

Exhibition at Blacksmith's Cottage, Monewden



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Periodically Mary Moore, in concert with her friends Valerie and Trevor, runs an exhibition at Blacksmith's Cottage, Monewden, to display the old Forge (as it was when retired from service in the '50's), tools used in the Forge and the Wheelwrights, and a wide range of her and Hector's work in Brandeston over the years.

Sunday 31 May saw the latest exhibition which was even more extensive than ever and the following pictures show only a sample of the fascinating items on display, but cannot convey the background stories which accompany them or do justice to the day. Mary, Valerie and Trevor were tireless in their efforts to explain this background to visitors and were ably supported by Ray Hubbard, the last horseman who worked on a farm powered by horses alone, principally Suffolk Punches, where no tractors were allowed, and he brought many items to display. Trevor has an ever-growing collection of original tools, extensively presented.



Ray Hubbard explaining the Farrier's tools



Beautiful leatherwork and tack



The Wheelwright's workshop, templates and tools



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Ray's full set of Suffolk Spectacular brasses Traditional ornamentation for Punches



A full harness, now £7000, once £7

Valerie shows the full extent of the displays



The famous Welsh Dragon, to exacting detail

Mary explains the sword stand drawing

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Polyfilla sculptures before casting



Designs of a few of the many village signs



Key parts of a wagon



More traditional work such as fire irons



A typical, but spectacular, windvane



Tools and equipment - stock-in-trade

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The early stages of creating the 'dies' for casting windvanes, signs, plaques, etc



A myriad of artistic designs

Fireplace 'firedogs'



Unique sculptures in metal

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Extensive collection of woodworking tools Mary and Trevor joining in with Ray's music

This exhibition was a delight and of great education for everyone keen on Suffolk, and it was evident how children were captivated by the living history.

Very many thanks to Valerie and Trevor for hosting this wonderful event, to Mary for her exquisite displays and to Ray for providing a fascinating and revealing insight into his working life.

It is the intention to re-run this event in the near future and it is well worth visiting for all the family.

Nick Hayward
6 June 2009