

Community Services

Cogges Manor Farm Museum

Cogges Project Bulletin 6 June 2008

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

- 7 and 8 June - Manor House Tours – booking essential. Tel: 01993 772602
- 14 and 15 June - Pig pampering weekend
- 28 and 29 June - Cogges Music Festival – please book your tickets NOW for the evening events. Tel: 01993 772602
- 7 July – special Monday opening for the 'Healthy Oxfordshire Schools and Eco Schools' celebration event 2008 – for all maintained schools in the county and partnership organisations and agencies that work with us to promote healthy schools and eco schools. (a day for booked schools only).

NEWS

Throughout April, Waitrose in Witney offered customers the opportunity to vote for funding to Cogges or to two other local charities; Cogges topped the poll and will receive a donation. Cogges' entry into this funding opportunity was initiated by Judy Hurd (Cogges Trustee). It is proposed to use some of the donation to acquire some goats as an additional attraction for the children's farm area.

Thank you to Witney Woodland Volunteers and Witney Rotary for a lot of hard work clearing debris from the moat around the Norman 'castle' site; the moat is now much more visible. Witney Rotary has also agreed to tidy up the car park for people with disabilities.

Grants – Thank you West Oxfordshire District Council for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a display system to take information about the museum out to events; and to the Cogges Trust for £380 towards the same project.

Congratulations to the staff: Visitor numbers to mid May - 9,129 (this compares to 5,914 for a similar period last year) – so 50% up. School parties are 'up' too – 1583 to date, compared with 1120 for last year. And total income for the site is up £23,000 on last year.

A panel, comprising members of the Board and an external consultant, received two presentations by external organisations both detailing their proposals for the future operation of Cogges. Later, the Board considered the proposals and agreed to continue negotiations with both parties.

Another 'expression of interest' has been received from a third potential operator – and that organisation has been invited to submit a formal proposal and to make a presentation to the Board.

In view of the above the Board has recognised that it will not be able to conclude its work by the end of June as originally planned; negotiations are likely to continue through June/July. A report on progress to date will be made to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee on 2 July; and then a report prepared for the Council's Cabinet meeting on 16 September. These are both public meetings.

Conservation Statement - The Board received the completed report by John Rhodes (Oxford Archaeology) which now includes comments from English Heritage. Copies of the report are available for public reference at Cogges and the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, and it will be available on the Cogges website as soon as possible (<www.cogges.org>). A grant towards the cost of the report has been received from the Museum Development Office (MLA SE).

Cogges Project Board – meeting 29 May

Cogges Bulletins are edited by Martyn Brown, County Heritage and Arts Officer.
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