

BLAKE NEWS

Winter 2012



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**In Trinity Hall,
St Saviour's Avenue**

**Saturday 24 November
10.30am-2.00pm**

**Home made cakes and bread
Bric à Brac
Tombola and plants
Refreshments and Museum Shop**

**Please donate:
Raffle Prizes
Cakes (the more the better!)
Bric-à-brac
Toys etc**

WINTER JOBS 2012-13

The Museum will be open for maintenance and curatorial work to be done from 12 November, 2012. A list of jobs needing doing is posted in the Office. Please call in and see what you can do.

It is hoped to undertake some volunteer training as well.

The Museum will re-open at the February half-term, Tuesday 12 February 2013 which is about a month sooner than it usually does.

**(The Museum is closed completely
17 December - 5 January)**

The main tasks this time will be the reorganisation of the Archaeology Room and the Bygones Room, the provision of new racking in the Picture Store and to replace the office floor which is defective.

The Archaeology Room will be fitted with new cases throughout to match the modern ones we have in the rest of the Museum.

The Bygones Room will be organised to display some of our collection of costumes.

The Picture Store racking needs replacing to make better use of the space.

Curatorial work will be continued with the checking of the Douglas Allen photographs and the accessioning of artefacts which have been in store for a while.

Last exhibition of 2012

**An Exhibition of Art
presented by The Admiral Blake Art Group
Tues 23 October - Saturday 10 November 2012
With a selection of Artwork for sale**

Exhibitions next year

This is a provisional listing. More topics will be considered later

The Jubilee of the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society, founded in 1953 - Dates TBA

Notable Bridgwater Women – Dates TBA

New Exhibits

Recent additions include a hand operated clothes-washing machine, and a poster, printed on silk, advertising a fund-raising event organised at Enmore in the mid-nineteenth century by the Bridgwater Literary and Philosophical Society.

Forthcoming talks programme

The last talk for 2012 will be **Transbaikalia - Eastern Siberia** by Bob Thompson
Tues November 13 at 7.30 pm

Programme of Talks 2012/13

- 8 January. Ken Edwards – **Beekeeping**
- 12 February. - Ian Harris - **RAF Westonzoyland 1920 – 1958**
- 12 March. Robbert Turner - **Memoirs Of A Press Photographer**
- 9 April. - Peter Triggs - **Scenic South West**
- 14 May. Milly Fitzpatrick - **Mostly Humorous Monologue**
- 11 June. John Allen - **Castle Street and The Duke of Chandos**
- 9 July. Hannah West - **Bridgwater Franciscan Friary**
- August - **No Talk**
- 10 September. Joyce Hurford - **Cuttings From The War Years**
- 8 October **AGM**
- 12 November. May Costick with Peter Morris - **Memories Of The London Blitz**

2012 Annual General Meeting

Following the recent AGM there were some changes to the Committee, and the members now are:

Nick Wallace, - Chairman
Rob Gardner, - Vice Chairman

Mike Searle – Secretary
Lesley Withers – Treasurer

Roger Blackburn
Brian Withers
Tony Woolrich

Robbert Turner - co-opted
Lyn Tyrrell – co-opted

Thank you to all who have stood down from the Committee.

The Subscriptions have been increased, and a new category of member introduced for those who only wish to volunteer their time to the Museum.

The well-attended meeting heard about a successful year, with good fund-raising results from the Christmas and Spring Fayres, the series of Band concerts and donations. But more members are needed to keep the momentum going, in the face of our grant cut next year.

Mrs Eleanor Dixon thanked everyone involved.

Bryan Gillard hangs up his keys.

Bryan has decided to step down as Vice-Chairman of the Friends and as Keyholder. Bryan took on the mantle of Chairman of the Friends in October 2007 and saw us through the early years handover of the museum from SDC to the Town Council, Bryan served his three years and handed over the reins to our current Chairman Nick Wallace, in October 2010 having mentored Nick for the role. Bryan took on many tasks including being a Saturday Keyholder, a position where he is sure to be missed. We send Bryan and his wife Mary our sincere good wishes.
Mike Searle

Commemoration of the First World War 1914-1918



Work is under way planning for this and volunteers are invited to join the research team. This is a most important task; if you can help in any way please come forward. Please contact Tony Woolrich

Based on the Museum's collection of cuttings from the local newspapers for each week of the War, (which are being indexed) it is proposed that an exhibition is held for each year of the war telling the story of what happened in the Town, and featuring some of the local heroes. Maybe a book might be produced about it. Another project is to photograph and record all the Memorials in the Museum's collecting area. As well as public ones, many schools, churches and chapels have them to

remember their congregational members.

Starting at the end of this year material will begin to be placed on the Museum's website so that schools can access it in advance of the Centenary years.

Another research job

The Museum has several boxes of historic newspapers and magazines. Anyone interested in making a listing, please? If so, please see Tony or Mike.

Grant sought

Costings are being worked out to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the conservation and scanning of the Museum collection of modern photographs. They mostly originated from the business of Douglas Allen and Don Smith, and are estimated to comprise some 175,000 negatives.

Thank you tea-party

On the afternoon of Tuesday 30 October a tea party will be held at the Museum to thank the Custodians. They are being notified separately.

Stump removal

The stump of the Magnolia tree has at last been removed from the bed in the upper garden. During the rest of the autumn the gardeners will be making the bed ready for re-planting.



Museum Roof

Contractors have just begun to refurbish the rest of the main part of the Museum roof.

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseum.org

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info

Photographs: www.bridgwaterphotos.org.uk/index.php