

BLAKE NEWS



The Museum had a stall at the Gala, manned by Victoria and Lyn, with the aim of attracting more volunteers



Mayor Leigh Redman and Mrs Redman talking to Lyn and Victoria at the Docks

Summer 2015



General view of the Museum's stall

Lyn and Victoria report it was a brilliant day's PR and the advertising may pay off with visitor numbers and offers of help when they have thought about it.



Lyn and Victoria at the Gala

Accreditation

The documentation for this went off during April and we are awaiting a response. We expect a reply some time in the Autumn.

A Catering Manager is sought

A Catering Manager is sought to take over from Sue Berryman, along with some extra helpers. Duties include the monthly coffee morning and the Sunday Band Concerts throughout July, and the Xmas and Spring Fairs, plus any other catering that may occur from time to time. Please see Mike or Tony, as well as talk to Sue to learn just what is involved

WW1 Exhibition

This will follow the Sedgmoor Stitches exhibition, and will include a travelling exhibition from the University of Kent about the Royal and Merchant navies then. It will feature the Bridgwater sailing vessels that were sunk and the crews who died.

Somerset & Dorset Railway exhibition

Next year we are hosting a travelling exhibition about the railway. Details to follow.

New Display cases

One tall and four new counter display cases have been purchased for the Bridgwater room. Two of the counter cases hold the geology collection, and the rest more Bridgwater material. They were paid for by a grant from the Museum Friends. It is planned to re-organise the rest of the Bridgwater room, moving the stones and the bells



The new display cases. Those at the front awaiting exhibits.

Photograph Digitisation

A report was made to the Town Council by the Curatorial team on the digitisation of the Museum's photograph collection, comprising some 150,000 negatives. A grant of £100,000 is being sought to do it commercially. We expect to know the result in the autumn.

Spring Fayre

The Spring Fayre raised just over £500. This was matched by a donation of £500 from the Lloyds Bank Foundation.

Battle of Sedgemoor Diorama

The diorama will be returned to the Museum from Westonzoyland during the summer and will be put in temporary store until the shut-down. It will go in the Battle Room, on a purpose-made stand which will double as a plan chest, giving much desired storage space. The job will require careful planning to get the model upstairs, since it may need taking apart.

Custodian Coordinator

Rob Gardner has taken over the role of Custodian Co-ordinator in succession to Pat Kent. We thank Pat for her dedication over so many years. Please contact Rob for all rota duties/queries.

Lloyds Bank Exhibition

The curatorial team prepared a temporary exhibition to commemorate the founding of the Bank in 1765. Lloyds did not come to Bridgwater until later, but the ancestor bank locally (Sealy's) of West Quay was founded in the late C18. The display was mounted on the Museum's portable display boards in the Bank's foyer on Cornhill during June .



Bank staff in costume

The Greylake Skulls

These were returned in May, and we are awaiting the results of the tests on the DNA

The Victorian Kitchen

During the shut down the shop area was remodelled to create a smaller sales area, with the remainder a Victorian kitchen. Tables and chairs were added so visitors can be served tea and coffee, and icecream. Brian Withers made a new cottage-style door to replace the one leading to the store, and Jane Woolrich made red Gingham curtains, table cloths and seat covers. Roger Blackburn installed a small under-counter freezer in the regular Kitchen so we can serve ice-cream during band concerts. Also some extra shelving there. Thanks are due to everyone involved. The work was funded by a grant from the Museum Friends.



The Victorian kitchen

The Museum Garden



The garden looking good



A Dragonfly photographed in the garden 29/06/2015

Its 2½ inches long!

Thanks are due to the volunteer team who make this possible.



The new Museum notice board

The new board has just been fitted by the front door. It is double the size of the old one to allow for posters advertising exhibitions and events. The design is similar to the Town Council's boards outside the Town Clerk's office.

Maureen Bourke

Maureen has just retired as a custodian after many years service. Before that she was involved with the Museum Society, FOBM's predecessor. She was given some flowers and a signed card as recognition.

Museum shirts

Museum shirts are being designed and may be pre-ordered. See Roger Blackburn for details and costs.

The learning team needs more volunteers

Volunteers for the learning team are required to assist with planned group and school visits, and with occasional work experience placements. Especially welcomed would be retired teachers or those used to talking to groups of children or adults. Training on the artefacts and local history can be given. The duties involve helping host visiting school parties, usually 3 or 4 per term, and sometimes project work for children during August. The schools are normally Primary and Junior. Occasionally it may involve hosting adult groups visiting the Museum. Please talk to Lyn for details.

BAND CONCERTS

Sunday 12th July – Chard Concert Brass

Sunday 19th July – Burtle Silver Band

Sunday 26th July – Burnham &

Highbridge Silver Band

Sunday 2nd August – Weston Brass

Sunday 9th August – Wells City Band

Sunday 16th August – Stoke Sub Hamdon Band

Sunday 30th August – Taunton Concert Band

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AID OF FOBM FUNDS LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

10.30-12 NOON

Next one 30 July

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Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwaterblakemuseum.org.uk

Resources: www.bridgwatermuseum.info

Photographs: www.bridgwaterphotos.org.uk/index.php