



# Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

Registered Charity No. 1115540

[www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk)

## Summer 2017 Newsletter Issue 84



## EDITORIAL

The twelve months since I became editor seem to have flown by, (a sign of old age I'm told!). Those of you who attended the A.G.M. will know that Angela has stepped down due to her moving from the area and in her place we have welcomed Kerrstyn Laiss; a dynamic young lady who I am sure will be an important addition to our team.

The Committee are becoming concerned with the relatively small attendances at our last two talks. If there is a problem with what we do, (or don't do), then the only way to solve it is for you to let us know what you would like. We have some exciting events being organised for the near future so please support them.

Len

## FRIENDS CHAIR REPORT

Dear Friends,

Our A.G.M. went off successfully. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Lenton, attended for which we thank them and the Mayor took the Chair to elect this year's Committee. There was only one change, (yes, I'm still Chairperson!). Sadly Angela has stepped down and has been replaced By Kerrstyn Laiss who is welcomed as a younger member of the team. You can see her excellent work in the current 'Trees' exhibition at the museum. She is already busy organising our Christmas social, (see Dates for Your Diary). Full details are yet to be finalised. The A.G.M. concluded with my talk 'The Great War Through Advertising' which I feel went well.

During the past year we had a very interesting talk on the history of brewing held at the 'George' in Eton and also an excellent visit to the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading. Sadly both events had low attendance. We thank Beryl for organising the trip.

In June we had two fund-raising events, 'Beer in Berkshire' and 'The Great Together' and from these managed to raise just over £300 for the map box. Currently we are selecting maps and working with software people, so things are progressing.

Looking to the future further fund raising schemes are in the pipeline. Sir Michael Parkinson has offered to stage his one-man show at the Guildhall for one night completely FREE at some time in the New Year. We are also looking at an 'adopt-a-map' scheme whereby one can 'purchase' a piece of a map and get your name on a plaque. A Dickensian Christmas event in the Corn Market has also been put forward. More details in the next newsletter.

Brigitte

## GINGER: THE BOY PILOT IN WINDSOR HOME PARK TEST FLIGHT

Recently Bob Ambrose popped into the museum with some excellent research notes on the Windsor Model Aeroplane Club members and other Camm related topics. Here is the first of the pieces:

In April 1913, 16 year old 'Ginger Stanbrook' of No. 37 Devereux Windsor, and a member of Windsor Model Aircraft and Gliding Club, attempted to take off from Home Park below Windsor Castle, piloting Sydney Camm's very first truly manned flying machine, built in the workshop at Arthur Road Windsor. Sydney Camm's younger brother Charles age 13, had already 'had a go as test pilot' but with instructions not to touch the controls.

Unfortunately the launching went seriously out of control and with 'Ginger' as pilot, hanging from the pair of 32ft wings, he suffered a broken collar bone as the aircraft crashed to the ground.

Sydney Camm went on to design an improved 25ft machine using more sophisticated construction, control techniques and had plans for a 20 h.p. power unit.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1914, Edwin 'Ginger' Stanbrook, along with Sid Dandridge and Fred Camm, younger brother of Sydney Camm, all members of the Windsor Aero Club, decided to enlist into the army to go to war. Ginger and Sid initially tried to join the Royal Berks but found them full up, and so then went to the Bucks Light Infantry at Slough, but Ginger was told he was 6 months under age and was told to return the next day 'and come back a

year older'. They finally decided to cycle to Hounslow where they enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment.

Based initially at Hampton Court Barracks, Ginger in his spare evenings carried on with his old hobby of model aeroplane flying, much to the interest of many of his comrades, so that he continued often after dark, illuminating the models by means of fireworks. He recalls one evening, when things were going well, that there were half a dozen trams held up for some time by a zealous policeman, who thought it was an air raid!

Having arrived at Gibraltar by troopship, he continued his hobby of producing model aeroplanes, which he flew on the barrack square, much to the amazement of the 'natives' who had never seen a flying machine, toy or otherwise. Ginger also carried on, in his off duty hours, preparing scaled drawings of his future aircraft plans.

On one occasion he flew one of his models over the wreckage of a Sopwith Bat Boat and other crashed RNAS aircraft that were being towed in to Gibraltar harbour, much to the amusement of onlookers.

Finally Ginger went on to serve in the Middle East and then Flanders in the World War One military campaigns. Subsequently he was actually wounded in action three times and was also promoted to full Corporal.

In 1918 he transferred to the RAF, the new name for the RFC, as an officer cadet but soon after the Armistice he returned to the family decorating business in Windsor.

## **FRIENDS VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF ENGLISH RURAL LIFE**

On the 6th July a small group of friends enjoyed a very pleasant visit to the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), at Reading University. The Museum has had the benefit of a recent multi-million pound re-build and refit which shows in the large, airy building and excellent layout. Much different to when used to regularly visit many years ago.

We were made very welcome and given an excellent guided tour of the ground floor galleries which were crammed with well displayed agricultural by-gones from steam engines to veterinary instruments. The Museum has

always been noted for its wonderful and very important collection of original and original farm waggons which is considered to be the best in the country and recognised worldwide for its significance. But my favourite exhibit was the amazing, and very rare, Leyland steam-driven lawn mower. This was how the company began before moving to lorry production.



After our tour we retired to the rest area for tea and a sandwich. Here it was lovely to meet up with Caroline McCutcheon, long-time stalwart of our museum and now volunteering at MERL. Afterwards some of us explored the upper galleries where we found the store area absolutely stuffed full of artefacts but still available for public view. There was also an outstanding collection of early ploughs from all over the country.

An excellent trip but it was a great pity that so few members decided to attend.

Len

## MARGARET KIRBY

Margaret was first employed by the RBWM in 2004 as Children's Information Service Manager. With a degree in History and Theory of Art from Essex, a qualified librarian, and a background of working for the BBC, she soon found herself involved with the Friends of Windsor & Royal Borough Museum's quest for a museum.

In the 'good old days' of the Open Day at Tinkers Lane she found out about the wealth of artefacts hidden at the Museum Store, and realised the importance of showing these off to the wider public. She helped out with Friends' exhibitions such as 'Vile Victorians', and became an important at the RBWM for the need of a museum.

She was there at the forefront setting up the new museum in the Guildhall, negotiating with the designers, and arguing with them when text and images were just not right. She has been successful with Heritage Lottery funding, and with Caroline McCutcheon achieved Accreditation for the museum.

Since then she has worked with the Friends and museum staff on a number of projects such as Beyond the Castle Walls, For King and Country, and the oral history programme. But she was also involved in the Walkway project, the Magna Carta celebrations and the project to revive the Edwardian Bandstand in Alexandra Gardens.

She got involved with events at the museum, dressing up for the 1911 first UK aerial post, creating medieval merriment on the Corn Exchange, with weaving and chain mail making, arranging the Sealed Knot walk through the town in 2014, for the rededication of the trees gifted to HMQ at the Silver Jubilee, even though it scared the horses.

We wish her a happy retirement, but have been assured that she will continue to take part in museum events and activities.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There has been an oft told story that Windsor Castle was deliberately spared bomb damage during WWII because Hitler wanted it for his own use once he'd successfully invaded England. However, a document recently donated to the Museum appears to deny the tale.

The document in question is a transcription of the interrogation of a Luftwaffe radio operator who had been captured in 1943. Amongst several short statements concerning various aspects of the war the following is the relevant part:-

*“Our C.O. told us that whoever destroyed Windsor Castle would get the Knight's Cross. You wouldn't get the Iron Cross 1st. or 2nd. Class for that because it's the King's residence. But none of us knows exactly where the Castle is!”*

So it would seem that navigation rather than Hitler may have protected the Castle.

Chillingly the last paragraph of the transcript refers to a terror that was on everyone's mind:-

*“Gas will be used when things get critical. If you don't believe that then you don't know Adolf very well. It will be used.”*

Happily that prediction did not come true.

Len

## PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Just for fun who can submit the wittiest caption for the below picture of Brigitte at the Museum of English Rural Life?



Send your answers to Len ([lnash2@sky.com](mailto:lnash2@sky.com)) by the end of September. I'll publish the best in the next newsletter!



## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

I wanted to send a brief reminder to everyone that the new financial year for Friends is upon us and that means subs are due. £10 for a single member, £15 for a couple. If you pay by standing order, then I have received most of those payments. If you are unsure, please feel free to contact me to check either by email ([FriendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com)) or a note dropped into the museum. If you would like to pay by standing order, please contact me and I can send you a form by return. I have about 40 members on role whose subs are unpaid, so that's quite a high number. Hence the reminder.

What would help us keep our costs down enormously is sending the newsletter electronically. If anyone wanted to receive the newsletter via email please let us know - the added bonus here is that you receive the photos in colour! You can send your request to our email above.

The cost of printing goes up every year, but the cost of postage is becoming prohibitive. We are committed to keeping the subs at this level so we want to try what we can to contain our costs wherever possible. We will send the newsletter to everyone on our list this time, but if you have not paid your subscription this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you know of any member who has moved or their circumstances changed, please can you let us know.

Thank you so much for your continued support - it really is greatly valued. Many thanks.

Janice

## UPDATE FROM THE MUSEUM AUGUST 2017



### 21<sup>st</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Help us decorate our collection of Totem Poles in the museum. How many totems can we make?

**Event will run throughout the school holidays.**

### 8<sup>th</sup> August – Totally Totems

Create a totem pole of winged beasts, forest animals or the world around us. Explore the museum exhibition to find out where the totem pole proudly stands in the Royal Borough for inspiration.



### 15<sup>th</sup> August – Windsor Great Park 360 Vista

Create your own vista of Windsor Great Park and its wonderful sights, such as the long walk, the Copper Horse or the deer of the forest.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Windsor Wobbler

Come make a flap, a wobble or perhaps a warble about birds in Windsor Great Park and the Royal Borough.  
Make a bird to take home with you.



### 29<sup>th</sup> August – Not Mushroom Left

Make your own foam fungus from the forest and have lots of fun(gi) in the museum.

## New Display

### Tree Tales from the Great Park

Learn about legends, commemorations and celebrations from the ancient and much loved Windsor Great Park. See pieces of the mystical Herne's Oak and hear the legends surrounding it. Look at beautiful 19th century sketches and watercolours from the park and learn about the Queen's Trees planted in 1977. We welcome you to contribute to the vast local history of this wonderful park with you own Tree Tale to complete your visit. This exhibition has been put together by Volunteer and Friend, Kerrstyn Laiss with support from Stephanie Lewis. Until end November 2017.



## Staffing News

Welcome to Suzi Parr who started as the new Team Leader for Museum and Arts at the beginning of August 2017. We wish her well in her new role.

Stephanie Lewis  
Museum Resources Officer  
[stephanie.lewis@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.lewis@rbwm.gov.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### My Flying Adventures

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm

The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane

Talk by Jean Pumphrey on her aviating adventures.

### End-of-Year Social

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

A buffet lunch at The Boatman (ex. Donkey House), 10 Thames Side

£15 per head payable at the beginning of November; members & partners.

To register interest email [friendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com).

## Being in a Band in the Sixties

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The Community Room, Dedworth Library, Smiths Lane

Talk by Len on life in a moderately successful band in the sixties.

## Talk by Leslie Grout

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018. TBC.

## THE FRIENDS ARE NOW ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM!

As an effort to widen our audience and increase membership we will now be promoting events and fundraising efforts on these platforms alongside our well established Facebook page and Website.

We will aim to offer an artefact of the month feature and showcase activities of the committee and museum as they arise.

Follow us on Twitter: **@FriendsofWRBM**

Follow us on Instagram: **friendsofthewrbm**

Kerrstyn

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Website [www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk)

Email [FriendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofthemuseumRBWM@hotmail.com)

Click "Like" from there to get news on our Facebook page.

Newsletter editor Len Nash ([lnash2@sky.com](mailto:lnash2@sky.com))

Phone 01753 853937

Chairman Brigitte Mitchell ([mitchell.brigitte@gmail.com](mailto:mitchell.brigitte@gmail.com))

To contact the Museum email [museum@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:museum@rbwm.gov.uk)

Phone 01628 685686

Website <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/museum>