

Chedham's Yard Wellesbourne

Chedham's Yard is a nineteenth century blacksmith's and wheelwright's workshop, rescued from oblivion by the Parish Council and fortunate enough in 2006 to win the 'BBC TV Restoration Village' series beating strong competition from other venues across the UK. Winning gave the opportunity to bid for up to £1,000,000 of lottery funding.



The Yard lies within the Wellesbourne Conservation Area, close to the Stag's Head Pub, and is a calm oasis away from the busy world outside. It is frequented by many birds, squirrels and our 'own' Tawny Owl. The garden area is home to an abundance of wild and cultivated flowers.

Chedham's is a Charitable Trust run entirely by volunteers and is actively seeking new volunteers to join the team. Whilst the Yard cannot offer work experience placements, it can provide learning and work experience opportunities on Saturdays. Some have taken this opportunity and moved on to more demanding roles elsewhere.

After many hours of cleaning and identifying the 4,000 plus artefacts and renovating the buildings, the Yard opened to the public in 2012. The artefacts and tools were replaced into their previous locations which ensured that the Yard maintained the feel and atmosphere of a 19th century work shop. The Yard is open from 11am to 4pm on Saturdays from Easter until the end of September.



2016, Looking from the Blacksmiths towards the Visitor Centre. The buildings are restored and all the tangled ivy etc has been removed.



Shades of Autumn

On Saturdays entry is free for the whole family. On weekdays organised group visits, including from young people's groups such as cubs and brownies, are welcome by prior arrangement. Volunteers give talks to clubs and societies about the discovery and restoration of Chedham's Yard



Visitors outside the blacksmith's forge

Each Saturday, there is a different themed event covering topics such as flower arrangements/displays, art, photography, nail making, wheel building, basket weaving, model farm equipment, plus activities for children. Guided tours are available to all visitors on Saturdays and for the group visits.

In addition to the 'theme of the day' on most Saturdays we have demonstrations by the blacksmiths. During 2017 this will be supplemented with wood turning in the wheelwright's workshop. Articles made at the Yard are available for sale in the café where there are refreshments.



Wood Turning