of the battlefield and there was a wealth of information, artefacts, news cuttings and pictures about the 1914/18 period.





The garden and the café areas were set out to tell the story of WW1 with much material relating to the men and women of Wellesbourne and Walton

The year finished on a more cheerful and positive note with the Annual Christmas event. Music and carol singing was provided again by Jeff and Margaret and for the children Santa was there in the film room with his sack of toys whilst in the café there were a wide range of gifts, from mice to angels, made at the Yard plus cakes and drinks for all.





We have also been out and about publicising the Yard within the local area with displays and sales at two village events both of which attracted visitors from the surrounding area

Looking back over the year we have maintained our footfall number and have had success with some new ventures. Overall the year has been rewarding for those running and working at the Yard.

Unfortunately despite a lot of effort and liaison with local schools and encouraging comments from them these did not result in the visits we had hoped for due in part to transport costs and pressures on schools with the national curriculum. We wish to thank Kate for all her efforts trying to bring the schools on board. Our situation is not uncommon. Many venues across the region have had similar experiences.

On a more positive note we did attract visits from the Guides and Rainbows who had a thoroughly enjoyable time and the opportunity to talk to the blacksmiths and wheelwrights about times gone by and to gain a basic understanding of why things were done the way they were. Their visits and the activities undertaken whilst on site were part of their badge work.

## Presentations

For more details about the Yard and Presentations call the office on 01789 842770, this is an unmanned telephone, but we will return all calls.

Alternatively e-mail us at:-

[bookings@chedhamsyard.org.uk](mailto:bookings@chedhamsyard.org.uk) or [enquiries@chedhamsyard.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chedhamsyard.org.uk)

## **And Finally**

The staff at Chedhams would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at the Yard during 2019