

Heritage Weekend

Lockerley, East Dean, East Tytherley, West Tytherley

Event update

Saturday 10 July
and
Sunday 11 July 2010

What did you just miss!

There was so much going on and huge numbers of people enabled it all to happen. So the first thing to record is to say thank you to all those who helped to make it happen, including James Pitkin, and we hope that we've not left out your name in this celebration of the many events.

The weekend was all about people and places; what our communities do, have done and the importance of the environment in our lives and the many family histories which give colour to the big picture. On top of this over £2000 was raised through teas, skittles and copying various historical papers. The opening of the Old Rectory at West Tytherley alone raised over £350.

Open the churches ...

The four churches in the Benefice were not just opened – they usually are – but they were decorated with excellent flower displays and provided with a large amount of historical documents and artefacts. Particularly noteworthy were the displays of flowers in East Dean church which was composed entirely from wild flowers available 100 years ago; about 40 varieties according to the list of their names provided by Kate Clark, Jen Churchill and others.



Kate Clark also provided the very short guide to a very long history of St Winfrip's church. And you may have noticed the "þ" character. It's known

as thorn, pronounced "th" (the capital shape is "Þ") and it is one of two characters which the English alphabet lost in the medieval times. Do you know the other one? St Winfrip's witnessed the Anglo Saxon service enjoyed by those who came. Just Quintessential provided the concert organised by Kate Clark, Pat and Trevor Rawlings with Nicky and Tony Bell. They competed for audience with those who might have watched the World Cup Final. Well, Just Quintessential were just that and live whereas the football could be recorded and watched later.

Tommy Grieves recruited the stewards and Jo Guy produced a new leaflet about West Tytherley church (St Peter's). You may have known that it houses the oldest church bell in Hampshire – it's dated around 1260 AD - but did you know that it is probably the oldest bell in the world which can be fully swung – that is, stopped at the top of its swing. There's a fresh project to bring the bell into use so that it can again be heard.



Flowers were provided by many including Lily Fry and Barbara Gribble. Mike Fry made a scrap book of history available to copy ... for a donation to charitable funds.

Bill Whitlock provided a history display at West Tytherley and also set out his large folders of historical cuttings and photos in St Peter's East Tytherley church while Mr Boddington also provided a history display of Norman Court school.



Mention East Tytherley and you may recall the flower festival organized by Jane Scoones, Catherine Anderson, Helen Chick, Joanne Nash and Linda Redshaw and a stunning array of historical scrapbooks, folders and cuttings which could be read at leisure in the church.

Then there's Lockerley's St John's church which was the place to be if you wished to see open air iron forging being used, as Ian Musson set about repairing the church's bell hammer. There was tea to be taken courtesy of Liz Holton and a team of volunteers, many of whom will have helped in setting out the flower displays, including Jan Musson, Sally Masters, Mike and Hilary Thompson.



The picture above is one of the many archival photos that exist of the churches that have been established at Lockerley. Visitors could have seen the rare image showing the old and the new church in that short period around 1891 when both churches were standing.

And the other events ...

West Tytherley was the place to be for a fund raising evening of skittles planned by John Coggan and Jane Rimmington and organized (and won) by Peter Robinson. Mike Fry kept score whilst Nick and Elaine at the Black Horse provided the food and a well fed way to raise £143. The Old Rectory garden was opened on Saturday morning and around £350 was raised. You might have seen the photo of ladies playing croquet on the lawn whilst the Rev Coggan-Willets looks on from his deck chair. Barbara Gribble and colleagues served cream teas over the weekend and raised £150 and Lucilla and Mark Carr organized a history based walk and BBQ.

Robin Garrett launched his research on the War Memorial and Sarah Bidois and Nathan Reynolds installed displays from the school. Lockerley Choir sang at a Victorian Evensong under Andy Holton's direction led by Nick Flood; many dressed up for the occasion – there are photos to prove it!

Tony and Nicky Bell hosted an Art Exhibition and, with many helpers, served teas and cake and welcomed visitors to their open garden.

Out at East Tytherley, Lesley and Alan at the Star Inn set about recreating an 1880s scene featuring the Lockerley Silver Band. And there is a photo to show for it (somewhere!).

Lockerley's bellringers, led by David Strong and his team, gave tours of the bell tower and shows of ringing with the handbells whilst out on the field a fine array of classic motor cars could be looked over on the Saturday thanks to Richard Tambling, Ian McKeand, Bill McClintock and many other kind people. Lockerley Mechanical Society showed off their researches relating to the Lockerley depot of the 1940s era.

John Niblett reviewed the Benefice Walking Guide and we are grateful to the Record Office in Winchester for the loan of display cases and historical registers from all of the churches.

And the next time?

Romsey Arts Festival will keep us busy in 2011 and so we could plan a history weekend in the Olympic year of 2012. In the mean time there's much of this year's history information to collate and to put into a local context and if you'd like to lend a hand or provide copies of what you have why not contact James or Allen at 340635 or 341134 and jamespitkin@priest.com or admin@lockerley.org.uk