



Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

Registered Charity No. 1115540

www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk

Winter 2016-17 Newsletter Issue 82



EDITORIAL

I must begin with an apology to all the Friends for the lateness of the last newsletter and the fact that a number of addresses were omitted from the post-out. Hopefully these glitches will be eliminated from this issue. However, if you know of any current member who has not received a newsletter either as a hard copy or as an email, please let me know.

Thanks to Sue Ashley who sent a very rapid response to my query regarding the missing snuff box, (see later in this issue). Unfortunately we have had no further responses to our request for input from readers. Please let us have your feedback, questions and anecdotes. We really do need you.

Finally, from all of the Committee, have a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Len

FRIENDS CHAIR REPORT

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a good Christmas, and I wish you all the best for the New Year.

We had a very interesting talk by Ian Whitewood and Roger Glancefield from the Royal Armouries on 3 November, which was well attended, despite the late announcement.

I started the fundraising for our interactive map-box with £50 I got for a talk at the Guildhall, and will pay in a further £100 for two more talks. I would like to hear from anyone who has ideas for fundraising. Beryl is still collecting 5p pieces for the Friends.

Unfortunately we did not manage the Christmas get-together, but hope to arrange something in the spring, as part of one of our talks. Please look at 'Dates For Your Diary', we have an exciting programme, including an outing in the summer.

We did get the Christmas cards out on time, I hope you managed to get yours. We will be better organised next year, so that cards can be for sale at our November meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at Leslie Grout's talk in February.

Brigitte

VISIT TO WINDSOR IN CANADA

This summer we had booked a trip to Detroit for a family re-union. I noticed that Windsor Ontario was just across the river from Detroit, and I got in touch with their museum, in the hope of paying them a visit. The curator Madelyn de la Valle sent a prompt and enthusiastic reply, and we agreed on a visit on Friday 5 August. I took a photo of the stained glass window in the Guildhall, donated by Windsor Canada in 1951, and some Windlesoras and recent local publications, including the guide to the Guildhall.

A few days before my visit I got an e-mail, inviting me to the mayor's office, as he wanted to show me his door! Mayor Drew Dilkens proudly pointed to his office door, which bore the Windsor Coat of Arms, and on the table was another plaque with our Coat of Arms, both given in recognition to moneys raised by the people of Windsor Canada, during World War II and again after the floods of 1947. However, neither Madelyn nor Drew had any notion of their beautiful stained glass window in the Guildhall.



In return for my books, I was presented with two books of Windsor Canada.

Madelyn then took me to her museum number one. A lovely house built in 1812 by the Baby family, called the Francois Baby House, full of fascinating items, and a whole gallery dedicated to the Anglo-American War, including a large cannon with a notice 'out of order'. But that was because the

mechanism for firing soft balls [a children's favourite entertainment] was not working.

Then we visited an even larger gallery called the Chimczuk Museum, in a modern building nearby. I delighted in the exhibition of the First Nation's art and history, but my attention was drawn to a computer generated map box, about 1m x 50cm, which allows you to view a number of local maps by touching the date. This is what we need in our museum. We have identified a space, and I have spoken to Margaret Kirby about this, now it is up to the Friends to raise the money to pay for it.

Brigitte

We are delighted to welcome Leslie Grout as a regular, (hopefully), contributor to the newsletter. He will be highlighting some of the lesser known memorials and facts about historical Windsor. So here is the first...

LESLIE'S PIECE

Set into the back of a seat by Assurance House in Victoria Street is a stone stating that it was laid by Joseph Chariott on May 31st 1841.

Chariott was a self-made man and benefactor to the Congregational Church of which he was a prominent member. In 1841 he gave a piece of land to build a British School and laid the foundation stone accordingly.

British Schools were founded by Nonconformist churches, as opposed to National Schools which were Church of England.

The school closed in 1930 and became the Divisional Education Office until it was demolished in the 1970s. Assurance House now occupies the site.

Leslie

THE DISAPPEARING SNUFF BOX

As I mentioned in my editorial, Sue Ashley e-mailed me the day after publication with not only information regarding the snuff box, but also a cutting from the local paper including an illustration of the box.

The box, along with some gold jewellery, was stolen during a robbery in 1966. The first thing that I discovered from the article was that the box was nothing like the description I gave from memory in the last issue! According to the paper it was gold with inlaid diamonds forming the 'N' and just 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1". I'll put this down to age-related memory loss, (it was, after all, 50 years ago!). The box was taken, it was presumed, one Friday lunchtime during 'a brief respite from thronging tourists'. A scan of an image of the snuff box can be seen on the front page of this newsletter.

Originally the property of Napoleon III it was presented to John Clode in 1855 during his term as Mayor. Later the box was given to the town by his descendant Leslie Clode.

The theft was featured on 'Police 5', the first T.V. programme dealing with ongoing police enquires. No trace was ever found and I sincerely hope that the box is still secreted away in someone's private collection and not broken up.

Does anyone have any information on the rifle range that I mentioned in the last issue?

Len

DID YOU KNOW.....?

At the rear of the graveyard of Windsor Parish Church, adjacent to Church Lodge, there stands a column approximately 6' high surmounted by an urn. The inscription on the north side of the column reveals it to be marking the resting place of James Bedborough, (1787-1860). A further inscription on the west side announces that the remains of his wife, Sarah, and son Thomas, (1810-1851) are also interred beneath the monument.

Having no idea that this gravestone existed I was intrigued when our Treasurer, Janice, mentioned the fact to me. Guided by her directions I took a short walk to see for myself. Located just beyond the small reserved car

park at the back of the church the column was almost invisible under a cloak of overgrown shrubbery. The north side inscription was just about visible but to attempt to read the west side was almost impossible unless one was armed with a machete and did David Attenborough impressions! I was happy to see on a return visit a few weeks later, that the shrubbery had been well cut back allowing a full view, (with a little squeezing), of all four sides.



Given its position, I was interested in finding out if this was the column's original position or, if it had been moved, where from? After making enquires via more knowledgeable sources than myself it would appear to be in its rightful place. Initially it was well within the confines of the churchyard although in the late 19th. Century some of the ground was given up for other purposes,(e.g. the extension to the Masonic Lodge). This accounts for the column's apparent position right on the edge of the graveyard. In 1971/72 a general refurbishment of the whole graveyard was carried out and photographs show the column in its current position. In 1987 Mr. Freddie Shenston, President of Windsor Heritage, fund-raised to have the monument cleaned and restored.

Many thanks to Elias Kupfermann and The Friends or the Church for the information provided so willingly.

Len

UPDATE FROM THE MUSEUM JANUARY 2017

Happy New Year to you all!

Our Christmas activities proved to be a success again seeing 37 people attending our Living Advent Calendar event on 9th December. This was a surprise event run as part of the Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar. We were honoured to tell a true story about how two sisters attended a sumptuous Christmas tea held by Queen Victoria in 1899. During this tea, an elderly Queen Victoria sat in her wheelchair and presented Christmas gifts to all the young children in attendance. A toy goat and cart was given to the two sisters, Lilly and Mabel, but Mabel was not quite content with this present. Instead, she had her eye on something far more precious – and certainly more difficult to obtain...it was the glass silver ball hanging from the very top of Victoria's rather large Christmas tree! When the Queen realised though, just how taken Mabel was with the silver ball, she commanded one of her retainers to erect a ladder and bring it down post-haste! The museum was recently gifted the bauble and the goat and cart, so children at this event were able to hold these Christmas treasures which were then put on display for the Christmas period.



Our Free Festive Fun Day on Saturday 10th December also proved to be a success with 170 visitors coming to the museum to make folded Christmas trees made from old books and glass painted lanterns. Even more visitors engaged with 'The Entertainers' (a local singing and dancing group) and refreshments on the Corn Exchange. Thank you to all our volunteers who made these two events happen, we couldn't have done it without you!

when he was called up to join the Scots Guards. He was already in the army cadets, so he knew he would be in the army rather than the other services. He joined the catering corps and spent three months at the London District School of Cookery from January 1946 to April 1946. After completing his 10 weeks training at cookery school, he was posted to Chelsea Barracks in London where he worked in the cookhouse. He was later transferred to Victoria Barracks in Windsor where he completed his 3 years training in the Scots Guards.

Frank currently attends the Boyn Grove Dementia Day Centre in Maidenhead and this display will be moving to Boyn Grove library in mid-May 2017. For more information about the Day Centre email: boyngrove.dementiaservice@rbwm.gov.uk.

Peter Osgood: A Striker to Remember

Our lenders of the Peter Osgood memorabilia have very kindly agreed for us to extend this display at the Museum and Dedworth Library until early April 2017.

Forthcoming Displays

- February – **Marquita Tennant and the Fallen Women of Windsor** at Windsor Library
- March – **Stone Age display** at Dedworth Library
- May – **Trees in park & Hernes Oak** at the Museum

Staffing at the Museum

Daniel Howick, Museum Assistant, sadly left the museum in November. However, he is still working for the borough in the Libraries team as Outreach Officer. He has connections with local schools so he will still be a familiar face around the museum at times, as he helps us to market our Court in the Act schools sessions!

A replacement has been found and we are currently waiting for contracts to be issued before making an announcement.

Stephanie Lewis
Museum Resources Officer
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OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

Valentine Hearts Thursday 14th February

Create a heart gift to give to someone you love on the day we celebrate love and all things lovely.

King John's Crown Thursday 16th February

King John lost the Crown Jewels in the Wash in 1216. Can you make a crown fit for a King or Queen?



£2.00 per child or £1.00 with an Advantage Card and one accompanying adult free. Sessions will run from 10:30-12:30 & 13:30-15:30. Recommended age 4+. Windsor & Royal Borough Museum, Guildhall, High Street, Windsor, SL4 1LR. Tel 01628 685686 for more information.

Trip: Museum of English Rural Life (Reading)

In early June we are planning a trip to the newly refurbished and reopened Museum of English Rural Life at Reading. If you would like to register your interest in going please let Beryl or Brigitte know so that we can estimate the size of coach required.

Full details and a booking form will be in the next issue.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Life of a Beadle

Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:15)
The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane
Talk by Leslie Grout

Ancient History of Brewing

Thursday 27th April 2017 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:15)
Hop Garden Room, 'The George', Eton (ample parking nearby)
Talk by Windsor & Eton Brewery

A.G.M. and talk by Brigitte

Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:15)
The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane

This newsletter is published by
Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum
Registered Charity No. 1115540

Website www.friendsofwindormuseum.org.uk

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