

BLAKE NEWS

Those members receiving this newsletter by post will find their membership cards in the envelope the newsletter came in. If you have not completed your Data Protection form, please complete it and send it in for our records.

Friends of Blake Museum

Christmas Fair

In aid of museum funds

at

**The Museum
5 Blake Street, Bridgwater**

**** FREE ENTRY ****

Sat 24th Nov. 10.00 – 1.00

*** Tombola & Raffle ***

*** Home-made Bread and Cakes ***

*** Charity Stalls ***

*** Books ***

*** Bric-a-brac ***

*** Christmas Cards & Museum Shop ***

*** Pickles & Preserves ***

*** Refreshments ***

Items for the Fair may be delivered to the Museum on Thursday 22 November 10am – 3pm or on the morning of the 25th. Cakes especially welcome.

Dates for your diary

The Museum closes to the public on Friday 3 November 2018.

Last talk for 2018, 13 November at 7.30 pm by Robbert Turner on Westonzoyland Airfield.

Last Coffee Morning for 2018 is 29 November – all welcome. No Coffee Morning in December, but re-start on 31 January.

Thursday 13th Dec. 10.00am is the Volunteers, Custodians and Keyholders thank-you for this year.

Museum fully closed Monday 17 December – Monday 7 January 2019.

Spring Fair 16th March, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

The Museum re-opens to the public on Tuesday 2 April 2019.

Winter 2018



At the Museum, Saturdays between 10 am and 1pm. These will run during shut down until 15 December, and will recommence on Saturday 5 January until the Spring Fair.

New artefacts

- WW1 Aluminium container for a carrier pigeon message, with message.
 - 3 Edwardian scrapbooks with coloured advertisements of mostly food and drink products clipped from contemporary magazines.
 - Engraved silver trowel used at the foundation-stone laying of the YMCA building Salmon Parade, 1887, purchased for £175 + postage.
 - Photographs and architect's drawings relating to the engine house and water settlement tanks at the Borough Council's 1870s waterworks at Ashford, nr Cannington.
 - A collection of 35mm slides of modern merchant ships at West Country ports, a great many at Dunball. From the estate of the late Mr Gwilliam. It augments the collection of his photo albums we received last year.
- We are advised that more West of England Carriage Works archives are on their way – including watercolour paintings of their products, technical notebooks and drawings, glass plate negatives and photographs of products including bodies for early motor cars, etc. (Previous records donated 2017).

Found in store, an un-accessioned collection of archives relating to Barham's Brick Manufacturers with technical reports, illustrated catalogues, advertising material, photoprints of products, etc.

Retirement

Tony Woolrich is standing down as Hon. Curator and Trustee from mid-November to be succeeded by Mike Searle. He has been involved since the very beginning in 2007, when the SDC decided to sell the contents and building, was appointed Hon. Deputy Curator in 2010 and has been Hon. Curator since mid-2012.

He is not going away, but would like to spend more time researching and writing. Projects include completion of the illustrated Catalogue of the Chubb collection, and a printed listing of research resources for the town – a kind of *Reference Index to Bridgwater History*. Something similar was produced in the 1960's, so needs updating.

At the AGM he was presented with an Amazon token, as an appreciation of his efforts and Jane a splendid bouquet.

Information leaflets

- A special one was written for the Church Council there about Chilton Trinity parish. We received a £20 donation for Museum funds for printing.
- *Freemasonry in Bridgwater* by Jerry Heyes and Norman Hucker
- *Bridgwater at the Great Exhibition, 1851.*
- *Bridgwater Workhouse* by Summer Hues.

Shut Down

As well as the regular refreshment of displays in the Bygoness Room and routine maintenance, the major task this year will be the improvement of the displays in the Battle and Bygoness Rooms. Five tall illuminated cases have been purchased for installation in December.

Room 5, the store off the shop, will be given a thorough sort-out. It houses much WW1 material that will go on permanent display in the Battle Room.

Douglas Allen photograph digitisation

Rita and Alan Jones have now completed to 1973, with 36,716 images in all – very good progress indeed.

The Poorly

Joyce Hurford has just had an operation for her back problem. Roger Blackburn is making progress after his eye-operations. We wish them well.

Next year's plans Programme of Talks 2018 To be arranged

Mill project

Our initial task is to gain title for two areas, ie the back room of the main mill room and the area over Durleigh brook, that forms the rear access to the archaeology store, which are untitled on land registry records. This means that phase 1 to 3 can be commenced. One thing that we will need is to ensure is that the whole area will be covered by insurance.

Exhibitions next year

Tues 2nd April - Sat 6th April TBA
Tues 9th April - Sat 11th May
Sedgemoor Camera Club
Tues 14th May - Sat 22nd June
Sedgemoor Stitchers TBC
Tues 25th June - Sat 3rd Aug
Douglas Allen continued
Tues 6th Aug - Sat 14th Sept TBA
Tues 17th Sept - Sat 26th Oct
Bridgwater Baptist Art Group TBC

Friends of Blake Museum Committee for 2018/19

Officers & Trustees

Chairman - Stewart Richards
Vice Chairman - Rob Gardner
Secretary - Mike Searle (Hon Curator)
Treasurer - Lesley Withers
Committee Member and Fundraising Co-ordinator
- Roger Blackburn
Committee Member - Ruth Winson
Committee Member - Brian Withers
Committee Member - Tony Aspey

Co-opted members

Learning Co-ordinator - Vacant
Talks Programme Secretary - Paul Berryman
Shop Manager - John Walker
Refreshments Co-ordinator - Jayne Cornish
Publicity Officer and Blake News editor - Tony Woolrich

Bridgwater History Day
Arts Centre, Castle Street
Saturday 24 November. 10.00am – 4.00pm

There will be six different speakers, films, photos, and displays and the event is free so people can stay for the day or drop in and out as they wish.
All day display by the Blake Museum.

Programme of events.

10.00 Doors open, teas and coffees available.
10.30 Opening, by Cllr Diogo Rodrigues, Mayor
10.30 – 11.15 Stephen Honey *"Somerset and the Vikings"*.
11.15 – 12.00 Dr Lesley Sutcliffe, *"Jonathan Toogood and Bridgwater Hospital"*
12.00 – 12.15 Stewart Richards, *"The Town Mill Restoration Project"*

12.45-13.45 Lunch

13.45-14.30 Roger Evans, *"Pageants & Poltergeists: Tales from Sydenham Manor (1330-1415)"*
14.30 – 15.15 Val Bannister, *"The Dodgy Duke and the Crumbling Castle"*
15.15 – 16.00 Chris Sidaway, *"The Pilgrim's Way – a new Somerset Trail"*

Published by the Friends of Blake Museum
5 Blake Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NB
Registered Charity No 1099815
© October 2018
Tel: 01278 456127
TW 30/10/18

Websites:

Friends: www.blakemuseumfriends.org.uk

Museum: www.bridgwatermuseum.org.uk

Museum history: www.bridgwatermuseum.info