

# **The Heritage of the Buck – a timeline.**

A summary of the research completed by  
the children of Wrexham Schools under  
the supervision of  
Wrexham History,  
Sarah Baylis, Mary Hext  
and Neil Christiansen

Edited by Neil Christiansen



Visitors to our meadow and woodland constantly express an interest in the history of the site and whilst we have some knowledge of what happened in the past, we were never sure how much of it was true and whether some of it was 'embroidered'.

In 2016 we talked to the Welsh Heritage Lottery team about a project to work with children from local schools to investigate the history of the site and more importantly the history of the listed building called Buck Farm, in whose curtilage the meadow is situated.

In early 2017 we applied for a 'Young Roots' project and eventually were awarded the funds to complete the project. Since then nearly 20 primary schools have been involved in the project and over 1600 children have attended sessions looking at history and what happened in the past.

We worked closely with Wrexham History, Wrexham Museum, Wrexham Young Carers and many schools within and around Wrexham.

This booklet sets out our key findings about Buck Farm and the local area in an easy to read timeline style. If you find the information interesting a fuller and more detailed set of articles are available on Wrexham History. <https://www.wrexham-history.com/>

Outlook Meadow and Woodland is managed and facilitated by Enterprise Education Alliance Ltd, which is a 'not for profit' social enterprise, limited by guarantee and with a charitable purpose. It is registered in Cardiff no 5711204 and the registered office is The Outlook, Willington, Malpas, Wrexham. SY14 7LX. Telephone 01948 830198.

**Outlook Meadow and Woodland offers countryside experiences and activities to schools and community groups.**

**We have 6 acres on our site, split 50/50 between meadow and woodland. We manage the site in an environmentally sensitive style and ensure that all areas are as natural as can be.**

**The meadow has areas of full meadow grass and wild flowers, which provide cover and habitats for a host of wildlife and wildflowers.**

**The woodland has a stream running through it for most months of the year and is deliberately under-managed to provide a natural habitat for badgers, foxes and a host of forest creatures. In spring a huge variety of woodland flowers rotate their blooms until the woodland canopy thickens in June.**

**We have a classroom seating up to 50 that can also be used as a meeting room and a marquee which can be used as a separate classroom or shelter if required.**

**We also have a number of other areas in the meadow including; a wildlife pond, an traditional orchard, a lookout tower, an Anderson Shelter and a stage for drama productions.**

**We offer the venue to schools, community groups and families, but all visits have to be booked in advance. We make sure that all visitors have exclusive use of our venue when they are here.**

**For more details, please contact Lesley or Neil on**

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**or email on [lesley@enterprisealliance.org.uk](mailto:lesley@enterprisealliance.org.uk)**

**50AD**

Hanmer was thought to have originally been Hagenamere, relating to a Mercian Lord - Hagen  
During Roman times this area was the home of the Cornovii, who stretched as far as the Wrekin

**874**

The local area suffered raids by the Vikings, who came up the River Dee and many stayed in the area as it offered a better climate than their home.  
Worthenbury was thought to be a Viking settlement as they paid their taxes in Viking coins.  
St Alkmunds church in Whitchurch is thought to have been founded by Aethelflaed

**918**

Alfred the Great established a strategy for defeating the Vikings, and soon Wessex became the most powerful kingdom in the country  
Viking Raids were stopped by building bridges over the river Dee and the creation of a Burgh at Chester

**1066**

The Puleston family arrived with William the Conqueror and settled in Shrewsbury

**1068**

Saxon Earl Edwin laid siege to the King's forces in Shrewsbury and Malpas but were defeated by the King's Army moving South from Chester  
King William replaced the Cheshire Land Lords with his own men

**1110**

This is the oldest recorded reference to a church in Hanmer. This building was destroyed by fire in 1483 during the War of the Roses.  
Hanmer was part of Ancient Cheshire within Duddleston and later became the estate of the prominent Hanmer family, who were descended from Sir Thomas Macclesfield, and was an officer of Edward the first.  
Sir Thomas settled in English Maelor (Maelor Saesneg) as the family consolidated its possessions through a series of marriages to prominent Welsh families.

**1200**

Emral Hall was built for Emma, the daughter of Henry de Audley and widow of the Prince of Powys.  
By an inquisition of Edward1, she was dispossessed of the property in 1277.

**1282**

The Emral estate was granted to the Anglo-Norman Puleston family by King Edward 1st.  
Richard Puleston was King Edward's servant.

**1374**

Robert Puleston married Griffith Fychan, who was the sister of Owen Glyndwr. He later joined his brother-in-law in a rebellion against the taxes of the English King Henry 1V. His Estate was forfeited for his involvement and he died in 1399 and is buried in Gresford.

**1415**

The Puleston lands were returned to the family as part of the Royal Pardons granted by Henry V on his succession. The Puleston family returned to the area and lived quietly on the Emral Estate.

**1547**

**The Puleston Family built a timber framed inn to be called the Emral Arms, but it was known locally as The Buck.**

**1592**

Roger Puleston was elected as MP for Denbighshire.

**1642  
to  
1651**

During the Civil War, there was much action in this area. The Puleston family supported the Parliamentarians, whilst the Hanmers supported the Royalists. Emral Hall was occupied by the Royalists and then by the round head Parliamentarians. There were many skirmishes in the area, and a significant battle was at Rowton Heath, just outside Chester.

**1700**

**The Buck was extended to become a long, whitewashed brick house with stables for use as a coaching inn**



**1720**

Daniel Defoe, the author of Robinson Crusoe, passed by on his tour of Britain. He makes no note of the Buck, or Buck Farm, but was suitably impressed with the stone bridge at Bangor on Dee. His other remarks on Bangor and Wrexham are not so readable, but can be found at <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/travellers/Defoe/24>

1725

## **The Buck was a working Coaching Inn with a Cock Pit to the rear.**

Cock Fighting was a popular entertainment with much gambling on which cock would win.

Cock Fighting was banned by the Cruel Sports Act in 1849

1726

Emral Hall was rebuilt by Sir Thomas Puleston.

The new building had 2 wings and was a grand Country House.

1739

Bryn y Plas Hall was built at Overton

1765

Richard Puleston was born. He became the High Sheriff of Flintshire in 1793

1800

Bettisfield Windmill was built and was used for milling local grain including Buck Farm

1810

Richard Puleston the Elder granted a 1 year lease for Buck Farm and The Buck to George Mellor

1820

Commission considering children's poverty in 1820's found that work was only available for two and half days per week. Mine workers did not have to be paid wages with money and could issue tokens instead, which forced employees to take food from company owned shops at higher prices. This was called the 'Truck System'

Corn Laws prevented the import of cheaper corn and wheat from North America and Russia.

Working conditions were grim.

1821

The Landlord of the Buck was George Price and in September of this year, his wife, Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Richard.  
Another son, William was baptized in April 1824

1825

Buck Inn, Farm and outbuildings leased by Reverend George Walker from Charles Henry Rich, Bard of Bucks, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May for £180, with the balance of £1670 due on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1825

1830  
&  
1831

The mine and iron workers of Cefn, Acrefair, Rhos and Brymbo went on strike against falling wages and the truck system. A large crowd of miners and colliery staff gathered at Rhos, determined to destroy the truck shop attached to Acrefair colliery. The tension was relieved by speeches from the local Mayor and the Vicar of Ruabon, but was then rekindled by the yeomanry trying to arrest ringleaders. Shots were fired, although no one was injured. The episode became known as the 'Battle of Chirk Bridge.

Tensions remained high as the workers tried to get their case heard, but no strikes were successful and it was 40 years before effective Unions were formed and workers rights were eventually listened to.

1834

Prior to 1834, paupers were the responsibility of the Parish Overseers, who often paid a pension to the pauper to continue living at home. In 1834, Poor Law Unions were formed, which constructed workhouses. Conditions in the workhouses were very harsh and the pensions for people living at home became very restricted. Someone breaking their leg would get a pension for just 5 weeks. Inhabitants listed as Paupers in the census returns would have a poor law record.

From 1854, parts of South Cheshire became part of the Whitchurch Poor Law Union, with its workhouse at the present hospital building in Claypit Street. Flintshire detached was covered by the Wrexham Poor Law Union with a 400 bed workhouse constructed in 1838. This workhouse contained a high proportion of mothers and children.

1838

Tithe Records show that Tithes 92, 93 and 214 were all owned by the Rev George Walker.

92 was a woodland – classed as a plantation

93 was a Meadow of Wheat Stubble

214 was a house and outbuildings with John Leadsom as the occupier.

1839

As well as owning the house, meadow and woodland the Rev George Walker appears to have acted as an agent for the Puleston Estate of Emral. The tenant of the house was John Leadsom, who was designated as a farmer as the house appears to now be unlicensed.

1840

The third Baronet, Richard Price Puleston dies in London and his half-brother Rev Sir Gresley Puleston, rector of Worthenbury, becomes the last Puleston at Emral Hall.

1841

John Leadsom is now the publican at The Buck. He was 75 and seems to have run the Farm, whilst his wife Jane (65) ran the pub with the help of her daughters Sarah (25) and Elizabeth (20), and also a 20 year old live in servant, William Gregory.

Local landowners are identified as Lord Kenyon, Rev George Walker, Sir Thomas Hanmer and Viscount Duncannon

1845  
to  
1846

The Corn Laws were repealed, which benefitted the industrial workers but had the opposite effect on the countryside, where a lot of grain farmers could no longer make a living.

By 1880, the land area growing wheat (corn) had shrunk by 30% and 100,000 agricultural labourers had moved to towns or emigrated.

The arrival of the railways had a big impact on local land usage, allowing the rapid transport of milk and dairy produce into towns and cities.

The local economy around Buck Farm moved from arable to dairy farming.

1851

Jane Leadsom is now listed as a publican's widow, living alone in a cottage in Tallarn Green.

Living close by Henry Leadsom (38) and his family, who may have been Jane's son.

Publican at the Buck was Hamner born John Preston and his wife Elizabeth, both in their 30s. Their children were Sarah, Eliza, Ann, Martha and Elizabeth. Hannah Bowker was a 14 year old general servant who was born in Worthenbury.

1861

Census records now show the Buck as the Emral Arms, part of the Emral estate. John Preston still in charge. Added the title of farmer of 24 acres.

Eliza, Martha, Ann and Elizabeth were still present. Two further children have now been added; John Junior and Samuel.

1868

A new STEAM mill was built in Bettisfield by Edward and Sarah Hughes. The Hughes family ran the mill until 1990, moving from steam to a diesel engine and then to electricity

1869

The name is now back to the Buck Inn, but the landlord is now William Davies, who appeared at the Petty Court on a charge of 'permitting drunkenness'. He paid costs of 8shillings and 6pence (42p) and consented to close the house. The licence was withdrawn.

1870

Emral Hall is rented by Mr & Mrs Peel Etherston.

1876

Bettisfield Chapel is removed to Tallarn green and re-consecrated. Farmers lent their teams of horses to move the chapel in one piece.

Tea was given to the children of the Sunday School and Hon Charlotte Kenyon played the organ.

The move was financed by Georgina and Henrietta Kenyon.

1876

Charlotte Kenyon was involved with the choirs in both Tallarn Green and Hanmer. She married Rev George Montagu Osborn, who was the rector of Campton, Bedfordshire. Miss E Osborn and Miss Emma Kenyon signed the register and the Rev Arthur Osborn was the best man.

On leaving the neighbourhood to be with her husband, the church gave her a small kettle.

1881

A country family from Wych, the Carrs, have now taken over the tenancy of the Buck. James Carr was born in Wavertree in 1844 and he married Winifred in 1864. They had children Prudence, William and Levi. Carr called himself a Dealer and Farmer. They had the assistance of 3 live-in servants, one of whom was 39-year-old John Davies, born in Liverpool. The name Carr may be found in the township of Willington back in 1718 in the shape of Randle.

Jan  
1886

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates a snapshot of Hanmer Parochial School (Flint):

*The boys are in very good order and are taught with very decided success. In my opinion they deserve the merit mark of excellent. The reading, however, should be more distinct and expressive and the geography more general throughout the class. The singing is sweet and pleasing.*

*In the Girl's school, the discipline and instruction are excellent. The needlework is hardly excelled in my district.*

*The infants are well taught and disciplined. Their singing needs improvement.*

*The amount of grant for the sixteen months past is £119, with £5 11/5d being lost to the managers owing to bad attendance by the pupils.*

Feb  
1886

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates that Miss Lonsdale gave Christmas presents for good attendance to the Hanmer Schoolchildren. *This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year that the Christmas tree has borne such acceptable fruits. The attendance at the school is still not as good as could be wished and the managers lost £5, which they should have received from the government, from this cause alone.*

*Many of the children walk a long way and have rough weather to encounter, but what may be done is shown by the fact that one girl, who lived about a mile off, had not missed once in 8 years. And others had not missed in 4 or 5 years.*

*Mrs and Miss Lonsdale were heartily thanked for their kind interest in the schools and the encouragement they have given to the children.*

April  
1886

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates that on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, a temperance tea meeting was held in the schools as part of the Hanmer Wakes, which feast is kept up in memory of our patron St Chad.

There were 36 persons present and after tea, a pleasant evening was spent with games and other amusements.

A monument was erected to the memory of Sidney Walter Billsedon, aged 10, who met with such a sad death by drowning in the Mere on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>.

May  
1886

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates that on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr and Mrs Haywood and family left the parish. The school children were waiting to bid them goodbye as they drive through the parish.

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates that the annual sale of work for missions was held this year on June 6<sup>th</sup>. *The day was beautiful and everyone did their best to help such a good cause, with the children working as hard as the grown up people. Mary Simcock's Lucky Bag was, as always, a great pleasure to the children and was as successful as usual. The Band of Hope stall made more than last year. Dancing then began at 8 and carried on until 11.*

Sept  
1886

The magazine for the rural deaneries of Ellesmere and Bangor on Dee relates that *the children attending the Sunday School of St. Mary Magdalene's, Tallarn enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon at the Gelli on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August through the kindness and liberality of the Hon Misses Kenyon. A procession was formed at the school at 2.30, under the superintendence of Mr Williams of Dymocks Mill. Upon arriving at the Gelli, the children found a plentiful tea prepared for them. After tea, the children entered with spirit into the games of trial and skill, for which prizes were afterwards given. At about 8pm, the prizes for Attendance and Good Conduct were presented and all returned home in high spirits, well satisfied with the day's entertainment.*

*The Sunday School treat this year was kindly given by Lord Kenyon. It took place on Wed July 28<sup>th</sup>, which happened to be the only fine day in a very wet week. The Hanmer Children, together with the Horsemans Green Sunday School numbered about 120. After an excellent tea, the usual games were carried on with much spirit until 7.30, when, after singing several songs and the National Anthem, both teachers and scholars united in hearty cheers for Lord Kenyon, Lady Harlech and the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley-Owen, who had all taken so much trouble to amuse and entertain them that afternoon.*

1888

Joseph Davies arrives to take over the farming at the Buck. He was born in Willington in 1859 and nearly went to another farm as the dust thrown up by passing horse and carts made the washing dirty. Joseph had a sister called Sarah, who lived at the house and was married to Elizabeth from Cholmondely. They had 2 children; Mary and Thomas Joseph, who was born in 1886. Mary married Fred Owen from Penley.

1891

Joseph now had 3 live-in servants on the payroll; Ellen Jones (17), a vessel cleaner from Penley; Sarah Hayward (16), a housemaid from Hanmer and John France (19), a labourer born in Willington.

1904

Emral Hall was eventually leased to the Summers Family, after they had rented it for some years.

1905

Agriculture had still not recovered from the great depression that began in 1870 as the repeal of the Corn Laws started to bite. And led to a great migration of workers from farming to industry. Many farmers were still in desperate poverty. Only low cottage rents and the produce of labourer's gardens and pigs and chickens in the yard stood between whole families and starvation.

1910

At this time, animal husbandry started to be adopted, which brought in efficiencies of scale and fostered large scale production on farms specialising in certain livestock. Smaller farmers started to keep their own poultry and started selling surplus eggs.

1911

The death of Catherine Judith Foutayne, who was the widow of Sir Richard Puleston of Emral. Emral Estate and Hall sold at Auction at Wynnstay Hotel, Wrexham.

Buck Farm was now 55 acres and the largest farm on offer. Joseph Davies, the tenant, bid £2,000 (£40 per acre) and bought the farm and house. Joseph Davies was now a cattle dealer at local markets, a keen sportsman and owned greyhounds. He won many prizes at Clay Pigeon Shoots.

1914  
to  
1918

First  
World  
War

The start of the World War (first) impacted significantly on life in the area. The primary impact was that many local families found themselves without fathers, sons, brothers, and uncles for the duration of the war. They packed up their kitbags and marched off singing 'It's a long way to Tipperary' but many of them never came back. Most communities lost men and sometimes whole generations of menfolk. As Wrexham was a garrison town, a high percentage of men went away to war. Women and children had to carry out many of the jobs previously done by men.



The secondary impact of the First World War was on the landscape. Timber was needed to reinforce the trenches and much of the nation's woodland was chopped down for trenches and pit props in the local mines. Outlook Woodland is nearly 3 acres and yet no tree pre-dates the first world war. Like so much woodland, there were no trees left on Buck Farm by the end of the First World War.

1916

Thomas Joseph, son of Joseph Davies, took over the Buck from his father when he was 30. It is not known if this was because of the War.

1918

Thomas marries Florence Manning from Cholmondley. They had 4 children; Gwendoline, Joseph, Thomas and Muriel. Gwen and Tom are mentioned in the annual Tallarn Green school prize giving at Christmas 1929, with Gwen getting an award for 2 year's full attendance and Tom for 95% attendance and 1<sup>st</sup> prize for industry and another for drawing.

1920

There was a boost for dairy farming as the government combatted malnutrition amongst the rural poor by providing free school milk and meals. As a direct response to this, the Co-op milk collection depot at Overton on Dee was opened, together with creameries at Marchweil, Whitchurch and Ellesmere. The Cadbury factory at Marchweil now had its own railway siding.

1934

Gwendoline Davies wins an Honorary Certificate in Elementary section of Pianoforte playing at Wrexham Guildhall of Music. In the same year she marries Bernard Stevenson and moved to Overton.

1936

For the first time, agricultural labourers were included in the national insurance scheme, which started for most occupations in 1911. As a direct result of this, wages began to climb and investment in agriculture expanded. In the same year, Emral Hall was purchased by Mr Eddie Broad, who demolished the building.

1939

-  
Start  
of  
WW2

Only twenty years after the end of World war 1, yet another war began. The Second World War brought even more casualties than the first. Just 16 days after Germany invaded Poland, Russia invaded Poland from the east and thousands of Polish citizens men, women and children were deported by the Soviets to gulags and labour camps in the depths of Siberia. Germany's attack on the Soviet Union brought a short amnesty which enabled a Polish Army to be formed under the command of general W. Anders. All the able-bodied men joined the army and eventually fought alongside the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army. The women joined the PSK (similar to the British A.T.S.) and nursing services. This was the beginning of an epic journey from Siberia through Persia, the Middle East, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Italy and ending in Penley. Field Hospitals were eventually established both in Penley and Yscoyd Park. Sadly not all the refugees survived and there are 180 Polish graves in St Mary Magdelene churchyard in Penley. The first baby to be buried was Eva Maria Aynowska aged 8 hours and buried on the 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1946. The Polish community remained after the war and there were 720 beds in 1947, but this dwindled to a handful by the late 1990s. In 2002 the hospital housed only 6 patients, who occupied only one of the wards on the site. In 2004 a new bungalow style eight room accommodation was built close by. Some of the original field hospital building remain on the site and are used by small businesses

1939  
To  
1945

World  
War 2

The Second World War had a much greater effect on the local area than the first.

Men and boys from this area joined the armed forces, and many women and girls took on jobs in the munitions factories in Wrexham. Boys and older men joined the Local Defence Volunteers - later the Home Guard. They patrolled the villages and farms, watching out for fires and enforcing the Blackout.

There were many evacuees from Liverpool and London who came to live in the safety of Wrexham and surrounding farms and villages; it's possible some of them came here to Buck Farm. These children had to cope with living amongst strangers, home-sickness among many other new experiences.

It was a regular sight to see German bomber planes in the sky who were aiming for Liverpool, the railways and munitions factories. Fires were lit on the hillsides around Wrexham to divert the German bombers away from key sites.



Many local children helped firemen fight the fires on the moors.

The threat of air raids was ever-present, and everyone was encouraged to construct a shelter to protect themselves from the blast of nearby bombs. Many families spent night after night in these cramped shelters.

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1940, a 500 kg German bomb landed on Buck Farm. We believe that they were trying to bomb the local railways but missed! This was witnessed by the late Ron Purcell of the Sarn, who, home on leave from the forces, was visiting Gwen Davies at The Buck. Luckily no one was killed, but 4 cows died and a massive crater was left in a field. In fact, the bomb crater is the very spot where we have created our stage area.

Before the War, Britain had imported much of its food. When war broke out, it was necessary to grow more food at home. The Ministry of Agriculture sent out orders saying the farmers must use as much land as possible to grow food. The order at Buck Farm was to plant cherry and damsons trees, a kind of plum particularly good for cooking with. There are still damson trees here today.

Some farmers had to plough up a third of their land to grow grain. This was hard work if they had no tractor and had to rely on horse drawn ploughs. there was a great shortage of labour as so many men had joined the armed forces. Neighbours pulled together to help with big tasks such as threshing, or pig-killing. But it was the 80,000 girls and women of the Land Army who provided the new agricultural work force.



Anderson Shelter

1939  
To  
1945

## World War 2

Everybody was encouraged to grow food, not just the farmers. A major 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged everyone to dig up their flower beds and plant vegetables. Many children were involved in projects to convert parks and gardens.

There was much less time to play in WW2 and a great shortage of toys because we could no longer import toys made in German factories. Instead, children made their own toys out of anything that they could find.

In any case, children were needed to do all sorts of work as there were fewer men around, and the women were working in munitions factories. Boys of 14 and 15 went out to help their fathers and grandfathers on Fire Duty and, of course, evacuees would have had to work too.



Children's Dig for Victory project

School life was greatly affected by the war as lessons were frequently interrupted by air raids and gas mask drills. For the evacuees, school was a confusing place: they had to try and understand new rules as well as local accents and dialects. But in the playground children played war games



Child evacuees

together, inspired by the films they'd seen in the local cinemas.

Food rationing had a big impact on school meals, and children had to eat the same food day after day. They were not allowed to leave it. '*Waste not want not*' was the rule.

The farmer at Buck Farm would have used some of his milk for his family - but the rest would have gone to a local factory. Evacuees may not have even seen animals like cows or pigs before! They would have learnt about the seasons and how food is grown.

Catching rabbits was an important task in which children helped. Many people kept rabbits in their gardens or on their allotments. Farmers saw wild rabbits as a pest and were glad to be rid of them. They used ferrets with nets over the exits to empty the burrows, or guns to shoot them. There was a plentiful supply of rabbit meat during the war – good for making Rabbit Pie. A popular song of the time was 'Run Rabbit Run', which also alluded to the enemy across the channel.

1950

For farming and agriculture, the period after the war was very different to just 10 years before:

Horses and Oxen drawn ploughs were now a thing of the past and now virtually every farm had a petrol or diesel driven tractor. Steam driven machinery was now replaced and with the arrival of electricity to even the most remote areas of the country, dairy farming changed markedly in a very short time.

Before the war many cows were still milked by hand, often in the field or barn. Now purpose built milking parlours were erected by gangs of workers often in a week. The house at the Outlook was just such a milking parlour, erected in 1950 and identical to many others in the area.



Buck Farm Milking Parlour before conversion.

Farms now only needed 2 labourers to milk the herd and it was often pasteurised on the premises and transhipped by tanker rather than churns.

1953

Thomas Joseph Davies farmed Buck Farm until 1953. He retired, reluctantly to the small cottage on the main road at the age of 67. The bungalow had been built in 1930 for Elizabeth, the widow of Joseph Davies and he died there in 1975.

The son of Thomas Joseph; Joseph Thomas took over the Buck in 1953, but only as a tenant farmer. He never became the owner. In 1946, he had married Olive Lilian Hewitt from Sunnyside, Threapwood and they had three children; Geoffrey Thomas, Jean Olive and Jill Margaret.

After the death of Joseph, son Thomas Geoffrey ran out the tenancy agreement

1962

Buck Farm was designated a grade 2 listed building.

Within the schedule is the history that it originated as a 16<sup>th</sup> Century sub-medieval timber framed house with whitened white noggin, casement windows and modern concrete tiled roof. Attached to the east is a C18 two-storey whitewashed brick house with central porch under a slate roof and a single storey rear lean-to. The C18/19 lightly scantled timber framed stable wing to the east had been converted for domestic use with blocked cart entrances.

1967

There was a disastrous Foot and Mouth Outbreak in the Nation. Buck Farm and other farms along the A525 were badly hit and all cattle was destroyed. Buck Farm never recovered and fields were gradually sold off.

1974

Under the reorganisation of Welsh local government on 1 April, Hanmer and Buck Farm were part of the historic county of Flintshire known as Maelor Seasnog (English Maelor) Its local speech was recorded in depth in the Survey of English Dialects; Hanmer was the only site in North Wales to be included in the survey, so it was grouped with sites in Cheshire.

**1977**

The remaining parts of Buck Farm were sold off, with land on the North side of the road going to Ivor Huxley of Horsemans Green and the land to the south going to Geoffry Davies.  
The Farmhouse and 7 acres were bought by Cedric Sumner and Frances Williams-Lee. They ran the Farmhouse as a bed and breakfast and occasional restaurant.

**1997**

Following the death of Cedric Sumner, Buck Farm was neglected and had fallen into a state of partial disrepair before Frances Williams-Lee sold it, together with the new Milking parlour and remaining 7 acres of land to Justin Edwards and Heidi Payton. They had three daughters and brought the farm back to a well-loved and cared for family home.

**2008**

Heidi and Justin sold the Milking Parlour, meadow and woodland to Lesley Christiansen. Together with husband, Neil, they built a temporary hut in the meadow whilst they converted the Milking Parlour to a home. An endeavour that took them almost 5 years.

**2012  
To  
2018**

Buck Farmhouse had stood empty for nearly 3 years and was in a sorry state when it was bought by William and Deborah Lamb, who are still the residents. Through hard work and diligence, and close working with the conservation officers, they have brought Buck Farm back to the fine example of a country farmhouse that it deserves to be. The many self-catering visitors are delighted with the experience of staying there.



Buck Farm as we see it today

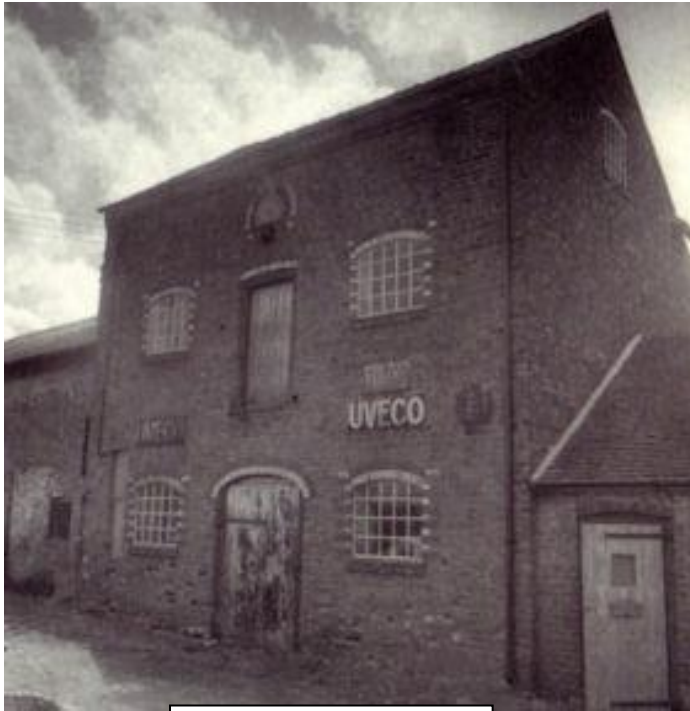
**2013  
To  
2018**

Lesley and Neil moved into their nearly finished house and started developing the meadow and woodland as a 'not for profit' community resource for schools and community groups. Change of use permission was granted for the hut to be turned into a classroom, and the meadow and woodland were developed to offer a range of learning and leisure activities. A stage was erected in the old bomb crater and a lookout tower built by the wildlife pond. It now offers visiting children and groups a wide range for activities to expand the knowledge and enjoyment of the countryside.

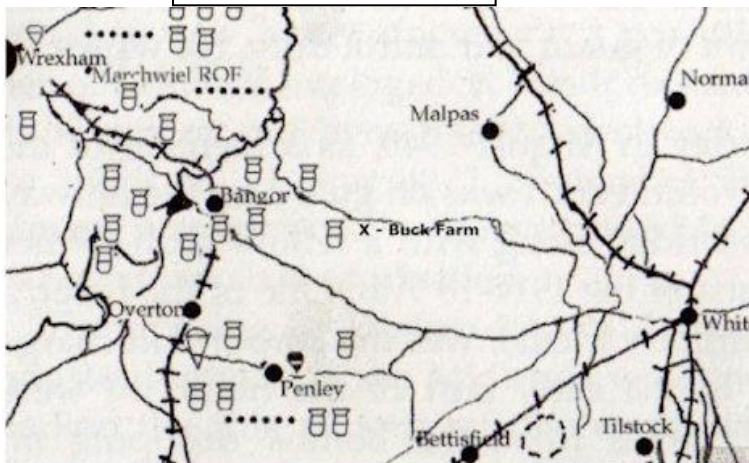


Hunt the butterfly in our orchard

# Gallery



Bettisfield Steam Mill



Bombing map. 31<sup>st</sup> August 1940



Emral Hall



Milking before World War 2

**Our special thanks go to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wrexham for all the help and support with the drama production.**

**We would also like to personally thank Mrs Ruth Edwards, Miss Kate Edwards, Mrs Marion Sinclair and Miss Heather Williams for believing in us!**

*Mary, Neil & Sarah*

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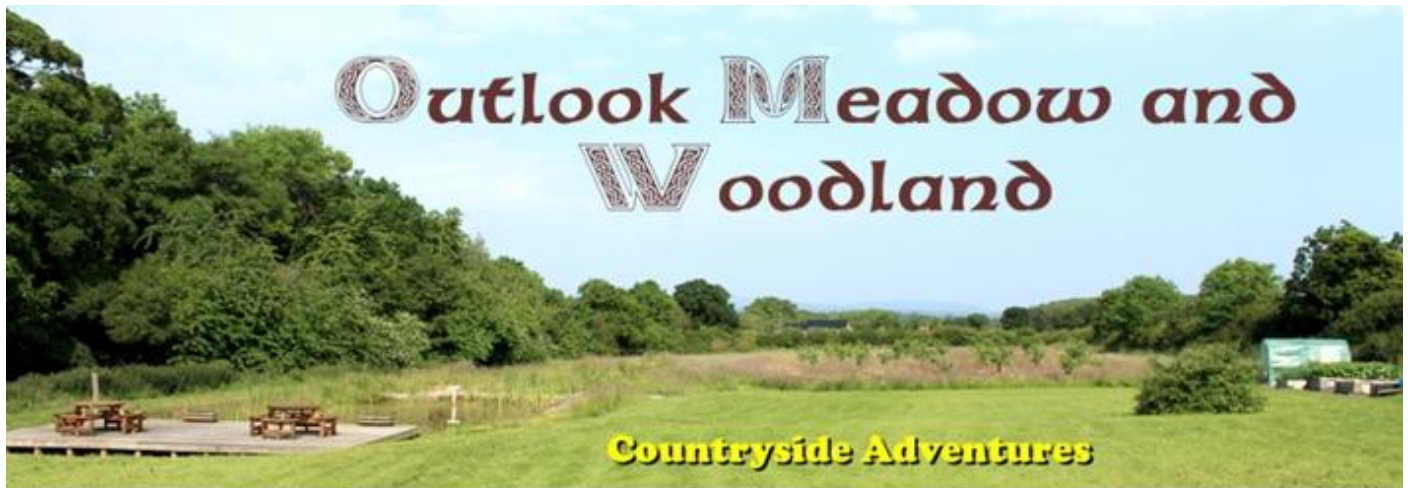
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## **The Heritage of Buck Farm** – exploring the history of a local landmark

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