

### COMMITTEE VACANCIES

#### VERY IMPORTANT

Nick Wallace, the Friends' Chairman, will be coming to the end of his period of office at the forthcoming AGM. He will be taking a break from the Committee. Rob Gardner will not be standing again as vice-chairman.

The rest of the committee is:

Chairman - Mr Nick Wallace

Vice Chairman - Mr Rob Gardner

Secretary - Mr Mike Searle (Hon Deputy Museum Curator)

Treasurer - Mrs Lesley Withers

Shop Manager - Mr Rob Gardner

Fundraising - Mr Roger Blackburn

Co-opted Member Talks & Friends Publicity - Mr Robbert Turner

Co-opted Member and Learning Co-Ordinator - Mrs Lyn Tyrell

Committee Member - Mr Brian Withers

Committee Member - Mr Tony Woolrich (Hon Museum Curator)

There will be a vacancy for someone to handle health and safety.

We really need at least two more active committee members to keep viable. Please consider being nominated.

More details with the AGM papers out at the beginning of September.

#### Subscription reminder

A letter is being sent with this newsletter reminding all FOBM members that the Annual Subscriptions are due from 1 September. Only paid-up members are entitled to vote at the committee election.

#### Work in the garden

The garden bed by the office, built last year, was planted up in the spring and now looks very grand. The lower garden is attractive, with most of the plants in bloom, and apples appearing on the two trees planted there. Thanks are due to Paul Besley, John Bodiley and Alison Cook for all their hard work.

Essential maintenance is always ongoing in the garden. Recent jobs have been weather-proofing the garden furniture, and preparing the cast-iron plaque from Bridgewater's first Iron Bridge - erected 1795 - for painting.

#### Garden shed

A shed has been purchased for the garden for the storage of equipment mostly used for the band concerts – sandwich boards, poster holders and the like. Also a portable gazebo.

#### Change to the FOBM talks

The number of evening talks is reduced to April, May, June and July. There will be a trial of afternoon talks in March and November. It is hoped that more people will be enabled to attend in the winter. Full details will be sent with the AGM papers.



Frank Barker varnishing a picnic table



John Bodiley de-rusting the cast iron bridge plaque



The newly-planted bed in the upper garden

## Fundraising.

The band concerts have raised about £60 per session, as have the series of monthly pub quiz nights. For details please ring the Museum on 01278 456127.

## Raffle Prizes

These are always needed for the quizzes, talk nights and coffee mornings. If you have anything to donate, please drop them off at the Museum.

## Christmas Fayre

This will be held at the Museum on Friday 22 November to coincide with the switching on of the town's Christmas Lights. More details later.

## Coffee mornings

These are always held on the last Thursday of the month, and raise about £50 per session

## Other news

### Entertainments exhibition

During May and June an exhibition was held telling the story of Bridgwater's theatres and cinemas. It was organised by Dennis Warren, Rob Gardner and Tina Cornell. It was well-visited. Next year they aim to have a follow-up covering Bridgwater's amateur stage



The Entertainment in Bridgwater exhibition. At the back can be seen some cinema tip-up seating from the Town Hall.

### Sedgemoor Stitches Exhibition

During July the Sedgemoor Stitches showed examples of the high-quality needlework they do. Demonstrations of sewing techniques were held on some days in the month. A small selection of the Museum's textiles collection was shown.

### Blake Time Team Thursdays

On every Thursday in August the Museum is hosting a series of children's workshops on aspects of the town's history. The sailing ship *Irene* - The castle - The Fair - The Battle of Sedgemoor and the Docks. Thanks to Lyn Tyrrell and the Learning Team for organising this.



Happy castle-builders at a recent Blake Time Team Thursday event

## Forthcoming exhibitions

### September

Nothing is arranged yet, though one of our earlier exhibitions might be drawn from the archives

### October

2013 is the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Bridgwater Hospital. The first hospital was in rented property in Back Lane (behind the Town Hall), and the present building was opened in 1820. It has been extended over the years. An exhibition will be held at the Museum to mark the commemoration, drawing on the Museum's collection of photographs, drawings, medical memorabilia and costume. The Museum has also assisted in the historical display at the Hospital.

### World War 1

The job of cataloguing the Museum's collection of newspaper clippings from the *Bridgwater Mercury* for each week of the war is progressing well. Only 1915 and 1916 remain to be completed. Once done the work will be posted on the Museum's website.

### Donation to the Museum

The Friends have made a £3000 donation towards the running expenses of the Museum. This is in accordance with the Museum's Forward Plan

### Winter programme

The Museum will close from 2 November for the winter, when mostly curatorial and cataloguing jobs will be done.

Published by the Friends of Blake Museum  
5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB  
Registered Charity No 1099815  
© August 2013  
Tel: 01278 456127  
tw 12/8/13

### Websites:

Friends: [www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk](http://www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk)

Museum: [www.bridgwaterblakemuseum.org.uk](http://www.bridgwaterblakemuseum.org.uk)

Resources: [www.bridgwatermuseum.info](http://www.bridgwatermuseum.info)

Photographs: [www.bridgwaterphotos.org.uk/index.php](http://www.bridgwaterphotos.org.uk/index.php)