

memories of the district, to researching the lives of the fallen whose names appear on war memorials.

Scans have begun to be placed on the Museum's website of various documents, such as electors' lists, and names of people in receipt of the Bread Dole, under the old Poor Law. Resources like these are of great value to family historians. Work needs to be done to transcribe the names in these lists.

The Museum's collection of photographs will also be placed on the web, and will require identifying and captioning.

This is important work, and if you have a serious interest in history, please consider helping on the local history team.

GARDEN ARCHAEOLOGY



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Ancient worked stones resting in the garden are meticulously recorded by young archaeologists led by Kerri Wheeler, BA, assisted by Ceri Maltby and Sam Foster.

Young archaeologists who have joined the volunteers for the summer have been investigating the stones in the garden.

All the archaeological artefacts have been recorded to proper archaeological standards, and individual pieces taken out of present display for detailed recording, measurement and identification. Three splendid pieces of columns from the Franciscan Friary from the 1335 excavations at Friar Avenue have been identified, together with a piece of window tracery from the Hospital of St John. These will be brought inside for display in the Larger Objects Gallery (Room 4, formerly the Blake room).

HALL PANELLING

All the panelling up the staircase and in the hall has now been scraped, stained with Vandyke Brown, then finished with beeswax and turpentine, before being buffed to a glossy finish. It positively glows - many thanks to Chris Leigh, the volunteer responsible. The panelling in the entrance lobby will be done shortly.

OBJECTS DONATED TO THE MUSEUM

The *Bridgwater Mercury* for December 1913, with pages of local advertising; a collection of sail-makers' tools - thread, wax and a

selection of various needles; the name plate from the front door of the Bridgwater Building Society's office in King Square, (now the offices of Sedgemoor District Council); a bronze medal struck in 1974 to commemorate the demise of the Borough of Bridgwater, and two medals struck in 1918 by the Borough Council to celebrate the end of the First World War.

We have to be very selective, restricting objects to our collecting area, and filling gaps in our coverage. Just because it is old won't guarantee we will take it, but we can often suggest an alternative home. We are heartened by what the public is bringing in, and their evident pride in helping the Museum.

BATTLE OF SEDGEMOOR MODEL ON THE MOVE

The Museum sub-Committee agreed to the transfer of the model of the Battle of Sedgemoor to the new Zoyland Heritage Centre. See <http://www.zoylandheritage.co.uk/> The aim is to advance the education of the public in the Battle of Sedgemoor and related history, including the role of St Mary's Church, Westonzoiland, Somerset

The model is too large to be got up the stairs to the present Battle of Sedgemoor display, so there was no alternative to taking it out of the building. The model was reputedly built by a previous Vicar of the church, about 50 years ago, so it is apt that it returns there.

BAND CONCERTS

The final concert of the season will be given on Sunday 27 September by Taunton Concert Band starting at 2.00pm. The Friends will again be serving refreshments as a means of raising funds for the work we do.

LEARNING

Learning is not just for children, but for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

A three-year action plan has been devised for learning with the aim of the Museum delivering quality presentations, activities and information. There is the goal of the Museum becoming a centre of excellence.

It is planned to refresh the displays and create new ones to reflect the new Statement of Purpose, so that visitors are better informed about what they see. Volunteers are urgently needed to work on the enhancement of the displays. If you have skills in design and graphics there is a place for you.

Arrangements can be made by schools, colleges and other organisations who wish to visit and experience on-site activities. These will be tailor-made to satisfy the objects of the visit by individual groups.

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