June 2011

The Oldest House has a new thatch

A new kind of thatched roof has been added to the oldest house in the village as part of the programme of maintenance. Master Thatcher Alan Jones was on site for about a month during June. After discussions with the Archaeological Consultant he has used a top layer of heather which was specially cut on the Yorkshire moors; this overlies the lower layer of sedge that was applied many years ago. The new roof shows a less refined finish but one just as likely to be used by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors in areas where heather was common.

It is another form of experimental archaeology, testing different ideas in the village. The ridge of this house was capped with turf to see how that idea works. More internal braces were added to help support this structure which dates back to 1973. We think the Anglo-Saxons would have repaired their buildings as often as they could as that would have been easier than a complete rebuild. The Sunken House was also repaired with a new straw thatch capping and extra braces inside and out to ensure that it is stable as possible. The Living House now has an unusual lean to on the west side which has been roofed with plants from the river. The Anglo-Saxon Village now has more variety than ever to show visitors.

For more information contact: Alan.baxter@stedsbc.gov.uk

St Edmundsbury Art Collections on the BBC website

On 23rd June the BBC and the Public Catalogue Foundation will launch the *Your Paintings* website, an extraordinarily ambitious venture aimed at making available on line all the UK's publicly owned oil paintings. Treasures from St Edmundsbury's collections, including outstanding portraits by Mary Beale, Tissot and Angelica Kauffmann, as well as depictions of historic scenes such as the opening of the new railway between Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich in 1846, will feature among the first tranche of those to be showcased on the new site. Visit www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/ to discover more about this unique project.

For more information contact: Keith.cunliffe@stedsbc.gov.uk

Young People of Bury St Edmunds Film 2011

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with V-involved Suffolk and Renaissance East of England a group of young people were given the opportunity to work with professional film makers creating a short film that explored life in West Suffolk in 2011. Over 3 months they decided on the story then set about designing the ways to tell it. The premier was attended by 50+ friends, youth and community workers and politicians. The film was well received and led to a Question and Answer session and an invite to the group to film a event in Colchester.

It can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ld6OIZTxAZQ *For more information contact: Peter.jones@stedsbc.gov.uk*

Moyse's Hall Friends AGM

The Friends of Moyse's Hall Museum and Associated Collections met for their Annual General Meeting at Moyse's Hall on Saturday 11 June. Normal procedures took place with nominations for main officers being decided for 2012-11.

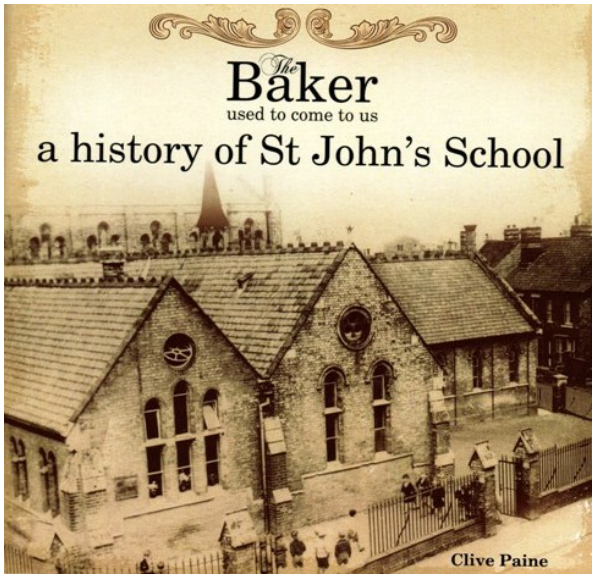
A review of the year highlighted some of the projects the Friends had been involved with during the last year. The meeting was followed by a walk and talk on 'Pictures on display' with Dr Keith Cunliffe, Collections Manager of St Edmundsbury Heritage Service. Friends are important to the running of the service. Please visit www.moyseshall.org and see how you can feel part of our heritage.

For more information contact: Gill.hawkins@stedsbc.gov.uk

St Johns Street Book

Discover Your Past was involved with the official opening celebrations of The Centre, St John's Street on Saturday which also celebrated its 170th anniversary with Victorian themed activities. A project with the Home School group culminated in a presentation of their hard work on Victorians and their enactment of a Victorian schoolroom in this former Victorian school building. Discover Your Past sponsored a book on the history of the Centre which was launched at the event and Kate Pardon delivered a talk on Victorian costume. A decoupage workshop, Victorian toys and costume were also provided via the Project.

For more information contact: Julie.godden@stedsbc.gov.uk



Half-term Fun at West Stow

It was a busy May Bank Holiday weekend at West Stow with over 550 visitors enjoying seeing Anglo-Saxon family life with local living history group CHES.
Half-term events continued on Tuesday with our popular hands-on pottery in the Workshop and the Fantastic Falcons event in the Village.
Many of the 200 visitors had come specifically to see the exciting birds of prey flying displays by the Warren Hill Raptor team. There was also a chance for visitors to get up close to the birds, including the three owl chicks that they are hand-rearing. This was a wonderful and unique experience, especially for the children.

For more information contact: Trish.freane@stedsbc.gov.uk

80 titles at the West Stow Heritage Shop

Visitors really enjoy the chance to buy from the specialist book collection in the heritage shop. A third of shop income is made from the sale of books with many visitors buying several at a time. Many more book titles will soon be appearing in the online shop. There are 80 titles on history and archaeology from Neolithic through to Viking, reflecting the multi-period site. There is something for everyone ranging from children's books to educational resources up to specialist interest. A whole range of locally printed titles from *Anglo-Saxon Books* is available with such diverse subjects as cookery, riddles and the origins of the English language.

For more information contact: glynis.baxter@stedsbc.gov.uk

Ring Quest Winners at West Stow

On Sunday June 12th West Stow welcomed 9 year old prize winner Eric Turner for an exciting morning of archery in the Anglo-Saxon Village with expert bowman Ken Robins. Together with his parents and two school friends he had expert tuition with different bows and then enjoyed firing real arrows at balloon targets...which burst with a satisfying pop! Hitting the swinging sand bag was trickier, but the lads all had a good go at it before more rounds of balloons. Eric's mother proved to be a good shot with a Persian bow and great fun was had by all! '*Thank you again for a fantastic morning's entertainment … I think we may well have another go soon, as we all discovered our inner archers and really enjoyed ourselves'*

For more information contact: Trish.freane@stedsbc.gov.uk

Remedial work to improve habitats for fish on the River Lark

The Lark has been categorised as 'chemically and biologically poor' under the Water Framework Directive. The Bury Trout Club and Lark Angling and Preservation Society are working together with the Environment Agency and River Restoration Centre on a range of proposals to improve in-channel habitats along the river Lark. One proposal to vary the flow in the river has already started with three timber deflectors being installed along a section of river near the lake at West Stow.

An EA entomologist will be giving free invertebrate identification training for members of the two groups as part of a long-term monitoring programme.

For more information contact: Chris.gregory@stedsbc.gov.uk

Moyse's Hall (MH) and West Stow (WS)

July

10th Creative Cookery, Anglo-Saxon Style!

Join Eadyth for this tasty workshop, learn how to get a fire going and how to gather the ingredients and cook ancient recipes. Lots of hands on work, bread making and a chance to taste some great food! Over 16's Bring an apron, bowl and wooden spoon. Booking essential **(WS)**

16th-17th 5000 Years (WS)

Come face to face with characters from West Stow's long past and discover what life was like in the Village through the ages; Stone Age, Celts, Romans and Anglo-Saxons. For all the family.

23rd-24th Travellers through Time (WS)

Join the 'Farende Folc', a group of ancient travellers living in the Village, with timed presentations on Old English language, costume, food, herbs, music, farming practices and warfare.

27th Ken the Bowman (MH)

Join Ken for arrow making and discussions on weaponry.

27th We Dig Archaeology (WS)

Discover Archaeology at West Stow; try ancient crafts, bring along your finds for identification, get excavating, handle objects and find out how we preserve them.

28th 'Suffolk's Lap of Honour opens (MH)

This Exhibition celebrates some of our Olympic and Paralympic Games Heritage.

28th Friends Lecture: Bury Fair by Pat Murrell - followed by optional buffet

Join historian Pat Murrell for a look at the great annual gathering of 'Bury Fair'. Who attended, where to be seen, a market for ladies or merchandisers? All will be revealed in this illustrated lecture. **(MH)**

30th-31st Stitch in Time (WS)

Explore the world of textiles, basketry and ropes, from the Stone Age to modern day. Experimental archaeology, living history, demonstrations and hands on activities.

August

1st M.R. James stories: (MH)

'Canon Alberic's Scrap Book' and 'Mr Humphreys and His Inheritance' to commemorate his birth in 1862

Join the Victorian gentleman for another two tales from local author M.R. James: 'An Episode of Cathedral history' and 'Two Doctors'

3rd Falconry Display (WS)

Using falcons is an ancient hunting method practiced by the Anglo-Saxons. Visit West Stow Anglo Saxon Village and let the skilled handlers of the Warren Hill Raptor Project demonstrate these magnificent birds.

3rd Tudor Characters from the Past (MH)

Join members of historical group CHES and explore Tudor times. Handling activities and demonstrations throughout the day

7th-8th A Visit from the Saxons (WS)

The English Companions visit as a group of Thegn Anglo-Saxons. A group of nobles and their servants are resting in the Village on their way to visit the King in Rendlesham.

10th Meet the Medieval Monk (MH)

Come along and drop in to meet a 12th century monk during the day.Demonstrations and activities.

13th-14th 500AD, A Glimpse into the Past

Village life in 500AD with living history group Deoringas – their crafts, domestic tasks and skills together with traditional music and storytelling, still enjoyed by everyone today **(WS)**

17th Medieval Crafts

Come along and drop in to meet Editha, a medieval craftswoman for activities during the day. Demonstrations and activities. **(MH)**

Please check web sites for further details;
www.moyseshall.org *www.weststow.org*

If you do not wish to receive Heritage News, please email:
charlotte.dale@stedsbc.gov.uk

St Edmundsbury BOROUGH COUNCIL