

BLAKE NEWS

Summer 2018



IMPORTANT

All members are being asked to complete a new application form which is attached to this Newsletter. This helps FOBM to comply with the new GDPR act and at the same time updates your contact information that we hold. Please take time to read the section relating to Communications and Data Protection

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE and AGM

Lesley Withers, Membership Secretary writes:

We have to thank you for your continued support you have given us 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

Please note that membership starts on 1st September 2018 with the AGM on Tuesday 9th October 2018 at 7.30pm

Please submit your payment (cheques payable to The Friends of Blake Museum or FOBM) with the new membership form to: The Hon Treasurer, FOBM, 5 Blake Street Bridgwater Somerset TA6 3NB.

There will be vacancies for the positions of Chairman and Secretary but the rest of the officers and committee will be standing for re-election. 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 need a Publicity Officer.

SHUT DOWN

This went very well and the re-cased docks model and the new displays have been much admired. Thank you everyone involved.

MUSEUM VISITORS

Visitor figures are good for 2018

	April	May	June	July
2017	141	291	227	597
2018	415	283	252	849

A good number of visitors from abroad have been noted in the visitors' book. Many commented on the

friendliness of the volunteers and the quality of the displays. This supports the value of the Museum's websites for publicity, as the following statistics show:

bridgwatermuseum.org.uk from January - July: Unique Visitors 6,492. No. of visitors 9,217. Pages visited 31,659. Hits 279,046.

bridgwatermuseum.info from January - July: Unique Visitors 1,723. No. of visitors 3,180. Pages visited 6,666. Hits 35,970
Tourism Leaflets On-Line from March - July: 949 Downloads. 21,939 Impressions (viewings)

Museum's Wikipedia page Page views July 2017-July 2018 -- 1493, Monthly average 124.

NEW ARTEFACTS DONATED

Quite a varied collection has been given in recent months but a donation of special note is from the estate of the late Maureen Bourke, (a long-time museum Friend and custodian) a collection of 71 WW1 silk postcards and a silk scarf, sent back by troops from the Front. These will be featured in the WW1 Centenary Exhibition – 1918 open during August.

EXHIBITIONS

We were let down at the last minute by a Bridgwater photographic group who were due to supply one for July. Instead, we substituted panels from the Blake 350 Exhibition in St Mary's church in the summer of 2007 – Blake the Soldier, Blake the Sailor and Blake Commemorations. Various time-lines from this will be added to the Museum's website.

The August exhibition about WW1, 1918, features a photographic survey, made by Museum volunteers, of the war memorials in the town and the 30-odd villages of the old RDC, our collecting area.



WW1 Exhibition feature

We are beginning to plan for the September exhibition which will be about the Cellophane Works, and which will support Stewart Richards's talk.

The concluding exhibition of the year, in October, will feature the Baptist Art Group

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2018

11 September – Stewart Richards, *British Cellophane Ltd*

9 October – **AGM**

13 November – **TBA**

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*.

QUAYSIDE SUMMER FESTIVAL

A very successful event. Looks like we made £272 on refreshments. The Minecraft game with the Engine Room, set up in the Blake Room, was a success and all the sessions were taken up. 559 people came around the museum but it was difficult to manage numbers. It might pay to have a second custodian on the back door so that we have one checking in the front and one in the back. Ann Hamblett and Pete Godfrey went out and about the town with Museum leaflets - they were both in Civil War costume.



Ann and Pete in Fore Street



Early visitors in Blake Gardens to the Quayside event

BAND CONCERTS IN BLAKE GARDENS

The first one raised £132, a record, and the second £102, the third £124 and the fourth £86. – four more to go! All greatly helped by the very fine weather and the quality acts, and not forgetting the delicious cakes provided as usual by our kind contributors.



Children taking part in the Minecraft competition held in the Blake Room of the museum as part of the Quayside Event. The Minecraft competition was organised and staffed by the Engine Room.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS

These have proved very popular with visitors, around 30 have so far been published and more are planned – The Hospital, the Workhouse, the Lions House on West Quay, the Friary and St John's Hospital, etc. They are in holders in the galleries and in a tall stand in the Bridgwater Room, and may be downloaded from the Museum's website.

THE POORLY

Museum Friends, Eleanor Dixon, Joyce Hurford and Roger Blackburn have all been unwell in recent months. Volunteer Lindsay Willis has undergone emergency surgery for appendicitis. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10.30-12 NOON

Next one 30 August

Published by the Friends of Blake Museum

5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB

Registered Charity No 1099815

© August 2018

Tel: 01278 456127

TW 31/07/2018

Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info