

BLAKE NEWS

Those members receiving this newsletter by post will find their membership cards in the envelope the newsletter came in. Those members having the newsletter by e-mail will need to call at the Museum office to collect their cards.

FRIENDS OF BLAKE MUSEUM

CHRISTMAS FAIR



In aid of Museum funds – Free entry

**The Museum
5 Blake Street, Bridgwater**

**Saturday 28 NOVEMBER
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 Thursday 26 November 10am – 3pm or on the morning of the 28th. Cakes especially welcome.

Shut-down arrangements

The Museum will be on shut-down, from Saturday 7 November and will re-open in late March 2016. Working parties will be in each Monday and Thursday, and the Museum will close completely between 14 December and 4 January, though duty key-holders will inspect the building daily when it is shut.

Winter 2015



The work planned this year will be routine maintenance – painting and electrical work etc, and also refreshing a number of the displays. The major project will be the return to the Museum of the Battle of Sedgemoor Diorama, which was lent to the Sedgemoor display at Westonzoyland Church in 2010. It will be installed in the Battle Room on a pair of plan chests which will give much needed additional storage space

The displays in the Bygones room will be changed, and we are planning to feature some more of the Museum's art collection in the Gallery.

The displays in the Bridgwater room will be re-organised as well.

FRIENDS OF BLAKE MUSEUM

BOOK SALE In aid of Museum funds



**ON SATURDAYS UNTIL THE
CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS ON
14 DECEMBER.**

Coffee Morning

The last coffee morning for 2015 will be on Thursday 10 December at 10.00 am. It will be free to all Friends, Custodians, Keyholders and Volunteers as a 'Thank You' for all the work done during the year

Accreditation

Twelve months ago the curatorial team began work on the revised paper work for Accreditation. We have been told by the Arts Council there will be a delay in assessing until more staff have been appointed.

Programme Of Talks 2015-2016

The last talk for 2015 will be

10 November: John Porter.

Charles Palmer's Logbook (voyage to New Zealand 1867).

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.**

The new Committee 2015-16

Chair & Talks Co-Ordinator – Ms Victoria Western

Vice Chair & Shop Manager – Mr Rob Gardner

Secretary – Mr Mike Searle (Hon Deputy Museum Curator)

Treasurer – Mrs Lesley Withers

Committee Member & Fundraising – Mr Roger Blackburn

Co-opted Member & Learning Co-Ordinator – Mrs Rhian Childs

Committee Member – Mr Nick Wallace

Committee Member – Mr Brian Withers

Committee Member – Mr Tony Woolrich (Hon Museum Curator)

Refreshments Co-ordinator

Sue Berryman has retired, having completed 5 years as Catering Manager. Sue was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers at the recent AGM. We thank Sue for her loyal service. We are still seeking someone to takeover the job which has been retitled Refreshments Co-ordinator. Duties are the Monthly Coffee Mornings, the Spring and Christmas Fairs and the Band Concerts. If interested please talk to Sue to learn what is involved or to Victoria or Mike.

Learning Co-ordinator

Lyn Tyrrell has retired as Learning Co-ordinator after four years due to other commitments, though she remains a member of the Learning team. We thank Lyn for her loyal service. Rhian Childs has been co-opted to the Committee as her successor.

New Artefacts at the Museum

We purchased an eighteenth-century manuscript book containing transcriptions of the Bridgwater charters since the time of King John, and other legal documents This was once in the possession of Dr Peter Cattermole.

A donation of a ship-builder's half model of the Ketch *Sunshine* which was once based at Bridgwater. We already have two oil paintings of the vessel.

A donation of a nurse's cape from World War 2, inside which are sewn shoulder flashes from the uniforms of the men being nursed.

A donation of 2 uniforms from the Bridgwater Imperial Band.

We paid to have digitised a large scale map of Bridgwater to the west of the Parrett surveyed in the mid 1840s, which is in Bristol Record Office. It is probably slightly later than the 1841 Tithe Map. See: <http://www.bridgwaterheritage.org.uk/friarn/maps/BRO31965STG11.jpg>

We purchased a 19th Century mahogany wheel barometer named "Rossiter Bridgwater" at the base and with hygrometer and thermometer set to the neck. The purchase and restoration was funded from the Bryan Gillard Memorial Fund.



The Wheel Barometer



The Bridgwater Map, 1840s

Published by the Friends of Blake Museum

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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