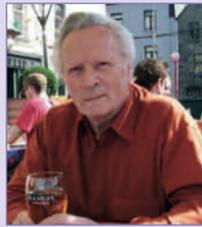




## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends

It was especially pleasing to meet so many BAFM members at our superb Conference in Ironbridge. Their good wishes made me realise that I could not quietly slip away without saying goodbye, to all those Friends who could not be there, but who have been such a tremendous source of encouragement over the last three years.

I came to the role of Chairman unprepared for what lay ahead, happy in my work as North West Co-Ordinator, a role I loved as it brought me into contact with so many wonderful people. However sad circumstances required that I take up the reins of Council leader and I do not regret it. It has been a fascinating experience and I leave confident in the belief that we have made a strong positive start on re-vitalising the organisation.

Now circumstances intervene again and I must cut my workload and focus my efforts in Lancashire. On cue three outstanding individuals, with far more knowledge and experience than I, came forward to take over. I am confident in the belief that they are the generation who will bring our plans to fruition and success to BAFM.

I wish them well, and offer them whatever support I may be able provide. I also thank all those with whom I was privileged to work – they had patience with my mistakes and wisdom where I lacked it. For all their kindness and support I shall always remember them and be grateful.

My best wishes go out to all BAFM Supporters everywhere.

Chairman (Retired)

## APOLOGY:

Apologies to Haris Livas-Dawes and Jaqueline Ryder, Chair of the Friends of Red House who co-wrote last issue's article about the Yorkshire & Humberside regional meeting at Red House – we failed to include a by-line. Haris also wishes to convey the disappointing news that Kirklees Council have decided Red House is to close.

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Richard Bifield provided delegates with an introduction to the

## TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE AT IRONBRIDGE CONFERENCE

Geraldine King, Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum



Friends Committee member Jim Clarke shows a delegate a newspaper brought by Rosemary Marsh.

Rosemary Marsh, BAfM Vice President, was a previous BAfM secretary. Rosemary arrived at the BAfM 2016 Conference at Ironbridge with a page of the Telford Journal dated October 1977, which was

devoted to the 3rd BAfM Conference held here in Ironbridge. Talk about a trip down Memory Lane! Even the adverts were nostalgic. Here is a photograph of three of us who actually attended that conference nearly 40 years ago – Rosemary Marsh, Wendy Waterson and Geraldine King. Check out the actual page on the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Facebook site.



Rosemary Marsh, Wendy Waterson and Geraldine King with the 1977 newspaper page

For full story and more conference photos see page 8.



David de Haan leads BAfM delegates across the Iron Bridge on Sunday 2nd October

**Kate Kuhn, Regional Co-ordinator for London/Middx would like to offer a very warm welcome to the following new London/Middx BAFM Members:**

The Friends of The Army Medical Services Museum

The Friends of The National Archives, Kew

The Friends of Windmill Gardens, Brixton

Individual Member: Tracy Stringfellow from The Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust

# BAfM Newsletter Competition 2016: Results and Judge's comments

## SMALL GROUPS (UP TO 250 FRIENDS):

### First Prize, "Muse" - Friends of Trowbridge Museum



Bernard Rostron presents Award to Trowbridge Friends

"Interesting, varied, and gives you a real feel of not just what the Friends are doing, but of their ultimate aims. I loved the post card and photographs section. The layout is clear and professional with good use of colour. It is a lot of work for one person editing a 22 page newsletter so this is a great credit to the group; I also gave bonus points for BAfM news as this was truly superior - plus the inclusion of information on BAfM and AIM information sheets! I generally liked the appearance and loved the logos - just a shame it is stapled in the corner, this takes away from its otherwise professional air."

"An exciting document in its appearance, style, use of colour and illustrations. I liked the two logos on the cover, one for the museum and one for the Friends. These stood out immediately. It is let down by being held together only by a single staple in one corner and normally I would mark down severely for such a basic "binding" but in this case the overall impact was so good, I felt I couldn't."

"Wide, varied and original - something for everybody. Welcoming and friendly. Gives a good picture of the Association; excellent promotion of BAfM. Visually a nice masthead would give weight to the front cover and attract interest; would also be better without the rules around the edges and with more creative use of colour."

### Runner Up: "Friends Forum" - Friends of Welwyn Hatfield Museums

"Interesting, informative, varied & well-written; lots of news and information. News of BAfM was the best I've seen! I liked the "Did you know?" section and the request for responses on the issues discussed, such as how to engage young people. Didn't like the yellow titles on one page - hard to read and inconsistent in terms of style. Would benefit from improvements in design and layout to

make it more professional."

"Overall a well-produced newsletter. I feel the photographs of display boards add little as they can't be read. Close ups of part of these boards to show examples of their content would have had more impact. The cover announces 40th anniversary of the opening of Welwyn Roman Baths. In the circumstances I would have expected more content on this topic rather than, for example a double page spread of photographs of the "Classic Car and Vintage Day. A worthy and effective entry-- the injection of artistic flair & imagination would make all the difference."

"Good masthead and title - nice clean appearance, Good to see members contributing articles and photographs. BAfM news and conference theme well publicised. Not a page I didn't want to read! Picking this up one gets the feel of an active and thriving group."



Freer Magnus-Welwyn Hatfield

## MIDDLE-SIZED GROUPS (251-750 FRIENDS)

### First Prize: Friends of the Pitt Rivers Museum

Year after year this newsletter has set high standards in this category, impressing with consistently well-written and intriguing content combined with stylish appearance; this year's judges were not disappointed :

"Really enjoyed reading this - easily my choice for first place as it was outstanding in multiple areas! Loved the idea of a children's column; also enjoyed the "Take a Case" section. This was a nice cross between a standard Friends newsletter and a more "academic" magazine. There was lots of Friends news and information on joining; an active attempt to attract new members and I also appreciated the huge number of different contributors producing varied and interesting articles."

"Very professional with immediate pick up appeal and great use of an exhibit as cover illustration. Very readable content with nice intro by Director and Chair. With such a museum there is every opportunity for originality and this opportunity has been taken. How encouraging for an Editor to be able to publish at least 6 articles by Friends and one by a 10 year old!"



"Striking front cover picture. Interesting, varied, well-illustrated content."

"Loved "Children's Choice" - What a great idea! A very professional-looking newsletter with a good variety of content which I found very interesting. It made me want to visit the Museum".

### Joint Runners Up: (i) Friends of Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives

"Love the layout: it is logical and uncluttered while still managing to be eye-catching. Good combination of Friends news and more academic discussion within the same articles. HUGE amount of info on past and upcoming events which would definitely attract new members. Great example of design and clearly a huge undertaking for the volunteer editor and designer - a job well done! This Friends group is clearly very active and enthusiastic and their activities are a pleasure to read about".

"A very attractive full colour newsletter on quality glossy paper. Good layout, use of photographs, clear-cut design. Good contributions from members & lots of info on Friends' trips. But no mention of BAfM!"



Friends of Bristol - joint runner up



### Honourable mention: Friends of the Museum of Carpet, Kidderminster:

make it even better. Friends' news is well documented - especially trips - with photographic involvement as well. Such a number of willing contributors is a sign of a healthy membership. This is a production to be proud of, with a high level of membership involvement. A good read! "

### (ii) Costume & Textile Association, Norwich

"Very well-written and surprisingly interesting - even made me laugh out loud a couple of times! Managed to take a "niche" topic and make it interesting and engaging. Would definitely attract new members and made me want to go and visit. Only criticisms are that the illustrations are sometimes oddly cropped and I found the article on men's bathing wear a bit 'random' - almost as if it was last minute page filler. Also: lack of BAfM news! Would benefit from more creative/original use of illustrations. "

"A good product. Nice illustrations. Marked down for no "mention of BAfM". Also marked down as contributors are Committee members or Museum staff." "Found the cover intriguing - the image drew the eye and interested me in what lay inside. I really liked this - I found the topics interesting and enjoyable. With a bit of work on presentation and inclusion of BAfM news this could easily be a future First Prize winner."

"Well-printed with beautiful cover photo though it has a trade feel rather than a friendly one. The stories of the clothes etc. are fascinating and well-written. I felt that given the beautiful images available it does lack the flair and imagination one associates with fashion and textiles. Only page 13 gives a hint of what this could be like with the addition of that flair, and pages 10 and 11 (all text, no illustration) are a challenge to the reader. Visually the style is attractive, but conservative; the content curatorial - it didn't feel like a newsletter. I feel the fascinating content and beautiful images could be greatly enhanced by a little more originality in design. As it stands I feel they are missing an opportunity to have a much wider appeal; to reach out to a far wider audience and possible new members - especially in these fashion conscious days."

Every judge praised for the way this entry had "made an unusual and very specialised subject accessible and interesting to the casual reader." The inclusion of a hand drawn diagram won praise, as did the fact that many contributors had worked in the carpet industry and so were able to write with knowledgeable enthusiasm. Tips for improving this into a future prizewinner were: reconsider the binding - 1 staple in top left is not professional; have a strong cover image and cover story to draw the reader into the "specialist, but nevertheless fascinating" content. Perhaps consider reducing the number of colours used - design seemed a bit crowded and "busy" and text sometimes hard to read due to poor choice of text colour against background shade.

"That the newsletter pre-empted the opening of the museum by 12 years says something about the loyalty and determination of this group! A Friends group without a Museum!- says more than enough".

“Clearly a passionate group of Friends many of whom have personal experience of the carpet industry.... The Museum is clearly locally important in memorialising the skills and industrial heritage for locals, but the newsletter makes it interesting for tourists as well.”



**Museum of Carpet Friends Committee Members**

Top LH box Membership Secretary Lyn Walker, Top RH box Roger Matthews, Main picture Back Row L to R David Mills, Mandy Poole, John Hopkins, Trustee Charles Talbot, Treasurer Fiona Thompson, Middle Row L to R Vice-Chairman Melvyn Thompson, Heather Goodwin, Janet Morgan, Jan Welsh Carpet Sweep Administrator, Front Row L to R Betty Park, Chairman Colin Lloyd, Secretary Jean Talbot.

## LARGE GROUPS (OVER 750 FRIENDS)

### Joint First Prize: Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery and London Transport Museum Friends

### 2nd Prize: Friends of National Museum, Wales

The results were almost too close to call in this category, with only a couple of marks separating the top 3, and 2 judges feeling Dulwich should win First Prize and 2 Judges voting for London Transport. The decision has been taken therefore to award a joint first prize and a (very close) second, which shares the prize money most fairly between 3 such closely placed groups. The 2 newsletters which share this years first prize have won the award for very different reasons. The Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery's "In View" is a past winner and is unrivalled in combining a stunningly professional appearance with a friendly, welcoming tone. It manages to provide members with an extremely high quality magazine without any pomposity. If judging had been based on quality of both content and design alone, this newsletter would have been far and away the winner. However, the BAfM Award also asks the Judges to look at the level of involvement of non-committee members and the amount of Friends' news. For "approachability", and team work, LTM Friends are unbeatable, and while the content is much less artistic and "professional" than Dulwich's In View, for its chosen audience LTM Friends News is right on target. This newsletter earns its place among the prizewinners for exceptional participation by its readership and exceptional encouragement of readers' contributions. This spirit of open collaboration is its greatest strength.

### Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery - "In View"

"Really well written and enjoyable; nice variety of topic, particularly the article on the shop. Stylish, with a light, friendly and lively tone. Just a shame there weren't more articles and more Friends' news. Easily my favourite in this category!"

"A cornucopia of material... well designed throughout. Great cover image and creative title, good choice of type face, tint areas and imaginative use of photos – how nice to see cut outs and coloured headings. ... As a production and face of the Friends it ticks all the boxes and would make a new reader picking it up seriously consider joining – so a good recruiter too."

"An excellent newsletter. Being a picture gallery does of course give scope for good illustrations. Very full and wide ranging events and lectures; excellent insert for booking and/or joining. Negatives: all articles are by Committee or Gallery staff, lack of Friends' news; no mention of BAfM!"

### LTM Friends News:

"Nice vintage feel. A little heavy on the eye (small, dense text, unexciting image layout and I'm a little confused by the number of background colours used). But LOVED the huge variety of contributions and contributors, including poetry, letters, book reviews and news from far-flung places. Really enjoyed reading this one."

"Liked the poetry and book reviews. Enjoyed the Necropolis article and read snippets aloud to my family. Layout looks "chunky" but a very varied and enjoyable read."

"Varied & interesting; Waterloo Necropolis article fascinating; WW1 vehicle article well-timed. Contributions are as varied as they come! Appearance businesslike and glossy... A pity so many great illustrations have been squared up and ruled around when with imagination they could add even more to the presentation and break up the rather rigid type-setting. Colour headings would also help. As a picture of a thriving group this does a good job."

### Friends Newsletter & Magazine, National Museum Wales:

"Good balance and variety of quality of articles with nice choice of illustrations & cover images. Having both Welsh and English articles maximises accessibility. News of BAfM was limited, but took an unusual angle. Occasional strange distribution of articles across pages. The parts of this newsletter that are good are very, very good, but quality isn't always consistent and layout is a little old fashioned – has potential to be even better."

"A very good newsletter "and magazine". Interesting, well illustrated and varied articles. No obvious information on how to join, and little in the way of Friends activities so it is possibly not surprising to read the sad news that "Last year saw a reduction in membership". This magazine contains excellent material, which with more information on the Friends and some modernisation in its design could be a real incentive for joining and a great recruitment tool."

"With such a wealth of material to call upon it couldn't be anything but interesting – and to a wide variety of readers. Any editor I think would be happy to put this issue to bed and the Museum itself should be happy to see its Friends represented thus. It must be a delight to any editor to have 13 contributors of such quality in subjects ranging from engineering, painting, Chinese jade, maps... and even a murder mystery! It should perhaps be called Friends' Magazine and newsletter as magazine is the feel one gets from size and weight. If the cover image was bled out all over with a well-designed masthead this would reinforce the magazine feel. The design is a good effort, but with a little tweak could be even better – the layout suffers from "squared up, half tone syndrome". Colour headings, cut outs and bleedouts would improve visual impact."

# GIFTS, GRANTS AND GAMES: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP IN SALFORD

## Rosemary Boardman & Monica Wright, Friends of Salford Museums

2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the formation of the group now known as "The Friends of Salford Museums Association" and inspired by the recent exhibition "Friends in Deed" at Bolton Museum, the committee decided to hold a similar event in Salford. Working closely with professional colleagues Amy Goodwin (Exhibitions Officer) and Peter Ogilvie (Collections), planning began in April 2015 for an opening by BAfM Chairman Bernard Rostron the following year.



Former BAfM Chair, Bernard Rostron opened the Salford Exhibition

The museum at Peel Park has undergone several major refurbishments over the past few years, including the redecoration of the Victorian (art) Gallery using monies provided by the Friends, and the new FSMA exhibition gave staff the opportunity to redesign the Lifetimes Gallery in preparation for future developments.

One of the biggest issues raised at the commencement of the project was the need to showcase items purchased by the Friends, many of which lay buried in the storerooms not having seen the light of day for many years.

By late summer 2015, a dedicated team of committee members had begun to research the accessions registers and files to tease out gifts and purchases made over the 60 years, a job made more difficult as at times the records were sketchy. However, after a while, it became noticeable that during the 1970s a large number of board and card games had been purchased; this then became a focus for the display and the title.

A list was drawn up and after consultation with Amy and Peter, items were selected and an overall theme chosen for the exhibition. The games were then viewed and one, "The Ivory Castle Game" originally produced as a dental health promotion by Gibbs

Dentifrice was chosen to be reproduced (with permission from Unilever plc) as a large interactive floor game. This has been played and enjoyed by young and old alike over the spring and summer months. Other games such as "Grandfather's Whiskers" and "Rush Hour" were also reproduced as large scale playing cards.

Games were not the only items chosen for the exhibition however. Over the years, "The Friends" have purchased numerous art works (including Lowry's 1929 pencil sketch of Clifton House Farm), local china and glassware, furniture and other artefacts including the Pilkington Pottery Archive and many of these also were on display in the gallery.

We had hoped to have an interactive musical exhibit (to add to our talking chair of memories), in the form of an Antonelli Street Piano, but after commissioning a conservation inspection it was deemed to be in such a poor state of repair that playing it was impossible. Instead, to keep to the spirit of the time, we purchased and played a CD of Street Piano music from Saydisc Records.

As the title suggests, the exhibition did not just feature purchases and gifts. Large banner displays and boards plus a time line emphasised other aspects of our work.

Over the years, FSMA has been instrumental in obtaining grants towards purchases and work at the museums. Of these, the most notable have been the support Friends have given to the restoration of Ordsall Hall and the recent loan of the magnificent Tudor marriage bed, as well as



A small selection of the 1930's games collected by the Friends

purchase of Lowry's "Bargoed" painting (now in the Lowry Gallery) and other conservation work associated with the galleries. In addition, working with the HLF, we have supported the Bridgewater Canal project and the work of a co-ordinator for World War 1 commemorations. Horticulture students have also benefited from our bursaries to support RHS courses at Ordsall Hall. All these are what we considered Friends' "hidden contributions" including our work compiling and editing the local heritage magazine "Lifetimes Link".

Since the exhibition opened, membership of FSMA has grown and interest has been stimulated by our rolling power-point presentation showing group activities and meetings as well as slides of old Salford. Reports from the museum record that the exhibition has been very popular with "something for everyone". This has led the staff to consider the future use of this gallery as one where collections buried in those dark store-rooms can be brought out once again for all to see – a really positive conclusion to a successful exhibition.



Visitors try out the Gibbs Dentifrice floor game "The Ivory Castle" promoting dental care

# BAFM 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 1 OCTOBER 2016 AT IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

– Alan Swerdlow

There is so much to enjoy at Ironbridge for a delightful and enlightening break, made all the more pleasurable thanks to the thoughtful and thorough planning by the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust: thank you all, particularly Geraldine King, Chairman and David de Haan, vice Chairman who hosted the event so ably. The BAFM Co-ordinators met on Friday afternoon for a useful discussion on recent matters of concern around the regions.

For quite a few of us who had traveled any distance, we started on Friday evening with dinner at the Valley Hotel with a slide presentation of the region by Richard Bifield and were introduced to Daniel Jessop, winner of the new BAFM travel bursary. On his return, Daniel's report will appear in a future Journal. Bernard Rostron made a surprise presentation to me as ex vice-Chair, in recognition of my support in the past years.

Saturday was dull and wet but that did not spoil what had been planned. We met in a large and comfortable room at Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron. Chairman Bernard Rostron read a message from our President Dame Rosemary Butler who was unable to attend. He encouraged us to use the event to talk to each other and exchange ideas. The first speaker was Sir Neil Cossons who reminded us that at our Penzance Conference in 2008 he had urged us to consider winding up

and forming a new organization with a different focus. He referred to the need to consider who are our successors and that we must embrace new media, look at our museum's tripadvisor profile (do we get good or poor remarks?) and that Friends must have an open mind. With many museums closing the future may not be bright, yet equally, many are producing good results.

The first Keynote speaker was David de Haan, a former Director at Ironbridge, who talked about Marketing. The heritage provides a new opportunity for day visits. We must find where we are not reaching with our publicity. With examples on screen he showed that photos of people must be featured on leaflets rather than museum treasures, and put the name at the top of the cover. Their Benchmarking study will feature in a future Journal. People must join Friends to support their museum not to get in cheap, but newsletters, discounts and events were still important elements of the package. One interesting example was of a Grandparent admission concession – the children become advocates and enthuse their parents.

David touched on the problem of museums taking their Friends in-house to control the members and the funds raised. He asked whether we included the value of volunteer activity in our annual reports and suggested that life membership should be removed as a membership category. While Gift Aid was valuable extra income the benefits has to be limited to meet HMR&C rules.

The second Keynote speaker, Tony Berry from the National Trust, told us what marketing has worked, and not worked, for the National Trust but it all starts with a great visitor experience. We must identify the groups of people



Barry Lejeune enthusiastically introduces next years conference.

who might be interested in our offer: the existing audience is the best guide. Surprise and delight and the quality of the interaction bring return visits. He used the four letter code AIDA: awareness – interest – decision – action as an aid to success.

The NT is aware that their volunteers – room guides etc. – are getting older and the next generation need a different kind of involvement. They do not want to be tied down but look for personal development.

Not daunted by light rain we split into groups for guided tours including the Old Furnace before a delicious lunch in a vast historic building at the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron.

After lunch we held our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting. Further to his written Chairman's report, Bernard Rostron referred to the many changes BAFM has made in recent years: Strategic Development Group (SDG), a new web site, e newsletter, legal adviser, Travel Bursary and new insurance benefits. A revised Handbook for Friends was at the printers. The Consultant's report funded by the Arts Council of England was being implemented.

Bernard took us through the formalities of the AGM. New Chair Dr Alison Hems was elected as were first vice Chair Alex Walker and second vice Chair Georgia Vossou. There were vacancies for co-ordinators in the South East Western Counties and the West Midlands due to the retirement of Hassi Shah-Leverett and David Waterhouse. Peter Walton has retired as Project



Officer for Volunteer Management. Tamasin Wedgwood was also retiring as Journal editor and had proposed her daughter Georgia, an archaeology graduate, as her successor. Their contributions to the work of BAFM were acknowledged with thanks. Proposals from the SDG were approved including modest subscriptions increases with the exception of the proposal for a new Life Membership category which was sent back to the SDG.

Anne Stobo introduced Daniel Jessop who had won the new Bursary Award funded by a generous anonymous donation. Bernard presented the Newsletter Awards to the Friends of: Trowbridge, Welwyn Hatfield, Pitt Rivers, Bristol, Costume & Textile Association, Dulwich, London Transport and National Museums of Wales.

Alan Swerdlow made a presentation from Council to Bernard of an engraved glass vase. Alan reminded members that Bernard had taken over as Chairman shortly after the AGM two years ago when Mike Fayle had been taken ill. With his wife Beryl's support Bernard had led many changes since then and he was leaving BAFM in a far stronger position. They were themselves more than fully involved as Chairmen of two of the museums in their area that had closed just the previous day due to Lancashire County Council cuts. They were hoping to find a way to rescue these historic museums.



Geraldine King, Chairman of the Friends of IGMT, welcomes new BAFM Vice-chair, Georgia Vossou

Barry le Jeune from Friends of London Transport Museum introduced next year's conference to be held on Saturday 30 September at LTM. There will be add-on events such as a visit to their Acton Depot store. The theme for the day will be *Museums, Members and Friends: a harmonious relationship?* Those of us who were at the last Conference and AGM at LTM will know we are in for an excellent event at a fascinating location. Put

the date in your forward planner now!

Katie Foster, a marketing and tourism consultant with vast experience in our sector, was the final Keynote speaker. Katie advised we need to see things from other people's point of view, providing different messages for different audiences – even the tone of voice is crucial. We must embrace new media and also befriend our funders – tea and cake always helps! Another four letters: FOMO – fear of missing out. We must offer authentic experiences – what is in it for me?; never break a promise; provide value for time as well as money.

Finally, we split into three break-out groups. 1) How can you find out more about the Friends and their motivation? Use Survey Monkey questionnaires with no more than ten clear questions. Make use of the old data you will have on file. Personal enquiries through chatty telephone calling to members may produce the best information and be a useful way to keep in contact. 2) The challenge of Friends or Membership schemes. It is not clear exactly what the difference is and there are lots of different models. Some Friends groups have been seen as a challenging irritant to their museum particularly when they are free to campaign. That is avoided with an in-house membership scheme, but Friends are a community, which members are not. 3) How to attract younger members? Clearly social media is crucial, as is contact with schools and teachers. Find out what schools are studying. There are family learning opportunities such as 'Dads and Lads'. Being able to offer a venue, possibly free of charge, can bring new people to the museum. For many minority groups there is no culture of involvement in museums or committee work.

We ended this thought-provoking day with rousing remarks from the incoming Chairman Dr Alison Hems from Bath Spa University. She referred to the elephant in the room: *What do Friends need to become in a new and different world?* BAFM wants to embrace that elephant! She, Alex

Walker and Georgia Vossou, look forward to helping deliver changes. There are big challenges ahead.

The hospitable Friends of Ironbridge provided an excellent buffet and drinks, clearly demonstrating how and why they are such a success. They have recently received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I noticed in their Quarterly magazine that their fundraising – which has reached over £1 million – even has a 'Pig Club' whose members fund the purchase of pigs for Blists Hill Open Air Museum. It seems that money is raised by selling bacon and pork to their members – does this imply that they eat their exhibits?!



Those of us who were able to stay over until Sunday enjoyed bright sunshine for a coach tour of Ironbridge starting at the iconic bridge itself. As the consultant who wrote the conservation report for next year's remedial work on the bridge, David de Haan gave a brilliant talk about the bridge – we learned so much about the history and manufacture of that wonderful construction. At the Toll House David told us that Prince Charles had to be loaned money so he could pay the Toll to walk over the bridge. There was a hidden message in the toll rates with Royalty not excused payment – perhaps due to the strong Quaker involvement in all the development works of the Gorge.

One highlight, among many, was the visit to Jackfield Tile Museum, its collection of tiles including designs by Salvador Dali and Edward Bawden as well as the most comprehensive display of encaustic tiles. This Museum merits a longer visit in the future. Then on to the 50 acre open air museum at Blists Hill. On a sunny day it was a hive of activity. Having been given a season ticket for all the museums we may be back soon. This was an excellent Conference. Those members who were unable to attend missed so many treats. Another reminder: don't forget to put next year's date in your planner.

# A WEEKEND OF SPECTACULAR GLADITORIAL EVENTS AT BRADING ROMAN VILLA

Meet the Gladiators: Friday 05 August, Living History: weekend 06-07 August 2016

- Hassi Shah-Leverett, Regional Coordinator SE (W) Region

A warm and sunny weekend at Brading Roman Villa on the Isle of Wight was the perfect setting to experience the thrill and excitement of life during the Roman Empire. The weekend of events was organised with great attention to detail by the Friends of Brading Roman Villa led by their chairman David Reeves.

The proceedings began on Friday evening with the 'Meet the Gladiators' event which was run as a fundraising event for sponsors. The evening kicked off with a hugely entertaining and informative presentation from Dr Jerry Toner (Director of Studies in Classics at Cambridge University and author of 'How to Manage Your Slaves' and 'Release Your Inner Roman') on the History of the Roman Games. The presentation was made all the more interesting as Dr Toner weaved in anecdotes and made satirical connections between the politics of the Roman Empire days of Gladiators



demonstration of battle tactics

and modern day Britain with its complexities of the recent referendum, Brexit and the rise and fall of politicians! What a delight it was to be part of this event and what

a coup for the Friends of BRV to have secured such an eminent speaker. Friends Chairman, David Reeves had seized the opportunity to invite Dr Toner after a chance meeting last year in the Villa tea rooms, where he had overheard a four year old boy exclaim "Daddy, they've got all your books!". David was intrigued and quickly learned that "daddy" was Dr Jerry Toner.



gladiators fight



Romans at Brading

Dr Toner's presentation was followed by a brief interlude for food; we were then seated in a Big Top and treated to a gladiatorial spectacle and reconstruction of a Roman Games as it would have been 2000 years ago. We witnessed the different types of gladiators brought to life (and death) in the arena and joined in the crowd participation essential for helping the Emperor determine the fate of the losing gladiator.

Of course, one evening of the spectacle simply wasn't enough and we returned bright and early the following day to enjoy the various living history displays featuring a kids army, reproduction Roman weapons demonstrated by the makers themselves, Roman cooking, metal working and calligraphy, and finally military training demonstrations with Roman Soldiers in full uniform. The knowledge and expertise of the exhibitors was second to none.

The hard work that had gone into organising this weekend of events was truly evident and no doubt included many many hours of planning and the help of numerous volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who ensured we had a great experience with special thanks to David Reeves who led and motivated his team of volunteers throughout the weekend with his own inimitable style and humour.



Roman everyday life



**For those who would like to know more about Dr Jerry Toner or about the Roman way of life, the following information is taken from Dr Toner's Biography:**

I am the Director of Studies in Classics at Churchill and an Affiliated Lecturer at the Classics Faculty. My research looks at Roman cultural history, with a focus on trying to look at history 'from below'. My PhD looked at the role of leisure in ancient Rome and was published as *Leisure and Ancient Rome* (Polity, 1995). I have recently published a book on the Games: *The Day Commodus Killed a Rhino: understanding the Roman games* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).

My book, *Popular Culture in Ancient Rome* (Polity, 2009), analysed the life of the non-elite in Roman society and built on the work I started in my PhD. I have also published a number of pieces looking at aspects of non-elite Roman life:

- "Barbers, barbershops, and searching for Roman popular culture," *Papers of the British School at Rome*, 2015.
- "The intellectual life of the non-elite," in Lucy Grig (ed.), *Popular Culture in the Ancient World*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- "Social relations and constructions of social identity among Roman non-elites" *Oxford University Press*, *Oxford Handbooks Online*, 2015.
- *The Ancient World* (Profile, 2015)
- *The Day Commodus Killed a Rhino: understanding the Roman games* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).
- *Latin Key Words* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2002)
- *Greek Key Words* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2003)
- *Rethinking Roman History* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2001)

In a chapter of my popular culture book, *Common Scents, Common Senses*, I started looking at the senses in Roman history, trying to see how different a sensory world the non-elite inhabited. I have edited a book, *A Cultural History of the Senses in Antiquity* (Bloomsbury, 2014), which looks at the senses from a wider perspective. I have also contributed a chapter on "Smell and Christianity" to a volume edited by Mark Bradley on *Smell in Antiquity* (Routledge, 2015).

My book *Homer's Turk: How Classics Shaped Ideas of the East* (Harvard University Press, 2013) shows how historians and travel writers have used classical sources to help create various images of Islam and the Orient. In *Roman Disasters* (Polity, 2013), I look at the important role that disasters played in Roman life and culture, ranging from floods and fires to warfare and famine. I think the Roman non-elite had a lot of mental health issues but faced and expressed them in a completely different way from the modern world. A chapter of my *Popular Culture* book looked at this, while a chapter of the *Disasters* book looks at the psychological effect of these traumatic events. I have also contributed a chapter based on this to William Harris' edited book on *Mental Disorders in the Classical World* (Brill, 2013).

Another important part of my work is trying to popularise Classics and Ancient History. I have written five introductory books:

- *The Ancient World* (Profile, 2015)
- *The Day Commodus Killed a Rhino: understanding the Roman games* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).
- *Latin Key Words* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2002)
- *Greek Key Words* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2003)
- *Rethinking Roman History* (Cambridge: Oleander Press, 2001)

I have also written a guide to managing slaves in the guise of a Roman nobleman, *Marcus Sidonius Falx*:

- *How to Manage Your Slaves* (Profile, 2014)

Falx's follow-up is a Roman self-help book:

- *Release Your Inner Roman* (Profile, 2016)

My books have been translated into twelve languages: Chinese, Dutch, French, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Taiwanese, Thai and Turkish. After completing my PhD in Classics at Cambridge, I spent 10 years as a Fund Manager in the City of London, where I managed US\$15bn in global bond, currency and asset allocation funds, before returning to the ancient world in 2006.

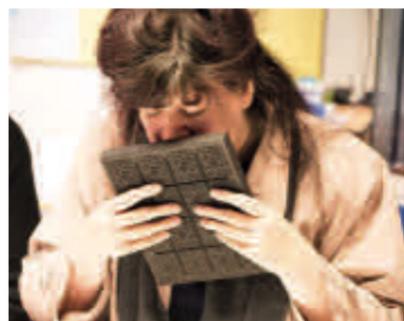
Hassi Shah-Leverett seemingly unphased by ferocious gladiators



## INTRODUCING THE NEW REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR NORTH-EAST ENGLAND, CHARLOTTE SPINK



I took up this post in December 2015, and I thought it high time I introduced myself. In my professional role, I am the Access and Community Engagement Officer at Durham University Museums, based at the Oriental Museum in beautiful Durham. My role is to make the museum collections, buildings and services as accessible to as wide an audience as possible by reducing or removing any barriers that prevent people from engaging with us. This can be as simple as arranging training from the Alzheimer's Society for our front of house, curatorial and learning teams, so that we can better understand the challenges people with dementia and their families and friends face when they visit, and improve our service. Through this training, the staff were able to become Dementia Friends (a brilliant scheme which everyone should sign up to!) and we all now proudly wear our badges. I also worked closely with our wonderful museum curators to develop a series of touch tours for people with visual impairments. This group are often (inadvertently) excluded from our standard tour programmes, so creating bespoke, tactile handling sessions with has proved a good way of reaching out to this audience and building a relationship with them.



Touch tour

I also manage the under 5s programme, deliver an archaeology club for children aged 7-11 years and run our community events programme which includes Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, and Lunar New Year, celebrated across East Asia. To run these events we rely on the enthusiasm, and passion of local community and faith groups, all of whom happily contribute their time and expertise for free.

I also sit on the committee of the Friends of the Oriental Museum, which tirelessly supports the work of the museum both financially and through volunteering. The Friends have helped the museum to acquire new objects and regularly supports gallery redevelopments. The Friends have also catalogued the museum library which is an invaluable resource for University staff and students. With help from the Friends, the Oriental Museum now attracts around 32,000 visitors a year.

Since December 2015 I have been making contact with the Friends groups in my patch which consists of County Durham, Northumberland, Cleveland and Tyne and Wear.

In July, I hosted our first regional meeting at the Oriental Museum. A small, but highly dedicated bunch from the Friends of Segedunum Roman Fort, Friends of the Hatton and the Friends of Sunderland Museums and my own Friends group all attended and it was a great opportunity for members to discuss current issues, including the as yet unknown impact of Brexit on the museum sector and continued austerity agenda. We were lucky



enough to have the Museums Association north-east regional representative, (and coincidentally the Head of Durham University Museums) Dr Craig Barclay, at the meeting as well to talk about the MA's position on these issues. He reinforced something we all know already, but that is perhaps not articulated enough by museum professionals: in challenging financial times, and in a climate of cuts and reduce budgets, museums of all kinds will be more reliant on volunteers than ever to deliver many of their services. Friends groups obviously have a critical role to play here.

After a tour of the newly refurbished galleries, we rounded off the meeting with a fantastic object handling session led by Rachel Barclay, Curator of the Oriental Museum. Rachel had selected a range of contemporary and historic Japanese woodblock prints from the museum store for us to handle – with gloves on of course. Rachel explained how woodblock prints are produced, different genres of print and the historic and artistic context Oriental Museum holdings.

I hope to host another regional event soon and would be happy to hear from any museums in the north-east which may be interested in hosting us.

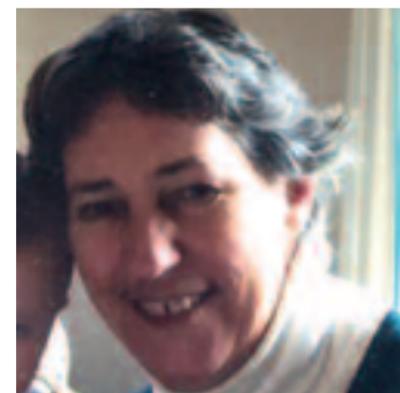
I've also been getting to know my BAFM colleagues and fellow co-ordinators at our regular meetings, and by the time this edition goes to print, we will have had our national conference at Ironbridge Gorge and have our new Chair and Vice-chairs in place, who, I am sure will be able to lead BAFM into the future.

## INTRODUCING MIKE EVANS – NEW REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR SOUTH EAST SOUTHERN COUNTIES

Mike Evans is taking over from Anne Stobo in the South East (Southern) Region. Mike is a trustee of a number of charities including the Maidstone Museums' Foundation – a friends' group. Formerly a local government director (until 2006) now Mike devotes much of his time to voluntary endeavours. He is particularly interested in issues of governance (especially of charities), and fundraising.



## MEET PENELOPE "MUFF" DUDGEON – NEW BAFM REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE SOUTH WEST



Muff joined BAFM in Jan 2016. A graduate in Heritage and Landscape from Plymouth University, Muff ran her own tourism business in the West Country for 10 years during which time she visited many of the regions museums and galleries.

Muff was the inaugural Chairman of the Dartmoor Decorative and Fine Art Society and continues to be involved with this organisation in the South West.

## MICHAEL BRIGHTMAN: BAFM COORDINATOR NORTH WEST REGION

Michael has a personal and professional interest in museums and industrial heritage and is founding chair of Friends of Marsh Mill, Thornton, which acts as the independent voice for an 18th Century windmill complete with original and working machinery. An award-winning general manager with an employed and self-employed background in the leisure industry, Michael moved into academia a number of years ago and is now a Lecturer in Economics. He recognises the value of volunteers and friends to heritage organisations hence his role within BAFM.



## THE BODY EXTENDED – A VISIT TO 'SCULPTURE AND PROSTHETICS', AN EXHIBITION AT THE HENRY MOORE INSTITUTE IN LEEDS, OCTOBER 2016

### - Dr C Alvin, Friends of the Thackray Medical Museum

It's reasonable to assume that if you're a Friend or a visitor to the Thackray Museum, you'll be familiar with prostheses. We regard them as vital aids to people who've been injured and have lost part of their body as a consequence. Even the fairly primitive wooden leg, strapped onto the body by leather belts and braces, was capable of transforming the person's life, though usually with continual discomfort, and no attempt at disguise. In a medical context, form and function are equals, and aesthetics are secondary. But some of today's masterpieces of prosthetic technology both have an inherent beauty, and can also enhance the life of the individual beyond what was possible before the injury or disease destroyed the missing part. An exhibition at the Henry Moore Institute in the centre of Leeds integrated the perceptions of prosthetics of a variety of artists into a display which brought together items borrowed not only from the Thackray collection, but from several museums in London and elsewhere. Prosthetics were interpreted as pieces of sculpture – and after all, sculptors used similar techniques as designers and fitters of prostheses. Plaster, moulds, casts, and attention to the fine detail of surface textures are common to all. And the artist has long been involved in the design of prostheses: when mutilated soldiers injured in World War I began returning to their home countries in their thousands, artists helped surgeons to find acceptable and unique solutions to restoring the devastated faces and bodies. This exhibition went further than that, also exploring how sculpture and medical science have augmented the human figure, expanding its reach and power to move faster and reach further. I came out diverted and intrigued. It was an exhibition that made you reflect, and made you aware of how differently people think and approach a subject. I thought of prostheses as purely medical objects, with their place not only in medical history, but also at the forefront of medical invention. Now I see another aspect of them.



# IN SEARCH OF STOCKINGS

## Mary Hawkins, Friends of Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum

In February, a group of 11 Friends went to Newstead Abbey. This was for a private showing of the J R Allen Stocking Collection, which used to be housed in the Nottingham Costume Museum and was rumoured to have been displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851. A bit of recent detective work had revealed the stockings were now housed in the Abbey, although the collection is still owned by Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. This “detective work” had begun with an enquiry posted on ‘Ravelry’. Ravelry is a rapidly growing social knitting community on the Internet. It currently has some six million members worldwide. Besides listing and reviewing many types of yarns and patterns, and offering help with difficulties, there are discussion forums ranging from the frankly frivolous to the seriously historical. Many academics use it as a good source, and a particularly fast way of connecting to others in the same area

of interest, especially via the Historic Knitting Group. Several people on that forum have visited Ruddington from as far away as America and have received help in their researches.

Back in May 2015, a posting on Ravelry enquired what researchers use as source material, who had been our mentors, and what errors of logic had we made. Carol Kocian, of Kensington, Maryland USA, cited GH Hurts of Chilwell and also Jeremy Farrell of the Nottingham Costume Museum. In particular she referenced his book *Socks and Stockings*. Throughout this book were placed photos of several stockings from the J R Allen Collection, the earliest of which was a frame knitted stocking dating back to 1700. It was thought that the collection had originally been exhibited in the Great Exhibition of 1851. I was curious as to where these stockings were, now that the museum has closed. A simple email enquiry to Nottingham City

Council brought back the answer - Newstead Abbey. Although not on general display, I was offered a private viewing. I could not be selfish and keep this to myself! Obviously I told the Framework Knitters Museum. I also mentioned the Collection to the Knitting History Forum, which meets every November in London under the chairmanship of former knitwear designer Sandy Black, who is currently Professor of the London College of Fashion. She was most enthusiastic. The idea snowballed and on Tuesday 23rd February, Sandy came all the way from her home in Brighton to join a group of Friends for the visit.

Judith Edgar, Curator of Costume and Textiles Collection for Nottingham City Museums and Galleries based at Newstead Abbey, welcomed us with the words “you have come to see the collection supposed to have been shown at the 1851 exhibition”. Judith had me at the word “supposed”. She

had been digging a little further and found a reference to 1862, and it is actually unclear whether this collection appeared in 1851, 1862 or both. What is clear is that all the stockings pre-dated that. The earliest dated back to 1700. The collection was presented in the Livingstone Room (yes, that Dr. Livingstone - he stayed in the Abbey for six months, played Blindman’s Buff with the children of the house, and fell and cracked his head on the fireplace in the Baronial Hall!)

Some 20 items were shown to the group. Much comment was made on the patterns, and the fineness of the work. There were the most elaborate lace and cable knitted patterns, and surface embroidery. All appear to be frame knitted - there were no hand knitted items here. Besides stockings, price lists were displayed containing “shammies, dandies, ticklers and spliced seats”, which set the imagination going! As marvellous as the stockings were, perhaps the most

amazing piece was a remarkable frame-knitted shirt in all colours of the rainbow, with stripes, squares, triangles and other odd shapes. If it had not been definitely dated to 1880, one would have thought it a 1970’s piece.

A guided tour of the house followed. Once an Augustinian Priory, but later called an Abbey, Newstead Abbey achieved fame by being the home of Lord Byron. Although better known for his book *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage*, his poems and his scandalous extra-marital affairs, Byron nevertheless has another important side. His maiden speech in the House of Lords was in respect of the punishment that should be meted out to those taking part in the Luddite Riots. He had a certain amount of sympathy for framework knitters’ conditions and poor pay and he actually spoke in parliament on the plight of the framework knitters. Byron was also the father of Ada Lovelace, mathematician and often regarded as the first computer programmer. At

Newstead we saw Byron’s bedroom, sumptuously decorated, and its dressing room, in contrast stripped back to bare brick and beams, showing its link with the original priory construction.

Lunch in the cafe was followed by an extravagant display from the resident peacock and a walk in the grounds, on a brilliantly beautiful day. Sandy then continued on her way to a seminar in Huddersfield, the rest of us to Ruddington. For me, the whole day was really memorable - having lived my childhood in Mansfield, we often had Sunday picnics under the copper beach tree in the Abbey grounds, so it was a nostalgia trip as well. Amazing that such a day came about because of a one line reference, via a book, on the Internet!

[www.facebook.com/FrameworkKnitter](http://www.facebook.com/FrameworkKnitter)  
[www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk](http://www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk)  
[www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk/friends-of-the-museum/](http://www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk/friends-of-the-museum/)

## CHALLENGING TIMES FOR FRIENDS OF SUNDERLAND MUSEUMS AS COUNCILLORS REFUSE TO RECONSIDER

### Ashley Sutherland, Elsie Ronald, Neil Sinclair, FOSUMS

In the spring issue of “Fosums News”, Neil Sinclair had written that the Friends needed to start fighting for the very survival of Sunderland Museums, and after recent developments FOSUMS feel strongly that today these words are truer than ever. Elsie Ronald writes that any help Bafm and its members and readers of this Journal can give to help save the museums will be gratefully received.

The Council plan to remove the Rowland Burdon and Jack Crawford rooms from Museum use and use them to house the Lending Library, while stripping the rooms of most of the purpose built facilities that make them ideal for talks and activities for families, schools groups and people with disabilities. A particular sore point for FOSUMS is that these exceptional facilities were funded by the HLF and by FOSUMS fundraising.

Friends Chair, Ashley Sutherland explains: “The proposed move of the City Library into the Rowland Burdon/Jack Crawford room without consultation has been a most distressing matter to deal with and FOSUMS are utterly opposed to it. The Rowland Burdon/Jack Crawford Room is an extremely valuable resource, having been established as a purpose-

designed meeting room... the electrically powered black-out blinds, moveable internal partition, integral large screen, sound system, acoustic panelling and catering facilities make it ideal for the Museum’s education work as well as for the groups such as FOSUMS which meet there. FOSUMS members have corresponded with Councillors and put forward an alternative proposal for a suitable place to house the library within the Museum, but as of end of September 2016, this suggestion had not been acknowledged by any of the Councillors’ replies. We at FOSUMS feel dismayed and disheartened by the turn of events.... Our trust in the politicians is badly dented.”

Neil Sinclair concurs: “While we are of course very disappointed by the loss of the space for meetings, we feel especially strongly that it will no longer be available for school parties, children’s holiday activities, community groups and City events such as the One World Party. The rooms are in use almost every week day, sometimes by 2 groups. There is little doubt that the almost £10,000 income from school groups will be drastically reduced when the museum ceases to provide adequate facilities. While we would reluctantly accept

that part of the Museum might have to be used by the Library for financial reasons, there is no justification for selecting the area that has the most extensive facilities for a particular use. The Council has avoided our queries on this. Instead of answering our questions, the Council talk of the supposed advantages of the “co-location” of the 2 departments in one building. Yet the reason for the City Library moving out of the Museum 20 years ago was so that both services could expand. Returning the Library to the Museum inevitably means these services will now be reduced. Space for the Museum will be greatly reduced as Library services brought into the building displace displays and Museum collections will be removed to off-site locations to provide room for library stock. FOSUMS have contacted the Museums Association, which sent a letter reminding the Council of their responsibilities under the MA Code of Ethics.

The Committee would like to thank all those who contacted their Councillors about the loss of facilities. FOSUMS are continuing to campaign against the decision and to draw attention to its consequences. We would welcome all help with our campaign.

# FRIENDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

## Friends Play Large Role in Securing Bowes Museum's Future

Friends of the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle



The silver swan

*This musical automaton is much loved and over the last century has become the icon of The Bowes Museum. The Silver Swan dates from 1773 and was first recorded in 1774 as a crowd puller in the Mechanical Museum of James Cox, a London showman and dealer.*

Largely thanks to the Friends, The Bowes Museum met the fundraising deadline and now has £2 million (£1 million raised, matched pound-for-pound by £1 million from the HLF Catalyst Endowment Fund) on deposit. This will join the endowment set up at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by John Bowes and will produce an additional income of about £75,000 per year. Before explaining the consequences, let's first say a huge, heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who contributed, because it is abundantly clear that the target would not have been reached without your magnificent support.

The new Endowment, itself untouchable, will undoubtedly contribute to the Museum's long-term survival. Its income will contribute to meeting the Museum's annual costs of around £1.5 million, towards which about half is raised by admission charges. The rest comes from profits in the shop and cafe,

grants from Durham County Council and DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport) and of course from the Friends. In a time of County Council cuts and budget pressure on all sides, this is especially valuable.

The organisers have been somewhat cagey about revealing whether the other bodies that were in the scheme have met with similar success to that of The Bowes Museum. In total 33 institutions, including such major establishments as The National Portrait Gallery and the V&A were accepted and, anecdotally, the indications are that several have struggled.

If this proves so, then the Friends' contribution to ensuring The Bowes Museum's success is all the more remarkable. We can only expect, however, that County Council support will continue to decline and other funding will be harder to obtain. This means that the Friends' continuing efforts will become ever more vital in preserving this great national treasure for the future.

### Friends of Llancaiach Fawr:

Congratulations to Llancaiach Fawr on achieving gold status at the Junior Design Awards 2016. The Manor came second in the 'Best family experience/family day out'

group in the reader voted categories, beating the likes of Longleat, The World of Beatrix Potter and *The Making of Harry Potter* at the Warner Bros Studios. The Junior Design Awards is an annual celebration to recognise products, brands and experiences that enhance the lives of parents and prospective parents.

Lesley Edwards, Assistant General Manager at Llancaiach Fawr said, "Thank you to all the readers who took the time to vote for us, we are delighted to have won gold as all of the other nominees were such fantastic venues. It is great to be able to show the Manor off to a wider audience."

Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Sustainable Development said "Congratulations to Llancaiach Fawr, what an achievement to be recognised by a wider audience as a great family tourist attraction. This is certainly a testament to their continuous efforts in making the historical Manor a fantastic family day out. Well done to everyone involved!"  
Courtesy of Caerphilly Borough Council

### And Finally.....

The final stages of the refurbishment to the exhibition area at Llancaiach Fawr are underway. Discussions are taking place to decide how that project will translate into the digital age without losing any of the historical relevance. It will be a clever balance between the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the 17<sup>th</sup> Century but it feels as though the final pieces of the jigsaw are falling into place in what has been a quite remarkable project of development and conversion. The Friends have also been able to buy a 12 foot oak table from a Heritage project in Bedfordshire. The table will form part of the still room where it is hoped that small groups, probably school children, will be able to come together and learn more about the workings of that particular room.

# BAFM TRAVEL AWARD 2016

– Anne Stobo BAfM Awards Administrator

Daniel Jessop was the outright winner of the new BAfM Travel Award which he received at The Annual BAfM Conference on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at The Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Coalbrookdale Shropshire. Daniel's Project subject is "How can a Commonality be used to inspire and develop a Sustainable Group to progress together to make the Past serve a Purpose in an everyday way."

Daniel will visit The British Museum and Musee d'Historia de Barcelona in order to carry out his research. He hopes in investigating these models of good practice that he can inspire and develop sustainability through Heritage at Todmorden Town Hall. Also in creating these new links and developing them, Daniel hopes to share with a wider audience, the wonderful Heritage that this site has to offer. We hope that a future Journal will contain a report on the results of Daniel's studies.

In the past Daniel has volunteered at Touchstones Rochdale, The Co-operative Archive, and worked as the Learning Officer at The Fusilier Museum, Lancashire in Bury. He is presently Volunteer and Events Co-ordinator at Calderdale Council.

We wish Daniel the very best and look forward to reading about his research and its outcome in The BAfM Journal next year. I am also very sure that in the course of his studies he will make many new Friends both in the UK and in Europe and in the spirit of BAfM celebrate our fine Heritage.



## The Doncaster Museums' Friends

would like to announce that their museums have been awarded a £180,000 grant from The Arts Council. This will help in the redevelopment and the work of these museums and the Friends, as always, are ready in help in any way desired."

# MEET YOUR BAFM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

## New BAfM Chair: Dr Alison Hems

Alison worked for a number of years in the museums and heritage sector before moving to into Higher Education. Her career spanned local authority, national and independent organisations in a wide variety of roles; she is now Subject Leader for Humanities at Bath Spa University, a post which combines teaching with administration and departmental management.

Between 2005 and 2009, she was responsible for the Renaissance in the Regions programme at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, managing substantial government investment in England's non-national museums. Before that, she was Head of Interpretation at English Heritage for nearly ten years, leading the development of new approaches to access and learning at over four hundred historic properties, from the great iconic sites such as Stonehenge and Whitby Abbey to smaller and often locally-managed archaeological sites and buildings.

She joined the University in 2010 to set up a new MA in Heritage Management. The course takes a deliberately wide view of heritage, and considers both the physical remains of our past – collections, buildings, landscapes, city streets, archives, artefacts and archaeological sites – and the intangible associations of tradition, language and memory – our sense of place, identity and belonging. Her work keeps her in constant touch with local and regional museums, and with the day-to-day challenges they face, as well as those larger questions about the role of the museum in the 21st century and how we best manage them in the present and for the future.



### Georgia Vossou: Vice Chair

Georgia Vossou is a professionally qualified Paper Conservator with a BA in Conservation and an MA in Museum Management. Her current position at the City of Westminster Archives Centre involves Collections Care and Curating Exhibitions, Fundraising,

Organising and Managing cultural and educational events, Volunteers Management and of the Friends of the Archives Group. Her responsibilities include increasing the accessibility of the collections to local communities through innovative workshops which make learning fun and recruiting, training and managing a large and diverse group of volunteers – with the important objective of enabling volunteers to gain new and interesting employability skills, enhancing their communication abilities and building teamwork and confidence.

A Professional Development Training in education at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, USA, has broadened Georgia's horizons and additionally fuelled her passion for community engagement. Georgia has won awards from the British Council, Museums Libraries and Archives Council, Archives for London & London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for her innovative community engagement projects. She has been a Mentor in the British Museum project "Museum Pathways" and at the Wimbledon Museum, Trustee of NADFAS Westminster 2013 – 2015, and Chair of the Friends of the Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London 2009 – 2010. Her previous working experience includes the Wiener Library, the Library of Saint Catherine's Monastery in Mount Sinai; the Guildhall Library and Guildhall Art Gallery, Lincoln College Oxford and the Honourable Artillery Company.

Georgia is keen to energetically embrace BAfM mission and to bring fresh ideas and foster best practice.



### Alex Walker: Vice Chair

Alex was Head of the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston, a museum known for its community focussed approach and ambitious programme and she knows from experience that a supportive Friends group can be an invaluable asset for a museum. Alex is NW representative of the

Museums Association, acting chair of the NW Federation, member of the Chethams Library Redevelopment Steering Group and a committee member of Lancashire Art Fund.



### Alan Swerdlow: BAfM Coordinator South East Eastern Counties, past Vice Chair

Trained as a typographic designer and ran the family business in Liverpool for thirty years. Was a trustee of National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Past Chairman of the

Friends of the Ipswich Museums; was on the Museums Association Ethics Committee and on other arts boards including Compton Verney in Warwickshire.



### Jayne Selwood: Administrator and Membership Secretary:

"I have been involved with BAFM for around 20 enjoyable years. I first started assisting the Treasurer and then took over from the then Membership

Secretary. I have been in the financial services and insurance industry since 1974 and was originally approached by Liz Mackenzie to take over the day to day running of the books and accounts for BAFM. I started to deal with the insurance in the absence of an insurance adviser and in 2010 I became BAFM's official administrator."



### Kate Kuhn: Conference Co-ordinator

Kate Kuhn has been an officer of BAFM since 2009 in the role of Regional Co-ordinator for London/Midxx. In addition to supporting BAFM, Kate has also been closely involved at a small local museum for the past

16+ years. In addition to being a Friend and a weekly 'Front of House' Volunteer, Kate is the Secretary to The Friends of the Museum, involving committee meetings and the AGM.



### Anne Stobo: Awards Administrator

Anne is the former Area Co-ordinator for the SE/S Area and is presently on the Committee of The Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum Library and Art Gallery.



### Jasmine Farram: Youth Representative

Jasmine is currently Project Co-ordinator, Tunbridge Wells Cultural & Learning Hub project – Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery, having previously been Visitor Services & Admin Officer at the same

museum. Prior to that, Jasmine had been a Curatorial Intern at Mascalls Gallery. Jasmine was the winner of BAFM's Robert Logan Award 2015.

# AHOY THERE!

... and thank you for your support for mbfountain.com historic ship. Can you please keep an extra close eye on Fountain's Twitter feed as she has lost her mooring and is at risk of being scrapped – we are going to launch a campaign to try and prevent this and would really appreciate support/RT's etc. She is a historic ship and it would be a disaster if this happened. If you have any contacts or ideas please do get in touch. Friendly journalists more than welcomed.

PS – We would love to join BAFM but every penny counts towards saving Fountain at the moment – maybe BAFM could 'donate' a years membership to help build our 'Friends group'? <http://www.mbfountain.com/friends-of-fountain/>

There are lots of opportunities to get involved with supporting Fountain from simply keeping up to date with our regular newsletter for members to coming and getting hands on involved.

We have an active group that provides the chance to meet and exchange ideas and skills as well as gain and contribute experience while ensuring that Fountain continues to thrive.

Even if you are not close enough to visit regularly we always welcome those interested in carrying out research for the archives and offer online support as well as free or discounted access to training opportunities, conferences and workshops to help you get the best out of your experience.

All offers of support are gratefully received. If you're unsure what you can offer, please get in touch and we'll tell you about our latest projects.

Become a Friend of Fountain and help to support her restoration and ongoing maintenance ensuring that current and future generations will be able to understand and enjoy this part of 20th century industrial heritage.

As well as knowing you are securing Fountain's future, Friends also benefit from exclusive opportunities such as the chance to be invited on board for private tours and events as well as behind the scenes newsletters and updates.

# THE ROBERT LOGAN AWARD 2017

**Robert Logan was a former Chairman of BAfM who while in office was killed in a climbing accident. He was particularly interested in promoting and encouraging young people in The Heritage Sector and it was with these ideals in mind that this award was set up.**

## In Memory of Robert Logan - BAfM Chairman 1994-1998

### £500 Prize Money

This Award is open to candidates under 30 years of age working in The Heritage Sector.

Applicants should be engaged on a project which fulfills the following criteria;

- made an outstanding contribution to your Museum or Institute

- improved the Museum experience

- attracted a wider audience

An outline of your project approx 200 words, (which must have started AFTER August 2015) can be one that you are currently working on, or have just completed, should be sent to the Administrator by the 1st May 2017. A full submission of approx 1,500 words, should then be with the Administrator by the 1st August 2017.

The Award will be presented at The BAfM Conference which be held in London, at The London Transport Museum Covent Garden on Saturday 30th September 2017 where the winner will present a paper, be the guest of BAfM and have the opportunity of meeting delegates and Museum professionals from all over the UK.

Further details, including an entry form, are available on the BAfM website or from the Administrator. For any other information, please contact;

Anne Stobo,

BAfM RLA Administrator  
21 Albany Hill, Tunbridge Wells TN23RX

Tel 01892548763  
annestobo@yahoo.co.uk

## MESSAGE FROM JASMINE FARRAM, ROBERT LOGAN AWARD WINNER 2015

Receiving the Robert Logan Award in 2015 was an incredible experience, attending the conference gave me the opportunity to present my project to BAfM as well as hear some inspirational talks from museum professionals. Everyone was so welcoming and interested in my project and it was a joy to see so many people inspired by the presentation.

Since receiving the award I have grown in confidence both professionally and personally and have since developed my career as Project Co-ordinator at Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery

Jasmine Farram, Project Co-ordinator Tunbridge Wells Cultural and Learning Hub.

## BEST PRACTICE @ BROOKLANDS.COM

### Brooklands Successfully Moves into the 21st Century – evolution, funding and communication

– Ann Stobo, South East Southern Area Coordinator



Delegates from across the SE Southern Area were guests of Neil Bailey and his Team at Brooklands Surrey

What an interesting and inspirational day out the delegates of The South East Southern Area had as guests of Brooklands Members Trust, Weybridge Surrey. Chair of Brooklands Members Trust, Neil Bailey and his team certainly illustrated to us how “Best Practice” has been achieved at Brooklands and has thus created one of the most successful Museums in the country. With a membership of just over 10,000; BMT fundraising for

projects at around £50,000 last year; an over all income just under £500,000 and with visitor numbers in the region of 185,000 last year there was indeed a lot to be learned from our Friends @Brooklands.

In his opening address Neil emphasised his mantra, **TEAM:** Together Everyone Achieves More!

This mantra applies to management, board trustees, volunteers and members alike. Equally an awareness of their interests and what they are involved in is critical to good relations and can be built on over a period of time.

Formally a Friends Group it was decided to set up a Trust and 10 years ago The Brooklands Members Trust was formed. This was quite a change for some folks but **together** they moved forward. At the time, Alan Winn, Director of Brooklands had no idea where the money was coming from for the many projects envisaged, as they had little funding, however various categories of Membership were created and this has proved to be extremely successful. The role of volunteers at Brooklands is critical and training is provided. Neil emphasised how important the duty of care is towards volunteers making them feel included and valued as members, thus creating a sense of belonging. This inclusiveness leads to very good relationships at all levels, something

that Neil feels is paramount to the ongoing success of Brooklands.

What makes Brooklands so special was outlined to us by Alan Winn, Director of Brooklands Museum and David Nagle, Museum Fund Raising Manager. Not only does it celebrate our Scientific Heritage but also our Industrial Heritage. The first motor racing circuit, the first flying school, the home of the aircraft industry and of course Concorde! The importance of this site and its activities cannot be underestimated. It is a reflection of the importance of the site that the Museum is now in receipt of a massive grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund, as it proceeds with its most ambitious project to date, that of The Bellman Hanger. The Brooklands Aircraft Factory and Revival Project, an £8m project in total, will see the successful restoration of this iconic building and racetrack. This is of course with the full support of the members, volunteers, and trustees. **TEAM** work being very much in evidence!

An onsite lunch was followed by a guided tour of Brooklands. We were divided into four groups and Tim Morris, Chris Bass, David Norfolk and Steve Clarke gave us a very interesting flavour of Brooklands’ very many unique attractions, really just a taster, I am quite sure the delegates will return again and again!

The importance of engaging with the



Tim Dabbs, for many years a volunteer at Brooklands, introduces Anne Stobo Area Co-ordinator to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

next generation was evident in the events that are run at Brooklands. A highly successful National Science and Engineering Week was delivered involving 752 children, a Young Photographer of The Year Competition is currently running, there is a Saturday Science Club, a monthly Mini Ace Club for the under fives and The Brooklands Museum Youth Panel had just run a very successful family open evening in May. Again, this gave the delegates much to consider – all learning from one another is just one of the many benefits of an Area Day.

Communicating with Members, Reaching out to the wider Community adding value to Membership and publicity and publications were all areas covered in the afternoon by Tim Morris BTM Administrator, David Norfolk, Steve Clarke and Chris Bass.

Off site fetes and shows, (attracting more members), evening talks and dinners, themed lunches, Chairman’s Dinner, talks to various groups and jazzband evenings, all attract and engage the wider public. However large or small your Friends group is, these ideas can be emulated and built on.

Winners of the *Spirit of Surrey Award* at the Surrey Digital Awards 2016 the team once again displayed how they successfully engage with the wider public. This Award celebrates the on-line achievements of charities, businesses and groups in Surrey. It was awarded to The Museum for its outstanding success in communicating and attracting interest through twitter facebook, instagram, email newsletter and good old fashioned hard copy Newsletter! We must all embrace these new tools as a means of sharing our Collections and the valuable learning resources which are contained within them, they are so relevant in this digital age.

In thanking Neil Bailey and his TEAM for a very successful, enjoyable and informative day Anne Stobo Area Co-ordinator South East warmly invited all delegates to The BAfM Annual Conference at Ironbridge 2016, thus affording a further opportunity to share how **Brooklands has Successfully moved into The 21st Century!**

## BROOKLANDS' CONTRIBUTION TO WWI RECOGNISED AT THE BROOKLANDS GREAT WAR 100 SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Two years into the Great War and Brooklands' role becomes even greater



Brooklands Museum's third annual "Great War 100" day on Sunday 25th September - commemorating the centenary of the First World War and Brooklands' role in that conflict - aimed to highlight the historic site's rapidly expanding aircraft production in 1916. The aviation content of the day included the running of the 1917 Clerget engine of the Museum's Sopwith Camel replica morning and afternoon. On the ground re-enactors added to the period flavour of the day and Surrey Heritage publicised their Heritage Lottery-Funded project, *Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers*.

As the nation became accustomed to the somber notes of the Great War, Brooklands' role as a vital cog in the military machine expanded extensively in 1916. Vickers had been manufacturing aircraft (initially to other organisations' designs) on their Brooklands site for over a year and had to extend their premises with the growing demand from military contracts. In the factory, women increasingly replaced the men who had been called away for war. The first true Vickers fighter to go into production at Brooklands was the Gunbus, the world's first aircraft specifically designed to mount a machine gun. This was followed towards the end of the war by the twin-engined Vimy, a long range bomber and the Museum proudly displays its replica example of this

incredible aircraft in its new purpose-built pavilion.

Although the Track had closed to the public in 1914, the site was still very active in manufacture, record-breaking and testing. At the Kingston-based Sopwith Aviation Company factories, Camels, Snipes, Pups and Triplanes all came off the production line and were all assembled, test flown and delivered from Brooklands. In 1915, the Military Services staged some hill climb and sprint events for the personnel and officers based in the nearby Aldershot and Bisley garrisons. The Brooklands Motorcycle Team and visiting groups with war-time-era motorcycles, including examples of Triumph and Douglas which were used by the military in Belgium, took part in a re-enactment of the 'serpentine' slalom course near the Race Bays, where it originally took place.

The event also featured pre-1919 civilian and military vehicles and "living history" demonstrations from re-enactor groups including Nimy Company, medical personnel and the 10th Essex Regiment, a living history group depicting the British soldier in the Great War. They demonstrate an unusual form of combat called bayonet fencing and have an incredible array of original weapons, uniforms and equipment including an original Ford Model T ambulance.

*Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers* is a four-year project, run by Surrey Heritage, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which aims to discover how the 1914-1918 conflict affected those left behind in the county, on the Home Front. The project team will be at the event with displays and literature and will be keen to meet anyone with stories or artefacts that links them and the county in some way with the conflict.

### AIM BIFFA AWARDS

Two AIM Biffa National Heritage Landmarks Scheme projects were completed in summer 2016 - Isambard Kingdom Brunel's drawing office at SS Great Britain, Bristol and the Bursledon Brickworks near Southampton - the only remaining steam-driven brickworks in the country. The AIM Biffa Awards National Heritage Landmarks Scheme is creating a network of interpretation and education projects that showcase industrial developments that have shaped British history.

The AIM Biffa Award-funded *History Makers* will fund museums in England and Wales to create new exhibitions that will highlight the achievements of historic figures who have had a significant impact on the industrial, scientific, commercial or social history of the UK. New displays will connect the public to both famous and lesser known figures. Through their lives, a new generation will be inspired by their success and the qualities of ingenuity, persistence, imagination, endeavour and insight that they personify. Many objects and collections will be displayed publicly for the first time to illuminate these stories. The programme will run over 3 years awarding grants of up to £75,000 to AIM members. First round applications closed on 31st October. To find out more go to <http://tinyurl.com/hgbezw> or contact Justeen Stone, AIMS grants and finance officer [justeen@aim-museums.co.uk](mailto:justeen@aim-museums.co.uk).

## FRIENDS OF THE LAING ART GALLERY, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Teapots galore! A display of over 80 teapots in the Laing Gallery's Marble Hall has provided an introduction to one of the gallery's most popular exhibitions, celebrating 150 years of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Loaned by the British Library, the exhibition follows the history of the much-loved book and the multifarious ways in which it has been illustrated and interpreted over the years. As always, Friends of the Laing have been on hand to welcome visitors, including some enthusiasts who have turned up in costume for the viewing.

While the exhibition has been running, the Friends have been busy with other events over the summer, starting with a tour in May of Newcastle's fascinating quayside, including a visit to the Goat Inn, Bottle Bank, where a person could get drunk, commit an offense, get arrested and be tried and sentenced without leaving the building, since some of the premises were used as a police station and court! A more seemly gathering was the Friends' annual Garden Party, held at the home of Mrs Sheila Parker, where the June weather was kind to us and we were able to enjoy the lovely garden.

Ventures further afield included a visit in June to Brantwood, John Ruskin's home in the Lake District, overlooking Coniston Water. Here members were able to view many of Ruskin's original furnishings, his own drawings and watercolours, and items from his extensive art collection. In July we travelled up to the Scottish Borders to visit Threave House and Gardens, near Castle Douglas. The gardens were beautiful, as could be expected from the home of one of Scotland's Schools of Heritage Gardening, and the house, though not lavishly furnished, was a wonderful example of a 1930s Scottish baronial hunting lodge.



Threave House and Gardens

Our most recent trip took us into the heart of wild Northumberland, with a visit first to Hexham Abbey, where a new interactive exhibition chronicles the story of the abbey, which was founded by Wilfrid, Bishop of York, in the 7th century, and which has survived plundering and burning by the Vikings, the dissolution of the monasteries and the Victorian enthusiasm for pseudo-Gothic. Travelling north into the Northumberland National Park, we were welcomed to Hesleyside Hall, home of the Charlton family since 1343, by the present owners, William and Anna Charlton. A rougher reception was afforded to visitors in times past, since the Charltons were



Hexham Abbey

one of the foremost of the marauding Border Reiver families in the middle ages, and the present gracious house, surrounded by grounds landscaped by local lad, Capability Brown, grew out of a formidable peel tower. The house boasts an impressive collection of family portraits, and one of its unique treasures is the iron spur that features in one of the north's most famous



Original Spur, Hesleyside Hall, which was the model for William Bell Scott's 'Spur on the Dish' (1861), Wallington



William Bell Scott, 'Spur on the Dish' (1861), Wallington

paintings, the 'Spur on the Dish' (1861). Depicted by William Bell Scott on one of the murals in Wallington Hall, Cambo, Northumberland (now owned by the National Trust), it shows the lady of the house presenting to the lord a dish containing only a spur, as an indication that the larder was empty and it was time to ride out reiving again.

Afternoon talks and supper lectures at the Gallery continue to attract, entertain and inform the Friends, and these have recently included stimulating presentations by Durham Cathedral guide, Maureen Martin, on 'My Unseen Places in Durham Cathedral' and by Dr Sandra Ritson on 'The Fauves: Wild Beasts of the Art World'. On a note of regret, the Friends were sorry to see the departure of frequent lecturer and former Keeper of Art at the Laing, Marie-Thérèse Mayne, but fortunately she has just moved down the road to Durham Cathedral to become Exhibitions Officer for an exciting new venture, Open Treasure. The western undercroft of the cathedral has already been upgraded into a bright and attractive restaurant and shop. Now the former monks' dormitory is being transformed into a visitor-friendly exhibition space, displaying the history of the cathedral and the story of St Cuthbert. We wish Marie-Thérèse well in her new role and, in recognition of all she has done for FLAG in the past, we have awarded her Honorary Membership of the Friends of the Laing.

Drs Andrena & William Telford

# HIGHLAND MUSEUMS FORUM

It was an unmistakably autumn day when Inverness Museum hosted the AGM of the Highland Museums Forum on 26 September 2016.

31 Museums in the Highlands are “working together to sustain, develop and promote Highland Museums”. Stretching from Caithness on the north coast, to Glencoe in the south, and the Isle of Skye to the west, they represent a vast area, where travel can be difficult in winter, and which represents all the romance and the great legends of Highland history.

The meeting was chaired by Alison Boyle, from the Highland Museum of Childhood in Strathpeffer. Cait McCullagh, curator of Inverness Museum was in attendance, and Lorna Cruikshank, the Independent Museums Support Officer based in Dingwall was there, to support everybody. About half of the Museums in the Forum were represented at the meeting. Many of them had travelled for quite a time to reach Inverness; for some the journey involved ferries as well as roads. This is a point worth making, that meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow are not necessarily straightforward for some folk. It is tempting to say that Inverness might represent the southern outpost of the known world.

The AGM was, well, as AGM's go, fairly normal. Vacancies on the committee, nobody willing or able to fill them. Coffee was gratefully consumed at the end of that part of the meeting. Alison, however, was very pleased to announce that they had been given a handsome grant from Museums Galleries Scotland. Cait McCullagh then

introduced Inverness Museum's WW1 project, 'Coming Home'. This prompted much comment from around the table, with tales of what each museum was putting on for this 'anniversary' as well. Cait was nothing if not diplomatic when she suggested there may be signs of some 'public fatigue' with all this, but her presentation was fabulous. Collections of letters from the soldiers who came home and from some who never returned. This is linked with their 'Next of Kin' exhibition with mementoes of all kinds. Cait explained that in 2018 they would be taking it 'out on the road'. Cait also mentioned that when some Inverness schools had come in to see it, they were quite shocked to realise that some of the soldiers who had written letters were the same age as them. In October, Inverasdale School is organising a 'Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project'.

Lunch, provided by the Cobbs Cafe was very welcome and we were shown round the 'Next of Kin' exhibition; very thought-provoking. I pointed out that, earlier this year I had visited the Stewarton Historical Society. In their tiny upstairs room they had made a quite stunning exhibition of everything they could collect from local lads who went to war. One exhibit was the uniform belt, holster and pistol of a German Officer; this prompted a general discussion around the table on the general ethics of these projects. But at Stewarton, I was so very impressed by the hours of work put in to that exhibition by just a few Friends, working long hours to put all the letters into order and into files so that visitors could read them easily.

After lunch, my presentation was smoothly set up for me by Lorna. I have shown this now to around half a dozen Friends groups and it has been generally well received. Such was the case here, but I put a lot of thought into just how I should present it, given that I was talking to mostly curators here, most of whom were not sure what BAFM was all about. Some said that, as they were trusts, they did not engage with

Friends, but generally gave the impression that they all relied a great deal on the work done by volunteers. It taught me that my presentation is at least adaptable; but I shall have to tweak it and change it after the Museums Association Conference in Glasgow in November anyway.

The meeting drew towards a close with a 'Round Table Update'. Not that we were Knights of King Arthur, simply that each one around the table (it was rectangular anyway) gave a report on what kind of summer they had experienced. Most said that some months were up - on last year - and some down; but all were generally upbeat. The coastal museums expressed great interest in attracting more cruise ships to visit their seaways and ports, working closely with 'Visit Scotland'. Others explained about their 'ancestral tourism' numbers being on the increase, in particular those from far-away places seeking the family names of Ross and Donald. Also, many of these museums are heavily involved in the Highland Archaeology Festival which is taking place 1-16 October.

Alison very competently brushed over the dreaded 'AOCB' and brought the meeting happily to a close. I gave her a copy of BAFM magazine and the report from WFFM in Washington. I gave my card to everyone else and received in return invitations to visit, in the quieter times, perhaps in winter. I explained that I could always get there on crosscountry skis if need be and this met with some approval, but little surprise.

So we wandered out into the cool afternoon sunshine, down the steep hill of the castle and into the town. Come, visit the Highlands soon; your heart may be there. Visit the museums of the great Clans of history, see the magnificent mountain sunsets of the north-west coast, come and find out what great stories are waiting to be told to you; visit your Highland Museums.

One Museum was missing, for me, one I visited earlier this summer, at Lossiemouth. I must confess I only found it by accident, and you too may do well to find it (and even better to park your car when you do!), but what wondrous stories that museum holds in trust for us all, stories of great Statesmen, and of great tragedy. I shall contact them soon.

# SE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD DAYS 2016

## The Friends of Maidstone Museums held their 1st Neighbourhood Day with Friends from both Kent and Surrey

Mark Baker the Chair of MMF welcomed us to Maidstone Museum and introduced us to Lyn Palmer, Public Programme Manager, who in turn introduced us to Ta-Kush - a mummified Egyptian girl of around 14 years. And well might I hear you ask what has an Egyptian Mummy c750-600 BC got to do with Maidstone? Her history is quite fascinating. On being impounded by Customs at Dover she came to The Museum in 1858, and today she is The Museum's star attraction. With a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund Ta-Kush will be scanned and then sent to Liverpool John Moores University for a reconstruction which will see her "brought to life" in 3D imaging. Exciting times ahead!

Janette Lloyd, Assistant Head of Invicta Grammar School led the next session. Her school is currently engaged at many levels with the education staff at the Museum.



Lyn Palmer

Extolling the fantastic resource that the Museum provides right on her doorstep, Janette praised the scheme led by The Friends which had engaged 40 new Family /Members of year 7 children. Janette feels the museum offers should be part of family culture especially in an age of video games and the internet. Advocating student and teacher ambassadors, Janette and her school are fully committed to the ideals of The Museum. The Friends were then given a guided tour of this eclectic collection which includes many diverse objects, from Japanese Treasure to Treasures from Trash, a super exhibition which has got the youngsters really talking and experimenting! Thank you to The Friends of Maidstone for a really diverse and interesting Neighbourhood Day.



Janette Lloyd

## AU REVOIR AND THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone in the South East Southern Area for your support and participation over the six years that I have been your Area Co-ordinator. I have enjoyed it so much and I know you will be equally supportive to my successor Mike Evans of Maidstone. I am constantly in awe of the energy and inventiveness of all The Friends Groups and I wish you every success for the future, very best wishes, Anne Stobo.

### BAFM CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN

#### FINDING NEW MEMBERS

– Alan Swerdlow, Eastern Region Coordinator

I recently sent out a questionnaire to BAFM members in my region asking for ideas and raising their problems. Not surprisingly several replies mention the need for new members. In one recent member's newsletter the word inexorably stood out referring to how we are all ageing! At my area meeting hosted by Friends of King's Lynn Museum two phrases came across: 'I am past my sell-by date' and 'How do you retire from being retired?'

Thinking of younger members, I am reminded that at least two of my friends who gained very senior positions in the heritage world had their enthusiasm for horology and archaeology kindled as schoolboys on visits to Ipswich Museums. When I was helping promote the new BAFM travel bursary I sent a press release to all the further education establishments in the nation offering heritage-related courses and degrees - well over thirty colleges and universities: so there are young people entering the sector with which we are involved.

How do we recruit new, let alone younger, and minority members? BAFM will be addressing this over the next year. At the AGM at Ironbridge on 1 October the agenda included the election of a Youth Ambassador and putting the proposal for a nominal young members' subscription. Meanwhile what about encouraging your museum to set up a Youth Forum in which you take an active part? Or offer low cost - or even free - membership to young people?

Clearly, Friends in Maidstone (see article above) have many ideas for attracting young people to the Museum. Do any BAFM Member groups have ideas or schemes for attracting new members that they would like to share with the wider membership? If any BAFM group has ideas that have worked please let us know. Please contact the editor. We'd love to hear from you!



Inverness Museum is tucked in behind the Castle. The statue is Flora MacDonald, shielding her eyes from the setting sun, looking out to the Western Isles, looking for her Bonnie Prince Charlie.

## AIM SUSTAINABILITY GRANT FOR CATALYST SCIENCE & DISCOVERY CENTRE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE

### - Friends of Catalyst

Catalyst, an interactive science discovery centre primarily focused on chemistry's value in every day life, has, over time, extended its role to cover many other aspects of science and engineering. Its aim is to make science exciting and accessible to visitors of all ages, and to teach people about the role of science based industries in our every day lives. BAfM Journal readers will remember previous articles about the successful Widnes Sci-Bar promoted by the Friends of Catalyst.

Catalyst is housed in a Grade 2 industrial building with an extension that provides a welcome and reception area. The visitor centre is in urgent need of refurbishment and income from

admissions has been falling. Fortunately the funding group, comprised of trustees and staff has successfully raised project grants which included money for staff costs and an AIM Sustainability grant was secured to enable a review of all Catalyst stood for, its aims and goals, aspirations and necessary improvements. The resulting report included a development plan, 5 year business plan and risk analysis. These will guide Catalyst's developments through the next 10 years.

AIM Sustainability scheme is supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

[www.catalyst.org.uk](http://www.catalyst.org.uk)

## GOODBYE FROM HASSI SHAH-LEVERETT



What an amazing two year journey I have had in my role as Regional Coordinator for the SE (Western Counties) Region. Covering five counties and almost 40 Friends Groups, I have had the pleasure to meet some wonderfully dedicated individuals and visit many of the museums in the Region. Although too many to list, some of the highlights of the role have been:

- working closely with the Friends of Reading Museum to host the 2015 Regional Conference;
- personally presenting Newsletter Awards to the Friends of the Royal Naval Museum & HMS Victory and Friends of Southampton's Museums, Archives and Galleries;
- gaining exposure to the world of

archaeology with 'behind the scene' tours at Brading Roman Villa, Fishbourne Roman Palace and Reading Abbey Quarter;

- attending events and talks;
- visiting a number of museums and exhibitions including Explosion, Royal Historic Dockyard, Oxford Museum, Southampton Art Gallery, Friends of Gosport Museum, and Buckinghamshire County Museum.

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome and allowing me to experience the world of heritage and sharing your expertise, insight and knowledge. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Regional Coordinator and I hope that the Friends' Groups will evolve and resolve some of the current

## APOLOGY AND IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The email address: [editor@bafm.org.uk](mailto:editor@bafm.org.uk) is defunct and non-operational.**

I apologise to anyone who submitted material for publication to that address in the period since late September. The address first began bouncing and then stopped working all together, meaning that I have been unable to access the inbox or retrieve the material. Attempts to resolve the issue have been unsuccessful. If something that you had hoped to have published has not appeared in this issue of BAfM Journal it will probably be because I did not receive it. Please resubmit to the new email address which will be made available shortly (check the website for details) or to [georgia.book.girl@gmail.com](mailto:georgia.book.girl@gmail.com) and we will endeavour to include it in the next issue.



issues facing this sector. Thank you also to my BAfM colleagues for support and guidance and allowing me play a key part in the strategic development of the organisation. I will miss being part of the BAfM family and will continue to follow developments and wish BAfM every success for the future.

Hassi

## FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE

This is my last Issue as Hon. editor of BAfM Journal. I have enjoyed being editor and am pleased with the way the Journal has developed, and pleased with the current "look". However, for a long period the amount of time needed to devote to the Journal has been more than I can manage. I have muddled on, juggling the Journal with a dozen other things, but not only do I need to regain some "work-life balance", but if I were to continue I feel the Journal would suffer as I simply do not have time to do it as thoroughly as I would like. So it is with regret that I have decided I really cannot continue any longer.

However, I will not be completely gone as I am delighted to report that my daughter Georgia, an archaeology graduate with some experience in journalism will be taking over as guest editor for the spring issue, and I will be around in the background to help and advise.

Thanks for all the stories and photographs you have sent in over the years, and I hope you enjoy this, my final issue.

Tamasin Wedgwood

## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW EDITOR, GEORGIA WEDGWOOD MAYNE

Georgia Wedgwood Mayne has a first class degree in Archaeology from Reading University. Her dissertation involved the analysis of human remains from an early Medieval Manx burial site, which had been stored largely uncleaned, unsorted, but dismembered in a long-undisturbed museum store. The purpose was to extract information on population demographics, injuries, diseases etc from the bones and to ascertain whether disarticulated remains (previously largely overlooked by archaeological study, which has tended only to analyse full or substantially full skeletons) could produce valuable information. Some BAfM readers may recognise Georgia from the photo of young archaeologists previously used to

advertise the BAfM Travel Bursary! Both before and after completing her degree, Georgia has spent time volunteering in rural Kenya. Her dream would be to establish an archaeological field school in Kenya, where local people could be taught archaeological techniques and learn to value their ancient culture as source of local and national identity, local and national pride, and also, potentially as a benefit to tourism.

Georgia has previously worked as a youth reporter on the Alamance Times News, a newspaper in North Carolina, USA, including writing articles on visits to historic sites and museums for that paper. She is also a seasonal guide for Manx National Heritage. Georgia's love of museums



Georgia Wedgwood Mayne (L) sorting and analysing human remains

and of history began as a toddler, when she visited the American Museum in Britain at Claverton, Bath and having finished the tour, begged to go back in for more. Georgia's early games involved pretending to be a Victorian, a Viking, or a cave man and since then she never ceased to love learning about all things historic and visiting museums whenever possible - wherever she is in the world.



### BAfM NEXT NATIONAL CONFERENCES:

#### WFFM DATE

WFFM Conference

Verona

8-21st May 20017

#### BAfM NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2017

At London Transport Museum, Covent Garden

September 30th 2017

#### BAfM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- Friends of the Museum of Computing
- Friends of the Novium Museum
- Northampton Battlefields Society
- Friends of Windmill Garden

# Dedicated to helping friends and volunteers

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**BAfM Delegates to the 2016 National Conference view the eponymous Ironbridge. Photo: Alan Swerdlow**

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