



THE MILDENHALL POST

MILDENHALL MUSEUM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

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NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Behind the scenes during the winter closure the Tuesday team continued to catalogue and upload photos on to the Infoactiv screen and make the presentation more user friendly. Our archives are still being rationalised, again to make them more user friendly. We continue to receive interesting email requests asking for help with their research. Sometimes all that is needed is local knowledge, but others are more challenging and require some digging by volunteers and Susan Cook enjoys the challenge.

To reduce our high utility bills we are changing the light units in the display cabinets to LED. These units cost £650 [inc VAT] each! So far we have changed 7 leaving a further 7, thankfully we obtained a grant together with some funds from the Society. We will continue until they are all changed which will be reflected in the bills.

Our visitor and trading figures since we reopened in March are encouraging. From now until the end of August we have a display “Mildenhall at War” curated by Gareth Jones [AKA Gazza], he will follow it up with a talk to the October meeting of the Society which we look forward to.

Stephanie Palmer Chair of Trustees

June Flogdell

It is with sadness we have heard of the death of June Flogdell. June helped for many years in several capacities in the museum especially cataloguing our collection and also a fastidious volunteer.



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FACEBOOK**

**Mildenhall and District Museum page. Please
click follow and share.**

New from the Society

David Palmer continues to impress with his selection of speakers for the Thursday evening talks. This month's speaker, Imogen Radford, gave us an insight into the history of the River Lark with photographs from as early as the 1870's and reminiscences from local people who were interviewed for the Fen and Breck compilation.

We were all fascinated when members present were able to add to the information from personal experiences, Colin Ashton remembering the ice skating on flooded meadows that had frozen over and Mary Drake falling into the river as a baby, being kept afloat by the rubber pants holding her nappies in place, before being rescued by one of the group enjoying an afternoon swim. It brought the whole subject to life in a very personal and amusing way.

We are very pleased to notice that some new volunteers to the Museum have also joined the Society. This is encouraging and we hope more will join as they become interested in the topics we present during the year.

The Society are pleased to contribute £1000 towards the updated lighting for some of the display cabinets. The Treasure is now lit by LED's as are two more cabinets in the Roman display and Anglo Saxon area. This expense could not be considered without the grant we obtained plus the Society's donation. This is one way that the admission charge for the Thursday speakers' is actually being used in a concrete way for the enhancement of the Museum. **Lloyd Hughes Chairman**

Mildenhall Museum Society Meetings 2025

June 5th Fran Saltmarsh – Six into One will go

July 3rd Peter Hiatt – My life as a Newmarket Farrier.

August – no meeting

Sept 4th Lloyd Hughes – The History of Jodrell Bank

**Oct 2nd Geraint Jones – Mildenhall and District at War
1939 - 1945**

Nov 6th Geoffrey Robinson – The Worlingworth fire Engine and the BBC

STOP PRESS - December 11th Ed Lowis 1914 Christmas Truce in WW1

An extra talk the week after Merry Mildenhall so please put in your diaries.

Talks start at 7.30. members £2 non - members £4

Walter Richard Fritz.

Walter a young boy, born in Islington, was helped to a successful life through the 'boarded out' Waifs and Strays scheme founded by the Home at Beck Row. Walter Fritz was 'boarded out' with Charlotte Leverington, the daughter of a farmer, who was the shopkeeper and sub-postmistress of the village of Worlington. Though unmarried she fostered three young boys through this scheme. Walter was admitted to Islington workhouse in June 1894 aged six. His mother was unable to cope with five children on her own when her husband was imprisoned for twenty months for wounding and causing grievous bodily harm to a twelve-year-old girl, the daughter of the landlord of the public house where he worked as a potman. Walter's mother, Marie, turned to the workhouse for help and it was decided to board Walter out so fortunately for him he moved to Worlington to be boarded with Charlotte Leverington. After Walter finished his education in the village school at the age of ten, Charlotte paid for him to be privately educated at the boy's school held in the Bunbury Rooms in Mildenhall. In the 1911 census Walter, aged twenty-three, was still boarding with Charlotte in Worlington and worked as a clerk for the Great Eastern Railway Company. Walter went on to work as a clerk for Odden F Read, a firm of solicitors in Mildenhall, proof of the excellent education he had received due to Charlotte's generosity. In 1915 he enlisted in the Northants Regiment, served at the battle of Arras, rose to the rank of Sergeant, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. In June 1917 he was wounded and discharged 'due to wounds' and awarded the First World War Silver Badge. Walter continued living with Charlotte and when he married in 1928 his wife assisted Charlotte running the shop and Post Office while Walter returned to work as a solicitor's clerk. During his lifetime Walter engaged in many village activities and sports. He and his wife had a son Peter. When Charlotte died in 1933, he was sole executor of her will and continued running the shop and Post Office until 1939 when he left Worlington and moved to Dunstable where he died in 1973 aged eighty-five. Walter was certainly a successful example of the Waif and Stray's 'boarded out' scheme.

Susan Cook. Thanks to Susan Ayre for her help with information.

Susan Cook



Please drop in and visit our current exhibition. A film will be showing alongside the exhibit. Examples of rationing and posters on display.

Museum opening times:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Saturdays
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Fridays 10:30 – 4:00

Where have you seen these?

1



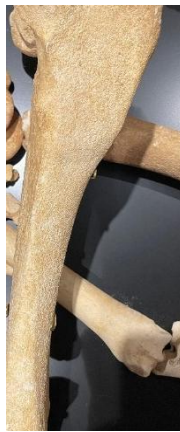
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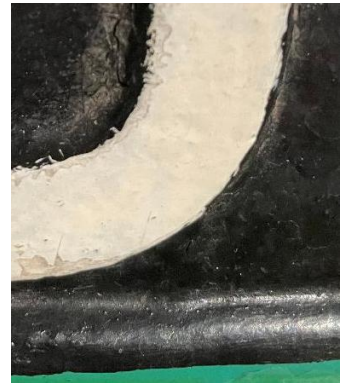
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Answers in the next edition of The Mildenhall Post.

If you have any interesting articles you would like to share please send to me for the next edition at kay.finnis@yahoo.co.uk
