



The Mildenhall Post

Mildenhall Museum Society Newsletter

May 2019

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News from the Trustees.

Thanks are due to the many helpers who turned up for clean-up day before we reopened. Many hands certainly make light work and the place was pristine for the 1st March.

We also thank Mary Drake, Dorothy Ashton and others who organised the Chickenfoot session during half term. It is always a popular event. If anyone has any other fund raising ideas please let Lloyd know. It has been suggested that if members provided the goods for sale someone might be willing to take a car to a boot sale. Every little helps feel free to offer!

Chris, our curator, has been away for two months. His mother died up in Yorkshire and Chris and his sister have had to clear the house and put it on the market. We think we have been managing fairly well without him but await his opinion on this. The queries are however building up and we look forward to his return. His absence is the reason the research area hasn't opened, we are waiting for his input into the computer.

We have new volunteers this year and are pleased that some are helping behind the scenes enabling us to carry out important cataloguing and other paperwork that is required of us.

As usual the Society Committee has worked hard to prepare a varied programme of talks and a very good quiz evening. Thanks to them all.

Stephanie Palmer

Dear Society Members

Those of you who regularly attend the Thursday evening talks will know how varied and interesting they have been this year, something we have all come to expect. Anne Cross does a fantastic job in not only weaselling out new speakers but also in persuading them, on most occasions, to lower their fees for us. Although these evenings are not specifically put on for profit we hope not to make a loss.

The committee are working hard to produce an annual programme of events that tries not to repeat itself every year. This summer, however, our main event will be one with a lower profile than last year's Open Gardens. I'm sure you'll understand that the same people cannot devote as much time to these voluntary works every year, family and other commitments coming first. With that in mind we are manning a Museum Stall on the Jubilee Fields for Lark in the Park. This might sound like "down sizing" but will hopefully spark an interest in those who would otherwise not visit us to show an interest in the Museum and gain members if not revenue. People who admit to have lived in and around Mildenhall for several years still sometimes remark when they come in for the first time "Oooh, what a lovely Museum, we didn't know it was here...."

We are lucky to have willing individuals to make up the committee and, as Chairman, I am most grateful for all the efforts that they make. However, it has to be realised that nothing remains the same for ever and we are finding it more and more difficult to persuade new faces to join us when others leave. With this in mind if you think you could help, albeit for a single year, you would be most welcome to add to our number. I can, even now, hear the voices in the distance muttering that “It’s the same with most organisations nowadays” but we have to remember that the Society makes most of the income for the Museum. If this diminishes then so will the Museum prospects for the long term. Something we must be careful to avoid.

This sounds like a very dismal letter. Apologies for that. It is realistic, however. As we all get older, we have different priorities. And we can’t leave it to the same folk to do the same work for ever. Maybe you have ideas for change, new initiatives for the Society, new thoughts on events or summer visits. Even the smallest contributions are very welcome.

If we don’t see you before, we hope to see you at The Lark in the Park in July.

Lloyd Hughes.

MUSEUM SOCIETY TALKS and EVENTS

JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2019

6th June

Tragedy of the Titanic

Richard Mann

There seems no end to the speculation about this famous tragedy but we add a personal note.

A Museum volunteer lost a relative.

July & August

Summer break but the Museum remains open.

Date of Outing to be announced.

5th Sept

How much do you know about bats?

Arthur Rivett

Local naturalist talks about these

Fascinating creatures

COMMENCE AT 7.30

TALKS ARE AT THE MUSEUM AND

Members £2 Non-members £4. Refreshments. ALL WELCOME

Talks are also advertised on www.mildenhallmuseum.co.uk/talks

MILDENHALL MUSEUM

HERITAGE DAYS 2019

Sunday 15th September

Guided walk round historic centre of town. Group size limited to 12.

Start from Museum in King St. at 2.30. £2-50 including tea and biscuits.

Must pre-book after AUGUST 15th by visiting or telephoning museum 01638 716970 during opening hours (2-4.30 on Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat, 10.30-2.30 on Fri.,)

Friday 13th September - Mildenhall market day - The Museum will man a stall with "what is it?" artefacts.



The Stirling Society

The Stirling Society approached the Trustees in 2008 with a request to hold their collection. After it was ascertained that this was photographs and not aircraft parts, we felt honoured to be asked.

The then gentleman in charge, Bunny Mason, was of the old school and declined to deal with me insisting on a man! Peter duly took over the arrangements and on Sunday May 31st, 2009 Dame Vera Lynn, Patron of the Society, came to unveil the plaque. We took them to Elveden for lunch beforehand and were joined by Lord Iveagh who was pleased to meet Dame Vera and kindly treated us to lunch. She officially unveiled the plaque in a short ceremony and met the many members of the society. She is a delightful lady.

Earlier this year we were approached by the Stirling Society and asked if they could meet on the 10th anniversary of the unveiling and we were pleased to oblige.

Coincidentally we had been given a display case by the National Horseracing Museum that just fitted in front of their photographic display. What to put in it? Gary Ewington came up with the idea of a model Stirling and offered to make it. He researched the plane numbers stationed at Mildenhall and made the model now installed in the case with the many accessories and a photo of Dame Vera in 2009.

Thanks to Gary for the idea and the time he has spent making the exhibit. We hope they are as pleased as we are.

News Release – British Library makes their mark

On Friday 26 April 2019, pop-up exhibitions on the origins, means and future of writing will simultaneously launch in over 20 partner libraries around the UK, including at Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft and Felixstowe libraries in tandem with the opening of *Writing: Making Your Mark* at the British Library in London.

Through images of carved stone inscriptions, medieval manuscripts and early printed works, the family-focused pop-up displays will span five millennia and five continents to deconstruct the act of writing and consider its future in the digital age.

The free pop-up exhibition will be augmented with accompanying events and an interactive learning trail, enabling visitors of all ages to engage in a nationwide conversation exploring the act of writing through the Living Knowledge Network and their hashtag #MakingYourMark.

The Living Knowledge Network is an innovative partnership of public libraries based in major cities and towns working in collaboration with the British Library, the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales. The Network shares resources, skills and ideas, promoting the enduring values of libraries.

The tour dates are as follows:

Thursday 26th April – 17th May – Ipswich Library

Friday 31st May – 21st June – Bury St Edmunds Library

Friday 5th July – 26th July – Lowestoft Library

Friday 9th August – Tuesday 27th August – Felixstowe Library



The Trustees would be delighted if any other members would like to organise a small fund-raising event at home e.g. coffee morning, afternoon tea and cake, plant sale, cake sale, have a boot at a car boot sale, or any other ideas.



Second-hand books, non-fiction, good condition are now on sale in the museum, a small quantity at a time (no room to store a quantity). Minimum do nation 50p for paper backs, £1 for hard backs.

Temporary exhibitions in the Community Room. During June there will be a display provided by the Stirling Aircraft Association. This will be followed by a travelling exhibition on Emergency Services.

SUPPORT BRANDON HERITAGE CENTRE

Brandon Heritage Centre is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 – 4 pm. Follow signs to the Car Park off the one-way system on the road out to Thetford. The centre is in the old fire station opposite the new fire station right next to the car park. Minimal amount of walking. Very interesting displays of flint work as you would expect AND for the next month a temporary exhibition by Pat Baldwin of his Fire Brigade Memorabilia. Enough highly polished brass helmets to gladden any small (and older) boy's heart.

Have you yet walked the Blue Plaque Trail? Brochure available in the