

BLAKE NEWS

FRIENDS OF BLAKE MUSEUM

SPRING FAIR



In aid of Museum funds – free entry

The Museum
Blake Street Bridgwater

Saturday 18 March 2017

10.00am – 1.00 pm

Home made cakes and bread
Bric-a-brac and books
Tombola
Refreshments and Museum Shop
Charity stalls

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

Shutdown Winter 2016-17

Shut down this winter has concentrated on a new display for the Bygones room. It includes the museum's collection of historic Somerset banknotes, newly donated material from the Lions International, and a Victorian doll's pram.

Much effort has been devoted to cataloguing and housing a collection of past exhibition displays from the SDC days and the map collection from the library in new plan chests under the diorama in the Battle Room. The metal plan chest which once housed the maps will be replaced by a book case. Thanks are due to Tony Aspey and Colin Hall for work on the maps

Spring 2017



The Gallery will have an exhibition about the Chubb family which was prepared in 2004 when the collection was purchased. Mike Searle has completed the digitisation of the Museum's entire Chubb archive. Prints will be displayed in binders for visitors to leaf through. An illustrated catalogue will be published.

We have received from St Mary's Church the bell from HMS Blake. This will be shown in the Blake room, where the display case has been re-organised

The Archaeology room store has been re-organised, and the computer moved there from the outer room This needed some re-wiring. Thanks to Roger and Joe for this.

Thanks are due to Colin Hall for his usual work of tidying up the paintwork round the museum.

Book sales

The book sales held during the shut down have been highly successful and raised nearly £400. They will become a regular feature of our programme.

Programme of Talks 2017

- 14 March – Sue Burne
Publicans and Boatmen – The Storeys of Bridgwater and North Petherton
- 11 April – Brian Wright
Easter Customs
- 9 May – Guy Belshaw
Bridgwater Fair
- 13 June – Roger Evans
Tales of Old Bridgwater
- 11 July – John Dando
Privies – A walk up the Garden Path
- 12 September – David Hawkings
Transportation to Australia
- 10 October – AGM
- 14 November – Ashley Jones
The British Honours System

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*.

Maureen Bourke

Maureen has died, aged 86. She had been a long-standing supporter of the museum, and acted as a custodian for many years. A Londoner, she moved to the area after the last war, and for many years worked in administration for the Borough and District Councils. She

was active in the old Museum Society, and served as Secretary.

Colin and Monica Hall, Brian and Lesley Withers and Bernice Lashbrook represented the Museum Friends at her funeral at the Sedgemoor Crematorium.

Appreciation

Bridgwater Town Council greatly appreciates all the effort put in by the many volunteers. Did you know that about 60 are involved?

THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITIONS – dates to be confirmed

Exhibitions so far planned will include:

18 April – 20 May – More photographs from the Museum's collection – this will feature the newly-digitised Douglas Allen material 1954-1960

13 May – 24 June – Sedgemoor Stitchers

27 June – 29 July – Battle of Sedgemoor

August 1 – 2 September --WW1 Commemoration – continued for 1917

5 – 30 September – TBA

3 – 28 October – TBA

Advance Notice

A Craft Fair in aid of Museum Funds

to be held at
East Huntspill Village Hall
Saturday 20 May 2017
10 am – 3.00 pm

Photograph digitisation

Rita and Alan Jones have digitised the Douglas Allen images 1954-1960 – 6000+ in all, and will be continuing with the work in the following months. This is a fine achievement and we thank them for their efforts. As well as weddings and parties, the prints include motor accidents, shop-window displays, country scenes, etc and provide an invaluable picture of local life sixty years ago.

History Day at the Arts Centre

The Museum had a display there, which was manned all day by volunteers. This was about the museum and the

work we do. Joyce Hurford gave a talk about lesser-known Bridgwater personalities. Tony Woolrich was interviewed by Polish TV. We felt the Day was a worthwhile effort and might well be repeated.



Museum display at the History Day

Museum Trifold leaflets

Hannah West is writing leaflets about the Friary and St John's Hospital, and Miles Peterson has written one on the Castle. Others have been written about Bridgwater's education, churches and chapels,. More are in the pipeline for Workhouse etc.

Christmas Fair

The fair was highly successful, raising around £800. A lot of work by many people, but very well worth it.



Setting up the refreshments

**COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS
LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10.30-12 NOON
Next one 23 February**

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info