



The Mildenhall Post

Mildenhall Museum Society
Newsletter



February 2020

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News from the Trustees.

Wishing you all a belated Happy New Year.

It has been a difficult year in many ways. Chris hasn't been seen since February when his mother died and he went up north to sort things out. We have realised just how much information he held in his head and how much we leant on him. It has been a steep learning curve and we are trying to ensure that information is shared more for the future. We still don't know if he will return but as he has been a volunteer for the last few years we are grateful for all he has done and hope to see him again when he feels able.

We have also encountered problems with the reaccreditation process which has sent the secretary, Joe, and I into despair.

Behind the scenes documentation has been steady thanks to some new helpers. It is painstaking work but we have also been rationalising the storage. This should make it easier in the future.

The next temporary display will be put on by the Cricket Club in time for the next season.

Our thanks to everyone who helps in any way behind the scenes or front of house and to the Society Committee for their support and hard work in providing a very interesting programme of speakers and fund raising social events.

Stephanie Palmer



Don't forget to check out the Museum website for up-to-date information.

www.mildenhallmuseum.co.uk

MUSEUM SOCIETY TALKS and SOCIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY – JUNE 2020

**6th February “Oliver Cromwell: Magic,
Tony Diamond Mystery and Blood”**

Please note start time

Start 2.30 pm

Museum Re-opens in March. Return to 7.30 start

5th March	“Uncle Sam’s Roots in Eastern England	Roger Pugh Local Author
2nd April	“The Kings of Mildenhall”	Ray King
7th May	“Pulp Facts not Fiction”	Karen-Emma White
4th June	“Archaeology at the Hub”	Jo Caruth

No talks in July and August

EVENING TALKS ARE AT THE MUSEUM AND COMMENCE AT 7.30

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS. ALL WELCOME

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me, a Mildenhall newcomer, to find speakers for the last five years. In so doing, I have met some interesting people and learnt more about Mildenhall. I will still be taking an active role in the Society if needed and will continue as a Museum volunteer. I am very pleased that David Palmer has agreed to take over from me as he will be able to bring his knowledge of natural history from the sadly defunct Lark Valley Association of which he was speaker finder. Plus of course as a long term resident, he knows so many more people than I could ever do. The programme above has been arranged by me so that there can be a smooth handover. Please, please if you don’t like the choice of speakers above blame me and not David!

Anne Cross

In Search of England

I recently read an old Penguin paperback written by H.V. Morton, published in 1928, with the title "In Search of England." It's autobiographical and tells of the writer's car journey around England after he left the army and what he discovers about the various regional differences he finds on his travels.

One chapter I found most interesting was when he arrived in Brandon on his way back to London from the Norfolk coast.

"The lost art of chipping flint has been kept alive in this Suffolk village for tens of thousands of years. Nowhere else is the difficult art of knocking this stubborn stone into shape practised as in Brandon...."

He then tells the reader of the "young Mr Edwards" who is knapping these stones for gun flints.

"You have to learn this trick when you're young" said Mr Edwards, "and some can't even learn it then. It's a kind of gift."

Morton goes on to ask him if he has ever made an arrow-head.

"That's one thing I can't do, there's only one man here who can.... he lives down the street ... but he won't tell you how he does it." He handed me an axe head of stone. I know a little about prehistoric antiquities and I would unhesitatingly have bought this as genuine.

I found this old flint arrow-head maker in his cottage and I asked him how he learned this lost art.

"When I was a boy" he said, "I used to hear the professors and such who came up to the flint workings say that they couldn't think how these stone age men made their weapons. So I started to practise. And the idea came to me. It came suddenly!.... and I began to make arrow-heads and axe-heads and some of them, I'm afraid, got into Museums."

I left him standing at his cottage door holding a Stone Age axe to which he had fixed a stout handle bound to the stone with rough strands of untanned ox-hide.... Ready to defy any inquisitive professor, ready to defend his discovery with flint like tenacity."

I wonder how many Museums these twentieth century axe heads have found their way into.....

Lloyd Hughes

NEWMARKET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On February 6th and 7th this year, Newmarket Local History Society and Newmarket Town Council are holding a joint daytime exhibition in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket. This will be about the Bombing of Newmarket, February 18th, 1941.

This initial exhibition will be focused on schools in the town and in the area around. The public will be admitted in the afternoon (depending on school uptake) and early evening. All the morning places are now filled by schools, I am pleased to be able to say. There will be talks about the mysterious bombing event and possible reasons for it. These will be tailored to the audience. The longer, main talk will be at 6.00 p.m. aimed at adults. Everyone welcome if you have any Members who are interested.

Obviously, the 80th anniversary of the bombing occurs in 2021 and a much larger community commemoration event and exhibition is being planned for next year.

Sandra Easom.

Museum volunteer training days:

Monday 24th February – 10.30

Wednesday 26th February 2.30

If you are already a volunteer or wish to join our team and haven't already signed up please contact Norma 01638 712162

Annual Society Quiz

Jubilee Centre

Friday 1st May 2020

Details to follow

Discover the glory of Ancient Rome

I have recently introduced a group of Year 10's at Mildenhall College Academy to The Roman Empire, with the idea of studying The Mildenhall Treasure story before I bring them along to the Museum to see the replicas on display.

The following are some fun facts that they voted the most interesting!

- The Romans built such a huge empire and conquered new lands, thanks to their strong army. The Roman army could march up to 40km a day!
- The Romans liked to enjoy their food, often lying down on a couch while eating with their hands. They occasionally used a spoon, but they would never use a knife and fork. Rich Romans liked to eat exotic food, such as stork, roast parrot and even flamingo!
- One of the most famous buildings left by the Ancient Romans is the [Colosseum](#) - a huge amphitheatre in the centre of Rome. This is where members of the public would come to watch sporting events and games, including battles between Roman gladiators!
- The Romans didn't spend all their time fighting - they were amazing architects and engineers too! They built roads and walls - things we now take for granted.
- Roman legend says that Romulus had a twin brother called Remus. As babies they were abandoned in the area which later became Rome. A she-wolf found and raised them, but when they grew up, Romulus fought and killed Remus and became the first ruler of Rome!