



Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

Charity No. 1115540

NEWSLETTER

No. 102

November 2022



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Platinum Jubilee

1952 - 2022

*I send you my grateful thanks for
your kind message on the occasion
of the Seventieth Anniversary of my
Accession to the Throne*

ELIZABETH R

2022

Chair's Report

It seems hardly possible that just a few weeks ago I was delighted to receive on behalf of the Friends, a beautiful 'Thank You' card from Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the best wishes Chrissie had sent on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee. Yet as I write this the nation is in mourning for the Queen's passing. The outpouring of sadness and love has been phenomenal and this has certainly been obvious in the very many visitors to the museum in the last week. We will never see her like again.

Thanks to all of you who replied to my letter. The response was heartening and has given the committee some excellent input. I would especially like to thank those who sent donations, particularly the £500 and £250 from Friends who wish to remain anonymous. Thank you so much. Everyone agreed to the purchase of the cabinet and so this will go ahead in the near future.

There were several sound ideas regarding the future of meetings and these will need to be discussed at the next committee meeting the outcome of which will be in the next newsletter. Sadly our September talk had to be postponed due to the current situation but we will let everyone know when we get a revised date.

As I said in the last issue Beryl has retired from the committee and at the AGM I proposed that we make her an Honorary Life Member which, of course, was carried unanimously. A few days later Chrissie and I paid her a surprise visit and presented her with a bouquet as a small token of our appreciation.

For your information here is a list of the current committee:-

Chair	Len Nash
Vice Chair	Brigitte Mitchell
Secretary	Sue Richardson
Editor	Pamela Marson
Members	Carol Dixon-Smith
	Gordon Marshall

Finally, we have been offered a private visit to the Eton Museums sometime in the near future. If you are interested please let myself or any committee member know. There will probably be a minimum number requirement.

So in these somber times we look forward to a new future in many ways.

God Save The King!

LN

Memories of the Queen's Accession

By Leslie Grout

I started school in September 1951 at the Royal School in the Great Park. At that time it took children from five to fourteen in three classes—infants, juniors and seniors.

One morning the following February everyone was summoned to the seniors classroom to hear an important announcement on the radio. The announcer, (probably John Snagge) told us that the King had died, after which we all sang the National Anthem.

On the 15th I stood with my parents between Cambridge Gate and the George IV gate to watch the funeral procession. We made our way back through Frogmore and I remember a 21-gun salute being fired. I also remember the Sebastopol bell tolling from the Round Tower — it is only rung at a sovereign's funeral.

The Sebastopol Bell is said to have hung in the Monastery of St. George in that city and was brought to England in 1855 as a trophy of the Crimean War. Queen Victoria inspected it at Woolwich in 1856 and after two years at Aldershot it was hung in the Round Tower at Windsor.

The bell, which was cast around 1750 has figures of the Virgin and Child and Holy Ghost as well as an inscription in Russian "This bell was cast in Moscow at the manufactory (sic) of Nicolas Samtun. Weight 54.5 poods" (A pood is a Russian unit of weight, roughly equal to 36 pounds.) It is also inscribed "Brought from Sebastopol 1855.

Leslie Grout

Those of us who watched the entry of the Queen's coffin into Windsor on television saw a short film of the Sebastopol Bell and heard it sound as the procession turned into the Long Walk. It then tolled once every minute until the procession arrived at the door of St George's Chapel. PM

Museum Update October 2022

A Royal Funeral and Local Proclamation



From the day of the announcement of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, visitors flocked to Windsor to pay their respects. From the day of her death to the day before her funeral, the Museum & Information Centre welcomed over 4200 visitors and volunteer support was well over 100 hours for the same period. Thank you to all those who gave up their time to help direct visitors to lay their floral tributes and to ensure they received a warm welcome.

We also witnessed a local proclamation and hundreds of visitors lined the streets to witness this historic event.

Artisan Christmas Fair at Windsor Guildhall



Save the date for our Artisan Christmas Fair at The Windsor Guildhall! Start your Christmas shopping in style with us this November. Browse a selection of Windsor's finest local businesses in the elegance of the Council Chamber and enjoy festive activities including wreath making with the Darling Buds of Windsor and creative Christmas craft activities for children from the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum.

Join us at the Guildhall on Thursday 17 November before heading over the bridge to Eton for the annual Christmas Light Switch on or join us on Friday 18 November where we'll be open until 8pm and will be hosting a bar serving mulled wine and other drinks on the Corn Market underneath the Guildhall.

On Friday there will also be live music supplied by the Windsor Boys School.

The Fair will be open

*Thursday 17 November 11-5pm

*Friday 18 November 12-8pm.

Free entry both days, paid bar including mulled wine available on Friday from 12-8pm.

(Charges apply for wreath making and some children's activities)

Volunteering at the Museum & Information Centre

We are still looking for new volunteers to assist with the running of the Museum & Information centre. If you know of anyone looking for a volunteering role, please ask them to email us at museum@rbwm.gov.uk. Applicants will be sent a link to apply online.

Windsor Guildhall Guided Tours

Do you know anyone wanting to know more about the history of Windsor Guildhall? If so, please do tell them about our guided tours of the upstairs rooms. We have some pre-bookable slots online but also offer ad hoc tours on selected days. More information is available at this link:

<https://tickets.windsor.gov.uk/sales/guildhalltour>

Stephanie Lewis
Museum Manager

Woody's Christmas Fair & Lights Switch On

Pirate Park

Dedworth Road, Windsor

Sunday 27th November 1pm - 5pm

The Friends will be having a
stall at Woody's Christmas
Fair — can you help?

If you can please contact Len Nash

lnash2@sky.com

Stanley's take on "The Duffle Coat"

In the early 1950's I was promoted from 'schoolboy' to student when I attended the art faculty or the High Wycombe Technical College.

Thames Valley Buses ran a service from Windsor Central Station to High Wycombe. It was the number 20 bus and I used to catch it in Maidenhead at the stop next to the Blue Star Garage on the riverside.

One Monday morning as the bus crossed the river in Cookham I noticed much activity on the towpath outside Turks boatyard. A film crew was setting up lighting and scaffolding for cameras and it was raining cats and dogs! On my return journey in the afternoon I got off the bus in Cookham to see what was going on. I joined up with an old boy who was also interested in the goings on. He had a flimsy umbrella which he allowed me to share with him.

They were filming "Three Men in a Boat". Jimmy Edwards, David Tomlinson and Lawrence Harvey were there and they sheltered from the rain from time to time in a Salters Steamer moored on a nearby jetty. Every day during that week I joined this 'old boy' to follow the goings on and in the late afternoons when the filming was finished I pushed a pram he had with him up out of the muddy path onto the road. I was as fascinated with him as I was with the filming. We very soon exchanged our Christian names, and his was Stanley. He kind of resembled a tramp. He wore a very grubby dark suit with a waistcoat but over his flannelette pyjamas!

As an art student, I of course wore the obligatory (government surplus) duffle coat, which when completely saturated weighed more than I did. Stanley told me that my coat was the worst, most ridiculous garment ever produced for our sailors and he ridiculed me relentlessly for owing one.

On the Friday of that week when the film crew finally wrapped up, I routinely pushed Stanley's pram up out of the mud and this time assisted by John Turk who evidently knew Stanley very well and were good friends.

Having pushed his pram onto the road for the last time, Stanley thanked me for my help and for my 'good company' and asked me to join him for a pint of ale at his local pub, the Royal Exchange. It was still raining and I continued pushing the pram down Cookham High Street to the pub where, (and I did not know then) Sir Stanley Spencer bought me my very first pint of ale.

Many years later, when I enjoyed watching the film 'The Cruel Sea' and when Jack Hawkins and Donald Sinden wore duffle coats on the open bridge of 'the Compass Rose' I reflected on Stanley's scathing remarks about my coat and how right he was!

Ian Burley

This Newsletter is published by

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Charity No 1115540

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