



The Mildenhall Post

Mildenhall Museum Society Newsletter



January 2019

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News from the Trustees

As usual we are busy during our closure. The WW1 display has been taken down and put back in store. We were very pleased to be able to borrow the panels that Councillor Richard Alecock had prepared for a Parish Council event. Its mention on social media drew visitors with family connections.

We had a backlog of items to be accessioned and decided in November to stop accepting anything until we reopen in March. Hopefully this will have cleared the desk. A programme of temporary displays is being prepared for the year as we try to ensure that stored items are seen. Keeping the paperwork up to date when things are changed is time consuming which is why we can't do it too often. If anyone is interested in seeing what is involved, we would be pleased to show them.

A research area in the community will be complete by March. This will provide another income stream for us.

Our thanks go, as usual to the Society Committee for their efforts in maintaining a programme of speakers and the fundraising which is so important.

We look forward to seeing you when we reopen.

Stephanie Palmer

Letter from the Society Chairman

Dear Members

On behalf of the committee I should like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year, albeit a little bit late.

There was a very good turnout for the AGM at the beginning of this month, it seems that an afternoon, especially during the cold darker months of the year suits us better than turning out of an evening and I expect that we shall continue with this idea in the future.

Anne Cross has been busy at arranging the speakers for 2019, the programme is now more or less complete. It was mentioned at the AGM that speakers are charging more than they used to these days which puts our costs up considerably so, although there are no price increases in our own pipeline, we do hope to see more of you at the Thursday meetings if possible therefore covering our costs rather than making a loss.

There are several items planned for 2019, including another fish and chip quiz, dates for these being published as I write.

If there are any members who have ideas for visits or speakers or, in fact, anything that you think might be of interest to others in the Society please let one of the committee know and we will do our best to incorporate your thoughts into our annual programme. We have already had several interesting proposals that we will advertise when the dates are arranged.

Very best wishes to you all

Lloyd Hughes

**PROGRAMME OF MUSEUM SOCIETY
TALKS AND EVENTS FEBRUARY – APRIL 2019**

7th February **“The Rest of Your Natural life”** **Pip Wright**

Pip is a well -known Suffolk author and local historian. In this talk he tells stories of Suffolk convicts transported to Australia. Find out not only what happened to them but about the families they left behind.

Please let your family or any friends who are tracing family trees, know about this talk. If an ancestor has vanished, this may be the answer. There’s no disgrace, times were hard and families large and hungry.

7th March **“Where Have all our Rabbits Gone
and Does it Matter?”** **Mike Taylor**

By March, we are looking forward to spring walks and the sight of daffodils, lambs and the bobbing tails of rabbits everywhere. But the rabbits are missing and there is no better person to explain what is going on and the effects than Mike, who is Reserve Manager of the Breckland National Nature Reserves.

4th April **“The Miser, the Murderer and the Headless
Horseman”** **Martin Hedges**

Martin is a retired Suffolk journalist. My lips are sealed...you need to hear for yourselves.

ALL TALKS ARE AT THE MUSEUM AND ARE ADVERTISED ON THE MUSEUM NOTICE BOARD OUTSIDE AND THE WEBSITE. THEY COMMENCE AT 7.30 p.m.

Members £2 and Non- members £4. Annual subs £10. Refreshments

ALL WELCOME

TICKETS FOR THE FISH N’ CHIP QUIZ WILL GO ON SALE AT THE TALK ON 7th MARCH. ALL THE USUAL...BAR, RAFFLE AND GREASY FINGERS!

Visitors from A to Z

While on duty one afternoon Nikki Slaughter mused on the range of home countries of our visitors. To answer the question, over several duty sessions Nikki went through the Visitors' Book from October 2013 until December 2018. Only a proportion of visitors sign the book but usually those from abroad are encouraged to make an entry.

Nikki's analysis found, not surprisingly, that Americans topped the list with 102 entries, often just one person signing on behalf of a couple or family. Next came the Australians (18). Represented by one, two or three names were Canada, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Mallorca, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa and Zimbabwe as well as the Isle of Man, Scotland and Wales.

Some very complimentary remarks were also written in the book.

ROY SILVERLOCK

I am very sorry to report that long-term volunteer Roy Silverlock died just before Christmas aged 93. Norma Chapman first met him at a meeting of the Institute of Biology soon after he stopped teaching at King Edward School, Bury St Edmunds, the post he took subsequent to having to leave the Agriculture College in Ghana when that country became independent in 1957.

He became a volunteer in 1984 and was a very efficient, meticulous cataloguer neatly numbering each artefact and recording by hand every detail. Eventually we acquired a computer and went digital making it easier for him. He was joined by June Flogdell and they made an excellent partnership over many years, working behind the scenes every Tuesday morning.

His background in Agriculture meant he was able to identify all the old tools we have been given over the years. He also wrote well-researched articles and gave guided tours around Lakenheath where he lived. In addition, he produced some articles about Mildenhall.

He had an extensive library and he is the only person I know of whose library was catalogued! He travelled extensively with his second wife Irena who he met on a holiday to India and after each trip he wrote up a detailed log.

He was an avid collector and had many wartime artefacts. Some years ago he and our secretary Joe Moore went to a museums "get-together" in Suffolk, to which we were invited to take items of interest. Joe said the room quickly fell silent when Roy walked in with a Bren gun under his arm, plus various other wartime artefacts from his own collection!

He was also a keen birdwatcher and spent many hours in the Norfolk reserves

Above all he was a kindly man who nursed his first wife who predeceased him by many years and cared for his second wife at home for as long as possible. It has been a privilege to know him.

STEPHANIE PALMER

Dates for your diaries:

Museum will re-open on Friday 1st March.

The big clean-up day will be Wednesday 27th February from 10 a.m.

The training /revision session for front-of-house volunteers will be on Wednesday 13th February at 2 p.m.



NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you have received your copy of the newsletter either by post or hand delivered, would you prefer to receive it via email? please send me an email at kay.finnis@yahoo.co.uk – MANY THANKS.

MILDENHALL MUSEUM SOCIETY

GIFT AID

In order to maximise income the Museum Society would appreciate members who pay income tax to consider completing a Gift Aid form. This will enable the Museum to claim 25p for every £1 received.

The Gift Aid form is attached, please download and complete if appropriate.

Please return the completed form to the Museum.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Mildenhall Museum.

GIFT AID FORM

I wish the Mildenhall Museum Society Charity No 1074634 to treat my/our subscription / donation as Gift Aid.

Signed..... Date.....

Name:.....

Address

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Post Code.....

Email.....

Tel No.....