



D M A Newsletter

December 2017

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Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of the Newsletter; it's a bumper issue this time thanks to the good number of museums that have sent in contributions. I hope that you will all find things to interest you in it I certainly have I really look forward to seeing the massive improvements to the County Museum completed - congratulations to them for obtaining the massive HLF grant. Dorset really deserves it; it is a beautiful county, bounded by a World Heritage coast, with a rich and fascinating history.

Recently the Dorset Museums Association held its AGM at the Priest's House Musuem, Wimborne. Dr. Jon Murden was elected chairman to replace Emily Hicks who has stood down this year. The talks that followed the AGM twere, I felt, the best I had been to and an inspiration to all present, I am sure.

Both the Blandford Fashion Museum and Wimborne Museum contributions describe the events they are planning for Christmas and I am sure that many more of you will also be doing things to celebrate the holiday period. It is a great opportunity for all of us.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

David M Riches

Beaminster Museum

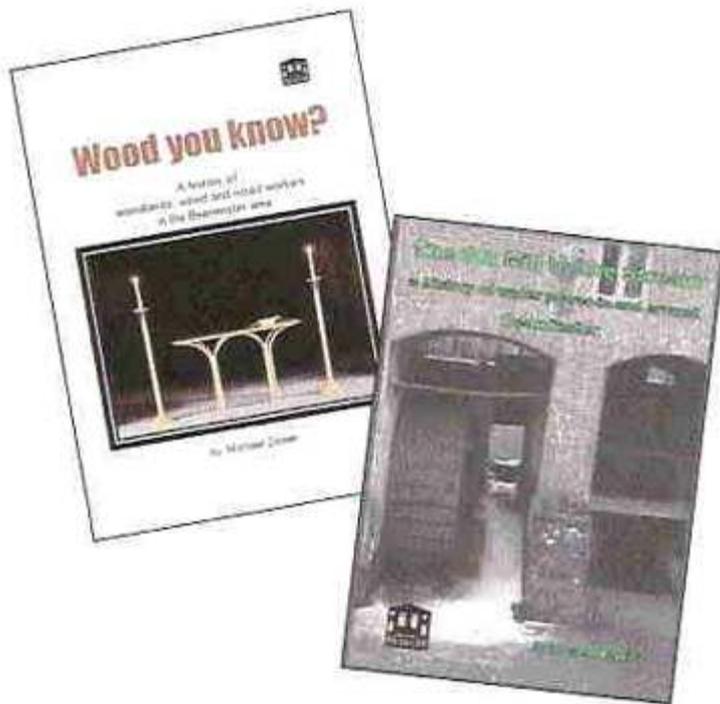
Clive Kennedy

Museum Publications

Museums in towns such as Beaminster tend to conjure up images of objects found locally or photographs of local places. What is often forgotten or overlooked is that they may also house an invaluable reference library with a collection of books specifically related to the town and nearby communities and to activities in the area. This is certainly true of Beaminster Museum, but we actually go one stage beyond this: we publish books ourselves about aspects of the town and its surroundings.

The books we publish are generally, but not exclusively, related to one of the museum's seasonal temporary exhibitions. They not only form a more permanent record of the exhibition, but also can approach it from a different angle and/or treat topics in more detail. We neither request nor compel any exhibitor to write an accompanying book, but we are aware that some would like to do so and we see our role as assisting them in this. Other exhibitors do not want to write a book or indeed have any more permanent record of their exhibition than a copy of their texts stored away on our computer. From time to time we also publish books that have not been related specifically to an exhibition but which do tell us something more about our local heritage.

We have a small publication sub-committee, which is responsible to the main committee, and includes the Curator and the Treasurer of the museum. The aims of this sub-committee are laudable for all concerned, but the practicality of publishing is another matter. Some of the potential authors have never written a book before and so require a great deal of help and encouragement. This can be a serious drain on the time and energy of the member(s) of the publication sub-committee who are in the best position to help them. The demands and costing of publication have always to be borne in mind. Almost as great a problem arises from authors who think they know exactly how it should be published and priced before even discussing the project with the sub-committee. Their book may be charming, but may not be commercial! So, we are *de facto* also a publishing house but without a printing facility of our own.



The execution of all this is seldom simple as many potential authors have ideas about publication but no concept or experience of the realities of writing for publication. We find it highly desirable for all potential authors to approach the sub-committee at the earliest possible stage. This ideal is not always met or readily accepted by authors who know what they want but are unaware of the needs for accuracy, referencing of other sources and the costs of printing quality colour photographs. We oversee format, execution, draft and proof reading and arrange printing by an outside firm at an acceptable commercial price. We can on occasion subsidise a publication and we always set the price for sale and the print run. The finished book bearing the museum's logo goes on sale in the museum and in some case also in shops in the town.

We always work in a responsive mode and never yet have we actually commissioned a publication, turned an author down or, we hope, published a book of poor quality. We always try to set the price and print run at sensible and realistic levels. We cannot work on a totally commercial basis but neither can we support too many unsold copies. However, we do insist on a good standard and we try to make it clear to potential authors that it will take them a lot of time in respect of formatting, re-arranging and proof reading.

We have no policy in respect of number of publications per year. Last year we published no books at all, but this year we have published two. One of these (*Wood you know?*) is directly related to an exhibition of that name, but the other, *The Old Mill by the Stream*, is not related to any exhibition but to the topic of water mills which is of interest to many in the region. There are colour plates in both books, they are both attractive and both authors are delighted with the end product, as indeed are we. Both authors have had previous experience of writing, but most of our authors are less experienced and for them this is their first (and last?) book.

Blandford Fashion Museum

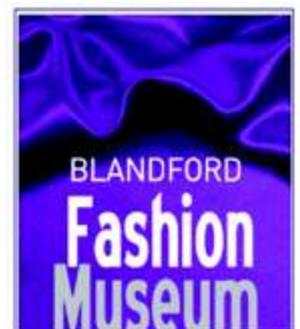
Elaine Williamson

A Celebration open day was held on Saturday 25th. November 2017 at the Blandford Fashion Museum and the Christmas Raffle was drawn at 2pm. The tea room was serving mince pies with every drink purchased. Entry was free. The Museum closed for the winter break at the end of the event.

We thank you for your continued support of the Museum and we look forward to welcoming you back on the 12 February 2018 when there will be new exhibits to see.

The Museum is continually growing thanks to the generous donations from the public.

Happy Christmas from all the Staff and Volunteers at the Blandford Fashion Museum



Dorset County Museum

Dorset County Museum Awarded Over £11 Million National Lottery Grant

Dorset County Museum has received one of the largest single Heritage Lottery Fund grants ever made to Dorset, a whopping £11,349,200.00!



Sectional model showing the existing buildings and new gallery spaces with archive and conservation facilities below. Image Credit: Carmody Groarke

Thanks to National Lottery players, the Dorset County Museum can now realise and deliver a major redevelopment as part of its vision for Tomorrow's Museum - Making Dorset Proud.

This vision transforms the museum into a state of the art, fit for the 21st century museum, complete with a learning and research centre, improved visitor facilities and five new exhibition spaces. Specially designed archive and conservation workshops will feature a public gallery where visitors can oversee the inner workings of the museum and its staff.

Only 1.5% of the museum's vast collection is currently on display. The enhanced exhibition spaces will allow far more of the four million Hidden Dorset Gems to see the light of day.

Award-winning architects Carmody Groarke have sensitively designed the space to complement the existing building and its historical setting. The Dorset County Museum is set to become one of the county's go-to destinations for tourists and residents alike.

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, our major investment in Dorset County Museum will enable it to tell more effectively the story of Dorset, spanning more than 200 million years of history. Treasures of national significance such as a rare first edition of Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species', and the largest Thomas Hardy collection in the world, will be able to be seen and understood by many more visitors, in a truly remarkable setting."

Dr. Jon Murden, Director of Dorset County Museum, said: "We are overjoyed that the HLF have given us this opportunity. For the first time, we will have the space to do justice to our amazing collections, whilst ensuring they are safely preserved for future generations to enjoy."

Cllr Peter Wharf, Dorset County Council Cabinet member for workforce, said. “The County Council is delighted to hear about the investment in the Dorset County Museum by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We appreciate that it will raise Dorset’s cultural offer for local people and tourists, we know the positive impact that such a great community asset has on health and wellbeing and that this injection of funds will boost the local economy. The council has also committed £200,000 to this transformation of the museum as an investment for the next generation of visitors.”

With this extraordinary award and endorsement, the ‘Tomorrow’s Museum’ campaign requires just £1.6 million to reach its target of £15million.

The final push is now within reach and next month sees the launch of its public fund-raising campaign entitled Hidden Gems.

“In recognising the importance of preserving our common heritage for future generations, our ancestors gave generously, it’s now time for us, the people of Dorset and custodians of Tomorrow’s Museum, to make our own contribution” says Dr Jon Murden.

Dippy on Tour comes to Dorset – The Excitement is Building!



With on two months still to go before the Natural History Museum’s Dippy the Diplodocus finally arrives in Dorset, his visit is already capturing the imagination of thousands of children throughout the South West of England with tickets being snapped up at record rates.

For dinosaur fanatics both young and old, the Dorset County Museum and The Jurassic Coast Trust are issuing a ‘gigantorsaurus’ invitation to make the most of this extraordinary opportunity.

Given the number of school tickets already pre-booked, Dorset County Museum is predicting that the Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure exhibition will break all previous box office records.

Whilst the projected visitor numbers are welcomed, Dr. Jon Murden, Director of Dorset County Museum is overjoyed by the enthusiasm of schools and their pupils to embrace this once in a generation opportunity.

“We have pupils from across the South West region, painting and modelling their own Dippys, and learning about where and how dinosaurs lived all those years ago. Some are already enrolled in the Big Jurassic Classroom initiative run by the Jurassic Coast Trust but many others are just MAD KEEN! it’s just brilliant to see their enthusiasm and we can’t wait to welcome them here to the museum so they can see Dippy up close and personal”.

“Can you imagine how these children are going to react when they walk into the Victorian Gallery for the first time to see Dippy towering over them. At over 4ms high, and 21ms in length he only just fits into the gallery- as the kids say it’s going to be awesome!

The general public ticket reservation site went live at midday on Sunday 1st October.

Entrance to the Dippy Exhibition is FREE with visitors being allocated specific time slots on a first come first served basis, however visitors are advised to avoid disappointment and reserve their tickets as early as possible.

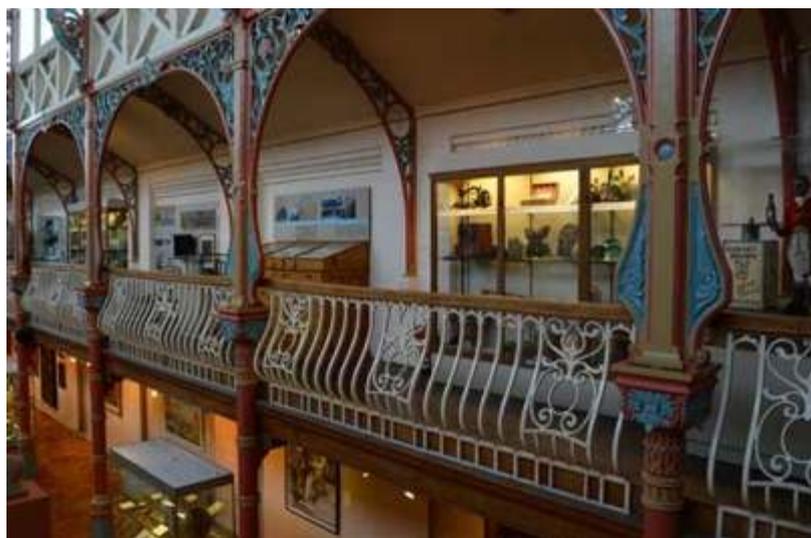
The UK Dippy on Tour has only been made possible with generous support from the Garfield Weston Foundation, Philippa Charles, Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation, says:

“Generations of children have been awestruck by Dippy’s spectacular presence at the heart of the Natural History Museum and we hope he continues to inspire the nation to rediscover nature as he works his way round the UK.”

In addition to the Dippy on Tour exhibition, visitors can see the museum’s collection of rare dinosaur fossils and artefacts collected from the Jurassic Coastal shoreline including the fossilised skull of a Pliosaur, a crocodile like creature that lived in the waters around Dorset 155 million years ago.

For the more active or energetic visitor, the Jurassic Coast Trust and their partners across the coast offer a range of guided tours, fossil hunting expeditions and coastal walks that bring this ancient land to life. Families can also sign up to the Jurassic Coast Trust's Go Jurassic Rangers club to receive exclusive Dippy on Tour rewards, plus access to a whole year’s worth of amazing Jurassic Coast experiences. Find out more at Go Jurassic Rangers.

Getting Ready for Dippy



Dorchester Gallery

Preparation for his arrival has already started and from Monday 4th December the Victorian Hall and the Dorchester Gallery, which displays many artefacts from the county town’s past from Roman times to the 20th Century will be carefully cleared, catalogued and stored to allow space for visitors to view Dippy when he is finally installed. The installation of the supporting text and other information will also take place.

The magnificent Victorian Hall will be given the same treatment, including maintenance and repairs to the antique pine parquet floor, before the two ton replica dinosaur skeleton arrives.

Director of the Dorset County Museum, Jon Murden said “This is going to be a major exercise in preparing the space for Dippy. It is also the last opportunity to view the artefacts currently on display in both the Victorian Hall and Dorchester Gallery in this current state.” He continues “Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure will also be the last temporary exhibition to be hosted by us before we close certain sections of the galleries to begin the major redevelopment of the Museum, which will be completed in 2020”.

Events in December

1 December 2017

Archaeology Unearthed: Continental Connections in Prehistoric Dorset by Prof. Richard Bradley. 7pm for 7.30pm

7 December 2017

Dorchester Christmas Cracker. 5pm – 9pm

13 December 2017

Geology Revealed: IGNITE: a festive evening of short talks by geologists. 6.30pm for 7pm

Events in January

8 January – 12 May 2018

Tea Room Exhibition: Colin Bentley’s Jurassic Coast

10 January 2018

Geology Revealed: How best to manage fossil collecting on the Jurassic Coast by David Sole. 6.30pm for 7pm
Tickets for this lecture are: £3 (DNHAS Members) £5 (Non-Members). To book, Tel: 01305 756827 or go to www.dorsetcountymuseum.org

Gillingham Museum

David Lloyd

Launch of the John Constable Touchscreen



John Constable first visited Gillingham on 28 July 1820 at the invitation of his friend the Rev. John Fisher, vicar of Gillingham. It was therefore appropriate that it was on Friday 28th July 2017 that the long-awaited museum touchscreen, featuring John Constable, was officially unveiled by Emma Trueman, of BV Dairy, and Caroline Bottomley, great-great-great-granddaughter of Constable. Also in attendance were Su Hunt, Deputy Mayor, Susan Screech, Library manager, Chris Parry, Waitrose manager, Louise Tunnard, Salisbury Museum, Vicky de Witt, Museum advisor for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, members of the Heritage group and museum volunteers. The Society's President, Sam Woodcock, was responsible for the John Constable script and he thanked his two helpers Tracey Phenix and Megan Perrin for their help with the computer input.

BV Dairy had granted the sum of £500 towards the project.

The story uploaded so far tells the story of Constable's paintings of the Town Bridge and Purns Mill and his sketches of the town. The background to Constable's visit to Gillingham is also explained.

Constable is not only a national figure but an international one too. The Society has always been keen to promote his link to Gillingham and with the help of Sam Woodcock the Town Council's Heritage Group is currently planning ways of increasing local awareness and linking Gillingham's trail to those of Salisbury and Weymouth where Constable stayed and produced many sketches and paintings. There is also an opportunity to showcase the Constable link at Gillingham Railway Station.

(Photo by John Porter shows Sam Woodcock, Caroline Bottomley and Emma Trueman.

Gold Hill Museum, Shaftesbury

Claire Ryley

Shaftesbury Remembers the Great War

On Saturday November 11th 2017, Gold Hill Museum hosted the launch of its HLF funded website. Ninety guests, all contributors to the project, watched a demonstration of the website in action, and afterwards visited the museum's Great War exhibition, and enjoyed afternoon tea.



Contributors and guests at the website launch ... standing room only!

The launch was the culmination of over two years' work, involving hundreds of contributors, both individuals and organisations, a team of researchers, and an IT specialist, Rob Frost, who fortunately combines his expertise with a great interest in Shaftesbury's history.

We received £6700 from the HLF's First World War 'Then and Now' programme and we asked people to share their family and other stories, building a unique archive to be made available to all, either on-line or on a dedicated computer terminal in the museum. A new permanent display in the museum shows objects donated during the project, and copies of the stories we have collected.

We wanted to capture stories and memories about early 20th century Shaftesbury and its inhabitants, both those who served in the armed forces and those left at home, before it was too late, and we were delighted with the amount and quality of the material which we received.

We were keen to involve local schools, retirement homes and the British Legion, but everyone was very welcome to take part in the project, as we needed volunteers for a range of interesting and diverse roles. There were opportunities to learn new computer, research and interviewing skills, as well as cataloguing and organising materials for the archive. We employed professional trainers so that volunteers could learn new skills, and produce the best results.

We held Open Day events to recruit volunteers and contributors, and shared the results of our research by giving talks to a wide range of groups. We also started holding reminiscence sessions in the town library which have proved very popular, and are continuing after the project's completion.

We have been recording oral histories for the archive and, where we have been given permission, these will be available on the dedicated museum computer and shared with Dorset History Centre.

The website and new permanent exhibition will give a much fuller understanding of the part that local people played in the Great War, and help us all appreciate the significance of names on war memorials, and the sacrifices of the individuals they represent.



Shaftesbury Remembers | Website Launch



New recruits gathering in Shaftesbury High Street 1914

The website is in two main parts:

- Stories which tells the individual stories of each person mentioned on 26 local Great War memorials
- Background which gives information about Shaftesbury and the surrounding area from the beginning of the 20th century to the mid-1920s.

You can view the website by going onto goldhillmuseum.org.uk and clicking on the 'Shaftesbury Remembers' link. A podcast is also available at <https://soundcloud.com/user-177849604/shaftesbury-remembers-report>

Lyme Regis Museum

David Tucker, Director

Young People Takeover Lyme Regis Museum

On the 17 November over 50 young people from The Woodroffe School and St Michael's Primary School 'took over' Lyme Regis Museum for the day. The students participated in a range of activities inspired by the museum's collections, as part of the Kids in Museums national Takeover Day event.

Takeover Day is a celebration of children and young people's contributions to museums, galleries, arts organisations, archives and heritage sites. It's a day on which they are given meaningful roles, working alongside staff and volunteers to participate in the life of the museum.



As part of working towards their Arts Award, year 8 students from The Woodroffe School spent time with museum staff and volunteers to learn about the collections in depth before taking charge of the day by planning and delivering a range of creative learning activities ranging from art to drama to year 6 pupils from St Michael's Primary School, who they invited to take part.

Mr Rich, representing St Michael's Primary School added *"This was such a fun-filled learning experience where the older children led the younger children. The museum is a fantastic resource to have on our doorstep. If only more school days could be like this!"*

Miss Wood, from Woodroffe School said *"It's very pleasing to see the range of activities that the students have produced, and I'm so delighted to see how well the St Michael's Year 6 have responded to their young teachers!"*

David Tucker, Director of Lyme Regis Museum said of the Takeover Day: *"Engaging local young people with their museum and the amazing history of Lyme Regis is a top priority for us and we are always seeking meaningful ways to do this. Takeover Day is a great opportunity for them to understand the value of their museum, take ownership and share it with others. It was fantastic to have the museum full of young people inspired by all it has to offer."*

The Woodroffe students also documented the day through photographs, interviews and a takeover of the museum's social media throughout the day, as well as creating an exhibition of their own work inspired by the museum's collections. The exhibition, 'Fragments', will be on display in the museum until 26 November 2017.

About Kids in Museums & Takeover Day

Kids in Museums is an independent charity dedicated to making museums open and welcoming to all families, in particular those who haven't visited before. Working with museums to help them welcome and include families, teenagers and children. www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk

Portland Museum

David Carter

In the last addition we told of our dinosaur footprints recorded for ever in a 3 ton block of Portland Stone that had been delivered to the museum although not moved to its final resting place. As we have yet to source a suitable machine less than 8 feet wide to get into the garden to do the job it is looking very much like it will be repositioned using rollers and levers in the time honoured manner of our early forefathers at Stone Henge. Whilst exploiting this very early technology we are also in the process of utilising the most modern of technologies, namely photogrammetry to build a digital 3d image of the stone and then hopefully using 3D printing to produce a smaller and importantly lighter model of the stone for use within the museum.

And on the subject of lighter objects we have a very large collection of material from the shipwreck of the East India Company ship the 'Earl of Abergavenny'. All the artefacts have been photographed and documented and for several years we have had on display 4 'mechanical pencils', which should be more accurately referred to as 'sliding pencils', each weighing just 5 grammes. These have sat quietly in the display cabinet after spending 200 years underwater with other artefacts from the shipwreck in which the brother of the poet William Wordsworth, Captain John Wordsworth, sadly died with 250 of his ship's company.

Recently Ed Cumming, one of our volunteer/researchers and leader of the excavation team who worked on the wreck site for over 25 years went to the Pencil Museum in Keswick while on holiday. There he was surprised to find that they did not have one of these 'mechanical pencils', further investigation found that there was just one found in the wreck site of 'HMS Pandora', sunk on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia in 1791 and another one from the 18th century British merchant ship, 'Princess Carolina', that was found under 175 Water Street in Manhattan, New York in January 1982. Neither of these 2 examples were in very good condition. These appeared to be the extent of the world's collection of 'mechanical pencils' except for the 20 or so that came from the wreck of the 'Earl of Abergavenny', many of which are in pristine condition with the moving parts still operational and the manufacturer's name 'Lincoln's Warranted' still visible in a few of them. How they were used is still being investigated and searches have been made at the PRO for the 18th century patents for these pencils. They are round, 7.5mm in diameter and 170mm long, made of 3 pieces of red cedar joined together by a sliding longitudinal dovetail joint with a length of square section graphite inserted in the 'tongue' of the dovetail. We would be most interested to hear if anyone has heard of any other of these 18th century high-tech pencils as it may transpire that we have the National Collection.



Editor's note: More information on the instruments found in the wreck of the Earl of Abergavenny can be found in a paper I wrote for the Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society, published in September 2007, and subsequently added to my website where it can be read: <http://www.mathsinstruments.me.uk/page75.html>

Sherborne Museum Elizabeth Bletsoe, Curator

“GOING BATTY” FOR HALLOWEEN AT SHERBORNE MUSEUM

Since we opened a natural history gallery and signed up to the James Ellerman Natural Sciences Project Charter in 2016, we have tried to promote education in this area and include it in our events programmes. Towards the end of October, during half term, we engaged the East Dorset Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation group to come and talk to us about bats to an interested public. This was the second time they had visited and they once more received a huge welcome with over 150 people coming through the door in a couple of hours, many of them spellbound and curious children. The trained bat volunteers were able to supply us with lots of batty facts – did you know, for example that 17 out of the 18 species of bats in the UK live and breed in Dorset? And that the county supports over 3,000 bat roosts? They are so quiet that most people are unaware of their existence in loft spaces and contrary to popular belief bats do not gnaw wires or cables, neither do they bring any nesting material into the house. Their droppings are harmless, being mostly made up of the hard parts of insects. Bats are very vulnerable to disturbance and they are specially protected under a number of pieces of legislation, which make it illegal to kill or injure a bat or to damage the places where they roost. The volunteers spent time advising people over what to do if they found the presence of bats in their house, or what to do to attract them to the garden and support them by encouraging more insects – one young girl came away with information on how to create a pond and therefore more biodiversity at her home.

Of course, the real stars were the bats themselves who arrived in specially chilled eco-pods to keep them calm during their journey. In particular, Prince, a serotine bat performed happily all afternoon being held with a large glove. It enthralled people to know that when bats are contented they purr (you can tell by the vibrations) and visitors were queuing up to get a closer look; most people had never had this kind of opportunity before. The Museum is now in the process of adopting a bat – old favourite Jethro the Noctule – so we will have photos and regular updates on him posted in our Natural History room. Hopefully this will encourage people to learn more about bats and help to dispel the myths about these fascinating and vulnerable little creatures.



A young bat fan



Prince in Glove



Jethro the Noctule

Sturminster Newton Museum & Mill Society

Imogen Bittner

Sturminster “Castle”

Barely noticeable today, the ruins of what is colloquially called Sturminster “Castle” can occasionally be seen in winter from the town bridge. Now on private land and inaccessible, this medieval manor house was built on a promontory Iron Age hill fort and is a Grade II* Scheduled Ancient Monument on Historic England’s (English Heritage) “at risk” register.

The actual site was given to Glastonbury Abbey in 1016 by King Edmund Ironside, and Newton Manor, as it was called, became the larger of the two Dorset estates owned by the abbey; the other being situated at Buckland Newton. It included the surrounding manors and hamlets of Bagber, Colber (after its purchase by the abbey in 1334), part of Hinton St Mary - although the Manor House here was owned by Shaftesbury Abbey - and Marnhull.

The Newton estate was mostly arable, although the rich pasture land of the fertile river valley enabled livestock to be kept over winter and used as breeding stock instead of being slaughtered in the autumn, at Michaelmas. Grain was milled here, the finest quality then being sent, with meat, to supply the abbey.

The Manor House at Newton, almost completely rebuilt in the 14th century, by Abbot Walter De Monyton, was also the administrative centre for the estate, where courts were held and tithes collected and stored in a tithe barn. A large part of this barn was recorded by Hutchins in his “The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset, Vol IV”, as being largely demolished in 1732 and the remainder in 1840.

Today, there are no remains but it is thought to have stood to the south of the present ruin, possibly on the level land where the outbuildings of Castle Farm are now situated.

Although recorded photographically as a ruin since the latter part of the 19th century, it can be seen through deeds and leases that it was, in fact, a high status residence, granted by Elizabeth 1 to her cousin, Thomas Howard, Viscount Bindon.

Surviving the English Civil War, passing from the Royalists to Parliamentarians as a garrison protecting the important river crossing, it was the centre of a battle in July 1645 between the Dorset Clubmen and Parliamentarians, in which the Clubmen were victorious.

It then remained in the Trenchard family for over a century and was bought by Sturminster’s benefactor, Thomas Henry Lane Fox in 1824. He sold it to his cousin George Pitt- Rivers in 1834 and it remained as part of this estate until the 1980s.

Already a ruin in the early 1920s, it was used as a backdrop for the enactment of Thomas Hardy’s work by the Hardy Players, attended by Hardy himself, who had lived earlier in Sturminster Newton for a period of two years whilst writing “Return Of The Native”.

An exhibition tracing the history of this once important building, will be opening in Sturminster Museum in early 2018.



The Tank Museum

Rebecca Skelton

Victoria Cross loaned by descendents of Capt. Wain VC

Of the 628 times that the Victoria Cross was awarded during the First World War, only four of the highest military medals for gallantry were awarded to members of the Tank Corps; Captain Clement Robertson VC of 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Cecil Harold Sewell VC of 3rd Battalion, T/ Lt (A/ Capt.) Richard William Leslie Wain of 1st Battalion and Captain (A/ Lt Col.) Richard Annesley West VC of 6th Battalion. All four share the tragic similarity that they were neither in a tank nor survived the actions that resulted in being awarded the honour.



Shortly before the Centenary of the Battle of Cambrai, the family of Capt. Wain unexpectedly approached the Museum and generously offered to loan his Victoria Cross for display. The medal had never been seen in public before and it was their wish that the medal was displayed with the words “On loan from the family, to share his memory with pride”. We gladly accepted, though the timing of the offer of Wain’s Victoria Cross presented the Museum with some challenges. Despite these challenges, we were determined to display the medal on the 100th Anniversary of Capt. Wain’s actions and to co-inside with our commemorations of the Battle of Cambrai. Therefore, our first task was for the museum’s Curator David Willey to contact the auction house Spink of London for an insurance valuation. With this secured, two staff members travelled to meet family members and collect Wain’s medal, which at this point was still fixed within a presentation frame. Following the arrival of the medal to the museum, the frame was carefully removed and it was locked in a secure location.



T/Lt (A/Capt.) Captain Wain of 1st Battalion’s A Company was only days away from his 21st birthday when he commanded his Tank ‘Abou-Ben-Adam II’ into action during the Battle of Cambrai 20th November 1917. At 8:50am, after positioning his tank to cover infantry pinned down by a German position, his tank suffered a direct hit by mortar fire. Only Capt. Wain and another crewman survived the attack and although badly wounded, he refused stretcher bearers and charged the German position with a Lewis Gun. Wain would succeed taking both it and many of the garrison prisoners, continuing to fire on the retreating Germans with a rifle before receiving a fatal head wound.

The Battle of Cambrai (20th November 1917 to 4th December 1917) saw the first large scale use of tanks, with 476 tanks used in a major offensive that broke 5 miles deep into the supposedly ‘impenetrable’ Hindenburg Line. The Tank Corps saw the action as vindication of the tanks effectiveness and Cambrai remains a tremendous source of pride and identity for the Royal Tank Regiment. With this in mind, Capt. Wain’s medal set was unveiled for the first time in public during the Royal Tank Regiment’s Remembrance Parade in London. His Victoria Cross was

displayed alongside his Victory Medal, British War Medal 1914-1918 and Death Plaque alongside our running replica Mark IV tank which was positioned a short distance from the Cenotaph. It was accompanied by Museum's Staff, Deputy Director Helen Smith who watched the Regiment and Veterans march past, filming and broadcasting the event live on our Facebook page. To date, [24/11/2017], the footage of the parade has been viewed over 24,000 times and shared by 236 times. The Remembrance Parade marked the start of the RTR's week-long commemoration events, including Battlefield Tours conducted by Tank Museum staff and culminating in the Regiment being present with the Freedom of Cambria.

Meanwhile, an appropriately secure case within our Tank Men Exhibition had been selected for the Victoria Cross. Capt. Wain's medal would feature in a week-long Exhibition in the Tank Men 100 hall for the public to view starting on the Centenary of the Battle of Cambrai. Following this, Capt. Wain's Victoria Cross is to be moved to its permanent location in another appropriately secure display case in our Royal Armoured Corps Benevolent Fund Room which houses our medal collection.

Tudor House, Weymouth Dorothy Hyman

"Tudor House was faced with a crisis earlier this year, we were already operating on a very tight number of Volunteers to cover the Rota, when we suddenly lost three very valuable Volunteers in one week, I should add through no fault of their own.

With the very real threat of having to close Tudor House for the rest of the season, we appealed to the Dorset Echo, who came up trumps and published an full page article, asking for Volunteers to come forward, this was then picked up by Radio Solent and the View from Weymouth.

Many came forward, and from them we have gained 15 excellent, interested and keen new Volunteers.

Hopefully now the future of Tudor House opening to the Public is secured for many years to come.

We ended the Season on a high, with our visitor number up considerably on 2016.

The Artist, Robert Penaranda, who drew the lovely impression of Tudor House which appeared in the article earlier this year in the Western Daily Press, has presented Tudor House with the original, and given permission for us to have prints taken from it to sell at Tudor House, See below !!

They will be available at our Christmas opening, and through out next Season.

This year's **Free Christmas Event is on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December 11-3.30pm**, when we will be taking a light-hearted look at a "Georgian Christmas", the emphasis on opulence and indulgence. (learn about the Christmas Pudding that weighed 900lb !!)



Meet one of our more unusual new "Volunteers" Capt.. Jack, - Find our about the Language of the Fan and see a table laid for a Georgian Feast.

We look forward to seeing you

The Priest's House Museum & Garden, Wimborne

James Webb

The Great Pudding Stir

The Victorian kitchen at the Priest's House Museum and Garden in Wimborne will be serving up Christmas Pudding on Saturday 9 December from 10.00 to 4.00. Visitors are invited to take part in the annual Great Pudding Stir as the museum spreads a little festive cheer.



The recipe used is taken from the indispensable kitchen bible, 'Beeton's Book of Household Management', edited by Mrs Isabella Beeton between 1859 and 1861. The original recipe for 'A Plain Christmas Pudding for Children' contained:

1 lb. of flour, 1 lb. of bread crumbs, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of stoned raisins, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of currants, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of suet, 3 or 4 eggs, milk, 2 oz. of candied peel, 1 teaspoonful of powdered allspice, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful of salt

It took five hours to make and would feed nine or 10 children at an average cost of one shilling and ninepence. Today we add 8oz. of sugar to make it more palatable for our tastes.

Visitors will get a chance to stir a huge bowl of the dry mix and make a Christmas wish, before sampling the final product heated on our coal-fired range.

Admission to the museum is free on the day. There is a charge of £1 per person to take part in the pudding stir (annual ticket not valid).

On the same day the museum will be holding a Community Fundraising Day to support its Revival Project. During the day, between 10.00 and 3.00, you will have a unique opportunity to sponsor an object (see below).

From the 11 to 23 December (closed 13 December and Sundays), 10.00 to 4.00, visitors will be able to celebrate the Christmas period with free admission to the museum. The museum's period rooms will be transformed with traditional decorations. Seasonal refreshments will be available from the Garden Tea Room.

Your chance to tell something that you love it!

Sponsor an object at the Priest's House Museum Community Fundraising Day

The Priest's House Museum invites you to participate in a Community Fundraising Day on Saturday December 9th to support its Revival Project. During the day, between 10.00 and 3.00 you will have a unique opportunity to **sponsor an object** from the museum's collections, **stir a Christmas pudding** and make a wish, **support the raffle** and **enjoy the festive atmosphere**. **Entrance is free.**

The museum has over 35,000 objects that tell the story of the people who have lived in East Dorset. These include artefacts of national significance as well as much beloved local objects from Wimborne and the rural villages.

50 objects have been selected from the collections which deserve sponsorship. They include:

- A Wimborne Railway Station sign

- Valentine cards from the later Georgian to the mid-Victorian period – a collection identified as of national importance
- Objects from the most comprehensive Verwood pottery collection in existence
- Edward Bear Esquire, our Steiff bear
- A World War II wedding dress made of parachute silk

A catalogue will be available on the day to help you pick your favourite objects to sponsor. It will also be possible to make a donation on the Priest's House Museum's web site.

Emma Ayling, Museum Director, says:

“The Revival Project will ensure that the museum, and its important collections are not lost to the community of East Dorset.”



Edward Bear Esquire, made by Steiff around 1905.

For further information please contact the museum on 01202 882533 or visit www.priest-house.co.uk.

Weymouth Museum
David Riches, Collection Manager

Up, Up & Away - We've Moved (but not very far)

The last month has been a very busy one for us in Weymouth. At long last the redevelopment of Brewers Quay seems to be getting underway and the building owners, Versant Developments Ltd needed us to move in readiness for the work. Under the terms of the lease they are obliged to either re-house us elsewhere in the complex, or offsite. They chose the former and have, to our specification with some of their own enhancements, prepared a new location at the opposite end of the buildings. On the elevated ground floor they have created within the former bowling alley space an entry foyer/shop, a local history centre, a large gallery, and a workshop, fully finished and carpeted, with a new electrical installation to our requirements. Over the past month we have moved into this and also an office above.. We are now in the course of setting up the gallery with a mix of old and new displays for a planned reopening on March 1st 2018. Overleaf are some photos of the new spaces.



The new gallery - several display cases await re-assembly

Whilst two of our lady volunteers are setting up the shop area the manikin in Georgian dress is laughing at them! We have to find a suitable home for him.



Work has already been resumed in the new local history centre that benefits from direct access from the new foyer/ shop area