

BLAKE NEWS

Winter 2011



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 26 November

10.30am-3.00pm

R.N.L.I Stall

Home made cakes and bread

Vintage fancy goods by Revalie

Pocket Money Gifts

Christmas cards and Calendars

Confectionery

Bric a Brac

Tombola and plants

Refreshments and Museum Shop



On sale will be exclusive Christmas cards and Museum calendars which will make good stocking fillers.

CALENDAR 2012



Bridgewater Beauties
Portraits by John Chubb
(1746-1818)

Shut down 2011-12

This year we are opening to the public on Saturdays as well as half term in February 2012. The Museum will be open on Mondays and Thursdays for maintenance and curatorial work to be done. A list of jobs needing doing is posted in the Blake Room. Please call in and see what you can do.

It is hoped to undertake some volunteer training as well.

PUBLIC OPON DAYS

November

19, 26. (Fayre only; not Museum)

December

3, 10, 17.

(Review experimental period at this stage)

(The Museum is closed completely 18 Dec - 6 Jan)

January (if outcome of review favourable)

7, 14, 21.

February

[2 February: Symposium for teachers]

4, open Saturday 11, then all week Mon-Sat 18, 25.

March

3, 11, 17, 24, 31.

April

Open as usual from Tuesday 3rd - Saturday onwards.

The main tasks this time will be the reorganisation of the Maritime Room and the Battle Room.

The Maritime Room will include material about local transport as well as shipping. Cecil Luscombe is preparing a collection of road transport models in the liveries of local transport firms; railways will also feature.

The Battle Room will be re-organised to include as well as the Battle of Sedgemoor, King Alfred and his local battles, the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the Siege of Bridgwater in 1645, Robert Blake the Soldier, the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars.

New display cases have been bought for both rooms.

It is proposed to do some re-organisation of the Shop and put on display there some Victorian artefacts, as well as dressing the figures in appropriate costume.

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.

The Spaxton Mosaic will be returned from conservation and displayed in the archaeology room. It will be formally unveiled in the Spring. The fossil Ichthyosaur will be sent for conservation, and on return will be mounted in the Bridgwater room with the rest of the geology collection.

The model of Blake House is due for delivery soon. Then furniture will have to be procured for it, as well as a stand to put it on.

Exhibitions next year

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

Kings and Queens in Bridgwater from King John to Queen Elizabeth II to run from 8 May – 23 June.

The Franciscan Friary of Bridgwater. Dates TBA Arranged by volunteer Hannah West.

The Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club – Summer but dates TBA.

Notable Bridgwater Women – Dates TBA

New Exhibits

The Museum has been given two water-colours of Bridgwater Fair in 1893 as seen from the top of Saint Matthew's field. They show the animals of the livestock fair, with the coloured tents of the fairground behind. They will be the topic of the forthcoming Take One Picture ... project for schools. We were willed by the late Pam Pollard nine lithographs of old Bridgwater, drawn by John Chubb. They have been captioned and re-framed ready for display. An inscribed Victorian cup and saucer from one of the Bridgwater chapels has also been given. They will go on display in due course. Also a photograph of aircraft at Westonzoyland Airfield.

The website has a page about Bridgwater Pageant of 1927. This includes lists of the performers in each episode, and a link to a recording by the Choral Society of the *Song of the Men of Bridgwater*, composed specially by Percy Whitlock.

Forthcoming talks programme

Saturday, 26 November

Christmas Fayre 10.30am – 3.00pm

2012

Tuesday, 10 January

Roger Evans

*Somerset Born, Somerset Bred - A Post War
Bridgwater Childhood*

Tuesday, 14 February

Alan Hurford

*Ramblings of a Town Clerk – you couldn't
make it up, or could you?*

Tuesday, 13 March

John Beasant

Or was it India?

Tuesday, 10 April

David Duff

*Shakespeare. Will's women: A Nun, a Tart and
a Dark Lady*

Tuesday, 8 May

Pat Hase

George Reed and Burnham on Sea

Tuesday, 12 June

Michael Wilkinson

Weston, Clevedon and Portishead Railway

Tuesday, 10 July

Ashley Hale

*The Siege of Jerusalem and the
Ark of the Covenant*

August – No Meeting

Tuesday, 11 September

David Sebborn

*Such an unquiet spirit – the rumbustious life
of Benjamin Blake*

Tuesday, 9 October

Annual General Meeting

2011 Annual General Meeting

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

Nick Wallace, - Chairman
Bryan Gillard, - Vice Chairman
Mike Searle – Secretary
Lesley Withers – Treasurer

Roger Blackburn
Rob Gardner
Bryan Withers
Tony Woolrich

Lyn Tyrrell – co-opted

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

Thank you

Jane Woolrich writes:

I wish to record publicly my thanks for the support of all custodians over this season, sometimes at short notice. There have been frantically busy times but also dull quiet days when we have all been glad of our library books and crossword puzzles, and not forgetting those who dealt so capably with the flood in the shop on Carnival Day.

It is hoped to arrange a simple social event for custodians early in the New Year. Details to follow soon.

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseum.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatmuseum.org

Resources: www.bridgwatmuseum.info

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