

BLAKE NEWS

Autumn 2014



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER & AGM NOTICE

Lesley Withers, Membership Secretary writes:

We have to thank you for the support you have given during the past year and hope that you will continue to do so. Much of the extraordinary work which is being carried out at the Museum is only made possible by your membership subscription. These are:

Individual: £14.00 Family: £20 Institution: £20.00
Youth: £5.00 Corporate: £30.00

The new membership year starts on 1 September 2014 with the AGM taking place on Tuesday 14 October at 7.30 pm. Your cheque payable to *The Friends of Blake Museum* may be handed in or posted to Blake Museum, 5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB.

We look forward to seeing you at some or all of our monthly meetings.

Most of the officers and committee will be standing for re-election, so please make every effort to attend to cast your vote. Only fully paid-up members may vote. Also please consider being nominated to the Committee. We really need a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

WORLD WAR ONE EXHIBITION



The World War One Centenary exhibition has attracted much interest, with visitor numbers being about 50% more than average.

The Exhibition

This covered 1914 and roughly half of 1915 in some detail, and features material from the Bridgwater newspapers in particular:

1) Mobilisation

The despatch of units of the West Somerset Yeomanry and the Army Service Corps, which were based locally.

2) Early actions

The Siege of Antwerp was described in a newspaper account, and portrayed by a contemporary painting in the Museum's collection.

There were two vivid accounts of the retreat from Mons.

3) Local history

Throughout there were brief notes about the impact of the war on the town and its inhabitants.

4) Illustrations

Several hundred portraits of soldiers taken from the pages of the *Bridgwater Mercury*, 1914-1916 were displayed. Also a set of evocative photographs of the Western Front, 1917-1918 by the Australian photographer Frank Hurley. The cartoons of Bruce Barnfather served to lighten the mood of desolation. There were contemporary photographs of servicemen from the Museum's collection.

5) Film

A 16 minute film loop was created by Mike Searle showing scenes from the early stages of the conflict.

We are particularly grateful to the several people who have loaned or gifted material to the Museum for the Exhibition, also to the volunteers who created the displays.

The Exhibition closed on Saturday, 13 September, but next August there will be another episode carrying the commemoration on another year.

NEXT YEAR'S EXHIBITIONS – dates to be confirmed

Exhibitions so far planned will include:

- More photographs from the Museum's collection
- Printing in Bridgwater
- WW1 Commemoration – continued
- The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal
- Plus some art and craft displays

Programme Of Talks 2014-2015

The last talk for 2014 will be
10 November. 2.30pm - **NOTE - EARLY START**
Bob Musgrove

The Story behind Inn Signs.

Programme of Talks 2015

10 March Roger Evans.
Sydenham Manor.
14 April John Page.
1000 years of Horseshoes
12 May Chris Sidaway.
**3000 years of Land Management
and Debauchery**
9 June Richard Raynsford.
Milestones
14 July Group presentation
Tales of the Tiles
8 September John Dando.
Privies of Somerset
13 October AGM
Silly quiz with sillier prizes
10 November John Porter
**Charles Palmer's Logbook (voyage to
New Zealand 1867)**

NOTE

All talks will be held in the Blake Museum, starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Any variation to the programme will be announced on the News page of the Friends' web site, www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk, and if possible will be published in the *Bridgwater Mercury*.

A small fee of £3.00 is requested of non-members attending any of the talks

A warm welcome is extended to all.

If you have queries about this programme, please ring the Museum on 01278 456127.

BAND CONCERTS

The season of band concerts resulted in the Friends raising over £600 – thank you to everyone from cake makers to helpers on the day. The weather was generally good with only one day needing the refreshments to be served indoors in case it rained.

NEXT YEAR'S OPENING

The last day is Saturday 1st November, so we are closed for Shut Down from Monday 3 November 2014. We open again on Tuesday 7 April 2015 and close on Saturday 7 November, (Carnival Day.)

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre is Friday 21 November from 12noon - 4pm. Donations for the Fair can be brought to the Museum on Mondays and Thursdays.

SHOP SALE

In the run-up towards Christmas there will be a special sale in the shop, particularly of books at reduced price, and in November-December when the Museum is on shut-down the shop will be open on Saturday mornings between 10am and 1pm.

SHUT DOWN

As well as the regular maintenance and curatorial tasks, we are looking to replace two of the smaller wooden cases in the Bygones Room with metal framed cases, both with money-saving LED lights. In addition, we will be replacing the fluorescent tubes above the big wooden cases with LED tubes. These are ultra-violet free so won't degrade fragile artefacts.

We plan to replace some of the artwork on display in the Gallery with various portraits from the collection. One of these is a portrait we have just purchased of Joseph Ruscombe Poole, who was Mayor in 1832

DURLEIGH BROOK CLEAN-OUT

Some time during the autumn contractors will be cleaning out the mud and rubbish from the bed of the Durleigh Brook. This will include the leats and wheel-pits through the Mill.



Blake Museum
AUGUST ACTIVITIES 2014

Museum Mondays
10.30am – 12.30pm

Monday 4th August:
Museum Tour & Quiz & Craft Activities including Dinosaurs & Mosaics

Monday 11th August:
Docks Walk (very popular) by local docks historian Geoff Harding. Plus Model Boat Making.

Monday 18th August:
Castle Walk & Making a Castle

Cost for each session – £2.00 per child.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Maximum number of children per session is 10 – first come first served.
Places may be pre-booked by phoning the museum on 01278 456127

Activities are subject to change at short notice.

During three Mondays in August Lyn Tyrrell organised events for children at the Museum. These were all well supported. Indeed one family had been last year.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 10.30-12 NOON Next one 25 September

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwaterblakemuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info

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