

Chedhams Yard **Supporters Newsletter No. 1 – 2019**



Welcome to the Chedham's Supporter's Newsletter.

Here we are at the start of another season at Chedham's Yard, the event demonstrators have all been booked, the leaflets are being printed and the web site has been updated. During the closed period we have been busy with maintenance work. The Yard will reopen on Easter Saturday 20th April with an Easter Egg hunt, the rules are simple, but children will need to solve a puzzle with the clues they find to claim an egg. Parents can join in the fun.

Presentations

We started 2019 with two presentations to local groups, this year we have a new presenter. David Close who had been a mainstay of the Yard since it's purchase in 2001 and had been doing the presentations but the team at the end of 2018 due to other commitments and the role has been taken on by Eric Lawley, who normally looks after the marketing activities. Although Eric worked for 45 years within the car industry his family were blacksmiths and farmers, so he brings with him a background knowledge of rural activities. If your group would like a presentation about the Yard then contact Eric directly at e.lawley@ntlworld.com and he will liaise with you on times and dates.

Group visits continue to be popular and we have several groups booked in for the earlier part of the season.

A group visit can be at anytime during the day or evening on weekdays for groups of 12 or more for which a nominal charge is made. For each group visit we have both the wood turners and blacksmiths demonstrating the traditional techniques used in wheelwrighting and metal forming. The group will also have a guided tour of the Yard when the Chedhams story is



explained supported by two videos of the yard and another showing how the metal tires are fitted to the wooden wheel. The visit is rounded off with cake and drinks in the visitor centre where there is a selection of souvenirs including wood and metal items made at the Yard. The Yard office is unmanned and to book a group visit e-mail e.lawley@ntlworld.com this will ensure that your request is dealt with promptly.

Volunteer Team

Inevitably volunteers leave due to a variety of reasons and this year has been no exception with two of our stalwart volunteers leaving due to health problems. However, we have been fortunate that we had also have several new volunteers join the team for 2019.

New event themes

For 2019 these include Quilting, Textiles, Wildlife Preservation and Protection, return visit by a wood carver and to commemorate the 80 years since the outbreak of WW2 we are including a day devoted to Wellesbourne at War. Wellesbourne Airfield, now the subject of a planning battle, was a training base for WW2 bombers and a 'fall back' airfield for returning aircraft.

A list of dates and events can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

Blacksmith Experience

Also new for 2019 is the opportunity on **some** Saturdays to work with the blacksmith to make an item and take it home as a 'self made' souvenir of your visit. There will be a small charge for this and anyone considering participating will need to wear robust footwear, trainers are not acceptable. We will provide a safety apron and helmet/googles.



The forge is a hot environment and the work requires effort, it is unsuitable activity for anyone with a heart or respiratory condition. It can be a good and rewarding experience.

If you are interested ask at the gate when you visit. It will be dependent upon which the blacksmith is on duty.

The Mystery Tool

Last year I asked if anyone could help to identify a tool that had been donated to us. I had several replies with differing thoughts and names for the tool. I subsequently contacted the British Agricultural History Society. They think that it is a 'hackle' used in the preparation of flax into fine fibre in order to prepare linen thread.



We know that flax was and is still grown in our area so this could well be one of the tools from a local farm.

Below is an extract from the internet, more information can be found at:-

<https://homeplaceearth.wordpress.com/20...-hackling/>

Flax to Linen: Hackling August 8, 2017 by Cindy Conner



“Hackling takes freshly broken and scutched flax and turns it into fine fibre ready to spin. You toss the ends of the flax onto the hackle and draw it through. With each new toss, add more length of fibre until you get to the middle. Then turn it around and do the other side, beginning with the tip.

Just like with flax brakes, flax hackles may be hard to find. I found my first one for \$60 in an antique mall in Pennsylvania. The spacing of the tines varies and you will find them in fine, medium, and coarse spacing. Lucky for me, the one I found in that antique mall was a medium. The tines are a half inch apart with offset spacing, meaning they are not lined up like the corners of a square. If you have a medium hackle you can do a good job of processing flax into fibre to spin with just one hackle.”

And Finally

The staff at Chedhams would like to have the opportunity of welcoming you to the Yard during 2019. Enjoy your visit with your family and friends and light refreshments in the Visitor Centre or if you want a more substantial meal then there is the Stag's Head close by.

Enjoy the calm and solitude of the Yard away from the bustle of the popular tourist attractions such as Stratford and Warwick.

You could combine your visit to our area by going to one of the other local sites such as the Motor Museum at Gaydon, The Watermill at Hampton Lucy or the Shakespeare Distillery.

2019 Programme of Events

- 20 April Easter Saturday Egg Hunt
- 27 April Blacksmiths and Wood Turning & Children's Crafts with Debbie Chowdhury
- 4 May Children's Crafts with Jo Chorley
- 11 May Hedgehogs & Children's Crafts with Debbie Chowdhury
- 18 May at 6am Dawn Chorus Walk with Steve England
- 18 May at 11am Warwick Museum will showing and discussing local 'finds'
- 25 May Photo Competition – theme is 'The Yard'
- 1 June Recycling, Bring & Buy and Children's Crafts with Jo Chorley
- 8 June Quilting with Philip Anderton
- 15 June Blacksmiths and Wood Turning, also Street Fayre
- 22 June Wheels and TWAM – Robin Hill & TWAM
- 29 June Open Studios with multiple artists
- 6 July Spinning with Ewe to You
- 13 July Blacksmiths and Wood Turning
- 20 June Kineton Art Group Display & Talk
- 27 June The Chedhams with Steve England
- 3 Aug Wildlife Trust & Children's Crafts – Debbie Chowdhury
- 10 Aug The Honey Bee with Liz & Steve Bates from Combrook Honey
- 17 Aug Wood, Wood Turning & Woodland Trust
- 24 Aug Willow Weaving - Avril Smolders
- 31 Aug Wood Carving & Textiles Jane and Perterson Cobbett
- 7 Sept Wheel Making and Rural Crafts – Robin Hill
- 14 Sept Heritage Open Day
- 21 Sept Sketch Pad Day with Audrey Sibert, local artist and teacher
- 28 Sept Wellesbourne at War with Eric Lawley & Steve England
- 26 Oct Halloween & Pumpkin Carving with Debbie and Andy Chowdhury
- 14 Dec Christmas with Carols & Fun with Santa