

BLAKE NEWS

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 2016 with the AGM taking place on Tuesday 11 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.



AMY FISHER

Student, Amy Fisher, who has been with us every summer holiday since 2014 will be going to university in the autumn to study history. Her special interest is modern history, so she has been invaluable in helping prepare the displays for the World War 1 centenary exhibitions since then. She has just passed her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Well done Amy!

Autumn 2016



BAND CONCERTS

The season of band concerts has gone well, and thank you to every one 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.

SEALED KNOT RE-ENACTMENT



SIMON BIRT

During the last weekend of July the Sealed Knot held a re-enactment of the Battle of Sedgemoor on the Fair Field. The Friends had a stall there, manned by Rob Gardner, Jim Murray and Simon Birt, selling newly commissioned souvenirs of the battle – mugs and tee-shirts etc, and raised over £270.



Photo: Bridgwater Mercury

WORLD WAR ONE EXHIBITION – 1916

This covered 1916 in some detail, and featured material from the Bridgwater newspapers.

1) Recruitment

There is a detailed account of recruitment, beginning with volunteers and then conscription from March 1916.

2) The Siege of Verdun, 21 February – 18 December 1916

The actions of the French at Verdun are well-covered.

3) The Easter Rising, April 1916

This is explained as background to the time.

4) The Battle of Jutland, 31 May – 1 June 1916

Numbers of Bridgwater men died in the famous naval battle.

5) Death of Lord Kitchener, 5 June, 1916

He was drowned at sea on the way to Russia.

6) Siege of Kut Al Amara, in Mesopotamia

This was between 7 December 1915 and 29 April 1916.

Numbers of Bridgwater men fought and died there.

7) The Somme

The great battle of the Somme between July and November 1916 is very well covered. Numbers of Bridgwater men fought and died there.

8) The introduction of the Tank in Warfare

There is a display about the introduction of the Tank into warfare.

9) The Cinema and the Great War

We are hosting a travelling exhibition on the cinema and World War 1 from the University of Kent, and featuring Bridgwater's Bijou cinema, founded 1912.

SHOWING OF THE WW1 FILM THE BATTLE OF SOMME

We have acquired a DVD of the Battle of the Somme (1916).

The original has been digitally remastered and features previously lost images. A new sound-track has also been added, and the film runs for approx. 1 ¼ hours. This will be shown on Monday 12th Sept at 2.00pm, and again in the evening at 7.00pm. Because seating is limited, would you please contact the museum and reserve a seat for your preferred time (01278 456127). If there is enough interest we will show it again at a later date. This is a free event and is open to all FOBM members and volunteers. You may bring a friend or partner

NEXT EXHIBITION

To coincide with Dennis Warren's next talk on the history of the Gramophone on 13 September, the next exhibition will be:

SWING, BING, & ROCK'N'ROLL

The gramophone and popular entertainment



Tuesday 6 September – Saturday 1 October, 2016

10.00 am – 4.00pm : Last entry 3.00pm

5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB

Tel 01278 456127

Programme Of Talks 2017

This is being finalised and will be circulated shortly with the AGM papers.

NEXT YEAR'S EXHIBITIONS – dates to be confirmed

Exhibitions so far planned will include:

More photographs from the Museum's collection

WW1 Commemoration – continued

Plus some art and craft displays

NEXT YEAR'S OPENING

The last day is Friday 4th November, so we are closed for Shut Down from Friday 3 November 2016. We open again on Tuesday 18 April 2017 and close on Friday 3 November.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair is Saturday 26 November from 10.00 am - 1pm. 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 hoping to replace the Museum's CCTV system and extend it to include the shop, the gallery, and the Museum garden. Much of the wiring dates from the District Council days, so needs upgrading.

During the shut-down we will be displaying in the Blake Room the bell from HMS *Blake* from St Mary's Church, Bridgwater. Due to the re-ordering there it can be no longer displayed in the church, so it will be at the museum permanently.

We plan to replace some of the artwork on display in the Gallery with various portraits from the Chubb collection.

The plan chest drawers in the Battle Room need to be sealed before they can be used to prevent deterioration of paper artefacts stored in them.

We plan to refurbish the perspex cover of the Docks model and fit LED lighting, to do away with the glare.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10.30-12 NOON

Next one 25 August

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk