

BLAKE NEWS

FRIENDS OF BLAKE MUSEUM

SPRING FAIR



In aid of Museum funds - Free entry
The Blake Museum
5 Blake Street, Bridgwater

Saturday 19 March, 2016
10.00 am - 1.00pm
Home-made cakes and bread
Bric-a-brac and books
Tombola and plants
Refreshments and Museum Shop
Charity stalls

Items for the Fair may be delivered to the Museum on a Monday or Thursday leading up to the Fair, between 10am – 3pm or on the morning of the 19th. Cakes especially welcome.

Shut-down arrangements

The Museum has been on shut-down, from Saturday 7 November and will re-open on 29 March 2016.

As well as the routine maintenance – painting and electrical work etc., the major project was the return to the Museum of the Battle of Sedgemoor Diorama, which was lent to the Sedgemoor display at Westonzoyland Church in 2010.

It takes apart, but the problem of getting the main carcass up the stairs, required it be sawn in half and re-joined once in the Battle room. The division was concealed by re-painting the scenic background to hide the cut.

The model of the battle had a tiny amount of damage –

Spring 2016



one soldier came off out of 1,700, as it was manoeuvred round the staircase, and a coloured flag had to be re-made.

The model stands on a pair of plan chests, which provide much needed additional storage,



The diorama on the plan chests awaiting final cladding.

The lighting of the model has been much improved by the fitting of an LED tube. The model and the plan chests it rests on have been clad in panelling.

A new permanent display about the Siege of Bridgwater, in 1645, has also gone in the Battle Room.

The displays in the Bygones room have been changed, for two cases have been devoted to objects donated in 2015.



WW2 nurse's cape with military shoulder flashes



Bridgwater Soroptomists' memorabilia

A fresh display of John Chubb's paintings, most re-framed, has gone up in the Gallery. Mike Searle has been digitising all the Chubb art work. Photographs were taken when the collection was first acquired, but the quality was not good. The work has now been done again on a proper scanner, with much improvement. We think there will be around 500 images in total.

More metal racking has been installed in the Archaeology room store.

The Museum's 90th Anniversary



The Mayor, Alderman Walter Deacon, speaking at the opening of the Museum, 15 April, 1926.

Another project has been to research and devise a temporary exhibition about the history of the Museum, since its inception in 1926. This has involved finding and reading old management minutes, newspaper reports and searching out suitable photographs. A feature is a series of panels showing the various schemes between 1987 and 1997 to expand the Museum into a new building in the back garden and into the Mill. The exhibition will run during April.

Christmas Fair and Book Sales

The Christmas Fair raised £860.10 with match funding of £500 from Lloyd's Bank. £300 was donated by the Trefoil Club, – retired Girl Guiders. Book sales to the time *Blake News* was being written (13 February) £211.40.

Accreditation

The Assessor reported that we are to receive Full Accreditation, and we expect to receive the documentation during March.

Refreshments Co-ordinator

We welcome on board Jayne Cornish who has stepped forward to take on this important role. She carried out her first Coffee Morning on the 25th Feb. Jayne is one of our regular Friday custodians. Thank-you Jayne.

Spring Fair Reminder

Do you have any unwanted items or gifts that you would like to donate towards the Spring Fair? Items may be dropped off at the museum on a Monday or Thursday between 10.00 and 3.00.

Museum web-site

Mike Searle has re-designed the Museum's website, www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk It incorporates most of the material of the original site started by Dr Peter Cattermole in 2009, but to a more modern standard, so making material easier to find.

Programme of Talks 2016

- 8 March: Richard Filler.
Bridgwater's Workhouse.
- 12 April: Steve Mewes.
**Bridgwater Bay Tidal Lagoon –
Bridgwater's Next Chapter.**
- 10 May: Richard Raynsford.
**An Illustrated Tour of Churches and Chapels
in Somerset.**
- 14 June: Kay Wych.
How I became a 16th Century Kitchen Maid.
- 12 July: Vicky Garnett
Language Use and Somerset.
- 13 September: Dennis Warren
**The Gramophone Sequel: Bing, Swing and
Rock 'n' Roll.**
- 11 October: **AGM.**
- 8 November: Rhian Childs
**Sea Trials and Tribulations
– Restoring Historic Boats.**

Important dates for your diary

March 19th Spring Fair.

**Monday March 21st Welcome lunch to say
'Thank you' and training session.**

Thurs March 24th Deep Clean.

**Tuesday 29th March reopening ceremony at
10.00am celebrating 90 years. Eleanor Dixon
and the Mayor and Mayoress officiating.**

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk
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