

DOVETALES

16th Edition – Spring 2015

LAST NEWSLETTER of the
NAUNTON DOVECOTE
CONSERVATION SOCIETY and
NAUNTON VILLAGE TRUST



Now..... **NAUNTON DOVECOTE TRUST**
(see pages 5 & 6)

DOVECOTE EVENTS - UPDATE SINCE 2010

**Admiral Powell leads the
Village Jubilee Celebrations
with a Classic Boat Race –
Naunton-style**



**Ian Adcock and John Evans
supervising the Boat Race being
held on Monday 4th June 2012, as
part of the celebrations organised**

by the Social Committee to mark Her Majesty the Queen's 60th Jubilee. The race was followed by enthusiastic celebrations before the lighting of the Beacon. Villagers brought picnics and partied during the evening until the Beacon was lit on the Corbyns' bank opposite. Only one problem – no-one can now remember which boat won! If you remember, please advise Penny Hanks on penelopehanks@aol.com

Other communal activities at the Dovecote since 2010 include performances by ‘Rain and Shine’ the mobile theatre group. The Dovecote makes a wonderful backdrop for these incredibly innovative theatrical events where a very compact cast with minimal props and their own ‘stage’ bring Shakespeare to life in a unique way.

Two private anniversary parties were held, the first being the treble Hanks/Pickup 60th birthdays celebration also in June 2012, involving a large number of mutual local friends and a sprinkling of ‘foreigners’. The summer of 2012 struggled to find a sunny day – and this wasn’t one of them!

This was followed the following summer by Tony Wilson’s 80th birthday party. Visitors from outside were overwhelmed by the beauty of the setting which we residents are inclined to take for granted.

For those organising anything of a social nature at the Dovecote there is one rather significant missing element – running water (we do have electricity) – and this is becoming apparent as a limiting feature of the site despite the Village Hall being reasonably close by. This shortcoming is addressed later on page 10.

Trust News:

In November 2010 we completed the new render to the outside of the stable block – a great improvement to its appearance.

In January 2011, we were pleased to welcome Stuart Corbyn to become a new trustee – his experience both in his work with Listed Buildings and as a trustee of some very notable organisations is invaluable to us.

In November 2012, the trust made a bid at tender to try and acquire the plot of land to the north of our existing site which was being sold by Daphne Hickman. We were fortunate in that, thanks to the continuing support of our Friends and some kind benefactors, we were in a position to make a serious bid. We were not successful at the tender, but the land has been purchased by a local family and there has been no change in its essential agricultural ambience, which was what the trustees were concerned to maintain in view of its close proximity to the Dovecote. The terms of our Trust Deed are narrow but would have allowed us to purchase ‘land associated with the Dovecote and ancillary buildings’.

In 2013 we obtained Listed Building Consent to split the main door to the Dovecote into a ‘stable’ door. This allows visitors to see easily into the interior without disturbing the doves or coming into too close contact with the dreaded pigeon guano! – whilst on that subject, many thanks to the Super Guano Removal Team – *you know who you are* – who can now remove the guano in two hours flat!

SOME THANKS AND GOODBYES

Peter Lewis

First to Peter Lewis, who has served as a Trustee since June 2005 and, sadly, is leaving Naunton to live in Cheltenham. He and Anthea will be very much missed as they have both been very active in the community – Peter, besides being a Trustee has served as Tree Warden, and has been very active in the Church. We shall miss his rapid footsteps pacing up the village street at dusk to close the Church. He has also provided us with some excellent photographs of significant Dovecote happenings. We hope they will keep in touch with village events even though they have moved on.

Raymond Mould

This is ‘Thanks’ - an enormous ‘Thanks’ - to Raymond Mould who used to live at Guiting Stud/Grange and who was our largest donor in the original fund-raising exercise to buy and restore the Dovecote in 2000. Following the 14th (far distant) Edition of ‘Dovetales’, Raymond instigated a 5-year annual donation of £2,000 p.a. to NVT, which has just completed this year – with gift aid reclaim added, this makes his total gifts to the Dovecote in the last 15 years in excess of £25,000 - a massive boost to our funds - many thanks to him for his generosity, the more so as he no longer lives even in the adjoining Parish!

‘G & G’ – The Senior Steiners

We are sad to have lost two avid supporters and Duck-Sponsors, Dr. and Mrs. Eric Steiner (Bob’s parents) who were always to be seen at Dovecote Day urging their duck ‘G&G’ forward.

The picture to the right shows Eric Steiner enjoying the 2012 Jubilee celebrations with his usual gusto.

Other Duck-Sponsors

Other Duck-Sponsors we have lost include Kay Harvey ‘Kay’, also a ‘Friend’ of NVT; Phil Juggins ‘Pip’, who painted a very fine painting of the Dovecote which became our first card; Rupert Greenhill from Guiting Power, who tragically died in July 2011 aged only 30 – an enthusiastic duck-racer and original owner of ‘Roo’; and other duck sponsors Jim and Pat Adcock (parents of Ian, who owned ‘Jim’ and ‘Pat’).

Other faithful supporters we have lost since 2009 include Chris Hickman; Mr. William Young (nephew of Evelyn Day), who with his wife Elizabeth remained loyal ‘Friends’ of the Dovecote to keep the link with Naunton where both Evelyn, and in due course his mother, Mrs. Young, had lived. Elizabeth remains a ‘Friend’. We have also lost Lady Palmar, widow of Sir Derek, both significant benefactors of the project; Karen Hood and Greg (Sven) Clark, both of whom were ‘Friends’.

Policy is that their ducks race on in their original names. Ducks **can** change hands (and name) from time to time by Special Edict and (obviously) for princely sums – but usually where an original purchaser has lost interest in the sport and has picked a name that no-one else wants to buy!!



Robbie Johnson

Happily a different sort of ‘Goodbye’ in that Rob and Juliet have moved out of Naunton, but remain firmly in touch with us all.

Rob served on the NDCS Committee from 1999 onwards. He was always at the forefront of organising events, supervising Social Committee erection of the marquee, organising bars, bunting, people-power. He also provided us with the most wonderful donation box of all time which has thwarted at least 5 attempts to empty it. (Thanks Rob)

He played a leading part in trying to re-instate the turbine mechanism as a working model – finding us the necessary experts and suppliers and engendering enthusiasm for the scheme amongst his engineering friends. Sadly, however, as you all read in the 15th Edition, the red tape strangled this project.

Gill and Peter Bell

‘Thanks’ to Gill and Peter, daughter and son in law of Chris and Daphne Hickman, who have move in to Barn Hill (next to Dovecote) and have volunteered to mow the ‘inner bailey’ i.e. the farmyard area and the verges outside. This is a tremendous help as, whilst we can often find hungry domestic animals to eat off the ‘outer bailey’ from time to time, to have the most visible and used area kept so pristine is a real bonus especially if events are being held on site.

Robin Davies

Also moved on to more southerly climes, Robin Davies, former Chairman of both the NVT and the NDCS during some very difficult times who steered us safely through choppy waters with calmness and some great fund-raising ideas.

John Foster

A very sad ‘Thanks’ and ‘Goodbye’ to one of our most significant supporters during the fight to acquire and repair the Dovecote. John - pictured below - first became involved in 1999 when his friend Neville Barton persuaded him and Sir Derek Palmar to loan money to the Trust to purchase the Dovecote. This was the more generous because John (having no real understanding of the village of Naunton at that point) genuinely never thought his loan would be repaid. I remember the day when I told him we had managed to raise sufficient monies to repay and to repair, with John shaking his head in disbelief that such a small community could raise such a sum.

He served as a Trustee from 1999 to 2005, was a very significant donor and dealt very diligently with every task asked of him. He loved the Dovecote and the beauty of its setting never failed to uplift his spirits.

He was a great man – and delightful company – truly loved in this village and sadly mourned when he rejoined his beloved Mary in Naunton churchyard following his death on 6th December 2012.



MOST IMPORTANT DOVECOTE NEWS
TRUST AND DOVECOTE SOCIETY CONJOIN
AS “NAUNTON DOVECOTE TRUST”

Besides the turbine shed project outlined in 15th Edition (2014) the most significant other item on which the trustees have been working since 2010 relates to the relationship between the Naunton Village Trust (NVT) and the Naunton Dovecote Conservation Society (NDCS) the original pressure group formed in October 1997 when the planning application to turn the Dovecote into a Bed and Breakfast complex was first submitted.

Long-term residents will remember that NDCS under the chairmanship of Peter Morton led the campaign to stop the planning application and eventually to acquire ownership of the site. NVT was formed by NDCS to be the charity which ultimately took ownership of the land and buildings and, at that time, it was perceived by many that the trust would also be able to own other pieces of communal village land such as the village hall, the recreation ground etc. However, when the new trustees appointed in 1999 looked into the matter, it appeared that the form of trust created by our Trust Deed would not allow for any wider use other than the purchase and preservation of the Dovecote, ancillary buildings and land and other historical buildings (and ancillary land) in Naunton. In addition, changes to the constitution of our trust to enable it to have membership were rejected by the Charity Commission as the Naunton Village Trust, as formed, had not been created in a format which would allow such changes.

In the last few years, the current trustees have revisited these matters which were never resolved between 1999 and 2010 as other more pressing business such as fund-raising and repairs and alterations to the buildings at the site had taken priority.

The current trustees took legal advice on 3 matters: (a) the membership issue, (b) whether or not the trust was empowered to own other assets in the village and (c) on its formal relationship with NDCS. The advice was quite straightforward in that if we wished to institute membership we would have to close our trust down and form another. To own other assets than historic or architecturally significant buildings and ancillary land we would have, again, to form another trust and ‘ring-fence’ the Dovecote assets to date within that new trust. So far as our legal relationship with NDCS was concerned, even though NDCS had created NVT, it had no formal or legal links with it whatsoever and the trustees are solely responsible to the Charity Commission for their actions.

The current trustees have no wish to widen their terms of reference as they feel there is a very great deal of work still to be done restoring, maintaining and fund-raising for the Dovecote site without adding other village assets to their list of responsibilities.

Reviewing the situation with NDCS we agreed that matters had changed very much since 1999. The role of NDCS, which initially had been the main driving force, spearheading the fund-raising and making all the decisions on restoration and improvements at the site endorsed and supported by the Trust, had altered, with the main workload having in recent years been transferred to the trustees, supported by NDCS. Of the original year 2000 NDCS Committee who were not now trustees, only Pat Boulton and Barbara Steiner remained in post, together with recently-appointed Keith Russell. The other remaining year 2000 NDCS Committee members Donna Renney and Penny Hanks are still involved as trustees.

Having consulted with NDCS Committee, it was agreed that the two organisations should now work together rather than as two separate entities. Membership of NDCS has lapsed over the years having been replaced by 'Friends of the NVT' which is more tax-effective. This decision necessitates altering our Trust Deed to allow us to form sub-committees which will be created with former NDCS committee members and new member Peter Bell serving on those committees.

As a result of this and to avoid confusion over the role of the Naunton Village Trust, it was decided to change its name to 'NAUNTON DOVECOTE TRUST' as its sole aims and purposes relate to the Dovecote and its surrounding environs. This change took place on 5th February 2015.

Although Naunton Dovecote Trust is managed entirely at the discretion of its trustees, we like to think that we keep our supporters and the village residents well-informed as to our activities and that should any of our supporters wish to raise matters of concern, they would let us know.

To summarise therefore:

**Naunton Dovecote Trust:
Trustees:**

Penny Hanks (Chairman)
Corrinne Powell

Donna Renney
David Pickup

Stuart Corbyn

Secretary: Diana Woolley

Treasurer: Gerard Hanks

Supported by Sub-Committee Members:

Pat Boulton
Keith Russell

Barbara Steiner
Peter Bell

WHAT ARE WE DOING NEXT?

Following the decision outlined in 15th Edition, i.e. that we could not proceed with the restoration of the turbine as a working model, we have consulted with our Architect, Andrew Townsend, who has prepared a feasibility study giving us some options as to the way forward.

Dovecote Building

First, we need to undertake some basic repairs to the Dovecote building, i.e. broken and missing slates on the roof, repairs to the stonework on the roof, replacement of the ball, repairs to the louver/glover on the top, and pointing of the lower section of the building – all the sort of routine matters one would expect 10 years on from our original restoration.

Lean-to

These repairs bring into focus the state of the ‘lean-to’ building at the side of the Dovecote, the stonework of which is in a very poor condition and now needs consolidating and re-pointing.

Little is known of the history of the Dovecote but we believe that this lean-to was built when major alterations were made to the use of the Dovecote from housing pigeons to an agricultural mill. The front door was moved from the east elevation to the south, the lean-to was built on with a Welsh slate roof and a 45° pitch, joining the main building at the height of the first perch course (fig. 1).



fig. 1 Lean-to in early 1900s showing window for access for maintenance of wheel on south elevation and 45° Welsh slate pitch roof

A 'leat' was dug to divert the river through the western end of the lean-to, which housed a turbine wheel that powered a mill to grind animal feed. (*fig 2*) A first floor was added to the main building and a wooden door built into the north elevation for access to this floor where the feed was stored. (*fig 3*) All these features remain and can be seen quite clearly.



fig. 2



fig. 3 North elevation - showing the wooden door which was inserted to give access to the first floor storage area for grain

We cannot ascertain the date of this alteration but all the images we have of the Dovecote include this lean-to, including an early painting. (*fig 4*)



fig. 4 Date not known - is a painting found by David Hanks in a book. This is the earliest image we have of our Dovecote and shows the lean-to in situ

We do know the lean-to was in place in 1884 as it is shown on a map of that date, but it may have been built earlier as, historically, pigeon houses fell out of fashion towards the end of the 18th century when the cost of corn escalated and made them too expensive to keep. Whatever its date, it is clear that its construction together with a change of use of the building secured the future of our dovecote at a time when thousands of others were no longer maintained and fell into disrepair.

Having spoken to a long-time resident of Naunton who worked for Geoffrey Hanks in 1956, he confirms that Geoffrey wanted to sell the old water wheel in the lean-to for scrap and removed the Welsh slate roof for this purpose. Apparently the wheel was to be dragged across the Windrush to a lorry waiting in Dale Street, but got stuck in the river and Geoffrey had to call upon Gerald Hanks at Huntsmans Quarry for plant to be called in from the quarry to shift it. Unfortunately, the lean-to was then re-roofed using modern corrugated roofing material and the original 45° pitch was lost.

The options now include (a) merely repairing the lean-to as it is, with a similar corrugated material (b) repairing with Welsh slate at the low pitch, but having to strengthen the roof timbers to take the weight or (c) restoring the 45° pitch and roofing with Welsh slate.

The manner in which one should restore a historic building is always subject to conflicting opinions – whether one should reverse time and change something back to a former state, or whether one perceives changes to ‘reflect the history of the building’. One can see that the changes to the siting of the main door, the added window and door and the lean-to itself reflect a change in the function of the building which in fact secured its future for 130 years or more. However, one has to bear in mind that the last change to the angle and materials of the roof (in approx 1956) did not reflect a change in use, but was merely a utilitarian solution which sadly did not match the quality of the rest of the building.

For these reasons, the trustees’ preferred course of action would be to apply for consent to restore the pitch to 45° pitch, strengthen the roof timbers and re-instate the Welsh slate roof as it was originally built so far as we are aware.

Turbine Shed and Mechanism

Having made the decision not to restore the turbine as a working model, we asked our Architect to prepare some options for how we should restore this building and display its former contents with particular emphasis on providing an educational use.

One of the options presented was the concept of repairing the building ‘as a ruin’, i.e., not replacing the roof structure at all, but repairing the walls as they stand and treating the top of the walls with mortar cappings or turf to preserve the walls without the expense of repairing what will in essence be an unnecessary roof.

This method of conservation would save a very great deal of money and the trustees are very attracted to it as a feasible option. The sum involved would in effect pay for the preferred restoration of the lean-to roof.

The turbine mechanism could be replaced in situ, and covered with a glass or mesh floor which would enable visitors to view it properly. A working model could be created and placed in the lean-to building with some educational information. It is hoped that local schools might find this a useful teaching aid for science as it reflects both historic and renewable energy topics.

Some work would be done on digging out the leat both above and below the turbine shed to show how it worked, but without cutting into the river flow, thus avoiding any involvement with the Environment Agency.

As you all know, work to any listed building is always expensive and it is necessary to use a high quality ‘heritage’ building firm to ensure that the integrity of such a building is preserved. It is unfortunate that, despite the fact that we are dealing with a Grade II* listing, 20% V.A.T. is still chargeable on this work and adds a huge sum to the bills.

Our architects are liaising with Cotswold District Council and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings about our restoration proposals so that we may refine the extent of the project, and establish budget figures. Building work is unlikely to start until summer 2016.

The Trustees have committed £35,000 from reserves for the repairs to the Dovecote and lean-to, but this sum will not cover changing the lean-to roof or the work on the turbine shed. We will be working on firming up these prices and putting together a fundraising plan for the lean-to roof, turbine shed and mechanism.

The Dovecote is an important focus of village life enjoyed by many and we are privileged to share ownership of such a unique building which has been rescued from the endemic development of even the most insignificant old building in the Cotswolds into residential accommodation. The Trustees’ aim has always been to preserve its agricultural ambiance and thus the timeless feeling of the valley in which it lies. This next phase of repair and restoration is important in preserving and cherishing every aspect of the site’s unusual history. We will be applying to trusts and foundations for financial support and, as in the past, we hope that we can rely on those people who live in or have reason to love Naunton for additional support.

Kitchen and W.C. facilities

The trustees are only too aware of how limiting the site is so far as events such as ‘Rain and Shine’, private parties and fetes etc. are concerned because there is no clean running water, kitchen or W.C. facility. They are seriously considering inserting a very basic kitchen and W.C. area inside Unit 4 (by the noticeboard) of the stable block to overcome this shortcoming at the site, provided it could be done without too much expense.

‘Friends’ of the Naunton Dovecote Trust

Since 2009 when 14th Edition of ‘Dovetales’ was issued, and in particular following our last edition, No. 15, issued in Spring 2014 we are very pleased to welcome the following new ‘Friends’ and to thank them for their support. Increasingly we rely upon the regular financial support which we receive by Standing Order from our Friends, who consist not only of current village residents (CR) but also of past residents (PR), regular visitors (RV) or people who have a family history (H) in the village and wish to stay in touch.

Ian Adcock and Vanessa Gatford (CR)	Mrs. Margaret End (PR)	Daniel and Caroline Janner (CR)
Millie Baker (PR)(RV)	Claire Fazan and R. Rawlings (CR)	Kylie and Geoff Kendrick (CR)
Mr and Mrs. A.C. Barraclough (RV)	Dany and Mark Fremantle (CR)	Oliver Newton (RV)
A. Barton & M. Courtenay (CR)	Mr. Hugh Gibson (CR)	Jonathan and Joan Noble (CR)
Michael and Angela Cronk (CR)	Mary and Roland Greenhill (RV)	Ken and Sara Ogilvie (CR)
Jim and Jeannie Beer (CR)	Jolyon Grey (PR)(H)	Robert and Rosemary Parker (CR)
John and Christina Binns (CR)	Mr. and Mrs. Chris Goll (CR)	Dr. and Mrs. P. Ridoutt (PR/H)
David Boehm (PR/H)	Charles and Katie Hanks (CR/H)	Jamie and Kate Sanderson (CR)
Peter and Maggie Chambers (CR)	Gerard Hanks and Sophie Hoult (CR/H)	Nikky and Steve Shergold (CR)
Robert Crichton (PR)(RV)		The Siriwardine Family (CR)
Licia Crystal (CR)	A. W. (Bill) Harvey (RV/H)	Mrs. A. E. Wilkinson (RV)
John Hanks Day (H)		Francis Witts (RV)

As you can see from the previous pages, we really need all the support we can get now and if you are indeed thinking of becoming a ‘Friend’, please complete the form at the bottom of this page and send it to P. A. Hanks at Spring Barn, Naunton, GL54 3AS, who will let you have the appropriate forms to complete. Our target is 100 Friends and we currently have 83 signed up so please help us reach our goal.

In order to be a ‘Friend’ we ask you to make a minimum donation of £10 per annum for an individual, or £25 per annum for a household by STANDING ORDER to avoid our having to spend time chasing up annual membership fees. If you are a U.K. taxpayer, we can also claim a 25% Gift Aid rebate from HMRC if you give your consent by signing the necessary form. 40% taxpayers can also claim tax relief on gifts through their tax return. We are, of course, delighted to receive higher subscriptions.

Legacies: if you are making or reviewing your Will, remember that Naunton Dovecote Trust (Charity No. 1070477) is a registered charity and any legacy will, under current legislation, be free of Inheritance Tax. Your legacy will be much appreciated and will be used towards securing the future of a lovely building in a unique setting.

If you would like to become a ‘Friend’ of the Naunton Dovecote Trust please contact Penny Hanks at Spring Barn, Naunton, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 3AS

Email: penelopehanks@aol.com Tel: 01451 850459 – or send this slip to her

Name:

Address:

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Phone:

Email (if preferred)



Finally, a couple each from a family with three generations of Dovecote supporters joined in marriage in September 2014. Sophie Hoult, whose grandparents Graham and Anne Hoult, parents Robin and Helen Hoult, and uncle, David Hoult have all been supporters of the NDCS and the Naunton Village Trust since inception, married Gerard Hanks (current Treasurer of the Trust) whose maternal grandparents, Kay and Peter Harvey, and uncle Andrew Harvey, parents Douglas and Penny Hanks, and paternal Aunt, Donna Renney have also been financial supporters and have been closely involved since 1997 in the saving of the Dovecote from development.

The pair were married in Naunton Church and are pictured here at a ‘favoured location’! Needless to say they are also ‘Friends’ of the Naunton Dovecote Trust themselves – would they dare not be?!?

*Naunton Dovecote Trust is most grateful to the following for permission to use photographs:
Robin Davies, Ian Adcock and David Hanks*