

BLAKE NEWS

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER & AGM NOTICE

Lesley Withers, Membership Secretary writes:

We have to thank you for the support you have given during the past year 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. These are:

Individual: £14.00 Family: £20 Institution: £20.00
Youth: £5.00 Corporate: £30.00

The new membership year starts on 1 September 2017 with the AGM taking place on Tuesday 10 October at 7.30 pm. Your cheque payable to *The Friends of Blake Museum* may be handed in or posted to Blake Museum, 5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB.

We look forward to seeing you at some or all of our monthly meetings.

Most of the officers and committee will be standing for re-election, so 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.

BAND CONCERTS

The season of band concerts has gone well, and thank you to every one from cake makers to helpers on the day. The weather was generally good with only one day needing the refreshments to be served indoors in case it rained. However, the band did not turn up on August 6th and we had no notice from the organiser. But we took more than £50 from audience members.

As we go to press we have learned the sad news of the deaths of two FOBM members.

Pat Kent



Pat died on 24 July, aged 83. She worked for many years as a mental health nurse, and at one stage she

Autumn 2017



and her late husband ran a pub. She became a custodian in about 2010, and for a while maintained the rota of custodians. She will be remembered for running the raffles at the Coffee Mornings and the spring and autumn fairs. Her passion was her dogs

John Allen



Photo by courtesy of Natalie Collings for Somerset Film

John died in August 2017, aged 88. He was a long-standing supporter of the Museum, BDAS and the Civic Society but was much more heavily involved with the Arts Centre, of which he had been a founding member in 1946. He was also very active in the Chandos Society of Artists. He was educated at Dr Morgan's school and after university in the 1950s he worked for the British Council. John lent us artefacts for the exhibition Kings and Queens in Bridgwater from King John to Queen Elizabeth II, held in 2012.

Other Friends' News

Roger Blackburn and Sue Berryman are both undergoing medical treatment. We wish them both a speedy recovery and a return to the Museum before long. Maggie Sampson has had hospital treatment, and was recovered enough to look in to the Museum recently.

WORLD WAR ONE EXHIBITION – 1917



Replica WW1 uniform and mannequin

This covers 1917 in some detail, and features a replica

WW1 uniform and mannequin purchased with a grant from the Friends.

Topics covered include

- 1) Submarine warfare
- 2) The Russian Revolution
- 3) America and the War
- 4) Passchendaele
- 5) Messines
- 6) Action in the Middle East

Programme Of Talks 2018

After the resignation of Victoria Western we are looking for somebody to arrange this. Please volunteer at the AGM

NEXT YEAR'S EXHIBITIONS – dates to be confirmed

Exhibitions so far planned will include:

- More photographs from the Museum's collection
- WW1 Commemoration – continued
- Plus some art and craft displays

NEXT YEAR'S OPENING

The last day is Friday 3 November, so we are closed for shut down from Monday 6 November 2017. We open again on Tuesday April TBA and close on Friday 2 November 2018.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair is Saturday 25 November from 10.00 am - 1pm. Donations for the Fair can be brought to the Museum on Mondays and Thursdays.

SHOP SALE

In the run-up towards Christmas there will be a special sale in the shop, particularly of books at reduced price, and in November-December when the Museum is on shut-down the shop will be open on Saturday mornings between 10am and 1pm.

SHUT DOWN

This will include the regular maintenance and curatorial tasks, and updating of displays.

Bridgwater Quayside Festival 29 July

This coincided with the Battle of Sedgemoor exhibition and saw 203 adults and 69 children at the Museum – ten times + the usual daily average – which are just the ones that got recorded. Those on duty ran short of change and short of tea and biscuits and had to go and get more. Refreshments and the shop took around £220. A team from the Bridgwater Garrison was on hand.

It was a highly successful day, and we are planning for next year's event.



MILL RESTORATION PROJECT



The Town Council has agreed to the restoration of the mill, under the direction of Stewart Richards. The idea is to restore the fabric to the original profile, above, to give the museum additional space, in particular for the learning work we do. It is planned to be done in 4 phases, the first being to prepare the design and costings, obtain permissions and begin fund-raising. Update reports will appear in due course.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS

LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10.30-12 NOON

Next one 31 August

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk