



Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

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www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk

Spring 2017 Newsletter Issue 83



EDITORIAL

Well, spring is here and summer is not far off so hopefully some good weather will allow us to get out and do things! One of the summer events you should support is, of course, our A.G.M. We need members to fill out the committee and bring fresh views and ideas to the table. This has been the first year of our present committee whose efforts you are, hopefully, satisfied with but we can always use new input. It's certainly not an onerous task, we're all quite friendly and you do get tea and biscuits! A nomination form is included in this issue; so if you are interested please complete it and send it to Brigitte. Don't forget that subs. will also be due and will remain at the same level.

Later in the summer we have our trip to the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading as announced in the last issue. A booking form is included here. This is our first outing for some time so please support it. If the coach trip does not appeal then an option is to use your own transport, perhaps filling spare seats with other members. If you wish to partake please complete the enclosed form and hand to a committee member or, alternatively, email one of us.

So here's to a fine summer and see you at the A.G.M.

Len

FRIENDS CHAIR REPORT

Dear Friends,

Not a lot has happened since the last newsletter, except a fascinating talk by Leslie Grout about the Life of a Beadle. [not a beagle] Leslie kept us absorbed and amused with his inimitable wit on a subject that might not seem to be especially entertaining, but it was.

We now look forward to our next meeting at the AGM on 7th June. I want you to think about whom you want have as your next chair. I have stepped into the breach for a year, which is soon up.

I hope you all had a happy Easter.

Brigitte

HARRY POTTER EVENING

For the last three years, the publisher of the Harry Potter series, Bloomsbury Publishing, has encouraged heritage sites, booksellers and libraries to host special free events centred around J.K. Rowling's magical masterpiece. The Borough's library service has taken part in this nationwide event ever since its inception in 2014, but never with as much success as 2017's offering, where the library service and museum came together to host a Potter party of special magnificence.



Indeed, both teams worked hard together to transform the Guildhall into Windsor's very own Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, with staff members and volunteers stalking its corridors and classrooms in billowing robes and pointed hats.

Before entering the Guildhall, however, visitors were invited to meet owls from the Feathers and Fur Falconry Centre (an excellent establishment near

Reading). The birds were a wonderful addition to the evening and really helped to pass on the magic of the novels to younger readers.

Once inside, people were sorted into their Hogwarts houses and even had the opportunity to brew special potions. The latter was such a success that Chrissie had to leg-it down to Lakelands to pick up an extra 50 jars! Such was the evening's popularity...

If that wasn't enough though, guests then made their way to the chamber (or, should I say, the Great Hall) where they all took part in a wonderful Harry Potter quiz. Despite a brief technical glitch with the P.A. system, the quiz was an absolute hit with everybody who took part in it, and it was a joy to see so many families sitting down together, bonding over a mutual love of these very special books.

To wind the evening down, then, two members of the library team read excerpts from the Harry Potter novels, whilst guests reclined on large cushions and silken throws, as per Professor Trelawney's classroom (she's the ever so slightly mad divination professor from the books).

In the end, the night was a great success, with 260 visitors passing through the doors that evening (most of whom, it should be said, were in fancy dress). It really was an event like no other. And, of course, it wouldn't have been the success it was without the hard work of the Borough staff and museum volunteers, so for that I must thank them again. Here's to next year's event!

Dan Howick

LESLIE'S PIECE – AN UNFORTUNATE FUNERAL

Frederick, Duke of York, second son of George III and the Grand Old Duke of nursery rhyme fame died in January 1827 and his funeral in St. George's Chapel was a memorable event, though for entirely the wrong reasons.

The weather was bitterly cold, the chapel unheated, the Royal Family and the Cabinet were kept waiting for the cortege to arrive and the service lasted well over an hour.

With no matting whatsoever, Lord Eldon stood on his hat to keep off the freezing floor, George Canning did likewise, but subsequently developed rheumatic fever; the Dukes of Sussex, Wellington and Montrose all caught bad colds, Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister, had a stroke and the Bishop of Lincoln died. The soldiers who had been on parade outside were later said to have been expiring at half a dozen a day.

A macabre postscript to this ceremony occurred in January 1988. An evil smell was discovered issuing from the Royal Vault. The Duke had 'gone off'; gases in the coffin had built up and burst a hole in the lead. Everything was cleared up as quickly as possible.

Leslie Grout

FOLLOW UP

Following Leslie's piece in our last newsletter I was contacted by Mr. Geoffrey Short. Now living in Norfolk Geoffrey is a fully-fledged Windsorian whose family has a long history within the town. He tells me that his father, Edwin Short, was apprenticed to Marshalls the printers and the cost of £15 was met by Chariott's Charity and he kindly included a photocopy of Edwin's indenture document. Marshalls were located on Castle Hill, near the Jubilee Statue.

He goes on to say that his grandparents lived at Chariott House until 1927 and his grandmother continued to reside there until 1943. Going back to the 1800s Geoffrey's great, great grandfather John Short set up a long-lasting greengrocery business located at the corner of St. Leonard's Road

and Grove Road. In 1839 he rented two plots of land of 1 acre and 11 acres respectively and in 1850 two further plots totalling 10 acres. All this land was situated near to the Cavalry and Infantry barracks. Geoffrey has also included photocopies of his family research which goes into much more detail and these will be entered into the Museum archive.

Not surprisingly it appears that Geoffrey and Leslie knew each other from working in St. George's Chapel!

Thank you so much Geoffrey. Hopefully this will inspire others to put pen to paper, (or even fingers on keyboard)!

ANGELA TUDDENHAM

I was sad to hear of the death of Friends member Angela Tuddenham because our paths had crossed over and over again. We both attended St. Mary's Church, Langley many years ago and then I was at Slough High School with her sister. My mother and brother knew her at the Mid Thames Historical Society, and so did Judith Hunter. She was, for many years, headmistress of the Lea Infants School in Slough – the school formed when The Lea School (where I went when I was five) was split into infants and juniors. Most of her historical research was about Slough, but when she discovered that the War Memorial in St. Mary's Church Slough was designed by a Windsor man, she rang me to see if I had heard of AY Nutt. I had, of course, and I had even seen the drawings for the memorial. She came to see them and joined the friends. She also asked me about John Boykett Jarman who gave the portrait of Queen Elizabeth 1 to the council and I have spent many interesting hours finding out about this rather dodgy Art dealer.

Pamela

JOYCE SAMPSON

Joyce Sampson, a staunch supporter of the Friends, died on the 4th of January 2017, in her 90th year. She joined the Friends from the start, supported them over the years, and tried to attend all meetings, even when she got very frail. Frail in body, but not in spirit, she had strong views and gave sound council when needed. She was passionate about the history of Windsor, in particular of Clewer and was involved with many local causes. She was curator of the Clewer museum, and when it closed helped to safeguard its content and made sure it came to the museum. She was an active member of the WLHG, and an article of hers appeared in the latest Windlesora 32. We shall miss her.



Brigitte

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the A.G.M. we will be putting forward a proposal for a minor change to part of our constitution. This will be as follows:-

'A maximum of one member of the Museum staff shall be allowed to serve as an elected member of the Friends committee'.

Currently museum staff are not allowed to serve on the committee.

The reason for the change is to allow Courtney, who is now a member of museum staff, to remain as a valuable member of our committee. Obviously this proposal will require a vote at the A.G.M.

UPDATE FROM THE MUSEUM APRIL 2017

Since January we have been busy planning the holiday activities and forthcoming events for the next 6 months. Dates for your diaries are as follows:

Thursday 18th May 2017

MUSEUMS
AT
NIGHT Meet your local museums and see what they have to offer. Handle some objects and talk to staff about what it's like working or volunteering in a museum.

Museums represented: Maidenhead Heritage Centre, the Natural History Museum – Eton College, The Museum of Eton Life – Eton College, Museum of Antiquities – Eton College, The Windsor & Royal Borough Museum and RBWM Local Studies.

Free entry but please book your place by emailing your full name and contact number to museum@rbwm.gov.uk.

Event will run from 17.00-20.00.

Tea & Coffee will be available. Donations welcome.

Child Monarchs of England – Saturday 27th May 2017



Windsor History Festival comes to the museum to celebrate the child Kings and Queens of England, such as the Princes who vanished, 'Jane the Quene' and the teenage Alexandrina. Hear their stories and make something to take away. Free entry. Donations welcome.
Event will run from 10.30-15.30.

May Half Term – Family Activities

£2.00 entry per child or £1.00 with an Advantage Card.

Sessions will run from 10:30-12:30 and 13:30-15:30.



Enterprising SpaceBugs & Not-So-Tardy Time-machines
Tuesday 30th May 2017

Planes, Trains and Automobiles
Thursday 1st June 2017

The Great Get Together – Saturday 17th June 2017



Join us for tea and cake at the museum to celebrate all that we have in common. The event marks one year since MP Jo Cox was killed. Jo lived her life according to the belief that we have more in common than divides us.

We hope that you will join us for free tea and cake at the museum all day! Free entry. Donations welcome.

Event will run from 10.30-15.30.

New Interpretation in the Museum

Please come and see our new interpretation in the museum. We have a new donations box, retail unit and extra graphic panels in the foyer.



New Displays

Mariquita Tennant & the Fallen Women of Windsor – Windsor Library

Until August 2017. Free Admission.

Mariquita Tennant is a largely forgotten pioneer who offered shelter to young women and girls trying to escape the appalling conditions of the Windsor slum areas during the mid-19th Century. She aimed to get women off the streets by offering them a home and the chance to train for a job.

Many young women were helped over the years. Her intention was to instil the young women with spiritual values which hopefully would enable them to live a different life. This exhibition was put together by museum volunteers Gloria & Malcolm Lock supported by Museum Resources Officer, Stephanie Lewis.

Rockin' Around the Borough – Dedworth Library

Until October 2017. Free Admission.

Learn about local archaeology and what the Royal Borough would have been like hundreds of thousands of years ago. On display we have stone hand axes made by ancient humans & beautiful Mesolithic and Neolithic Period polished axes made by the earliest modern humans to occupy Windsor and Maidenhead. This exhibition has been put together by museum volunteer Kerrstyn Laiss, supported by Museum Resources Officers, Louisa Knight and Stephanie Lewis.

Staffing News

Welcome to Courtney Rudge who has been appointed as Museum Assistant on a short term contract until the end of June 2017.

We have some changes ahead due to the merger of Libraries and Customer Services to form Library and Resident Services, now in Communities Directorate. Jacqui Hurd, as Head of Library and Resident Services and Mark Taylor as Deputy Head of Unit, will be responsible for the museum. There is an interim Director of Communities, Andy Jeffs. On 1 July, our team members become Museum and Local Studies Officers, responsible for looking after the Library local studies collection, the museum collection, answering local history questions, managing the volunteers and the museum spaces. Our current team members Chris Atkins, and Barbara Story, who specialise in local history, will do less front line library work and more for local history and heritage. Also, there will be a new team leader for Museum and Arts, as I have decided to pursue other paths. The new post is due to be advertised soon. My role finishes on 30 June, but I do expect to continue some part time work – partly to cover project work where we already have funding. I do expect to help train up someone new so that the team can continue to be effective and successful. I have to say that the museum has given me some fantastic opportunities in the past 10 years and there is so much still to do. I cannot leave Windsor behind me just yet!

Margaret Kirby
Service Manager Heritage and Arts

margaret.kirby@rbwm.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A.G.M. and talk 'Business as Usual' by Brigitte

Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:45pm)
The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane

Visit to the Museum of English Rural Life

Thursday 6th July 2017 10:00am to 5:00pm
Coffee and short talk upon arrival.

Beer and Wine in Berkshire

Friday 16th June 2017 7pm to 9pm
The Windsor & Royal Borough Museum, High Street
Stalls from the Windsor & Eton Brewery, Salt Hill Cider, Stanlake Park Wine Estate and Limes café; which have all contributed to an exciting raffle.

My Flying Adventures

Thursday 28th September at 7:30pm
The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane
Talk by Jean Pumphrey on her aviating career.

End-of-Year Social

TBC.

Being in a Band in the Sixties

Thursday 29th March 2018.
The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane
Talk by Len on life in a moderately successful band in the sixties.

Talk by Leslie Grout

Thursday 28th June 2018. TBC.

Thames Valley History Festival

The Thames Valley History Festival runs from 12th to 27th May this year.

Please go to: www.thamesvalleyhistoryfestival.uk for information and tickets. If you buy tickets to two different events you will get a £5.50 ticket to a third event free. Tickets will also be available at the Information centre at the station.

Please note the Hester Davenport Memorial Lecture, Alison Weir 'A King's Obsession: Anne Boleyn' is on 19th May in the Parish Church, and a free event for children is in the museum on Saturday 27th May.

HELP US RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

This newsletter is printed on paper (as you're probably aware!). If you'd prefer to receive the newsletter in email form, please contact jdonnely30@gmail.com to let us know and we'll update your preferences.

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