

Supporters Newsletter – August 2016



Welcome to the Second edition of Chedham's Supporters Newsletter

We are just past the halfway point in the 2016 programme and we can add some successes to our efforts.

With the steady support of three of our team, we have been able to demonstrate blacksmithing each weekend. They have now been joined by a qualified blacksmith, Tom Phillips who is teaching the team some new skills.

Interestingly, the items made in front of the visitors sell well. Whereas the similar items displayed in the café area do not. Perhaps seeing it made, then buying, adds, that personal connection. Whatever the reason, well done to the team.



One of our volunteer blacksmiths working the bellows and forge



Working the forge is hot and hard work, consequently the kettle is an essential piece of equipment at any forge.

Over the winter period, we rearranged some aspects of the forge to give a more open look. This has given the visitors a much clearer view of the work.

We had a **Victorian Music** event. Music was provided by Margaret and Geoff, who usually support the Christmas event. The Victorian themed music day was a pleasant change. The day went well and was enjoyed by all.



Street Fayre and Fetes



Wellesbourne Street Fayre 11th June

This year we have participated at several events away from the Yard. This was done to increase our visibility.

We were at the Wellesbourne Street Fayre on 11th June, at Compton Verney on 26th June and at Ashorne Fete on 2nd July

The display material is continually updated. We have included artefacts and items made at

the forge along with scale models that, represent items that are or were originally at the yard. These are used to explain how they were made and maintained.

This year a **sliding bed saw bench** has been added. This type of saw was used in the Yard for cutting tree trunks into planks for wheel making. The one at the Yard was powered, at one point, by a Titan tractor, although it is likely that other forms of drive power were also used.

These events are an important way of advertising the Yard, but they require people to support the displays and talk to the visitors. The display material is continually updated and always ready should we get a request. We plan to participate in more local events in 2017.

Staff changes are inevitable. This autumn we are losing a long standing member of the volunteer team who is moving away from the village to start a new life in Cumbria. We are also losing another long term team member who is now heavily engaged in academic studies. We wish them both well in their new lives.

We have been fortunate to gain some new 'young' volunteers who wish to work in various areas of the yard, providing valuable additional support to the group. We still need more volunteers to help run the yard in all areas, from gardening to administration and from marketing to maintenance.

Many who run the Yard are retired and we need more younger members to join and to carry the Yard forward into the 2020s and beyond.

If you know anyone who may be interested, please bring or send them along to the Yard. Alternatively they can send their details to Eric Lawley and he will ensure that the forms are completed and processed. e.lawley@ntlworld.com

Local co-operation This is an area where we are working hard to establish reliable links with neighbouring facilities, such as Compton Verney. Although they operate on a much bigger scale, there are potential benefits to both of us. Visitors to Compton Verney often have time on their hands after their visit. They could easily come along to us to complete their foray into Warwickshire. How this will work is subject to ongoing discussions. Our participation at the Compton Verney event was part of our active cooperation with other local organisations.

The Live and Local musical event is progressing to plan. Many stories have been collected from volunteers and residents about the Yard and the village. These have been developed into songs and will be shared with an audience at a concert on **9th September at 7.30pm in St Peters Church, Wellesbourne.**

Doors open at 7.00pm for free wine and canapés. The event is ticket only, so that we can know how many will be attending. Tickets can be obtained by calling the Live and Local team on 01926 402 173 or email katy@liveandlocal.org.uk tickets will be sent to you by post.

Following the concert the songs will be available on CD

A copy of the advert accompanies this Newsletter.

Working with young people

The first few events run by our new Learning Team Leader, Amy, have been a success and she will be building on these. She is continuing to develop links with other organisations including Compton Verney.

We will be participating in a **National Citizens Scheme 'Challenge'** project with youngsters from the area. The Yard offers many opportunities to learn new skills from a bygone era. In return these youngsters will also be doing some physical work at the yard.

Presentations to groups such as U3a continue to be successful and generally result in visits to the yard and perhaps gaining new volunteers. It is important that we continue to link with the community, to bring new people to the yard and with new ideas to make it viable.

Finding the Yard The planning restrictions imposed by Stratford District Council prevent us from having permanent signs in the Village and for a variety of reasons we have been unable to get permission for Brown tourist signs. Consequently up until now we have used portable but heavy wooden "A" frames set out each Saturday

These have now been replaced by some high visibility and lighter notices. They conveniently sit over the wooden posts in the Square and on the lamp post leading along Church Walk. They are much easier to handle. A new sign has also been made for the end of the driveway and hooks onto the telephone pole. All these will give a more professional image. Visitors should now have less of a problem in finding us.



Parking still remains an issue but again new signs have been erected which show the parking area by the main sports field.

Free Entry

The team decided that, in this 10th anniversary year of winning the BBC Restoration Programme, we would have **Free Entry** to the Yard on Saturdays. Visitor numbers are good and our income has increased through Cafe sales and donations. However despite regular posters and adverts all stating Free Entry the message has been difficult to get across.

The Wheelwright's Workshop

The plan for the wheelwrights was to have this operational, to some extent during this season. We have Robin Hill joining us on 6th August and again on 3rd September to demonstrate wheel making. Robin was involved with us during the HLF period and he has a wealth of knowledge to share.

We are also actively working towards a more permanent demonstration within the workshop and to this end, we have acquired a wood tuning lathe. We have also secured the support of the Heart of England Wood Turners Association, The lathe has been set up in the workshop, in clear view of the viewing platform but in a position such that it does not detract from the general layout of the workshop and the many artefacts. We plan to have the lathe operating and making interesting items in the latter half of 2016. Items made will be on sale in the Cafe,

Thank you for your continuing interest and support,

Programme for the remainder of 2016

- 20 August Family Fun Day**
- 27 August Farming in Miniature** a display of one twelfth and one eighth scale models of farming implements made by local modellers
- 3 Sept. Wheel making Demonstration** by a local wheelwright
- 9 Sept. Discover Chedham's Musical Event at St Peters Church**
- 10 Sept Heritage Open Day**
- 17 Sept. Bees and Honey** – a day to learn all about bees and honey making from local experts
- 24 Sept. Harvest Day** – A celebration of harvest with veg and fruit displays plus fruit pressing making real fruit juice.
- 29 Oct. Halloween - with Face Painting, Pumpkin carving & Pumpkin pie**
- 10 Dec Christmas Event at the Yard** with Father Christmas, Christmas carols, and good cheer.