

BLAKE NEWS

SPRING FAIR



In aid of Museum funds

The Museum

Blake Street Bridgwater

Saturday 16 March 2019

10.00am - 1.00 pm

Home-made cakes, jams,

marmalade & pickles

Bric-a-brac & books

Tombola

Refreshments & Museum Shop

Charity stalls

Free entry

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

Spring 2019



Work in progress during the shut down

In November 2018 the museum was presented with a set of brass Imperial measures and a set of scales of 1836 used by the Borough to police traders' weights in the Market. These comprised various sizes from a bushel measure downwards. They had been recovered from a store on a Bridgwater trading estate. The scales were used in the market.

We already had the Imperial yard from the set, and two cases of the weights used for the testing, plus smaller portable scales. Redwood Joinery have been engaged to make a wooden display stand for the measures, and work is in progress to create a comprehensive display of it all in the Bridgwater Room. An Information leaflet has been written about it.

In addition, the Museum has acquired six new tall and illuminated display cases – three for the Battle Room and three elsewhere. These have allowed a drastic re-organisation of the rooms, and the display of material held in store and rarely seen.



The re-organised display of the West of England Carriage Works, c1865 – 1915 in the Bygones room.



The farthest at the right are two of the six new cases used to allow more World War One material to be shown.

A long term project has begun in the museum library, to index the contents of the 60-70 ring-binders and box-files with off-prints of articles, etc, about the town's history. The very first binder done, on the Willow Furniture Trade, has an advertising brochure for the Town Mill Wicker Works – which we did not know existed before!

Town Mill

A new Wikipedia page, *Bridgwater Town Mill*, has been written to give publicity to the restoration project.

Book Sales

The book sales held during the shut down have been highly successful and have raised, as we go to press, £400+, with about a month to go.

Christmas Fair

The fair was also highly successful, raising over £1000. A lot of work by many people, but very well worth it.

New Information Leaflet

A new one on the Museum's archives is soon to be published.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 21 March 10.00am – 3.00 pm *Annual deep clean ready for the new season.*

Monday 25 March 10.30am – 12.00 noon *Custodians and keyholders welcome and update on the new displays.*

Thursday 28 March 10.30am – 12.00 noon. *Usual coffee morning.*

Tuesday 2 April. – *The Museum re-opens to the public.*

THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITIONS

- 9th April - 11th May. Sedgemoor Camera Club
- 14th May - 22nd June. Sedgemoor Stitchers
- 25th June - 3rd Aug. Douglas Allen photographs
- 6th Aug - 14th Sept. TBA
- 17th Sept - 26th Oct. TBA (Possible Baptist Art Group)

OBITUARY



Cllr. Charles Alasdair (Sandy) Buchanan, 1934-2018
Accreditation Award 2006

Left-right: Sandy Buchanan, Maggie Sampson, Bryan Gillard, David Sebborn, Mike Creswell, Alison Mason & Eleanor Dixon.

Sandy was born in Sheffield and educated at High Storrs Grammar School, then attended St Catharine's College, Cambridge, for a B. A. Degree. He trained as a teacher and eventually moved to Strode College in Street, where he taught economics and social history. Whilst there he obtained an M.Sc. from Bristol University for a study of the Poor Law in Somerset, and wrote a fine study of John Bowen and the Bridgwater Workhouse, 'John Bowen and the Bridgwater Workhouse Scandal', *Proc. SANHS*, Vol 131, 1987, pp 181-201.

He took early retirement from Strode College, and taught extramural classes for Bristol University and lectured for local

societies, specialising in Industrial Archaeology. He was active in founding the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society and only recently retired as President.

He was a Labour councillor on Sedgemoor District Council, representing Sydenham Ward and served as Chairman 1996-1998. He was one of the Charter Trustees for Bridgwater, responsible for the legacy of the Bridgwater Borough Council, (abolished in 1974), before the restoration of the Town Council in 2003. He was also a J. P.

He was first chairman of the Bridgwater Czech link and co-led a trade delegation to the Czech republic in 1996.

He served on a number of Council committees, and he was chairman of the District Council's management committee of the Blake Museum. He protested mightily at the proposed closure in 2008.

After the transfer to the Town Council in 2009, he would sometimes call in to the Museum, the last time being in 2018, when he gave the Museum ciné-film of one of the brickworks in operation.

He died in November 2018.

Thanks are due to Prof. R. Angus and Mrs Brenda Buchanan, Cllr Brian Smedley, Mrs Mary Miles, and Mrs Leila Nicholson of SDC for biographical information.

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2019

Tues 12th March – Dave Chapple, – *Bridgwater in the 1960's*

Tues 9th April – Roger Evans, – *Bridgwater Carnival*

Tues 14th May – Ray Cheek, – *Irresistible Garden Plants for Butterflies in Bridgwater and surrounding villages.*

Tues 11th June – Brian Wright, – *Andrew Crosse and the Mite that shocked the world!*

Tues 9th July – John Beasant – *To drop a name or maybe two! (John's life after his birth at Littlecote, Wiltshire)*

Tues 10th September – Stewart Richards, – *The Town Mill*

Tues 8th October – AGM

Tues 12th November – Hannah West, – *The Friary*

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.blakuseumfriends.org.uk, and if possible will be published in the *Bridgwater Mercury*.

Please bring a small item to the talks for the Raffle

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 10.30-12

NOON

Next one 28 February

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info