

**FROM 2002-2023**

**REMEMBERING THE FARMING  
EXHIBITION - JUNE 2002**

Visit the **FARMING EXHIBITION**  
1st, 2nd and 3rd JUNE at the  
**MUD BARN, SUTTON ROAD**



**10-00 to 12-30 and 2-00 to 4-30 ENTRY FREE**

See how farming has changed  
**"WITHIN LIVING MEMORY"**

*Including, photographs, exhibits, wartime Land Army,  
building with mud demonstration, mud building walk,  
old farm vehicles, rats, rabbits, bats and barn owls,  
how to build a hay rick, competition for the young  
and older (including Harry Potter fans) etc.,  
Also your chance to make comments, record your  
memories and stories of farming and the countryside*

A joint venture by  
The Great Bowden Historical Society and the Heritage Group

**JUBILEE FESTIVAL**

Comment in 2023.....

It is 21 years since the Farming Exhibition in the Mud Barn in Sutton Road, Great Bowden in June 2002.

The Exhibition was celebrating 50 years of farming in the parish with the publication of the booklet *Farming in Great Bowden - within Living Memory* written in conjunction with local farmers and published by Great Bowden Historical Society

This coincided with the 50th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's succession to the throne and was the first major public event for Great Bowden Heritage.

Many things have changed. We have a new monarch, Charles III. The Heritage Group after 20+ years of activity and discovery is now resting until younger people can take over. The village of Great Bowden has changed too - the number of houses have increased by about 50 per cent . New estates have been built on some fields, we have a large chicken farm and a new area of woodland in Welham Lane and some of the ridge and furrow from the medieval open fields system have been ploughed up and the earthworks lost. But beyond the built village the majority of the land remains agricultural.

The Mud Barn has gone too, replaced by a modern house.



**WE WOULD LIKE YOU  
TO APPRECIATE OUR  
HARD WORK!**

**WHEN WE STARTED  
THE WHOLE FLOOR  
WAS COVERED IN THIS  
MUCK MORE THAN A  
FOOT DEEP. WE ARE  
PLEASED WITH WHAT  
WE FOUND  
UNDERNEATH.**

**JO AND ROSEMARY  
(LAND GIRLS 2002)!  
THANKS TO CHRIS  
FOR THE MANPOWER.**



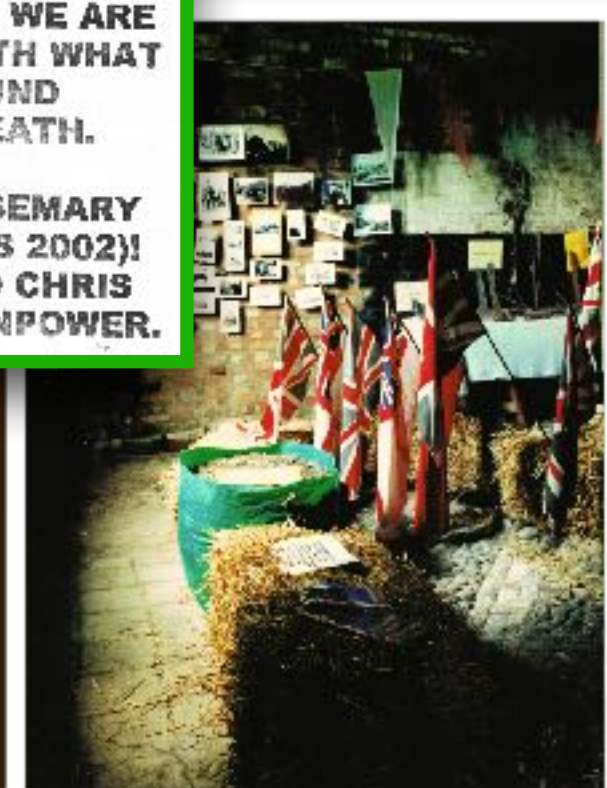
## **THE "FINDS"**

The finds displayed here were all discovered when the barn was cleaned out this spring.

The lumps of mud were kept as good examples of a mud and hair mixture, used particularly on internal walls to prevent cracking. The reeds were probably used in the ceiling.

The door furniture comes from a variety of periods. Any help with dating this would be welcome and there are one or two mystery items we would like help with.

Thank you.





## THE MUD BARN

**WE KNOW VERY  
LITTLE ABOUT THE  
HISTORY OF THIS  
INTERESTING  
BUILDING. PLEASE  
WILL YOU HELP US  
WITH ANY OLD  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
THE BARN BEFORE IT  
WAS REPAIRED AND  
ANY OTHER  
INFORMATION YOU  
HAVE. THANK YOU.**





## THE FLAGS

The old flags and bunting used to decorate the barn for the Queen's Golden Jubilee this weekend have been around for some time. The trouble is we don't know how old they are or on what other occasions they have been displayed.  
Can you help please?  
Speak to a steward.

Thank you.

**2023 - After use on various Royal occasions the flags and bunting have been boxed for safe storage in the Village Hall until the next time they are needed.**



**In 2002 we addressed the future of farming in England and asked these questions**

The problem is *NOT* Is there a future for farming in England?

The problem *IS* There **MUST** be a future for farming in England

Questions you may wish to address:-

1. The public now expect a great deal from farmers. Are we prepared to help?
2. Are we prepared to buy locally produced products?
3. Is "cost" the only consideration?
4. Are we prepared to pay more for organic produce?
5. Are you prepared to read labels and consider nutrition and food produced by means which improve the environment?
6. How important are pre-packed, washed and sorted vegetables to you?
7. Have you ever used the facilities which the Countryside Stewardship Scheme provides for the public?
8. Did you know that farming is the biggest polluter of our water resources? (through the use of chemicals to produce cheaper food?).
8. Do you want to know how and where (country of origin) your food is grown?
9. Does the development of gene modified crops worry you?
10. How concerned are you about animal welfare?

**Comment in 2023.....**

**Many of the 10 questions raised in 2002, 21 years ago, are still relevant today in 2023 and concerns have not been met.**

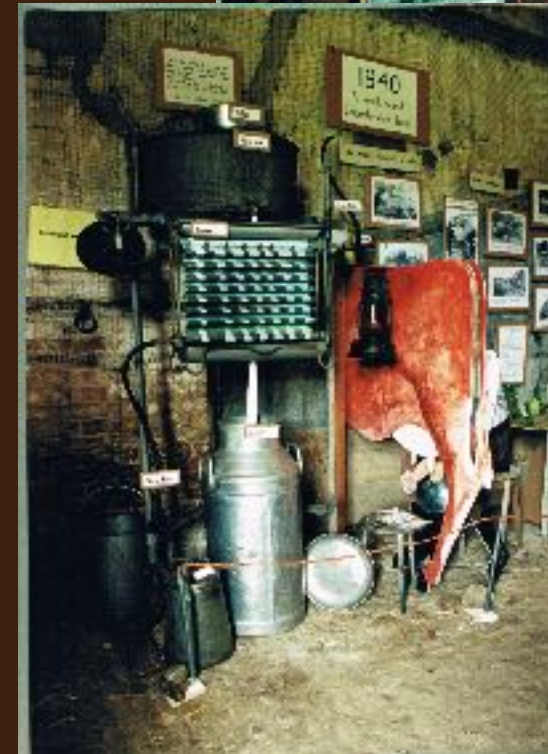
**There are differences: Foot and Mouth Disease was the worry then, now it is Bird Flu. The quality of food may have slipped down the scale as the cost of living bites. And the concern now seems to be not where food is grown but who is available to harvest it.**

**Satellite technology now allows for harvest at the optimum time, soil science has developed and there is much more awareness of climate change.**

**And no one in 2002 had heard of Brexit.**

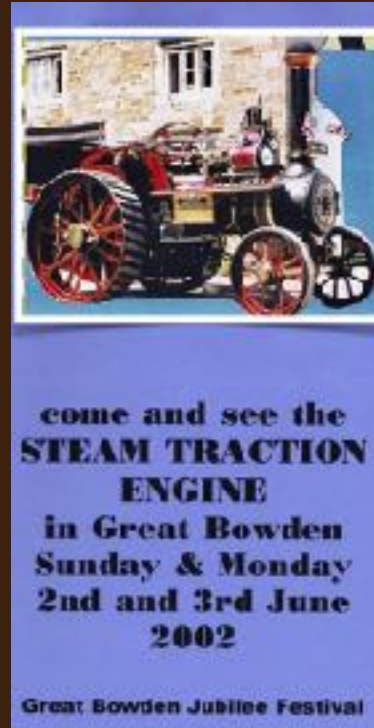


**Some of the  
display boards  
from the Farming  
Exhibition  
in 2002**





**meet the hounds!**



**World War II Women's Land Army display**

**Other contributors to the Exhibition in 2002**

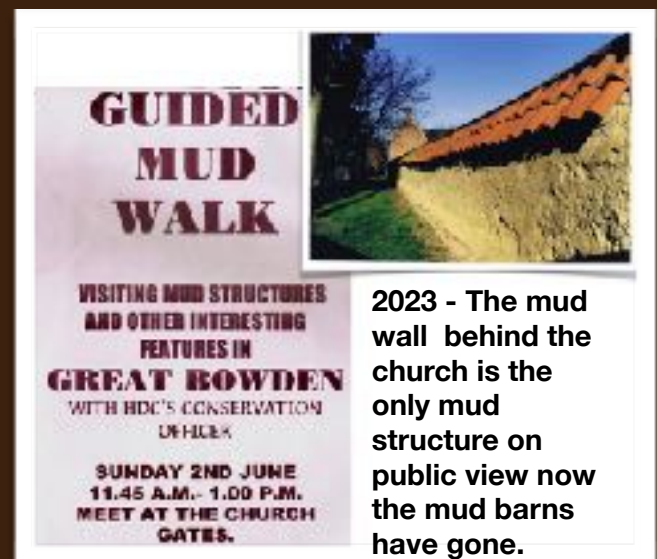
**Photos and display notices from the Exhibition**

**COME AND SUPPORT THE MAYPOLE DANCERS**



**Saturday 1st June  
the Mud Barn Paddock  
Sutton Road  
3.00 p.m.**

ANCIENT DANCES PERFORMED BY THE VILLAGE SCHOOL



**2023 - The mud wall behind the church is the only mud structure on public view now the mud barns have gone.**



**Once the film had finished, a local cinema gave us the poster to publicise our Harry Potter Quiz where we asked children to identify 13 items that Harry and his friends may have left behind in the barn. The winner was very happy to take the poster home in addition to the prize.**

**At the end of the exhibition we held a feast in the barn for everyone who had helped; amongst the straw bales. No ghosts were encountered but we all felt sure we were not the first to celebrate there. Before the Village Hall was built it would have been ideally placed for harvest suppers and other village gatherings. We may not have been the first but we were almost certainly the last village group to celebrate before the barn was demolished.**



**For further information about our excavations, etc at the Mud Barn Paddock - click here.**

**[http://  
archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/  
library/browse/issue.xhtml?  
recordId=1161771&recordType  
=GreyLitSeries](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1161771&recordType=GreyLitSeries)**

**Our village has a history of mud walled dwellings and walls for the poorer members of the community. There is very little evidence of any surviving today.**

**Mud continued to be a significant partner to Great Bowden Heritage for another 15 years following the Farming Exhibition in the Mud Barn. It was encountered in excavations when digging and sieving the soil, back filling the pits and washing the finds. It was also encountered in field walking , crossing newly ploughed fields and washing your boots afterwards.**



