



# Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum

Registered Charity No. 1115540

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

## Autumn 2018 Newsletter Issue 89



## EDITORIAL

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 the unmitigated horror that we now know as the First World War came to an end. One hundred years later there will be plenty of celebrations and commemorations both large and small. Hopefully this newsletter will reach you at about that time so as our own small remembrance I've included a fine poem written by Friend Reg. Baggs commemorating the famous Christmas truce of 1914. Please enjoy it.

In this issue you will find a flyer concerning Gift Aid. Janice has written a piece explaining why we have done this. Finally, Christmas approaches, (already!?) and I'm pleased to say that our new Christmas cards are here and available from the Museum, local libraries and, of course, our meetings.

In that vein may I, on behalf of all the committee, wish each of you an early 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

Len.

## GIFT AID

Dear Friends, I have been having difficulty trying to reclaim Gift Aid on our membership fees. The list of members does not match the list of people on our last claim. I need everyone to fill in a new Gift Aid form, enclosed with the newsletter, and return it to me as soon as possible.

It is an administrative pain, I know, but we can reclaim 25p in the pound so it will be worth it to swell our coffers. Please could I ask you to do this as soon as is convenient and return it to me so that I can chase some more funds to help our museum.

Many thanks,  
Janice Carter, Treasurer.

## Membership Subscriptions

If you haven't paid your subscription then please do so otherwise this will be your last newsletter.

## **DANGEROUS TIMES**

The recent demise of the 'Toys 'r' Us' chain set me thinking about the disappearance of the traditional toy shops that always featured in any large town. In Windsor Playmasters, Hardings, Woolworths and, of course, Messengers have all gone just leaving Daniel's excellent toy department. No longer can Mums bribe their offspring with "If you behave yourself we can go to Messengers after we've finished shopping." Enough said! A little Angel-Guaranteed!

But what would give any present-day 'elf 'n' safety guru nightmares were the potentially dangerous, if not downright lethal aspects of some of the toys available in the fifties and sixties.

Lotts chemistry sets were very popular and I had one for many years. A wide variety of chemicals was available all without any form of cautionary notes as well as various pieces of apparatus including a heat source of an open-flame meths. burner whose glass reservoir required topping-up at regular intervals. But more remarkable was some of the suggested experiments detailed in the instruction manual. These included a recipe for gunpowder, (which worked very well!), and the production of various noxious gases. I can well remember evacuating the entire household one quiet Sunday afternoon by a very successful production of hydrogen sulphide, (bad eggs), in my 'secret laboratory' in the cupboard under the stairs!

The other 'must have' for any boy, (and some girls), was Meccano or in my case, Trix, which was the German-made equivalent. One could build wonderful machines either using the instructions or one's imagination. The big plus was that your creation could be made to work using electric motors and brass gears. Therefore, as well as tiny nuts and bolts which could be swallowed or stuck up noses and pushed into ears, fingers could be lacerated or jammed into sharp, unguarded gears along with hair and clothing and one could experience the joy of an electric shock from open terminals and bare wires, (the Trix motor ran directly off the mains!). But nobody made a great fuss or even thought of suing the manufacturer! It was all part of the fun of growing up!

Len

## **LOSS OF COMMAND IN FLANDERS 1914**

Release from the irritating mud  
discomfort lighter in the lull of battle  
although now – great guns of devastation stilled  
surface scars on land transformed by falling snow

Ordered attack over great divide of 'No Man's Land' withheld,  
and no apprehension of a dreaded sniper shot.

Senses stirred by strike of match in sulphurous smell  
to fire Woodbine cigarette or light the fuel brewing tea.

German carollers rebuked beneath the barbs of wire opposite  
but diverted by their candle-glow on festive trees.

Saxon soldiers emerging slowly from entrenchment  
brave in chorus, words in German, "Still Nacht" (of 1810)  
in object of conciliation.

To confirm the day in disregard of bloodied conflict.  
Discomfort, anger, fear – aside to bond divided armies  
in momentary break from war – no place for argument.

Senior officers each side exhale in guarded wonder  
their fighting men at peace exchanging things,  
and in admiration of each other's family photographs.

Strange the sight of football games in differing battle dress  
upon a cratered surface made by shells that missed.  
So brief though powerful in one miraculous pause  
1914 in France, and just for celebrating Christmas.

Reg Baggs  
08.05.2018

## **OH YEZ! IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY!**

Earlier this year I was approached by Chris Brown, our lovely Town Crier to be a judge for a "bit of a Town Crier's competition" he was organising to be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Castle. Actually, what he said was "..... and I'm looking for judges". Pause for a hard, Paddington Bear-type stare "..... Len!" How could I refuse? Apparently, I was to be one of four judges and that was all I knew.

As the appointed day drew closer further information became available. I was delighted to learn that my friend Leslie Grout was to be a fellow Judge along with Alison Singleton, the Mayor's secretary, and Debbie Raven, CEO of Thames Valley Hospice.

Chris also sent each of us a set of rather daunting rules and regulations but added "Don't worry too much about them! Just enjoy yourselves!"

We were told that each judge would assess one of four parameters for each competitor and give a score of up to a maximum of 20 points for each of two rounds. I was pleased to be assigned what I thought was probably the easiest one; that of Volume. The others were Diction, Inflection and Clarity. It also transpired that far from being a 'bit of a competition' this was the annual National Championship of The Ancient and Honourable Order of Town Criers in their 40<sup>th</sup> year. This was serious stuff, especially for the 38 competitors and particularly the two from Australia!

On a blazingly hot day we all assembled at the Guildhall and the Criers, all in full costume, paraded down to the competition site on the grass by the Henry VIII gate. We judges were, luckily, housed under a gazebo but we felt for the criers all of whom had very thick, heavy outfits.

To help us get an idea of what was required we were given a trial cry aimed at being typically good enough for 50% of the marks in each category. It certainly helped!

Round 1 had each crier delivering a 'Home Cry' praising the virtues of their home town. Each had to commence with 'Oh Yez!' three times, contain no more than 125 words, (but who was counting?), and end with 'God Save The Queen!' It was great to see a number of lady criers competing and very interesting to hear the various styles and accents from all over the country.

I was also thoroughly entertained by Mr. Grout's encyclopaedic knowledge of nearly all the home towns, their churches, well-known inhabitants, etc. Truly delightful!

As lunchtime arrived we all adjourned to the Guildhall for an excellent meal, a rest and a cooldown! Afterwards it was back to work for round two. This time each contestant had to give a cry on the theme of a Celebration. Most used the fairly obvious subject of Royal weddings and births, but a few found different approaches. One extolled the merits of Celebration sweets whilst another concerned the demise of his mother-in-law!

All this was going on in front of an ever-increasing audience of very bemused visitors, particularly those from the Far East, as the seemingly endless queue slowly wended its way up the hill. Round two was completed and the scores totalled. The winner, by a narrow margin was Mr. Christian Ashdown from Haslemere. We finally returned to the Guildhall for a well-needed cuppa at the end of an excellent day. thanks Chris for asking. I really enjoyed it!

Len

## LESLIE'S PIECE

It was the architectural writer Selina Ballance who observed how many more interesting items people would notice if they only looked above eye level. By doing so we see evidence of premises that have been renamed or a shop's previous use. Thus the Harte and Garter still bears the name of the White Hart when the hotel was first built.

Going down Peascod Street the bull's head on the present doughnut shop is a reminder of Reeves the butchers who also had a shop in Thames Street.

Further down Peascod Street above Hunts the name Osmond can just be made out on a fading sign. Osmond & Sons were pork butchers in the last part of the last century and although the business has changed hands over the years, Number 82 has been a butchers' shop for over a hundred years.

Some buildings go back much further than that; the premises in Church Lane of what is now a Chinese restaurant bears a plaque with the date 1423, so the place was more than 50 years old before St. George's Chapel was even started!

Leslie Grout

## LT. COL. HARRY GREENWOOD V.C., D.S.O.&BAR, M.C., O.B.E.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 was the centenary of awarding the Victoria Cross to Lt.Col. Harry Greenwood. To mark the occasion and as part of the national campaign to honour all 628 recipients, a commemorative paving stone was unveiled in the Memorial Garden on Batchelor's Acre. Amongst those attending this most moving of ceremonies was a large number of the Greenwood family, the Mayor and Councillors, past and present members of The Rifles, (Harry's regiment, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry is now part of The Rifles after several amalgamations) and representatives of The Royal British Legion.

When you're in the area, stop and pay due respect to a true local hero.



## PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks to those who took the time to enter our competition.

Here are the entries:

**From Gerald Hyder:**

“Maybe I should have given it a little more thought when I got dressed for work this morning!”

**From Reg Baggs:**

“Your outfit, Mr. Town Crier, is not as attractive as my sporrán!”

...or: Calum: “Not much chance of the real exhibits being noticed with you two here!”

**From me:**

“Who’s wearing the strangest outfit then?”

Thanks again, the next one can be found below:



Thanks to Colin, one of our Guildhall facilitators, for letting me use the image. Please send your replies by Christmas. Send your answers to Len ([Inash2@sky.com](mailto:Inash2@sky.com)) by Christmas. I'll publish the best in the next newsletter!



## UPDATE FROM THE MUSEUM OCTOBER 2018

### World War One Remembered

Library and Resident Services have been working together to put on a programme of events, activities and displays across the Borough to remember the fallen.

- Silent Soldiers - a new display at Dedworth Library ...
- Talks by the archivist at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Kate Adie, Dr Brigitte Mitchell and John Garth
- Presentation by Horrible Histories illustrator, Martin Brown
- 11 poppy making workshops across the borough libraries lead by Creative Junction.
- Installation of a piece of public art on the Corn Market to mark 100 years since the end of World War One.



### New Display – First World War: Changed Lives in the Royal Borough (October 2018 to May 2019)

Becky Tabrar, Museum, Arts & Local Studies Officer has recently installed a display in the Museum to celebrate the end of the First World War. It explores the multitude of ways that individuals and families in the Borough were affected by the war and shows how local people coped with the devastation it caused.



### Another Royal Wedding

In case you missed it, there was another Royal Wedding at St George's Chapel between Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank. We had a great view from the Corn Market of their short carriage procession and our video footage and images have been shared widely across social media. The Museum offered free entry to visitors after the carriage procession. In the four hours we were open we received over 170 visitors, many of whom had come to Windsor for the day.

## New Staff Member: Alex White

Alex is the newest member of the Museum, Arts & Local Studies Team. You will see him based mainly at the Windsor and Royal Borough Museum and Windsor Library.

"I've just come from working on the HLF funded project: *Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers* based at Surrey History Centre in Woking. During my time there I worked on many exciting strands including an oral history project speaking to the living descendants of those who lived through World War One and even Centenarians who were actually born during the war! I also worked with a wonderful, dedicated set of volunteers, leading on the attempt to record and photograph all the war memorials across Surrey.



I've been lucky enough to have worked on a project that gave me such a great wealth of experience from planning and organising our own showcase events, to carrying out school workshops, providing training sessions, and leading on several sub-projects, as well as digitising items for accession to the County archive and use on the website.

I'll be running a local studies session on Tuesday evenings at Windsor Library, which I'm really excited to helm as I love local history. I can't wait to explore the history of Windsor using the wonderful resources we have available to us. I am a passionate advocate for volunteering and look forward to working with you all in the coming months.

I also volunteer at several location in West London including Harmondsworth Great Barn and Cranford Park, which gave me the skills and experience to change careers several years ago, leaving behind the world of IT for a career in Heritage. I haven't looked back since and am delighted to now be here at RBWM. There is a huge amount of history in the Royal Borough and many more stories waiting to be told..."

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

All events below are held in the Community Room at Dedworth Library at 7:30PM on the days given, unless otherwise specified.

### **The Pirate of the Caribbean - 'My sea life and the Cuban Revolution'**

A talk by Gordon Marshal.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### **Christmas Lights Switch-on and Craft Fair**

To coincide with the Christmas lights switch-on in Windsor on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Museum is holding a craft fair from 2-6p.m. on the Corn Market.

The friends have been asked to provide the refreshments, with all the takings going to our funds. Therefore, we would really like your help to man the stall on the day, (even if it's just for an hour). If you don't wish to do so, how about making a cake or some savouries. These can be taken to the Museum the day before or on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

This is a major event for us, so we need as much help as possible.

Thank you.

### **'How we were blown off a Volcano in Ecuador'**

A talk by Richard Snailham.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### **A Life of Crime - '31 Years on the London Beat'**

A talk by Gerald Hyder.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Further meeting dates and talks will be detailed in the next issue.

## 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

This newsletter is published by  
**Friends of the Windsor & Royal Borough Museum**  
Registered Charity No. 1115540

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

Email [info@friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk)

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 Courtney Rudge ([chair@friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk](mailto:chair@friendsofwindsormuseum.org.uk))

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

Phone 01628 685686

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

Printed by Top Print, 11 William Street, Windsor, SL4 1BB. 01753 857775.

[www.topprint.co.uk](http://www.topprint.co.uk), [windsor@topprint.co.uk](mailto:windsor@topprint.co.uk)

“For all your Printing requirements.”