

# The Heritage Park Pitstone Green Museum

## A BRIEF HISTORY

There has been a farm of some sort on this site for centuries. The big barn is believed to be 16th century or even older & was brought to the site when the present farm was built in 1831. The Hawkins family were the last to work the farm, having been there since the early 1800s.

In 1948 the last owner, Jeff, built the then modern system for storing and drying grain that can still be seen at the farm. As the 1950s were coming to an end some local farmers became aware that the old farming ways were being lost, so this group began to save their own redundant tools and machinery and salvaged many from the neighbouring area. As a result Pitstone Local History Group was formed in 1963..

Over the next few years the site as we know it today started to emerge as groups of volunteers laboured to make some order from a mountain of accumulated stuff. In 1992 a 99 year lease was signed between Jeff Hawkins and the History Society which was later renamed as Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society which runs the site to this day. Work on some of the larger items such as the enormous Rack Saw and the 27 litre Gas engine progressed and a start was made cataloguing the thousands of items lying around the site. Jeff died in 2001 and left everything to the National Trust and The Museum achieved full Accreditation in 2008 and started to be noticed as a major local attraction . It is now known as The Heritage Park, as a way of reflecting the size and scope of the project.

The museum relies entirely on volunteer labour and are always on the lookout for new recruits, particularly from the local community. If you fancy helping out in any way however large or small, contact Pete Farrar (manager) on 07944 357715 or email - [manager@pitstonemuseum.co.uk](mailto:manager@pitstonemuseum.co.uk)  
We work on Tuesdays and Thursdays so why not come along for a cup of tea and a chat. It's enormous fun and very satisfying.

The old Victorian farm is now a centre for historically based attractions, retaining the atmosphere of ancient times before technology and mechanisation changed our lives forever and will continue to evolve in the future.