



Community Services

Cogges Manor Farm Museum

Cogges Bulletin 16 – June 2009

Events in June

20 / 21 June – Manor House tours, an Oxfordshire Buildings Record display and a film show as part of the National Architecture Weekend.

26 June – Memory Lane Day – over 30 demonstrators and stalls booked so far for this special day for the over 55s.

In May – you may have enjoyed (or have just missed):

2 May

The Lampton Worm, a drama production by Theatrix, seen by 100 people in two performances.

16 May

Night at the Museum – part of a national museums initiative – with museum tours – including the attics, a buffet supper with accompanying music by Skeleton Crew, and a ghost tale in the Manor House – told in a dark Dining Room with just a single light shining up at Bill Spectre's face. Apparently one could have heard a pin drop as he relayed the story of The Monkey's Paw – a 1902 tale by WW Jacobs. The Witney Model Club added to the event with a display of models in the Barley Barn.

25 May

Cogges Manor Farm Museum took part in the National Family Week Picnic. 132 people turned up for the picnic in the orchard – and the weather was kind with sunshine and no winds. As this was a formal Guinness book of Records simultaneous picnic attempt, formal assessors took the details of the attendees and confirmed attendance. The Witney Gazette came along and took photographs, and there was a half page article in the Gazette. The Museum would like to thank Mrs Bond and Dan Sagar for their role as Assessors, and all the people who came along to the picnic. Nationally over 15,000 people picnicked, and the event has been submitted as a Record.

27 May

National Family Week Story time; a costumed member of staff telling stories to children in the Manor House.

30/31 May

The Cotswold Poultry Club brought along about 40 types of caged poultry for the Poultry Weekend, with displays of books, egg types and information on the care of poultry. Omlet also sent along one of their animal hutches, an astonishing bright pink 'eglu' chicken hut, to display.

And in June:

6/7 June

Mini-Beasts weekend with the SLIME (stands for Science Learning in Museum Education!) box with spiders and other encapsulated creepy crawlies' activities, the Oxfordshire Badger Group, Oxfordshire Butterflies and the Oxfordshire Ornithological Society, while the Oxfordshire Bat Trust came on Sunday. 100 people visiting free in the morning as part of the national Leaf Open Farm Sunday event, and 100 further visitors came that afternoon. One visitor was observed to spend a full 7 hours on site.

The New Trust

A Shadow Board has now been established to continue the work towards setting up the new Cogges Trust. The first meeting of the Shadow Board was held on 5 June with Julia Holberry in the chair, and with John Harwood, Janine Charles and Anthony Pettorino as Board members; Janine and Anthony representing the original Community Enterprise Group. Richard Munro and Simon Kearey are the County Council representatives on the Shadow Board.

Future meetings of the Shadow Board will include two other members – Graeme Merrifield and Mark Crosby.

The Shadow Board has shortlisted the candidates who have offered to be Trustees and will be interviewing later in June or early July. The Shadow Board agreed that the new Trust could have more than 11 Trustees; Board members are preparing a list of the skills needed and will aim to match the candidates to those skills.

It is hoped to launch the new Trust in August with a reception at Cogges – although all the legal details and charitable status will not have been concluded.

The first task of the Shadow Board is to consider plans for the future of Cogges – and a 'visioning' meeting will be held at Cogges on 16 June.

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