



**Friends of the  
Windsor & Royal  
Borough Museum**

Charity No. 1115540

**NEWSLETTER**

**No. 99**

**January 2022**



## CHAIR'S REPORT

Apologies for the long gap between newsletters but, hopefully, we can get to some semblance of normality. As you will see later we have a list of proposed meeting dates for 2022, (Covid permitting!).

I must say a personal and heartfelt thank you to all those who sent such kind words to me after Jeannie's passing. They were very much appreciated.

After many years of hard work and commitment to the Friends, Beryl has decided to stand down from the committee. As a founder member we will miss her input, knowledge and good sense. I will certainly miss the banter! We will also have to decide who provides the biscuits for committee meetings! Seriously though she will be sorely missed as one of our team. No doubt she will still keep in touch.

Now, of course we have two vacancies on the committee so if you would like to step in then please let me know as soon as possible. It's not very time consuming or taxing and you get free bikkies!

That's about it for now and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future, (Covid permitting), And let's hope for a better New Year.

Len.

*Leslie's piece*

## Goings on at St. Stephens

Peter F. Anson (1889-1975) was a prolific author, writing mainly on church matters which he often illustrated with his own drawings. Much of his later life was spent in Scotland but in 'A Roving Recluse', a volume of memoirs published in 1946, we find that he had a Windsor connection.

He was christened Charles Frederick Anson (he adopted the name of Peter later on) in St. Georges Chapel at the font which had been given in memory of his grandfather, Frederick Anson, a canon of St George's from 1845 to 1885.

Anson's widowed grandmother lived at Carfax, a house at the end of Osbourne Road, where Balmoral Gardens now stands and he paid frequent visits there. On Sundays they attended services at St. John's where Anson was confirmed, having been prepared by Canon Ellison, though he never found the services very inspiring.

On more than one occasion, he relates, he heard his grandmother and an aunt talking in hushed tones about 'the High Church goings on at St. Stephen's Clewer' and one Sunday evening he slipped out of the house, determined to see these goings-on for himself.

The exterior he described as rather drab-looking, but once inside he was in a different world; the elaborate altar with no less than six candles, he had never seen anything like it. The psalms were sung to plainsong—he never cared for Anglican chant anyway—and the service ended up with a procession, crucifix, candles, banners and clouds of incense. Anson was hooked and after making his first communion in 1906 (he says that took place at St. Marks but no such church existed in those days, so one can only assume that an interval of forty years has somewhat confused his memory) He went straight off to St. Stephen's for their service. He later became a Roman Catholic but said that whenever he heard the hymn 'O Sons and Daughters' his thoughts would always race back to that Easter service at St Stephens.

His book 'The Call of the Cloister' is a history of Church of England religious communities and he devotes a chapter to the Clewer Sisters.

Leslie Grout

## **Museum Update January 2022**

### **Changes to the Museum**

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well and we send you best wishes for a healthy 2022.

The museum team has been working hard behind the scenes to progress the changes to the gallery to make space for the Royal Windsor Information Centre. The whole space has been repainted, some new graphics have been installed, the balloon basket has found a new home and the mammoth tusk and elephant tooth have been remounted ready for display. The new point of sale desk and retail area will be installed in mid-January and we are aiming to reopen in early February. We are very much looking forward to opening our doors to offer a very warm welcome to visitors and volunteers again after nearly two years of closure. As the museum will also be the Information Centre, admission to the museum will be free to all. This is fantastic to increase accessibility to our collection but means we will need to work differently to raise additional funds.

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## 10 Year Birthday Celebrations

On 9 December 2011, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially opened Windsor & Royal Borough Museum.

Since then, we've had the enormous privilege of continuously sharing and documenting the history of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. We love being a part of the community and are looking forward to future collaborations. But we couldn't do any of it without the help and support of our volunteers and the Friends of the Museum — of you! Together, you all make up our museum. We were delighted to welcome some of our volunteers to share some cake and to have a sneak peek at the changes underway in the gallery.



Volunteers and staff gathered for a birthday photo in front of the museum





Our delicious birthday cake was made by local  
bakery in Maidenhead  
Les Marrons Artisan Bakery



The gathering was a chance for volunteers and  
staff to catch up

## **Proposed Meeting Dates 2022:-**

5 April 2022

21 June (AGM)

13 September

All at the Community Room at  
Dedworth Library from 7.30pm  
Talks to be announced



## **'The World of Stonehenge' Exhibition**

Our bronze age objects have recently been on display at the Halle Museum of Pre-history in Germany and we are delighted that they will soon be loaned to the British Museum for an exhibition opening there in 2022.

The exhibition is called 'The World of Stonehenge' and will be open from 17 February - 17 July 2022. You can pre-book tickets here:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/world-stonehenge>

The objects are all from Wessex Archaeology's dig at Kingsmead Quarry, Horton, Berkshire in 2011. They found an early Bronze Age Beaker burial (2300 BC), and the grave is thought to have contained the remains of a woman over 35 years old. It contained a relatively tall Beaker vessel, decorated by pressing a comb into the surface to form zoned bands and motifs.

The woman also appears to have been wearing a necklace formed from beads made of amber, lignite (a type of shale) and sheet gold. (Below right) She may have been an important person to have had such items, as not everyone would have had access to these materials or objects.

The beaker, amber, lignite and gold will all be on display at the British Museum.



# Hi I'm Chuck

Volunteering at the museum is not the first time that I've been a tour guide. The first opportunity came about almost by chance.

In my last year at school, after sitting the dreaded G.C.E.s we had about 5 or 6 weeks until the end of term and freedom! However, the school, (County Boys), ensured that we were kept occupied.

The planned Windsor relief road was going to cut through the bottom of our playing field but to compensate for this loss the school was given the public park opposite to convert into a sports area, (in fact it still is), but the problem was the long, well-established privet hedge that divided the field. The school decided that us 'leavers' would 'volunteer' as unpaid labour to remove the problem.

Many parents and pupils objected but nonetheless the project went ahead with the proviso that one could opt out of the labour force if a suitable alternative could be found. Myself and two friends, Martin and John, were in the G.C.E. art class and persuaded our very laid-back art master Mr. Dewsbury, (aka 'Dewdrop'), to allow us to go out sketching in the town. We had to wear school uniform and report for morning and afternoon registration with evidence of our efforts but apart from that we were free to roam. On our first morning Dewdrop warned us not to spend all our time in the Wimpy. Who, us!?

We decided to go to the castle. In those days, of course, it was a lot quieter and less organised with far fewer foreign tourists most of whom seemed to be American. I settled on the North Terrace to sketch one of the cannons whilst the others wandered off to find their own spots. I hadn't been there very long when I was approached by an old couple.

"Hi" he said. I replied "Good morning". "I'm Chuck and this is my wife Doris. We're from Idaho in America."

It turned out that they were retired teachers and were very interested in the English school system which I duly tried to explain. I ended up walking round the castle with them sharing the little of it's history that I could remember. Finally, as they were leaving, Chuck handed me something. It was a ten shilling note. In 1961 that was a huge amount of money for a lad like me!

In great excitement I rushed off to find the others and tell them of my good luck. Amazingly Martin had a similar encounter although he only got five bob.

We retired to the Wimpy, (well Dewdrop did say not ALL the time!) with our new found wealth. Whilst eating lunch we discussed our morning and hatched a plan to increase our finances further. Each day we would go to the castle on the pretext of sketching and offer our services as unofficial guides. After lunch we returned to our hunting ground and each purchased a copy of the official guide book, (1/6d), which we took home to study for our new business venture.

So for the next five weeks that's what we did and very successful it was too. One remarkable week saw me earn more than dad! We all thrived but obviously had to keep things secret from the other boys and even our parents. We still did a bit of drawing to keep legal and please Dewdrop. The five weeks flew by until, sadly, we had to cease our enterprise and enter the real world of work.

Len

This Newsletter is published by

**Friends of the  
Windsor & Royal Borough Museum**

Charity No 1115540

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Printed by

**Top Print 11 William Street Windsor SL4 1BB**

**[WWW.topprint.co.uk](http://WWW.topprint.co.uk) [Windsor@topprint](mailto:Windsor@topprint)**

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