



Anglo-Saxon Imprints

www.oldcity.org.uk/stowfriends

Friends of West Stow

The Plan for 2007.....

After an uncertain start to last year with the outcome of the Heritage Review still unknown the Friends have made some significant contributions to West Stow in 2006. By the time you read this the 2007 planning meeting will already have taken place and we will have some idea of what is going to happen this year. The results will be emailed out in one of the monthly updates when we know what it is. If you have access to email and are not getting the updates, then please let us know (Irish.Freane@stedsbc.gov.uk) as it's by far the best way to keep you in-touch with what's going on between the Spring and Autumn copies of Imprints. Also if you have an idea we have not thought about, let us know that too.



Sowing seed in the crop plots

Our Growing Plots were established to enable a selection of Anglo Saxon vegetables to be protected from the hoards of hungry rabbits. With seeds from the HDRA and Bedes World we were able to grow, wild cabbage, Celtic beans and some monster sized carrots. In the autumn, spelt wheat and rye were planted, so look out

for those this year. An extra plot has now been added to allow a wider range of plants to be grown this year. We repaired one of the internal fences and this year the West Stow staff are going to review the rest of the fencing in the village to identify which are still needed. After that has been done some help with repairs to the rest would be useful, it's not difficult to do and makes a big difference to the way village looks. There are other small things going on, pottery, pole lathing, repairing the looms, all of which are aimed at making the village look more lived in. The re-enactors group are now called Stowacynn and have been upgraded to 'Special Event' status; they will be in occupation four weekends this year.

Expect to see a new house appearing very soon, the frame is already being axed; it will be brought to West Stow and erected in the next few weeks. Later in the year the thatching should start, so a complete house will stand where the Farmers House was burnt down.

The new West Stow Special Events list has been published and includes new workshops this year (spoon carving, fletching) as well as repeats of popular ones (leather, weaving, pottery, etc), contact West Stow to book a place. 'Discover Archaeology Day' is 15th July this year, the weekend before the school holidays start, so mark it on your calendars now and come to see what has been going on.

Alan Hamilton

The Newsletter of The Friends of West Stow Anglo-Saxon Settlement

Phone: 01 284 728718

Email:

weststow@stedsbc.gov.uk

Anna Clarke, Friends

Volunteer Representative:

reddragonsanna@hotmail.co.uk

Friends web site:

www.oldcity.org.uk/stowfriends

Spring 2007

Inside this issue:

Friends 2007 Plan,
Village update,
Experimental projects,
New Archaeology display,
Friends at Fest & Quest,

There is a Yahoo group where Friends Members can share news and photographs:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/friendsofweststow>

Contributions:

Short pieces or photos for inclusion in the Imprints newsletter are invited from all Friends members. Imprints usually goes out to all Friends members twice a year, in March and September; Please forward any contributions you wish to make by the 15th August or 15th February .

We need someone to take on the writing and compiling of this newsletter, so let us know if you would like to have a go.

Experimental projects

First of all we'd like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped us with various projects; they would have not been possible without the valuable time, effort and support that you have put in. We hope you will all want to

from the weather. Visitors tend to confuse it with a scarecrow though, so we may put more up in due course!

This is just the start and there are many more ideas in the pipeline and ways for you to get involved.



be involved in the plans we have for this year too.

We have started to develop some new experimental archaeology projects in the Village with a number of Friends and volunteers. There is now a sedge-rick, with a smart thatched capping to protect it

If you would like to help out with Experimental Archaeology projects, please email

rachel.ballantyne@stedsbc.gov.uk or maryellen.crothers@stedsbc.gov.uk

New Archaeology



A new archaeology gallery has been installed in the visitor centre at West Stow. It consists of the nine large cases that held the Borough's remarkable archaeology collection at Moyse's Hall Museum. This collection has been moved to West Stow so that the early story of the area can be told at the most appropriate place. West Stow is a multi period archaeological site, even though it has a strong emphasis upon the early Anglo-Saxon period. The new displays add the context (of what came before and after) to the existing display of finds in the Anglo-Saxon Centre.

Friends lend a hand at Yule Fest and Ring Quest:

Friends members provided invaluable help by being in costume in the village during the *Yule Fest* event on two weekends in November. Large numbers of the public attend these free days and the Friends were on hand to look after the village and provide information for visitors.

The *Ring Quest* in February half term was another time when Friends helped out. This time Anna and Matt turned up for pre publicity with Councillor Paul Farmer (see photo). Friends also assisted with the have-a-go archery (provided by Friends member Ken Robbins) and display of bows and equipment from films.



Anglo-Saxon Village Update: Farmer's House, Workshop and other.



Hewing oak at
Traditional Oak Carpentry



The Farmer's House frame at
Traditional Oak Carpentry

The last six months have been very busy, with the main focus on organising the rebuilding of the Farmer's House with insurers after the fire two years ago. The frame for the new house is almost complete and it should be assembled on site this spring. We've been to see the hewers at their work and were very impressed with their progress.



New thatch on Workshop

The most obvious new sights in the Village are the newly rick-thatched Workshop and Pig House. The wattle in the Workshop door has been replaced with fresh green willow from the Country Park with the help of volunteers, and the wall planks in the Information Hut have all been re-pegged into place. There has also been a big tidy-up, trimming the vegetation and getting rid of many

inauthentic items like the chestnut fencing and blue rope. We have also decided that the rabbits have enjoyed our hospitality in the Village for long enough, so a new rabbit fence is in place to keep the numbers down.

Experiments with daubing have begun on the Information Hut. Different mixes of clay and straw seal the gaps between the wall planks, so we can find out what daub mixture would have been the best for the houses. Contrary to popular belief, dung is not being used as there is no real evidence for that in early Anglo-Saxon times. It was a lot of fun to do, and we have had interesting and surprising results so far. New loom weights have also been made for the Weaving House to replace those broken over the years.



Pegging the Information Hut

Special Events at West Stow :

This is a basic list, for more details please see website or telephone 01284 728718

SUN 8 - MON 9 APRIL 10am - 5pm HERITAGE FAYRE

SUN 22 APRIL 11am-12.30pm ANGLO-SAXON PLANTS AND POT HERBS

SUN 29 APRIL 10am-3pm WEST STOW WORKSHOP: SPOON CARVING

SAT 5 MAY 11am-1pm WEST STOW WORKSHOP: ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY

SUN 6 - MON 7 MAY 10am - 5pm VILLAGE LIFE WITH STOWACYNN

SAT 12 - SUN 13 MAY 10am - 5pm ROMANO-BRITISH FAMILY LIFE

SAT 12 MAY 10am - 3pm WEST STOW WORKSHOP: BASKET WEAVING

SAT 19 - SUN 20 MAY 10am-5pm ANGLO-SAXON SMITHYING/
WAYLAND THE SMITH

SUN 20 MAY 2 - 3.30pm MEDICINAL PLANT WALK

SAT 26 - MON 28 MAY 10am - 5pm WHO WORE THE ANGLO-SAXON TROUSERS?

SUN 3 JUNE 11am-1pm GUIDED WALK: WILD FLOWERS AND THE HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

SAT 16 - SUN 17 JUNE 10am - 5pm BEOWULF & THE SAXONS

SAT 23 - SUN 24 JUNE 10am - 5pm A VISIT FROM THE SAXONS

SUN JULY 1 2pm-4pm WEST STOW WORKSHOP: LEATHER BELTS

SUN 8 JULY 2pm-4pm WEST STOW WORKSHOP: TABLET WEAVING

SUN 15 JULY 10am - 5pm DISCOVER ARCHAEOLOGY DAY
with help from the Friends of West Stow

SAT 21 - SUN 22 JULY 10am - 5pm DOMESTIC LIFE IN THE ANGLO-SAXON TIMES

SAT 28 - 29 JULY 10am - 5pm MEET THE ROMANS AT STOW

WED 1 AUG 11am - 1:30pm ANGLO-SAXON CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

THUR 2 - SUN 5 AUG 10am - 5pm CRAFTS OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS

WED 8 AUG 11am - 1:30pm ANGLO-SAXON CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

SAT 11 - MON 13 AUG 10am - 5pm A VISIT FROM THE SAXONS

WED 15 AUG 11am - 1:30pm ANGLO-SAXON CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

SAT 18-SUN 19 AUG 10am-5pm ANGLO-SAXON HARVEST

WED 22 AUG 11am - 1:30pm ANGLO-SAXON CHILDRENS WORKSHOP

SAT 25 - MON 27 AUG 10am - 5pm ANGLO-SAXON BIRDS, BEASTS AND SERPENTS

Friends Social Events

planned so far:

Friday March 23:

Storytelling in the Village

Friday and Saturday

April 6 & 7:

Don's Anglo-Saxon skills sessions for Friends

Sunday May 6:

May Day social in the Anglo-Saxon Village

Saturday and Sunday

June 9 & 10

Friends Working weekend (non costume)



The Friends of West Stow Committee

2007:

Alan Hamilton (Chairman)

Tina Smith (Vice Chair)

Stephen Cook (Treasurer)

Allan Benson (Secretary)

Anna Clarke

(Volunteer Representative)

Terry Smith (Email updates)

Bob Connelly

Brian Ansell

Laurie Manning

Sue Simpson

(Committee members)

Allan Jones

(Trust Representative)