

Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Heritage Centre

No. 3 19th October 2015

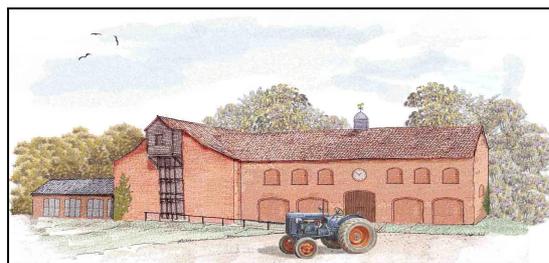
Design and Planning

As explained in the last issue, we have been joined by Roger Coy Partnerships of Eyden to complete the detailed design of the building in readiness for submission for full planning consent later in the year. Ian Bramble of the partnership is overseeing this part of the project.

As part of the planning application, a number of reports have to be submitted to deal with such issues as noise, ecology, soil sampling, flood risk assessment, and so on.

A new ecology survey was carried out in the late Spring by Phil Irving of the Greensands Trust. Phil produced the original report submitted with the outline planning consent and so is familiar with the site. No new species of any note have been identified and so no mitigating measures should be necessary. It is worth noting, however, that the site is frequently visited by a number of birds of prey including: barn owls, red kites, sparrow hawks, kestrels and buzzards.

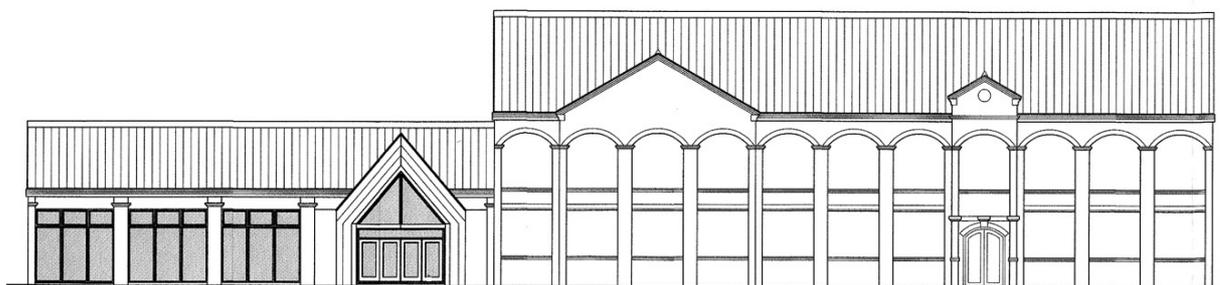
In June, Sam Butler and an assistant from the Partnership spent a day on-site carrying out a levels survey of the Trust's land and



the entry road. This will be an essential component of the planning application as this will include not just the buildings, but the landscaping and drainage measures.

A report on the soil and possible contaminants was produced for us in 2008 by SoilTechnics of Walgrave and since nothing has changed since then, they are of the opinion that this report can be used again with no changes.

In July, Luke Abbott of the Partnership produced the first draft of the principal elevation.



However, we felt that while this was a good start, it had moved too far away from the original artist's impression that had been used at the outline planning stage (see above). After speaking to Robert, I met with Roger and Luke in September and we identified the main features from the original concept that we would like to take

forward in the final drawings. First, the tea rooms in the small wing to the left should retain the curved arches of a converted 19th century cart shed. Second, this small wing should be built on foundations which would be capable of taking a second storey when funding allows.

On the main building, we like the idea of the outside loft winch – an idea introduced by the late Dennis Pearson. This could be either a dummy feature or incorporate a working mechanism that could be used to raise heavy objects to the first floor.

I personally like the idea of the cupola on the original drawing however, there is a problem in that, if the Centre is to include a working blacksmith's forge, there will have to be a flue and this might have to terminate in a chimney very close to the present position of the cupola. Therefore the cupola might have to be scaled down and erected on the small wing instead. More work needs to be done on this based on the concept of a working forge just inside the double doors on the right (so that ponies

and horses can be shod outside on the paved apron).

Finally, the position of the main entrance was not shown on the original artwork. Luke has suggested something like the porch shown in the new drawing but this will necessitate changes to the original internal layout devised (at great cost) by Haley Sharpe Design.

Apart from the further work on the elevations, the outstanding issues include the flood risk assessment, landscaping, sound control, and boundary treatment. There will also have to be an input from Northamptonshire Highways regarding the entrance design and specifications.

Loans and Displays

There have been two displays over the Summer.

In August, St Andrew's Church at Yardley Hastings held its annual flower festival – the theme this year being Royalty. We helped by organising the loan of an early Bush television set which ran all weekend, showing the Coronation service of 1953.

We also displayed part of our collection of 19th and early 20th century Royal commemorative ware, a collection of Royal, special edition newspapers and the 78 rpm gramophone record shown opposite. This is a recording of King George V's Christmas message to the Empire in 1935.



In September, a study group who have been researching Hackleton's role in the Great War held an open day in the Village Hall to display their findings. We lent a substantial part of our World War One collection including a bullet-holed steel helmet, a deactivated Lee-Enfield rifle, shells, World

War One commemorative ware and the trench mace shown below. Trench maces were usually home-made, this one incorporated horse-nails and an iron loop at the end to give it more weight. It was found in the Somme area of France.



Fund Raising

With the work going on in preparation for submission of the planning application, attention has focussed once more on fund-raising

There will be some income this year from car boot sales and the annual vintage jumble but more substantial sums will be needed to take the project forward.

At present, the Trust has access to a little over £20,000 but has purchased the land and right of way (worth approximately £35,000) and has already commissioned and paid for work on the internal design costing approximately £13,000. It has been decided that the project will now go forward in stages on a step-by-step – fund raise-and-build basis. The present phase of design and planning will be almost covered by existing funds but obviously, for the scheme to advance to the next level, further funding will have to be found.

Currently, enquiries are being made regarding the European Growth Fund for

which applications for schemes have to be submitted before the end of November. Preliminary talks with the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) have taken place and we are awaiting a further contact from DEFRA.

Work is also taking place looking at landfill tax schemes although one of the local funds, the Cemex Foundation, has recently closed.

We are now in the process of setting up a Crowd-Funding exercise. To us, this is a new way of raising money for good causes. Anyone can use this method – a charity, an organisation or an individual. If we have been successful, you may have already received email notification. We would be very grateful if you could forward it on to as many people as possible.

Five pound note from the Collection – this one was issued by the Northamptonshire Banking Company at Kettering in May, 1889.

We now need many 21st century versions of the same!



Steven Hollowell

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