



Bringing people back to life . . . Lorna Delanoy, left, with Anne Debondt, who helped her transcribe the tapes, with the book she has compiled from audio cassette accounts of life in the Fens.

Picture: Keith Hoppell 01577

Life in the Fens brought to book

A COLLECTION of personal accounts of life in the Fens which were recorded onto audio cassettes in the last century have been given new life in a book.

Ten Miles From Ely, compiled by 62-year-old Lorna Delanoy, and Paul Melton, charts the history of the Ely area with photographs and transcriptions of the personal experiences of a range of the region's characters.

Work on the original recordings started around the time of the

Queen's Silver Jubilee and Mrs Delanoy, whose son Craig gathered the recordings for the Fensland Museum, said it was a pleasure to be able to work with some of the original accounts during the Golden Jubilee year.

She said the book, which she financed and published herself, would eventually be a trilogy of which the next instalment would be *Bog Oak Country*.

Mrs Delanoy, of Wilton Gardens, Mepal, said: "Had we not done the

book, the accounts would have just stayed on tape but this way we are able to bring people back to life.

"By reading the books people will be able to see how hard life was in the Fens before television and computers came along."

The book is available from Burrows Bookshop and Walkers in Haddenham and costs £2.

It is also available by sending £2.50 to 1 Wilton Gardens, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2BP.

CRA 9/11/03

Traffic moved with the

Memories

By MIKE
PETTY



Paul Melton and Lorna Delanoy set out some 25 years ago to record the memories of some of Cambridgeshire's elderly folk. They built up a remarkable series of tape recordings and received a grant from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust so that the tapes could be heard at "listening posts" by people visiting the Farmland Museum, then at Haddenham but now relocated to Denny Abbey. They also allowed the Cambridgeshire Collection in Lion Yard Library, Cambridge, to have copies as part of its large collection of sound recordings, where they are available to readers.

Tape recordings are excellent ways of sharing memories of the past, but there is one big snag. Until you listen you have no real idea what they have to tell you. And an hour's recording takes an hour to hear. Now Lorna has organised a team of helpers to transcribe some of the words for a little booklet being sold in aid of the Farmland Museum, capturing both the tales and something of the way they were told.

It includes the memories of the late Con Cameron of Chatteris, probably the first lady taxi driver in the area, back in the 1920s. Con recalled some of the problems of early motoring: "We used to have to put side curtains up, well, it was ever so



Milko ... Mr Bavester at Waterbeach, 1920s.

freezing because they used to get froze. There was no such thing as anti-freeze in

draughty. I used to be out all hours of the night. You had to have a rug round your knees 'cos it was so cold! No heating. And you used to have to let the water out at night if it was

those days. And jack it up to start it in the mornin'. And then as soon as you get the jack up you could start it up and crank it up to try and get it to start! You'd jack it up then it'd fall off the jack!

"My father would not buy any new tyres or tubes. And do you know, soon as there was a hot day all the patches used to lift off these blessed tubes. I remember going to Cambridge once, we were going to the Botanic Garden, and I took a crowd there, in our open Ford it was, and someone walked by and, some man it was, said: 'Look at your tyre!' I looked at the tyre and there's a great big bulge. We hadn't been going long through Cambridge and it went off bang! So I had to go to a garage at Downing Street and they come and towed me in. And I said: 'What am I gonna do?' And he says: 'You're gonna have to have a new tyre.'

"I says: 'Well, I haven't got any money to get a new tyre. I got a young baby with its mother and about four kids,' and they went in the Round Church in Cambridge, fod this baby, get out the heat because it was a hot day. And I was in this Downing Street pub and a young fella came up and said: 'What's the trouble?' and I said: 'I've got to get a new tyre and they don't seem to trust me,' and I told him who I was and where I come from. I said I got to be back by

20/11/02 CEN



Penny for the Guy ... a scene in Cam Road (now Elizabeth Way) in Cambridge in 1932.



Modern transport ... Sutton Station, 1900.

times

mixed with hay and then steam was forced through the mixture to cook it. It used to have a special smell about it and was called 'nosey'. People could smell this ever so far off and could predict the weather by it. This would then be put into bags weighing about 40lb each which were loaded onto the trucks in the railway siding and taken to London for feeding the horses in the pre-car days."

Esther Howe from Prickwillow recalled her daily chores: "I used to get up about half past six. My husband would get up just a bit before 'cos I used to like my cup of tea in bed, you see. But soon as I had that I had to get moving. So I used to get up at half past six.

"My husband and the milkman used to go out and milk and I'd be ready to separate (take cream off by passing milk through hand operated machine) at 10 minutes to seven when they came in with the milk. We used to take the cream off.

"People used to come years ago and fetch a ha'peth of milk. A ha'peth of skimmed milk. Quite a can full 'cos you wouldn't do anything 'cept give it to the pigs. Whatever container they brought, you just filled. I had all the housework to do and course there was butter to make once a week.

"And chickens, I had about 400 chickens. They were free range. Every afternoon, wet or fine, eggs were collected and the egg man used to come round and collect them in a big lorry - a huge container lorry. The boxes they used to bring would hold thirty-six dozen.

"I'll tell you an ordinary day's work. We had what we called dockey at quarter past 10. And then the men stopped for oneses just for a cup of tea and a bite of cake or something. And then come in at four o'clock for a cooked meal.

"That was in an ordinary day's work when it wasn't harvest. But harvest there were these four meals to get. We went to bed earlier than what we do now. Yes, half past nine. If we thought it was 10 o'clock, my dear, we was late!"

Lorna hopes to produce other selections from their tapes; this one costs £2.50 from Lorna Delaney, 1 Wilton Gardens, Mepal, CB6 2BP.

six o'clock I got to meet the six o'clock train. He said: "Look," he said to the man, "I'll pay for that tyre." He was an Air Force fella from Duxford."

Nowadays there is a modern straw-burning power plant at Sutton, but this is nothing new, as Ewart Drake recalled:

"My grandfather built two factories at Sutton, one in the Brook and the other adjacent to the railway line at the station. This was the chaff factory. It started with threshing for farmers and often the farmers did not want the straw and farmers did not want to pay to have the threshing done, so my grandfather would take the straw.

"It was a great big place and they had conveyors and elevators there to take the chaff (chopped up straw) up to the top where it was



Pit stop . . . Liddiard's Garage, corner of Downing Street and Corn Exchange Street, 1930s.

Ten Miles From Ely - Old time Memories

RECENTLY published is an interesting little book of stories as recounted by some of the older local people for a tape-recorded sound archive. The recordings were made several years ago and published here are the typed transcriptions. Copies of Ten Miles From Ely are available from Walkers Stores price £2. Local people featured include Charlie Ashten, Charles Bester, Albert Thulborn and Jean Richards.

Here is a seasonal extract from the book:

Mabel Demaine's memories of 80 years ago: How do they compare with ours of the twenty first century?

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Peeping through the curtains to see the village Bandsmen clustered around a lighted lamp tied to a pole and hearing, "Hark the Herald" and "Oh come all ye faithful" played with great gusto - and joining with other young people as soon as darkness fell to tour the village to sing these same well-loved Christmas hymns are two of my earliest recollections, deep snow and sparkling frost added to these pleasures. Why did we never feel the cold in those days?

HOMEMADE DECORATIONS

There were no luxuries in those bygone days, homemade paper chains and holly decorated our rooms and a pile of logs filled our hearth; homemade cakes and puddings and mincemeat filled the pantry shelves. A box of dates, a dish of nuts, oranges and apples and a bottle of ginger wine were included in our Christmas Fare. Christmas Eve was always a busy time for my mother, stuffing the goose, preparing the vegetables, getting the children off to bed early. This was no trouble on Christmas Eve, the night when Father Christmas came. I can remember trying to keep awake, waiting to see him arrive, at the same time being somewhat fearful of

some stranger filling that long stocking of my father's which hung at the foot of my bed towards its bulging sides - an orange in the toe, a few nuts and sweets, a handkerchief - just a few simple things were all it contained and yet what a joy and thrill they gave me. For several years my younger brother and I had our Christmas day tea with some elderly relatives who lived two miles away.

I wish I could make a ground rice cake like the one we always had for tea; no rich iced Christmas cake could compare with that rice cake, with its sugary, buttery, mouth-watering taste and how I would have liked a second slice! (Children were expected not to be greedy)

NO COMPUTER GAMES OR TELEVISION

After tea we played dominoes and draughts and "I spy" and then hot mince pies and a cup of cocoa and muffled up with scarves and coats we walked home.

I can remember those walks over fifty years ago. It was always moonlit and frosty, and how the frost did sparkle - and the stars - I watched the stars, they were so bright and a shooting star gave me a shiver down my spine, it seemed such a fearful and frightening thing. I never see a shooting star now without being reminded of those walks home on Christmas nights.

THE TRUE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Looking back on those bygone Christmases, why did I enjoy a walk in the frost and snow then and now I hate to even step out of the door or leave the fireside for a short while? Does the cold get colder as we get older or do our likes and dislikes change? We roasted chestnuts and almost roasted ourselves by our open fires and then hugging a hot brick wrapped in a flannel we went to bed contented with simple pleasures, finding time to think of a real message for Christmas, of peace on Earth, goodwill to all men.

New instalment of bygone tales

THE second of three booklets on bygone tales from the villages around Ely has been published.

Bog Oak Country, a transcription of history tapes compiled by Lorna and Kevin Delanoy, follows on from the popular first compilation, *Ten Miles From Ely*.

Bog Oak refers to the remains of trees in a 4,000-year-old forest which became submerged during a flood, and which are continuously dug up in the fens.

This latest book also features a foreword by author Alan Bloom, of Bressingham Hall, Norfolk.

Lorna Delanoy said: "Alan said he had enjoyed the first book very much and he offered me excerpts from any of his books to use. It was a bit of a coup."

Others involved in the production of the book included proof-reader Valerie Bloye, of Haddenham, and transcriber Anne Debondt, from Mepal.

Bog Oak Country is available, priced £2, from Burrows Bookshop, in Ely; Soham Books in Soham and Newmarket; and Walkers, in Haddenham.

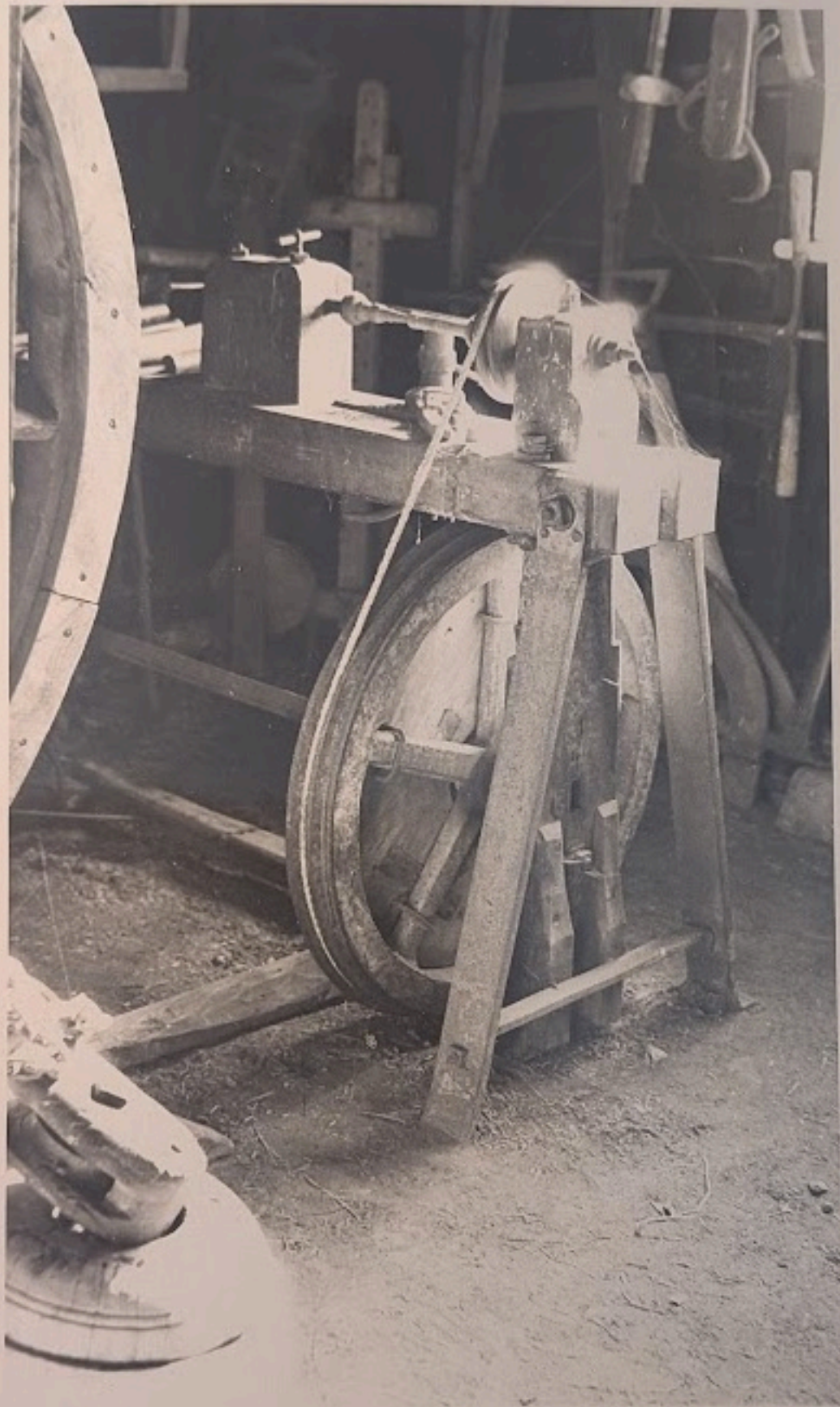
A third and final book in the series will be brought out around Christmas.



■ EAGERLY AWAITED FOLLOW-UP . . . pictured with copies of the new book, *Bog Oak Country*, are, from left, Anne Debondt, Lorna Delanoy and Valerie Bloye.

Picture: Keith Heppell 103489.

Lathe
in
wheel-
wright's
shop—
can be
treadled
or
turned
by
pulleys



Tyre
remover

Earth
floor—
traditional

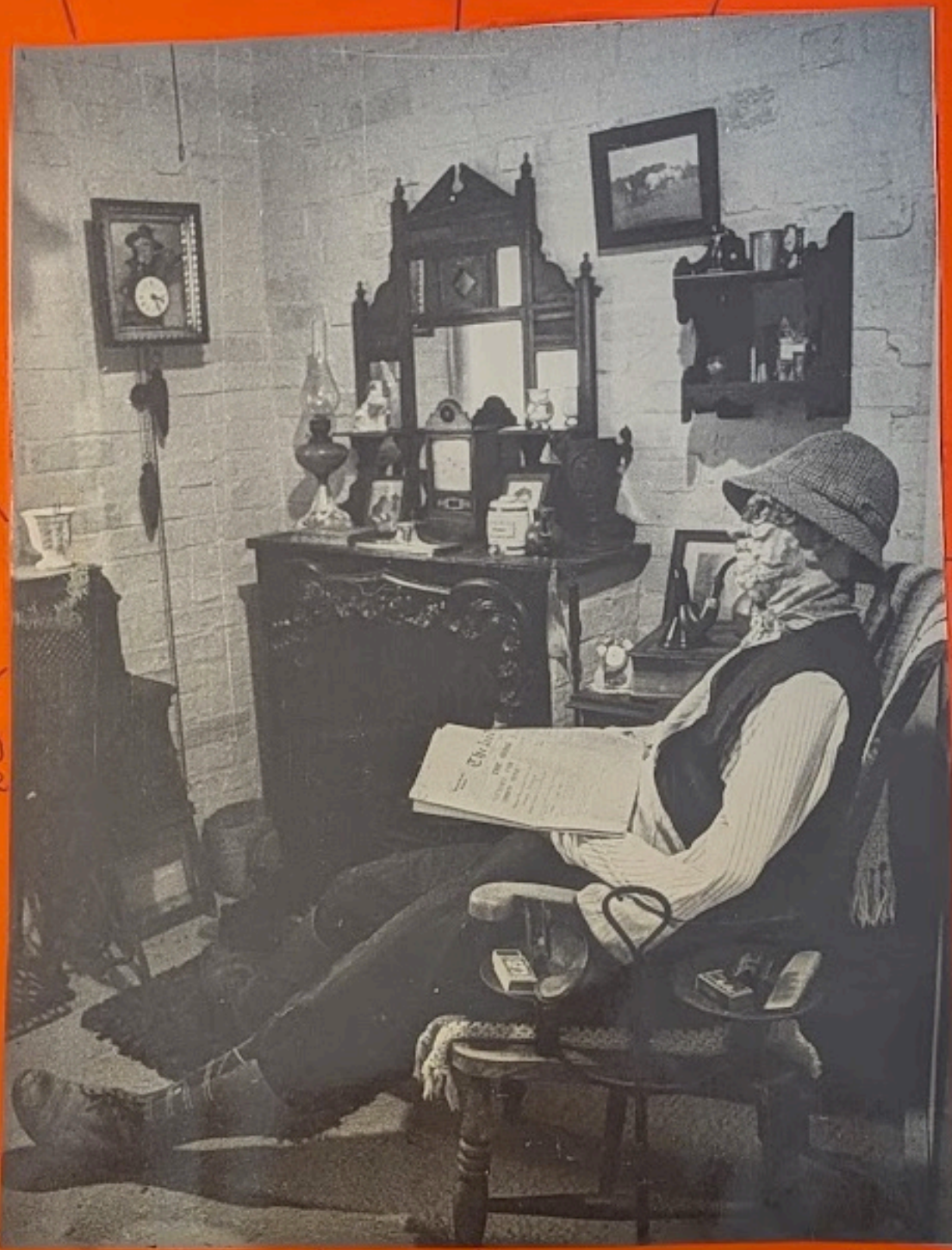


Doug Few, founder of the Sugarbeet
Competition with Fretwell, Cole Ambrose Farms

Bester's
clock

Pake's
overmantle

Freeman
cutting with
horses



U ase
from
Elsie
Wright

Sewing
machine
ex
Staelys
Holden

made
from
Burton

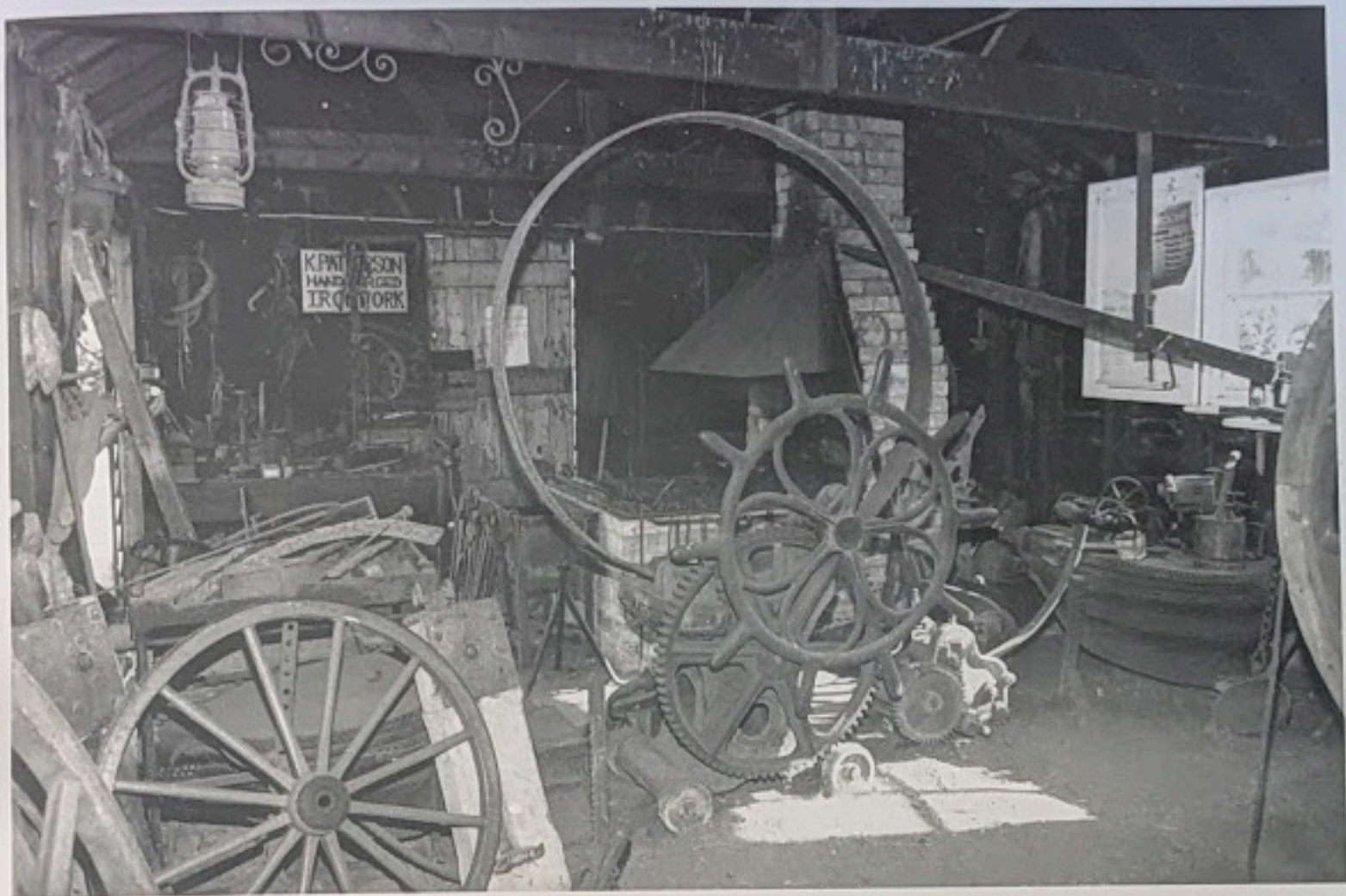
pegged
rug
from Tip

(Peter Mike's
Teevar) boots

fireplace
Acacia House

Mabell's
chair

Smoker
companion
from Yelling
Smilthy



Built from a wooden house (Sohan Fen)
wood from Steam Engine works (Stretham)
and tiles from Leval Drainage Board
in 1972 "Looks as if it has been
here for years" — statement from John
Humphrey's mother in the Autumn '72



Bill Farthing, 1983, a regular Wednesday helper. Ploughs were oiled each Summer and moved weekly for grass cutting



The museum that grew from a box of bric-a-brac

David Warterson visits the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, where a special kind of local enthusiasm has turned a growing collection of bygone agricultural implements into an attraction that draws thousands of visitors every year.

SCEPTICS might doubt the story that Haddenham's Farmland Museum, with its vast array of implements epitomising country life through the ages, were merely the product of a childhood dream. Even Dave Allen's television foray found it hard to swallow.

After all, one might say, no child could single-handedly amass the collection that now dominates the back garden and is attracting thousands of visitors a year. And, anyway, hadn't an illustrious Cambridgeshire county councillor, one Charles Swift from that centre of culture at Peterborough, condemned the whole thing as a glorified load of junk?

(Needless to say, Mr Swift has still to forsake his diesel car to confirm his impressions of said 1976).

In a sense the critics might be right. True, the collection began with a modest box full of bric-a-brac brought into the bedroom of long-suffering parents one Sunday morning.

But 13-year-old Craig Delaney's enthusiasm proved an infectious that now the whole family is involved with his parents, Michael and Leona, acting as the lynch-pin and the rest (Kevin, 14, and James, 10) chipping in with the helping hand.

Of course, Mr Swift has a point about it being junk

Everything which has no contemporary use is junk. That doesn't mean, though, that it should be destroyed out of hand. If that was the yardstick then there simply wouldn't be any museums.

The criterion surely is that all the museums attempting to provide a cross-section of life in the recent past should have some particular purpose which makes their preservation worthwhile.

Within a broad area there is little point in a proliferation of museums all doing the same thing.

The Farmland Museum has recognised the risk of duplication. So while it has a fair number of items which might be commonplace anywhere it also aims to have a specific objective with its strong agricultural flavour featuring old machinery and tools which were part of everyday life until the horse gave way to the tractor.

So there is a range of more than 50 old ploughs, all carefully preserved, painted and oiled each year (not in the original colours, alas, because this complicates the whole business).

Then a chaff grinder of 1898, in perfect working order, illustrates what used to be a regular chore when it came to feeding the horses, once such a timeless feature of Fenland farming.

For years it was tucked away in a barn belonging to Mr Jack Kerridge, who farms 350 acres in little-perf Fen where his family

have been tilling the soil for 130 years.

Now Mr Kerridge is one of the museum's most ardent fans, always keeping his eyes open for some rarely hidden away in the stings, nettles, or rustling away under a heap of rubbish — sorry, possible museum curiosities.

Here lies one of the museum's main attributes — its ability to inspire support from the most unlikely sources, like the casual visitor who kept her word and sent a collection of rare shells from the Bahamas or the two farmers who hid against each other for an item at a auction only to find they both wanted to give it to the collection.

Apart from the hard core of regular helpers including a nurse, two ambulance drivers and two undertakers — really, you couldn't be better catered for as far as earthly needs go — it is remarkable how all sorts of specialists lend a hand here and there.

There's never any difficulty in persuading the village youngsters to do their bit, and indeed the whole of Haddenham seems to take pride in what the museum has achieved.

Since the museum was opened in 1969, 22,500 visitors have helped to contribute more than £2,000 to children's charities — the idea behind young Craig's pioneering efforts which is still at the heart of the museum's cause. It may be now that the



● Mr Jack Kerridge, one of the museum's most loyal supporters, puts a Rolls Royce of chaff-grinders through its paces.

907818

museum is at the crossroads, where, if it is going to benefit from an influx of public funds, some kind of governing body will have to be set up.

However, after the rubber over the county council refused to give a grant, Michael Delaney is bent on his own to get things done.

The snag is that the lack of a grant has frustrated efforts to use the museum on a broader educational basis for school visits.

The Delanays are not easily deterred, though. From donor beginnings the museum has expanded with new sheds for the larger displays which are its strength and have no counterpart in Cambridgeshire, even at official museums.

Only the Museum of Rural Life at Stowmarket has a stronger collection of machinery and has the capacity to take bulkier items.

It is likely too that the Delaney museum (unique too for its intimate homely atmosphere) will become even more fascinating as more ordinary items from the recent past — like the old county road signs and the gas masks of wartime Britain — become rarities in their own right.

The working exhibitions and tableaux — from the blacksmith at work to the vivid recreation of a 1920 working class kitchen — are more recent features of its development to give a wider cross section of life in this part of the world.

Haddenham residents are also coming up with new items to enhance the picture

of constant occupation dating back to 1200 BC and embodied in such articles as Mesolithic tools and Roman querns.

There is a marvellous cart that belonged to Mr Albert Newman, and was retrieved after being washed away in the 1947 floods.

And the art of the cooper is captured in an impressive display of tools donated by Mr Harry Meeson, the last man to do the craft locally at My Brewery before it was taken over and steel barrels put many coopers out of business.

The success of the Farmland Museum — a splendid example of British enthusiasm, volunteer effort and enterprise — is a great credit to the Delanays' skills, reflecting the changing pace of life and its divorce from a simpler but harder age.

A parting word. The Delanays are anxious to obtain a complete horse gear used for driving standing engines. These will have been thousands being stored in the Fen but they have become as rare as gold dust, mainly because most went for scrap metal at the end of the war.

Well — got the pieces but despite hunting all over the country, high and low, for six years we can't trace one anywhere. My goodness we've tried!

Ever anxious to support a worthy cause, can anyone come to his rescue?

The Farmland Museum at Haddenham is open on the first Sunday in each month from two o'clock to dusk.

● LEFT: An old Haddenham cart that was nearly destroyed in the floods of 1947, now in retirement at the Farmland Museum. 907828

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CAMBRIDGE MUSEUM OF TECHNOLOGY

is holding a

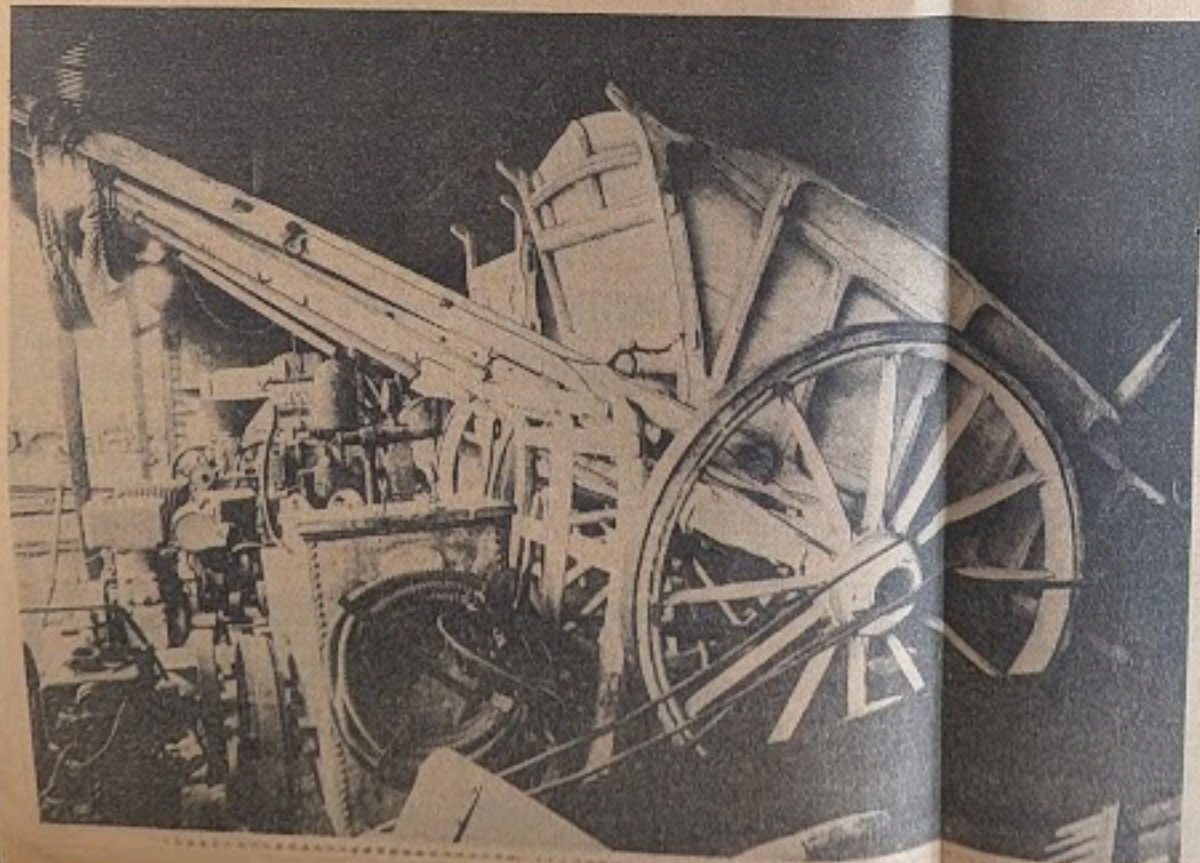
MECHANICAL FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, 20-21 May
11 am - 6 pm

Museum Displays, Steam Engines, Village Blacksmith, Vintage Cars, Agricultural and Domestic Bygones, Metal Casting, Sawsaws, Stuffs, Swingboats, Refreshments

Adults 50p, accompanied children free
Entrance Cheddars Lane and Riverside

CAR PARK: STOURBRIDGE COMMON



Farmers
scales
or
MANCURS

Can
for MILK

Castrel
or
HARVEST
BARREL



4
Dibbers

The museum that started in a little boy's bedroom

AT A TIME when most boys of his age would have been playing with toy trains or cars, young Craig Delanoy was laying the foundations of the Farmland Museum, though he didn't know it at the time.

That was in 1969 when he was just four years old. And since those early days, when he charged his family and relations a few coppers to view the bits and pieces proudly displayed in his bedroom, the collection has grown into a major undertaking.

It now dominates the back garden of the Delanoy family home in the Cambridgeshire village of Haddenham and takes up practically all their spare time.

The collection started when Craig gathered up fragments of pottery, unearthed when the garden was dug over. They turned out to be a good way of raising money and every time he collected a pound it was sent off to a children's charity.

Now there are hundreds of exhibits to be seen in the Farmland Museum and in recent years it has attracted more than 25,000 visitors who have contributed more than £2,000 to the charity.

From its small beginnings, the collection grew rapidly. Friends gave him many items and it was not long before it outgrew his bedroom.

Dad, Mr Michael Delanoy, little realising what he was letting himself in for, agreed to a request to use the garden shed to house the exhibits and even agreed to put up a "museum"

sign. And any hopes he might have had about regaining the use of his shed vanished after the sign went up.

More and more people got to hear of Craig's enthusiasm for the past and his passion for collecting, and hardly a week went by without the family finding a piece of ancient farm equipment on their doorstep.

Now the museum covers agriculture and country life generally, with its prime function to preserve the horse-drawn machinery once so much a part of Fenland.

The collection boasts a comprehensive selection of superbly preserved implements—among them a lot of sugar beet tackle dating back to the early 1920s.

It includes the Bentall Kent gapper which carried British and Irish patents, the Randell beet scuffle, Martins disc cutter and plough lifter and the Scottish manufactured Mern two-row topper, which, said Mr Delanoy, was a machine which did not catch on too well with growers.

To complete the outfit, there should be a lifter and he hopes that a farmer somewhere will find one tucked away in a dusty corner of a barn and donate it to the museum.

Although the sugar beet section is fairly representative there are gaps which he hopes to fill in.

As the museum has developed, it has attracted an ever-increasing amount of farming literature.

One of the tomes dates back to 1871



A chaff cutter put to good use to display the museum sign.

and contains a paper read to the Peterborough District Chamber of Agriculture by Mr John Algernon Clarke, advocating the feasibility of establishing beet-root sugar factories in England.

And that was almost 50 years before the country finally got round to establishing the home-grown sugar industry which has developed into today's multi-million pound operation.

The argument used by Mr Clarke in favour of Britain going into sugar was simple and to the point: if the continentals could do it, so could Britain.

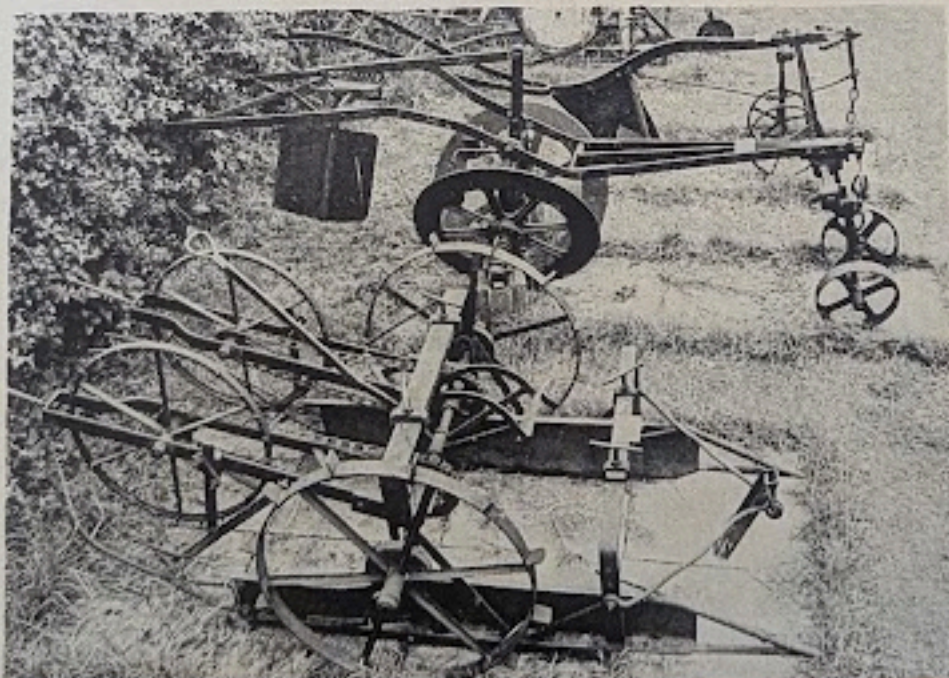
He told his audience that France, Belgium, Holland, Prussia, Austria and Russia had continuously and rapidly brought the beet-root culture and manufacture into such favour that, according to official estimates, the sugar production for those countries in the 1871 season amounted to one million tons of sugar from about 14 million tons of roots grown on approximately 800,000 acres.

He illustrated how beet growing improved farming overall and advocated tops and pulp feeding to cattle.

He reckoned that from 30 acres averaging 20 tons of beet an acre, a grower would get, as his share from the factory, 120 tons of pressed pulp or beet cake.

On cultivation, he submitted that the beets must be kept small and weighing from one to four pounds apiece. To secure enough to give a paying weight per acre, they must be crowded on the land consistent with perfect singling and spacing for every root to thrive vigorously.

He pointed out that Continental growers favoured a system giving 12 inches between rows and plants with the crop drilled in mid-April. Assuming there were no gaps or failures, that allowed for 43,560 plants an acre and, at an average of one-and-a-half pounds



Some of the sugar beet equipment. In front is the Mern two row topper and behind it the Maynard disc lifter.

per root, the yield would be nearly 30 tons an acre.

He admitted that the calculation was better than the results commonly obtained, but it did show what was possible on good land, with first-class management and in a favourable season—conditions which still dictate the results.

Visitors to the Farmland Museum—which is open from 2 pm to dusk every first Sunday of the month—are always impressed when they discover how much has been achieved in the past nine years.

All of it has been done by the combined voluntary effort of family and friends and, with so much to look after, it could be assumed that running the museum is a full-time job.

But Mr Delanoy stressed that his involvement—and he puts in a lot of time—has to be fitted in as a hobby when his job as a design engineer permits.

Elsewhere on the site there is an authentic working blacksmith and wheelwright's shop and a folk life exhibit housed in a tailor-made exhibition building.

The venture is a success and all the family have contributed to it.

As the collection outgrew its bedroom home and got too big for Craig to handle alone, brothers Kevin and James were recruited.

Kevin was charged with administration duties and James was seconded to Craig to assist with restoration work. And there is plenty of that still to do.

As far as possible, Mr and Mrs Delanoy tried to keep in the background and let the boys run things themselves.

But inevitably they were drawn into the operation. Now Dad is the museum administrator and Mum is the author of a number of pamphlets and guides to the museum.

The museum is a credit to the family. It is recognised as a valuable educational aid and not just an interesting link with the past.

But, say Mr and Mrs Delanoy, without the enthusiasm of the three boys, it would never have happened and all the credit for it must go to them.

The number of exhibits is a glowing tribute to all those who have freely given items to the museum. Yet there is still one important piece that has so far escaped the Delanoy's nationwide search.

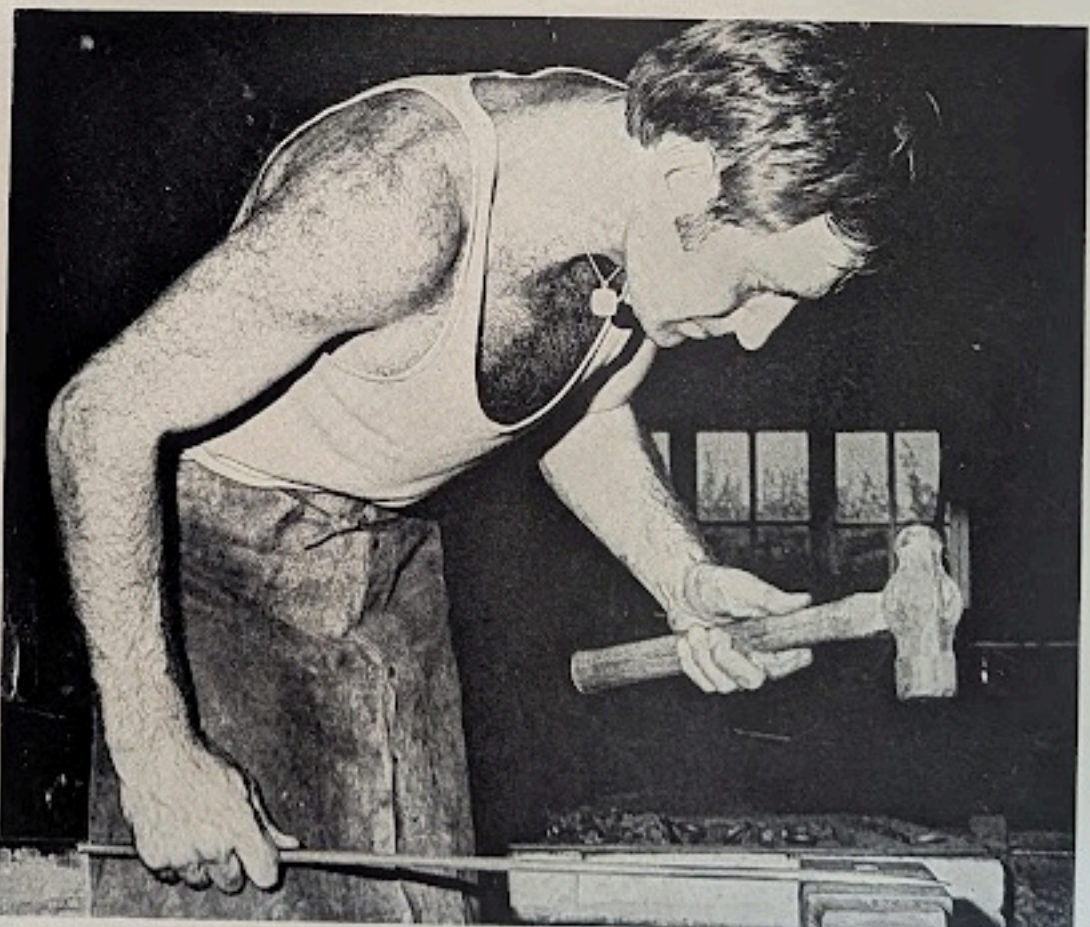
They badly need a set of horse works (or gears), the apparatus used to drive elevators and barn machinery with horse power.

A site has been earmarked and is already occupied by part of the apparatus. But to complete the set, the gears are needed.

Mr Delanoy, who is convinced there must be some somewhere in the country says if anyone has them and is prepared to donate them, "we will be very pleased to hear from them".



Museum founder Craig Delanoy seated on the Martins disc cutter and plough lifter, with Mr Michael Delanoy, brother James (seated), Kevin and mother Mrs Lorna Delanoy.



Blacksmith Keith Patterson at work in the authentic forge and wheelwright's shop... a popular feature of the museum.

October 1977

- 8 -

FARMLAND MUSUEM

The Open Day in October will be on Sunday 2nd, and craft demonstrations will include Mrs. Allen of Witchford doing spinning and Mrs. Bavister making corn dollies. Music will be provided by old gramophones. Mr. Wiggs of Froize End has donated a wind up model, complete with '78' type records, and it is hoped that Mr. Elliot Kerridge of Littleport will also contribute with his vintage models. Mr. Robinson of Linden Way, who was prevented from helping last month, hopes to be there with his collection of cameras.

Glenn Gillett, of the old brickyard house, has presented a pair of wheels, probably from one of the little trucks used in the brickyard.

Any relics which were used in local industries will be welcomed. Items from the brickworks, cheesemaking, thatching, and the many local crafts will be carefully preserved.

A Silver Jubilee Badge was presented by the Gamlingay Brownies as a token of their appreciation for the use of the museum each year when they have visited Haddenham Halt. Two badges from army regiments have been presented by Mrs. Southgate. Other army, naval, or air force souvenirs will be welcomed.

A photograph taken in 1923 of Mr. Miles' boys at the old Arkenstall's School has been given by Mr. J. Haddock. This is of particular interest to local families who can spot their relatives and friends.

Lastly, Mrs. Bester discovered a replica of the Royal Standard, which is flown when the monarch is in residence. This is exhibited in the new building.

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APRIL - written by K.D.

FARMLAND MUSEUM

The past month has been very busy for the Museum, and perhaps heralds a good summer. So far in 1978 we have raised £52 which is very promising for the rest of the year.

A new addition which will help visitors are labels for most of the implements. Mr. E. Wilson has kindly completed them, and they will make the exhibits more interesting.

After eight years searching for a mantrap we were presented with a very good specimen and loaned another in the same week. They will be on show at the next open day on 2nd April.

Also on this date we shall have a star attraction that will certainly please our younger visitors. Mr. Ron Sulman has offered to bring some of his young lambs. This very seasonal exhibit should attract many visitors.

There will also be a special exhibit of stationary engines. We have two or three engines which take 18 m.m. spark plugs, and as this type is rather scarce we appeal to anyone who may have old (or Unused) 18 m.m. plugs to help us in getting these old engines working.

Some interesting embroidered silk cards from World War of 1914-1918 have been received, and these will be found in the section we call the War Department in the new room.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of a new assistant, Jonathan Biggs, the son of Andrew and Ann Biggs, who have contributed so much by their talented service during the past few years. We express our congratulations and best wishes.

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Mr. Battersby for Ticket Sales
Mrs. Biggs for Poster and Programme Design
Farmland Museum for furniture and items in the play
and to all artistes and all connected with the show

Open Day - No less than 413 visitors enjoyed a warm afternoon at the Farmland Museum on Sunday, where the Delaney family and their band of willing helpers welcomed everyone and gave information where needed. Among the many attractions was a pen occupied by two ewes and four lambs, left for the afternoon by a neighbouring sheep farmer, Mr Ron Sulman. As usual blacksmith Keith Paterson held the attention of many visitors as he hammered away at the forge, and John Freeman kept a number of stationary vehicles' engines ticking over. Other machinery in operation were our crushing and seed dressing implements. For the artistic there was a display of drawings by Peter Jeevar, including those of the water tower and mast, and the 17th century Porch House in Mill-row. As a result of the afternoon's takings £69 will be forwarded to the Children in Need Appeal. Of this amount, £4 came from cups of tea served by Mesdames R Freeman, B Markwell and D Bethell.

April Open Day was the first time 'tea' was sold in aid of Cin N.

Not exactly a rectangle! M. ended up with Helen the-artist's clock to repair (ugh!)

Visitors have axe to grind

When visitors started turning up at the Haddenham Farmland Museum, near Ely, carrying Bronze Age spears and axe heads, the owner, Mr Mike Delaney, didn't get worried.

In fact he was delighted, knowing that he was on to a winner with his latest venture for the museum.

The visitors were not about to lay siege to the museum or raze it to the ground. They were there to take part in the museum's first "archaeological

workshop" set up to "vet" finds from visitors in the hope of discovering new links with the past.

The took fossils, Roman pottery and those axes and spears to be assessed by Cambridgeshire archaeological field officer, Miss Alison Taylor, and Fenland field officer, Mr David Hall.

Several items were given to the museum. Mr Delaney said afterwards: "It was such a success we will be running it annually all being well."

Very successful venture for May.

Haddenham Museum the place if you dig these things

Anyone who thinks they may have stumbled on a little piece of history while digging the garden could do no better than take it along to Haddenham Farmland Museum, near Ely, next Sunday.

The museum is holding a one-day "archaeological workshop" at which finds will be "vetted" in the hope of finding new and promising links with the past.

Cambridgeshire Archaeological Field officer, Miss Alison Taylor, and Fenland field officer, Mr David Hall, will be at

the museum to assess anything of possible historical value that visitors bring.

Mr Mike Delaney, whose family runs the museum, said: "We often get people coming here with bits and pieces they have found and asking us if they are important."

"So we thought we would try to arrange just such a workshop. This will be an ideal opportunity for them to find out from the experts."

"If it turns out to be a success we might think of running it as an annual event."

How many phone calls re visit of L'port band?

Open Day — Interest in the Farmland Museum was again evident on Sunday afternoon, when 434 visitors contributed £59 for children in need. Of this sum £3.50 was profit from teas, a welcome "extra" as the afternoon turned chilly. Littleport Town Band in their smart uniforms contributed two sessions of playing much appreciated by the visitors. A special feature was the archaeology identification workshop with Miss Alison Taylor, the County Archaeologist, and Mr David Hall, the Field Officer, in attendance. Very interesting specimens for identification were received. The sources of the finds were marked on Ordnance Survey maps and could result in further investigations on the sites. Both officers expressed their satisfaction at the venture, and have promised to visit again. A number of interesting specimens were donated to the Museum and gratefully accepted by the Delaney family, all of whom were on hand to welcome visitors. In the absence through ambulance duty of the regular blacksmith, Kevin Delaney and his friend very successfully manned the forge. Mrs Bavester of Soham again demonstrated the art of making corn dollies, and news that Mr Levitt may return from America next year and give one of his corn dolly demonstrations was received with real pleasure.

FARMLAND MUSEUM MAY, adapted by CFB.

This month's Open Day on 7th May should prove very interesting. For the first time we have an archaeology Workshop, and Alison Taylor, the County Archaeologist, and David Hall the Field Officer for Fenland will be in attendance, and will advise you to try to identify any objects found in our area. If you have anything found in field or fen please bring along for identification.

We have received a letter from Red Levitt, who lived in Linden End, and is now in U.S.A. Many will remember his wonderful Corn Dolly demonstrations. He hopes to pay us a visit next year and as promised another demonstration. He sends his best wishes to all his friends.

Mrs. Bavester of Soham, a pupil of Red Levitt, hopes to be at the Museum on 7th May giving demonstrations on Corn Dolly making.

Our latest project is a collection of old cast iron engine plates from old machines and implements. Some excellent specimens are fixed to a wall near the entrance to the Museum. Any additional specimens will be very acceptable.

Mr. Alistair Hull of the Green has presented some enlarged views of old village scenes which will be exhibited. A very interesting collection of birds eggs has been added to the Natural History section.

The most recent exhibit is a horse drawn snow plough, purchased from the County Council. It is in excellent condition, and was collected by Iwyn Carter from a contractors yard at Guildenorden.

The Museum will also be open on Sunday 21st May, and will contribute its usual share of interest for the Village Open Day.

25,000 visit museum

Haddenham Farmland Museum, which recently welcomed its 25,000th visitor, opens its doors to the public again at the weekend.

The main attractions on Sunday will be a pottery demonstration and display of old sewing machines.

Recently, the museum presented a special pack of postcards to a Biggleswade woman who was the 25,000th visitor since it opened in 1969.

Postcards supplied by Doctor A. Henderson

Village plans crafts display

The highlight of this year's Haddenham open day on Sunday will be a display of crafts at Arkenstall Village Centre.

On show will be willow weaving, brass rubbing, lace making, needlework and several other crafts.

The tower at Holy Trinity Church will be open together with Porch House, built in 1657, the Farmland Museum, the motor museum and the gardens reclaimed from the village's old brick pits.

Money raised from the events will go towards the upkeep of Arkenstall Village Centre.

Village Day in May. Annual event since 1971. How long will it go?

Open Day — With the sunny weather tempting families to the seaside, attendance at the Farmland Museum on Sunday was less than usual. Even so 124 people attended and £26 was donated to children in need. Among the visitors were a coach party whose visit was arranged by the British Council, and their arrival made a page of the visitors' book look like a United Nations agenda! The book also held favourable comments on the museum with its many objects of interest and the friendly welcome given to foreign students by the Delaney family and their willing helpers. Keith Patterson had his usual crowd of spectators round the blacksmith's forge, and much pleasure was given by the Fordham Handbell Ringers. Tea and biscuits were served by a band of ladies, while young people sold books and novelties.

No one is indispensable! I spent the afternoon at Audrey's.

1,000 flock to crafts and curiosities

Well over 1,000 people visited Haddenham on Sunday, when six places of interest were open to the public.

Although some of the visitors had seen the Farmland Museum on one of its monthly Open Days, no less than 934 included it in their tour on Sunday. All the usual attractions of the museum were in operation, with the Delaney family and their band of helpers acting as guides.

A large crowd gathered on the village green to watch a display by the "Staploe Hundred" Morris Dancers, their merry movements and costumes giving colour to a dull afternoon. These were followed by the Mepal Molly men with their song and dance, brooms and black faces.

The first place of interest to visitors entering the village from the west was the Porch House, built in 1657, carefully restored and furnished by its present owners, Mr and Mrs C. Maude, who explained to visitors many of the features of this delightful example of a 17th century building in local red brick.

FESTIVAL

Four places of interest lay in the region of Station Road. The fine old 13th century Church of Holy Trinity, restored in 1876, contains several interesting memorials, and has parish registers dating from 1570. Many visitors found it restful to wander around quietly, admiring the floral decorations in honour of the Patronal Festival. Younger visitors welcomed the opportunity of climbing the tower for a view of the countryside. Inside the church, the Vicar and Deaconess Gillian welcomed visitors.

Leaving the church on the hill, visitors made their way to Mr Ian Slade's museum of vintage motor cycles. Situated in the garden of Madingley House one found a building and workshop housing a collection of vintage and classic machines dating from 1915 to 1976. On the walls of the building were sketches of famous cars and events, while also on display was an extensive exhibition of John Player

cigarette cards depicting cars.

Still moving northwards down the hill was the naturalised garden and conservatory of Mr Nicholas Guppy, a renowned world traveller and explorer. This five-acre garden and extensive lake lies at the rear of two cottages effectively restored by Mr Guppy. Young and old alike were thrilled to catch a glimpse of "Mr and Mrs Swan" and their five cygnets on the water.

After a tour of the other places most people welcomed an opportunity to sit down for refreshments served in the main hall of the Arkenhall Centre by the Catering Committee. While in the Centre every visitor took advantage of the crafts exhibition, where local talent was well to the fore, with model gypsy caravans made by Mr Wilfred Searle, Military paintings by Mr J. Perves, corn dollies demonstrated by Mr John Last, pillow lace with Mrs V. Marhoff, and numerous crafts and embroideries by Mesdames V. Barnes, M. Burden, J. Rowden, E. Kiernan and other local ladies.

CRAFTS

Visiting crafts were displayed and included pokerwork, willow work, patchwork, and an open exhibition of work by local schoolchildren; an exhibition of Batik by Witchford Village College pupils, and a fine display of Leiss rubbings by the Cambridge Brass Rubbing Centre. The crafts exhibition was organised by Mrs Elizabeth Bradley.

The event was organised by the Arkenhall Centre Management Committee and proceeds will go to the maintenance fund.

A number of visitors, together with local parishioners, ended the day's activities by attending the church for Evensong sung by the boys of St John's College school choir and led by the Vicar, the Ven B. G. B. Fox. The lessons were read by Deaconess Gillian Lurie. The collection taken at this service, together with donations from visitors, amounted to £73.72 and will be given to Christian Aid.

Open day a village occasion

Open day at the Haddenham Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon promises to be a real village occasion.

The Haddenham Silver Band will be making their annual visit to the museum, and the craftsmen at work will also be from the village.

Mrs Viona Marhoff of Aldreth will be giving a demonstration of crochet, macramé and lace work, and the village blacksmith, Mr Keith Patterson, will also be giving an exhibition of his craft.

And for the first time a recently prepared science cabinet containing old items of communication will be on display.

In addition to the monthly open Sunday, which begins at 2 pm, the museum is trying a "once off" extension of opening hours for summer visitors.

So visitors will find the museum buildings open this afternoon (Thursday), and on Friday and Saturday afternoon.

Farmland Museum — In spite of a dull, wet afternoon, 467 people visited the Farmland Museum on Sunday, adding £55 to this year's contribution for Children in Need. Of this amount £27 came from the sale of goods given by the Edward Stockton pottery demonstrators, whose wheel was kept on the move all the afternoon before an interested audience. "Poppies among the corn" added to the attraction of Mrs Shirley Baverst's corn dolly table at which she demonstrated this popular craft. Mr and Mrs Ralph Carpenter also drew the crowd with their display of 30 working sewing machines, taken from their collection of 130 from their collection of 130 machines. Last week's display of old Band photographs, drums, uniforms, etc., also proved of real interest to this week's visitors, and it was learned that the local Band will be playing selections at the next opening of the museum, on August 6th. Although the usual blacksmith was away from the forge, John Burgess and Kevin Delaney kept it operational, while Craig and a friend kept small engines ticking over. Tea and biscuits were served by Mrs B. Markwell and her band of young helpers, while the Delaney family and other helpers were on hand to welcome visitors.

August extra
openings were
not at all
successful

July day
- wettest ever.

Good name to
replace Blossoms
& Bygones.

FARMLAND MUSEUM

Exhibits continue to arrive.

Mr. S. Lee has presented some excellent photos. of Haddenham Rovers Football teams taken in the late forties.

Mr. Geof. Collin has added another school group to the collection - class 3 Arkenstall's boys taken in 1907. Help with identification will be appreciated.

A range of photographs taken by Dr. Henderson of Cambridge are now available in postcard size. We find that many of our visitors like to buy a souvenir, especially guides and brownies from Haddenham Holt, who are regular visitors.

The local Womens' Institute won a County Award in 1926 for singing, and the medal awarded has been loaned by the Institute for exhibition.

Mr. David Fairchild brought an interesting relic, an adaptation for a ploughshare to cut off stubble after harvest, made from an old chaff cutter blade by Peacocks the local engineers whose workshop was situated near the Water Tower.

A weighing machine was rescued from a scrap heap by Mr. R. Tuck, and Mr. Tony Holden has given an ancient autoculter to be restored when time permits.

Mr. Keith Patterson, our loyal blacksmith, who is sometimes prevented from appearing because of his ambulance duties, has trained Kevin Delaney and John Burgess so that they can operate the forge. Their special line is the manufacture of brackets for hanging baskets.

On 21st May we had 934 visitors, a record attendance, which proves the popularity of 'this heap of junk'.

On Sunday the 4th June, we welcome the Fordham Handbell Ringers, whose visit last year is remembered with pleasure.

Rain prevented full

programme on bandstand -
as usual!

Standard mention

MUSEUM ART

Haddenham's Farmland Museum took part in The Royal National Rose Society's show staged at St Albans at the weekend, with the loan of exhibits for use in the Floral Art Section. Among the items conveyed to the show for the Delaney family were cartwheels, the blacksmith's anvil, milk churn and separator, horse harness, and hand tools around which rose arrangements were staged.

Theme will be rural at show

Exhibits from the Haddenham Farmland Museum, near Ely, will be displayed at the Royal National Rose Society's annual show at St Albans in July.

The museum is lending ploughs, carts, sprayers and other agricultural implements to give the floral arrangements at the two day show a rural character.

"The society approached several museums all of which were unable to help for one reason or another," said Mr. Michael Delaney, whose family runs the museum.

"This is the first time we have ever been involved in such a show and we are only too delighted to be able to help."

As well as providing the implements, the museum will also be supplying detailed descriptions of the exhibits so that they are easily identifiable.

Open Day — An added attraction to the monthly Open Day at the Farmland Museum on Sunday was the concert given by the local Silver Band. Although the sky looked grey at times, the afternoon managed to keep fine, and the pleasant setting of the Delaney garden, in which the Museum is established made it a very worthwhile visit for the 407 people who attended. During two sessions of playing, the band, conducted by bandmaster Peter Mott, delighted the visitors with marches, selections from musical shows, and hymn tunes. Other attractions of the afternoon included paintings by the late John Titterton, who died in 1914, whose daughter, Miss Elizabeth Titterton of Ely, at the age of 97, was the Museum's oldest visitor on Sunday. The artist's paintings included one of Wicken Fen, and others of Grunty Fen before it was drained in 1860. The nostalgic smell of the forge operated by Keith Patterson continues to attract young and old alike, as does the "ticking over" of the small stationary engines. Mrs V. Marhoff demonstrated pillow lace and crochet, and how to make corn dollies was shown by Mrs Ravester. Guide books, giving the history of the museum were on sale, with other novelties, chief sales-girl being Rachel Alsop. The Delaney family were on hand to welcome visitors, together with other helpers, including ladies who served welcome cups of tea. Total takings for Children in Need amounted to £72.

August Open
Day.

FARMLAND MUSEUM

A new addition to the display area is a solid oak case given by Bart's Hospital, and transported from London by Cambridge Removals The Green, Haddenham. It will be used to display cameras, scientific equipment etc.

Relics of the last war continue to arrive. Mr. Eric Thulborn has given the parachute exit door from a Lancaster plane whose crew bailed out over Aldreth after a raid on Berlin in 1942. David Fairchild and Mrs. J. Wright have added details about an American plane that crashed on North Hill.

Mr. Bob Elliot, a regular visitor to the museum, is the archivist at Old Warden and would welcome first hand accounts of aircraft activity in this area during the war.

It is impossible for us to keep up with the work of restoration and cleaning exhibits. We are planning three "work sessions" on the Saturdays before the next three open days. Anyone who can dust, sweep, brush, paint, etc. etc. will be welcome from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on these Saturdays, the first being on 5th Aug.

On 6th August we welcome our Village Band, which kindly comes each year to give visitors a musical treat.

The village map prepared by local artist Ann Biggs will be on view for the first time. Thanks to everyone who has given information. The result is a very pleasing bit of pictorial history of the village. Three other pictures of the locality will also be on display, these being paintings by the late John Titterton of Ely, who captured the fen scenes of the 19th century with his brush and canvas.

.....

AUGUST - complaints from

parishioner(s) that museum gets too much publicity & occupies too much space in Parish News - so in Sept. CFB said:

three days.

We hope that a good number of parishioners will visit the Museum from 2 p.m. onwards. The visitors are expected at 4.50 p.m. having earlier attended a service in Ely Cathedral, and entertained to tea by the Parish Council at Arkenstall's Centre.

Pressure on our space prevents the usual comprehensive report of new additions to our display, which continue to arrive daily. It would be nice if we could exceed the 1000 mark in attendance on this very special day.

TV stars?

Members of the 4th Ely Brownies will be seen on BBC Television later in the year, following a chance meeting with the film crew of the station's "Why Don't You ..." programme.

The meeting occurred at Haddenham Farmland Museum, which the Brownies were visiting as part of their pack holiday to Haddenham Hall, and the crew asked the party of 14 Brownies, two guides and four guides to participate in the filming.

Other highlights of a very full week for the youngsters were a trip to Cambridge and various activities at the Hall.

Rachel was invited to join the Brownie Gang - Filmed 4 times!

CEN

E. Cambs signs twinning charter with Stadt Kempen

East Cambridgeshire was officially twinned with Stadt Kempen in West Germany during the weekend.

The twinning charter was formally signed by the chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council, Coun Jeremy Newport, the Chief Executive, Mr Trevor Hardy and their German counterparts after a dinner held at the Maltings in Ely on Saturday.

The ceremony was the culmination of a weekend of twinning activities which began on Friday with the arrival of more than 90 visitors from Kempen.

During their stay they visited most of the larger communities in East Cambridgeshire and saw some of the district's tourist attractions including Anglesey Abbey and the Haddenham Farmland Museum. A civic service was held in Ely Cathedral yesterday.

Museum proceeds set to top £500

Haddenham, Farmland Museum is enjoying a record-breaking year.

So far this year the museum, run by the Delaney family, has already raised more money than ever before.

Admission charges and donations this year have raised £488 for charity helping children in need.

This has beaten the 1979 record of 1694 and now Mr Michael Delaney is hoping to pass the 1200 mark during the next open day on Sunday.

"It is remarkable that, although we are only open one Sunday afternoon a month, we have had 4,500 visitors so far this year and have raised nearly £490," he said.

This weekend's open day will feature a display of models, including a steam fire engine, traction engines, locomotives and a tug boat, all made by model engineers from Cambridgeshire.

Open Day — In under 200 people visited the Farmland Museum on Sunday, where two new features were on display. Since the opening of the museum a desire to collect things has grown in some of the village youngsters, and the results were on display, including Clifford Cropley's bottle collection and the "bygones" of Philip Peacock. The Doris Astrey collection of china cats had a great attraction for cat-lovers in particular, while another delightful display was a collection of key rings, the property of Helen Baylister. The idea for a collection and expanding too much space was to be seen in the display of bookmarks from many places collected by Simon Rowden. Another feature was the display of old village photographs, including a Barkitt family one dating 1887. Visitors now in their mid-50's, saw themselves on old school photographs. By way of crafts, Mrs Baylister again drew the crowds with her corn dollies, delighting young visitors from the Manor School, Wilburton, by her attention and gifts of the specimens she had encouraged them to make. The fine art of tawing, which many found hard to accomplish, was demonstrated by Mrs R. F. Bethell, who also displayed intricate examples of her work. Mrs Jean Rowden contributed a display of pictures in canvas stitch, and other crafts, plus machine exhibits, bead work and hessian models. A good smoke was seen rising from the blacksmith's forge operated by Mr Keith Patterson, and small engines ticked over under the control of Craig Delaney and his friend Wayne Hayes. The usual display of machinery belonging to the past brought back memories to most visitors, their work being explained by Mr Delaney or a helper. The proceeds of Sunday's takings will be added to the museum's yearly total for Children in Need.

Open Day — Yet another pleasant afternoon favoured the Farmland Museum Open Day, when 156 visitors contributed £24 for Children in Need. This brought the total for this year to £512, including £25 from tea profits served by Mrs B. Markwell and helpers during the summer months. The Delaney family, who were all on hand to welcome visitors, had set a target of £500 for Sunday and were therefore delighted at the final figure. Mr Frank Steel held the attention of many young visitors as he explained the wonder of honey production in the bee sections of the museum. Small engines ticked over methodically, watched by interested mechanics, while blacksmith Keith and his assistant never failed to gain attention. The wonderful display of models made and exhibited by Mr Dick Capriles was outstanding in workmanship and drew many fascinated spectators.

Target passed.

Open Day — In spite of a damp cold afternoon, 15 visitors attended the Farmland Museum on Sunday, including a gentleman from Saffron Walden who brought his own stationary engine which operated merrily. Other visitors included a party from Brisbane, Australia, who found all the exhibits of great interest. As this was the last open day for 1978, the Delaney family have now been able to forward a cheque for £516 to the fund for Children in Need. Their gratitude is extended to all who have helped on open days throughout the year, making it possible to donate such an excellent sum.

A cold way to get £4.

MILKO!

The Co-op's recent appeal for milk bottles has unearthed a pre-1948 bottle from S.R. Ward's farm, the first farm in the Isle of Ely to bottle its own milk. The bottle has been donated to the Haddenham Farmland Museum, and will be included in their dairy display.

Dolly maker at open day

A popular character among visitors to Haddenham Farmland Museum returns on Sunday to give demonstrations at an open day. American Red Levitt will once again be demonstrating his corn dolly making skills at the museum at 2 pm. A new feature at the open day will be a display of the development of electronic valves to the silicon chip.

April

Richard Reeve obliged at last!

Oct. Open Day →

Article from Standard

Another successful year

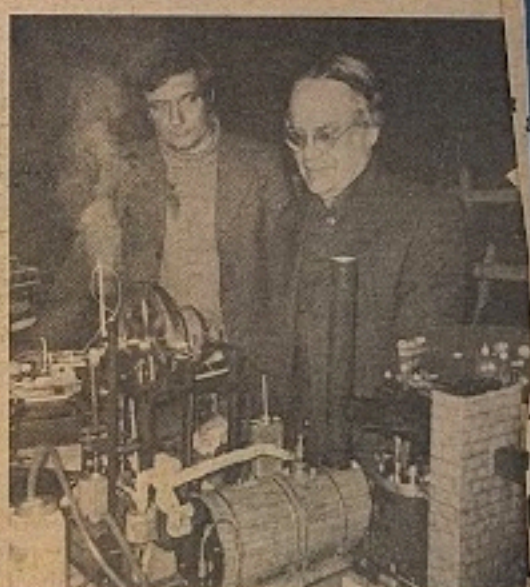
THE Farmland Museum at Haddenham, near Cambridge, has almost completed another year of operation, with attendance figures reaching a new high.

Opened in 1969 as a child's collection of "bits and pieces" the collection has grown over the years to embrace a wide range of bygones, both domestic and farming. In addition there are other displays covering instruments and aerial crafts together with natural history of the area.

Open on the first Sunday of every month, the November opening included as an added attraction a display of model engineering. Several models came from the skilled hands of Mr. A. Churchman of Duxford, Cambridgeshire. His superb model of a Sland Mason 1894 fire engine was shown, as was his version of the Salisbury Cathedral Medieval Clock. This clock was built about 1336 and the model is approximately quarter scale. A radio-control steam powered rig stood alongside a Mississippi river boat, while two traction engine models drew admiring comments.

Mr. Capriles showed five steam with his vertical winding engine and Cornhill type pumping engine. A centre flue boiler powered his models and other smaller marine engines were shown.

An added attraction this year is the covered area built in farm style



Mr. Churchman (left) and Mr. Capriles show some of their models in steam at the Haddenham Farmland Museum. This stationary boiler seen in the centre is gas-fired. As an added attraction, the museum features displays each month, usually of crafts not covered in their permanent collection.

for the stationary engines to operate in. Ingeniously mounted on a narrow-gauge railway skip chassis and running from the sheds on a short length of track, is a Ruston Hornsby 135 stationary driving a chaff cutter and straw trimmer. By mounting these items on this mobile platform, they are able to be hauled easily from store for outside demonstrations.

As ever, the local blacksmith was busy at work, not only demonstrating his art, but usefully employed making pokers, door

stops and other items for sale. Some idea of the success of the museum is gained from attendance figures. The total since last year's opening is 27,140, with 12,467 being donated to Children's charities.

Already this year 4,588 visitors have seen the collection. For farm machinery enthusiasts the museum provides a pleasant quiet afternoon in the country. The collection of horse-drawn implements is probably one of the most comprehensive in the country.

MODEL ENGINEERING DISPLAY

SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER from 2 pm

HADDENHAM FARMLAND MUSEUM



Ad. from Jon-lucky us!

Museum's £500 target

The Haddenham Farmland Museum are hoping to reach their target of £500 for the "Children in Need of Help" campaign when they open on Sunday.

The museum have been collecting for the BBC appeal for the past year, and have already collected £488.

On Sunday there will be a model engineering exhibition including traction engines, fire engines and tug boats, all lent by local people.

Local blacksmith Mr Keith Patterson will also be demonstrating his craft, and there will be a selection of stationary engines running.

The museum, run by the Delaney family, will be open between 2pm and 5pm.

Coffee Evening — A cold evening kept some away from the coffee evening at the Farmland Museum in aid of the Ely Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. Visitors were given an easy tour of the premises and a close view of many of the exhibits by means of slides shown by Mr Michael Delaney. Also by means of slides, visitors saw and heard of the tremendous amount of voluntary labour given by a number of people before the new building opened by Mr Clement Freud was complete. A bring-and-buy stall was ably staffed by young enthusiasts Rachel Alsop and Alison Gilbey. Coffee and cookies were served by Mesdames A Biggs, L Delaney and A Hopwood. The sum of £20 was realised, including some generous donations.

Open Day — A bright Sunday afternoon in mid-winter brought 124 visitors to the Farmland Museum, bringing in £17 for children in need. A new piece of ancient machinery was on display. This was a maize thresher donated by the Plant Breeding Institute in Trumpington, and the Delaney family intend to find out more details and have the machine in working operation at a future open day. Another feature of interest on Sunday was the display of the 1947 flood photographs, while the faithful blacksmith Keith stoked his fire and hammered his irons.

Open Day — Over 140 people visited the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon, contributing £30 to the special fund for the International Year of the Child. Lady Mary Soames, national chairman of the scheme, visited the museum during the afternoon and was taken on a conducted tour by Mrs Delaney. Other visitors included a group from the Manor school, Wilburton. Farm machine demonstrations were given by Mr Jack Kerridge of Littleport, while the faithful blacksmith, Mr Keith Patterson, hammered away in the forge. A technology display showing developments from the transistor to the silicon chip was arranged and labelled by Andrew and Ann Biggs. The next open day will be on April 1st. There is to be a talk/slides show and coffee evening at the museum on the evening of March 22nd in aid of the Ely Society for the Mentally Handicapped.

February

March

A SOCIAL EVENING

with
MICHAEL DELANEY

at
THE FARMLAND
MUSEUM

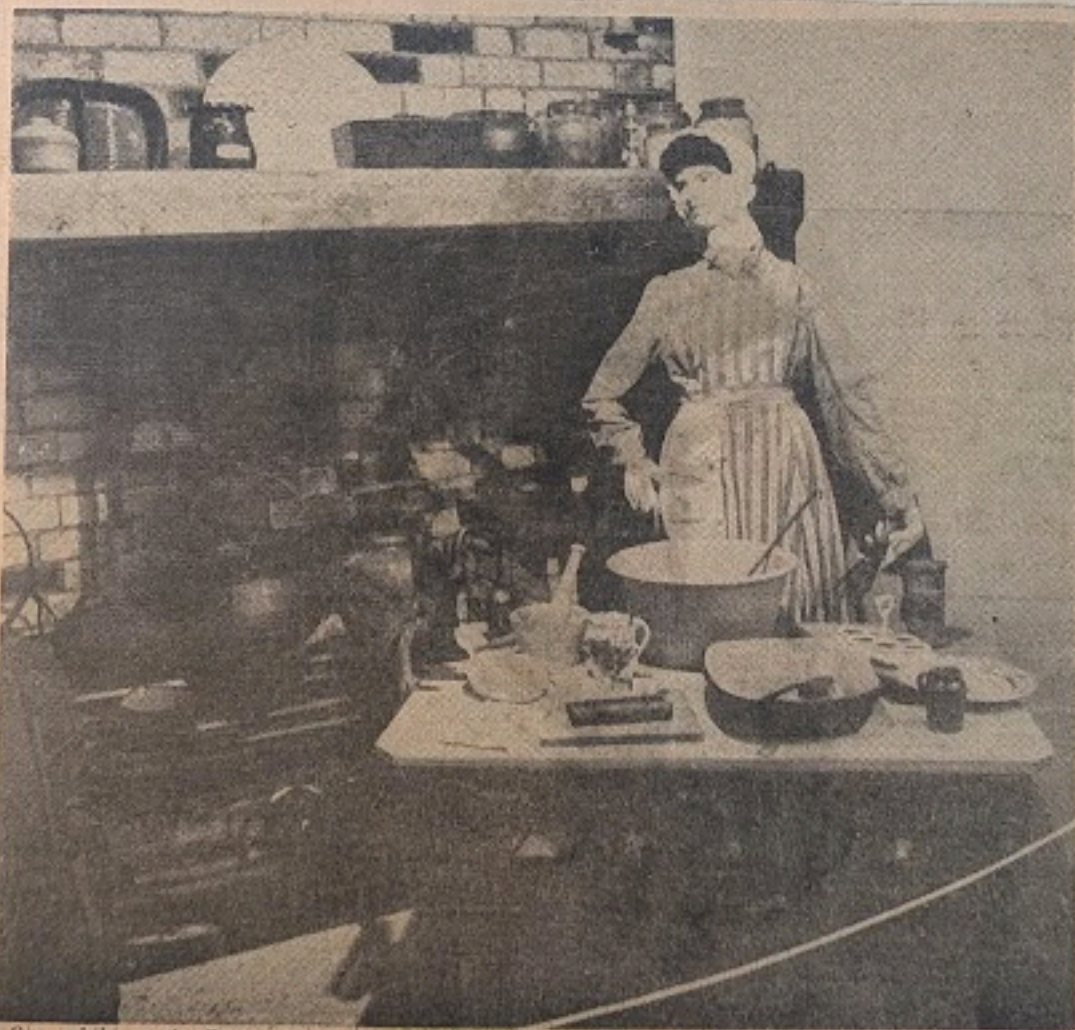
High Street,
Haddenham

at 7.30 p.m.
THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd
ELY SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

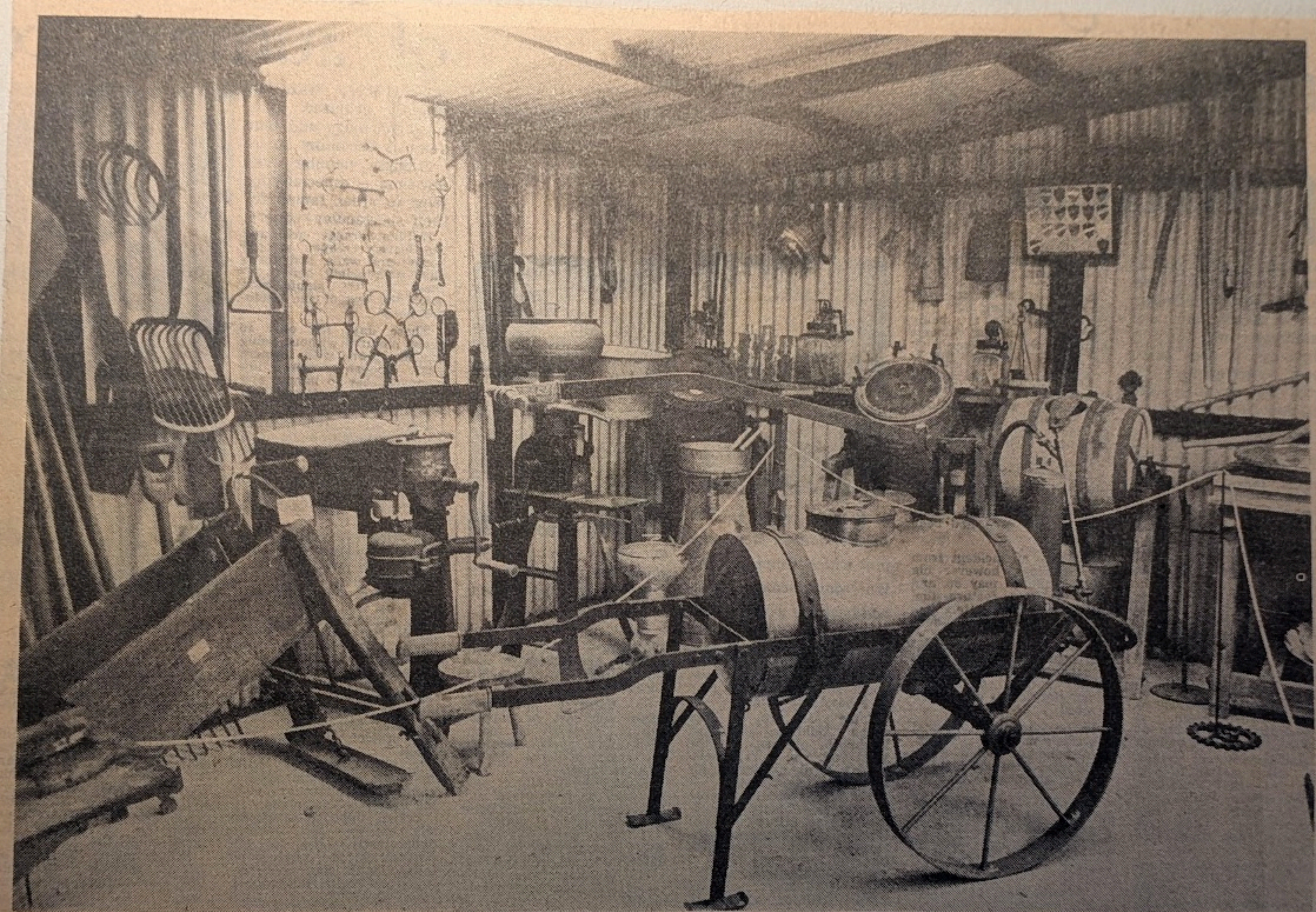
77ED10

March

Unexpected
photos from
C.E.N. pink
supplement
Dec. '78.



● One exhibit at the Farmland Museum is a tableau which bears out the well-worn theme that a woman's work is never done.



● The Farmland Museum at Haddenham will be open to the public on Sunday, December 3. These are some of the implements to be displayed.

Museum raises £4,000 for charity

During 1980 a total of 3,906 visitors found their way to the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, and £434 was donated to charity.

Since the first open day in 1969 no less than 36,100 people have enjoyed something which started as a small boy's collection of pottery and has grown to be a museum visited over the years by people from many lands.

In the setting of the Delanoy family's garden, nothing can be more pleasant than a stroll among relics of the past on a Sunday afternoon.

So far every open day has benefited some charity, chiefly connected with children's need, the total sum donated being £4,095.

FLOODS

The first open day for 1981 brought 26 visitors to the museum.

With a keen wind blowing, interest was chiefly centred on indoor attractions, including some excellent pictures of the 1947 floods and their impact on the Hillow area. Other pictures went back to floods of 1912, while others showed flooded areas of Norfolk.

A new attraction was the display of 15 pairs of ice skates now in the museum collection, with a reminder that the 1879 champion skater was a Haddenham man, the late Mr Fred Norman.

The Delanoy family and a few loyal helpers were on hand to welcome visitors.

EB was away to a good start! Jan 8th 1981

Museum visitors see farm

The monthly open day at the Farmland Museum on Sunday offered an extra pleasure to the 327 visitors who took advantage of an ideal sunny afternoon to visit Haddenham.

Instead of bringing a few sheep and lambs to the museum as he has done in other years, Mr Ron Sulman opened his farmyard to visitors. Unfortunately the lambs are a little late this year! Their absence, however, did not spoil the enjoyment of the farm visit where horses, foals, sheep and Hereford cattle could be seen in their natural farm setting. If there was a certain amount of mud in the yard, a view of the luscious green fields to the west of the yard, where sheep will shortly graze, was very rewarding.

The three white goats belonging to the Carter family appeared to enjoy the attention, but alongside, Ron's lovely working horse did not approve of the change of stable for the day. For young visitors there was the added attraction of pony rides organised by Kerry Simpson and Sarah Freeman, bringing in £5.30 towards the excellent sum of £117 for Addenbrooke's Cancer Scan. Of the 327 visitors to Mr Sulman's farm, 301 also visited the Farmland Museum where the Delanoy family and the band of usual helpers were waiting to welcome people, including the first visitors from Alaska.

The special feature next month will be tapes and "78" record requests.

EB for Feb.

Monday, January 26, 1981 11

Popular farm museum hopes to expand

The farmland museum at Haddenham, near Ely, which last year attracted nearly 4,000 visitors, may be expanded and improved.

Such is the popularity of the museum, based at the Delanoy family's home in the High Street, that exhibits are being turned away because of the shortage of space to display them.

Now, the Delanoys are thinking of a scheme which will provide extra space and at the same time improve the museum for the visitors who flock there on monthly open days.

Sponsor

Mr Mike Delanoy said: "We are literally bursting at the seams and feel that the time is now ripe for us to improve things all round."

They are searching for an old building or caravan with some historic agricultural interest which can be used to house the souvenir store now inside the museum.

This would provide more space for a collection of agricultural models to be displayed together with photographs.

Last year the fate of the museum hung in the balance when the Delanoys announced that it would have to close because it was taking up too much of their time and money.

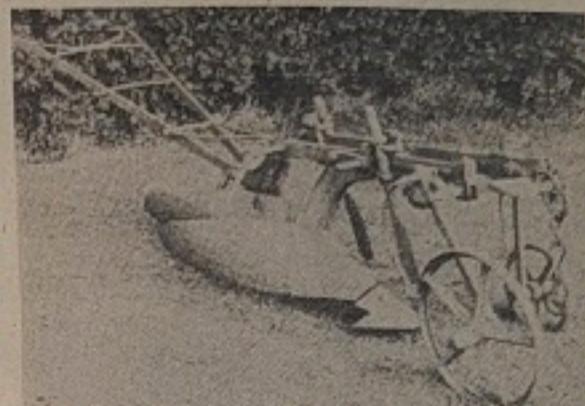
But they later clinched a sponsorship deal with a local car firm which meant that open days could continue and school children could be shown round during the week.

CEN - as a result of NEWS-LETTER

CEN 23.1.81 yet Percy sent us a copy of the book in 1976!

New Books

by Alan Kersey



An iron two-furrow horse drawn plough of a type popular in the nineteenth century. One of the items from Haddenham Farmland Museum, in 'Old Farm Tools and Machinery.'

History of old farm machinery

WHEN collecting old farm implements first became fashionable, there was speculation about who would be interested, as they were often of specialist appeal and demanded considerable explanation for the uninitiated.

These misgivings proved totally unfounded, since collections throughout the country have attracted considerable interest. Enthusiasts staging demonstrations have proved more than capable at explaining the intricacies of this or that piece of equipment.

On a more general level, displays of horse ploughing and traction engines in action have also awakened widespread nostalgia among an older generation anxious to find out more about its agricultural heritage.

Percy W. Blandford's illustrated history of "Old Farm Tools and Machinery" (David and Charles, £5.95) is, therefore, a timely documentation of these increasingly popular forays into

things and events which have shaped our countryside.

Mr Blandford has a real feel for his subject which probably stems from his family roots in country craft pursuits. He carefully guides the reader from the days of primitive scratching at the soil to the internal combustion engine and its displacement of animal power.

His guide is well illustrated and the Farmland Museum at Haddenham forms a useful basis for some of the photographs.

His researches have taken him from the home of the modern combine in the American to the few areas like Turkey which are still using oxen to haul ploughs.

It would have been nice to have had a potted history about the author and a location for the attractive dust cover but there are more compensating features, including a helpful glossary of terms and background on private collections and museums.

Open day at Haddenham

Sheep, goats and pony rides in the sunshine kept children entertained at the Farmland Museum's open day at Haddenham, near Ely.

The animals were on show at

Mr Ron Sulman's farm in nearby Aldreth Road.

The joint attraction was enjoyed by more than 300 people and raised £117 for cancer scanner appeal at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

CEN for Feb.

Museum's helping hand

The Farmland Museum's open day at Haddenham brought in more than 300 people and raised £117 for the Addenbrooke's Cancer Scanning Appeal Fund. Sheep, goats and pony rides put on at Mr Ron Sulman's farm in nearby Aldreth Road, helped keep children entertained.

Ely Weekly - first week of publication!

and March!



Children from Highfield School at Ely have been presented with certificates issued by the Riding for the Disabled Association.

About 14 children, who have been taking lessons regularly at Paradise Farm, Ely, were assessed recently by officials from the association.

And when the certificates arrived, Mrs Jill Freud, president of the Elyian Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association, and an RDA official, visited the school to make the presentations.

In addition to the certificate the children each received a blue felt badge to be worn with their RDA badges.

The children were assessed during a normal afternoon lesson, and had to show they could sit at ease on their ponies, direct the ponies, carry out simple exercises, and have a knowledge of riding equipment.

Other children have yet to take the test, and some are already progressing to the next certificate.

Mrs Freud is pictured here with the Highfield School children proudly displaying their riding certificates. (Photo: Nick Lyons)

Standard Article pre-November '79 Open Day

Farmland help out Highfield

The Haddenham Farmland Museum has responded to an appeal from Ely's Highfield School, and are running their November open day in aid of the school pool project.

The special school for mentally handicapped youngsters is in desperate need of £4,000 to complete the roofing project for their swimming pool.

"I am very grateful to the Farmland Museum for their offer of help," said acting headmistress Mrs Dorothy Womack.

"The public are responding well to the appeal, but we still need a lot more money in complete the necessary work on the pool."

The Farmland Museum is open on Sunday afternoon, when proprietors Mr Michael Delaney and his wife Lorna have organised a special stationary engine "rally", and all their other fascinating exhibits will be on show.

"After hearing that the school needed extra money for their pool project we decided to help a local cause," said Mrs Delaney. "We have had open days in aid of the school in the past, but feel every village in the area should organise something to help with this worthy project."

LAUNCH

Other funds for the school pool are to come from a grand Christmas draw just being launched, and the school has 10,000 tickets to sell.

"I should be pleased to hear from anyone who can help us sell the tickets," said Mrs Womack.

A cake stall is to be held in Chatteris tomorrow (Friday), and a jumble sale is being run in December, both in aid of the school.

"If anyone else could help us raise money, I should be thrilled to hear from them," said Mrs Womack.

Spring '79 as a result of bottle from ERIC DAY.

the empties



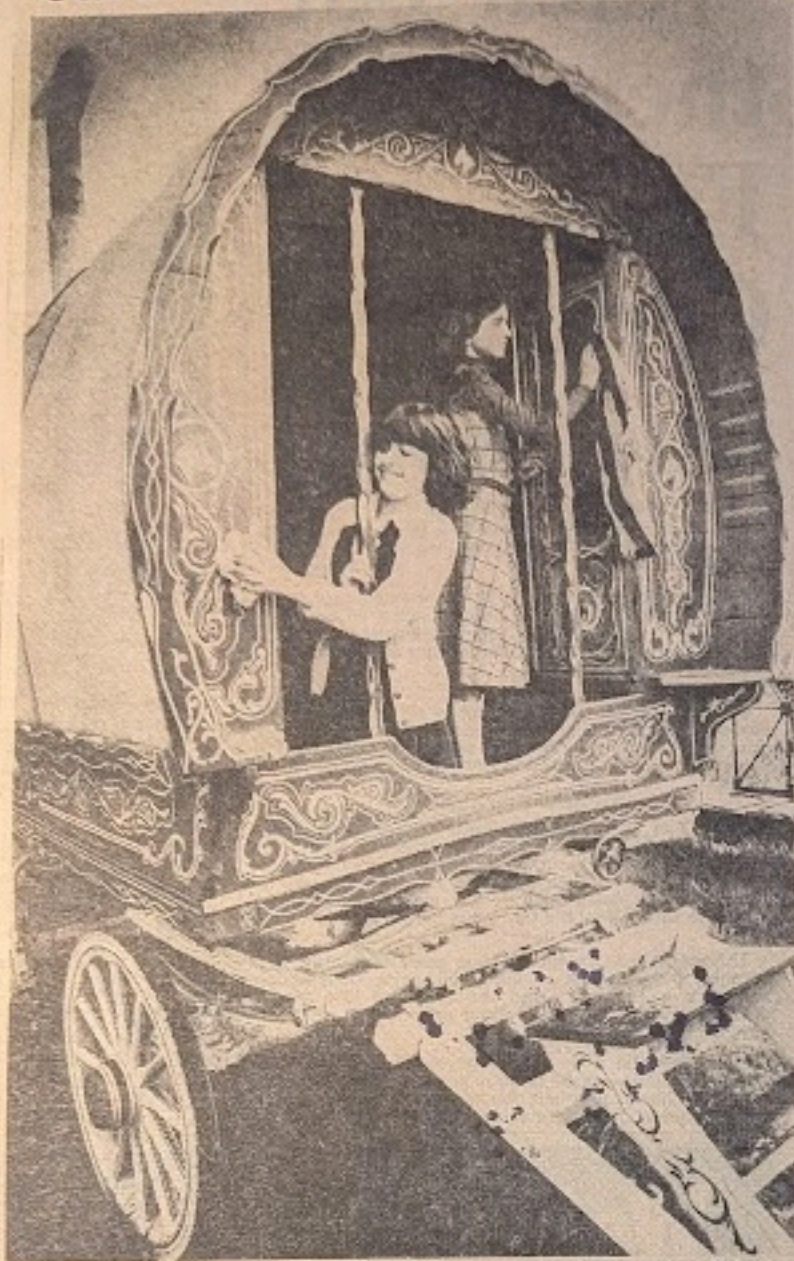
1945 was handed in during the recent bottle shortage. A Co-op employee spotted it and passed it to where it has gone on show in the dairy

Haddenham museum, ad-577915

of S. R. Ward's farm, the first area to bottle its own milk. It and closed down in 1954. Mr used to run the business.

Caravan takes pride of place

A court gipsy app' whil the land clos
Th owns near Stre anno



Haddenham Farmland Museum has a new main attraction thanks to the hard work and generosity of two Cambridge men.
The caravan receives a clean and polish from Alison Gilby (left) and Rachel Alsop. 9537910

Haddenham Farmland Museum has a new main attraction thanks to the hard work and generosity of two Cambridge men.

Now on show is an old gypsy caravan which they restored to its former beauty.

For two years Patrick Knox and Malcolm Ward, both of Cambridge, laboured repairing the vehicle and painting it with traditional Romany colours.

The barrel caravan—last used by a honeymooning gypsy couple — has the original stove, water carrier and beds.

Move

Once completed the men chose the farmland museum for the caravan's temporary resting place.

It will be on show at the museum's open day on May 6 and throughout the summer.

But in typical gypsy style the caravan is expected to move on later in the year.

One of the museum's organisers, Mrs Lorna Delaney, said inside the caravan cloth roofing had been intricately embroidered by Mr Knox. "The work is beautiful—it is our main attraction," she said.

Arrival in April.
Girls get photo
Taken in school
TIME.

Band fete. — After several days of warm weather, it was disappointing for the local Silver Band that Midsummer Day should be so stormy and wet. Much thought had gone into the preparation of the event, staged at the Farmland Museum, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Delaney. On a nice afternoon many people enjoyed hearing the band play selections in the pleasant surroundings of the museum, but on Sunday for those visitors who did support the event, there was no lack of interest in the stalls, etc., and the band found a dry spot on which to assemble and play selections to an appreciative audience. The financial result of £118 was accepted by the band as a very satisfactory sum, considering the unfavourable weather for an outdoor event.

Open day nets £275

The open day for leukaemia research held at Haddenham's Farmland Museum on Sunday attracted over 430 visitors.

Proprietor, Mr Michael Delaney, was delighted with the success of the event, which raised £275 for leukaemia research.

The open day, possibly the museum's last but one, helped to boost money raised for charity since 1969 to £3,007.

And only 41 more visitors to the museum are needed to bring the total to 30,000 in 10 years.

The final open day at the family-run museum which faces closure for financial reasons, is scheduled for August 3th.

STILL NO TAKERS FOR FARMLAND MUSEUM

No suitable offers have yet been made to help save the Farmland Museum at Haddenham near Ely, so the owners, the Delaney family, are sticking by their decision to close in August.

The museum will be open as usual on Sunday, after which it will open to the public only once more—on August 5, when it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

The Delaneys, who have run the museum as a hobby, say they cannot afford to carry on without financial backing as the museum is taking up too much time and money.

Last month they announced that it would close in August and since then approaches have been made from organisations outside the area to rebuy the collection.

But the Delaneys want the collection to remain in Haddenham. But as no suitable offer had been made, they were sticking by their decision to close, Mrs Delaney said.

Proceeds from Sunday's open day will go towards leukaemia research and attractions this time include a blacksmith at work, a display of corn dolly making and a handcraft stall.

FARMLAND OFFERS REJECTED

THE Haddenham Farmland Museum have had three offers of housing their collection from outside the area — but the Delaney family have rejected them.

People from Bristol, Newport Pagnell and Suffolk have offered assistance in an attempt to save the museum from complete closure in August.

"We do not want the collection to leave Haddenham, we have a loyalty to the village," said proprietor Mr Michael Delaney.

The museum is threatened with closure because of lack of finance, and Mr Delaney can no longer afford to spend one day a week working on the collection.

But while the museum is privately owned and on a private site — in the Delaneys' garden in the High Street — grant-giving bodies are unable to help.

DEPLORABLE

"It is a deplorable situation that a county council who could be responsible for agricultural museums cannot help them financially," Coun Owen Bethell told members of the district council's Health and Amenities Committee on Tuesday.

The secretary of East Cambridgeshire District Council, Mr Everard Poole, has suggested that a "Friends of Haddenham Farmland Museum" be set up to administer any grants made.

But Mr Delaney says he has only three regular helpers at the museum, and would need a group of very keen people to take over the exhibits.

"What I need is some kind of sponsorship to allow me to work on the museum for one day a week," he said. "Then we could start having school parties visiting again, and keep things going."

Mr Delaney has been told that the county's Museum Advisory Committee is to investigate the museum's problems.

July's Open Day was for a 'special' cause

Leukaemia day

HADDENHAM Farmland Museum's open day on Sunday — possibly the museum's last but one — is being held to raise money for leukaemia research carried out at Cambridge.

Mr Keith Patterson will be giving a demonstration of a blacksmith's work, and Mrs Shirley Baverster will be making corn dollies.

As well as the demonstrations and the whole host of exhibits, a craft stall is being held by Mrs Rowles, the proceeds of which will go to the charity.

The museum is open between 2pm and 5pm.

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Farm museum to close on festive note

Unless a last-minute offer of financial support is made the Haddenham Farmland Museum will open and then close to the public for the last time on Sunday.

The occasion will mark the museum's 10th anniversary since it was first conceived by the Delaney family. The Delanays have run the museum, at the back of their High Street home, as a hobby.

Two major milestones

But recently they have run into problems as it became too popular, attracting on average 80 visitors an hour during opening time.

At the museum's last open day two major milestones were passed, with 30,000 people coming to view its exhibits since 1969 and £3,600 collected for charities. Last month the family announced that, as the museum was taking up too much of their time and money, it would have to be closed unless financial backing was offered.

Since then approaches have been made by organisations outside the area to rehouse the collection but the Delanays want it to remain in Haddenham.

Two bands will play

Although Sunday's open day will obviously be a sad one for the family, villagers and past visitors, the occasion will take on a festive note. For two bands will play for visitors during the afternoon. The Leicester Band, led by Mr Gary Sleath will play alongside his former band, Haddenham Silver.

Takings and proceeds from various stalls on Sunday will go towards the Addenbrooke's Hospital cancer scanner appeal.



Good bye bis zum 79er Mai" — die englischen Freunde freuen sich auf ein Wiedersehen im Impen.

Cutting brought back by Mrs. Bowcock.

Open Day — A nice afternoon, with the appeal for Leukaemia Research, brought 433 visitors to the Farmland Museum on Sunday. The Delaney family and their helpers were on hand to welcome visitors, who found the pleasant surroundings of the garden an added bonus to the many interesting features of the museum. As well as the historical objects in the original building, and the nostalgic contents of the newest building, there was the quiet hum of the stationary farm engines ticking over, and the sound of Keith Paterson's hammer in the heat of the operational forge. Other attractions included a fine selection of models, including musical boxes, canvases, mills etc, the work of local man, Mr Wilfred Searle, together with crochet articles made by his wife Jane. The intricate art of making corn dollies was demonstrated by Mrs Shirley Bawester, many visitors being encouraged to try their hand at this popular craft. Crafts, cakes and preserves were on sale at a stall organised by Mrs Jean Rowden, bringing in £72 towards the grand total of £275. This amount included Sunday's entrance fees, profit from light refreshments and the income from visiting parties to the museum during the month of June. The museum is noted for its extensive aid to charity, and local people in particular are invited to coffee evenings on July 6th and 16th by the Delaney family. The proceeds will aid the Cheshire Home at Fleet, known as Howenden House, where local girl Miss Eunice Peteris is

A cheque for £32 was sent to Howenden.

Farm museum given last-minute reprieve

A last-minute telephone call has saved the Haddenham Farmland Museum from extinction — for the time being at least.

The call was made yesterday by the late of Ely MP, Mr Clement Freud, to the museum's owners, the Delaney family, as they prepared to close the doors for the last time.

And it enabled Mr Michael Delaney to turn to more than 1,000 sad-faced visitors and announce: "We've been saved."

Mr Freud contacted Mr

Delaney saying he had started his own fund to help prop up the museum for the time being.

A jubilant Mr Delaney said today: "The dark cloud that had hung over our heads during the weekend was just blown away by that call."

The news was broken at what was to be the museum's last open day.

It came at a particularly choice time — its 10th anniversary.

The Delanays run the museum at the back of their High Street home as a hobby. Since its first opening, it has grown in size and popularity — attracting

on average 80 visitors an hour.

Well over 30,000 people have viewed its exhibits, nearly £4,000 has been collected for charity.

But last month the family announced that, as the museum was taking up too much of their time and money, it would have to be closed unless financial backing was offered.

Record

A number of organisations from outside the area have expressed interest in rehousing the collection, but the Delanays want it to remain at Haddenham.

Mr Delaney said that,

although the museum would not now close as planned, Mr Freud's support could only act as an interim measure.

He added: "His offer will enable us to stay open until next summer at least. During which time we shall have to keep looking for permanent sponsorship or grant."

About £1,000 a year would be enough to keep the museum open.

Yesterday a record 1,028 visitors resulted in £416 going towards the Addenbrooke's Cancer Scanner Appeal Fund in Cambridge.

The Leicester Band and the Haddenham Silver Band were there to provide a festive note.



Haddenham Farmland Museum.

'Eleventh hour' bid to save museum

Isle of Ely MP Mr Clement Freud is making plans to help save the Haddenham Farmland Museum from closure.

He is setting up a fund to raise enough cash to enable the 10-year-old museum to carry on its work at least until next summer.

The announcement of the fund was made on Sunday — the museum's 10th anniversary — which was expected to be their final opening day.

"Mr Freud really stepped in at the 11th hour and 59th minute," said a delighted Mr Mike Delaney, who runs the museum from his home with his wife Lorna and sons Kevin, Craig and James.

"This has given us at least a temporary reprieve, and we now have the winter to make efforts to gain sponsors and grants to help us carry on."

The museum's planned closure was announced earlier this year when the Delaney family decided they could no longer afford to finance its running.

But now Mr Freud says he is "determined" that the Isle should not lose this unique museum and reminder of the Fens' history.

"I am convinced we can save the museum," said Mr Freud. "I have in mind the generosity of the local people and the importance of the museum."

"We should not lose this for the sake of £1,100 a year, which is needed to keep the museum together and open."

'I'LL SELL'

"If necessary I shall sell raffle tickets on the streets myself."

At the moment Mr Freud has no particular fund-raising events in mind.

"There are many supporters of the museum, including my wife and myself, who can help keep the museum running," he said.

"We must do everything we can — once we have the money."

and so accommodate school parties for a limited period each week.

"This will all depend on various factors, but now we have time to look seriously at the museum's running. We must decide whether we can continue to give all the proceeds to charity, but I hope we can always donate some of the money we raise to charities."

News of the life-saving fund was met with rapturous support by the visitors to the museum on Sunday — who totalled the record figure of 1,028.

Freud's swift action saves farm museum

A SMALL body of trustees is to take over the running of the Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Isle MP Mr Clement Freud is organising their formation as part of his plans to save the once threatened village museum.

"Had we not got a diligent MP, we would have lost the Haddenham Farmland Museum," said its owner, Mr Mike Delaney.

"But Mr Freud was determined to save the collection, and has already put in a lot of work to get the formation of trustees under way."

The museum was threatened with closure when the Delaney family, who run the project at their home, decided they could no longer finance its running.

But at the last minute Mr Freud told the family he was setting up a fund to save the 10-year-old museum.

This week Mr Delaney had talks with Mr Freud, and they discussed the formation of the trustees.

Mr Delaney says he hopes that the scheme will enable the museum to carry on, and possibly expand.

The Delaney family first had the idea of forming a body of museum trustees back in 1974, but at that time the law made the idea impossible.

NAMES

But now things are different, and only the exhibits will be made over to the trustees, instead of the land and buildings as once was the case.

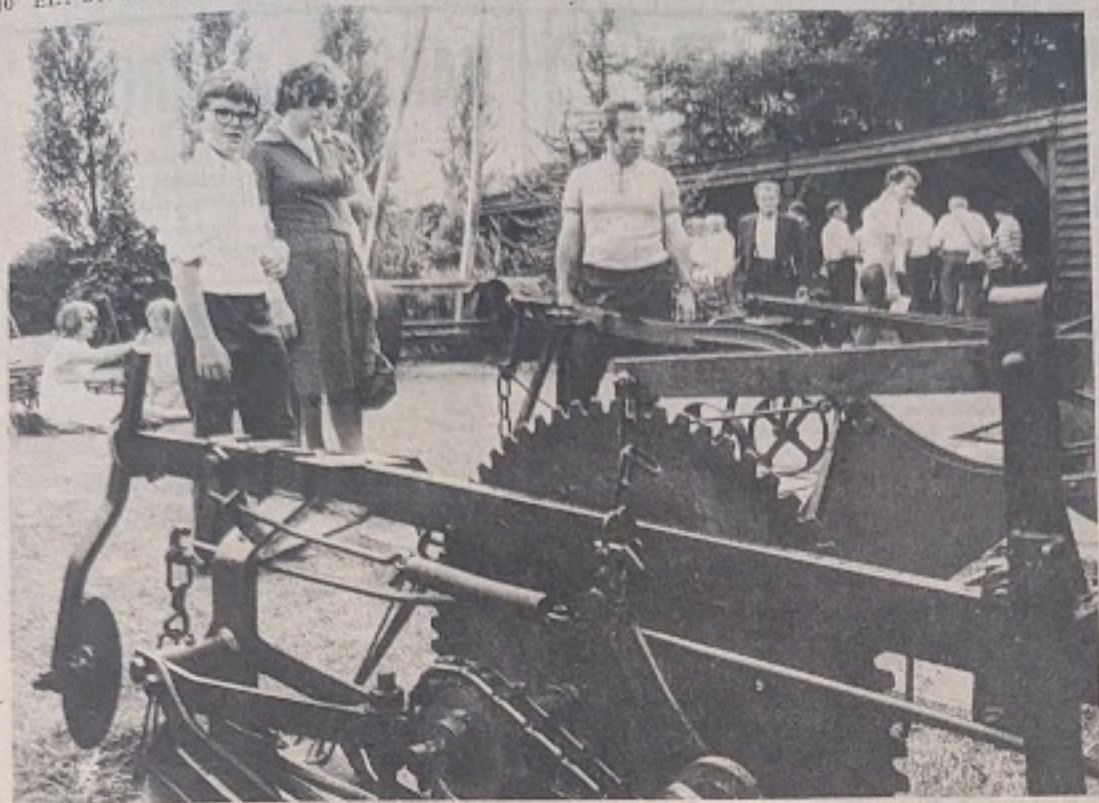
Names of prospective trustees have not yet been released, but Mr Delaney says he hopes the body will include someone local, and someone from the professional museum world.

"And in the event of us finding an industrial sponsor, then the company would be likely to nominate a trustee," he said.

The formation of trustees will give the Delaney family the mammoth task of listing all their exhibits which are just on loan, for it is only the museum's own exhibits that will be made over to the trustees.

"We are very happy indeed with this solution — other grant-giving bodies could have come to our rescue but they didn't," said Mr Delaney.

"I feel that we are able to carry on only because we have an MP who is really on the ball."



● Visitors examining some of the museum's extensive display of farming history. (Picture: Nick Lyons).

Appeal set up to save Farmland Museum

The only unwelcome visitors at the Haddenham Farmland Museum on Sunday were the greenfly, but even these did not spoil the afternoon for the 1,028 visitors who attended the open day for what was feared might be the last time.

No one was more relieved than the Delaney family when news was received that Isle MP Mr Clement Freud was starting a fund to enable the museum to carry on its work.

Sunday's open day had several special attractions, including a band concert given by the visiting Enderby band, supported by the Haddenham Silver Band.

The conducting of the combined bands was shared by Mr Peter Mott of Haddenham and Mr Gary Sleath of Enderby, who was once Haddenham's bandmaster.

Eight selections, including marches, waltzes and song tunes were played by the visiting band.

The pleasant surroundings of the raised bandstand drew the crowds, many of whom were content to watch and listen for long sessions.

Others found the band music a pleasing accompaniment as they toured the original building which contained, as well as other treasures, the pieces of pottery dug up from the garden by a small boy, from which the museum has grown to its present day achievement.

MEMORIES

The "New" building houses many reconstructions of family life of the past, with agricultural machinery of the past, together with antiquey games and the blacksmith's forge. Several exhibitions of their craft for many years. Models made by Mr and Mrs Wilfred Beale were seen on display.

A second historical aspect of the museum is the collection of objects which will be donated to the County Council, under the Haddenham Museum Act, 1978.

After visiting the newly announced museum, the Haddenham were delighted to be named as the Haddenham Centre, opened by the Mayor.

Farmland museum to close

The family run Farmland Museum at Haddenham is to close to the public in August.

Main reason for the closure of the unique museum — just a day after the 10th anniversary celebrations of its formation — is lack of finance.

Mr Michael Delaney, who runs the museum with his wife, Lorna, and three sons, Kevin, Craig and James, said: "The museum is too big to manage in our spare time now, and I can no longer afford to give one day a week to the work."

"It is time to put the family before the museum, which we have not done for the past five years."

"As a family we are broken-hearted, but it is better to be broken-hearted than broken."

The museum was started by Craig Delaney when he was four-years-old, and over the years 29,000 visitors have toured the museum, and £2,700 has been raised for children's charities.

Throughout the summer and winter the museum attracts an average of 80 visitors for every hour it is open, usually the first Sunday in each month.

Mr Delaney said: "The museum has grown rapidly, especially over the last few years, and the interest in it has gone further afield which means the background work in running the museum has also increased rapidly."

"It is a sad thing but we hope the closure is not going to be permanent, but if it ever re-opens it will be on a very small and localised scale."

"We will have to do away with the agricultural side which is very significant because there is no other collection in the county."

PROBLEMS

At present the museum exhibits 70 horse drawn agricultural implements which will be prepared for cold-storage after the closure on August 6th. Already the Delaneys are turning away many interesting items.

If no solutions to the museum's financial problems are reached the implements will be offered back to the donors.

"All the adjoining counties have beautiful museums run by professionals, and here we are in Cambridgeshire the foremost agricultural county, with only our efforts here, saw Mr Delaney."

"The sad thing is the tremendous interest among the public is a pointer to the need."

The museum has applied for grant aid since 1975 but problems arose because the concern is run by a family on private land. "If we could find a suitable way to make the collection available to a trust and know its future."

After August the family will try and find a way round their problems, and think a possible alternative might be an industrial sponsor. But at present there are only three open days left, the last being on August 5th.

Farmland museum closing in summer

The Farmland Museum at Haddenham near Ely is to close this summer — ironically because it is too successful.

The museum will be closing its doors after celebrating its tenth anniversary on August 5 because the owners, the Delaney family, cannot afford to carry on without financial backing.

Mr Michael Delaney said yesterday that he would be prepared to re-open if the museum received aid and most of the exhibits would be kept together for a while in the hope that a rescue operation could be mounted.

Time and money

The museum has been the family's hobby for the past 10 years but is eating up too much time and money, Mr Delaney said.

It started in an unusual way when their second son Craig, now aged 14, col-

lected a few items in a bedroom and invited friends and relations to view them.

Since then the museum has grown to such an extent that it now has an international reputation and attracts thousands of visitors.

Since it began the Delaneys calculate they have raised £2,700 for charities helping children in need, and have averaged 80 visitors an hour when open on the first Sunday of each month.

Last Sunday alone — Haddenham village open day — the museum had 649 visitors and as many as 150 have been known to turn up on a wet Sunday afternoon in December.

Mr Delaney runs the museum with help from his wife Lorna and their three sons, Kevin 17, Craig and James, 12. But even with voluntary helpers lending a hand, they find they cannot continue.

Mr Delaney, an engineer by trade, said: "It has got to the stage when the

hobby is now taking more of my time and energy than my actual job. It happens to be too successful and we cannot go on as we are at the moment."

"We have taken the decision to close from August 5 — our tenth anniversary — and are in the process of notifying the various tourist boards, local authorities, and people in the professional museum world."

Stumbling block

Mr Delaney, who has tried in the past to obtain grant aid, said one of the stumbling blocks is the fact that the museum is situated on private land — his home at High Street, Haddenham.

But it was a logical location, because it was near his workshops where repairs and renovations to exhibits could easily be undertaken.

"We are bitterly disappointed that after 10 years we have got to take this decision," he added. "But the hobby has now outgrown us."

Farmland expert

Local archaeological finds that need identifying and recording may be taken to the Haddenham Farmland Museum on Sunday. For county archaeologist Alison Taylor will be at the museum for their monthly open day, and will be pleased to identify any finds.

"We hope that the identification of finds can be plotted on maps and so help complete the jigsaw of local history," said Mr Mike Delaney, who runs the museum with his family.

"Last year we had a very successful archaeology workshop, with neolithic axe heads and Roman remains coming to light. The museum is open between 2pm and 5pm, and visitors will be invited to look around the museum's wealth of exhibits as well as being able to have their finds catalogued."

September's Open Day was very successful — workshop and fairground organ

Museum booklet

Ely Museum and Haddenham's Farmland Museum have both been listed in a new guide to 20 museums in the county.

Opening times, admission charges and collections are just some of the subjects covered by the new guide, which has been compiled by the Cambridgeshire Curators Panel — a group of museum workers in the county who are naturally keen to inform the public about local museums.

Priced at 70p, the booklet will be available at all museums in the county and also at most libraries.

REPRIEVED MUSEUM OPENS WITH WORKSHOP

Haddenham Farmland Museum, recently reprieved with the help of the Isle of Ely MP, Mr Clement Freud, opens its doors again on Sunday when an archaeology workshop will be one of the main attractions.

The county archaeologist, Alison Taylor, will be on hand to view items of historical interest brought along by visitors to the museum.

Last year the museum held a similar archaeology workshop and some interesting finds from the Neolithic and Roman periods came to light.

Exhibits

It was so successful that it is being repeated again on Sunday between 2 and 5 pm.

The museum's owner, Mr Michael Delaney, said: "I must emphasise that we are not trying to get further exhibits for the collection, merely asking people to bring along anything of interest."

The Delaneys are delighted that they are now in a position to continue to keep the museum open.

At one stage it was threatened with closure this summer because they felt it was taking up too much of their time and money.

At one stage it was taking up too much of their time and money.

Then Mr Freud stepped in and started a fund to help prop up the museum for the time being.

Two faded cuttings re the closure announcement in May (other papers did write-ups but these were taken by Kate for photo-statting)

1980 - to survive or not?

No-go area! June

One small area of the Haddenham Farmland Museum was barred to the 200 visitors during Sunday's monthly open day.

No peeping was allowed at the gipsy caravan because a robin was in residence, keeping warm her five eggs. Although a car display nearby attracted motorists, a "no-go" sign was well observed.

Among the visitors were families from America, Australia and Germany, all being welcomed by the Delaney family and their usual band of willing helpers.

As well as the usual attractions, Sunday's special display included war relics of various kinds, commemorating the events at Dunkirk 40 years ago, as well as the 35th anniversary of VE and VJ Days. The display included a large collection of uniform buttons belonging to different regiments, beautifully polished and displayed.

A reminder of war days in the village was the exhibition of gasmasks, ration books, civilian passes, and a display of documents declaring the registration of Mr Alfred Henry Wilson as an official air-raid warden.

The next open day will be on July 6th and will, as usual in July, be "Ladies' Day" with craft exhibits. There will also be a dancing display by the Haddenham Ballet School.

Visitors

THE spring sunshine of Easter Sunday afternoon attracted 292 visitors to Haddenham's Farmland Museum for its monthly open day.

Farm machinery of the past was on display and the garden, where everything was bursting into bud, was an added attraction.

Mr Keith Patterson drew visitors to the forge where he was busy displaying the blacksmith's craft, while Billy Ashton and Neil Aloop kept the stationary engines ticking over.

Two other young people, Alison Gilby and Rachel Aloop, spent the afternoon looking after the book stall.

A very successful work day was organised by Andy and Ann Biggs on Saturday in preparation for Sunday's opening.

April

Visitors

In spite of a cold afternoon 129 visitors attended the monthly open day at the Farmland Museum, Haddenham, on Sunday, where they were welcomed by the Delaney family and the usual band of helpers.

Because of the cold north wind indoor projects proved most popular, and many found it pleasant to congregate round Keith Patterson and Kevin Deacey as they stoked and hammered at the blacksmith's forge.

Half the takings on Sunday, plus donations received by Mrs Delaney, will be given to Leukaemia Research in memory of Mr Wilfrid Searle, who took a great interest in the museum and its numerous good causes.

May

HADDENHAM (tomorrow) Exhibition to mark International Museums Day: The history of optics (optical devices used over the years), Farmland Museum.

Open Day - In spite of a wet wintry afternoon, over 30 visitors took advantage of the monthly open day to visit the Farmland Museum on Sunday. Although some young enthusiasts kept the stationary engines ticking over, the indoor interests, including the original garden shed housing a child's collection of 'bits and pieces', the beginning of what is now an ever-growing collection of exhibits, together with the new building with its rooms showing how we used to live, proved most popular with Sunday's visitors. The Delaney family were on hand to welcome visitors and the museum will be open again on the first Sunday in March, when it is hoped for more favourable weather conditions.

Feb

Open Day - A sunny afternoon brought 107 visitors to the Farmland Museum for its monthly open day on Sunday. No special events or demonstrations were arranged, but for first time visitors, there was plenty to see in both the original and the newer buildings, while stationary engines ticked over, and the machinery shed offered working objects on farms and dairies of the past. The Delaney family and some regular helpers were on hand to welcome visitors, helping to make their tour of the museum a friendly occasion.

March

Museum saved by sponsor

An offer of sponsorship for the Haddenham Farmland Museum has saved it from closure.

Ideon's Garage, based in Stretham, have agreed to financially back the museum, in conjunction with Lada cars.

"We are very pleased with the sponsorship offer, especially as Ideon's have recently opened a workshop in Haddenham," said Mr Mike Delaney, who runs the museum with the rest of his family.

"This is about half the sponsorship we need, but we hope to have news of more help in the fairly near future."

To launch their sponsorship, the garage is to have a trade stand at the museum on Sunday, when they are open for the annual village "Blossoms and Bygones" day from 2pm until 8pm.

Since the Delaney family first announced that the museum might have to close, Isle MP Mr Clement Freud has been working to save it, and has already asked the Bishop of Ely to become a trustee.

"Once the sponsorship is organised I hope the trustees can be formed," said Mr Delaney. "I understand that several local organisations are currently discussing sponsorship."

SPECIAL

On Sunday the museum are planning a very special "Eye Spy" display to mark International Museums Day.

The optics display will include the very latest lasers and 3-D holograms formed by lasers, right back to the early microscopes and magic lanterns.

A small working laser will be on show, with telescopes, cameras a periscope and X-ray exhibits.

During the afternoon Haddenham Band will play at the museum, and many other pieces of interest in the village will be open.

THE museum are to carry on their monthly open afternoons on the first Sunday of each month, and are planning to feature local bands and ballet during the summer.

Standard May

News in time for B & B - just a year after announcement of closure.

Can this be the last article done by CEN? Phone calls re following Open Days brought no results. "What's On" finally mentioned in September's Open Day!

Car firms step in to save farmland museum

Haddenham Farmland Museum has been saved from closure by the generosity of a local firm.

It means that the extensive collection which illustrates the agricultural heritage of the area will stay in the village.

When the museum was threatened with closure last year the owner, Mr Michael Delaney, feared it would have to be dispersed.

But Ideon's Garage, Stretham, in conjunction with Lada cars, has stepped in and offered financial backing.

Together, the firms have offered to sponsor the museum and are offered half the amount that the museum needs to stay alive and extend its facilities.

Mr Herbert Ideon would not give exact financial details of the deal but said the museum's needs ran into "four figures".

He added that the sponsorship would run indefinitely and would not be for one or two years.

Mr Ideon was pleased the museum would now remain intact on its present site. "It is nice to see things from the past and our heritage preserved," he said.

When the Delaney family announced that they could not continue to run the museum without some financial support, the Isle of Ely MP, Mr Clement Freud, opened a trust.

Mr Delaney said a number of large companies had offered the remaining sponsorship and when an agreement is reached the trustees can be formed.

Mr Delaney, a design engineer, said: "I am very thankful that somebody has now come forward to offer help. The museum is in no danger now and the collections will stay in Haddenham."

The money will enable Mr Delaney to extend the services of the museum to cater for bigger groups, including school children.

-79/80

Open day again popular

The popularity of the Farmland Museum at Haddenham as one of the interesting places to visit on a pleasant Sunday afternoon was proved again on Sunday, when 219 visitors were welcomed by the Delaney family and their band of willing helpers.

An added attraction was the music provided by Mr Adrian Hutt's fair organ, and mingling with the nostalgic tunes was the hum of stationary engines ticking over to the attention of local residents, Billy and Charlie Ashden, and their young local assistants for whom engines are a fascination.

ARTEFACTS

Miss Alison Taylor, Archeological Officer from the County Planning Dept, was kept busy giving information on artefacts found in the parish and wider areas of the county.

Mrs Shirley Baverster again found visitors anxious to learn the art of making corn dollies after admiring her specimens.

As a result of Sunday's opening, £66 was raised for Children in Need, including £5 from teas (Mrs R Freeman, Mrs B Markwell and Mrs D Bethell) and £17 from Mr Hutt's organ collection at a previous event.

3, September 4, 1979 5

Reprieved village museum reopens

Haddenham Farmland Museum, saved from closure recently, has begun a new lease of life.

It opened its doors again at the weekend with an archaeological workshop as the main attraction.

The open day was the first since the Isle of Ely MP, Mr Clement Freud, stepped in to prevent the museum from closing because of a lack of outside financial support.

He started a fund which will enable the museum to stay open until at least next summer.

Mr Michael Delaney, who runs the museum, said a number of fine axe and arrow heads of historical interest were taken along and were examined by the County Archaeologist, Alison Taylor.

About 200 people attended and £86 was raised for Children in Need, the museum's adopted charity for this month.

Haddenham resident Mr Adrian Hutt played his fairground organ to entertain the visitors.

Open Day — A lovely afternoon brought 234 visitors to the Farmland Museum on Sunday making a contribution of £52 to the Methodist Relief Fund. The money is to be used specifically for the needs of the 70 Boat People to be housed in the Raxawa youth hostel at Mundesley for six months, their welfare to be the responsibility of the Methodist Church in East Anglia. One of the chief attractions on Sunday was the police badge collection, which included 591 badges of different constabularies in England and Wales dating back to the Victorian era. The keen interest of the public was evident by the number of questions being asked of Pc Alan Swain of the Peterborough Division, Pc Tom Stevens of the Huntingdon Division and Police Cadet David Collins, a former Witchford Village College pupil. Records and helmets, etc, of other days were also on display, while an 86-year-old Durham City policeman was among the visitors, promising his badge to add to this fascinating collection. Other visiting parties included a group from the Manor school, Wilburton, and parents and children from Little Paston school, who were taken on a conducted tour by Mr C F Bester, which included the working forge where Mr Keith Patterson hammered away, and the wheelwright's shop with Mr J Wright, the local builder. Many children tried their hand at making corn dollies, under the instruction of Mrs Shirley Baverster. The third 'week day' organised by Ann and Andrew Biggs proved very successful. As well as local people, helpers travelled from Ely, Caldecote and Saffron Walden to give a hand. By the next Open Day on November 4 it is hoped to have all 33 stationary engines in working order, and some old machinery preserved and brightened by paint.

Farmland Museum proves its potential

The Haddenham Farmland Museum, which attracted more than 200 people to a special exhibition and open day at the weekend, is still looking for financial help.

The museum was recently threatened with closure because the owners, the Delaney family, found it was taking up too much of their time and money.

But it was reprieved at the last minute when the Isle of Ely MP, Mr Clement Freud, stepped in and offered to help set up a fund to keep it going.

Meanwhile the Delaneys have been trying in vain to find some kind of long-term sponsorship.

"It is a little bit disappointing but we are no further forward at the moment," Mr Mike Delaney said today.

Yesterday the museum proved once again to potential sponsors that it is a major public attraction in the area. Some 234 people attended the open day, which incorporated a special exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the modern police force.

Mr Delaney said £52 was raised and would be sent to the Save the Children Fund in aid of the Vietnamese boat people.

Whew! What a relief when visitors arrived in Sept. This was a pleasant surprise!

Oct - even better!

OCT.

Bishop to become museum trustee

THE Bishop of Ely, the Right Rev Peter Walker, has agreed to become a trustee of the Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Since its threatened closure, Isle MP Mr Clement Freud has been working to form a body of trustees to take over the museum's running.

"I am very pleased indeed that the Bishop has agreed to be a trustee," said Mr Freud.

Haddenham district councillor Mr Owen Bethell is to be another trustee, along with Mr Freud.

Two more trustees are yet to be appointed: one is expected to be an academic with specialised knowledge of museum work, and the other a solicitor.



• The Bishop

Police on display

Haddenham Farmland Museum, recently saved from closure by the formation of a trust fund, is mounting a special exhibition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the police force.

The exhibition will form part of their open day on Sunday and has been organised with the help of Chief Inspector Waters of Cambridge Police. It will include historic badges from now defunct police forces, old equipment and other memorabilia.

The museum hopes that experts will be on hand to answer questions about the exhibits.

NOVEMBER

Open Day — Keeping to its usual record for good weather on the first Sunday in each month, the sky cleared, bringing sunshine for at least an hour, during which time 86 people visited the Farmland Museum. A special feature on Sunday was the exhibition of stationary engines from Warboys, Saffron Walden, Buckden, Littleport, Fenstanton and Christall. Local enthusiasts, Neil Alsop, Billy Ashden and Gary Hayes also had their engines ticking over to the pleasure of all mechanically minded visitors. During the afternoon Mrs Womack, acting headmistress of Highfield School for the mentally handicapped in Ely, paid a visit to the museum. The proceeds of £27 from Sunday's opening will go towards the school's swimming pool appeal. This brings the year's total amount for charities to £1,153.

Charity effort doubled

Visitors to Haddenham Farmland Museum gave £1,166 to charity this year — more than double the amount raised last year.

Most of the money went to the Addenbrooke's Cancer Screening Appeal Fund, Leukaemia Research and the BBC Children in Need of Help appeal, but local charities were also supported.

About 4,868 people visited the museum which was a slight increase on last year.

Charity count

The Haddenham Farmland Museum more than doubled their takings for charity this year.

They raised a grand total of £1,166 in 1979, and welcomed 4,868 visitors.

The Delaney family who run the museum say the massive increase in money raised is due to two factors, an increase in admission charges and the fact that local and well known causes were supported.

Money raised has been allocated to eight charities: Addenbrooke's Cancer Scan Fund £420, Leukaemia Research (Cambridge) £315, Children in Need of Help (BBC appeal) £257, Save the Children Fund £52, Highfield School, Ely, £80, Hovenden Home £32, International Year of the Child £10, Ely Society for Mentally Handicapped Children £20.

Museum records memories of fenland life long ago...

Modern technology is helping to bring the past back to life at Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Backed by the Queen's Silver Jubilee fund, the museum has made recordings of fenland people reminiscing about pastimes, hobbies, and skills which are fast disappearing.

The tapes made their debut at the museum's open day on Sunday when visitors were able to hear tapes of people remembering the early days of punt-gunning, early fen crafts, and ways of life.

It is hoped that the tape-recordings can be built into a library about fen life 50 or 60 years ago, said one of the museum's owners Mr Mike Delanoy.

"What we do need is to hear from people who have interesting memories of the life and times of the fens all those years ago," he said.

"We are helping to preserve memories of a way of life which is fast disappearing and will be lost for ever soon."

Exhibits hit by lack of space

Haddenham's Farmland Museum is so overcrowded the organisers are having to turn away new exhibits.

Last year the museum attracted 4,000 visitors and this year attendance figures indicate the total could be higher by the end of the season.

Such is the popularity of the museum based at the Delanoy family home in the High Street, that exhibits are being turned away because of lack of storage space.

The Delanoys are thinking of a scheme which will provide extra space and at the same time improve the museum.

They are looking for an old building or caravan with some historic agricultural interest which can be used to house souvenir stores currently in the main museum building.

"We are bursting at the seams and feel the time is ripe for improving things all round. We could take a lot more exhibits if we could arrange things so that we had more space," said Mr Mike Delanoy.

In February an open day attracted more than 300 people, and on Sunday more than 100 visited the museum, including a party from Cambridge Rambling Club which combined a walk in the Fens with a visit to the museum.



Listening to the tapes (left to right) Nicola Alsop, 11, from Willingham, Neil Alsop, 15, and Rachel Alsop, 12, from Haddenham.

11. There will be a mystery trip on Saturday 5 and a "Christmas Shopper" in late November.

Haddenham

FARMLAND MUSEUM. — The lower junior class of Robert Arkeestell School, Haddenham,

has been with ambulance service based in Ely, but whenever his duties allow, he comes to the museum to give smithing demonstrations on the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

Ely Weekly A

Haddenham

FARMLAND MUSEUM. — A group of 13 14-year-olds from Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon, was shown the Farmland Museum. Their particular project of the fen agriculture and trades was covered in detail. The children were particularly interested to hear of the problems of fen drainage and the importance of keeping waterways clear.

The county sign of Huntingdonshire, with its beautiful heraldry, was much admired before the party left for its next port of call, Ely Cathedral.

Ely Weekly for March.

New Antiques

Dan Jackson

Cambridgeshire should be a source of farming bygone. In fact, in the past there have been two specialist sales of fishing machines, in which several models made tens of thousands of pounds, and also a sale of more than 60 old tractors.

Probably the most representative tools of fenland, are the spade and becket, wooden tools in use even less than 50 years ago, for digging up peat just east of Cambridge. They are not common and it would cost £40 to obtain a pair today.

Equally popular in this area were all geaves — a kind of barbed trident used for spearing eels around the lake of Ely. The head of an eel geave will cost £20.

This field of new antiques is very wide.

Horse tackle has long been sought after, with brass hames now fetching £50 and some early twentieth century horse brasses £10 each. Also popular are blacksmith's tools, while woodworking tools are a separate study themselves.

In demand is anything to do with the dairy, from the old wooden butter workers — a kind of bench with an undulating top — at around £50, to milk cans. A set of three copper cans, with a Victorian lead stamp, recently sold near Cambridge for £42.



● A real fen bygone, an eel geave. The hand-cast piece is about two feet long and would be fixed to a very long pole.

But there are many old tools which can be picked up much more cheaply — although you may have to be sharp, as the Japanese are snapping up all the old British farming implements they can lay their yeas on.

Many old cultivating tools, and choppers for preparing cattle food have woodwormy handles. If this is not too severe, a good dose of the right liquid will kill the worm. Sometimes,

Remnants of toil from fen and farm

handles can be found on other common tools which can be used as replacements.

The wooden parts should be scrubbed, sandpapered lightly and wiped over with linseed oil. Rust can be removed with a wire brush and sandpaper. Some people prefer to blacken the metal parts to display the lines more clearly. If you do this, don't use black lead. It comes off for ever on anything which gets into contact with it. I use black boot polish. Of course, brass parts should be polished, never sandpapered or given the steel wool treatment. Steel wool has rained millions of pieces of antique pewter, brass and copper.

Old tools can still sometimes be picked up at small auctions quite cheaply. This is the best source. At Newmarket a month ago, a bucketful of old hedging tools, including a sickle, sold for £9.

Places to see fen and farm implements in this area include the Haddenham Farm Museum and the Folk Museum, in Castle Street, Cambridge.



Four farm tools of interest to collectors. From left, an implement for cleaning mangolds; a hand cultivator; a bull lead; a thistle lifter. The one on the right is remarkably efficient at lifting rosette-type weeds.

Open day for Jill's appeal

Haddenham Farmland Museum are hoping to raise at least £20 for the National Children's Homes at their monthly open day on Sunday.

Owners of the museum, Mr Michael Delaney and his wife Lorna, selected the children's charity in response to an appeal by Mrs Jill Freud, wife of Isle MP Mr Clement Freud.

Visitors at the museum on Sunday will include Mr Dennis Cheesman, who wrote the booklet "Cambridge to Ely", and who will be demonstrating the scraperboard technique of making pictures.

Mr Paul Mason of Haddenham, a keen bird watcher, has now begun to practice taxidermy, and he will be bringing along ten to 15 examples of his work.

Another visitor bringing exhibits of interest to ornithologists is Mrs Anne Biggs, who will be displaying some of her bird paintings.

Local blacksmith Mr Keith Patterson will give a demonstration of his skilful work, and although a regular visitor to the museum, he never ceases to captivate his audience.

The museum opens on Sunday at 2pm, and everyone is warmly welcome.

April '81.

Thanks

Sir, — Once again the people of Ely and district have been remarkably generous — this time, as reported in your paper last week, for the National Children's Homes.

Since that report, the Haddenham Farmland Museum have sent me £52 from their open day, and my appeal total is now over £200.

The record contribution from the area stands at £2,400. I am most grateful to all who helped to make such a donation possible. On behalf of the children, many thanks.

Yours etc
MRS JILL FREUD
Crosskeys, Mepal

April

HADDENHAM

Open Day — Although the weather for April was not as warm as could be expected no less than 228 people visited the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon which together with takings from the knick-knack stall, brought in £52 for the NC Homes. Among the new attractions was an exhibition of taxidermy set up by Mr Paul Mason of Hillrow and Mr David Palmer of Burwell. The exhibition included both rare feathered visitors to the Fens and east coast, as well as the more usual inhabitants. On display too were the Victorian cased birds loaned by Mr Philip Alsop, and the beautiful bird paintings by local artist and museum helper, Ann Biggs, giving visitors a preview of her art exhibition to be held at the Old Fire Engine House, Ely, in June. Another fine art on display was the scraperboard work of Mr Dennis Cheesman, author of "The Road from Cambridge to Ely" and "Rupert" — Brooke's "Cambridgeshire". Mr Cheesman was happy to demonstrate his craft giving several young people an urge to try their hand. All through the afternoon the Delaney family were on hand to welcome visitors, while several faithful helpers were kept busy, including Mr Keith Patterson and a new enthusiast, Mr John Shippey, at the forge, Bill Ashton and Tony Buckland with the stationary engines. Four young people helped on two stalls, Rachel and Nicola Alsop, Alison Gilbey and Nicola Fretwell. Tapes played included some of local farmers speaking of the 1947 floods and also of Mr Josh Scott on wild fowling near Welney years ago.

Freud's full diary

Isle MP Mr Clement Freud attended the first meeting of the Trustees of Haddenham Farmland Museum on Monday.

Mr Freud has had a very busy diary this week, and on Tuesday he asked the Minister of State for Education about the ministerial procedure for school closures during parliamentary questions.

Annual Event

BLOSSOMS AND BYGONES

HADDENHAM — SUNDAY 17th MAY

Have an enjoyable afternoon viewing orchards and gardens, old buildings and farm implements, vintage cars and motor cycles, a trip up the church tower and a marvelous exhibition and sale of local crafts. Places of interest:

FARMLAND MUSEUM
ORCHARD RIDES
VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLES & CARS
RENOVATED 19th CENTURY FACTORY
EXHIBITION OF LOCAL CRAFTS
HAND PAINTED POTTERY STUDIO
17th CENTURY PORCH HOUSE
NATURALIST'S GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY
CHURCH AND CHURCH TOWER

ALL OPEN FROM
2.00-7.00 p.m.
OPEN 2.30-6.00 p.m.
OPEN 2.00-6.30 p.m.

During the afternoon there will be performances by THE HADDENHAM SILVER BAND

Tickets: Adults 50p, Children 30p. Refreshments available.

From The LIVING COUNTRYSIDE Haddenham in blossom

On 17th May the Cambridgeshire village of Haddenham celebrates its annual Blossoms and Bygones event. Tours of a local apple orchard, a visit to a naturalised garden, craft demonstrations, exhibitions at the Farmland Museum, rounded off by tea at the village centre, should make an enjoyable afternoon. 2.30-6.00pm.

Paul's new hobby



Paul's Day - Nick came for Standard
 & Ely Weekly also sent photographer ↓

Charity open day at farm museum

Haddenham's Farmland Museum threw open its doors to the public for charity at the weekend.

As well as the normal exhibits, there were displays by craftsmen and women - including the first ever exhibition by Haddenham taxidermist, Mr Paul Mason.

Mr Mason, who has been a keen birdwatcher for years, has recently been doing taxidermy for a past couple of years.

Sunday's display was the first to be held by Mr Mason, who lives in Hill Row, Haddenham.

More than 228 visitors went to the museum - quite a high figure considering the weather is cold, said a spokesman. About £52 was raised for the National Children's Home.

Also on display was work by Mr Denis Cheason, author of the booklet "From Cambridge to Ely."

Mr Cheason works in "scrapboard" to illustrate his booklets, a method which employs a scraper to cut out a clay layer over coloured board to reveal the colour below.

As well as showing his original illustrations for the booklet, Mr Cheason allowed young visitors to try out the scrapboard method.

Mr Keith Patterson, the local blacksmith, was working the anvil at the museum and an artist, Ann Biggs, displayed



Mr Mason with some of his mounted birds chatting to visitors Martin Sweet, 12 (left), and his brother Sean, 10, from Waterbeach. Also pictured is Mr David Palmer another taxidermist who also had birds on display.

13068112

professionally!

"I started in a small way, and have spent the last two winters working on birds," said Mr Mason. "I now have about a couple of dozen specimens."

Mr Mason is a member of the Cambridge Bird Club and of Fen Naturalists, so this time of the year he is very busy observing the migrant birds returning for the spring.

"I will not be preserving many birds through the summer, but will start again at the end of the year," he said.

Mr Mason, of Hillrow, was a judge at the Royal Show in 1976, and next month he has been invited to judge at the Royal Ulster Show.

Our picture shows Mr Mason watching his friend Mr David Palmer of Burwell put some finishing touches to the magpie.

(Photo: Nick Lyons)

Open Day

There was plenty of activity at the Farmland Museum on Sunday, when 111 visitors found it quite pleasantly surprised as they strolled around, watching blacksmith Keith Patterson busy at his forge, and Bill Ashton keeping the stationary engines ticking over. Something different was the operation of an old winding gramophone, and with DJ Ben Fletcher in charge the strains of old 78 records could be heard on request. Twenty-two members of Cambridge Ramblers Club made Haddenham their venue on Sunday, and after a seven-mile walk through the fens they arrived back at the museum for a conducted tour by Mr C.P. Bester, with Mr Peter Gilbert and Mr J. Kerridge on hand to answer questions on farm machinery, etc. Later they were served drinks and cookies by Mrs R. Freeman and Mrs B. Markwell. Sally Gilbert took charge of the book stall, and Andy Biggs had done a good job fixing up the first "listening post" in the new building. Sunday's tape was of the late Mr George Green reminiscing about life in Haddenham before world war two. Among the visitors was one from Lindholme who surprisingly met someone he knew, while another rambler discovered the picture of an uncle of whom she had only heard on an old photograph of Haddenham Silver Band, the player being Mr Fred Metcalfe.

March

Wet for open day

THE under-cover attraction of Haddenham Farm and Museum attracted most of the 65 visitors on a wet and cold open day on Sunday.

They included a group of 100 members of the Brigade of the Royal Air Force, who were given a tour by Mr Charles

Mr Peter Tever exhibited many of his local exhibits, and has agreed to stage a similar exhibition for 1969 on the 17th and 18th of August.

Mr Jack Kerridge, who has been in the farm in Lincolnshire since 1954, will report every open day to demonstrate farm machinery, was presented with a green badge signed by 29 members to mark his retirement.

During his conversations with visitors on Sunday Mr Kerridge made the acquaintance of a retired farmer from Nebraska.

BORDED!

A tape recorded by the late Mrs Mabel Deane, which she related played, on which she related old village traditions including "Gooding Day", the writing of "Gooding Day", and a time to be observed that marks the day when they would rather be bombed than die of boredom in London than die of boredom in Haddenham!

Saturday's work period was very successful in that very successful in that the machines near the museum entrance were wire-brushed, painted and restored.

Ann and Andy Riggs are planning a Plough Pull on May 18th, and will be glad if volunteers help to get the oxen hitched in top-top order for next day.

Fiona Newson and Gillian Freeman are arranging a museum tour for Ely Hospital Parade, and next weekend a group of ATC cadets will be camping in the museum garden and working to restore a pre-war garden tractor.

May

Open Day — The June Open Day at the Farmland Museum is generally known as Ladies' Day, and on Sunday next ladies will be spinning, tanning and making corn dollies and demonstrating art, and the proceeds of the day will be donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, together with takings from parties during the month. With MS sufferers in the village, the Delaney family decided to support this new cause this month.

June

HADDENHAM FARMLAND MUSEUM

Sunday next, June 7th, 2 p.m.

LADIES' DAY

Spinning, tanning, corn dollies, Art demonstrations, Real Tea, Proceeds to Multiple Sclerosis Society.

77904

MS Society — The sum of £137 has been forwarded to Mr G W Muddle, voluntary organizer of the Multiple Sclerosis Society in the Cambridge area. This result came from the June Open Day at the Farmland Museum, together with 630 takings from the sale of tea and biscuits by Mrs R Freeman and Mrs B Markwell at evening parties. W parties from Landbeach, Fulbourn, Teversham and Sawbridgeworth have visited during the month and have been shown around the museum by Mr C F Beater. School groups from Cottenham School, College and the Shribsbery School in Cambridge also visited to do project work in connection with village trades and farm machinery. During the current week, classes from the local school and the Manor School, Wilburton, are making educational visits to the museum as a result of watching a rural life museum filmed on TV children's programme.

July

Farmland Museum — A new feature at the band garden fête on Sunday will be the first visit of the Yaxley Amateur Players. The group was formed in 1979 and they plan to put on a 25 minute performance of a Punch and Judy Show, using live actors in place of puppets. The group has been successful in drama contests in the Peterborough area and its members are looking forward to an outdoor performance on Sunday. The local Silver Band will as usual contribute musical selections throughout the afternoon.

July

Beating the showers

DESPITE Sunday's heavy showers, 1,100 people visited Haddenham for its 10th Spring Open Day.

With nine places of interest open to the public, there was a wide area to be visited during the five open days, including the Farmland Museum, which, in spite of twelve open days during the year, drew over 800 visitors on Sunday.

It was here visitors were able to see a good collection of farm implements and domestic utensils, plus an interesting exhibition of village history, and many items of natural history, including fossils and pottery found locally. The blacksmith's and wheelwright's shop has original tools and equipment and is operational.

CYCLES

Vintage motor cycles dating from 1909-1975 proved of great interest to many visitors, and these are housed in a building and workshop situated in the garden of Madingley House and owned by Mr Ian Slade. Members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club rode to Haddenham to augment the collection, the majority of which are used regularly. Some of the earlier cycles on show were on loan from local motor cycle club members.

It was also thanks to Mr Slade that the sheet metal factory on the Green was open to the public. Originally this late Victorian building was a joinery workshop owned by the Peat family, local builders of many neighbouring chapels. This factory from a bygone era can tackle efficiently and comprehensively the requirements of today, and visitors were able to watch demonstrations of the manufacturing processes employed.

Visitors coming into the village from Hillrow were given early attractions in the form of a call at the Hillrow Studios to see a most delightful display of hand-painted china and por-

tery, together with demonstrations in the art of painting on china by Jean and Richard Rowden.

A little nearer the village was the lovely old Porch House, open to the public by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Maude. While the porch bears the date 1657, from the style of brickwork and timbering it would seem to have been the body of brick this lovely old house is of an earlier period. A pleasing feature is its transformation into a family home which combines modern comforts with attractions of an historical building.

The staircase which followed the earlier showers, made from the Tower of the 13th century church of Holy Trinity a pleasing feature of climbing by means of a ladder. For those with an eye for heights, there were many features of interest within the church itself.

The two out-door attractions were the Naturalists' garden and conservatory owned by Mr Nicholas Uppy, a renowned world traveller and entomologist, and the orchard rides through apple blossom trees, by kind permission of Tower Fruit Farms, a particular delight for the children.

CRAPTS

In the car-part of the Arkentail Centre was the caravan or mobile Althea's Library, while inside were a number of visiting crafts people displaying their wares and in some cases demonstrating their craft as well. Interesting displays occupied three rooms of the Centre, and in the main hall was the Arkentail Centre, and in the main hall was the Arkentail catering committee.

The Haddenham Silver Band, which was to have played at the Farmland Museum, was transferred to the Arkentail Centre due to weather conditions, where the various selections played, gave pleasure to visitors having tea, and the crafts people.

May

Exhibitions aid charities

The Farmland Museum at Haddenham has £328 raised for the National Children's Homes and fighting Multiple Sclerosis so far this year.

The museum, in the Delaney family home at 50 High Street, is open on the first Sunday of each month and all donations from visitors and half the gate money goes to charity.

Mrs Lorna Delaney said that in the first six months of this year 2,428 visitors had been to see the museum, which is open by appointment on week days now that a local car firm is giving sponsorship. This term 14 school parties have visited the museum.

A new exhibit is on show, a coffee grinder used for many years by a shop in Cambridge city centre. It has been donated to the museum by the brewers Tollemache and Cobbold.

The grinder lay in storage for many years, but since being given to the museum it has been completely dismantled, cleaned, painted and reassembled by a voluntary worker at the museum, Fiona Newson.

July

Museum figures

During the first half of the year nearly 2,500 people visited the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, and £328 was raised for charity.

A visitor survey revealed 26 per cent of people were making a return visit and 22 per cent had come on personal recommendation.

Fifty interviews were carried out as part of an investigation relating to the museums of Cambridgeshire on International Museums Day in May.

The museum has also been planning open days for the coming months and on August 2nd there will be a return visit of Haddenham Ballet School.

On September 6th the topic for the day will be wildflowers, poachers, hawkers and shooters, and proceeds will go to Leukemia Research.

July

Open day bygones

A visitor to the Farmland Museum at Haddenham earlier this year has offered to return on Sunday bringing with him some of his musical boxes and old record players.

Peter Bulman, of Wilton, has been collecting these bygones for the past three to four years, and will be displaying them to the public for the first time at Sunday is open day. They date from 1880 to 1930 and a lot of them have German mechanisms. Modern musical boxes made by the late Walf Searle will also be on display, together with some of the fine medals of farm carts and caravans which he made.

Haddenham Ballet School will be making its annual contribution to the museum programme with a special harvest sequence.

July

Facts and Figures — Visitors to the Farmland Museum in 1981 have so far numbered 2,292 and the amount raised for charity during this period is £328. Since the first Open Day in 1969, no less than 38,492 people have visited the museum and the handsome sum forwarded to various charities has amounted to £4,471.

July

Mystery bus sets puzzle for farmland museum



One of the Haddenham and District Motor Service buses.

Does anyone recognise this bus? That is the question which is being asked by the Farmland Museum at Haddenham.

Last week the "Weekly News" carried an article asking for information about the Haddenham and District Motor Service. The museum has received a series of photographs of the buses involved in the service around the 1920s but no-one knows the full history of it.

Now the museum has provided a photograph of one of the buses. The snapshot was a copy made by Mr Terence Harley of Nene Parade, March, a member of the Cambridgeshire Motor Transport Society.

A Press Officer of the motor transport society, Mr Andrew Newstead, said: "We don't know anything about the Haddenham motor service, apart from the fact that, despite its name, it was based at Stretcham."

High time a re-write is done

THE FARMLAND MUSEUM. Script by Lorna Delaney. Photographs by Nigel Bloxham. Published by EARO (2nd Edition) 26 pages. A5. 35 photographs. ISBN 0 804463 11 7. Farmland and Farmhouse 'Bygones' are described and illustrated in a way that invites the reader to travel to Haddenham and view them in three dimensions. This is a general account of this fascinating museum.

1977
40p

Farmland Museum — On Wednesday morning over 20 German students visited the museum as part of their study of life in the Fens. Mr CF Bester, clerk of the Parish Council, welcomed them to the village and gave each one a village guide as a souvenir of their visit. Later they left for lunch at Parch House, Hill Row, being entertained there by the Maudie family. Conversation was much easier in the evening when 30 members of the Trefoil Guild from Royston were shown round the museum by Mr Bester, and their evening was rounded off at the Ferry Boat Inn at Hollywell. The members of Haddenham Ballet School are preparing a special sequence entitled "Harvest" which they will give at the Open Day on August 2nd. Old record players and musical boxes will make a special display on that day.

Farmland Museum — A new feature at the band garden fete on Sunday will be the first visit of the Yaxley Amateur Players. The group was formed in 1975 and they plan to put on a 25 minute performance of a Punch and Judy Show, using live actors in place of puppets. The group has been successful in drama contests in the Peterborough area and its members are looking forward to an outdoor performance on Sunday. The local Silver Band will as usual contribute musical selections throughout the afternoon.

Open Day and Fete — It was the annual Band fete at the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon. Stalls were manned by the band ladies and helpers, while Haddenham Silver Band, conducted by Peter Mott, gave a varied and enjoyable programme. An addition to the event was a Punch and Judy show with live actors, staged by the Yaxley Amateur Players. A newcomer to the village, Bob Larkin, gave an art display, while faithful Keith Patterson, who busy at the forge, nearly £150 was raised for band funds. Next month the museum open day will feature the Haddenham Ballet School.

FARMLAND MUSEUM, HADDENHAM
AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY 5th JULY 1981
HADDENHAM SILVER BAND
and live PUNCH & JUDY SHOW
by Yaxley Amateur Players
Stalls in aid of Band Funds

July write-ups in the Standard by you-know-who!

Haddenham
FARMLAND MUSEUM. — Two hundred and ten visitors raised £83 for leukaemia research at the Farmland Museum open day.
Great interest was shown in the ballet school's interpretation of "Harvest" using tumbrel cart, pitch forks and bunches of straw for props. Music was provided by a collection of old record players and musical boxes.
A special display of model farm carts made by the late Wilf Searle was made by his widow. An interesting follow-up to a school visit was a picture book containing photos, drawings and

written work done by St Martin's class at the Manor School, Wilburton.
The next open day, on September 8, is entitled Wildfowling, Poshers, Hawks and Shooters and will cover that aspect of country pursuits.

Standard
HADDENHAM
Open Day. — Over 200 people visited the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon, raising over £90 for Leukaemia Research. The attraction for August was a ballet request for harvest performed by the older members of the Haddenham Ballet School, trained by Sandy Flynn, using a tumbrel cart, pitchforks and bunches of straw as props. The dance movement was repeated three times so that visitors had a chance to see it throughout the afternoon. Music to complement the movement was supplied by old record players kindly loaned for the occasion by Peter Bullman, of Wickton, and by musical boxes taken along by Mrs Jane Searle and daughters. It is hoped to make the "music and movement" feature an annual booking in the Farmland Museum's calendar. Regular helpers included Keith Patterson (forge), Bob Larkin (art), Ben Fletcher ("TV" requests), while extra money was made for Leukaemia Research by Flora Newson (selling flowers), Shirley Parcell and Ann Biggs (tea). Next month, on September 8th, proceeds will again be donated to Leukaemia Research and this event has been advertised nationally — it is entitled "Wildfowling, poshers, hawkers and shooters" and John Scott, warden at Welney, David Barker, author of gun books, Philip Alsop, a local owner of hawks, and Paul Mason, taxidermist, hope to be at the museum from 2 p.m. to make it a real countryman's pursuits day out.

August-Weekly
Ancient punt gun to blast again
The blast of the punt gun will echo across the fields once again this weekend.
The occasion is the "Wildfowling, Poshers, Hawks and Shooters" day at the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, near Ely, tomorrow.
The museum owners, the Delaney family, are showing Fenland folklore items, including guns, nets and moccasins. They found the old punt gun will attached to a punt.
Mr John Scott, manager of the Wildfowl Trust at Welney, will chat to visitors, with gun experts David Baker and John Humphreys.
Proceeds go to leukaemia research.

Sept. — CEN

Pre-October STANDARD

Open day bygones

A visitor to the Farmland Museum at Haddenham earlier this year has offered to return on Sunday bringing with him some of his musical boxes and old record players.
Peter Bullman of Wickton, has been collecting these bygones for the past three to four years, and will be displaying them to the public for the first time at Sunday is open day. They date from 1880 to 1930 and a lot of them have German mechanism. Modern musical boxes made by the late Wilf Searle will also be on display, together with some of the fine medals of farm carts and caravans which he made.
Haddenham Ballet School will be making its annual contribution to the museum programme with a special harvest sequence.

Farmland Museum — The Blacksmith's wheelwright's shop was built at the museum in 1972 and for a short time the lathe was used at Open Days by a visiting wood turner from Wilingham. For many years it has been unused and gathering dust. Mr John Wright, a retired builder, is always around at Open Days to answer visitors' questions but on the first Sunday in October there will again be demonstrations at the wheelwright's and in the building. Paul Edward, who lives at Wilburton, has been doing wood turning as a hobby for five to six years. He makes birch, beech, plane and dishes in traditional English hardwoods and is putting on a display of hand turned items and will demonstrate making them on the museum lathe. It is hoped to welcome the museum's 40,000th visitor on October 4th — to date the number stands at 39,830 since the Farmland Museum began in 1969. With the attraction of the wheelwright's lathe in the foreground so long, together with Adrian Hutt's annual visit with his Bruder Organ it is hoped that Sunday's visitors number 200-300. Certain exhibits from the dairy and farming sections will be missing for a few weeks — they were chosen by a museum curator from Germany to go on display at the Open Air Museum at Doonburg in conjunction with the twinning celebrations between Cambridgeshire and the area of Germany known as Friesen. Items include willow basket work, made at St Ives, a cross-plough which came from the silk fens near Wisbech, a table churn for butter making and various hand tools formerly used on Cambridgeshire farms.

SAVED! LIFE ON THE FARM



THANKS to sponsorship from Lada Cars and Ideson Motors, the local Lada dealers, a unique museum of farm life and history at Haddenham in Cambridgeshire has been saved from extinction.

A year ago the Farmland Museum in High Street, Haddenham, was facing the prospect of closure through lack of funds. Founded in 1969 the museum is run as a family enterprise by Mike

Delaney, his wife Lorna and their three sons.

News of their plight reached local MP Mr. Clement Freud. As a first step towards ensuring a future for the museum he formed a Board of Trustees with notable members of the local community.

But what the situation needed was more than just goodwill. So Mr

tacted Lada Cars' Manager David Usher.

It did not take very long to

realise this was a cause really

deserving of support," said David.

Usher's contribution to raising a

substantial amount of money for

the museum also opens its

doors to schools and other

educational establishments.

Usher's fascinating insight into

the museum's history has progressed

in leaps and bounds.

Special support from Lada

Cars has been able to

run the museum for a week to running

rather than having to

close and every weekend to

be busy going.

Usher's service to groups of

young people from

colleges. Any schools

arrange visits should

complete an application form to: The

Museum, Haddenham,

Cambs CB6 3XB.

The museum is housed

in a building which now covers the

site of No. 50 High Street.

The original building -

which is used for natural

history, geology and archaeology,

is specially arranged to appeal to

children.

There are other sections devoted

to the production, processing and

retailing of milk; domestic equip-

ment; farm tools and implements,

rural crafts and local history. A

blacksmith's forge and wheel-

wright's shop have been carefully re-

constructed from old materials.

The newest of the museum's

buildings has been designed to allow

visitors in wheelchairs to enter and

move around easily.

More than £3900 has been raised

by the museum for handicapped

children since 1969 and in that time,

35,000 visitors have passed through

its doors.

LADA NEWS SEPT.

Trying time for museum's star visitor



Mr Merry with his poker.

393181-9

A grandfather, Mr Derek Merry, thought he was in for a ticking off at the very least when he paid his first visit to the Haddenham Farmland Museum near Ely.

As he walked up to buy his ticket it was obvious he was a marked man. Several people surrounded him and asked the ticket seller: "Is this the man?"

Convinced he had done something wrong, Mr Merry, of 4 Akeman Street, Cambridge, began offering apologies for whatever sin he might have committed - but his worry turned to relief.

Instead of running into trouble, he was put in the limelight instead - as the museum's 40,000th visitor.

The museum had been counting the numbers of people passing through and had decided to mark the 40,000th with a special presentation.

"I thought I was really in trouble. As I bought my ticket a big bearded bloke stepped up with some other people and said: "Is this the man? and I was convinced I had done something wrong," said Mr Merry.

"I didn't know if I was going to be arrested, told off for not parking in the right place, or what."

In fact the owners of the farmland museum gave Mr Merry a specially-made poker, hand-crafted in the museum's blacksmith's shop, and a souvenir programme.

Mr Merry visited the museum with his wife, Sylvia, and his grand-daughter, Louise Clay, aged 10.

Not-so-rusty Trusty



rusty machines that have stood at the Haddenham Museum in a rather dilapidated and rusty condition for five years, took on a new look this week.

The work was done by 72 Squadrons of ATC cadets from Brampton for three days, renovating a Trusty

in Auto-Cato.

Most grateful for the help we received from the ATC is the third year they have spent time with us

to restore machinery," said the owner of the museum,

Warrant Officer Bob Ellis accompanied the

boys, who cleaned down the machines, removed the rust, and then primed and painted them.

"These are jobs that have been waiting a long time, we are so busy that there is not time to do everything we want to," said Mr Delaney.

"I am sure it is also rewarding for the boys, who see the machinery transformed from rusty metal objects back to their former glory."

● Pictured hard at work on the Trusty Tractor are Warrant Officer Elliot, Cadet John Wilkins, Cadet Chris Pratt, and Cadet Flight Sergeant Colin Jarvis (Photo: Nick Lyons).

Sept Oct. Ely We

August - by Alayne

From - Anglia Farmer & Contractor March 1984.

Country Living ... for the farming family

At first glance, No. 50 High Street, Haddenham, near Ely, looks an ordinary enough family home. A closer look, however, reveals that there is rather more to it than that. At the front of the house is a sign announcing *The Farmland Museum*. And thereby hangs an interesting tale.

In the summer of 1969 the long, narrow acre of back garden at No. 50 (originally the paddock of the farm next door) was ploughed. This process turned up some long-buried debris — fragments of willow-pattern pottery, broken pieces of clay pipe, pigs' teeth, and the like.

To Craig Delaney, the small boy who followed the plough that summer, these fragments represented treasure which he carefully collected, washed and then displayed in cardboard boxes in his room. He then announced to the rest of his family at No. 50 that they might view his small "museum" on payment of a modest fee, and that any money raised would go to help children "who couldn't see and couldn't walk".

Gradually, the early family visitors increased to include neighbours, friends, and people from further afield. One of these donated her own collection of Bahamian shells to the young curator, and other gifts followed — Roman pottery sherds, fossils and Fen farming items among them in due course. When the collection grew too big for a child's bedroom, it was moved outside to a former tool shed in the garden.

Many people donated exhibits, among them local villagers who knew Craig's mother (she grew up on the farm next door), and her interest in old farm machinery. Hundreds of people have now given items to the museum, which has become a focal point of Haddenham and aroused much local support.

Today, the *Farmland Museum*, attracts thousands of visitors annually, its collection occupying several buildings and the entire garden of No. 50 High Street. The museum has become nationally recognised as an important and significant rural collection, its wide scope covering natural history, agriculture, rural

Museum in the back garden

June Shepherd visits the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, Cambridge

crafts, pastimes and the domestic scene. In particular, its fascinating assembly of horsedrawn agricultural Fen farming implements is regarded as being among the most comprehensive such collections in the country.

The original aim of helping handicapped children has been preserved. The first viewing of a small boy's treasures in 1969 raised just £1, which was sent to a local home for handicapped children. Since then, the sum raised for a wide variety of children's charities amounts to more than £6,300.

Craig Delaney is now grown up, but the museum continues to welcome visitors. To date, these number more than 48,000 people, who have come from all over the world, visiting the museum either on its official opening day on the first Sunday afternoon of each month throughout the year, or in groups at other times by appointment.

"We have visitors from the Falkland Islands, Alaska, Australia, lots from the USA", explained Lorna Delaney, Craig's mother who, together with her design engineer husband and three sons, is still intimately concerned with the day-to-day running of the museum. "Last year, one lady came here from the USSR, during her first trip to England. She spoke no English, but explained to me through her granddaughter that she recognised several of the items for hand-grinding corn and beet, as similar ones are still used in parts of the village where she lives.

Little is visible on approaching the museum — the collection is kept behind the house, in the long garden where an amazing amount is displayed in a comparatively small space. Several buildings, all put up by volunteer labour and including some rebuilt from

local houses donated to the museum by supporters, house a miscellany of bygones.

A timber shed is a reconstructed blacksmith's and wheelwright's shop, complete with authentic dirt floor and brick-built forge, while other buildings house representative displaying on farming, coopering, flint-knapping, corn dolly-making, dairying, basket-making and a host of other categories featuring items as diverse as pig prodders and pegged rags, tooth rasps and the old door from Ely goal.

The outdoor display of some 75 farming implements, arranged between trees in a long avenue, includes many horsedrawn ones, and even a small man-pulled plough once used in the light Fen soil around Wisbech. "Listening Posts" of oral history bring the past vividly to life through

recordings to older villagers talking about their life and work.

We were unable to persuade Crag or his family to be photographed for this article, as they are at pains to point out that the museum is no longer a one-family venture.

"We ran it for about ten years on our own, but it grew too big", Lorna explained. "We tried to get help from both the district and county councils, but got no response. Then in 1980 we got financial backing from a local garage owner, Bert Iderson, and Lada Cars in Yorkshire. A body of official trustees has now been formed to manage, finance and develop the museum. The trust is headed by Clement Freud, MP, who has given us great support. Were it not for him, the museum wouldn't still be in existence today."

● Before taking my leave, I was asked to pass on a request to readers of *Anglia Farmer*. The Farmland Museum has been searching for years for some horsegear — the gearing mechanism controlling the circular movement of a horse working a corn-grinding or rootcutting process. If any reader has some of this gear and would be willing to let the museum have it, would they please contact Lorna Delaney.

Opening times and events

The Farmland Museum is open on the first Sunday of every month throughout the year from 2.00 p.m., when a wide variety of events by artists, craftspeople and musicians is presented. Visits can be made at other times by special appointment — school visits welcomed, quiz sheets provided. (50 High Street, Haddenham, Cambs, CB6 3XB. Tel: Ely (0353) 740381.)

1984 Sunday events (proceeds to a different charity each month):

- March 4: Vintage Wireless Collection.
- April 1: Not yet decided.
- May 6: Blossoms and Bygones — Village Open Day, local apple orchards open, etc.
- June 3: Local Artists.
- July 1: PTA Fete.
- August 5: Musical Afternoon.
- September 2: Wildfowling and Other Countryside Sports.
- October 7: Fairground Organ (Proceeds to Dr. Barnardos).
- November 4: Heavy Sugar beet Competition (Proceeds to Elysian) Riding the Disabled).
- December 2: Tape Time (Oral History Tapes).



● Museum helper Bill Farthing checks a chaff cutter.



● The outdoor display of farming equipment includes many horsedrawn implements even one pulled by a man.

A suggestion that the Haddenham Farmland Museum should move to the disused village hall has got the owners really puzzled. — PAGE 12.

'Phantom' school puzzles museum

A suggestion that the Haddenham Farmland Museum should move to the disused village school is puzzling Mr. Michael Delaney, who runs the museum with his wife and three sons.

The suggestion, made by East Cambridgeshire District Council's Leisure and Amenities Committee, comes in reply to a plea, to Mr. Delaney that the museum, at present housed in three buildings in his back garden, should be exempt from rates.

But Mr. Delaney says that he knows of no empty school in the village. The only former school in Haddenham, the old Robert Arkerston School, is now being used as a village centre.

The museum was started six years ago by one of the Delaney children to raise money for deprived children.

It is run as a voluntary basis and can only be opened to the public once a month.

Until this year the museum buildings had not been rated.

The council has suggested that rates could be waived if Mr. Delaney agreed to let the museum into a separate trust organisation. But that scheme was not acceptable to Mr.

Just don't ask how . . .

Haddenham's Farm Museum seems to have got over its rating problems — but we don't know exactly how.

The privately-owned museum, run by the Delaney family, asked for their rates burden to be lifted, or they would be in danger of closing down.

On Tuesday Chief Executive Mr. Trevor Hardy reported the latest position to the District Development Committee. He said: "We have been in touch with Mr. Delaney and the Valuation Officer, and we have come to an arrangement that is mutually satisfactory. I would be grateful if you didn't press me on it."

Rating problem occupied much of the Spring 75.

HADDENHAM

SUPPORT THE LOCAL Silver Band by visiting the Farmland Museum, Sunday next, open 3 pm. Selections by the Band and refreshments.

Band News — As an "extra" to the usual monthly open days, the Delaney family will open the Farmland Museum next Sunday in support of the local Silver Band. The museum, plus all the outdoor display of farm implements and machinery of the past, will be open at 3 pm, and during the afternoon the band will play selections and refreshments will be served. The proceeds will go to band funds, helping with the upkeep of instruments and purchase of music.

HADDENHAM SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Well over 500 persons attended the recent open day at the Farmland Museum (kindly loaned by Mr. & Mrs. Delaney and family). Excellent musical entertainment was provided by the Haddenham Silver Band, and the local Hand-bell and Vocal Group. Amount raised for the Swimming Pool was £110; which greatly satisfied the committee and their willing helpers.

FARMLAND MUSEUM OPEN DAY RAISES OVER £100

More than £100 was raised at a special open day at the Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Proceeds will help provide a swimming pool at the village's Robert Arkerston's school.

Music was provided during the day by the Haddenham Silver Band and a handbell group. Demonstrations were given by a blacksmith and a wood turner.

Among the visitors was Mrs. Jill Ford, wife of the Ely MP, Mr. General Ford.

It was the day of the TABLE SAGA

On Sunday 22nd June, 1975, the Farmland Museum, Haddenham, was very kindly opened by Mr & Mrs Delaney and Sons, proceeds for the benefit of the P.T.A. Swimming Pool Fund. This was a very enjoyable afternoon and the weather was perfect, enabling everyone who attended (over 500) to be able to see various Craftsmen at work, hear the Haddenham Silver Band, Hand-bell Ringers, the Sired Sisters singing to the accompaniment of their own guitars, and to see the very interesting museum collection. Various sideshows, stalls, competitions, draw for a box of groceries (won by Mr Hopwood), and soft drinks, ices, sweets, teas, and cakes were served by the P.T.A. Committee Members. The profits amounted to £110.

History preserved -

Two families which have featured in the life of this village since the turn of the century, one the BETHELLS and BURKINPTS - their trades being carpenters and agricultural engineers.

During recent weeks Mr. Fred Bethell and Mr. Dick Burkitt have given tools, bygone and items of interest which belonged to their families for more years than they care to remember, to the Farmland Museum, for safe-keeping.

It will give visitors, especially Haddenham residents, much pleasure to see these local "treasures" on display instead of hidden away in sheds and barns.

Many people have enquired the date for the museum film - it is due to appear on Anglia at 7 p.m. on Thursday April 24th.

The two articles above were in Parish News.

From the Library Bulletin

1st Sunday each month

Farmland Museum, 50 High Street, Haddenham. Museum of Bygone, Natural History, Rural Crafts Shed, Cart Lodge, Farming Shed, Outdoor Displays. 2pm. to Dusk. All donations to Children's Charities.

HADDENHAM

Spent leisure time Friday evening at the Farmland Museum, supporting the Methodist Senior Evening Sale. Stalls, Competitions, Refreshments, Opened 7.30.

Ladies Day - The monthly Open Day at the Farmland Museum was Ladies Day as far as the womenfolk were concerned. Sunday takings were donated to the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies and work among young blind people. In spite of the intense heat, no less than 290 people visited the museum, where the Delaney family were waiting to welcome visitors from far and near. Around the summer house were examples of patchwork, hand-knitting and crochet, while Mrs V Marshall displayed her skill with crochet hook, and displayed paintings, pewter and pebble polishing. Many young people were fascinated by the art of lace-making as demonstrated by Mrs P. Tebbitt, formerly of Haddenham. A craft which can be easily tucked in a handbag and pursued at leisure is tatting, and two fine shuttle lace edgings were demonstrated by Mrs R. F. Bethell, together with specimens of articles made in this craft. The expert weaving and spinning—demonstration given by Mrs F. Allen of Witchford provided fascinated attention of many visitors, together with examples of the woven cloth. In spite of the intense heat, Keith Patterson stoked the old forge, and John Fineman and Anthony Aloop kept their ancient engines running for visitors' benefit which, together with all the old farm machinery and the treasures of the museum building revived memories of other days. Mr & Mrs C. F. Better's competition calling for the identification of twelve domestic articles gave rise to some amusing speculations. Thirty-five competitors specified various appliances, the joint winners with nine correct answers being Mrs H. Markwell, Mr J. Riken (Somerset), and Mrs J. Haslock (London). The objects for identification were: rag rug pegger, knitting noodle sheath, beerwax, embroidery frame, hairpin crochet prong, soap holder, lampwick trimmer, sausage sizer, box iron bender, match holder and striker, vapouriser lamp, glove finger darning. During the afternoon refreshments and ices were served by Messrs H. Berry, S. Crofts and J. Griffiths. The financial takings for the Blind were £22.

Ely Standard August '75

CEN 'advert' Ladies' day at country museum

To coincide with Inter-related Women's Year the Haddenham Farmland Museum will be holding a ladies' day on Sunday.

The museum is normally open on the first Sunday of every month and features demonstrations of country crafts. This Sunday the demonstrators will be asked to wards women and will include spinning, weaving lace-making and tatting. There will also be a display of pewter articles made by a woman from the village.

The museum is run by the Delaney family independently of any local authority support. Money raised from the Ladies' Day will be given to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

SEPT. OPEN

Pottam

Notes

Silver + Gopper

Grand total

Berth from a Poete

Crippled Children - For the Farmland Museum, the past few months have been exceptionally active. Not only has the Museum plus numerous side attractions, been open on the first Sunday of each month, but extra open days have been sponsored in mid-month in support of local organisations. The proceeds from next Sunday's open day is for a less known but nevertheless deserving cause. Nothing can be more pathetic than a crippled child, unable through its disability to romp and play with other children. The National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases was founded in 1932, and has as its patron the Duke of Edinburgh. It was concerned a first with polio victims, but an extension of polio victims, by 1973 broadened to include a variety of crippling. There will be the added attraction of a poetry demonstration on Sunday plus the blacksmith at work plus some special displays.

Farm museum open day

The Farmland Museum, Haddenham, is holding an open day on Sunday in a bid to raise money for the charity Action Research for the Crippled Child.

Attractions will include team of peewee, string demonstration of their skil and the village blacksmith work.

10.30 to 3.0 pm - Action Research poetry demonstration, blacksmith display at Farmland Museum, Haddenham.

HADDENHAM

Spent tomorrow Friday evening at the Farmland Museum, supporting the Methodist Summer Evening Sale, Stalls Competitions, Refreshments, Open Day.

Ladies Day. - The monthly Open Day at the Farmland Museum was Ladies Day as far as demonstrations, exhibitions and a competition were concerned. Sunday takings were donated to the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies and work among young blind people. In spite of the intense heat, no less than 299 people visited the museum, where the Delaney family were waiting to welcome visitors from far and near. Around the summer house were examples of patchwork, hand-sewing and crochet, while Mrs V. Marhoff displayed her skill with crochet hook, and displayed paintings, pewter and pebble polishing. Many young people were fascinated by the art of lace-making as demonstrated by Mrs P. Tebbin, formerly of Bluntham. A craft which can be easily tucked in a handbag and pursued at leisure is tatting, and this fine shiraz lace edging was demonstrated by Mrs R.F. Benbell, together with specimens of articles made in this craft. The expert weaving and spinning demonstration given by Mrs F. Allen of Witchford provided fascinated attention of many visitors, together with examples of the woven cloth. In spite of the intense heat, Keith Patterson stoked the old forge, and John Freeman and Anthony Aloop kept their ancient engines running for visitors' benefit which, together with all the old farm machinery and the treasures of the museum building revived memories of other days. Mr & Mrs C.F. Bester's competition calling for the identification of twelve domestic articles gave rise to some amusing speculations. Thirty-five competitors specified various appliances, the joint winners with nine correct answers being Mrs B. Markwell, Mr J. Ribell (Somersham), and Mrs J. Hassock (London). The objects for identification were: rag rug pegger, knitting needle sheath, beeswax, embroidery frame, hairpin crochet proleg, soap holder, lampwick trimmer, sausage filler, box iron header, match holder and striker, vapouriser, lamp, glove finger darning. During the afternoon refreshments and teas were served by Mesdames H. Berry, S. Crofts and J. Griffiths. The financial takings for the blind were £62.

Ely Standard August '75

CEN 'advert'
Ladies' day
at country
museum

To coincide with International Women's Year the Haddenham Farmland Museum will be holding a ladies' day on Sunday.

The museum is normally open on the first Sunday of every month and features demonstrations of country crafts. This Sunday the demonstrations will be angled for women and will include spinning, weaving, lace-making and tatting. There will also be a display of pewter articles made by a woman from the village.

The museum is run by the Delaney family independently of any local authority support. Money raised from the ladies' day will be given to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Pottery
Notes — £29.00
Silver — 6.09 1/2
dGopper —
Grand total £35.09 1/2
Best wishes from all the Potters

Crippled Children. - For the Farmland Museum, the past few months have been exceptionally active. Not only has the Museum plus numerous side attractions, been open on the first Sunday of each month, but extra open days have been squeezed in mid-month in support of local organisations. The proceeds from next Sunday's open day is for a less known but nevertheless deserving cause. Nothing can be more pathetic than a crippled child, unable through its inability to romp and play as all children should. The National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases was founded in 1952, and has as its patron the Duke of Edinburgh. It was concerned at first with prevention, cure and treatment of poliomyelitis, but in 1958 broadened to include all aspects of crippling. There will be the added attraction of a pottery demonstration on Sunday, plus the blacksmith at work, plus some special displays.

Farm museum open day
The Farmland Museum at Haddenham is holding an open day on Sunday in a bid to raise money for the charity, Action Research for the Crippled Child.
Attractions will include a team of potters giving a demonstration of their skills and the village blacksmith at work.

3 pm to 5 pm — Action Research — pottery demonstrations, blacksmith's displays at Farmland Museum, Haddenham.

HADDENHAM FARMLAND MUSEUM
Monthly Open Day
Guides: Miss Doreen Barber, Mrs Pottery Demonstrations, Blacksmith's work, Special Displays, Proceeds: Action for Crippled Children. 46/5

Open Day. - A young lady from Japan used her charm in selling various items of pottery made by a pottery guild from Cambridge when they demonstrated their craft at the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon. The demonstration was organised by Mr E. Stockton and proved of real interest to the 280 visitors during the "open" period. As a result of the pottery stall £15 was included in the afternoon's financial result of £88, which has been sent to the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases in Children. With £12 having been sent earlier, the museum's contribution to this worthy cause is £100. As usual, visitors found the Delaney family ready to welcome and direct to special interests both in the museum itself, and among the ancient farm machinery. The blacksmith's forge drew its usual interested spectators as Mr Keith Patterson hammered away at his craft. Gate duty on Sunday was undertaken by Mrs B. Santilly and Mrs E. Dewey.

5,000 bricks needed for museum

THE Delaney family, which runs the farmland museum at Haddenham, near Ely, is on the lookout for bricks — 5,000 of them. "What we would really like is a building or a wall that we can knock down," said Mr Michael Delaney.

Mr. Delaney is searching for old Cambridgehire hand-made bricks to use in a new building for the museum, which is run from his back garden at 50 High Street, Haddenham. Already 8,000 bricks have been collected from old buildings, old cottages have been collected for the roof and even window frames have been given for the new building.

An additional £250 in cash donations has boosted the fund for the new building, which is being built entirely by voluntary labour.

In just two weekends the footings of the new building have been laid, and Mr. Delaney hopes bricklaying will start this weekend. The museum was started in 1959 by one of Mr. Delaney's sons, 10-year-old Craig, to raise money for children "who can't see and can't walk."

From Craig's shoe-box collection the museum has grown. It now occupies three sheds and includes an extensive outdoor display of horse-drawn farm implements.

So far, the museum has had 17,000 visitors and has raised £204 for various charities.

New exhibits are being offered to the family all the time and some sections of the museum are becoming a little overcrowded.

"The new building won't actually mean that we will be able to take more exhibits," said Mr. Delaney, "but it will help to give a higher standard of display." He intends to divide the building into sections displaying different themes and scenes. The new building will have facilities for temporary displays arranged by the village school. It will also feature the history of the Haddenham area.

This particular display will come almost up to date and will include a model of the now scrapped tracked hovercraft, which operated at nearby Earith.

ELY

The last 5,000 bricks to complete the Farmland Museum at Haddenham are on their way. —PAGE 11.

A phone call within an hour of the CEN being published resulted in a phone call from Schom & the third demolition job was underway!

Old bricks to finish museum extension

Work has started on demolishing a building that will provide the last 5,000 bricks needed for the building of an extension to the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, near Ely.

Mr. Mike Delaney, who runs the museum, has so far acquired 8,000 old Cambridgehire bricks for the display building at Haddenham. And on Saturday, he and his two sons, Craig and James, as well as friends, started to demolish an old corn barn in College Road, Schom.

The barn was given by the warden of the village college, Mr. Albert Lawrence, following an appeal for bricks in the "News."

The bricks will be transported to Haddenham where work by volunteers has already begun on the 35ft by 20ft museum, which will eventually house scenes from Victorian life.

Asked about Cambridgehire bricks for the museum, Mr. Delaney said: "It is nice to build in local brick. A museum building would look wrong built in a modern facing."



● Keen youngsters knock down, stack, clean and help transport 3,800 bricks from Soham to Haddenham.

Craig's museum just grows on

Six years ago a little boy walked into his home carrying a box of old farm tools and said: "Daddy, I'm going to start a museum."

On Saturday that same little boy was mixing cement and helping to erect a building to house the ever-increasing items of memorabilia.

For Craig Delaney's Haddenham Farmland Museum has just grown and grown.

Faced with the prospect of running out of room, the Delaney family - father Michael, Mrs Lorna Delaney, and sons Kevin (13), Craig and James (8) - and their band of helpers decided another building was needed.

Plans were drawn up and in an attempt to save building costs an appeal went out for bricks.

Mr Albert Lawrence, warden of Soham Village College, donated an outbuilding, and so did Mrs Carmichael and Mr Jack Hudson, both of Haddenham.

So during the past few weeks the helpers have been knocking

down the buildings and cleaning the 12,000 bricks they need.

"We wanted to build the 35 feet by 20 feet building with local bricks," explained Mr Delaney. "The response to our brick appeal was very good and we now have enough Cambridgeshire and Haddenham bricks."

With the bricks the Delaneys and their helpers are now erecting a shell and two professional bricklayers have donated their services "although other bricklayers would be made welcome."

Since the museum, which is non-profit making, was opened some 12 thousand visitors have passed through the gates and £982 has been raised for charity.

"The emphasis is raising money has always been on children and we like to get children involved in helping with the museum," explained Mr Delaney.

The new building will enable us to provide a higher standard of specialist displays. In one section we want to portray a history of Haddenham and district and already have a model of the tracked lovcraft."

But until these displays can be mounted the building will have to be completed... and that means plenty of voluntary hard work on Saturday mornings.



● Hard work now, but when the building is completed visitors will be able to enjoy even more exhibits at Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Extension set as museum's popularity booms

Haddenham Farmland Museum — which opened full-time in 1970 — is enjoying a boom in popularity.

In 1970 the museum, run on a voluntary basis by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Delaney and their three sons from the back gardens of their High Street home, had 300 visitors.

Last year 4,168 people visited the museum.

And in the past year it has raised £382 for charity — and its total charity takings from monthly open days, over the past five years, has been more than £1,000.

The exhibits include a large collection of farm implements. On open days, live demonstrations are given by a blacksmith and other country craftsmen.

As more exhibits are donated or loaned to the museum, the Delanays find themselves in need of more space to house the items.

An exhibition building, which has been constructed of old Cambridgeshire bricks collected from demolished buildings is nearing completion.

Mr. Delaney said that it was only thanks to the volunteer helpers and, particularly, Cambridge builder Keith Galward, that progress had been so rapid.

Work started on the building last summer and Mr. Delaney was prepared for a project which would last three years. Now the building is just waiting for the roof to be delivered before it can be completed. The building will house items relating directly to the history of the village.

"If there are no snags we are hoping to have it opened by June," said Mr. Delaney.

He said that he hoped to get a celebrity to open the new building.

Mr. Delaney's wife, Lorna, has recently been working on a 24-page booklet about the museum which is due to be published at the end of the month. It will cost 35p and will include illustrations and a brief history.

May Standard. Yellow with age from notice board

Farmland museum clocks up its 10,000th visitor

Although the dreary weather conditions of Sunday morning had a dampening effect on plans to make Haddenham's fourth Blossoms and Bygones event as successful as in past years, the sunny afternoon and evening brought cheer to the organisers, as approximately 850 visitors turned a quiet village Sunday afternoon and evening into something very much alive.

The farmland Museum, open by invitation of the Delaney family, had an all-time record attendance of 718. Mr David Scott of Burwell found himself to be the ten thousandth visitor, and to his delight was presented with a small souvenir by the museum founder, Craig Delaney.

Having spread its fame by an appearance on Anglia's TV programme "Bygones", few visitors missed a call at the museum, where they saw the first pieces of pottery collected by Craig, and a collection of utensils, coins, etc. from the past.

Among the exhibition of farm implements, the nostalgic smell of the forge being worked by blacksmith Keith Patterson brought back memories of a bygone age, while old type engines ticked over, having been enthusiastically nurtured during the week by teenager Anthony Alsop.

Mr C. F. Bester exhibited his collection of treasures dug up in the district, including a complete Roman jug, and a new feature was the display of old photographs by Mr R. F. Bethel, many taken on his old-type camera of 50 years ago.

From the museum many peo-

ple made their way to the well-planted apple orchards of Mr Robert Norman, where the blossom was at its best, and riding through avenues of scented bloom amid the song of the birds made a pleasant interlude in a noisy world.

Also in the orchard, and sharing her pony with other youngsters, was Carolyn Everitt, adding to their enjoyment as well as supporting the day's takings.

The beautifully preserved 17th century Forch House, opened for the occasion by Mr and Mrs C. Maude, drew many visitors, who at one time were queuing to hear its history from the owners as they moved from room to room.

Next in the realm of ancient buildings was the lovely old 13th century parish church, where the Archdeacon and Mrs Fox were waiting to reveal some of its treasures. A climb to the tower gave visitors a fine view of this village on a hill, with distant fields and orchards looking at their best.

Transport from the Arkenstall Centre to Madingley House was part of the service, and here Mr Ian Slade opened for the first time his museum of vintage motor cycles and cars.

The workmanship of earlier days was particularly emphasised in a number of Sunbeam motor cycles and the amazing preservation of a 1928 Sunbeam car formerly featured in a Moccambe and Wise film.

The envy of many visitors was the cream 1931 Austin Swallow two-seater racing car, with hard top, while a 1924 Trojan model, the only car to be consistently advertised in the Church Times, and consequently sold to many clergymen — its top speed being 38 mph — was on view. The 1914 bicycle appeared high in comparison with today's cycles.

Attractively mounted and displayed were 24 reproductions of oil paintings of cars in a series entitled "Endless quest for speed", showing models dating from 1898. Also on display was a fine collection of cigarette cards, collected for their information on cars.

Having made a tour of the five "open" places, visitors were able to enjoy a leisurely tea in the Arkenstall Village Centre, served by the ladies' catering committee.

Proceeds from the weekend activities will go towards clearing the debt on the Arkenstall Centre.

December Standard

Farmland Museum — Being the first Sunday of the month, the museum was again open. As in past years the money raised in December has been sent to help buy Christmas presents for the mentally ill children at the Ida Darwin Hospital School, where local resident Mr Bert Santilly is Deputy Headmaster. This Sunday's contribution was £15. Signatures in the visitors' book for 1975 show that the museum has been seen by people from Norway, Finland, Yugoslavia, Japan, Sweden, Spain, and, a little nearer home, the Orkneys.

FARMLAND MUSEUM OPEN DAY RAISES OVER £100

More than £100 was raised at a special open day at the Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Proceeds will help provide a swimming pool at the village's Robert Arkenstall school.

Music was provided during the day by the Haddenham Silver Band and a handbell group. Demonstrations were given by a blacksmith and a wood turner.

Among the visitors was Mrs. Jill Freud, wife of the Ely MP, Mr. Clement Freud.

CEN for Open Day on June 22nd - The day the booklet script was completed.

Craig gets into print

When this youngster began collecting bits and pieces he found in the garden he little thought he was giving life to one of the most successful ventures in the area.

But that is exactly what he was doing — for the boy is Craig Delaney, and the venture he started was the Haddenham Farmland Museum.

Craig is now only 11, but it all began way back in 1969, when the Delanoy's garden was ploughed up for the first time in many years. From it Craig recovered bits of pottery, clay pipe fragments and pigs' teeth, which he washed and arranged neatly in cardboard boxes.

He then announced to his family that, on payment of a small fee, anyone could look at his "museum" collection. The money raised was to help children who "couldn't see and couldn't walk".

At first the results were small, only Craig's schoolmates parting with a copper or two for the privilege of admiring his collection. But slowly it grew, and slowly word got round, until now the museum has received no less than 13,124 visitors and collected £1,071 for children's charities.

Craig's story, along with a detailed survey in words and pictures of the objects to be found today at 50 High Street, Haddenham, is contained in a new publication, "Farmland Museum" — planned to be the first in a series about the museum.

MOTHER

The book was written by Craig's mother, Mrs Lorna Delaney, and is published from the Ely Resource and Technology Centre. The design is by Richard Laidis and the photographs are by Nigel Bloxham.

Each page contains descriptions and pictures of the interesting objects to be found in the museum, from old-fashioned bicycle lamps to sausage-making machinery.

Also in the booklet are two pages dedicated to two special rooms at the museum — the dairy and the blacksmith's shop. Photos of the dairy equipment

include churns, separators and butter pats. Mrs Delaney includes some very interesting observations about the Ely Buttermarket, where all the local farmers used to bring their surplus butter to sell, and where only the market cheese still survives the tradition.

SMITHY

The blacksmith's shop is where Keith Patterson displays the skills of smithery, and Mrs Delaney describes the way the museum "staff" and helpers worked together to get the smithy built. She talks about the machinery and the way the blacksmith and wheelwright worked together, explaining why the museum has chosen to exhibit the tools of both these trades together.

Mrs Delaney ends her booklet with a piece about the future of the museum, telling how work on the fourth building in the garden is under way, and how it is hoped the museum will continue to help children's charities.

Perhaps when the museum acquires one of the old "Cambridgeshire" road signs, one misunderstanding might be cleared up. For Mrs Delaney relates the incident when two visitors were looking at the collection of county signs, including Huntingdonshire, the Isle of Ely and the Soke of Peterborough.

One elderly lady commented to the other how remarkable it was that all three counties should meet in the garden!

When the museum can get hold of the old Cambridgeshire sign, they hope to make the shrub bed in which the signs are situated into the approximate shape of the new-woop Cambridgeshire.

● The booklet is available at the museum at 55p, or by post at 45p.



Book reviews from Life Magazine
Farmer's Weekly etc. still on notice
board

Farmland museum has atomic glass

The Farmland Museum at Haddenham continues to receive interesting exhibits, and through the interest and generosity of Professor O R Frisch of Trinity College, Cambridge, it now has a specimen of atomic glass from the Alamogorda desert, New Mexico, where the first atomic bomb was exploded on July 16th, 1945.

The heat from the explosion caused the desert sand to melt, and it solidified into a layer of greenish glass.

Dr Frisch, who is a noted nuclear physicist, stated that the exhibit is completely safe, as all radioactivity in the deposit has ceased.

Another interesting exhibit received in the past week is an old inn-sign which for many years hung outside the house, in Haddenham High-street, until recently occupied by the late Miss Evelyn Fitch.

The house was known as The Coopers Arms and the sign, in an excellent state of preservation, has been hung in the corner where the local wine and spirit jars and bottles are exhibited. This exhibit was generously donated by Mrs Margery Elsdon of Stretham.

The Delaney brothers, the curators of the museum, will be interested if older residents can give any information about the date when the Coopers Arms was closed as a public house.

Standard
March 74

An old B & B photo
from noticeboard



James Delaney hands up the string to his brother Kevin securing bedding at their farmland museum from the precocious perch of one of the exhibits — a cattle-cake levaker made by Wilkinson and Son of Ey. (Pic here: Nigel Blodham).

Rates Standard threat to charity museum

Feb. 75

A WARNING that Haddenham Farming Museum might be forced to close down if the buildings are rated has come from the museums's owner Mr Michael Delaney.

At the moment Mr Delaney, who runs the museum with his wife Lorna and three sons, is having talks with district council officials and together they are trying to solve the rates problem.

The museum has never paid rates since the Delanays began it in 1969 as a way of raising money for handicapped children. In the six years since then 9,000 people from all over the country have visited, the museum and some £700 has been raised for charity. The exhibits now fill three buildings at the Delaney's home and it was the plan to open a fourth building that brought the rates question to a head.

"We wanted to open a fourth building with small rooms showing the layout of a nineteenth century house and with an area devoted to the industrial history of Haddenham", said Mr Delaney. "We already have offers of bricks and tiles to make the building but I made a few enquiries before I put in for planning permission and that's when the rates thing started."

TROUBLE

"You see the trouble is that we never set out to make a museum. It just really started from a child's collection of pottery and everything has happened from there. No-one has ever been paid for doing anything and all our money has gone to charity so we just haven't any funds to pay rates."

The question could be settled if the museum was run as a charity or trust but for the Delanays finally that would create more problems than it would solve.

"It just would be impracticable", said Mr Delaney. "All the buildings would have to be made over to the charity, they wouldn't belong to the family anymore, which wouldn't really be fair on them if I died tomorrow."

IMPORTANT

Whether the council decide that the museum should pay rates or not Mr Delaney is determined that the decision should be made by someone who has seen the museum at work and realises just how important it is to the community.

"If someone takes the trouble to have a look round and see what we're doing but still decides to rate the buildings they can at least justify their decision", said Mr Delaney. "I wouldn't like to think that the decision was taken by someone sitting in an office who had never even bothered to visit us."

JUNE '75

WYTON EYE

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE. The opening hours of the Fitzwilliam Museum have been altered and we thought you might like to know the new times. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 2.15 p.m. — 5 p.m. The museum is closed every Monday, except on Summer Bank Holiday Monday. It is also closed, in common with most other museums, on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

FARMLAND MUSEUM AT HADDENHAM. open on the first Sunday of every month and on other special open days. This is a museum in Delanays' back garden — an acre of it — begun by one of his young sons. Now it has grown enormously and regular visits are made by demonstrating blacksmiths, wheelwrights, thatchers, makers of corn dollies, etc., all of which would fascinate children and adults as well. They are, I was told, having financial problems in that the museum is run by the family purely for the interest of visitors. The only form of income comes from donations made on the spot and Michael Delaney is spending more time than he can afford from his business showing people round the museum. It seems a shame that such initiative can sour when the money side becomes impossible. Do visit and any suggestions as to how the place can be run without costing the visitors and Michael Delaney money would be more than welcomed.

This caused quite
a stir in local
Government circles
Trevor Hardy came
out

THR

Dave visits the Delanoys

Comedian Dave Allen spent a day of serious filming at the Fenland Museum, Haddenham, on Tuesday.

The A.T.V. film will form part of a documentary series of unusual happenings up and down the country.

Dave Allen claimed to 11-year-old Craig Delaney who founded the museum when he was six and they are pictured with Craig's brother, Kevin, on a 70-year-old timber cart.

Mr Allen arrived at Haddenham with his film crew, ready for a morning of work... he stayed all day!

This was hardly surprising as

he had plenty to keep himself occupied. Three local craftsmen were displaying their skills as a blacksmith, a rath weaver and a lace maker.

A fund comprising local school children also added to the local flavour of the event.

Friday's sunny spells attracted over 100 people to the museum's open day and this enabled a donation of £15 to be made to the Cambridge branch of the Civic Fibres Research Trust.

It is expected that the documentary of the business will be screened in the New Year.

A very enjoyable day was spent with A.T.V. camera crew, Dave Allen, Brian Halls & the gang — not to mention Elliott K and the ladies.



Dave Allen drops in on fenland museum—and meets boy founder



Dave Allen chats to Craig Delaney during the filming.

9207611

A quick morning's visit by comedian Dave Allen and a television crew to the Haddenham Fenland Museum, near Ely, yesterday unexpectedly became a full day's filming.

The original plan by the crew was to feature the museum in a six-minute slot for a half-hour documentary programme.

But when they arrived

seen to London and deli-

May 2nd

May 9th 1976

Farmland Museum — Proceeds from the first Sunday in the month Open Day benefited "Save the Children" fund by O.T. Visitors numbering 215 came from far and near, including the Australian family now living in London, who for nearly a year lived in the village. Mr & Mrs Bowler, and family were happy to meet friends in the village before returning to Australia this month. Demonstrating the art of making corn dollies for the last time before returning to America was Mr B Levill, who also exhibited examples of traditional corn dollies relating to a number of countries. The faithful Mackintosh, Mr Keith Patterson, again demonstrated at his forge, while Mr Peter Gimbert and James Delaney sold "oddments". A bookstall was managed by Craig Delaney and Jonathan Reed, and assistance at the gate was given by Anthony Dewey. On the first Sunday in June the proceeds will go to the NSPCC fund.



● A group of visitors being shown some of the features of the historic Porch House in Hillow.

Blossoms day attracts 900

Never were blossoms more attractive than on Sunday, while bygones, whether of a farming or household nature, or vintage cars and motor-cycles, drew nearly 900 people to Haddenham for the 1976 "Blossoms & Bygones" day.

Most visitors began their tour at the Farmland Museum, where they saw the many exhibits collected since the project began as a few small pieces of pottery. The memories brought back to older visitors were heightened by the nostalgic smell of the blacksmith's forge being operated by Mr Keith Patterson.

Leaving the museum, many visitors made their way down to Mr Robert Norman's orchard in

Aldreth Road, where three tractor-awarded passengers for a tour round the apple trees in full bloom.

Every visitor taking the ride enjoyed a glimpse of the lovely old cottage and garden on the edge of the orchard, while its owner, Mr Arthur Norman, enjoyed a chat with other callers. For the children there were pony rides in the orchard with Carolyn Everett and her brother in charge.

Next call for many was the 17th century Porch House, where Mr and Mrs Manley showed groups of visitors around their historic home, giving interesting information on its structure and a detector.

Coming back into the village from Hillow, a visit to the Parish Church provided a cool and restful interlude on a hot afternoon. Here old records were on display, and younger visitors were able to climb the tower, where a view of the surrounding countryside was superb.

Walking down the hill from the church, a visit to Mr Ian Slade's collection of vintage cars and motorcycles was a "must" for enthusiasts. The collection was started 36 years ago with the object of preserving and restoring machines which might otherwise have fallen into complete disintegration.

Youngsters also found a collection of over 100 Dinky Toys, which held their fascinated while and studied the Rolls.

COOL

Although "Blossoms and Bygones" has had a four year run, the garden and house of Mr Nicholas Guppy was open to the public for the first time. On entering, visitors found refreshment in the form of coolness of water mauling its way down to the large lake. Cowslips, not seen by many visitors since their childhood, mingled with other wildflowers, while the occasional displays, colorful plants and foliage.

At the Arkenshall Village Centre the ladies' catering committee served tea at reasonable prices, a facility much appreciated by the visitors.



● Dreams of glory for the Edgeley brothers of 4 High Street, Haddenham, as they mount this Sunbeam forming part of Mr Ian Slade's vintage collection.

June 6th

NSPCC — One of the most delightful spots to be found on Sunday afternoon was at the Farmland Museum, where warm sunshine made it possible for people to relax on grass, children could run barefoot and trees provided shade for those who found the sudden burst of summer too much. This was the opinion of 295 visitors, who by their entrance fee benefited the NSPCC by £49. A bonus to the pleasant surroundings was the music supplied by the Haddenham Silver Band, conducted by Bandmaster Peter Mott. Being used for the first time was the new bandstand, and from this, the music of marches, waltzes and familiar selections including hymn tunes, could be heard to great advantage. All the Delaney family were on hand to welcome visitors, who found much of interest, whether historical, domestic or agricultural machinery of the past. The new building will be officially opened on Saturday, and there will be an opportunity for Haddenham people and their friends to look around during the evening from 7 to 9 pm. The section covering the history of Haddenham and district should be of particular interest to local residents. Next month's Open Day will be in aid of Muscular Dystrophy.

DAVE ALLEN

1,000 at 'blossoms' day

About 1,000 people visited Haddenham yesterday for the village's annual "Blossoms and Bygones" open day.

The event was started about six years ago to raise money for the Arkenshall Village Centre.

At the weekend £250 was raised to help pay for the upkeep of the centre and to meet loan charges on the building.

The village's Farmland Museum was open to the public, as were a number of other private houses including the 17th century Porch House at Hill Row.

Visitors to the village were also able to take tractor rides around Mr. Robert Norman's orchard.

County Commentary

by

The Mid-Anglian

came to light and were eagerly collected and washed by the Delanoys' young son. Other items were added to the collection and it was not long before they had to be moved from the bedroom. A shed had its old lawnmower and other paraphernalia moved out to make way for what then became known as the Museum.

The child then decided that parents, friends and relations should pay to visit the Museum and that the money should go to children who could neither see nor walk. They were required to sign their names in a book and the excitement was great when the address was NOT Haddenham.

As soon as a sign was put over the door of the shed which said simply, in the delightfully uncomplicated way that children have, "The Museum" friends and acquaintances started to bring old bits and pieces for inclusion. That was how the piece of real Roman pottery was acquired.

The entire garden is now used to display the old farm implements and machinery which have been given. The number of helpers has grown and grown and the Museum is now open on the first Sunday in every month from 2 p.m. till dusk. A specific charge is made and the money goes to various children's charities, particularly local ones, who have benefited by hundreds of pounds over the last few years.

The Museum is run as professionally as possible with all the agricultural items being catalogued. This is important, the Delanoys feel, because the collection of farm implements is the only one which specialises in the Fens. For example they have some interesting items relating to the growing of celery. There is also a happy relationship with the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading and the East Anglian Museum at Stowmarket. Records are kept at both Museums of all the items at Haddenham and the staff at Reading and Stowmarket are

always keen to help in any way they can.

Keeping the items in a good state of repair takes much time. Woodworm in the wooden parts of tools has to be treated and cured. Mould on leather has to be dealt with and rust needs to be kept under control. The removal of cobwebs and dust in the sheds is perhaps the most time consuming thing.

Last year work started on a fourth shed in the garden which means that the original building can now be given over to Natural History displays. Part of the new building will be reserved entirely for Haddenham, its industry and communications.

What has delighted the Delanoys is the tremendous amount of help that has voluntarily been given in time and skills. Not only time, for over three hundred people have given items which are now housed and cared for in the Museum.

Demonstrations of skills by craftsmen take place on some of the open days. Brass bands play, including Haddenham's own Silver Band. A hand bell group also give displays.

The fascinating booklet can be obtained from the Farmland Museum at 35p or by post at 45p.

The Farmland Museum. A new booklet

Michael Delaney rang to tell me that the Ely Resource and Technology Centre have recently published a booklet entitled "The Farmland Museum". Written by Lorna Delaney (Michael's wife) it tells the remarkable story of the growth of the Museum from the humble beginnings of the collection of bygonees that had been put together by the Delanoys' young son.

In the Summer of 1969 the garden of 50, High Street, Haddenham was ploughed up for the first time for many a year. Old pieces of broken china

Book reviews -
Life - March
Ely Standard

(xii) *Farmer Weekly*, April 23, 1976

BOOK REVIEW

History in the backyard

THE FARMLAND Museum, run by members of the Delaney family in their back garden at 50 High Street, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, has produced its first brochure.

The booklet tells how the collection was started with pottery fragments, pigs' teeth and old pieces of clay pipes brought to the surface when the garden was ploughed in 1969.

Today the museum has its own authentic wheelwright's shop and smithy, carts, ploughs, drills and all the equipment for country life as it used to be in the field and in the home. The interest and gifts of today's fen folk have helped in the compilation of a living "library" of information on the area's history. It has attracted thousands of visitors and raised hundreds of pounds for children's charities.

Appetite-whetting details are in *Farmland Museum* by Lorna Delaney; published by EARO, Ely Resource and Technology Centre; 35p (or 45p by post from the Farmland Museum).

Craig gets into print

When this youngster began collecting bits and pieces he found in the garden he little thought he was giving life to one of the most successful ventures in the area.

But that is exactly what he was doing — for the boy is Craig Delaney, and the venture he started was the Haddenham Farm and Museum.

Craig is now eight years old and has been collecting since he began to walk. His collection includes churns, separators and butter pats, Mrs Delaney says. It also includes some very interesting observations about the Ely Buttermarket, where all the local farmers used to bring their surplus butter to sell, and where only the market cheese stall survives the tradition.

SMITHY

The blacksmith's shop is where Keith Patterson displays the skills of smithery, and Mrs Delaney describes the way the museum "stuff" and helps worked together to get the smithy built. She talks about the machinery and the way the blacksmith and wheelwright worked together, explaining why the museum has chosen to exhibit the tools of both these trades together.

Mrs Delaney ends her booklet with a piece about the future of the museum, telling how work on the fourth building in the garden is under way, and how it is hoped the museum will continue to help children's charities.

Perhaps when the museum acquires one of the old "Cambridgeshire" road signs, one misunderstanding might be cleared up. For Mrs Delaney relates the incident when two visitors were looking at the collection of county signs, including Huntingdonshire, the Isle of Ely and the Soke of Peterborough.

One elderly lady commented so the other how remarkable it was that all three counties should meet in the garden!

When the museum can get hold of the old Cambridgeshire sign, they hope to make the shrub bed in which the sign is situated into the approximate shape of the new large Cambridgeshire.

The booklet is available at the museum at 35p, or by post at 45p.

MOTHER

The book was written by Craig's mother, Mrs Loena Delaney, and is published from the Ely Resource and Technology Centre. The design is by Richard Ladds and the photographs are by Nigel Bosham.

Each page contains descriptions and pictures of the interesting objects to be found in the museum, from old-fashioned bicycle lamps to sausage-making machinery.

Also in the booklet are two pages dedicated to two special rooms at the museum — the dairy and the blacksmith's shop. Photos of the dairy equipment



Doctor Calver arrived one evening when M. was out walking + J & L were at Witcham

Borehole yields specimens for Haddenham big day

Specimens from a borehole drilled by the Institute of Geological Sciences in 1970 will be on show at Haddenham's open day on July 18th in connection with the Cambridge Festival.

The borehole was drilled at Chewels Lane, Haddenham, in anticipation that the experiment would provide a key to the Upper Jurassic sequences in the Midlands and East Anglia.

The borehole passed through the lower greensand, Kimmeridge clay, Angithy clay, Elsworth rock and Oxford clay to a depth of 253 feet (77.12 metres).

On Friday Dr Calver, Chief Palaeontologist of the Institute, visited Haddenham and presented the specimens to the geological section of the Farmland Museum.

In addition to these local exhibits Dr Calver also donated several remarkable specimens of fossils from the coal seams in the north of England, which will also be on view.

Another fascinating item which will be on show in the museum, both on this month's open day and for the future, is a model steam engine and threshing drum made by the late Mr Harold Cooper of Willingham.

Mr Cooper spent many spare hours in constructing the model — as accurate and complete working engine in miniature — and it gave him great pleasure to exhibit it at several past open days at Haddenham.

On Mr Cooper's sudden death last November his widow decided that the Farmland Museum would be the best place where her husband's masterpiece could be preserved, and when it goes on show it will bear a small brass plate showing it was donated in Mr Cooper's memory.

away he showed me
and a day before the
hatched lardley cudy-f
three men went in an
satisfied so they wen
the gards went and
the chimney and are
him later the other

Back-garden museum, a glorious collection

FAMILY
OUTING to
Haddenham
Farmland
Museum

YOU HAVE to own a remarkable back garden to persuade more than 10,000 people to pay to see what's in it.

But having been intrigued by the stories I'd read about Haddenham Farmland Museum, I was happy to part with 15p for the privilege of browsing around Mr. Michael Delaney's lawn at 50 High Street, Haddenham.

The three sheds and the lawn on which they stand, hold a fascinating collection of antiquated agricultural machinery and natural history exhibits. It is rated highly enough by Reading University to warrant cataloguing and lowly enough by one county councillor to qualify as "a glorified junk shop."

Last Sunday, the museum was glorified with the hot weather but it was certainly

By John Gaskell

no junk shop. The garden was so spruce that those of us with cigarette stumps searched around in embarrassment for a suitable dumping spot.

The greatest attraction the museum had for me, was not

the exhibits so much as the history of the museum itself.

Just seven years ago, a four-year-old boy decided that his pot-pourri collection of garden debris—pigs teeth, bits of pottery and fragments of clay pipes—would be a "museum collection" which could be seen by his family, friends and neighbours for a small fee.

The money, he announced engagingly, would be given to children who "... can't see and can't walk."

Everyone joined in the spirit of the thing and soon boosted the size of the collection with all sorts of donations: real Roman pottery sherds and a double baking dish included.

The collection spilled over on to a table in the garden shed and as more and more gifts were received a little boy's pie-in-the-sky enthusiastic daydreaming gradually matured into a real-life achievement and put Haddenham on the academics' map.

For those who have any interest in agricultural machinery or who have worked on a farm, the museum is a powerful magnet which will draw them back down memory lane and have them drooling in nostalgia.

Others have to work harder at enjoying it. The handbook (35p) is helpful in understanding what's what, although the numbering of the captions is confusing.

The section containing harrows, ploughs and other horse drawn instruments is poorly labelled. Do we take it for granted that two tools

The Museum began as a small boys collection of bits and pieces in August 1969. Money raised was to be given to children who can't see and can't walk. Peoples Kindness has resulted in an ever-growing collection of by-gones and things of interest. All donations are given to Childrens Charities.

identical in appearance to the untrained eye are the same, or is there some subtle difference we should be looking for?

The shed housing the blacksmith's and wheelwright's shops captures the imagination more. It is a fine example of what can be done with co-operation from willing helpers who supplied wood, tiles, a lathe, bellows and free labour to enable the shop to be built for just over £70.

Usually a local blacksmith is present giving demonstrations and turning out hand-forged ironwork which can be bought quite cheaply.

Instead, we enjoyed a demonstration of lacemaking by hand, an old rural craft which is returning to popularity.

The exhibition of rural crafts and the dairy were interesting enough but again suffered from a lack of labelling, a great pity because there were fascinating objects crying out to be explained.

The exhibition of by-gones includes old irons, kettles, a dolly tub, a mangle and even

a sausage making machine which until the 1960's was loaned to villagers on the day their pig was killed.

I would have been happier to have been the objects in use with perhaps a family in period dress, going about the daily chores in a mocked-up kitchen. But that would no doubt create problems of storage for the rest of the exhibits.

The exhibition of natural history seemed slightly incongruous but well worth seeing. And here the labelling was better.

On a hot sunny Sunday with the village silver band shining on their special podium and the ladies from the NSPCC serving home-made ice creams, it was difficult to find fault with the serene little world inside the back garden of 50 High Street.

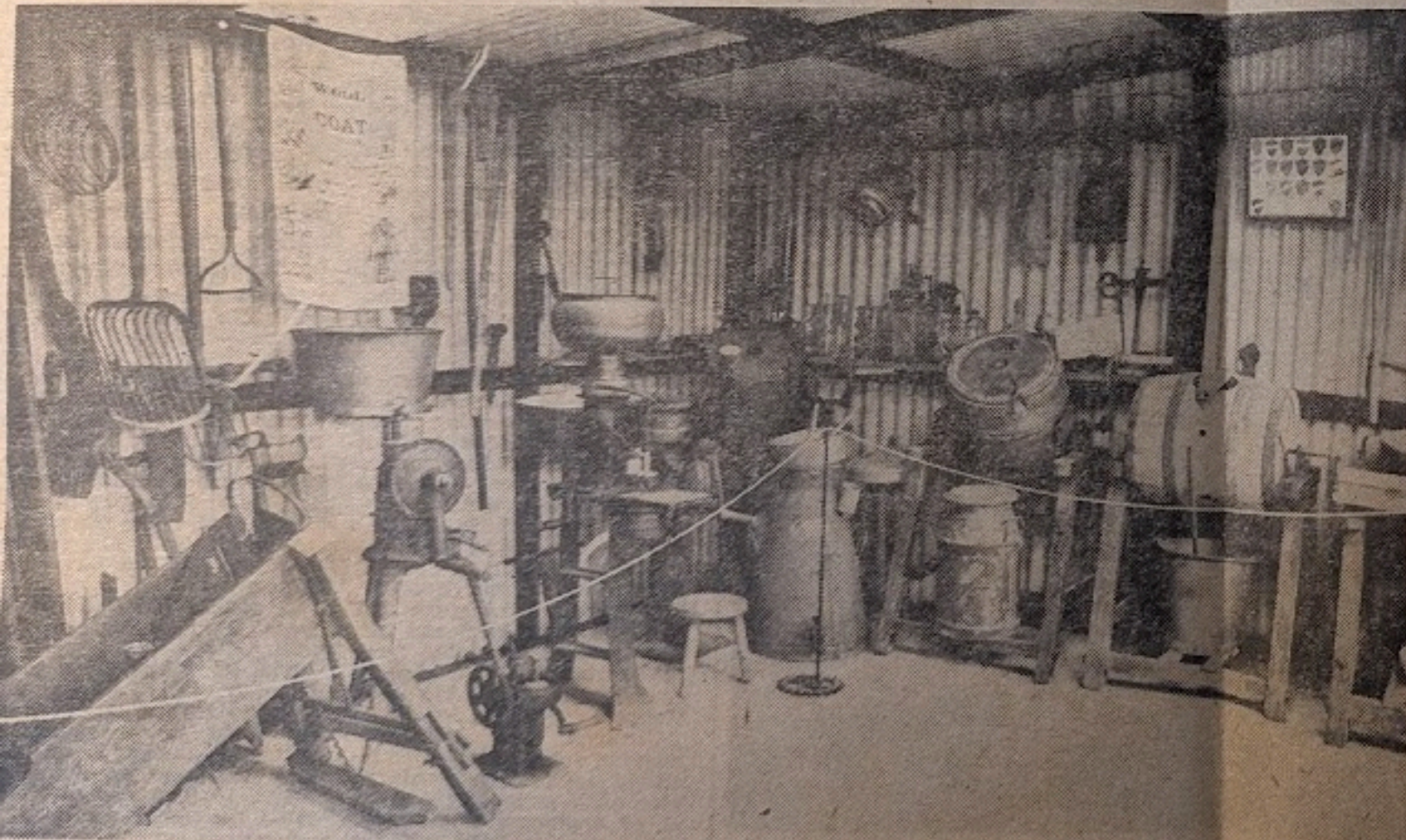
But even without that climate, the museum is worth a visit for a mere 15p. It is particularly suited to schoolchildren for whom meaningless words from dull history textbooks can spring to life.

How to get there

HOW to get there: Take the A10 from Cambridge to Strettham. Turn left on to the A1123. Turn left down Haddenham High Street.

The distance from Cambridge is about 14 miles, and there is an alternative route via Cottenham.

Opening times: First Sunday of each month from 2 p.m. until dusk. All proceeds to children's charities.



Part of the dairy display at the farm museum.

Freud defends 'junk shop' museum



Clement Freud: "I believe this museum . . . represents what is best in the community."

The Isle of Ely MP, Mr. Clement Freud, has called for a Cambridgeshire county councillor to apologise for his remarks about the Farmland Museum at Haddenham.

Last Tuesday, Coun. Charles Swift (Lab. Peterborough) successfully urged the Leisure and Amenities Committee not to make a £500 grant to the museum, which contains a large collection of farm implements.

Coun. Swift, who said he had never been to the museum, commented, "It looks like nothing more

MP raps county councillor

than a glorified junk shop to me."

He said he had based his remarks on the museum's brochure.

Mr. Freud, who opened a new building at the museum at the weekend, said that Coun. Swift should apologise for his "immoderate remarks."

He told an audience of 150 that Coun. Swift's statement had caused pain to the owner of the museum, Mr. Mike Delanoy, and his family.

Mr. Freud said that to

attack something which one had not seen did "infinite damage" to local politics and councillors.

He suggested that Coun. Swift should visit the museum, pay the 15p admission fee and see the exhibits for himself.

"I believe this museum—the most solid part of which I have been asked to open—really represents what is best in the community, which is the enterprise of one family and the devoted help of friends," said Mr. Freud.

Mr. Delanoy said he was

delighted with Mr. Freud's remarks. "I would agree with everything he said. If the chap wishes to apologise and come and look, he will be most welcome."

Delighted

When the "News" put Mr. Freud's points to Coun. Swift, he said he had made his remarks in good faith and that Mr. Freud should have been at the Liberal Party Conference in Manchester.

The opening ceremony was for a new museum

building which has been constructed over the past year with the help of voluntary labour, using specially cleaned bricks from demolished buildings.

The project cost £600 instead of £7,000 or £8,000.

'Highlight'

The museum includes a section on the history of Haddenham and a special area for children.

The building—the museum's fourth—contains four small rooms designed to show how people lived half a century ago.

Mr. Delanoy said he regarded the building as a "highlight." It even contained a copy of the "Daily Chronicle" announcing the end of the General Strike.

The audience at the opening ceremony was made up of people who had contributed in any way, financially, physically, or by making donations.

ne 15, 1976

I WAS particularly pleased that the "Cambridge Evening News" was able to follow up the ill-judged remarks by Councillor Charles Swift on the Haddenham Farmland Museum with a more informative and fair coverage by John Gaskell on Saturday.

The Farmland Museum is very far from being a junk shop. It is in fact a very interesting and well-preserved collection of rural exhibits, capturing a particular part of East Anglian history that is rapidly passing from us. This has been achieved so far by voluntary community action, which merits encouragement rather than denigration, even if financial stringency makes council support difficult at this time.

Councillor Swift must surely be aware that in the present circumstances Peterborough inevitably appears on occasion as the cuckoo in the nest, draining the rest of the county of scarce resources. He would do well to adopt a less controversial tone, especially when his

Coun. Swift and the Farmland Museum

Letters to the Editor

collection, which he admitted he had not seen, as a "glorified junk shop" (your issue of June 9) is the more deserving of censure. He has not been sufficiently public spirited to gather together what could well be an interesting collection of historical objects from the Peterborough area—these are no doubt fast deteriorating into "junk."

Perhaps one day Coun. Swift will visit the museum and, by seeing a collection telling much of the working life of the fenland farm

With elected representatives of such calibre there can be little doubt as to why this county finds itself in the position it is today.

Perhaps Councillor Swift would have responded with more alacrity if the issue would have been on a vote to grant £500 towards the cost of purchasing red flags for May Day celebrations—they would certainly add a little colour to his own bleak acre of land in Peterborough.

ANDREW P. J. NEWSTEAD
30 Dovehouse Close,
Ely, Cambs.

the surrounding area with a chance to view, and for the elderly a chance to reminisce, at a very low charge for admittance, one of the most outstanding collections in Cambridgeshire.

No doubt Mr. Mike Delanoy is justified in his remarks when he says: "It just shows the ignorance of some county councillors." Mr. Delanoy and his family have over the past seven years, with the help of many friends, created a museum which we in Cambridgeshire can be justifiably proud without, may I add, any gain to themselves, but at the same time helping some 12 or so worthwhile charities with donations of over £1,000.

I challenge Councillor Swift to try making his one-acre garden filled with junk into something as beautiful as that at Haddenham and at the same time helping

the Farmland Museum at Haddenham.

I have lived in Haddenham for about four years, in fact a few houses down from the museum and, like the councillor, have not as yet visited it. However, if he had taken time to make the appropriate inquiries, he would have found out that the museum has been a big draw to many visitors, young and old, ever since it was started and that it donates large amounts of finance obtained as a result of this to various charities.

The number of people who have attended over the past few years must speak for itself and I feel that Coun. Swift should now make an effort to visit the museum, as indeed I intend to do, and then perhaps he might have

Hard words

Councillor Charles Swift seemed to bite off a bit more than he could chew when he described the Haddenham Farmland Museum as "nothing more than a glorified junk shop" last week. If the reactions of those who know the place are anything to go by, a lot of other people have also found it difficult to swallow his verdict.

It was an obviously unnecessary and also apparently unjustified, criticism. It offended those who have devoted their spare-time energies into gathering together a valuable and useful assortment of historical objects associated with farming.

But it also did some good. It has told councillors that their words and opinions are noticed and noted. It has reminded them that they have responsibilities as well as power; they have the duty to weigh their words carefully and considerably as well as the power to collect and distribute money.

The reputation of Haddenham Museum has been enhanced by the reaction. And councillors have had a reminder that they will preserve their own reputations by being seen to be at least fair, if not charitable.

Editorial,
Tuesday 15th

Angry Freud slams councillor over museum jibe

CLEMENT FREUD has called on Peterborough's controversial Coun Charles Swift to actually visit the Haddenham Farmland Museum — and then apologise for the hurtful remarks he made about it.

Last week Coun Swift, who admitted he had never visited the museum, called it "nothing more than a glorified junk shop."

And he urged the County Council's Leisure and Amenities Committee to reject a request by the Delaney family, who run the museum, for a £200 grant.

In fact the grant, to allow more visits by schoolchildren to the museum, was rejected by the committee.

On Saturday Mr Freud was guest of honour at the museum to open a new building, built entirely by volunteer labour from reclaimed bricks and tiles.

"I suppose I really should be in Manchester on political business," said Mr Freud. "But I have always felt that people are more important than things, so this is why I am here today."

"This is practically the first enterprise I saw when I came to the constituency. I was invited to a garden party by Mike and Lorna Delaney."

INTEREST

"Since then I have come here whenever I have been passing and have always taken considerable interest in this cottage industry... and what has been described as a 'substantial junk yard'."

Mr Freud went on to say he felt the Farmland Museum represented what was best in any small community, with friends and neighbours rallying round to help one family.

Mike Delaney was quoted as spending £7,000 for the

new building and yet with the help of various people it had cost only about £600.

"I think any housing comment or looking at these figures should be properly advised," he said.

"I am not one for personal attacks, but I do feel it was very wrong of Coun Swift to denigrate something which he has not seen in the way in which he did."

Mr Freud then referred to a recent newspaper article about the museum which had pointed out its educational value for schoolchildren.

APOLOGISE

"I hope very much that Coun Swift will come here and pay his 15p — in fact we might even let him in for free — and when he has seen it I am sure he will feel that it is right that he should apologise for something which has caused a great deal of hurt to many people."

"I hope that today we at least will make Mike and Lorna feel that what they are doing is totally worthwhile and admirable."

Since it was opened, the Haddenham Farmland Museum, which is run by the Delaney children, has had more than 15,000 visitors and has raised £1,184 for various children's charities.

The museum's exhibits have been catalogued by Reading University and the collection of ancient farming implements is generally reckoned to have a wide educational value. The opening of the new building was also attended by Miss Laurel Ball, the director of the Area Museum Service for the South East of England.

On Saturday Mr Mike Delaney, who was 'absolutely livid' about Coun Swift's remarks, said:

"The ironic thing is that only this week we received a request for a visit from a school in Peterborough, and we had to turn them down because we did not get the grant."



Mike Delaney with MP Clement Freud

Village host to 1,000

The Village of Haddenham, near Ely, opened its doors to more than 1,000 visitors on Sunday as part of the Cambridge Festival.

Visitors were able to look around a private collection of vintage cars and motor cycles, the 17th-century Porch House and the Vicarage, as well as the Farmland Museum.

An additional attraction was a rally of about 30 "bullet-nose" Morris cars, all of which were over 50 years old. The rally was organised by enthusiasts from Bury St. Edmunds.

The clerk to the parish council, Mr. Charles Beeler, said the day was very successful. "The village was just crissed with people."

The 'open village'

The Farmland Museum, 26 High Street, Haddenham will be having its customary open day on the first Sunday of every month (July 20).

The museum will have its usual displays of natural history and rural crafts plus art exhibitions by two local artists, Helen Herbert and Ann Biggs. The new building opened by Clement Freud on June 12th will be open to the public for the first time. Inside will be a section on the history of the village and local area with pictures of the 1947 floods etc. and a collection of Victorian rooms to give you a glimpse into the past. The blacksmith will be hard at work making wrought-iron work including such articles as rats' tails, poker, which you can watch being made and then buy. The Museum is open 2pm to 6pm, and all donations go to children's charities — this month to muscular dystrophy. Admission is 15p for adults and 5p for children.

The Museum will also be open on July 18th when Haddenham are having an open day. As part of the Cambridge Festival week, Haddenham has, this year, been chosen as the "open village". Many properties will be open including Nicholas Guppy's beautiful garden and conservatory, the 100 year old vicarage, and the vintage car and motor cycles museum. There will also be an art and crafts exhibition and teas will be served.

Museum's new items

Visitors to the Haddenham Farmland Museum can now see samples of all the rocks which lie beneath the village.

The samples, taken from a 77-metre deep borehole, have been given to the museum by the Institute of Geological Studies at Leeds, which carried out a survey at the village in 1970. Five different

types of rock were discovered in the survey.

Another new exhibit at the museum is a 24-inch long working model of a traction engine fitted with a threshing drum. It was left to the museum on the death of Mr Harold Cropper, of Willingham, who built the model.

AUG 13 FRIDAY

- Sommerby's new restaurant: †
- Robert Sommerby } John Gave
- Robert Robot }
- Eric } Nigel Pegram
- Kate } Brian Coburn
- Dianne } April Orlich
- Aunt Mollie } Doris Rogers
- Marken } Leon Liseek
- Flower } David Pugh
- Robert George } William Lawford
- Mrs. Hale } Margot Field
- Customer } Michael Segal
- Parrot voice } Nigel Pegram

SCRIPPER: DARRILL LASS: DIRECTOR/
PRODUCER: VIC HUGHES
Thames Television Production

4.50 Magpie

JENNY HANLEY
DOUGLAS HAE
MICK ROBERTSON

Another merry mixture of fascinating facts, fun and items of contention, presented by Jenny, Doug and Mick.

Film news from around the country in *Newsdesk*.

5.20 Bygones

DICK JOICE

This week a visit to the Farmland Museum at Haddenham, near Ely, where two small boys, Craig and Kevin Delaney, explain to reporter Michèle Brown how their hobby has grown from small beginnings to one of the most comprehensive collections of rural crafts in Cambridgeshire.

Dick also spends a day at a farm auction, giving us another glimpse of rural life, one of the fascinating features of this popular programme. †

RESEARCHER: CHRIS WATSON: FILM DIRECTOR: DAVID C. KENTON: DIRECTOR: MICHAEL EDWARDS
Anglia Television Production

Rpt. when Riddy was here!



● Leslie Lee of Sutton demonstrates the art of making candlewax pictures to a fascinated audience — Simon Carr (left), Jill Setchfield and Colin and Clare Gifford.

Festival Day
July 18th
1976

18th July
Haddenham Open Day —
2 p.m. to 8 p.m. —
Farmland Museum,
Exhibitions etc.

Festival day brings world to Haddenham

Visitors from America, Iran, Australia, Yugoslavia, Spain, Italy, Greece, and a party of young students from Germany were among a record influx into Haddenham for Sunday's Open Day organised at the invitation of the Cambridge Festival Committee.

With a monthly open day for charity at the Farmland Museum and the "Blossoms and Bygones" annual event the Friends of Haddenham, who were the main organisers, had been a little apprehensive about the attendance, but it was obvious by early afternoon that their fears were unfounded.

The attractive brochure and map of the village giving the approximate distance between points of interest was designed by the Friends' secretary, Mr Colin Folland, and served as an entrance ticket to each "open" feature.

While a number of the attractions were in public places, the Friends were especially grateful to Archdeacon and Mrs Fox, and to Mr and Mrs C Maude, for allowing their homes to be open, and for the helpful guided tours of these historic buildings.

TRACTOR TAXI

At the far end of Millow Haddenham Young Farmers' Club, together with some advisory members, provided a tractor-trailer "taxi" service via Mr David Fairchild's farm to North Hill, 121 feet above sea level. For those who chose the evening to visit this site, the view across a wide area proved clear and very rewarding.

Set out in the 100-year-old Vicarage was a Victorian nursery, displaying clothing, cots, carriage and toys used by the very young of that era. A nice touch was the copy of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland", which was displayed to show its drawings verifying the fashions of that day.

From the Vicarage visitors moved to the Playgroup building, where playing and learning

to mix has meant much to many young families coming to live in the village.

A walk down the hill from the Vicarage took visitors to Mr Ian Stode's vintage car and motor cycle museum, which proved a great delight to enthusiasts.

In spite of the many open days for charity arranged by the Delaney family at their Farmland Museum, no less than 324 people visited the museum. Here the local Silver Band, conducted by Bandmaster Eric Mott, added to the many attractions by playing lively selections.

BULLNOSE

The Cambridge Removals Company allowed use of their large car park in the centre of the village, which the National Bullnose Morris Car Club used for a break in their day rally. The perfection and preservation of these ancient models delighted the crowds, and the procession they formed on leaving the village evoked feelings of nostalgia.

Visitors to the 13th century Parish Church were able to note several interesting memorials and to look at the parish registers dating back to 1570, together with examples of valuable church plate.

It was here that a simple form of Evensong drew both parishioners and visitors. Mod-

ern voices of St Matthew's recording of the Sermon on the Mount were read by Captain Paul Woolter of the Church Army, and in a short address the Vicar (Ven B G B Fox) said it was appropriate that this open day should end on a note of thanksgiving.

CRAFTS

At the Arkenstall Village Centre there was intense interest in a rural crafts exhibition and demonstration. Organised by Mrs Elizabeth Bradley, who also demonstrated rushwork and macramé, the crafts included pottery by Margaret Andrews of Prickwillow, soft furnishings by Linda Franklin (Sutton), batik/dollmaking and candlewax picture-making by Leslie Lee (Sutton), patchwork by Janet Overton (Hillrow), lace-making by Di Carr (Houghton) and dried flower pictures by Sue Feakes (Houghton).

Nature subjects were seen at their most beautiful in the art display in the main hall of the centre by local artist Ann Biggs.

The Arkenstall Catering Committee were kept busy serving refreshments over a long period.

To provide the final touch, a band concert sponsored by East Cambs District Council was given by Haddenham Silver Band on the village green in the cool of a pleasant evening.

HADDENHAM by Arthur Holland

I recently took the opportunity during Cambridge Festival fortnight to visit the village of Haddenham to see for myself the Farm Museum which recently aroused such strong criticism from one member of the Cambridgeshire County Council.

The whole lay-out I found most interesting and informative, a nostalgic paradise for the older farmer and an eye opener for the younger generation who have never probably seen, let alone worked with the old machines and tools on display. That such a comprehensive array has ever been got together, initially due to a local lad's enthusiasm, then catalogued and cared for by a few dedicated individuals is hard to believe and to my mind worthy of the highest praise and support.

The Museum is normally open one Sunday a month and if you have not already done so a visit by anyone at all interested in agriculture and the countryside is a must.

Incidentally I was told that any old tools, harness, machines, etc, lying unwanted on farms would be very welcome at the museum.

Whilst at Haddenham I also took the opportunity of looking over their lovely old Church and rectory and the Arkenstall Village Centre. Perhaps what really made my day was the exhibition of old cars and motor cycles, in which I found on show a 1926 round tank B.S.A. motor cycle, the like of which I bought in 1928 for £12 and in the following few years happily chugged many thousands of miles without serious mishap.

My visit left me with the impression that Haddenham is much more than a place one drives through between March and Cambridge. Obviously the village activities are highly organized and a tremendous community spirit is apparent. What a pity it is that our pace of life today dictates that often we are in such a hurry to get somewhere the attractions of places like Haddenham, and there must be many, are lost to us.

course, covered up to the limit of their benefit, but this scheme is especially designed to provide for the extra charges that apply in countries outside the U.K.

For further information please contact:—
N.F.U. County Office,
Owen Webb House,
Gresham Road,
Cambridge, CB1 2ER, (Cambridge 58237)

July

Open Day — In spite of the intense heat of Sunday afternoon, over 150 visitors attended the Farmland Museum, and others who chose the cool of the evening brought the number up to 210, including a party from Denmark. The hottest contribution to the interest of a museum visit was made by Mr Keith Patterson, who willed his blacksmith's hammer in the heat of the old forge. Mr B Levitt again demonstrated his skill with corn dollies, while ancient agricultural machinery brought to mind past days. The setup of the new building with its particular local interest, proved worthy of all the voluntary labour entailed in its construction. Sunday's Open Day raised £68, including contributions from visitors during the past month, for Muscular Dystrophy Research. Proceeds from the August Open Day, known as Ladies' Day, will go to the National Institute for the Blind.

August

Open day raises £78

A total of £78 was raised for Sunshine Homes for handicapped children at the Haddenham Farmland Museum's August open day. The museum had 401 visitors who saw demonstrations of spinning, lace making, crochet and tatting.

An additional attraction was a performance by young handbell singers from the village led by Mr David Lee.

September

Open Day — A lovely September afternoon added to the pleasure of the 310 visitors to the Farmland Museum on Sunday. This open event was in aid of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus which benefited by £85, including £3.36 from cups of tea served by Mrs B Markwell and £25 from sales of poetry and competitions organised by Mr Edward Stockton, whose poetry demonstrations proved very popular. The blacksmith, Keith Patterson, hammering away at a fire, revived early memories in most visitors, while the new building offered many objects on which visitors could look back into the past. Mr & Mrs Michael Delaney were on hand to chat with visitors, and their boys took turns on the site, organising the sale of white rabbits or selling post cards, lavender bags, etc., assisted by Jonathan Reed and the Dewey brothers. Background music was provided by the fine fair organ belonging to Mr Adrian Hunt which attracted many interested spectators.

October

Museum raises £75 for Mencap

More than 300 people visited the Farmland Museum Open Day at Haddenham at the weekend when £75 was raised for the Cambridge Society for Mentally Handicapped Children for an extension to Edmund House at Milton.



Craig, 11, runs a farm museum

CRAIG DELANEY (pictured above) is probably one of the youngest museum curators in the world. He's only 11!

In the back garden of his parents' home at Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, he's built up the Farmland Museum—a collection of old farming implements—ploughs, cultivators, harvesters and carts.

And in three sheds there are other displays of rural crafts like a working blacksmith's shop com-

plete with forge. The museum began when Craig was only four. He found some broken bits of pottery in the garden and put them in a box. His friends paid a small fee to look at them and the money he collected went to charity.

Soon people were giving Craig other local finds for his collection, so he decided to move the museum from his bedroom to his Dad's garden shed.

That was in 1969 and since then

the collection has grown into a full-scale museum.

Craig is now helped by his two brothers, James, who is eight, and Kevin, 13.

Craig's Dad looks after the paper work.

On the first Sunday of every month the museum is open to the public. All entrance money is given to children's charities, and so far the museum has raised nearly £1,200.

OBSERVE



Home farm

AT 11, Craig Delaney is the curator of his own museum, housed in his back garden in the Cambridgeshire village of Haddenham. His treasures are farmers' equipment of long ago.

There are old ploughs, cultivators, hay rakes and potato harvesters. Then there is a dairy collection, basket weaving and saddlery tools, and, one of the war exhibits, a blacksmith's forge.

The Farmland Museum is open to the public on the first Sunday afternoon of every month. All the money goes to charity.

Michael Allen

Both by M.A. who visited us on Mothering Sunday

HADDENHAM

Open Day — In spite of unsettled weather conditions, 308 visitors attended the Farmland Museum on Sunday afternoon. The financial object was support for the Cambs Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. With contributions from a visiting party during the month, £75 was forwarded. Several local people gave their time and talent to increase the afternoon's interest. Mr & Mrs P Carpenter have added around 14 new models to their collection of sewing machines on display, while Mrs E Bradley demonstrated the art of rush weaving and exhibited fine examples of her craft. Having worked until 3 am making delicious home-made sweets, Mrs Jan Sheffield and her sister had a steady stream of customers until stocks ran out, her efforts benefiting the cause by £12. Mrs S Crofts sold ice cream, and Mrs R Freeman served tea and biscuits. Stationary engines kept ticking over under the expert knowledge of Mr J Tickle. The task of "counting in" the visitors was carried out by Gillian Freeman, Darren Robison and James Delaney, whose parents and brothers Kevin and Craig welcomed visitors to the museum.

Farmland Museum — A young volunteer from Cambridge, Keith Garwood, helped to build the latest museum extension, and because of his interest and energy it was completed well ahead of the expected date. As a token of their recognition Mr and Mrs Michael Delaney invited Keith and a party of friends to a special open evening, which included demonstrations by blacksmith Keith Patterson and a barbecue. A party of over 80 visitors spent a very enjoyable time and showed their appreciation by contributing a collection of £26 to the Cambridge Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. The museum is next open on Sunday, October 3rd, from 2 to 6 pm, when all proceeds will go to the same cause.

PENNY POTS

Four-year-old Rachel Tabor of Haddenham decided she would like to contribute to the Farmland Museum's collection for handicapped children at the weekend. So she made some tiny clay "pots" which she placed on her tiny wheelbarrow and stood outside her door at 46 High Street. Much to her delight she later found three of the "pots" gone and 6p in the provided cash box. This was duly taken round to Mrs Delaney at the museum, and was added to Sunday's contributions for local handicapped children.

September CEN More go to see 'junk shop'

Haddenham's Farmland Museum has been given a boost by the publicity it has received over allegations that it was "nothing more than a glorified junk shop."

Earlier this summer a member of Cambridgeshire County Council for Peterborough, Coun. Charles Swift, made this remark at a council meeting when the museum which mainly deals with agricultural history was applying for a grant.

Yesterday, the man who runs the museum, Mr. Mike Delaney, said the remark "has made more people come."

It has made people express their appreciation of what we are endeavouring to do."

Mr. Delaney said one of the most common comments made by visitors was: "What more can you do if you get no financial help?"

During the whole of 1975, the museum had 4,106 visitors and so far this year visitors have topped the 4,500 mark.

Since the museum's start in 1969, there have been a total of 17,650 visitors and £1,900 has been raised for children's charities. Mr. Delaney stressed that some of the 17,000 visitors had held fund-raising events of their own for village projects.

Last weekend a further £85 was raised for the spina bifida charity at one of the museum's regular events, which included a pottery exhibition, a fair organ and blacksmith.

FARMLAND MUSEUM

Photographs of old Haddenham are creating a lot of local interest, and the small collection owned by the Friends of Haddenham could be extended. If local residents own any interesting photographs will they contact Mr. Michael Delaney of the Farmland Museum, who is prepared to take copies and return the original to the owner.

Old village scenes, pictures of past events such as feast celebrations, outings, ploughing matches etc., will be welcomed.

Village News September

FARMLAND MUSEUM (Cont.)

Old picture frames will also be useful.

Next Open Day is 5th Sept., from 2 p.m.
Music from Mr. Adrian Hutt's Organ.
Pottery demonstrations.
Proceeds in aid of Spina Bifida sufferers.

November - none!
Here is Decembers!

HADDENHAM

Farmland Museum — Sunday was the last day on which the museum will be open for charity this year. Although there were fewer visitors, the sum of £7 has been sent to the BBC appeal for "Children in Need". This brings the amount raised for charity this year to £466, an increase of £104 on last year's takings for various good causes. This does not include the takings for Arkenhall Centre at Blossoms & Bygones, or the amount passed on to the Friends of Haddenham after the Cambridge Festival open day. During 1976, in spite of the museum being described by a county councillor as a junk shop, there have been 5,065 visitors from 18 different countries, an increase of 897 visitors on 1975. Since the opening of the museum in August 1969 there have been 18,195 visitors, and £1,537 has been donated to charity. This has represented a considerable amount of time given by the Delaney family and their faithful band of helpers, but made very worthwhile by the interest created and contacts made with so many people who desire the preservation of objects from the past.

Museum's charity effort grows

The farmland museum at Haddenham, near Ely, raised £466 for various charities at its monthly open days during the past year — an increase of more than £100 on last year's figure.

There was also an increase in the number of visitors to the museum, run by the Delaney family and a num-

ber of voluntary helpers. During the year 5,065 people visited — an increase of 897 on the previous year.

Since the museum started in August 1969 it has raised £1,537 for different charities and had 18,195 visitors.

Next year the museum will give all the money raised in a single appeal, the Children in Need of Help Fund run by the BBC.

Mr. Michael Delaney said the change in policy was to cut down the amount of ad-

ministrative work needed when dealing with different charities.

The museum's helpers had, said Mr. Delaney, agreed unanimously to the change, and this charity was chosen because none of the money raised went on administration. Money sent to the appeal was distributed to a number of different charities, some of which had already been supported by the museum.

Visit to Farmland Museum

WITH reference to the article on the Haddenham Farmland Museum (June 9), members of Exning WI visited the museum recently and found it both interesting and informative.

The items which have been collected by the Delaney family and friends over the past few years are numerous and varied and brought back memories to many of our members of days spent churning butter for hours on end, school-days before the advent of pencils and books, wash-days before the advent of the machine.

Surely such a venture is worthy of more than a cursory thought by the Leisure and Amenities Committee when considering a request for a grant. The appearance of a brochure produced by a non-profit making museum is hardly a basis for not making a grant to assist in the further improvement of the displays.

If this reported discussion is a sample of the way in which Cambridgeshire County Council committees reach decisions, it hardly reflects the objective manner with which one would hope such decisions were reached.

(Mrs.) J. L. HOWLETT
President, Exning WI
7 St. Martin's Close,
Exning,
Newmarket.

Another bid for museum grant fails

Another attempt to get Haddenham Farmland Museum a grant from Cambridgeshire County Council failed yesterday.

The museum's request was at the centre of controversy last month when one Labour councillor, Mr. Charles Swift from Peterborough said he thought it was nothing more than a "glorified junk shop" — although he admitted never having visited it.

Coun. Frank Simons (Cambridge) moved a motion at a meeting of the council yesterday that the museum's request for help be reconsidered when grant applications were next looked at.

The museum wanted £80 so that its use could be extended to include school visits and to allow more time to be spent on the collection.

But the council rejected Coun. Syton's motion

Aged cuttings from notice board.

Meldreth

Looking into History. — Meldreth Good Companions last Thursday had an outing to the Haddenham Farmland Museum and were fascinated to see relics of yester year farming implements. These were particularly nostalgic to the older men members and it was difficult to get them away when the time for return approached.

Before going into the museum members were given a short history of the museum — how it developed from a small boys' collection in cardboard boxes to the present wonderful Farmland Museum of which Haddenham is very proud and which is visited by thousands of people throughout the year.

It is a private museum and with very few exceptions, the farmland collection of hand tools has been built up by local farm workers.

The tools included many the visitors knew of and had used in their younger days such as the beetle (used in fencing), sickle and scythe. One member who had been a hay and straw tier, was particularly interested in the cut knife.

The larger familiar items were the hedging book and a turnip chopper. Articles in the kitchen brought back memories of hard

as the washing tub and irons. Many were the cycle lamps and lamps, which had getting flooded or

night far from home. Butter making on farm was also recalled and the blacked wheel-wrights shed a familiar sight.

Meldreth had a concern owned by family for generations farmed for good soil many farm vehicles rims put on by an that family and

1847 the business closed on the death of the last of the Hale brothers.

Near Meldreth Black-smith's was the brewery and many of the old bottles shown in the museum were quite familiar to the visitors. Drainage tools, harness, mole traps etc., were all day to day part of the villages farm life.

All the machinery in the museum made all the older visitors realise how far advanced things had become in their lifespan, and many thought "Yes, but we were born too soon."

The most recent gift to the museum was a model of one of the earliest traction engines, perfect in every detail. These too were a familiar part of village life. The huge engines were everyday sights rumbling and hissing through the village on their way to a threshing session at a farm.

After eventually getting all the men members rounded up the coach went on to the shady Cottanham Green where the club hostesses served a very thirsty party.

Meldreth

My Weekly

THE MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN EVERYWHERE 7p



time special Open Days are held, which are popular.

Then the garden is packed with visitors, and a local brass band plays, while the blacksmith works at his forge, a wood turner shows the skills of his trade and several other craftsmen come along to demonstrate how the ancient tools in the museum are used.

Craig still sticks to his initial principle of donating all the money that is collected at the museum to children's charities. Since the museum began with that tray of broken pottery in 1969, Craig has collected fifteen hundred pounds!

And Craig's favourite exhibit? "This," he said, taking me over to an elderly-looking tractor, with a big grin on his young face.

"I'm really looking forward to getting it going!"

Having seen how successfully Craig and his many helpers have restored so many items, I'm sure that the old tractor will one day be in working order again. With Craig, founder and curator of the Farmland Museum, proudly riding around on it.

The moral of this is pretty clear, if one of your children starts collecting things, encourage him by all means. But watch out. You might lose your garden and tool shed and find yourself with a museum on your hands!



October 76

Museum Miss....

Getting to grips with the new kitchen at Had denham's Farmland Museum is 10-year-old Debbie Read.

She was at the museum on Friday when photographer Nigel Bloxham was taking pictures for a new edition of the museum's handbook, and decided she would try out some of the equipment!

The new booklet is expected to be out soon after Christmas.

February 77

Farmland Museum — Forty-seven visitors for the first Sunday in February was considered very good by the Delaney family. As a result £6.80 has been forwarded to the Children in Need national fund. In order to lessen administrative expenditure, the money raised on each open Sunday will be paid into this fund, from which various worthy organisations will receive grants.



Items from a local brewery.



Craig Delaney at the entrance to his museum.

Craig's Only Eleven, But— HE RUNS HIS VERY OWN MUSEUM

Some boys are keen train-spotters, others collect stamps, but young Craig Delaney's gone further than that, says Michael Alcott, for he's recreated a piece of history — at the bottom of his garden!



Craig tries his hand at boot repairing.

agreed to his son's suggestion. He made out a notice reading "MUSEUM", and nailed it on the door of the garden shed.

That notice marked the beginning of the end as far as Mr Delaney's using his shed was concerned. As more and more local people heard of young Craig's enthusiasm for old bits and pieces, so the future exhibits rolled in. Hardly a week went by without Mrs Delaney finding a piece of farming equipment standing on the doorstep.

Of course the expanding museum quickly became too much for Craig to cope with on his own, so his two brothers, thirteen-year-old Kevin and eight-year-old James, were enrolled as assistants. Kevin, being the eldest, took charge of the administration — cataloguing and writing "thank you" letters, and young James was always at Craig's elbow when restoration was in progress.

As far as possible Craig's parents have tried to keep in the background and let their three sons get on with their museum on their own, but inevitably they have been drawn into it. Mr Delaney has now taken over the administration since the museum has grown to full-size proportions.

WE do all the work on the buildings and exhibits ourselves," Craig explained. "We get a lot of help from school friends who come and help us restore things, and a lot of local people have been really good. This building we're working on now has all been built by volunteers."

The museum is only open to the public one afternoon a month: the first Sunday, from two o'clock till dusk, but in the course of a year, literally hundreds of men, women and children browse around. In addition, school parties come along during the week and from time to

Continued on Page 47.

CRAIG DELANOEY is a museum curator. There's nothing extraordinary about that you may think — until you know that Craig is only eleven years old!

And let it be said straight-away that Craig's museum is very much the real thing — a Farmland Museum with hundreds of exhibits, all of which have been carefully catalogued, restored, and put on display for the benefit of visitors.

The museum now occupies the entire garden and most of the out-buildings of his parents' home at Haddenham in Cambridgeshire. On the long sloping lawn the larger farm implements are displayed — ploughs, cultivators, potato harvesters, wagons, hay rakes — all, by the way, originally horse-drawn.

In three sheds other displays are grouped — rural crafts, saddlery, basket weaving, brewing equipment and drainage tools, a dairy collection, and, most impressively, a working blacksmith's shop complete with forge. Also a large

brick building is currently under construction — this will contain a typical fenland interior, plus exhibits relating to Craig's home village.

How did it all come about, I wondered as Craig took me on a guided tour of the museum.

"When I was four I found some bits and pieces of pottery when the garden was dug over," Craig explained.

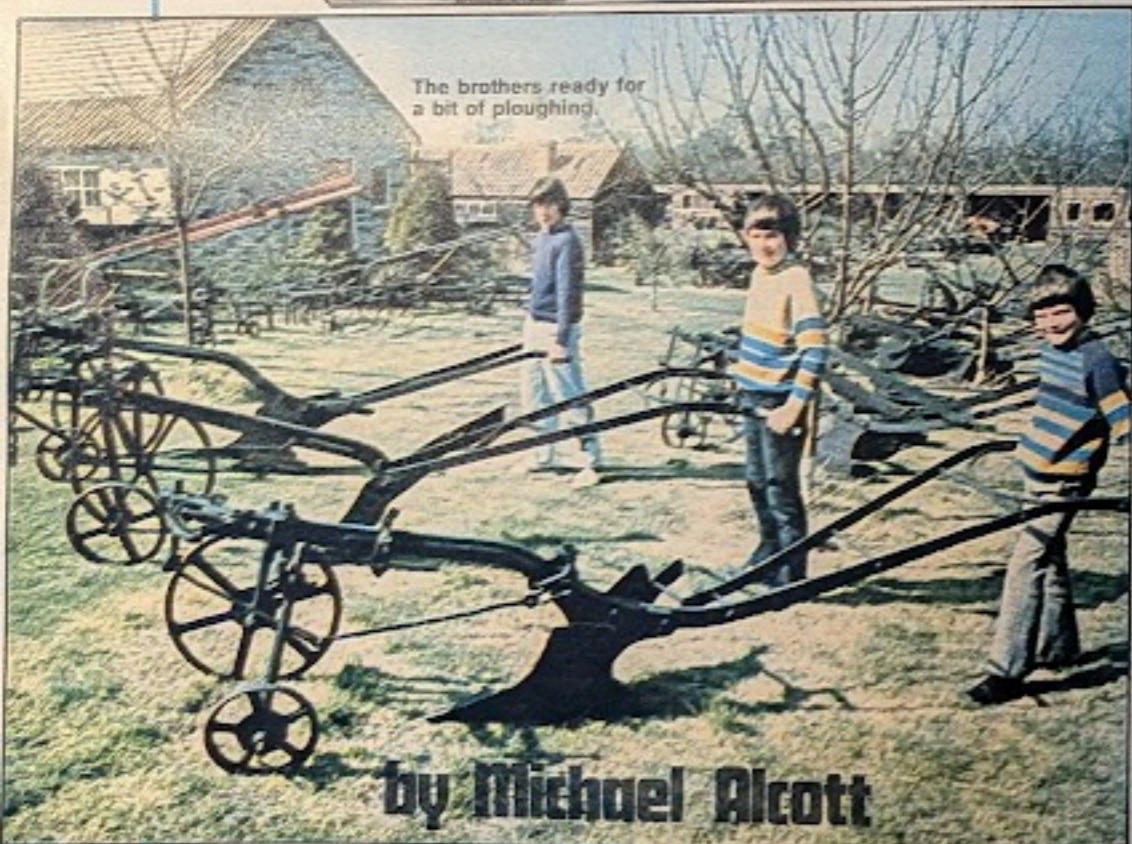
"I collected them and put them on a tray. I called the little collection my 'museum' and invited my family and friends to look at it — of course, I made them pay!"

The collection was later sent to a children's charity.

From then on, the collection snowballed.

"My friends gave me other small items," Craig continued. "It wasn't long before there wasn't enough room for everything in my bedroom so I asked my dad if I could move the 'museum' to his garden shed."

Craig's father — little knowing what he was letting himself in for —



The brothers ready for a bit of ploughing.

by Michael Alcott



Horse Gear Wanted. Mrs. Lorna Delaney, whose family-run Farmland Museum at Haddenham is justifiably famous and a joy to visit, has made the following request:

"Some farmer, somewhere, must have a horse gear which is no longer needed! Could this be spared for the Farmland Museum at Haddenham? It could then be used for working demonstrations on Open Days. The collection of implements there, numbering over 70, still lacks a horse-drawn roll."

Mrs. Delaney would be glad to hear from anyone able to help. The address is 50 High Street, Haddenham, and the telephone number Haddenham 381.

NFU Journal Jan.

THE Farmland Museum at Haddenham, near Ely, Cambs, raised £466 for charity from its monthly open days during 1976. This was an increase of more than £100 over the 1975 figure.

The Museum, run by the Delaney family and a number of voluntary helpers, also had an increase in the number of visitors, with 5,065 people—897 more than 1975.

Since starting in August 1969 the Museum has had over 18,000 visitors and has raised £1,337 for various charities. For 1977 all monies raised will go to a single

Museum's increased charity donation

charity appeal, the Children in Need of Help Fund run by the B.B.C.

Mr. Michael Delaney said the change in policy was to cut down the amount of administration work required when dealing with a number of charities. He also said that the Museum's helpers agreed unanimously to the change and that this charity was chosen because none of the money raised went on administration.

Money sent to the appeal was

distributed to a number of different charities, some of which had already been supported by the Farmland Museum.

Monthly open days continue throughout the winter, on the first Sunday of each month from 2 p.m. until dusk.

The Museum has recently produced its first guide book under the title "The Haddenham Farmland Series No. 1." Published by the Ely Resources and Technology Centre, the booklet has been written by Mrs. Lorna Delaney, Michael's wife.

Measuring 21 cm. by 15 cm. the booklet is in landscape format, which does justice to many of the panoramic views. There are 20 photographic reproductions and two maps supported by an interesting "How Things Began" introduction.

Sections covering each group of items are described with added interest coming from stories relating as to how each group came about. In the "Age of Horse Power" chapter, details are given on how the many horse-drawn implements are restored to protect them.

There are a number of carts and wagons in the collection, which, with the implements, now number over 600. The final page of the booklet is entitled "The Future" and expresses the thoughts of the Delaney family on how they foresee the Museum developing in the future.

Museum Developments

Bromsgrove

'The String of Horses', a half-timbered Shrewsbury town house of 1576, restored and re-erected at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings near Bromsgrove, was opened by the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority on 16th November. It houses the Museum's shop and entrance, educational facilities, administrative centre and a members' room.

Haddenham

A new building at the Farmland Museum, Haddenham, Cambs, was opened in June by Clement Freud, MP. It was erected entirely by voluntary helpers for about one tenth of the original estimated cost of £7,000. The building contains a section on local history and folk material, and a small area for temporary art and craft exhibitions. The Farmland Museum had over 4,000 visitors this year despite restricted opening hours.

Keith keeps old forge alight

ELY STANDARD — Thursday, January 22nd, 1976

The number of blacksmiths in the area may be fast diminishing — but the art is still very much alive in Haddenham.

To prove this, Mr Keith Patterson visits Haddenham Farmland Museum at least once a month to show off the old skills.

Keith used to have his own blacksmith's business in Haddenham, and now he keeps in practice by demonstrating at the museum.

Keith was so keen to keep up the traditions of the smith's forge that he helped Mr Michael Delaney, the owner of the museum, to build the replica forge in the museum. Although the forge is a replica, the tools found in the forge are quite authentic.

With these tools Keith makes small items of ironwork during his demonstrations, including pokers and other things that can be sold to raise money for the museum's charities.

Mr Delaney told me that the forge generates a lot of interest with visitors, particularly among youngsters who have never seen a blacksmith at work.

Building is still going on at the museum; another exhibition area has been built and is now awaiting the arrival of the roof.

The building will be of great local interest, as two plaques from the school have been integrated into the wall of the new building.



rom
diceboard-
an. 76.



Mr Norman with the small shoe he found.

818778

Shoe buried to ward off evil found in old pub

An ancient shoe found buried under the floor-boards of a part 18th century public house has come to light again after two years.

The shoe, probably buried when the property was built to ward off evil spirits, was found by Haddenham parish councillor, Mr Bob Norman, who said parts of the building date back to the 1600s.

He discovered it two years ago under the bedroom floor boards of the former Hare and Hoards public house at Haddenham when part of the building was being pulled down.

Mr Norman, a fruit grower, uses the building as an apple packing shed. "I wondered at the time how it could have got there," he said.

"I was intrigued but just put it to one side and left it there and thus where it stayed for the past two years."

But recently he saw a story in the 'News' about a similar find at a Little Eversden farmhouse—and the mystery was partly solved.

"It seems the shoe was buried to ward off evil spirits — but what kind I don't know," said Mr Norman.

When he realised that his find must have a history attached to it, he decided to donate it to the Haddenham Farm and museum — which also has a three pronged fork was discovered in the chimney breast of the pub about six years ago.

Mrs Lorna Delaney, whose family runs the museum, said the 'button' shoe belonged to a child and was made of black leather.

She said she intends to send it to a museum in Northampton where its date can be fixed.

● The farm museum is featured in "Dave Allen and Friends" on Anglia TV tonight at 7 pm.

Robert N
Keith P
Ant De
Ray G

CEN Same day 92-III-77

ANGLIA

- 5.15 STAR MAIDENS. Creatures of the Mind.
- 5.45 NEWS AT 5.45.
- 6.00 ABOUT ANGLIA.
- 6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 DAVE ALLEN AND FRIENDS. Dave visits a delightful rural farm museum, run by children, which covers one acre of land at Haddenham in Cambridgeshire. Also in tonight's programme, watch Dave gradually start to scratch himself as he talks to flea expert Bob Godfrey of Duxford, near Cambridge. Bob reveals that the British domestic flea is thriving thanks to the modern trend for tiled carpets!

TV Times

7.0 Dave Allen and Friends

Dave continues his nationwide safari in search of unusual people, places and facts. In this programme he meets a museum curator who is 10 years old, talks to a teacher whose life's work is the life-cycle of fleas, and talks to two of the loudest ladies in Britain.

PRODUCTION TEAM JOHN COLLINS, ASHLEY BRUCE, GUY NEVILLE, SHERYN BRANDT, CHRISTINE FOX, GREG BAILEY, MIKE WHITTAKER, COLIN SLADE, GLEN CARDNO, J. W. MILLER, ROBIN EGDOWN
ATV Network Production

Women's world shouting champion Mrs. Margaret Featherstone gives Dave an earful



That's the ticket!

If the winning ticket for a school draw made in October 1889 was number 192575, the first prize of a tiara of diamonds worth £200 is probably still waiting to be claimed.

And if it is Haddenham youngsters Anthony Dewey (15), of 3 Perry Close, and Reggie Gipp (16) of 10 Camping Close, will certainly be interested.

For they found the ticket lodged in some planking while helping with extension work on the village pavilion.

The draw, for the upkeep and

renovation of the Christian Brothers' Schools, in Cork, Ireland, was made at a Grand Bazaar, and the prizes, as can be seen from the first prize, were rather luxurious.

The second prize was for drawing room furniture worth £100 with a third prize of a cottage ebony piano worth a mere £70.

Fourth prize of an Irish jaunty car and horses valued at £90 is hardly to be sniffed at, or the fifth prize of £30 worth of "large diamond" and £25 provided a suite of bedroom furniture for sixth prize.

At the bottom of this long list

● Reggie (left) and Anthony with the ancient ticket.

came a dining room chiming clock and a fast trotting pony.

As an extra incentive to ticket sellers a gold wrist watch was presented to the person who sold most tickets at six old pence each.

The ticket also covered a secondary draw with equally lavish prizes which included a carriage and horses, silver, and a mowing machine and hay tosser.

The two lads, who have been putting in work at the pavilion each Tuesday after school, haven't decided what to do with the ticket, but may inquire if Haddenham's Farmland Museum are interested.



Fly Standard - Mrs. Dewey contacted Mkt. Street Office