

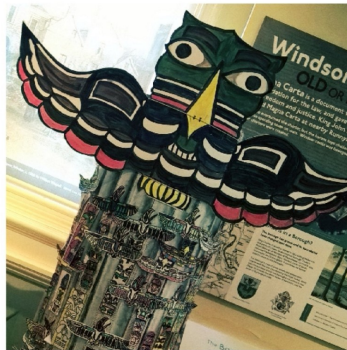


Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

Registered Charity No. 1115540

www.friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk

Autumn 2017 Newsletter Issue 85



EDITORIAL

First, I must apologise for the omission in the last issue of the caption for the cover photo. It was, of course, Margaret Kirby accompanied by Chris our Town Crier, at the Jazz-age event held in the Corn Market some time ago.

Courtney has now taken over as Chair with Brigitte as Vice Chair, (she says that she will enjoy being Chairman of Vice!), and we wish them well in their new roles.

We're planning for next year and are thinking about another visit to a place of interest next summer. This is where you can help. We would like some suggestions as to possible destinations, so please let any committee member know your preferences and, hopefully, we can get a good attendance.

As this will be the last newsletter of the year, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish all our Friends merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Len

It's nearly time to get those woolly Christmas jumpers out again. This year we are happy to announce an end of year get together for the Friends. Join us at the Boatman Pub in Windsor, November 30 between 1-3pm for a lovely seasonal buffet lunch in their riverside heated conservatory. We welcome you and a guest at a price of £15.00 per person. You may pay in cash or cheque in person at the museum or post to

Friends the WRBM, Treasurer
c/o Museum and Arts Team Office
Windsor Library
Bachelors Acre
SL4 1ER

Payments to be received no later than November 20, 2017.

Please respond with any dietary requirements to
friendsofthemuseumrbwm@hotmail.com

We look forward to seeing you as many of you as possible!

FRIENDS CHAIR REPORT

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to have taken over as Chair from Brigitte. On behalf of all of the Friends I would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication over the years. I have big shoes to fill!

Brigitte will be taking the role of Deputy Chair, which will give me a good opportunity to settle into my new position.

It was great to witness how well the Museum's half-term activities went.

I look forwards to seeing you all at The Boatman for our Christmas Lunch.

Courtney

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Friends,

Christmas is looming large on the horizon now. If you haven't bought your Christmas cards yet then don't forget the ones we sell which you can get from the Guildhall Museum or the library.



A reminder of what they look like is above, and they sell in packets of 10 for £4.95 – although we do have some for sale individually at 50p each. All profits go to our registered charity Friends of the Windsor and Royal Borough Museum.

Many thanks,
Janice Carter

DID YOU KNOW?

A further piece from Bob Ambrose, (see last issue), shows a Hawker Fury biplane fighter installed in the quadrangle of the Windsor Boys' School during 1943. It is taken from the local paper and features a group of evacuee pupils from Clapham Girls' School apparently having a scripture lesson with a Miss Cullen under the wing of the aircraft.

The article notes that the Fury was provided by the Air Training Corps. The accompanying picture shows the Fury without it's propeller and, presumably, sans armament!

Does anyone know any more about this? Why was the aircraft there in the first place and what happened to it? I suppose that it was broken up at some point. I would really like to discover more about the circumstances and the aircraft.

Len

THE GOODHART GATES

In the ground by the police station in Alma Road is a small stone stating that it was laid by the Duke of Connaught on 24th July 1926.

This marks the position of the Goodhart Gates which formed the entrance to the Imperial Services College and were erected in memory of Frederick McCormick Goodhart who died in 1924.

The entrance consisted of a pair of wooden gates hung from stone piers, each pier topped with a winged lion, the emblem of St. Mark, a reference to St. Mark's School, the forerunner of the ISC. These gates were flanked by two curved wings of brick and stone, each wing containing a smaller gate. A Latin inscription proclaimed:

“Rejoice, those who enter this gate
and remember
Frederick McCormick Goodhart,
student & benefactor of our college.”



Goodhart made several large donations to the College, notably £13,000 to purchase the Alma Estate, part of which is now College Crescent.

The ISC subsequently amalgamated with Haileybury and moved to Hertfordshire. The Alma Road premises were used for a number of purposes, including the Council Depot. Eventually the gates were demolished, but the stone lions were taken to Haileybury and are now on either side of the entrance to the dining hall.

Leslie Grout

With thanks to Heather Edwards-Hedley, Archivist of Haileybury, who told me where the lions can now be found.

FLASH, BANG, WALLOP!

For me, as a boy, November 5th. ranked on a par with Birthdays and Christmas. I loved fireworks and couldn't wait for their appearance in the shops. In those days, this was usually in early October, when the magic posters for Standard, Brocks, Pains, etc. were first displayed in toyshops and newsagents.

However, as a lad with a passion for investigation I couldn't let things be. I enjoyed nothing more than modifying and changing the fireworks to suit my own imagination. Secreted with my best friend from next door in the confines of the garden shed we would disassemble each one and then reassemble with different fillings taken from other fireworks. We came up with all sorts of concoctions mainly involving various types of air bombs, star shells, screechers and rockets as well as changing the powder mix to produce different colour effects. Our 'Rainbow Rocket' was a good example. When launched it burnt red, yellow and green in order and then exploded with a bright silver flash. Probably our most successful effort was 'Air Raid', consisting of a roman candle type firework firing in order a star shell to simulate target markers, a screech shell for the falling bomb and, of course, an air bomb shell for the exploding bomb. This sequence was then repeated.

We wrote to 'Standard' to suggest that they might like to use our design. Disappointingly all we got back was a polite 'Thank you' letter and a missive threatening dire consequences to life and limb if we continued to interfere with their products! Interestingly the very next year Standard produced a very similar firework called 'Air Raid'!

We also enjoyed setting off multiple assemblies. Unrolled Catherine Wheels made excellent fuses to join each together and our record achievement was twenty Roman Candles all firing at once.

Finally, our biggest failure spelt the end of our enterprise. We filled a fairly large rocket with bomb shells in order to produce a really loud explosion at height. Unfortunately, the weight of the shells overbalanced the rocket when it launched causing it to fly horizontally across the garden, narrowly missing us as we dived for cover. It then passed through the shed window, (closed), and exploded very loudly inside, luckily without too much fire damage!

Was it dangerous? – Yes, of course. Did we enjoy it? – absolutely!

As for the title of this piece; well Flash, Bang is obvious. Wallop was what I got when Father saw the shed!

Len

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks to those who took the time to enter our competition.
Here are the entries:

From Garry Williams:

B.M.

“Taking slimming a bit too far aren't you?”

Horse.

“True. Sometimes I feel I could eat a horse!”

From Priya Wick:

B.M.

“Dear, dear. Haven't they worked you hard!”

From Valerie Batt-Rowden:

B.M.

“What's that you say?”

Horse.

“Straight from the horse's mouth.

Do you want an idea for your next book?”

From Richard Snailham:

B.M.

“I've just put a tenner on you for the 3.30!”

Finally, my own humble effort:

B.M.

“Good grief! It's Shergar!”



Thanks again, turn overleaf for the next one.

Please note that I had no connection with the taking or selection of this photo!



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

UPDATE FROM THE MUSEUM OCTOBER 2017

Summer Holiday Activities

The Windsor Great Park related activities over the summer holidays were well received, seeing 125 children attending the planned activities and many more helping to decorate the large Totem Pole. Special thanks go to Chrissie & Sue for their planning, prepping and baking, we couldn't have done it without you!

18th November – A Victorian Christmas

Come join us for a Victorian Christmas at Windsor & Royal Borough Museum. Enjoy our delicious holiday treats and traditional crafts as you discover Windsor's festive past. The Christmas lights will be switched on during the early evening so we will be open late until 6.30pm!

Free all day but donations are welcome!

If you have any unwanted tombola gifts please do drop them into the museum...they will be gratefully received.



8th December – Living Advent Calendar Window



Come and be part of Windsor's magical Christmas celebration, the Living Calendar, and see what's behind the 8th window. The Museum and other businesses around the town are taking part and

hosting all kinds of different events. Each 'Window' is at a different venue every night until Christmas Eve.

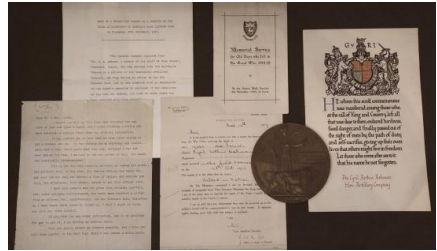
This FREE event starts at 6PM. No need to book, just drop in!

Handling Drawers at the Museum

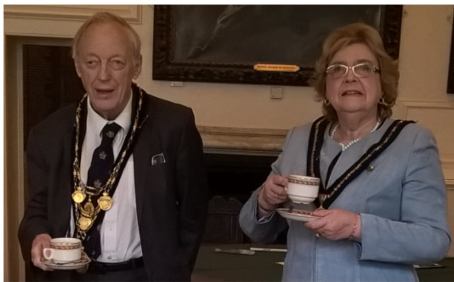
After much hard work by Kerrstyn and myself, we are delighted to announce that the museum handling drawers are now up and running. There are four drawers throughout the museum each linked with the exhibition above. They may be accessed when a volunteer is free to take

visitors around, showing off a bit more of the museum collection and ideal for days when tours are not available.

The items pictured here are from the Life in Garrison Town exhibition. The objects tell the story of Private Cyril Ashman of the Hon. Artillery Company. He was killed in action in October of 1917.



Please ask to see the whole collection on your next visit!



Mayors Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Museum teamed up with the Mayors office to host a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a really lovely event whereby visitors could enjoy visiting the museum for free, drinking coffee & eating cake in the beautiful surrounds of the Chamber room. Museum volunteers were on hand to give tours of the Guildhall too.

Over 56 people attended and £313 was raised for this amazing charity!

Thank you for all the baking you did and help on the day!

Stephanie Lewis

Museum, Arts & Local Studies Officer

Stephanie.Lewis@rbwm.gov.uk

WINDLESORA 33

Windlesora 33 will be available from December 2017 at Waterstones, the Windsor Museum in the Guildhall, or from members of the Windsor Local History Group, for £5.

The stained-glass window on the cover is in the Ascot Room at the Windsor Guildhall, it was given to the town by the people of Windsor Ontario, Canada, in 1951, and the first article is about a visit to Windsor, Canada.

It is followed by a range of interesting articles including the history of the Prince Philip Trust, the Windsor Ragged School, Lord Roberts and the Windsor veterans, Windsor men who fought and died at the battle of Passchendaele, the changing face of Peascod Street, and much more.

It is well illustrated with coloured and black and white photos from the past to the present.

Brigitte

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End-of-Year Social

Thursday 30th 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.

Being in a Band in the Sixties

Thursday 29th 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 28th 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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