

FARMLAND MUSEUM TODAY



A Newsletter from all involved at the Farmland Museum

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES



photograph by Tim George www.timgeorge.co.uk

It was lovely to see so many visitors at the Museum this summer with numbers well up on last year. We had a lot of Goldilocks weather, just right for a day at the museum, not too hot and not too cold and none of the main events was on the sort of day when only hardy souls anxious for fresh air, or families desperate for something to entertain the children, venture out.

Staff and volunteers did a fantastic job at keeping everything going and special thanks must go to the small team of volunteers who ran the Family Activities with such commitment and enthusiasm. There was a real buzz in the Stone Barn and the children and their parents, grandparents and carers really seemed to enjoy the things that were on offer,

We are always looking out for more volunteers so anyone reading this who isn't one and would like to get involved please do look at the website or contact the museum Manager. There are all sorts of ways in which people can help.

As the prospect of the new town draws closer the trustees are beginning to talk with the planners and developers about the part the Museum and Abbey

might play in helping to build the new community, not only by telling the story of the place where they will be living but also by providing a lovely place to visit and become involved with. It's hoped that the residents of Waterbeach and the new town will be able to walk to the Abbey and museum along the old Causeway which can be seen heading leading to the village in the above photograph taken from the overflow car park .

Meanwhile please continue to help to support the Museum. For the social media savvy 'like' us on Facebook, share posts on Twitter, and write (positive) reviews on Tripadvisor. (If there things you can think of that can be improved upon, tell the manager or one of the trustees). If you aren't a social media person then keep telling your friends about the Museum and encourage them to visit. If you have ideas for events or activities which could take place at the museum let the manager or a trustee know. If you shop online please think about signing up to Easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>.

THE MUSEUM MANAGER'S REPORT

I hope you've had a lovely summer and enjoyed visiting us - in wind and heatwave!

Poor Peter, our fantastic editor, despairs of me as he's always chasing me for content - my reply is 'I'm so busy!' This summer we have all been very busy with fantastic family afternoons, the great two day event with the members of the Silver Arrow and Heritage Open Day. Visitor figures are excellent so far this year despite the low number of school visits before the summer.

We have several bookings for schools and groups for the Autumn including a mixed group of primary and secondary school children who are taking part in a countywide project which enables individuals with disabilities to experience the same educational hands-on learning activities as their able bodied friends. As we are currently a 'body' down we have decided to actively promote self-led visits for schools to the site with the option of using the handling boxes during their visit. We'll still be offering the option of selecting activities run by us but this new format takes away the compulsory factor which may have put some schools off in the past.

We were delighted to welcome just over 300 visitors to the site on heritage Open Day on 10 September; many had never visited before, all were very impressed (despite the wind and drizzle) with both the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey. We had two talks on offer in the Stone Barn - Lorna Delanoy gave a fascinating account

of how her son founded the museum in Haddenham and how it ended up at Denny. Mike Ruff provided a lively talk on the origins of many local agricultural songs - with plenty of opportunities for the audience to join in the singing. Mike's participation was part of the Museum of Cambridge's Tracing Traditions project which we're involved with. Ann Mitchell, in full Poor Clare costume, gave tours of the Abbey - which included taking visitors out in the rain to look at the exterior! We were also joined by Andrew from the Woodland Trust with his display and Jonathon from Amey who made countless bird feeders with visitors of all ages. Emma did a great job running the very popular pond dipping sessions - she was always surrounded!

We now look towards October half-term and the family afternoons PLUS the finale of the season - the ever popular halloween event on Sunday 29 October. If you would like to help with carving pumpkins, making bat mobiles and other spooky themed activities Emma and I would love to hear from you!

Looking to 2018 events which are still in draft form include Twilight on 13 February, an exhibition about Chivers and a photographic exhibition via our Instagram page.

All best wishes

*Ann Wise.
Museum Manager*

Plenty still going on at the Museum in 2017 but it is already 'full steam ahead' for the 2018 Season.

Keep 'on track' with developments via our website and Farmland Museum Today.



BIRTHDAYS - Lorna Delanoy

As one gets older one tends to forget such things as Birthdays... but as the Farmland Museum celebrated its two decades here at Denny in April, I thought I would do a "recap" since its birth at Haddenham in 1969

Pig Shed number 1 was refurbished last winter by the Wednesday Volunteers to show developments over the years.....building blacksmith shop (now at Burwell museum), cart lodges and bygones building in the garden in which to house items given so generously... and even an Anglia ITV film, celebrating Birthday 5 detailing the wide-ranging displays..

The move to Denny, together with the inclusion of the Fossey Collection from Great Eversden, was opened by Lloyd Grossman in the rebuilt farmyard, thanks to a generous Heritage Lottery Grant; over the past 20 years a "different" attraction has evolved: educational visits together with day-time classes for adults, temporary exhibitions in the Fen Cottage (currently re the wives of Henry VIII), maypole dancing and singing (including the robed choir of Ely Cathedral), vegetable growing in the allotment (with sale of surplus produce) and a real cottage garden (which features health cures and plants for dyeing)not forgetting craft demonstrations and second-hand book sales. The expanded museum shop is well-stocked with souvenirs, cards and CDs of Farming songs and of course the very-welcoming TEA ROOM.

Now celebrating its 48th Birthday, I look forward to the Half Century celebrations in 2019 should you wish to find out more,

I hope you came to the museum on September 10th (FREE ADMISSION being English Heritage Day!!!) for a talk on BIRTHDAYS or sit at home and use the web...

farmlandvoices.org.uk



A Woad plant from Walnut Cottage garden. This plant provides a deep blue dye much beloved by our early ancestors.

VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMMES ACROSS CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Mark Copley is working on a project to recruit and train volunteers and trustees for Cambridgeshire museums. The SWIM project (Strengthening the Workforce in Museums) is helping 14 museums in the

County, including Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey, and finishes in March 2018.

The requirements differ between museums - some require traditional Front of House roles,

whereas others require specialist volunteers (e.g., in Marketing), or need short-term volunteers (so-called micro-volunteering). At some museums, we have recruited volunteer coordinator, and have advocated for volunteering to be fully incorporated into HR Strategy and hence business planning.

As well as recruiting volunteers, we have been providing training as well - for example in Emergency Planning, Health and Safety, Documentation, and Safeguarding. And we have had a few recruitment drives for Trustees.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at any level at the Farmland Museum, or elsewhere, Mark will be able to find something which will be of interest to you

(E:mark.copley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

WHAT IS A 'DOCKY?'



A customer being served in the Dockey Box Tearoom.

Most of you when visiting the Museum will have taken some sustaining refreshment at the 'Dockey Box' Tearoom (if not, why not) but how many of you will have wondered or indeed known, what a Dockey is?

I first came across the term some 20 or so years ago whilst in deepest Norfolk where the term is not uncommon. Seeing this term applied at the Museum I was curious enough to do a little research on the word and its origin. I found that "In Huntingdonshire and the south of Cambridgeshire, the old boys always used the word dockey – or dockee – when referring to their food. They would down tools and stop work for their dockey. And the fact that we're not sure of the spelling is further evidence that the word was part of the oral tradition rather than the literate culture. It never was written down, so frankly, it doesn't really matter how you spell it!

These same workers would use what they called an 'Abington Man' to support a leaning haystack. This was simply a large prop to keep the stack from falling over, but for some reason – and I'm sorry, but we don't know why – this became known as an Abington Man."

Additionally, I discovered the following definitions from various sources -

"Dockey - food given a horse when resting from work. (English) dinner-time, docky, docky-bag, doddy-bag, feeding, ... give bait, give his docky, give his nosebag, give some nosebag,

Dockey: to move with short steps. Scottish 1800

Dockey. The labourer's dinner he carries with him East Anglia

Dockey -The traditional farm labourer's docky or beaver was a raw onion with a thick slice of bread and, perhaps, butter and cheese, Cambridgeshire *

Dockey - common enough nickname

Dockey, a light dough-cake, quickly baked in the mouth of the oven, and eaten hot. Ref. lost ; prob. E. Anglian.

In Peter-borough they often use the word 'dodds' for sweets, and in the Fenland area 'dockey' means a mid-morning snack.

Oxford Dictionary. Dockey, ». A meal taken by field labourers about ten ..."

(*... Not for the Fen labourer the tedious lunch of cold game pie and half a bottle of claret then .)

WHAT HAPPENED TO CORN DOLLIES?'

Believed by some, well by me anyway, to be a symbol of fertility for the next crop they were fairly commonplace in my youth. These days however the craft and the dollies seem to have disappeared. Does the Museum hold any? Perhaps Emma will tell us about any stocks held at Denny sometime.



MEET THE MUSEUM TEAM. - Emma Kennedy, Assistant Curator

No doubt this is the profile you have been waiting for, yes, it is the same Emma that sets you those devilish mystery objects.



everything from front of house, to social media, to events, though my main focus of course always remained the collection. A particularly fond memory was tagging along with the BBC to Suffolk Show to play a very strict Edwardian school mistress as part of their First World War remembrance project. *(Well folks, I don't know about you but I find this admission not at all surprising but maybe quite revealing!- Ed.)*

Whilst there I also spent 6 months in the conservation labs at Ipswich Museum, being mentored by the fabulous Bob Entwistle through my Conservation Technician Qualification, which I was awarded in August 2014.

I grew up in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire and always wanted to work in museums. My mum used to take me to Waddesden Manor almost every weekend (on my insistence!) and I always had a burning desire to know what was behind the locked doors and envied those who were allowed to touch the objects.

I finished my degree in history at the University of Reading in 2013 (my special interest being the Tudors), moved up to Suffolk and immediately started an internship at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket under Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills For the Future Programme. There I learnt to be a jack of all trades, they are an independent museum like us, and short staffed, so I found myself doing

With my 12 month internship coming to an end in October 2014, I was both honoured and excited to be offered the leap up to Assistant Curator at the Farmland Museum. I can't quite believe I have been here almost three years already!

When not at the museum I enjoy spending time at home with my partner Darren and our three dogs Digger, Honey and new rescue pup Scruffy. I like to read, garden, cook, walk the dogs, and believe it or not I'm also pretty good at archery!

(Hmm - A latter day Robin Hood? Walk the Museum grounds with extra care folks.)

BACK TO THE 1940's IN MAY 2017. The Denny time machine in action.



Many turned out for the two day event recreating the taste of the wartime years bringing a picnic to enjoy (no food rationing now of course - maybe it would be better if there was!) The Services being well represented especially the US Army.



Would suit you madam!



The local 'Spiv' was not above taking the opportunity of trying to introduce some colour into a ladies life and YES, it is STILL a long way to Tipperary!



Crikey! This lot look rather dangerous. I hope that they are on our side and all that weaponry is kept under very strict control!



Low mileage and one careful owner?

WHAT'S IN THE MUSEUM? Lorna Delanoy takes a look behind the displays

Like all museums, there is so much in store compared with what is on show. Many visitors assume that the Farmland Museum is concerned ONLY with farming- but this is not so. The collecting policy at Denny has been "anything to do/used in the county of Cambridgeshire" but when the collection was at Haddenham (1969 - 1992) it was truly a Village Museum ; hence here are some of the items in store:

NATURAL HISTORY: fossils of early life (ammonites and belemnites) together with teeth and tusks from woolly mammoths (including a photo of the baby mammoth discovered in the ice layers of Russia); sea shells from the Bahamas as well as those from Norfolk; a weaver bird's nest brought back from the Far East and a massive collection of birds' eggs (now illegal to collect)

ARCHAEOLOGY: finds from the fields include flint scrapes and hand axes; Roman pots and sherds of other pottery...all plotted on maps and safely stored in labelled boxes.

VILLAGE MEMORABILIA: pots and pan from the local bakery; salt pork pots from the farmer's wife; artefacts from Mollie, the local white witch; pictures and photos of local events including the 1947 Fen Floods

WAR and CONFLICT: all bombs and ammunition have been checked by the Explosive Team from Colchester so have no fear! Exhibits range from 1858 wood water bottle to rubber bullets brought back from Ireland; sand from the first experimental A Bombing the 1940s; personal documents of those who gave their lives

SCIENCE: items showing valves/transistors to microchips; instruments relating to temperature/pressure/distance and a plaque such as was sent up into space

TRADES: some of the old trades are exhibited in the Pig Sheds; others eg Cobblers Bench (March Museum); Saddlers Shop (Iron Bridge Gorge) ; Wheelwrights lathe (Cressing Temple Barns); and the "jewel" from Haddenham, the Blacksmiths Shop, built by voluntary labour in 1972, re-erected at Burwell Museum

ART: the four seasons depicted on boards by Ann Biggs; oil and water colours by other artists; tree calendar showing events over the past 250 years illustrate to children of the 21st century how important it is to "learn from the Past"

EMMA'S MYSTERY OBJECT

Well, you didn't really expect to get away without one did you?

The object on the right is as chosen by the assistant Curator to challenge you to identify in this issue. Mind you, I feel that Emma is getting soft as surely this must be one of the easiest to identify as it is, or has been, on general display at the Museum and not locked away in the darkest recesses as some mystery objects have

been in the past - or so I understand. Again Emma will identify in the next issue... if she is so minded!

Remember, the Hallowe'en event is fast approaching, maybe Emma might supply you with a clue then!



WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE MUSEUM?

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



UNLEASH YOUR CHILD'S ARTISTIC TALENTS.

Mini Picasso's are blocks of 4 sessions held on a Wednesday morning each session lasting 45 minutes of fun creative crafts that the museum runs throughout the year.

Each themed session is especially created for the under 5s and take place from 10am to 11am in the Museum's Education Room.

Autumn term 2017:

Wednesdays – 27 September, 4 October, 11 October and 18 October

Amongst this Autumn's activities we'll be making giant caterpillars, and going on a mini bug safari! Mini Picasso's is open to children from 20 month's up to 5 years old accompanied by a parent/carer with a maximum of two children per adult. Babies can join brothers and sisters but will need to stay in high chairs during the craft session (please don't forget to bring toys or snacks to keep them happy).

We welcome enquiries from childminders who look after children between the ages of 3 – 5

The sessions can be very messy so please make sure appropriate clothes are worn that you don't mind getting covered in glitter or paint!

Each session finishes with tea or coffee for the adults and juice/biscuits for the little ones.

The fee is £20 for the 4 sessions, payable on the first day by cash, card or cheque.



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

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