

Community Services

Cogges Manor Farm Museum

Cogges Bulletin 8 - September 2008

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS

27 & 28 September	Country Fair
11 & 12 October	Apple Weekend
18 & 19 October	The Big Draw
25 & 26 October	Scarecrow Weekend
25 October – 1 November	Half Term Children's Activities
6 & 7 December	Advent Weekend

NEWS

- 1) Cogges is delighted to have been informed that it has been short listed for the Tourism South East, ExSEllence small attraction of the year award. All short listed organisations will be named as either winner, runner-up or highly commended. This is wonderful news and a great opportunity for our staff to celebrate all the hard work and dedication they have put in this season despite the problems we have encountered. The award will be presented on 28th October!
- 2) 673 season tickets sold to date!
Visitor figures have now reached over 21,000 this season. The museum had the best July visitor figures for the past eight years
- 3) The museum played host to the whole of East Hagbourne School on July 10th, with additional activities laid on for a full school day out.
- 4) A new exhibition has opened in the Manor House showing the watercolours of the Witney-born artist James Shuffrey (1859-1939). Have you seen the Blue Plaque recently unveiled on his birthplace at Woodgreen?
- 5) The Museum hosted a Tourism South East event on 5th August attended by representatives of over 40 attractions throughout the area (including such diverse but major venues as Ascot Racecourse and Blenheim) – many of

whom had never visited Cogges before, and found the place delightful! The Museum has received many congratulatory thanks for hosting this evening, funded by Tourism South East.

- 6) Members of staff attended the Witney Town Council “Stay Longer in Witney” launch event with David Cameron on 25th July, handing out our museum leaflets in Witney town centre.
- 7) The work started by the Witney Woodland Volunteers on clearance of the Museum’s moated site has been continued by the “Wychwood v” – a new project run under the aegis of the Wychwood Project, a new, 3-year project aiming to engage young people aged 16-25 in conservation volunteering with the Wychwood project. It is one of the national ‘vinvolved’ projects that is aiming to inspire half a million young people in England to volunteer in a wide range of activities. Work at the Museum was led by Jane Bowley of the Wychwood Project with guidance from the Museum’s gardener, Chris Munday.
- 8) Witney Rotary continued their help to the Museum by organizing a working party to weed the trees planted by Mrs Eileen Mawle in the disabled car park.
- 9) 2 goats bought following a cheque presentation by Waitrose to the Cogges Trust - thanks to Lady Hurd who initiated the selection of the Trust as one of the Waitrose monthly charities.
- 10) The sheep flock has been judged by the Cotswold sheep Society for the ‘Best of Breed’ award, the result to be announced later this autumn. The flock came second last year, missing first place by a narrow margin.
- 11) Nicola Walker, the Farm Manager, is now on maternity leave; Matt Timms is taking on the role of Farm Supervisor during her absence.
- 12) The open air evening performance by the Festival Players of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* on Sunday 10th August proved a success; despite the uncertain weather, over 100 people turned up to watch the small, all-male cast – a very enjoyable evening.
- 13) The Museum has been filmed by Thames Television for an extract to mark a celebration of the National Farmers’ Union – screening details to be confirmed.
- 14) Farm Staff attended the Sure Start Day in Cutteslowe Park on 25th June, taking along leaflets, some small animals and a children’s activity to the event to promote under 5’s education organized by the Children, Young People and Families Directorate.

Oxfordshire Buildings Record offer an opportunity to learn about historic buildings:

From attic to cellar

Expert tutors from The Oxfordshire Buildings Record are offering 3 specialist one day courses at Cogges

14 September: Raising the roof:

An introduction to local building materials and construction methods, including timber framing, stone, brick, thatch and Cotswold slate, and ways in which building elements can be dated. Tutor: David Clark (fully booked!)

5 October: A window on the past

An introduction to the elements of buildings such as windows and doors, fireplaces and chimneys, decorative detail and ironmongery. Tutor: David Clark (fully booked!)

26 October Rule of thumb

A practical introduction to photographing, measuring and drawing in order to make a permanent record of a building. Tutor: Vic Allison (some places available!)

All the courses are offered at £35 for the day (£25 for OBR members)

Please contact Ann Atkinson to book a place:

01993 706210

adenatkinson@aol.com

Lechlade Historical Society

Monday 15 September 7.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall.

'Cogges Manor Farm: 1,000 years of history - & its future' – a talk by Dr John Wilson, followed by a discussion with representatives from the Cogges Trust and Martyn Brown, Heritage and Arts Officer

Cogges Project Board

The eight meeting of the Project Board was held on 29th August. The Board remains focused on securing a long-term and sustainable future for Cogges and negotiations have continued throughout the summer. The Board has decided to postpone its report to the Cabinet from September to October in order to give as much time as necessary to review the options for the future operation of Cogges – and aiming for a transfer to the new operator for 2010.

The Board accepted a report and plan for the County Council to continue to run Cogges through 2009 – the budget, as you are no doubt aware, reduced by one-third as previously decided and well publicised in late 2007. Museum staff will work on implementing this plan immediately in preparation for next season – aiming (again) to offer a variety of events and activities. It is planned that the museum will open as usual just before Easter, maintaining existing opening hours, but close at the end of August.

The Board will report to the County Council's Cabinet meeting on 21 October with recommendations for the future operation of the museum. Papers for that meeting are published on the County Council's web site one week before the meeting. The Cabinet meeting is a public meeting, and members of the public may apply, in advance, to speak at the meeting.

David Cameron met members of the Project Board later on Friday 29 August to discuss the future of Cogges; before moving on to Cogges where an interview was filmed.

PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday 8 October at 7.30pm in Cogges Church when the Board will present its recommendations. All are welcome to attend.

Cogges Bulletin is prepared and edited by Martyn Brown, Heritage and Arts Officer. Tel: 01993 814114. Email: martyn.brown@oxfordshire.gov.uk