

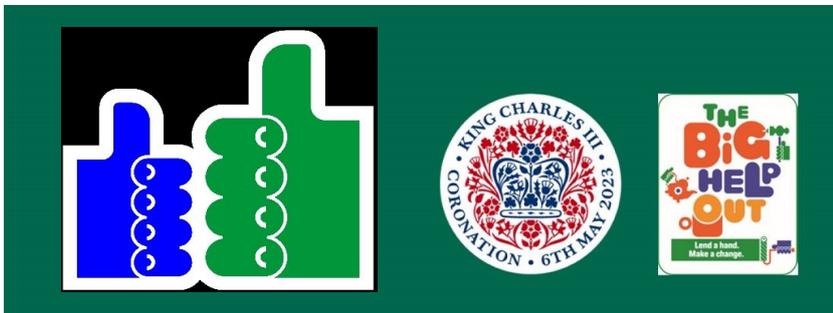


REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

Friends of the Museum Newsletter

**Summer 2023
Issue 141**

The Big Help Out



We had voluntary stewards willing to be on duty on 6th May but, as I didn't make it clear when I sent round the availability rota that it was Coronation Day, they were slightly less keen when they and I realised the significance of the day.

At a following Trustees meeting it was decided to close the museum on 6th May to let everyone enjoy King Charles III and Queen Camilla's Coronation and celebrations afterwards.

We opened as normal on Sunday 7th May and had a good number of visitors as it was fine and sunny and the picnic on the common was also taking place.

Monday 8th May was "The Big Help Out" which was basically National Volunteering Day and luckily one of our Trustees and one of our voluntary stewards opened the museum to take full advantage of the opportunity to publicise the museum.

Subscriptions

Thank you to everyone that has paid their dues so promptly this year, and thanks to those who have paid by BACS to make our treasurer's life a little easier.

Just a few more to come in, hoping we don't lose anyone from the list of members this year.

We have had a steady trickle of new members joining us recently which is always good to see.

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Lots for you to read in this summer edition of the newsletter. Please keep your welcome contributions dropping in to my computer 'inbox'.

Email: redbournmuseum@gmail.com

Website: www.redbournmuseum.org

Museum Registration No: 2106 Company Registration No: 03652790 Charity No: 1072828

Recent Events

The Home Front

This was a very successful event in St. Mary's transept on Saturday 1st April and was a talk with songs given by Stephen Potter. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the presentation which involved Stephen donning several different outfits during the talk.

We will hope to invite Stephen back to give us another talk near Christmas - possibly his "Eat, drink and be merry" offering. Look out for further details.

1983/1984 - The making of the Redbourn By-pass.

We almost filled the village hall for this film show on Thursday 20th April. It was a film made by the Hemel Hempstead Cine Club showing a year in the life of Redbourn during which the by-pass was constructed and opened to traffic giving Redbourn its village back. Events covered included a flower festival at St. Mary's Church, the Boxing Day hunt and Beating the Bounds.

The Museum's Friendship Club

We obtained a District Council grant to run a series of Friendship Club afternoons where local organisations were invited to bring along people who might benefit from a social afternoon meeting new friends and generally having a good time! We show some of the old cine films from the late 1940's and early 1950's, have tea and cake then investigate the new Coronation exhibition. So far we have hosted groups from the Dementia Hub and Woollams almshouses when we were ably assisted by our facilitator Annie Manning. Lately we have also welcomed a group from St. Matthews Care Home.

Accessibility Grant

Our latest project, also assisted by a District Council grant is to improve accessibility to the museum given the constraints of our Grade II listed building. We are investigating ramps to allow access through the front door for those with mobility issues and we are also purchasing a computer tablet to show visitors what is on display in our upstairs gallery for those who are unable to use the relatively steep stairs. This project is in its infancy and is ongoing.

Two Outings For 2023



Thursday 17th August

Whitchurch Silk Mill, Hampshire

Your day includes coach travel and driver gratuity, coffee/tea/biscuits on arrival, a guided tour of the working silk mill followed by a light lunch of sandwiches and cake before onward travel to:

The Museum of English Rural Life

Based at the University of Reading and housing a fascinating collection drawn from the countryside. You will have an introductory talk, free time to visit the galleries and coffee/tea and (more) cake included in the ticket price:

£45 Friends, £50 guests



Wednesday 4th October

W & H Peacocks Auction Centre

Do you enjoy Bargain Hunt?

If so, this outing is for you!



We travel by coach to the modern auction house near Bedford. Arriving at 11.30, we have tea and coffee in the auction gallery area. After a short introductory talk about the history of the company by one of the auctioneers, we tour the saleroom, taking part in a short valuation and view lots for the forthcoming auction.

Finally we head upstairs where the team serve your pre-ordered choice of lunch in the Auction Centre's own restaurant. (A lift is available) The visit will finish around 2.30 pm.

£45 Friends, £50 guests (Maximum 30 in group)

Email: redbournmuseum@gmail.com for a booking form for either or both outing(s) or

Tel: (01582) 626055

From Our High Street Correspondent

Following on from the item about the Redbourn football team, I have received the following:

Redbourn's Glory Days

I was very interested in Alan Waller's piece about Redbourn FC in the Spring Newsletter. As a young lad I used to watch Redbourn play most Saturday afternoons on the Scout Farm field just behind our Fire Station. There was no changing room so both teams used to change in the Bull pub (now the Coop). I used to wait to hear the sound of the leather and nail boot studs on the pavement as they walked up the High Street and then go over and watch the match. I watched them in the 50's before I started playing myself for school and college teams. Like Alan I am a bit vague about the years. I do remember going to a Junior Cup Final at Clarence Park probably in 1957 which they lost to Oxhey Estates mainly because Tootsie Mullen broke his leg after just a few minutes. Podge Fox used to tell me how he was the travelling reserve that day, but this was way before substitutes were allowed so Redbourn played virtually the whole game with ten men.

At this time, they were in the Mid Herts League and used to win every game, I remember one game when they beat Woolmer Green 22 nil! A few years later when I played for a while, mainly for the reserve team, they had been promoted to the Herts County League and players like Snowy Nunn and Lucky King were past their best and also in the reserves. Snowy was a tough ex centre forward playing out his days as a fullback. Snowy was as hard as nails and didn't take prisoners. Lucky was a brilliant skilled ball player and would probably have made it as pro if he was bigger. Joby Davis was a tough tackling half back long before midfielders were thought of. He had an injured hand I assume from an accident and always played with one hand in a mitten. Always looked a bit sinister. Ted Benn was a very tall centre half who was always so cool and always took the penalties low down into the corner. He moved away from the village decades ago but remained a great friend of Podge and his family. Last I heard he was living up near Peterborough. Snowy and Lucky lived in Redbourn all their lives and I still miss seeing them and chatting in the High Street about football.

I can clear up a few queries in Alan's picture. The manager was George Clabon who lived in Snatchup, and I know that because I used to deliver his groceries. Smart suit for the final plus a long overcoat and a pipe! No track suit managers in those days! I assume the man with the trilby hat was the chairman or president. No idea of his name.

A great team of real characters!

John Fisher – April 2023

P.S. From the Editor: I have heard from a new Museum Friend, Jeanette Burden, that the Chairman was Mr. Bosley. With that helpful hint, can anyone recall his first name?

As Jeanette says, as Chairman he may have liked to be more formally known as Mr. Bosley?

From Samantha Statham

Redbourn Parish Magazine.

JANUARY, 1935.

Vicar's Letter.

The Vicarage,
Redbourn,
January, 1935.

My dear Parishioners,

Here is my New Year Greeting, common-place it may sound or read, but there is a wealth of meaning behind it—A Happy New Year to you all.

The memory of the old year is one of great hopefulness for the future—the trend is towards peace and plenty, but we must remember that every individual in the nation has to play his or her part in the recovery we all so earnestly long for. Patience and self-sacrifice are still needed; there is a lot of nursing required before the old world can get its breath back again, and we have got to take our share in this nursing, and to do it well, without repining, without favour or fear.

One encouraging feature to my mind is that there seems to be a re-action setting in with regard to the observance of Sunday. Ten years ago there was a tremendous swing of the pendulum on to the side of absolute freedom in thought, word and deed. Principles which had stood the test for many a long year were set aside as antique. Habits and customs were to be based on "Go as you please." A "glorious liberty" was to be everybody's possession—and it was so.

But by degrees there must come the discovery that seven days a week is tiring, and not refreshing. Something is lacking, and the quietness of Divine Service, with its sense of duty done, is more refreshing than liberty misused and overdone. There seems to be the beginning of greater use for public worship than heretofore, and long may it continue to grow in intensity. Sunday was instituted for refreshment of soul and body. So let us use it as was intended and make 1935 at any rate a useful and happier year.

Yours sincerely,
H. W. B. BERRY.

We much regret to have once again during this year of 1934 to refer to the passing on of another member of our congregation, who for many years had taken a great interest in the spiritual and temporal welfare of the village. Mrs. Peake, of Cumberland House, for very many years took a keen personal interest in all the activities of the place, and was always a regular attendant at the Parish Church, thus affording an example worthy of copying. It will be difficult to find anyone who can replace the loss sustained by "her passing on."

Ringers' Supper Party.

New Year's Eve saw the meeting of the ringers at Mr. Ernest Peck's house in Bankside for their Annual Supper Party. There was a good muster of the "band," but great regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. G. Daniels, who unfortunately was unable to be present. After supper the time was pleasantly spent in quiet enjoyment until 11 p.m., when an adjournment was made to the belfry and the old year was rung out and the New Year ushered in, in proper and approved fashion.

Midnight Service.

At 11.30 p.m., on December 31st, a short service was held in the Church to meet the New Civil Year in God's House. There was quite a considerable number of people present, of whom, a large proportion stayed for the Holy Communion, which was administered shortly after the Midnight Service.

Church Council Social.

The members of the Parochial Church Council are arranging a "Social" to be held in the Public Hall on Tuesday, January 15th, at 8 p.m., to which everyone is invited. Unfortunately the expense incurred in the hire of the Hall, etc., necessitates the charge of sixpence per person. From the forecast of the programme for the evening, it looks as if it will be a most successful Social.

Hertfordshire Life Feature

Redbourn was featured in the May edition of Hertfordshire Life magazine. On the contents page the article was referred to as 'Let's Move To Redbourn' but the actual article was then entitled 'Spotlight on Redbourn - Beauty, history and community are the pillars of village life in Redbourn'.

It is an excellent article with the museum being mentioned favourably.

UNFORTUNATELY, the content of the piece was sourced partly from Wikipedia and so the urban myth of Sticky Joe has been perpetuated. The fictitious story tells us of a young man in the village who fell into a vat of jam and died. It says that a lobbying campaign by several schoolchildren in 2003 saw a memorial bench unveiled to 'Sticky Joe'.

The article implies that the vat of jam was at the silk mill which is highly unlikely as it would have been more likely to have been at Russell Harborough's jam factory. In reality, there was no Sticky Joe, no lobbying by schoolchildren and certainly no memorial bench - unless you can find it?

Coronation Exhibition



Our Curator and Assistant Curator, Diane Whiskin & Susan Aldridge have excelled themselves this time and produced a superb exhibition with 'all things Coronation'.

As Chairman, I was amazed at the professionalism with which the displays have been produced and cannot thank Diane and Susan enough.

I've heard the word 'professional' used by visitors when I have been on duty at the museum.



Please come along and see the exhibition for yourselves. It will be in place for a while longer.

As you know, we are open at weekends from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Last admission 4:30 pm).

Those who have attended the previously mentioned Friendship Clubs have enjoyed seeing it.

Annual General Meeting

Our A.G.M. was held on Monday 6th March in St. Mary's Church transept. As usual, the meeting was well attended with people anxious to know what has been going on at the museum over the past year. The business meeting went well (and quickly!) and it was very gratifying to hear a member of the public saying, "I wish our A.G.M. was as efficient as that".

After the business meeting we had a fascinating talk given by a St. Albans guide who has talked to us before, Lexi Barbacoff. The talk was entitled "City Under The Park" which was an in depth insight in to Roman Verulamium.

Refreshments were served after the talk which included delicious home made cakes. Due to the financial position of the museum, for the first time in 22 years we suggested donations for refreshments and were delighted with the generosity of everyone as we just covered our costs for the evening.

Brooke Bond P.G. Tips Tea Cards



As you probably know, Pauline and I give talks about Brooke Bond and the Silk Mill to numerous local groups and have raised several hundred pounds for museum funds over the years. We don't claim expenses as we usually enjoy ourselves and are often treated to nice refreshments at the venue which has even included a three course meal with wine on one occasion.

Recently I made a lucky find:

On Ebay I found the set of commemorative cards (Shown above) which included one card from all 48 sets of Brooke Bond cards issued over the 40 years they were produced from 1954.

The set is now included in the array of memorabilia we take along to our talks.



If you, or anyone you know, would like to arrange a talk for a local(ish) group or organisation please contact: redbournmuseum@gmail.com or phone (01582) 626055.

We usually politely suggest a minimum donation of £25 for the museum.

Fundraising

Easyfundraising

This is the notification I've just received after making a hotel booking via 'easyfundraising'.

Great news - I've raised £5.02 for Redbourn Village Museum! You can support them for FREE too when you shop online with over 7,400 retailers via easyfundraising.

Sign up here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/redbourn-village-museum/>

So far you have raised £78.24 via easyfundraising. However this is with only 9 supporters out of well over 100 museum friends. Please consider signing up - it's free and so easy.



This is our trusty charity organisation we use when recycling empty inkjet cartridges.

Donations from St. Mary's church have dwindled over recent months so I'm hoping that when the new vicar is in post she will promote the scheme as Will Gibbs did so brilliantly for us.

Nevertheless, our last box of cartridges brought in £20.25 for museum funds.

Please continue to donate your old cartridges by leaving them with the voluntary stewards at the museum, leaving them in the museum post box or dropping them off at 10 Lybury Lane.

From Redbourn Record (Parish Council News) December 1983

DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PLANTING SCHEME

Who says we never get anything in Redbourn? The Countryside and Landscape Section of St. Albans District Council is to present Redbourn with scores of new trees.

The new tree scheme for Redbourn will start planting this Autumn over a two year period around housing estates and verges. The first trees should appear soon at the North West end of the village, using large mature trees in some of the more open areas such as Hilltop.

These trees will be carefully chosen as to which variety will thrive best in different environments. They will be a great asset to the village and will cost your Parish Council nothing, we are lucky to have them so let us all look after them.

From Our Cornwall Correspondent



Just received this photo of the Redbourn cub pack plus a few scouts and sea cadets taken at the bottom of Waterend Lane. It was taken by my cousin George Ingram, son of the village plumber George Ingram Snr. who built several houses in Lords Meadow.

George's wife Glenda tells me it's 1950 which will make me 12. I was 85 a couple of weeks ago. I doubt there will be many around, but some of their antecedents might be.

I am fourth from the right in the front row. The very tall lad at the back is Teddy Benn.

The two ladies at the back: One is the sea cadet guide, the other is our Akela, a lovely lady probably from India. She spent all her wages on the cub troupe.

The cub troupe footie team was the finest in Hertfordshire and beat large troupes such as the Fourth St. Albans.

Leaning on my shoulder is Albert Burrows who was tragically killed in an A5 car accident outside the Bell & Shears. Next to me is Podge Fox then John Luck from North Common and then two Smith brothers, Barry and Peter. The tall lad fourth from the right at the back is a Palmer. Standing second from the left at the back is Podge's brother Jeff Fox. From the right, standing in a white shirt is Dennis Fox who lived in the last house on the left in Church End (with a plaque on the wall).

It's the best I can do with a magnifying glass. I hope some locals can find a relative.

Alan Waller

Holiday Plans (From 'Common Round' June 1959)

Most people will have planned and booked their annual holiday by now, one of the pleasantest occupations for a winter's evening. However, there comes a time to think about the details such as packing, amusing the children en route, and providing for wet days. Perhaps our combined experience can be of use to you.

Packing: It saves time and muddles to make a list. If possible keep it from year to year with alterations and omissions according to the type of holiday, size of family etc. If you are travelling by car for a boating, camping or caravan holiday, avoid suitcases and instead use a kit-bag, old pillowcase or other soft container. One of us remembers vividly the problem of storing empty cases on a small boat.

Travelling by car with children: For small children frequent stops are a necessity. Eating little bits of orange, apple and dry biscuits help them to pass the time. They cannot always be relied upon to sleep, but they can be encouraged by filling the space between the front and back seats with luggage covered by a rug. Travel sickness is often a problem, but various tablets can be obtained which prove effective in bad cases. Even barley sugar can help. All children need distracting, so be prepared with games. A version of "I spy" with points scored for various objects can last almost indefinitely. List things one might see with the points gained by whoever sees them first; the more unlikely the object the higher the number of points - for instance, score 50 on seeing two nuns riding a tandem! Spotting car makes, collecting registration numbers, inn signs etc., make additional diversions for the older children and adults.

Travelling by train: Parcel many small toys, pencils, paper, pictures etc., and only produce them one at a time at long intervals. Always have something up your sleeve for that last hour when spirits are at their lowest. The "News Chronicle" publishes an "I spy" booklet to identify things along the railway line. This is particularly suitable for boys able to read. Likewise the route maps of certain journeys published by British Railways. Playing cards can be useful if there is room and are, in any case, invaluable for wet days.

We have little experience of air travel, but perhaps the stewardess would cope.

Tips on space travel are being kept for a future issue.



Woollams Almshouses

This summer, Woollams Almshouses are celebrating 100 years since their construction in 1923. The properties are situated in a very desirable location, at the junction of North Common and Flamsteadbury Lane, with access also from Vaughan Mead.

On June 24th, the centenary will be marked with a rare opportunity to see behind the neatly trimmed hedges, when the attractive gardens will be open to the public between 2 and 4 pm. The museum will provide a small exhibition on the history of Redbourn's almshouses and the opportunity to sit and enjoy refreshments in peaceful surroundings. All are welcome to visit Woollams for this Open Garden event.



Our almshouses exist thanks to the generosity of the Woollam family and other donors who gave money to Redbourn in Trust. The land on which Woollams Almshouses were built was left to Trustees by Charles Woollam in 1915. Charles was the son of John Woollam, who in 1857 built the silk mill in Redbourn on the site now occupied by our museum and the Brooke End/Silk Mill Road development.

Charles sold his mills in Redbourn and St. Albans and retired in 1906, at a time when the silk trade was declining. He died in 1915 at the age of 73. During his life he combined his role as a successful industrialist with a remarkable record of public service, with interests in the civic, countryside preservation and charity spheres.

Charles' widow, Mary, continued his charitable works until her death in 1925. Part of this was to establish a group of 4 almshouses on land which had been given as allotments by her husband.

The bungalows were originally intended for elderly women, especially those that had been employed at the silk mill. Several of Woollam's former employees were housed there in the early days but nowadays we have a lively and varied community of residents.

Today, the almshouses are managed by The Redbourn Charities who are registered with the Charity Commission. The Charities are affiliated to the Almshouse Association who provide support and advice on management and legal issues.

The Redbourn Charities added 6 new almshouses and a flat for a warden in 1968 and have continually updated and improved the properties. They each have one bedroom, a lounge, kitchen and bathroom. The bungalows offer convenient and comfortable housing to eligible over 60's at an affordable price, occupying a lovely position overlooking Redbourn Common. Woollams' pretty gardens have gradually been improved by the Warden and residents and the recent addition of a large summerhouse has provided a welcoming meeting place for the residents, their families and friends all year round.

Pauline Ridgwell

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from the following:

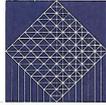
Redbourn Parish Council



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The cost is £30 per year

Please contact redbournmuseum@gmail.com

**Redbourn Village Museum
Silk Mill House
The Common
Redbourn, Herts. AL3 7NB**



Museum Location:
oasis.royal.shared

Patron: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon

**Museum open February to November
Saturday & Sunday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Last admission 4:30pm

Tel: 01582 793397

Email: redbournmuseum@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:
www.redbournmuseum.org

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John Ridgwell:	Membership Secretary Newsletter Editor

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