

# Chedhams Yard Supporters Newsletter No. 2 – 2017



Welcome to the Chedham's Supporters Newsletter..

We have now reached the end of our regular opening programme with just the **Halloween and Christmas events to follow on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

We have had a good variety of events throughout the season and the public support has been good. The free entry introduced last year has been retained which encourages those who just want a quick look around and a drink and cake to drop in for a short while to see what is happening and then maybe linger a little longer.

Our Management Team has been strengthened by the addition of two local District and County councillors who will bring with them a wealth of knowledge from other disciplines.



We have also been fortunate to engage a young lady who is now looking after our Facebook entries

We started the year a second-hand wood turning lathe and were able to make a few items but it was noisy and vibrated even when running with nothing in the lathe.



Some of the items made earlier this year at the Yard

We decided to buy a new machine which allow was not of the period when the Yard was operating it enabled us to demonstrate the principles of turning and at the same

time make articles for sale in the café. Now suitably dusty and a old style bench it fits well into the ambience of the Yard. We can show how wood is worked and then explain how this would have been done in the past with the heavy treadle powered devices.

Our Learning Officer, Kate, who we introduced in May, has been working to develop activities for the younger age groups such as Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts. We have had a steady stream of these groups into the yard in the evenings for fun and badge work.

The first event was 14<sup>th</sup> June when about 20 youngsters enjoyed learning about the blacksmith, wheelwright and the working of the yard, Mike, Ian and Tony were on hand to talk about what they were making and Margaret gave them stories about the Yard.. They all enjoyed the evening and went away with the carts that they had made and raced. Here they are in the forge learning about blacksmithing from Mike.



Children visiting on a Saturday opening day have not been forgotten. We still have the ever popular mouse trail plus during the 2017 season we have had some days specially aimed at children with a range of 'crafting' activities

As part of our general awareness campaign we participate in local events such as the Street Fayre, Rural days and other Heritage activities.



This year was no exception and we were at the Wellesbourne Street Fayre again and at the Rural Weekend at Compton Verney

Some of the 2017 events are covered below, some new and some repeats.



Our first 'new' event for 2017 was the **nail making** with Chris Turton from the Black Country Museum. Chris was supported by Steve Watson, who has now recovered and is back at the Yard, and Michael Dane. Steve has recently joined the Black Country museum as a demonstrator

The nails were made from square section steel bar and headed using some of the tools from the yard. This has given us a new dimension as we are now making nails ourselves. These are now on sale in the café, alongside the pokers, weeders and bottle openers.

**Wool Spinning** was also new venture for 2017 a team from 'Ewe to You' from Leamington showed how wool was removed from fleece, by carding, and then spun into thread/yarn ready for knitting.



Six ladies from the group worked all day outside in the sunshine. At one time many rural homes would have had spinning wheels and garments would have been hand made

We were lucky again this year to have Debbie Chowdry to organise and run the **children's art day**. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us but those who did visit had an enjoyable time making spinners, cutting, sticking and painting.



The activities took place in the film room, which, unfortunately prevented visitors watching the videos and the guides had to cover the content of the films, but it left the café area clear to serve refreshments.

Towards the end of August we had another children's event this time with Jo Chorley

Both Debbie and Jo will be back for the Halloween and for the Christmas events.

Flowers are a big part of any country garden and we reflected this again in 2017 with a **Flower Festival** run for us by Wellesbourne Flower Group and coordinated by Catherine Wickens, using only British Flowers.



At the entrance there was a 'barrow load of flowers' as can be seen on the right.

While throughout the yard there were more formal displays including a decorated arch, small hanging clusters.



After the event some of the arrangements were taken to and given to the care homes in the village. Others remained at the Yard as decoration for a midweek visit.

The **Art Display** has become an annual event and attracts many visitors to the Yard.

The day was organised and run by the Kineton Art Group who not only provided a wide range of exhibits but also put on a live demonstration of painting and sketching

A good range of paintings were available to study and/or. The group also encouraged visitors to consider art as a relaxing hobby, and the chance of joining in the fun with the Kineton Group offering guidance and advice.

If you want to join the Kineton Art group talk to us



**Bees and their honey** are fascinating subjects and are critical to plant life across the globe

Once again Liz and Steve Bates came to the Yard to answer questions and talk about bees. Liz and Steve are the owners of Combrook Honey whose products we sell at the Yard.

Bees, including bumble bees, pollinate most of the crops which we rely on for food. They are often taken in their hives to orchards and other growing areas to pollinate the crops, thus reducing the reliance on the wild bee population.

This can be a significant part of the income for the bee keepers

The picture shows Liz with a honey comb taken from a hive.



We started September with a **Sketch Pad** day. Audrey Sibert demonstrated how to capture the images with pencil sketches and water colours.



Although the attendance was not as high as we would have liked those who did come along and were interested in drawing quickly got their pencils out and were sketching away right up to closing time.

The Yard has participated in the Warwickshire Heritage Open Days for many years and this year out Theme was Bill Chedham, the last owner of the Yard.



We had displays of Bill's cups and trophies for tug'o'war, his wood carvings, the songs from the Live and Local performance and a selection of Horse brasses from Bill's house.

We also displayed a range of Coopering Tools. As far as we know wine / beer casks were not made at the Yard but there is strong possibility that the hoops could have been made there at some point in the Yard's history.



The metal forming rolls outside the blacksmith's shop have the capability of forming the conical hoops used in barrel making. Whereas in most wheelwrights / blacksmiths the upper and lower forming rolls would have been parallel. On the set at the Yard the upper roller can be set at an angle to the two fixed lower rollers which would then give the conical hoop.

Given the fact that the family did not overspend this would have been a more expensive device than the parallel roller type and it could have been bought with barrel hoop making in mind.

**Wheel making** was again part of the 2017 programme supported by Robin Hill. Robin is a practising wheelwright and brings knowledge and experience to the Yard and can talk about all aspects of wheel making from the wood through to fitting the rims. He also showed how to make large wooden tent pegs using simple tools.



Wood was a very important material in past times and in the absence of steel for buildings and other stressful uses wood was the material of choice.

We mounted a display of British woods and

discussed their uses and limitations. This was supported by a wood carving demonstration and display provided by the Coventry Wood Carvers, and a range of turned wooden bowls and dishes.



At the same time wooden hedgehogs were being made in the wheelwrights and the whole event was rounded off with pokers and nails, for joining wood, were being made in the forge - all were for sale.

The final September event was our annual **Harvest Day** with lots of fruit and vegetables on display and ripe apples being pressed to produce a delicious juice.



The Fruit and Vegetables which were not sold were donated to the needy through a local church

**The two final events for 2017 are Halloween and Christmas events on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December respectively.**

We regularly report on the events themselves but the unsung heroes at the Yard are the staff in the kitchen who work tirelessly making tea and coffee, the guides and of course those working in the wheelwrights and blacksmiths, not forgetting the garden team.

We are always seeking new volunteers to join the team at Chedham's. If you live locally and would like to join the team then give Eric Lawley a call on 01789 555678 or e-mail him on the address with this newsletter. There are a wide range of opportunities for everyone and don't forget this is a good way of adding to your CV.

As you know the Yard is located in a quiet oasis and adjacent to open fields which make it an attractive venue for small quiet groups to meet. We can accommodate groups of up to 20 people. For details of how to hire the venue call the office on 01789 842770, this is an unmanned phone 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)

**Thank you for your continuing support.**