

BLAKE NEWS

FRIENDS OF BLAKE MUSEUM

SPRING FAYRE



In aid of Museum funds – free entry

**The Museum
Blake Street Bridgwater**

**Saturday 21 March 2015
11.00am – 2.00 pm**

**Home -made cakes and bread
Bric-a-brac and books
Tombola
Refreshments and Museum Shop
Charity stalls**

**Please bring any items for the
Fayre on a Monday or
Thursday beforehand**

Shutdown Winter 2014-15

The wooden cases in the Bygones Room were all fitted with LED lighting. One of the wooden cases was scrapped and replaced with a modern illuminated one. Displays were mounted of horse brasses, Friendly Society pole heads, weapons, and theatrical memorabilia. The collection of local china was replaced in the new illuminated case. The shop was re-modelled, with a new counter and over-mantel over the stove. Additional guttering and downpipe and drain grids were installed by the fire door leading from the Bridgwater room. This was to prevent water seeping under the door in wet weather. The hall was repainted. Lighting was installed over the stairs to the Bridgwater room to illuminate the artefacts there. Costings were made for the purchase of new illuminated cases for the Bridgwater Room.

Spring 2015



Book sale

The book sale held during the shut down before Christmas was highly successful and raised more than £400. It will become a regular feature of our programme

Museum Accreditation

A great deal of time this winter has been spent by the curatorial team in doing the paperwork for the Museum Accreditation, which has to be submitted online by the end of April. Since the responsibility has been transferred to the Arts Council, the forms have become much more lengthy and complex, with much statistical information now being asked for. So much so, that since December the team has been in the Museum one morning a fortnight on the task, as well as many hours individually at home writing the submissions.



Bridgwater china in the new case



Weapons



Victoria cataloguing

Appreciation

Bridgwater Town Council greatly appreciates all the effort put in by the many volunteers. Did you know that about 100 are involved?



Nick cataloguing



Joyce cataloguing



John Rich and Graham Baker carpentering

THIS 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
- 70 years of the Hospital Friends
- Sedgemoor Stitches
- Plus some art displays

The Greylake Skulls

The Greylake Skulls have been temporarily transferred to the laboratory of the Natural History Museum, London as part of a Wellcome-funded project entitled *Human Adaptation to Diet and Infectious Disease Loads, From the Origin of Agriculture to the Present*. This project will be the first large-scale genetic study of archaeological human remains from Britain. The primary aim of this project is to use analyses of ancient DNA to characterise how the human genome in Britain has evolved in response to changing diet and exposure to infectious diseases over the past c.12,000 years.

Mesolithic remains are particularly important to the study as they would provide a baseline against which all future genetic change can be measured. Samples have been made for DNA in the majority of English Mesolithic human remains. However, the scarcity of British human bones which date to this period ensures that the Greylake bones are invaluable to the project.

It might be possible to learn the height, sex and hair colour of the subjects, as well as information about diet and illnesses. The skulls were carefully packed and taken to London by courier. They should be returned during the summer

Battle of Sedgemoor Diorama

Due to the redevelopment of the heritage centre at Westonzoyland Parish Church, where it has been on loan since 2009, it will be returned to us later in the summer. During next shut-down we will be organising its re-display, probably in the Battle Room.

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.

BAND CONCERTS

- Sunday 12th July – Chard Concert Brass
- Sunday 19th July – Burtle Silver Band
- Sunday 26th July – Burnham and Highbridge Silver Band
- Sunday 2nd August – Weston Brass
- Sunday 9th August – Wells City Band
- Sunday 16th August – Stoke Sub Hamdon Band
- Sunday 30th August – Taunton Concert Band

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10.30-12 NOON

Next one 26 March

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwaterblakemuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatmuseum.info

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