



**CASE STUDY 5**

Working with the county's heritage

a project of  
**VOLUNTARY IMPACT**  
BUCKS

Community Impact Bucks from 1st April 2010



## RENOVATION Chiltern Open Air Museum

Chiltern Open Air Museum is located in the heart of the Chiltern Hills near Chalfont St Giles. The 45 acre site is home to over 30 historic buildings reflecting life in the Chilterns over the past centuries.

Due to the nature of the site there are always opportunities for groups of volunteers to work on projects including the vegetable garden in the Iron Age house, scrub and nettle clearance, and fencing. Volunteer Workout is in regular contact to see what needs doing.

Like any garden the vegetable patch of the Iron Age House needs regular attention. A group of 8 from Guinness Trust spent a day in early spring, and another group from the Co-op spent a day in July digging up and maintaining the vegetable garden. This brought to life how the inhabitants supported themselves and survived in ancient times, thus helping to make the experience come to life for the visitors to the museum.

Education matters to the museum and it is fortunate to have a unique outdoor classroom that is regularly used by nursery school children to learn about their environment and learn life skills.

The outdoor classroom needs regular maintenance, tasks such as renovating the ground shelter, the fire story telling area, layering of the scrub hedges as well as a general tidying up.

Employees of Robert Bosch have helped to maintain the outdoor classroom by making it a safe and educational resource.

Karen Bloodworth Team Leader for Bosch said 'The team got so much out of the day that we plan to return'.

Sue Shave, the Director of the Museum said 'working closely with Volunteer Workout has enabled us to cover some of the work that has needed doing, freeing up time for our regular volunteers and staff to focus on core needs'.

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