

FARMLAND MUSEUM TODAY

A Newsletter from all involved at the Farmland Museum

The Farmland Museum, Denny Abbey, Ely Road, Waterbeach. Cambridge. CB25 9PQ.

Tel: 01223 860988 Website: www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk Education Website: <http://dennyeducation.co.uk>

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Issue No. 1

Spring 2017

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Newsletter for the Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey. It is hoped that you will find this both informative and entertaining. As editor, I cannot pretend that we have got everything right first time, so if you have any observations or suggestions - and who knows, even perhaps items for future issues, please feel free to contact me on my email address piscator2003@yahoo.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you. - Ed.

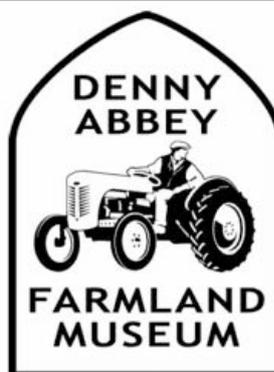
THE ORIGIN - An introduction to the newsletter from Dr. Jane Williamson MBE, Chair of the Trustees of the Farmland Museum.



'Over the Gate' gave a lovely taste of what the Farmland Museum is about and what it does. Although it was published for the Friends of the Farmland Museum it was also distributed more widely to a select audience and was a very good way of letting

people know what goes on. Over the years Peter Reeves patiently extracted copy from contributors, took photos and always came up with something very special. With the winding up of the Friends came the final edition of Over the Gate. However, staff and trustees and others all agreed that it would be very good if there could be something to replace it. Once again Peter has stepped into the breach and agreed to take on publication of our new newsletter for which we are so grateful.

The Museum owes an enormous debt of gratitude to all the Friends who have contributed so much over the 20 years that the museum has been at Denny Abbey. That we have been here for 20 years is quite an achievement at a time when museums are finding it harder and harder to survive in the much less supportive cultural environment. We face great challenges but also great opportunities. As a development of a new town between Denny Abbey and Waterbeach village becomes an increasing reality, the Museum and Abbey will have an important part to play in telling the new residents about the story of their new surroundings. We hope there will be the opportunity to expand and grow to provide a very special local destination for existing and new residents in South Cambridgeshire and beyond.



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS ON THE DENNY ABBEY SITE.

Yes, the Farmland Museum has been 20 years at Denny in 2017.

There have been very many colourful events at the Museum in 20 years, many organised by the now defunct Friends of the Farmland Museum but a common theme is dressing up... people seem to love dressing up as witness below - 20 years of it already... and more to come!



THE MUSEUM MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear all

I'm looking forward to welcoming old and new visitors to Denny this year!

I can't believe that that we're going to be opening for a new season on Saturday 1 April! Staff and volunteers have been working hard over the winter to get the site ready for our exciting year ahead. Its a big year for the Farmland Museum as 20 years ago on 1 May 1997 the museum opened to the public at it's new Denny site. To mark this milestone anniversary celebrations include a refurbished Pig Shed 1 to tell the story of the museum's origins, the early days at Denny and our hopes and ambitions for the future. Our aim is to have a birthday theme throughout the season starting with our annual Craft Fair on Monday 1 May, visitors will be invited to have a slice of birthday cake and play some games. Later in the year Mike and Lorna the museum's founders will be giving a free talk at Heritage Open Day in September. Keep visiting our Facebook page and website for details of other events with a birthday theme - pin the tail on the donkey anyone?

Dates for your diary between now and June:

1 April - We open (until 29 October)

17 April - Easter Fun At Denny (family friendly day including a family Trail and tours of the Abbey)

1 May - May Day Craft Fair (information about booking a stall can be found on the website)

28 & 29 May - 1940s At Denny

18 June - Fathers' Day

Information about all the year's events can be found in the 2017 leaflet (available soon) or on the website.

We welcome enquiries from anyone with vintage vehicles, model railways, interesting collections and hobbies who'd like to come along and share their interests with our visitors at any of our events. I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who makes candles!

As well as an overall birthday theme some of our events will be celebrating Cambridgeshire's folk history as part of Tracing Traditions a countywide project we're participating in managed by the Museum of Cambridge. We're also hoping to link up with the Cambridge Museum of Technology for an event ... watch this space!

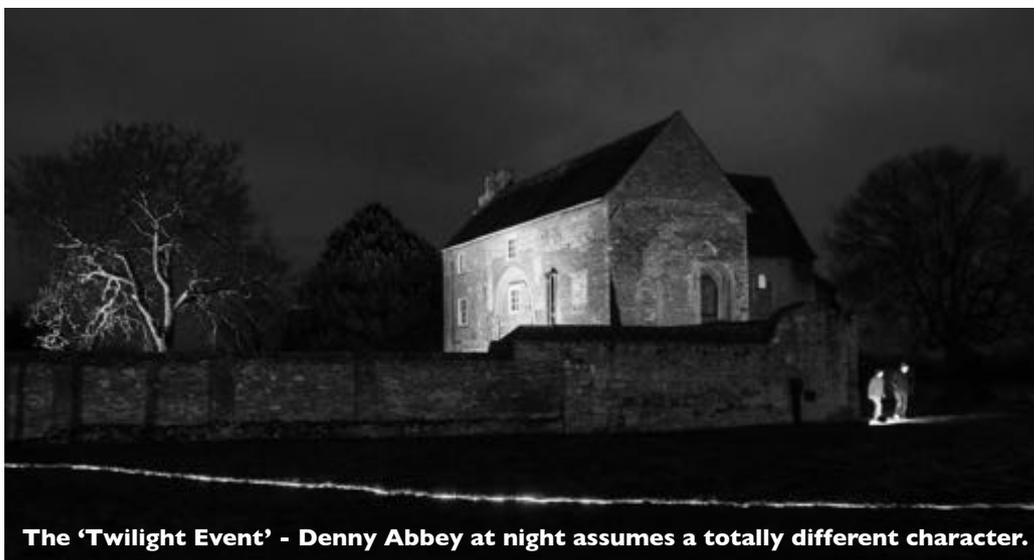
Its going to be a busy and action packed season - please come and join in!

*Ann Wise.
Museum Manager*

THE 'TWILIGHT' EVENT 15th FEBRUARY 2017

The Twilight event may not be a familiar one to some of you. It is a scheme in partnership with Cambridge University Museums whereby Museums, including of course the The Farmland Museum, open their doors to the public free of charge to experience the interest

and stimulation that the museums have to offer. It is held from 4.30 pm until 7.30 pm thus allowing school children, at whom it is primarily targeted, to attend. Not quite re-living the celebrated "A Night at the Museum" but at least a few twilight hours. - Ed.



The 'Twilight Event' - Denny Abbey at night assumes a totally different character.

So, how did this years 'Twilight' event go? Well, the Education officer, Fanny Bara, was heavily involved in organising and supervising this occasion- with support from other staff and volunteers - and her message to them of appreciation I think says it all.

“Dear team of volunteers, trustees and colleagues,

I wanted to find the time to express my gratitude and to say a huge thank you to all of you. Twilight isn't an easy event. It is a challenge to open our museum at night time during our closed season in February. Your presence, your warmth transformed it. It gave life to the museum.

We welcomed 166 people (72 adults and 94 children), we told the story of the beginning of the Museum with handling objects, we told nearly-real family stories, we taught about the stars in the sky, we sold old fashioned sweets, we promoted the farmland voices website and told the story of the cottage. We showed and played with yesteryear toys from the collection, managed the car park, organised the free entrance and

sold gifts, produced light from steam engines, we sold tea, coffee, cakes and treats, we lit up this amazing site beautifully. The rooms looked their very best possible, we dealt with issues before and during the evening and we didn't have any accident. We did so well! Twilight couldn't be as joyful as it was without your ideas, your stories, your inputs, your help and support. I would like you to realise how difficult this event could have been and how delightful we made it. I appreciate it was an extra push to make it so. THANK YOU!

People really enjoyed themselves and gave more than £40 in donations, spent £46 in the gift shop, £40 in the tea room and £18.90 in the sweet shop. This free event is important not because of the money it brings but because it is the first event of the year and it gave a stunning starting point. It also put the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey on the map of the University Cambridge Museums network. Thanks to each one of you.

Fanny”



Twilight featured custom 'Happy Family' cards by Ann Biggs with the Delaney family (Museum founders) depicted. Below, 'Twilight' was heavily augmented with electric light, especially for safety reasons!

WANTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP PLEASE DROP IN TO THE
MUSEUM OR CALL 01223 860988

- 1 or 2 rolls of wall paper with white, black and brick colours
- Bright coloured ribbons
- Bright coloured wool
- Fancy paper
- 2 pint milk bottles
- Rubber bands
- Straws
- Wooden Pictures frames
- Armchair and 2 seater sofas



MEET THE MUSEUM TEAM - EDUCATION & ACCESS OFFICER. Fanny Bara Moreau.

In common with most museums currently, the Farmland Museum places great emphasis on engaging with children in the battle to, not so much shape minds by education and encouragement, but possibly help the young minds develop and shape themselves. In no area surely can understanding be more relevant than in learning about food, where it comes from and how it is produced, as many children have sadly demonstrated a woeful lack of knowledge in this area. The current 'Commander of young minds' at the Farmland Museum, Fanny Bara, breaks a line of male domination in this post for as long as I can remember, taking over from stalwarts, Jeremy Rossiter then Chris Leuchars. Fanny not only brings a more obvious feminine touch to the Museum and her charges but also runs the department with gallic flair and passion coming as she does from France. I doubt that there are any at the Museum who have not been impressed by Fanny's energy and enthusiasm since she took over in dealing not only with the school groups and teachers programme plus special museum events but also with younger children and parents in the 'drop in' sessions,

skilfully weaving learning and entertainment together. All these activities of course also help greatly with the perennial funding dilemma in addition to providing a most valuable public service.



She has also set up an education dedicated website to promote this work wider afield at <http://dennyeducation.co.uk>, go on, take a look. Meantime we, along with many children, await to discover what innovative initiative Fanny will bring us next. A prime example of 'Entente Cordiale' surely and rightly so as, whilst historically we have had our differences - now largely resolved except on the Rugby pitch - France has been one of our neighbours for as long as I can remember.

CREATIVE FAMILY ACTIVITIES 2017 - Making something special together during school holidays for children and parent/carer. Join the fun on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12.00 to 4.00 pm at the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey.

Further details from www.dennyeducation.co.uk/ or 01223 860 988.

Wed. 5th & Thurs. 6th April
WIND FESTIVAL
(- make a wind sock.)

NEWS FROM THE
EDUCATION DEPT.

Wed. 12th & Thurs. 13th April
WEAVING FUN
(Use weaving techniques to make an Easter egg basket.)

Wed. 31st May & Thurs. 1st June
1940's FASHION
(Create your own hat.)

Wed. 26th July
IN THE FRAME
(Use weaving techniques to make an Easter egg basket.)

Wed. 2nd & Thurs. 3rd August.
COUNTRY FUN & GAMES
(Welly whanging, Maypole, Plough racing.....)

Wed. 9th & Thurs. 10th August.
KNIGHT FOR A DAY
(Learn about these medieval super heroes and play a part.)

Wed. 16th & Thurs. 17th August.
JESTER AROUND
(Follow the joke trail and make your own juggling balls)

Wed. 23rd & Thurs. 24th August.
A ROYAL DAY OUT!
(Follow the trail and create something fit for a King or Queen.)

Wed. 25th and Thurs. 26th October
HALLOWE'EN FUN !
(Make some scary ornaments.)

MINI PICASSOs



www.farlandmuseum.org.uk or https://www.facebook.com/Denny.Farland
Ely Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire CB25 9PQ
Farland Museum & Denny Abbey

£20 the 4 sessions

Mini Picasso's

Wednesdays
from 10 to 11 am
22nd Feb, 1st, 8th and 15th March 2017
From 20 months up to 5 years old with parent/carer
2 children per adult max
Please wear appropriate clothing.
Messy activity!

Booking is essential, please contact Museum on:
01223 860 988 or education@farlandmuseum.org.uk

Following on after its very successful introduction earlier, the Education Department of the Farland Museum is again running several series this year of this event. Essentially this is a facility for children from 20 months to 5 years old, accompanied by parent/carer, to socialise with others whilst being stimulated in both mind and fingers. This is achieved with supervised painting, cutting out, clay modelling, gluing, drawing, scribbling etc. in a gloriously messy environment - so dress appropriately - both children and carers!

These courses have already proved extremely popular and small wonder as they are led by Ann Biggs. Ann is a local and notable artist and illustrator, very well known in her own right. If there was ever a case of a steam

hammer to crack a nut then this must be a prime example. Crikey, how did the Museum pull off a coup like that?

The first course of four sessions is scheduled to start on 22nd February which is likely to be prior to the issue of this newsletter but others are arranged for:

Spring Term

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th June.

Autumn Term

Wednesdays 27th Sept. 4th, 11th & 18th Oct.

All sessions 10am to 11am in the Education Room at the Farland Museum. Cost of 4 sessions is £20 and must be pre-booked. For bookings or more information please call 01223 860 988 or by email to education@farlandmuseum.org.uk.

If contemplating this course, you may be interested in the comments made by child/parent teams who took part last year -

"This is the best toddler and pre-school art class I've come across in my 8 years as a parent to 3 children. So lovely to have the choice of several different art activities each week, not just painting or play-dough like most playgroups offer. Each week we have enjoyed making a variety of different things together using a range of mediums and always at just the right level of difficulty for the little ones. Ann and her helpers are so patient and enthusiastic with the children. I think you might have to run an adult group for when our children are too big to come any more!"

"We so enjoyed the last set of Mini Picasso classes; the art / craft ideas are really inventive and the materials supplied are excellent. You also get to make a lot with your child in a short space of time. It's fun for both parent and child."

CURATING MATTERS - News from Emma Kennedy, Assistant Curator.

Glynis and I will be working on redisplaying pig shed 4 - the Auctioneer's Display during the first few weeks of March and Fanny and I are also busy working on the complete redisplay of Pig Shed 1 to tell the story of the museum at Haddenham and the Delanoy family...the collections inventory also continues to tick along in the background, so it's going to be a very busy March indeed!

We are having our new exhibition for this season delivered on Wednesday 5th April. The exhibition is about the Tudors and is called Divorced,

Beheaded, Dissolved - with a special mention about what was occurring at Denny Abbey during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536. This officially opens on Monday 10th April and runs until the end of the season.

There will be a training session for volunteers and anyone who is interested in attending on Museum Documentation in the Education Room on Wednesday 26th April. It will shed light on the main portion of my job - from donations and accessioning an object into the museum's

collection, to object movement, MODES, right through to disposal. All volunteers and anyone who may handle the collection in any way, even if it is just to move something somewhere, is encouraged to attend this very important training session, which is once again brought to us by the wonderful SHARE Museums East.

There will additionally be training on Health and Safety and heavy lifting of museum objects on Wednesday 10th May in the Education Room and also First Aid Training on Tuesday 23rd May, both are free for anyone to attend, though I do need a

quick email to confirm attendance so we have an idea of numbers - the First Aid course is a proper one, which will give all participants a certificate at the end - so well worth attending for all who don't have their first aid or whose have lapsed as it's a rare chance to do this course for free.

I'm very much looking forward to the museum opening for the season and hope it will be a productive, fun and profitable year for us.

Emma Kennedy
email <collection@farmlandmuseum.org.uk>

EMMA'S MYSTERY OBJECT



We are pleased to introduce a rather challenging element here, brought to you by the Museum's new Mistress of Mystery - Emma! Emma's objective is to test, tease, tantalise and torment you... Oh yes she would!

The mystery is NOT why is she dressed like that, it was for a special event when staff enter into the spirit of things - the Farmland Museum is not as staid as some others. NO, the mystery is the use of the object shown in the larger photograph and don't blame me, Emma picked it for you. Asked for a clue, Emma grudgingly responded "It's not edible". Well now, that almost makes it too easy doesn't it? Worryingly it looks suspiciously to me like something my G.P. would use - and take pleasure in using it!



UNCOVER DAY

In preparation for the Museum opening for the new season it has to be got ready and the exhibits uncovered, dusted down, de-cobwebbed and made ship-shape & Bristol fashion. You would expect that wouldn't you? Well, how about helping speed the job up. The 'Uncover day' is scheduled for **Saturday 25th March** and if you can spare a few hours to help it would be appreciated. No skills needed only willingness to help. If you can make it please let the museum know (Tel: 01223 860988) in order that they may contact you should it be necessary to re-schedule.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

In the next issue of Farmland Museum Today, we hope to bring you news and reports of successful Spring events and any breaking news that may emerge. Also we will continue to acquaint you with Museum staff and volunteers with profiles - including that of "Joy the garden."

Additionally we will bring you an interview with Museum founders the Delanoy family and, with luck, a new Mystery object and identification of the current one from Emma.

MEET THE MUSEUM TEAM - THE VOLUNTEERS. Glynis Arber

Now that title suggests some kind of militia - but no, there is nothing war-like about this group - well, not normally anyway. They are a group of public spirited people happy to give up some of their time to assist in maintenance, renovation, improvements and generally work to keep the museum running smoothly. As one may anticipate their tasks are very wide ranging as are their eclectic skills but there is a theme common to all (well, most) ie. sociability! Now let's hear from one and find out what happens from their point of view.



I started as a volunteer approximately 18 years ago when The Farmland Museum had recently transferred from Haddenham to its new site at Denny Abbey. Priority at this time for the visitor experience was to maintain and even build, display areas,

especially the Cottage which was still a work in progress.

Tasks that I found myself undertaking included black leading the grates in the cottage and using stencils for the wallpaper design in the sitting room (under Ann Biggs helpful supervision). I also acted as Mike Delanoy's 'Goffer' during his carpentry renovations and learnt a great deal - mostly that this was not really my forte - but was great fun!

As the number of volunteers increased, it became clear that there were others with a lot more expertise in 'the workshed' and I was happy to relinquish to them, this aspect of the museums work - though always available to provide (very) unskilled labour when needed.

My personal interest in archaeology received a wonderful boost when I was asked to locate and check off items

received from English Heritage that had been excavated on the Denny Abbey site. Opening the many boxes not knowing what was inside - and finding bones (some human), pottery and beautiful stained glass fragments was a real highlight of my time as a volunteer.

I have continued working with the Museum's Collections making sure artefacts are entered on the database in their designated location. Devising spreadsheets for Volunteer Tasks, Filing cabinets and the Living History Costume collection also provided a good opportunity for me to hone my (limited) computer skills.

However, when preparation of Children's Activities is required urgently, cutting out templates etc provides a welcome break from the laptop and a chance for a stimulating chat with the 'education' volunteers. Indeed, the social aspect of volunteering at The Farmland Museum, Denny Abbey is one of the most important motivating factors for me - and I suspect, for all of us. Everyone enjoys the conversation at our 'elevenses' and lunch breaks, whilst Work Days, when we get together moving machinery, cleaning, decorating etc is not a chore but a great way of sharing with others a communal sense of purpose.

Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed being a volunteer at the museum and look forward to the future and new challenges.

Glynis Arber

Farmland Museum Volunteer.

TEA & CAKE WITH FRIENDS.

As he mentioned in the final edition of 'Over the Gate', the final chairman of the Friends of the Farmland Museum, Robert Stripe, intends holding a tea party to say goodbye, formally wind up the Friends and celebrate their activity and fund raising for the Museum.

This swan song event is provisionally pencilled in for the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd April in the Tearoom at the Museum but Friends, Volunteers and Trustees will be receiving invitations with all details in due course. Meantime I am advising you in order that you may keep that date clear as you would not wish to miss that event would you?

WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE MUSEUM?

The Farmland Museum officially opens its doors for the 2017 Season on 1st April 2017

(... yes, that is All Fool's day - pure coincidence I can assure you!) Once this date is reached opening times are Monday to Friday inclusive 12.00 noon until 5.00 pm. On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.30 am until 5.00 pm. Admission charges are Adults £5.00, Concessions (over 60's, disabled, students, income support & job seekers) £4.00, Children (from age 5 to 17) £3.00 and those under five are admitted free. A family ticket is available for £13.00. For some special event days an additional £1.00 may be added to the aforementioned charges.

The 'Docky Box' Tearoom is open for food and drinks Weekends and Bank holidays, also on Wednesdays and Thursdays during school holidays. English Heritage current members visit Denny Abbey free of charge and enjoy a price reduction on the Museum admittance charge.

APRIL 10TH UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON

Special Exhibition "**DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DISSOLVED**"

See the startling goings on of the Tudors - more information on this on page 5 from Emma Kennedy, Assistant Curator.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Sunday 18th June
FATHERS' DAY 10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday 9th July
FARM & COUNTRYSIDE FAIR
10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 26th July
CREATIVE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
12.00 am - 4.00 pm

Thursday 27th July
ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 12.00 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday 27th & Monday 28th August
DENNY TIME MACHINE 10.30 am - 5.00 pm

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Monday 17th April
EASTER FUN 10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Monday 1st May
CRAFT FAIR 10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May
THE 1940's ARE BACK! 10.30 am - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 31st May & Thursday 1st June
CREATIVE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
12.00 am - 4.00 pm

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th October
HALLOWE'EN CREATIVE FAMILY ACTIVITIES
12.00 am - 4.00 pm

Sunday 29th October
APPLES, PUMPKINS & SPOOKS
10.30 am - 5.00 pm

MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

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