STAYING FRIENDS. HOW DO FRIENDS AND MUSEUMS WORK TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CHANGE?

A conversation between David Foster, Chair of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and Rachel Cockett, Director of Development for Birmingham Museums Trust.

Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) is an independent educational charity that manages the city’s museum collection and venues on behalf of Birmingham City Council. The Trust was formed in 2012, by merger of the then local authority-run museums service with Thinktank Trust, creating one of the largest regional museum trusts in England. BMT manages nine sites including the city centre flagship, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Thinktank Science Museum, and a number of heritage houses and historic sites across Birmingham. BMT’s change in governance created both opportunities and challenges. Charitable status increased opportunities to generate income alongside a greater capacity for public funding declines. One way BMT has responded to this need is to introduce a new Membership Scheme.

RC: What do the Friends see as the key challenges and opportunities over the next three years?

DF: Funding for the BMT and for the Friends will continue to challenge. Having clearly articulated our respective roles, we can each focus our efforts more effectively. The Friends believes that its founding purposes still apply but must continuously review these in the light of both the public response to our offer and in other words - the challenge (and opportunity) is marketing!

FRIENDS OF THE HATTON GALLERY, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

2015 was an exceptionally busy year for FOTH. Our focus - apart from providing stimulating events for our members - had been raising funds for Hatton Future, the organisation that was set up to ensure the future of the Hatton and to secure its refurbishment. We designed events to help with conservation of works, to pursue new works and to raise match funding for the refurbishment. We were most gratified to win the Heritage Lottery Grant and in July. Also gratifying and something of a record, is that in 2015 we have welcomed 25 new Friends.

In the refurbished gallery FOTH will have a ‘Welcome Desk’. We will meet and greet; be trained to conduct gallery tours and exhibition tours; be trained to assist in the archive space and assist the Learning Officer with classes. We look forward to being even more closely involved in the day-to-day running of the gallery. The gallery may be closing at the end of February, but FOTH will still be operating and preparing for the reopening. Lectures and events will continue, as will fundraising and training. For more information visit www.fonthatton.co.uk
BAfM CONFERENCE COMES TO IRONBRIDGE

– David de Haan

Home of the country’s largest independent museum, the Ironbridge Gorge is one of the most beautiful parts of Shropshire and a World Heritage Site. The 43rd Annual Conference is in Ironbridge on 1st October, the time of year when the hanging woods of the Gorge take on their magical autumn colours. No doubt you’ve been before, but the vibrant Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust is forever changing and so the chances are that much of what there is to see will be new since your last visit. It’s definitely time to come back.

It is not just one museum of course; Ironbridge comprises ten museum sites within the valley, ranging from the fascinating 50-acre Blüts Hill Victorian Town to the Georgian homes of Quaker ironmasters. Breakthroughs in ironmaking over 100 years ago changed the world and today the valley is recognised as ‘the birthplace of British industry’. However, the buildings, furnaces and factory chimneys are a very distant memory and nature has reclaimed the Gorge with woodlands rising to the skyline in both banks of the River Severn. Ironbridge is a wonderful tourism destination. The Museum Trust broke the mould of the “dusty museum with things in glass cases” when it was established nearly 50 years ago and its ground-breaking approaches to interpretation, to management and to visitors have long since been copied and have become the norm across the country. Today 80% of its funding comes from admissions and trading, allowing the Trust to manage 34 sites in the Ironbridge Gorge. That includes not only the 10 museums, but also 5 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 24 Listed Buildings (3 of them complete historic factories), large expanses of woodland and a 60,000 volume research library.

Here is a taster of what there is to see, and of course there are more details on the internet at www.ironbridge.org.uk. The Museum of Iron houses products of the Coalbrookdale Company with an impressive 300 year’s worth of iron forges and other items made for the 1851 Exhibition. Next door is ‘Enginuity’, a hands-on discovery centre for children. Next up is Coalbrookdale World, the Quaker ironmaster Abraham Darby perfected the method of making cheap cast iron in 1709, and a hundred yards further brings you to Dale House and Rosehill House where generations of the Darby family lived and managed the Company.

Coalport China Museum is one of the three complete factories, displaying the processes and products of the bone china and porcelain made in the Gorge from 1796 to 1926. The second is Jackfield Tile Museum, where decorative ceramic tiles were made from 1874 to the 1950s. The third is the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron – a charming time capsule, the Broseley Pipeworks, which made clay tobacco pipes from 1881 to 1960. In the heart of the Gorge and internationally recognised as the symbol of the Industrial revolution is the beautiful Iron Bridge. The monument is in the guardianship of English Heritage but the interpretation is provided by the Museum Trust in the Iron Bridge Tollhouse. Five hundred yards upstream is the Museum of the Gorge, a visitor centre for the area and the museums. However, the most-visited of all the museums is the Reconstructed Town, and you can stay for lunch in time for all around 1900. Interpretation is provided by staff and volunteers in costume and the shops and trades are in operation. A major extension was opened in 2009 so this site has been transformed from what you may have seen earlier.

Your hosts for this year’s conference are the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museums and the day is based at the Coalbrookdale site next door to the Museum of Iron. Our speakers all have national reputations and they will explore the conference theme – Marketing for Excellence – that addresses many of the recurring issues in the sector today. The Friends will also give you guided tours of three of the museum sites during the day (the Museum of Iron, the Old Furnace and the Darby Houses) and should you wish to stay overnight we have planned visits to three more sites on Sunday (to the Jackfield Museum and Blüts Hill Victorian Town). Those who stay for the Sunday will get a Passport ticket for all ten museums worth £27.95 that could provide for multiple return visits over 12 months. Details are in the flyer and on the back of the Booking Form, copies of which are also on the BAfM web site. So much has changed and continues to change at Ironbridge that it really is time to come back.

We look forward to welcoming BAfM members and guests in October for a truly memorable conference.

The Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust were formed in 1969. Like all Friends’ organisations they provide both financial (about £45,000/year in recent years), and physical help to the Museum. This help ranges from guiding, researching, manning publicity stalls to serving wine at functions. Projects include a Guide at Coalbrookdale, Coalport, and contribute to guides for events such as the Iron Bridge Toll House as well as guiding coach parties over all the Museum Sites. Personal contact gives visitors a better experience of the museum, and the Friends have always been in the forefront of this. The Friends also run a full programme of talks and lectures throughout the year. The programme is wide-ranging and features external speakers and topics local to history, for example ‘Captain Webb, the Dawyck Man’, which was the story of the first Channel swimmer.

At our AGM in June, Dr Matt Thompson, Director of Collections and Learning, exhibited the recently purchased drawing of the Ironbridge. Richard Bifield presented Matt with a cheque for £500, representing the Friends’ contribution towards the purchase money. The drawing, by Edward Edmonds, is now on display at Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron throughout July.

The Friends’ Photographic Competition is always a great success, with entries this year numbering over 100. It was pleasing to receive a considerable number of photographs from young people. The judges were delighted with the quality of the photographs submitted and the prize display in Ironbridge Quarterly, the Friends’ magazine, which is published jointly with the Museum.

A good number of people enjoyed the Friends Annual Lunch at the beginning of October in the Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale. The Friends welcomed former head of marketing at the Museum, Katie Foster, who followed in the footsteps of Sir Neil Cockson, Stuart Smith, Mark Pemberton and Sir Michael Day as after-lunch speaker.

The highlight for the Friends over recent months was the opening of Sir Ken Jones Close on the site of the old Lightmoor Brickworks. Sir Neil Cockson, President of the Friends, referred the opening ceremony and spoke warmly of the late Friends’ Vice-President and Museum Trustee as a true ‘man of the people’, a self-taught historian and a shining man who was regarded with great affection by all who knew him.

About 30 guests attended the unveiling of the memorial at the site in late August, and many more Friends, Board members and Museum staff, Parish Councillors and representatives of Linden Homes attended the reception which followed in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale. Geraldine King, Chair of the Friends, welcomed the guests and spoke of Ken’s long association with the Friends. She told how Michael Darby actually remembered Ken’s first visit to the Museum on an Open Day in the late ’60s. Ken attended every Friend’s AGM from that time, until he died. He was Treasurer of the Social Activities Group and later moved onto the Committee, becoming Geraldine’s Vice-Chairman in her first Chairmanship. In the early ’80s, Ken was instrumental in asking Lady Forester of Willey to become President of the Friends, and he called upon Ken Murray of the TUC, Lord Murray of Epping Forest, to stand as President once Lady Forester stood down after ten years. Both these successful presidencies of the Friends were a testament to Ken’s knowledge of people’s strengths and their devotion to local history. Following his Chairmanship, Ken became Honorary Secretary of the Friends’ and was asked to join the Museum Board.

As a local man interested in local history Ken had been inspired by the ambitious plans for the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in the 1960s and 1970s. He began his historical research by attending Barrie Trinder’s evening classes, and then he himself began to research and write; publishing articles in local publications such as the Shropshire Journal. In 1985 Ken set up the Social History Group of the Friends, and every Thursday evening Ken would be leading them in the Museum Library, with former librarian John Powell.

Well into his 70’s, and after meticulous research, Ken produced an outstanding history of the railway line which meant so much to him, The Wenlock Branch, Wellington to Caven Arms. Later he also wrote Pitmen, Poachers and Preachers: life and the Poor Law in the Maseley Union of Shropshire, an unsung social history of this area. This book stemmed from one of Ken’s finest achievements, the oral history archive. Ken had been amongst the first to realise that social history was in danger of being lost, and he began to record the memories of local working people. Over the next three decades Ken interviewed and recorded over 100 people, building up a unique archive which has assumed national significance. The Oral History Archive at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum is named The Ken Jones Oral History Archive in his honour. Ken was in great demand as a speaker and broadcaster on local social history. For many years Ken was only supported in all his endeavours within the Friends and the Museum by Darina, his wife – together they formed this formidable team. A Bursary set up in their names funds social history projects in the Ironbridge Gorge Museum’s Library and is now being used for the purchase of books on industrial history.

The idea for a road named after Ken came about when Ken was a member of Daventry Hamlets Parish Council, who were asked to suggest names for the A179 road development at Lightmoor. As it was close to Ken’s birthplace and places he studied in his history, they suggested a road named after Ken. The Friends were delighted when Linden Homes took up the suggestion.

Ken came from humble beginnings and went on to a life of considerable achievement. The Friends of the Museum was Ken’s first love, and he continued on the Committee as Vice-President until he was over 90. The Friends Committee looked back fondly on his contribution to the past 45 years.
HOW TO WRITE A WINNING NEWSLETTER?

Tips on Typography — Alan Slerdow

Jan Tischhold, a famous typographer and type designer, once said that good typography is invisible, meaning that the design of the typeface and the disposition on the page should not hinder legibility or readability.

The choice of typeface can make a newsletter look more professional — or less! There is far too much typography on our computers, some completely unsuitable for continued use. When I was a student of graphic design (National Diploma in Design (Typography) 1960) I aimed to limit the choice of font to one, or no more than two, carefully selected, in any design. It is a simple matter on the computer to try a block of text in various fonts and I see no point in having various fonts for different articles — although perhaps a children’s newsletter might be a little different from the main sections of the newsletter.

Type “should be easy to read... not dazzle the eye or trouble the intellect of the reader by eccentricity of form in the letters” — William Morris

Many BfAM members’ newsletters seem to be set in a sans serif face. For continuous text to send, it is always cleaner – the horizontal serifs help lead the eye along the line. Line length is important: text that goes right across an A4 page is too long – the eye sometimes fails to move down to the next line. Double columns, or when appropriate even three columns, on an A4 page resolves this.

With some typesetting programs, adopting right hand justified text can be a mistake: the autocorrect can, as always, result in varied and ugly spaces. I think it is far better to have a ragged right hand margin in this text. Another factor is the actual size of type. We are all getting older and under 10 or 12 point makes for difficult reading even if it helps get a larger article into a limited space. Some type designs such as Times New Roman have a larger appearance for their size — known as ‘x’ height.

Judges of the BfAM Newsletter award have criticised articles starting on one page and continuing elsewhere, because they can make navigating the newsletter confusing. This might occur because only part of the publication is in colour and the editor wishes the illustration to be in colour, thus separating it from the related article. With new methods of short run printing the cost of full colour throughout may not be much higher. Get a quotation. If you do go full colour, try panels of a tint, of say 10% or less, as a background for a feature, or to make small items stand out — as with William Morris’s words above.

Think about a move to A5 rather than A4. The size is convenient and unless there are many pages the potential cost may stay outside large letter rate -- but watch out for the finished publication ‘springing’ open at the staples making the envelope more than 0.5cm thick. A committee member at one Friends group offered to iron every copy to flatten them!

WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIENDS’ NEWSLETTER?

— Robin Ollington, editor of the BfAM Award winning SoFANM newsletter

These reflections are based on my experience producing newsletters for various organisations, particularly more than ten years producing the newsletter for the National Army Museum. In 2013 it was runner up in the BfAM Newsletter Competition and in 2015 came first in the large group category.

The very use of the word Friends in the title indicates the publication is to be for a group of people all sharing a common interest in a particular organisation. Thus the contents should reflect this in a somewhat friendly and personal style, rather than the authoritarian prose one sometimes encounters. Readers undoubtedly have met the Chairman and Editor at meetings and events, so the style of their contributions should reflect this familiarity. Obviously, members will have particular aspects of the society that they are interested in and these should be catered for, but keeping a good mixture of material running so that it is not over-weighted in one direction which risks becoming boring — a good editor should be able to read his audience.

Additionally, it is important that members themselves should be invited to contribute and that it doesn’t become the editor’s personal hobby. It is surprising what talent can come to light if asked for articles, photographs, poems, even cartoons! — all of which helps create the feeling of friendship and of being part of the group rather than being talked to.

The nature of the organisation – cathedral, gallery, museum or garden - will itself have a bearing on the content and look of the publication, but within most societies one can find something – a visual reference, personality or quotation – that can be used to create the unique character of the society rather than, as often happens, producing a ‘general’ looking like every other group’s newsletter! Help in design can sometimes come from within the organisation — I know of a cathedral which had its own ‘conversion’ through help from the newsletter.

Pages from the Friends of Bristol Art Gallery BfAM paper winning newsletter showing clarity of layout and design.

WHAT PLEASES THE JUDGES?

— Tips from the Newsletter Competition Organiser

Robin Ollington himself epitomises some of the qualities of a successful newsletter – strong editor. A talented editor knows his audience, understands the potential audience and edits to make the content both informative and highly relevant. A team of outstanding editors who have repeatedly impressed the Newsletter Award judges over recent years are Juliet Guerrero of the Pitt Rivers Friends and Lesley Griffin, until recently, editor for the Friends of Gosh. If you are considering entering our contest, or simply wishing to improve your newsletter should take a look at the newsletters of the Friends of Gresenhall, the Pitt Rivers, and the National Army Museum. Robin’s great triumph at the National Army museum is to have mastered the art of wowing everyone who assume they would not be interested. By covering military history, Robin pleases his members, but by covering social history, interesting aspects of that history, intrigues a wider, non-specialist readership - including, as 2 judges noted with surprise - women!

A good editor sets the tone of the newsletter, and I cannot reiterate enough Robin’s observation that the tone of a newsletter needs to be friendly. I would add, based on the last 3 years’ of the competition, that the judges also admire newsletters where the tone is enthusiastic, optimistic, energetic. Times are hard and many museums, finances are difficult; recruitment of new blood to the Friends is a challenge, but despite these hardships, newsletters that are all “doom and gloom” rarely impress. And a newsletter that is all about bad news and empty pockets is unlikely to attract new members. If you want to recruit, keep your newsletter cheerful! The Friends of Gresenhall Newsletters is an excellent example – so packed with the range of involvement open to Friends, that it makes even a casual reader wish to join! I love to see comments coming back from the judges such as the following: “I want to join this group!” or “I wish I’d been to these talks!” — both genuine comments from the 2015 competition. Take a long hard look at your newsletter: if a stranger read it, would their reaction be an excited, “I want to sign up to this group?” Is there something in it to thrill and inspire? That may sound like a high expectation for a newsletter, yet at least 3 of the 2015 entries got the judges fired up in this way.

Design, as Alan has discussed, is also important. There needs to be a good balance between text and illustrations. Headings and subheadings need to be striking, illustrations varied. Several entries each year ‘underwhelm’ the judges on first visual impression alone. As you consider your own newsletter, think, “if this was my first look, and a selection of other leaflets, would it catch my eye as I walked by? Would it invite me to look inside?”

Poor quality photocopying is one problem or use of tattoos and fonts and too small a type face are also very off putting. Judges have a lot of newsletters to read and reading needs not to be a struggle.

For more information visit www.bfam.org.uk

Cover of Robin Ollington’s BfAM paper winning Friends of the National Army Museum newsletter.

Tel: (0) 0117 777435 Email: admin@bfam.org.uk
YOUNG PEOPLE IN MUSEUMS: A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES AT CHELMSFORD MUSEUM, ESSEX

– Jane Allnutt, Editor, Friends of Chelmsford Museum

From an original article printed in the Friends of Chelmsford Museums Newsletter, December 2019

Maybe this is something other museums could do to engage with the young – and the not so young. Maybe your friends group could create a cabinet of curiosities containing objects full of meaning for the group, or for the individual friends within it.

Working with Learning Officer, Beck Filipatz, students from Hylands School created two cabinets of displays. Sixteen students from Years 7, 8, 10 and 13 participated.

Beck, and Yvanne Lawrence, the Learning Services Manager first arranged a visit to Hylands School to talk to the students and member of staff who had volunteered to be involved. A visit to the Museum followed, and a discussion on what the children saw the cabinets to be.

They were able to visit the displays around the museum, and see the various ways in which museum objects are interpreted and labelled. The next stage involved each student selecting an object which had special value or significance to their own life or family. The students made the labels and headings for the cabinets and created the displays. There was plenty of discussion about which object should go where, and about the placing of the labels, but the students were very pleased with the final display. Parents and representatives from the school were invited to the ‘official opening’, and two of the students were interviewed on local radio.

It was fascinating to see the variety of objects chosen: some dated back over a hundred years, many are objects that we visit in our memories and don’t consider “old” – I had to remind myself that most of the students were born this century! One student chose Gnomey – something my own children spent hours playing – I can still hear the Tin Tin music in my head! There was also a Sony Walkman, a 7 inch vinyl record from 1979, and photograph of the 1987 games.

 Elders which objects belonged to student’s family members. included a grandmother’s bangle from 1860 and a string of jewellery from Burmese which belonged to a princess. These cabinets were on display during the spring of 2015 and it is hoped that this will become a project in other community groups – including the friends - can talk, a turn and create their own cabinet of curiosities?

Chelmsford Museum is in Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street (CM2 1AR). It is owned by Chelmsford City Council. http://friendschelmsfords.museum.uk.co.uk

THE EXCITEMENT OF FOSSIL POLISHING

– David & Felicity Cox, Friends of the Lyme Regis Philpot Museum, Dorset

From an original article in Museum Friend, the newsletter of the Friends of the Philpot – We have had a very existence of a number of museums country-wide in the balance, enrolling young people has never been more important. It is vital to draw young people into our museums, to look, to learn, to participate — and to develop a lifelong understanding of the extent to which our future is so critically affected by our past. Over the syndicate, the Philpot has made substantial efforts to attract volunteers, with school visits, special activity days, and the appointment of an Education Officer – all this while just outside its doors is one of the most spectacular outside classrooms in the world!

Fossil polishing and handcrafts days are now a regular feature of museum life. Fossil polishing days are organised brilliantly by the geology team and our Education Officer.

Jurassic fossils are collected and purchased in bulk from a variety of sources, most people being the nodules from particular fields in Lyme Regis, which contain ammonites. Nodules are cut in two, revealing the preserved, crystalline ammonites in both halves. Families purchase the fossil of their choice and then work their way around the tables (all manned by volunteers), preparing the fossil with rough, medium and smooth wet sandpaper, before arriving at the buffing machine for a final polish. The results are spectacular! All this takes place on the terrace, overlooking the sea — what a setting! It is hugely popular with children, who work hard, learn, and then take away a precious souvenir. After finishing their treasure, many of them proceed in to the museum for a free visit.

www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk

FRIENDS OF BUSHEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, HERTFORDSHIRE VISIT NEW SISTER MUSEUM IN LANCERS, GERMANY

As I staggered out of bed at 6am on a cold October morning in 2015 I asked myself “Why am I doing this?” The answer was: to make an early start for Friends’ 4 day trip to help Friends in Germany celebrate our mutual admiration of and connection to, the artist Hubert Hermken. (Bushey Museum has a large collection of works and articles relating to Sir Hubert von Hermken RA and his world-renowned Art School). We were attending the opening of the new Hermker Museum in Lansberg, Bavaria.

Lansberg is a medieval town within commuting distance of Munich. The buildings have remained virtually untouched in spite of the Black Death, rise and fall of the salt and tanning industries, and numerous fires. All the streets are cobbled, the 3 or 4 storey buildings with long sloping tiled roofs and eaves are heritage protected! They are painted in a variety of pastel colours and are repainted every 4 years. No alterations are allowed to the interiors or the facades of the buildings. A number of buildings have painted facades in trompe l’oeil style. On Saturday we went on a guided tour arranged by the Town Hall. Our guide took us up and down many cobbled streets to the outer walls of the town. Most of the party took in the view from the Witches’ Tower overlooking the River Lech and on the far side, the Muttertum, with its yellow glazed roof tiles glinting in the sun. Hermker commissioned the building of the Muttertum as a tribute to his mother on her death in 1879.

In the evening we were guests at a civic reception. The first speaker, the Mayor of Lansberg, was one of many who expressed surprise and pleasure that so many friends of Bushey Museum had come to Lansberg for the opening. Carey Keates, Chair of Bushey Museum, replied with a 5 minute speech in German - to the delight of the audience and the amazement of our party. He emphasised the friendship between Bushey and Lansberg based on our mutual admiration of the artist. The speeches were interspersed with music – works composed by Hermker alternated with salon pieces composed by Elgar, a friend of Hermker and frequent visitor to Bavaria. After one such trip Elgar was inspired to write Bavarian Dances – a piece performed during the evening. After the formal events we joined the reception in the Hermker Hall, dominated by two tall wall to wall Hermker paintings, hung in the very room where they were painted. The first is a group portrait called Communal Sitting (1905) and the second is The Alley (1879). Hermker family portraits also hang in the Town Hall. All 9 roofs of the Muttertum was illuminated with a light display, bathing the building in different colours.

On Sunday morning we were invited to see the new Museum before the public opening. It contained many objects belonging to Hermker – examples of drawings showed his progression from a talented 15 year old, to his work as a young man, demonstrating an eye for detail. The museum was in good stand when later working on the Illustrated London News. The Museum charts his path as sculptor and patron, actor, director, film maker, and early enthusiast of cycling and motor racing. We ended our two day break with a fascinating and enjoyable connecting the Museum to the Muttertum where the main room’s carpet was wedged into the floor, was the home of the family. After a scenic drive to Lake Ammersee and to the Abbey at Andechs, to visit the birthplace: the small village of Wail, near Lansberg. We took a group photo in front of the War Memorial designed by Hermker, commemorating the Franco-Prussian war.

Before our flight home we made a detour to King Lud’s 13th century Neuschwanstein Castle, perched above a ravine. All too soon we hurried down the mountain to catch our coach to Munich airport and we were back in Bushey in time for supper. Our visit to Lansberg had been a great success and a wonderful opportunity for Bushey Museum and Lansberg Museums to forge closer ties.

With over 800 Members, the Friends of Bushey Museum is one of the largest Friends organisations in the UK. It was founded to support Bushey Museum Trust by raising funds for major acquisitions and also providing a focus for all interested in the Museum. http://www.busheyuseum.org.uk/friends/ https://www.facebook.com/busheyemuseumgateway
STORRINGTON, DAME MAGGIE SMITH AND 'THE LADY IN THE VAN'

Storrington & District Museum, West Sussex

The recent appearance of Dame Maggie Smith, O.M., at Downton Abbey, on a Graham Norton’s TV show caused a lot of comment. It was, apparently, her first appearance on a chat show for over 40 years and she commanded the stage (or rather the sofa) like the true professional she is. She shocked the nation by admitting she had always wanted to play Miss Shepherd, the Librarian in Storrington. Alan Bennett remains silent about the actual places, but we have no reason to suspect that as erudite a eugene as Dame Maggie Smith would be mistaken. Miss Shepherd would certainly have fitted in at Storrington, which has been home to unusual and strong characters of both religious and secular persuasions.

Interestingly, Alan Bennett’s letters refer to Miss Shepherd likening her story to that of Francis Thompson, who set out to become a priest but failed in his vocation and became a tramp. Thompson lived at the Monastery in Storrington while recovering from heroin addiction. And her devout Catholicism, for right views, and penchant for writing and publishing contentious pamphlets recalls, to a T, a former resident, also serving as a chap, in Fern Road.

The Storrington connection is an intriguing curiosity, and connection or not, the film of Alan Bennett’s part in Miss Shepherd’s final years will be well worth watching.

STORRINGTON DISTRICT MUSEUM

Opened in April 2000 to mark the Millennium, the Museum houses local archaeology, history, ecclesiastical history, details of local people and their memorabilia, artefacts and articles from two world wars. The Museum covers Storrington and the surrounding area. Other notable residents include Dame Cicely Mary Barker, author of ‘The Flower Fairies’, and Beatrix Potter. Other residents include Dame Cicely Mary Barker, author of ‘The Flower Fairies’, and Beatrix Potter. Other residents include Dame Cicely Mary Barker, author of ‘The Flower Fairies’, and Beatrix Potter. Other residents include Dame Cicely Mary Barker, author of ‘The Flower Fairies’, and Beatrix Potter. The Museum has a library of local history and welcomes enquires. There is a regular newsletter, evening talks and summer historical walks and residencies. The Museum is run entirely by volunteers.

http://www.storringtonmuseum.org/

WHY AM I A FRIEND?

Dr. William D Steeves Jr, Friends of the Royal Marines Museum, Southsea – reproduced from an original article in Winter 2015 edition of the Friends of the Royal Marines Museum Newsletter

I am a retired US Marine. The main reason I am a friend of the RM Museum, and what keeps me one, is the professionalism we share as Marines. In my view it is essential to preserve our Corps’ rich histories through our respective museums and their various educational and informational programmes. In this way, as my grandfather often said, “Our Corps remain alive and visible historically to future generations.”

Our Marines have fought together and they train together.... Over time a close knit and lasting bond of camaraderie has developed. A short distance south of the Quantico, VA Marine Base is a pub named the Globe and Laurel. The owner is retired US Marine, Richard T Spooner. Perhaps he stated best why our two Corps are so closely knit and why, in a way, we continue and remain a Friend. From a 25 January 2007 Washington Post article, “He chose the name Globe and Laurel, symbols from the badge of the Royal Marines, rather than using the globe and anchor of the US Marine Corps emblem, to represent the brotherhood of Marines worldwide.” Spooner then added a personal touch: “I’ve always found the best pubs in England and Scotland.” On both counts he made his case, and mine too!

As an aside, I have some British blood in me. My father’s mother’s maiden name was Milton and I was told that her family’s line was related to the British poet, John Milton. If true, I never inherited any of his poetic qualities. I also have a British ‘mission’ of Kiyan, also our godson. These are strong personal ties to the UK. Although these are rather tenuous, I have clips of my times with the Brits in Singapore, and with the Paras and RAF in Jordan, as well as with Jordan’s British trained Arab Legion, I must move on.

Unfortunately I never served with the RM, but I feel as though I know them through our retired RM friends and their families whom we met in the States and who have Royal Marine sons. Additionally, my wife, Kathy, and I visited the Commando Training Centre and RM Museum. The RM Museum is fantastic. We found the displays of all kinds to be most informative, interesting and eye-catching; they seemed to call out to visitors, “read about me”, or “let me tell you about this event”, or “look what we did.” They are all so very special!

As you know, the RM museum collects, keeps and protects the historical records of various types. History, however, does not stand still. It evolves and leads to new discoveries. In this vein the Royal Marines are making history every day, in ways and places that need to be documented and exhibited continuously. I believe we who are friends can help continue this important task with our ongoing support to maintain and update the Museum’s collections and programs. I have been enthused and excited about the RM Museum for some years, and although I am a Life Member, will continue to contribute because it is important for the Museum to grow and keep pace with what the Royal Marines are doing and accomplishing globally.

The Friends Newsletter keeps me informed of Museum events. I especially enjoy reading about events that include RM activities with youth, as well as those that include those who served several years ago – the “soldats”, if you will. I only wish we lived closer so we could visit more often.

http://www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

BAMF COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2016 – Alan Swerdlow

We met in London with the morning devoted to regional co-ordinators’ business and in the afternoon we held a full Council meeting – it was a busy and fruitful day with all the new regional co-ordinators present. Our Chairman, Bernard Rastoin, announced that at last a Treasurer has been appointed. This is Bob Rogers who is involved with the Friends of Newport Transporter Bridge in Wales.

We discussed the proposed new Bursary Award project for which generous funds have already been granted and had an update on the next Annual Conference to be held on 1 October at the BMM. Full details and a booking form can be downloaded from the BAMF site. Ironbridge is a remarkable venue with several museums – do consider attending.

We went in some detail into simplifying membership categories proposing a new student / young member level and life membership. We received an interim report from our Consultant.

Sadly I have to report that Bernard is retiring as Chairman at the next AGM. We are looking for a new Chair. In the next months so they can shadow Bernard. If you are interested in this post or can suggest names do please contact me for further information. Expenses are covered by BAMF.
FRIENDS OF THE DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY HERITAGE & LEARNING RESOURCE

Objects Highlight: J. HUDSON AND CO. POLICE WHISTLES

– Carmen Talbot, Project Assistant, Policing Past Community Present

Inspired by some recent investigative eyell research of police history objects being sold online, it was interesting to see that every population seemed to be the Metropolitan patent J. Hudson & Co. police whistle; a type that is held in multiple versions within the Historic Collections of Devon & Cornwall Police. J. Hudson & Co. whistle manufacturers (still trading in Birmingham as ACME Whistles) boasted the rights to make whistles for the Metropolitan Police from the 1850s and it was this patented whistle that came to be the most popular model in forces across the country.

Prior to the whistle coming into use, a constable requiring attention or needing to alert others would ‘spring his rattle’. The police rattle was superseded by the whistle in the 1880s, the latter being far superior in raising the alarm over a greater distance (read below the story of how this was tested by the Metropolitan Police). From the 1960s, the whistle itself has gradually been superseded by the personal radio and subsequent developments in technology. John Burkitt’s excellent ‘From Rattle to Radio’ for a history of these developments up to the 1980s.

The above example has ‘Cornwall Constabulary’ stamped on it. We know the dates for this county force were 1857 (after the 1856 County and Borough Police Act) and 1867 (when the county force amalgamated with the Devon and Exeter Police and Plymouth City Police to form today’s Devon & Cornwall Constabulary). The J.D. Hudson & Co. address on the whistle (24/4 Barr St) covers a wide range of time from 1900; in fact still serving as the address of ACMP whistles today. We can therefore be certain only that this whistle dates from after 1900 but before 1967, and we welcome the keen eye of any police whistle experts in dating it more precisely.

Finally, held within the Collection are many objects (as well as archival records) relating to the measures taken during WWII to provide Air Raid Precautions across Devon and Cornwall. Included within this is the below example of a J.D. Hudson & Co. whistle inscribed ‘A.R.P.’; this would have been issued to an ARP (Air Raid Precaution) warden, whose role would have included such responsibilities as registering those in their sector, enforcing the blackout, attending air raids, providing first aid and helping to coordinate the emergency services. Whistles were provided by the Home Office, and we can trace the transition in regards to providing individuals with their own whistle, as opposed to a system of sharing (June 1939 HO 186/1788). Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery have an excellent mini-site on the Blitz in Plymouth, with many examples of these whistles and other ARP equipment, as well as further information. In terms of dating this whistle, we can be confident it comes from the period 1939 – 1945.

Our Visit Policing Past Community Present project website at http://www.policeheritage.org follow the project @policingpast or at policingpastcommunitypresent or @policingpastcommunitypresent or https://facebook.com/policingpastcommunitypresent?ref=ts Project supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund


Plymouth Whistle. Stamped on body of whistle is the METROPOLITAN; J. HUDSON & Co. 13 BARR ST; BIRMINGHAM; PATENT. Catalogue number Audit 1975.00283.001.

Plymouth City Police whistle. Stamped on body of whistle is the METROPOLITAN; J. HUDSON & Co. 13 BARR ST; BIRMINGHAM; PATENT.

Note the wording on most of the whistle examples given in this article mentions ‘The Metropolitan’ or ‘The Metropolitan Patent’. You may be thinking ‘wrong Force!’ The best explanation for why this was stamped all over the Devon & Cornwall borough and county forces’ whistles can be found in a piece by Martyn Gilchrist on Leif Bailey’s website www.whistleshop.co.uk – an excerpt of which is reproduced here:

In 1883 tests were carried out in open country with favourable wind conditions, at the Rifle Range, Hasloum Heath. A regulation ratlle competed against a Manchester City Police whistle. The official tests showed that the rattle could be heard fairly at 500 yards and not at all at 800 yards. The whistle could be heard at 900 yards but was ill defined at 1000 yards. The Metropolitan Police decided to go ahead and advertisements were placed in the press inviting whistle manufacturers to submit models. … The various whistles submitted were tested on Clopham Common and one of the patterns sent by Hudsons, similar to the Manchester City Police whistle, was chosen.

A mix-up (led to the contract being placed with Bent & Parker…)

Joseph Hudson was informed that a whistle had been chosen but not whose model. He wrote asking for his whistles to be returned, and also made inquiries as to whose pattern had been chosen. Discovering that his own whistle was the chosen one, but the contract had been placed elsewhere, he contacted the Metropolitan Police who quickly put right the mistake. On the 8th January 1884 the Metropolitan Police Receiver wrote to the Commissioner informing him that an order for 7500 whistles at 8½d each had been placed with J. Hudson & Co. (Within two years 21,000 had been ordered and delivered). …

On 2nd February 1884 Hudsons applied for ‘The Metropolitan’ to be registered as a trademark for GSWs (general service whistles), which was granted. Whistles issued to police are marked with the forces name and most were also marked with the trademark ‘The Metropolitan’. The phrase Metropolitan Police Whistle’ is ambiguous as it can mean a GSW issued to the Metropolitan Police or, more frequently, it refers to a GSW with Hudsons’ trademark.

© Martyn Gilchrist; except used with permission from Leif Bailey of http://www.whistleshop.co.uk; history.html

The J. Hudson & Co. ‘Metropolitan’ whistle therefore became the standard for general service whistles, hence ‘Metropolitan’ stamped on the Hudson whistles we have in the Devon & Cornwall Police Collection.

One of the objectives of the HLF Funded Policing Past Community Present Project is to open up the Historic Collections of Devon and Cornwall Police to a wider audience. As we are based in a police station which is not open to the public, the best way we can find of achieving this goal at present is to publish and promote interaction with the collection online. As well as the Plymouth example above, we have many other Hudson Metropolitan patent whistles in our collection, in varying designs and from various time periods. The great benefit of having the (countyborough) force name stamped on the whistle is that it can help us to date it (along with the Hudson address). For example, we see the whistle to the left:

We can be fairly certain of the small date range within which the whistle illustrated here could have been made, due to the borough force name and the address stamped on the body of the whistle. Barnstaple Borough Police were active between 1836 and 1921, but 131 Barr Street was used as the premises of J.D. Hudson & Co. for only three years, between 1885 and 1888. Therefore, we can accurately date the origins of this whistle to the late 1880s.

British Association of Friends of Museums

MUSEUMS’ SCHOOLS PROGRAMME RECEIVES SANDFORD AWARD

Friends of London Transport Museum

LTM’s schools programme has been awarded the 2015 Sandford Award in recognition of the excellent learning experience that is provided for visiting schools by the Museum’s staff, freelancers and volunteers. The Award judges said, “The whole Museum is highly interactive and engaging, but the educational programmes add extra experience to inspire learners further. Facilitators, either freelancers or actors, add an extra dimension by immersing the children in problem solving, whether it be helping Monte the Mole find the best transport for getting home from London, or children researchering and creating a group presentation about a particular form of transport in the past.”

For more information visit www.bafm.org.uk

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Tel: (w) 01179 777435 Email: admin@bafm.org.uk

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GOOD GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

Julian Blake

In his occasional column for BAFM, Julian Blake, Joint Head of the Charity & Social Enterprise Department at law firm, Bates Wells Braithwaite offers advice on reviewing your Friends Group’s governance. Bates Wells Braithwaite offers a free legal email helpline service to BAFM Members, please address your enquiry in the first instance to Jayne Selwood, BAFM Administrator.

Goverance of a “Friends of” charity, as with any community based voluntary organisation, should be about the establishment and operation of a balanced framework within which efficient and productive organisational authority, management and internal relationships may be facilitated. Issues can arise from both excessive casualness and an over-attachment to traditional methods.

One aspect of good governance is a periodic review, for example to be undertaken every five years. This is the means by which a charity’s arrangements and processes may be kept up to date and by which structural and procedural issues may receive timely attention.

The starting point of any review is a reminder that the board of charity trustees has the responsibility and legal duty to ensure that the charity is governed reasonably and prudently in pursuing its public benefit, constitutionally defined, charitable objects.

The constitution needs to serve this purpose. A basic review question will be whether the board composition, including the balance of experience and skills, appointment process and terms in office, (still) works as well as it could. There may also be some desirable modernisation, for example relationship to board procedures or particularly in modern methods of communication.

At the next level, a review would consider whether the established set of organisational policies and procedures is complete, proportionate and effective. The most significant issues will relate to the institutional care annotating the legal and governance framework. There is a plethora of available guidance on good governance, but much of it focuses more on formal than equally important practical issues. With that qualification, the guidance available on the Charity Commission website is a reasonable starting point.

A legal issue which might currently merit some thought is the relatively new structural option of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or “CIO”. “Friends of” charities will often have been established in unincorporated form, either under a trust deed, with a board of trustees, or under the rules of an unincorporated association, with a constitutional membership and a board of trustees. Others will be, in the historical corporation form of a charitable company limited by guarantee, with or without a company membership separate from the individual trustee board members.

For a new “friends of” charity, the CIO might be the best option. It provides a corporate structure, with the advantages of a legal identity for the organisation itself beyond the collective identity of its trustees and formal limited liability protection for those trustees. Meanwhile, unlike the company limited by guarantee, it is required to be registered with the Charity Commission and not also by Companies House. However, for an existing charity, often, the existing constitution, duly modernised, updated and periodically reviewed will continue to be appropriate.

On the duties, responsibilities and potential liabilities of trustees, the review report provides a precise understanding of the legal reality, which, in summary: requires, as is appropriate in relation to a legal duty, appropriate diligence, but is otherwise, as is appropriate to a volunteer position, more permissive than is often suggested.

AN ENGINEER REMEMBERED

Malcolm Lock, Chair, Friends of Windsor & Royal Bough Museum

The former Great Western Railway Station in Windsor now boosts a blue plaque commemorating the company’s some time Chairman and Windsor resident, Sir Daniel Gooch. The bicentenary of Gooch’s birth will occur in 2015. Gooch was appointed Locomotive Engineer to the Great Western by Brunel and worked for the company for most of his life, rising to Chairman in 1865 and remaining so until his death in 1889. He became an eminent citizen of his adopted town of Maidenhead, Berkshire, Pre-Grand Master of the Berks and Bucks Freemasons, MP for Cricklade (the constituency for Swindon Works) and he sat on the bench in Windsor - Gooch gained fame, and his knighthood, by laying the first transatlantic cable telegraph in 1866, using the Great Eastern steamship he so personally helped to build for the churchyard of St Andrews Clever.

Aware of the forthcoming anniversary, the Friends of Windsor & Royal Borough Museum made application to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to request funding for the plaque. This was agreed in principle but to the proposer falls the task of suggesting a location and seeking permission of owners for the plaque to be fixed to their property. As Clever Park, the house to which Gooch moved in 1859, has long been demolished, the railway station seemed an obvious choice. Chair of the Friends, Malcolm Lock, contacted the Railway Museum, First Great Western and Windsor Royal Shopping – all of whom have an interest in the town after Gooch for this permission. It was duly given, a site chosen and the project had the go ahead.

The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Dee Quick, on the morning of 15th October 2015, coincidently 156 years to the day after Gooch’s death, in front of some 30 invited guests. Afterwards there was a small reception held at the Museum where the friends and Museum staff had put on a display of Gooch memorabilia.

It is hoped to mount a larger exhibition in August 2016 to coincide with the date of his birth.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LAING ART GALLERY, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE – Drs Andrea & William Telford

would continue in the tradition, so that FLAG would continue to be a vibrant and effective organisation for the next 50 years. In December, Elizabeth McCaffrey, then cut the beautiful anniversary cake. It was a truly enjoyable occasion, and thanks were expressed to the staff of the Assembly Rooms for the excellent food and service.

Since then, the Friends have enjoyed a variety of social and educational events. In October, to accompany the highly successful exhibition at the Laing, ‘The Arts & Crafts House: Then and Now’, Dr Michael Johnson gave a lecture on ‘Arts and Crafts Treasures of the North East’. In November, we had a fascinating talk by Zoe Finlay on Paper Conservation, and those present were intrigued to see the samples that members had brought along, which Zoe was able to comment on. The year’s programme came to a conclusion and with the annual Christmas Buffet at the venue in the Assembly Rooms. In the New Year, we’ve already been treated to a talk by local historian Marian Anderson: ‘Suffragettes’ – very appropriate considering that many of us had recently visited the film – and we can look forward to another varied and interesting programme in 2016.

AND SPEAKING OF ‘SUFFRAGETTE’...

October 2015 saw the charity premieres of the film, “Suffragette”, in Manchester. Over £1 0,000 was raised on that right, which was the start of a major fundraising drive by the Pankhurst Trust. The Pankhurst Trust currently runs a small museum at 60-62 Nelson Street, Manchester, home of Emmeline Pankhurst, and birthplace of the Suffragette movement. The fundraising aims to raise £200,000 in match funding to facilitate a £2 million HLF bid to restore 62 Nelson Street. The aim is to complete the project by 2018, the centenary of women over 30 getting the vote.

The news has now been published and will have been delivered to all MA members. It is an important document and espouses three essential principles: public engagement and public benefit, stewardship of collections and individual and institutional integrity. The development of this code has involved a process involving representatives from across the museum sector, funders, interest groups, members of the public and other stakeholders.

It represents the general consensus of the sector on the ethical standards that are expected for all museums and those who work in and with them. Worth a read: http://www.museumsassociation.org/ethics/code-of-ethics

NEW MA CODE OF ETHICS

British Association of Friends of Museums
BAM Journal Issue 116 Spring 2016

For more information visit www.bafm.org.uk
Tel: (w) 01179 777435 Email: admin@bafm.org.uk

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HORSE BUSES IN LATER YEARS

Guy Marriott, Friends of London Transport Museum

The Autumn 2015 issue of the LTM Friends News included a photograph of the horse bus service promoted in summer 2015 by Stanford’s, the map, guide and travel book sellers in Covent Garden’s Long Acre. This horse bus ran on two days a week until the end of October on a circular route running from Stanford’s bookshop via The Strand, Trafalgar Square, The Embankment, Parliament Square, Whitehall and back to Trafalgar Square. The bus itself is a modern replica and offered a journey of over an hour, at a ticket price of £30 for adults.

The transport historian Charles E Lee recorded that the last horse bus service operated by the London General Omnibus Company ran between Moorgate Street and London Bridge Station on 25th October 1911. While the last horse buses in regular service in London were operated by Thomas Tilling between Peckham Rye and Honor Oak until 4th August 1914, the last London horse tram was a single-decker that ran from Rotherhithe to the Old Kent Road, until May 1915. Outside London, a horse bus service continued to run across the High Level Bridge between Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead until June 1931 and in Northern Ireland the Fintona horse tram ran until 1957. (Horse trams still run along the promenade in Douglas, Isle of Man, during the summer months, though they have been under threat recently, due to funding cuts).

After the end of horse bus service in London, many horse bus bodies were sold for farming, storage and holiday purposes, and thereafter were usually left to gently decay. The Shillibeer replica horse bus now on display in the Museum at Covent Garden was constructed in 1929 for the “Centenary of the Omnibus” celebrations that year. The original Tilling knifeboard horse bus on display in the Museum and the garden-seat horse bus now at the Acton Depot also took part in these celebrations; the latter was re-acquired in the late 1920s from the Thames riverbank, where it had been used as a home.

At a time of fuel shortage and rationing during the Second World War, some surviving horse buses were put to use. A 1944 photograph exists of a garden-seat horse bus passing the Bank of England whilst being used by Dolland & Aitchison for deliveries, and from 1944 until 1949 another was in service for passengers between Chessington South station and Chessington Zoo and Circus. This “3-light” (i.e. 3 side windows) horse bus had run in London for Saloman Andrews’ Star Omnibus Company and later went to the USA.

The bus was eventually brought back to England by the John Andrews Charitable Trust and was presented to the London Bus Museum at Brooklands, where it is in regular service for passenger rides at the Museum’s special events.

For the 1979 celebrations to mark “150 Years of London’s Buses”, a regular horse bus service was run in Regent’s Park between 9th July and 30th September that year. The route was from Baker Street Station to London Zoo. The service ran every 30 minutes and the fare was 3/6 for adults. Mostly, the service was run by another Star Omnibus Company vehicle, this time a “4-light” (i.e. four side windows) bus, sponsored by, and carrying advertising for, The Famous Grouse whisky. This bus was later acquired by the John Andrews Charitable Trust and, together with the 3-light horse bus mentioned above and an earlier knifeboard horse bus, was presented to the London Bus Museum at Brooklands. This 4-light horse bus has recently been on loan to Beamish, but is now back at the Bus Museum. The other two horse buses featured in the 1979 celebration brochure are a 3-light displaying advertisements for McDougall’s Flour and a 4-light which carried advertisements for the Godfrey Double Decker chocolate bar. Both these buses are now thought to be in private ownership in the north of England.

A fourth horse bus which ran in Regent’s Park that year as a back-up is a 3-light now lived as the “Holmwood-Dorking” bus, which has been owned for many years by Drewitts Carriages of Epsom. Tony Drewitt discovered the bus body lying derelict in a field in 1975 and restored it over a five-year period. This horse bus is generally available for hire to weddings and other events, and is often to be seen in the Lord Mayor’s Show parade. Between 1993 and 1996, and sponsored by the Evening Standard and carrying their advertising, this horse bus ran in the summer, and at Christmas, on a short circular route starting and finishing at Covent Garden. The bus was kept overnight at County Hall, with the horses brought in by horse box every morning. Tony Drewitt is now completing the restoration of another horse bus from a Sussex farm, which was advertised on eBay for £500 in 2012 and was acquired by Tony and is presently undergoing extensive restoration. It should make its first appearance in London for over 100 years in the 2016 Lord Mayor’s Show parade.

For anyone tempted by the idea of running a horse bus in London in the 21st century, the running costs for the horses and feed, together with the daily expense of bringing the horses into London, staffing and other costs, are going to be about £1500 per day. This will require significant ticket sides and also additional sponsorship. The opportunity to ride on a horse bus in London today is always going to be rare and special.

Additional note: In 1990 LTM Friends News Editor, Barry LeJeune photographed a 4-light London Road Car horse bus in The Strand, seemingly on a service promoting some interesting tourist attractions – see picture. Is this yet another surviving London horse bus? And are there others? Barry LeJeune and the LTM Friends would be pleased to receive information.

At the end of March 2016, the Friends of Wandsworth Museum will hold a special meeting to declare the formal winding up of FoWM. It is sad that such a vibrant, dedicated group should close down, but there is some cheer too, as this is part of the Museum’s journey to full integration with the Battersea Arts Centre. Over the past 8 years we Friends raised funds, organised a dedicated group of volunteers, welcomed visitors to exhibitions and held some very lively parties with entertainment and quizzes laid on. All of these sent out the message that there was support and a need for Wandsworth Museum. And now a new phase has arrived when the Museum will merge with BAC and we trust that the same enthusiasm, energy and support will find an outlet in this new incarnation.

The collaboration means our museum will survive, albeit in a different form. We are offered the “Moving Museum”, an innovative idea for a museum that moves away from the traditional static displays to ones that literally move around the building and, eventually, it is hoped, travel all over the borough. Emerging from the draft strategy is the idea of a Museum Bus that could visit schools and sites across the borough. This is just one delightful and imaginative concept which gets our support.

Some of us have been lucky enough to attend receptions, performances and tours that have been funded by BAC which, nevertheless, has managed to be both dynamic, exciting and welcoming. We are also fortunate to have a rich collection of very special objects on loan from the Wandsworth Museum Collection which will become an integral part of the developing BAC heritage programme. The friendliness of the welcome extended to us and the palatable sense of excitement about the community and cultural life of Wandsworth and inspire confidence. The potential for a sustainable future is considerably given this good will and with support from Arts Council England. I trust that the Moving Museum concept will extend the reach and achieve what we Friends always worked for in new and ever more telling ways. Friends of Wandsworth Museum are encouraged to become Members of Battersea Arts Centre, and so play an important role in making The Moving Museum a success.
FRIENDS AT WORK: FRIENDS OF LLANCAIACH FAWR, CAERPHILLY – LLANCAIACH FAWR MANOR GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Llancaiach Fawr Manor is a fortified manor in South Wales. Built in 1550, the current building has stood largely unchanged in the Glamorgan uplands for the past 500 years; however, the gardens surrounding the Manor have undergone significant transformation during this period. Although no formal garden plan or evidence survives from the early part of the Manor’s history, we are able to ascertain its likely layout and design from surviving records from other houses of the period. It is in this premise that the current garden design has been formulated and today you will see amongst other things, a Knot Garden, Shady Walk, Pond Garden and Physic Garden. The Gardens in their current form allow visitors to truly imagine they are back in the 17th Century; they can explore and discover herbs and plants of the period while taking in the beauty and serenity of the formal gardens.

Colonel Richard was a very wealthy man, the sixth wealthiest in Glamorgan, and therefore he could afford to employ many gardeners to look after the gardens at Llancaiach. At present we only have two full time members of gardening staff and as you can imagine, large gardens require an extremely time-consuming task. This is where our volunteers play a vital role. We are fortunate enough to have many dedicated volunteers who spend many hours working in the gardens and around the site. The winter has been somewhat of a challenge with the persistent bad weather but our volunteers have worked to shine.

An area of the garden that needed particular attention was the physic garden. The reason for this was that during the Heritage Lottery Works the rear of the Manor was inaccessible, therefore the gardening at the rear became somewhat neglected. After much hard work by the volunteers, the Physic Garden is now back on track and ready to burst into life in the spring. Brambles and paths have been cleared, beds weeded and dug over and rose and fruit bushes pruned. All that’s needed now is a bit of nice weather to get things kick-started. The Gardening Club meets every Wednesday at 10am and we are currently seeking more volunteers to join. If you are interested you can e-mail Sean Stevenson at steves@caerphilly.gov.uk for more information.

The Power of the Herb

Whilst wandering through the kitchen at Llancaiach Fawr you will see large numbers of herbs growing out. They serve a number of purposes one of which is for colouring:

Madder – grows in boggy like ground and provides a deep brown colour. Add some indigo and it turns blue. However indigo was not chased as much as it was desirable. A lot of the blue is a bit of the iceberg as it’s almost impossible to trace what has happened to every piece of public art since 1454. What we do know is that this art work was commissioned and created for everyone to enjoy, and it should remain accessible to all. We want to raise awareness of just how vulnerable these works are and we want the public to help us track down lost pieces.”

Historic England argues that the price of scrap metal, the need for many public bodies to fill funding gaps, pressure from redevelopment, and vandalism are all reasons why such artworks are going missing.

HISTORIC ENGLAND REVEALS THREATS TO PUBLIC ART

Historic England recently revealed a list of lost, destroyed, sold or stolen postwar public artworks, and appealed to the public to help recover them. The organisation used its own research to create the list as well as information from the Twentieth Century Society, the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, historians and the artists themselves.

Out There: Our Past–War Public Art, at Somerset House from 3 February to 10 April, has been developed by Historic England to tell the story of public art created between 1945 and 1985.

Out There follows the fate of sculptures and reliefs by artists including Elisabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. One example is a bronze sculpture by Henry Moore, stolen from the Henry Moore Foundation’s estate in Hertfordshire in 2005 and believed to have been sold as scrap metal. Duncan Wilson, the chief executive of Historic England, said: “Historic England’s research is only the tip of the iceberg as it’s almost impossible to trace what has happened to every piece of public art since 1945. What we do know is that this art work was commissioned and created for everyone to enjoy, and it should remain accessible to all. We want to raise awareness of just how vulnerable these works are and we want the public to help us track down lost pieces.”

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES: THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM OF THE HOME, LONDON

After a successful HLF application, the focus now is on the challenge of raising another £4 million for the redevelopment, and also maximising income for running costs. We want to keep the Friends active and involved in the decision making process, and have prioritised increasing the number of Friends, especially focusing on recruiting corporate members. We have asked every Friend to help find us more Friends. But this presents us with a challenge as they are, in part, to be able to share with our members.

As we continue to increase our support of the museum, we don’t lose the friendship informality of our group. We don’t want to lose the advantages that we have, but we are also very conscious of the need for “new blood” in the Friends and it is also important to avoid “fossilization” of the committee. So we will be recruiting for specific, named roles on the committee and we will be proposing a time limit on committee membership at the next AGM, when we also propose to revise or renew subscription rates.


FINDING MORE FRIENDS

100 years of the Holburne Museum, Bath – Friends mark this with a Recruitment Drive

In 2016 the Holburne Museum will have been in its current site for 100 years. And the Museum urgently needs more financial support, so our big goal for 2016 is to increase the Friends’ membership to two thousand and six. As a thank you, we don’t cover the Museum’s running costs, and Friends’ subscriptions are an important income. We would therefore issue a challenge to all friends: persuade at least one of your friends to join the Friends. We will reward those who succeed in this challenge by offering them an extra year’s membership at the current rate (subscription rates will be increased at the AGM). The advantage of being part of a small museum like the Holburne is its potential for friendliness. Friends also gain unlimited free entry to world class exhibitions (usually at least 3 or year); Friends Private View evenings; preferential booking for events, lectures & concerts; newsletters; visits to houses and gardens, museums and galleries; foreign trips (a visit to Madrid & Segovia is planned for this October). Why not help the Friends meet this ambitious goal: join the Friends today!

Hearing Link – a leading UK charity for people with hearing loss – can help your museum become more accessible for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hearing loss affects far more than your ability to hear. The consequences can impact on every part of your life relationship, status, confidence and self-esteem. There are few of us who are unaffected by hearing loss as we begin to age, and with an ageing population (and a tendency for Friends’ members to be at older end of the age spectrum) this is an issue which affects us all.

Hearing Link’s Hear and Now community events provide free information on hearing loss and the help available. These will be run over the course of 2016 – dates & venues to be arranged. There are also Hard of Hearing Clubs in very region – perhaps your Museum or Friends’ group could link in with them and run a Museum facilities for their frequent activities and excursions.

Hearing link also operates a help desk for queries – accessible by phone, text, or email. There are Hearing Link branches for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Hearing Link delivers training to local organisations, to raise awareness of the practical and emotional challenges faced by those living with hearing loss. Contact your regional branch for details.

Accessibility Issues: Hearing impairment

Hearing Links
http://hearinglink.org.uk
http://hearinglink.org.uk/homes
http://hearinglink.org.uk/hearing-link-wales
http://hearinglink.org.uk/hearing-link-scotland
http://hearinglink.org.uk/hearing-link-northern-ireland

The Holburne Museum, Bath is running a clay workshop in March 2016 for visitors with hearing loss or impairment. Deaf and hard of hearing visitors will make an impressionist style portrait in clay, and the workshop will be supported by a BSL (British Sign Language) interpreter.

We would like to hear from other BAMM Member groups who have had innovative ideas for enhancing the visitor experience for hearing impaired visitors. Contact the editor with your examples, and we may feature your group in a future edition of the Journal.
The Treasures of the Fan Museum

Friends of the Fan Museum, London

The Fan Museum owes its existence to the vision of its founders, Hélène Alexander MBE and her husband, the late A.V. Alexander. Located in the heart of Historic Greenwich, the Fan Museum occupies two beautifully restored Grade II listed Georgian townhouses. The Museum holds more than 5,000 objects – arguably the UK’s largest collection of its kind – including fans dating from the twelfth century onwards and works by Salvador Dalí, Paul Gauguin and Walter Sickert. The Museum has cultivated a special atmosphere in which visitors are treated like members of an extended family and is perhaps unusual in actively promoting a traditional attitude to learning, research and customer care – perhaps relentless of times past. In conjunction with a varied temporary exhibition programme the Museum holds regular literary and theatrical events, offers fan making workshops, educational visits and operates a conservation unit.

“It was Pepa’s sense of perfection, instilled from an early age, which has caused me to hope that The Fan Museum is in every detail a centre of excellence. Let the fans and their beauty speak for themselves…” – Hélène Alexander MBE, Founder/Director of The Fan Museum

This is the UK’s only museum dedicated to the history of fans and to the craft of fan-making and celebrates its twentieth-fifth anniversary in 2016. To mark the occasion an exhibition of the Museum’s finest fans, Treasures of The Fan Museum, will run from 16 January to 05 June 2016.

For this celebratory show, the Museum’s curators have delved deep into the collections, hand picking a remarkable array of fans which showcase the extraordinary diversity of the Museum’s holdings. Exhibition highlights include fine examples of English fan making such as two mid-eighteenth century folding fans – one painted with a detailed view of Ranelagh Gardens, the other capturing a market scene set within Inigo Jones’ Covent Garden piazza. From France, generally regarded to be the epicentre of European fan making and fan use, the exhibition includes seventeen century fans richly painted with mythological subjects, elaborately carved & gilt rococo decorations, and dating from the early twentieth century, feather fans of ostrich and bird of paradise. From the East, the exhibition shows an outstanding Chinese ceremonial fixed fan of richly carved lacquer and a number of Japanese fans fashioned from ivory with exquisite spirited gold designs. Contemporary fan making is represented in the form of fans made by Sylvain Le Guen, whose modernist confections capture the imagination and present fan making as a wholly relevant art form.

Event Dates: Saturday 16 January – Sunday 05 June 2016
Event Location: The Fan Museum, 12 Crooks Hill, London SE10 8ER

In other news, The Fan Museum welcomed guests from the Art Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Friends of The Fan Museum to celebrate the acquisition and installation of an Elizabethan period embroidered folding fan. The fan was recently integrated into the museum’s permanent display, and this special occasion allowed Donors to enjoy the new acquisition and to learn more of its significance as a piece of fan history. Guest of honour Sir Roy Strong C.H. (former director of both The National Portrait Gallery and Victoria & Albert Museum) gave a short speech to highlight the significance of the acquisition, while playing tribute to The Fan Museum’s founder, Hélène Alexander MBE.

www.thefanmuseum.org.uk

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The 2015 area conference was held at the Museum of Carpet, Kidderminster with an attendance of around 35 people from a range of Friends groups. The title for the day was ‘Working with your Museum in Changing Circumstances’ and the focus was the issues faced by museums and Friends groups in demanding financial conditions.

The initial talk, ‘Staying Friends – a Museum Perspective on Working with Friends at Times of Change’ was given by Rachel Cockett, Director of Development at Birmingham Museums Trust. (see Rachel’s article on page four). Birmingham Museums have recently moved from local authority to trust status and Rachel outlined some of the changes they had to make, including the opportunity to develop new programmes, in particular in the areas of social justice and children’s programmes. The financial support received from the Friends was very important – supporting proposals in the areas of acquisitions, programmes and development/support related matched funding. The Trust is a charity and this has provided opportunities in areas not previously open to them and means that they could also press the need for core funding from the Government, their former employers. The Museum had also developed a membership scheme running parallel to the Friends’ programmes, and it was necessary to establish clear demarcation lines between them. The Friends realised that clarity here was vital but good communications provided benefits from both sides.

A further talk was given by Nigel Semmens on fundraising. Nigel outlined ways of obtaining support from trusts, corporate sponsorship and membership schemes – details of this can be provided on request.

A final presentation was given by Dave Marshall, Chair of Hereford Museums and Arts, an umbrella group supporting the 17 museums in the county. Dave stressed the need for clear direction in the areas of partnership, use of volunteers, identification of audiences and linkage as conditions for a successful operation – on the negative side were exclusion, ageing and lack of creative thinking.

Those present took full advantage of the opportunity to look round the museum and to see the working carpet loom in action. Special thanks were given to the Friends of the Museum of Carpet for all their support in organising the meeting.

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Jim Campe – Chairman

Further to my message recorded in the August newsletter regarding the inclusion of a new address under the Friends, I have now notified the Charities Commission of our dissolution. The existing funds (when audited) will then be handed over to the museum architect to help towards the full cost of conservation of several gallery portraits of the local Fanshawe Family; four paintings are currently under scrutiny with the conservation specialists.

Valence House Friends are invited to continue the talks, outings and activities that you have organised, it seems impossible that support to help this to continue is not forthcoming. The Friends is not only a support for Valence House but a support and interest for the local community and a focal point. When Valences Mansion opened after its refurbishment you were helpful in pointing out possible problems that could occur when we tried to use the local authority and how things worked. We looked forward to your History Fairs – and how we envied your book sales takings! When Madeleine Saviour and I came to talk about ‘our house’ at Valence, our first digital show, we had a good welcoming audience.

It does seem that the next generation is either too busy or unable to commit themselves to organising and running these support groups.

It is a sad day, but thank you for being there, thank you for all the work you have done and I am sure that everything you have done will be remembered and hopefully one day someone will come along to carry it forward.
GETTING TO KNOW MOTHS
– Mary Bailey, Friends of Bristol Art Gallery

One Saturday in August 2015, a group of Friends set off on a real voyage of discovery. Ray Barretti had set up moth traps with bright ultra-violet lights in two locations near the pond in Royal Fort Gardens and we met in the gathering dusk to be introduced to the world of moths – and what a complex world it is. We learned that about 2,600 species of moth have been identified in the UK. About 800 of those are large, the others are all micro moths. Both types have an extraordinary variety of markings, habitats, reproduction and food sources. The larvae of aquatic moths spin silk cocoons in waterside plants, sometimes under water, and the adult moths swim to the shore. Carpet moths eat plants, not carpets, but were so named in the 18th century. The moth which does eat clothes and carpets has thrived in recent years as it has evolved to enjoy fluffy beneath flannelette, and has been known to cause up to 30% damage to flannel shirts. One species has developed a sword-like proboscis, which cuts into fruit flesh – maybe the theme of a future creature feature horror film?

We wandered from trap to trap trying to absorb countless facts but failing to find a really spectacular specimen. Ray explained that conditions have to be absolutely right for successful moth trapping: a warm, humid night is much better than the clear sky we had. There was also the distraction of fireworks from the balloon fiesta and music from a Bristol Grammar School disco. But by the end of the evening we began to understand why moths hold such a fascination for many people. We are very grateful to Ray for giving us a Saturday evening to give us an introduction to their world.

The largest moth in the trap was a Lesser Broad-Bordered Yellow Underwing (an LBZYU to the cognoscenti), the name of which we all found difficult to remember but admired its colouring.

LONG TERM FRIEND MAKES BIRTHDAYS COUNT – COULD YOU DO THE SAME?
– Friends of the Royal Marines Museum

Andy Jackson recently decided to make his 70th birthday a fundraising event, and wished to hire the museum to do so. Unfortunately – or perhaps encouragingly – the Royal Marines Museum was so busy with wedding bookings, that the earliest date could hire it was three months after his actual birthday date! Andy’s party was a gathering of family and friends, with drinks, buffet and great traffic, with the RMA Big Band section playing 1940s big band music for an evening of dancing. Over £3,000 was raised, with £1,000 going to the Friends, and over £2,000 to the Royal Navy/Royal Marines Children’s Fund. That was not the first time that Andy has decided to celebrate his birthday by “giving something back” to the Marines and to the Friends. For his 65th birthday in 2010, Andy hired the museum for a large charity night. The attractions and activities taking over the Museum that night included a Casino, Horse Racing, A Magician, a Fortune Teller, a Folklands auction, a Grand Raffle, and again, the 1940s music of the RMA Big Band. On that occasion also, £1,500 was raised for the Friends and several thousands pounds to the RM Charitable Trust Fund. Andy first joined the Friends in 1992 just after he left the Corps after over 25 years’ service. At that time, the RM Friends were called the “166 Club”.

CHANGES AHEAD FOR FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL MARINES MUSEUM

The Sea Mere Project aims to create a Centre for Discovery at the National Maritime Museum of the Royal Navy and Historic Dockyards, and a relocated Royal Marines Museum. The RM Museum at the end of April 2016 the HLF fund has been successful. If, so, they will be relocating to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The current RM Museum received 40,000 visitors a year and it is believed that it would receive at least 10 times that number, were it at the Dockyard as part of the Royal Navy Museum complex. The Museum’s current home at the old Officers Mess at Eastney is a listed building unsuitable for renovation or expansion. Moving to Boathouse S will place the RM Museum at the heart of Britain’s naval heritage and provide large, open spaces suitable for modern museum display and activities. The current premises has been in continuous occupation by the Corps since it was built in 1867, but since 1993 has had no use except as a museum. While for older members the Eastney Officers Mess holds many proud associations, extensive focus group work has shown that current serving RM’s and retired RM’s feel a bit of or no affinity with Eastney. It seems appropriate to embrace the future by moving to new premises which will facilitate greater public outreach, especially when telling the story of the RM’s to the public is the main purpose of the Museum.

PRESENTATION OF BAFM NEWSLETTER AWARDS
– Alan Sdwerlow

In December 2015 I was delighted to present BAFM Newsletter Awards to two Friends groups in my region. On 3 December I was at Norwell Castle to hand over the certificate and cheque to Ceri Lamb of the Friends of the Northwich Museums who were runners up in Category 3. The judges particularly commended the ‘What’s on in Your Museum’ section and an article on someone’s favourite artefact. They also liked the description and illustration of small archaeological finds ‘in the hope that some members would be willing to acquire them for the museum.’ Norvich Friends were urged to look into whether there would be a significant extra cost of acquiring full colour throughout as that could mean that colour illustrations could be placed immediately adjacent to the relevant text.

On 18 December I was with the Friends of Greenbank to present their Chairman Ted Peachment with the award in Category 1. The judges were unanimous in giving full marks to their excellent publication, calling it a truly outstanding newsletter, purposeful, and focused. Last year they had been criticized for not mentioning BAFM – this year they allocated a good space to the Association.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION – CUTS SURVEY 2015

Key Findings:
8% of respondents introduced changes over the past year, 12% said that would do so in the coming year.
2% of respondents have changed their governance model in the past five years.
11% said they would consider financing motivated disposal in the coming year.
61% of respondents reported an increase in visitor numbers.
45% of respondents said they had increased the number of unsold staff.
Full results and analysis can be found on the MA website: http://www.museumassociation.co.uk/ campaigns/funding-cuts-cuts-survey.

PRESENTATION OF BAFM AWARD TO FRIENDS OF SOUTHAMPTON MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

In November, Regional Co-ordinator, Hassi Shah-Leverett met with the Friends of Southampton’s Museums, Archives & Galleries (FaSMAG). Hassi had the pleasure of presenting the Friends’ BAFM Newsletter Award to Jenny Leonard (Newsletter Editor) and Clare Faughey (Chair) of FaSMAG at the Southampton Art Gallery. The Judges felt “…every issue has its stunning front and back covers, which entice readers in. The content is varied with a good variety of authorship. One judge commented that this looked like a very ‘superior’ product, especially considering the lack of any financial or professional assistance” The Friends were very grateful to be recognized for their hard work and dedication.
NEWS FROM THE EASTERN REGION

- Alan Swerdlow

I have sent out a monthly e-newsletter to members in my six counties with copies to County Museum officers and regional MLA representatives. I present BAFM Newsletter awards to the Friends of Norwich Museums and to the Friends of Greenhall. Our Area meeting will be held in King’s Lynn on 29 February. At time of writing plans are moving forward for the meeting.

Friends of Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery

One of the Friends, Susan Wherrell, took this photo of a sand sculpture at the Richard III exhibition in Leicester. The sculpture, which required 80 tonnes of special sand, was by Susanne Rueseler from Holland. Amongst other articles in their newsletter is ‘What the didn’t teach you in history at school’ – fires in bedrooms causing a high incidence of respiratory problems in poorly ventilated rooms. And possibly a first for a Friends publication, a section on prostitution.

There are articles on the Romans in the Fens and their summer outing to Lincoln to see one of the four copies of Magna Carta. The Friends celebrated their 21st anniversary with a Christmas themed buffet and anniversary cake with an edible model of the Museum. The talk on a Medieval Christmas was accompanied by mince pies and a mince pie competition to a medieval recipe. With changes at the Museum the Friends are providing a stable element with their support, funding and advice. The talk was one of 245 give over the years.

Another refurbishment took place at Oakwell Hall, Birstall – the interior is now even better than it was before! Also in the grounds were held two recent re-enactments of the Lancashire Hussars and of the English Civil War Society. There are other outside events including the popular SK Park Run held Saturday mornings at 9am.

Oakwell Hall, Nutter Lane, Birstall, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LG.
Tel: 01924 327613
http://www.friendsofoakwellhall.org.uk/

Finally, our big regional meeting will be held this year at Red House in Gomersal, south of Bradford, W. Yorkshire. We will also be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charlotte Bronte and guests will find out how important this area was for Miss Bronte. Red House was once the home of Charlotte Bronte’s close friend Mary Taylor. Charlotte often stayed there in the 1830s and the Taylors appear as the “Yorkes” and the house as “Brammaids” in her novel “Shirley”. This farmer cloth merchant residence is beautifully furnished as a family home of the 1830s. In the Old Barn a stunning exhibition called “The Secret’s Out” tells the story of Charlotte Bronte’s connections with the area and the friendship she developed locally.

Red House, Oxford Road, Gomersal, West Yorkshire, BD19 6JP
Tel: 01274 335100

Congratulations are due to Kirklees Council for their beautifully produced booklet about the events at eight museums, including Oakwell Hall and Red House. One idea from the Kirklees Museums and Galleries that deserves mentioning is their Museum in a Box. People who physically cannot get to the museums may borrow a box which will be filled with Historic and reproduction objects, photographs and newspapers.

BAFM HOME NEWS – NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: NEWS FROM THE NORTH EAST

– Haris Livas Dawes, BAFM Co-ordinator, NE Region

The Green Howards Regimental Museum in Richmond, North Yorkshire was officially re-opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony performed by Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nicholas Houghton GCB CBE ADCGen. The ceremony included a Green Howards parade, which was enjoyed by the inhabitants of Richmond. The museum now includes a fascinating insight into military life in the early 20th century through a collection of objects and documentation relating to Major C.C. Godwin OBE, who was stationed in the Major’s leather suitcase embossed with his initials. Major Godwin served with the regiment between 1903 and 1928.

Coming up in September 2016 will be the Friends of The Green Howards commemoration of the Battle of the Somme 100 years ago. The program will spread over 10 and 11 September. There’s lots to do in Richmond, an historic Georgian market town overlooked by an imposing Norman Castle. As well as the shops, pubs, cafes and scenic riverside walks, you can also visit The Station, The Georgian Theatre Royal and The Richmondshire Museum.

The Green Howards Museum, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4QN
http://greenhowards.org.uk/

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NEWS FROM SOUTHEAST, LONDON & MIDDLESEX

– Kate Kuhn, London/Middx regional co-ordinator

Sadly The Friends of Valentia House disbanded on 31st December (see p.21). Support was given to the Friends in ensuring correct procedures in the closure and following the Charity Commission regulations in the disposal of their remaining funds. The total of some £9000 has been given to the museum to ensure the condition and continuance of their Fanxhove Collection. The current Friends continue to organise an active Ecology Group and local Group Programme and will continue to support the museum with their fund raising. The possibility of Valentia House joining BAFM as an institutional member is being pursued.

The issue of museum membership schemes affecting Friends’ recruitment continues to arise. Currently The Geffrye Museum and The Horniman Museum are dealing with this. It is something that perhaps BAFM could help with. On a more positive front, The Metropoitan Police Historical Collection have received a grant to establish a museum. They have turned to BAFM for advice in regard to recruiting volunteers for the new museum and the necessary regulations that need to be followed.

At the BAFM National Conference and AGM I made contact with the National Army Museum Newsletter Editor, Robin Ollington, who was interested in the BAFM award for best Newsletter for 750 + members for 2015 (see article page 6). The National Army Museum is currently undergoing a massive rebuild and due to reopen at the end of 2016. The possibility of holding our 2017 AGM at the NAM is currently being pursued.

The Friends of Kenwood gave their invaluable help and support in ensuring a most informative and successful Area Day Conference at Kenwood House in May 2015.

Curator-led Friday Tours of Kenwood House

Don’t forget that Kenwood’s Curator, Dr Jerry Kieckebiehl, gives fascinating Friday tours which focus on Kenwood’s outstanding art collection. Learn about the mystery composition of the fireplace on the first floor, find out who the Angestien children were and why Reynolds painted them. Cost is £12 a ticket, and the tours begin at 1pm, and last about an hour, on a first come, first served basis, with a maximum of 20 people. It is recommended you call Kenwood House (020 8345 1286) on the Friday morning you wish to attend to check that the tour will be taking place.


NEWS FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS

– Tony Colton, BAFM East Midlands Co-ordinator

Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum Friends

The group have played an instrumental role in supporting the Museum as it goes from strength to strength, with visitor numbers increasing, the achievement of prestigious ‘MAGMs’, and Heritage Awards for ‘Innovation and working with young people’. The changing role of Friends is reflected in the structure of the Museum organisation and its committees. Furthermore a ‘First Away Day’ was arranged whereby trustees/members visited a Lincolnshire Museum and shared information and common agendas.

Friends of Erewash Museum

An excellent example of community partnership, the local Council and the Friends worked together and achieved a substantive HLF grant. The subsequent development will be showcased in the Spring, when the Regional Conference will be invited to share the celebrations. Hidden inside a recent newsletter was ‘The Tea Room’ development which [quote] ‘will be the Friends’ Tea Room and not the Museum’s’ – a good indicator of sharing success?

Friends of Market Harborough Museum

The Museum continues to provide evidence of community/societies working together, where the role of Friends has often been the platform for collaborative working, the outcome of which is the development of resilience and sustainable futures.
/international news
Council Meeting and General Assembly of The World Federation of Friends of Museums June 2-5, 2016, Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS
Council Meeting and General Assembly of The World Federation of Friends of Museums June 2-5, 2016, Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends,
It’s a very special honour for me to invite you all to the next Meeting of the World Federation of Friends of Museums in Washington, D.C., June 2-5, 2016. Also I want to convey my warmest thanks to the United States Federation of Friends of Museums which will be hosting this event.

Even though this is “just” a Council Meeting and General Assembly and not a WFFM Congress with a special theme, the motto “Friendship and Cooperation Worldwide” suits this event very well. It reflects the core intention and all the positive aspects of the WFFM and it points towards the challenges that we are facing as an international organization.

I’m looking forward to meeting all of you, to getting to know even more of your work and above all to deepen our friendship and strengthen our cooperation!

All the best,
Dr. Eikkehard Nümann

Dear friends,
When we were meeting earlier this year in Mexico City, Jean Michel Rancé suggested holding the 2016 meetings of WFFM in Paris. I was delighted, having lived there briefly in the 1970s and visited it often since. But Eikkehard determined: “WFFM has met in the United States. John, what about New York?” I had lived my early years there and returned to practice law there, but the idea of moving 50+ people around the traffic choked streets of “The Big Apple” to visit far apart museums… was simply not a good idea.

But Washington… Virtually all of the museums are government owned and entrance is free. Distances are short and the two hotels where rooms have been reserved for you are only two blocks apart. We welcome you to Washington and hope you enjoy our small capital on the Potomac.

John W. Barrum President, U.S.FFM
The USFMM has reserved rooms for the participants of the meeting at the Dupont Circle Hotel, and at The Embassy Row Hotel. Please make the booking yourself. Please do not forget to refer to the meeting of the WFFM. Major credit cards can be used to book rooms.

WFFM 2016
Global meeting of the Young Friends of Museums
Washington, D.C., June 2-5, 2016

Dear Young Friends,
I’m very happy to see that the Young Friends of Museums are already practicing the motto of the years Council Meeting and General Assembly. “Friendship and Cooperation Worldwide.” We believe that this motto reflects the core intention and all the positive aspects of the WFFM and that it points towards the challenges that we are facing as an international organization.

To many of us advanced members of the WFFM, the new technologies that help us to fulfill these intentions may be unknown territory. The capital of the new world may therefore probably be the most inspiring place for us to discuss the opportunities that the “age of internet” has to offer. And it may also be the right place to get a feeling for the fact that change can only be substantial if it does not neglect its traditions.

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you, to learn about your ideas and projects and above all to help you deepen your friendship and to strengthen our cooperation!

All the best,
Dr. Eikkehard Nümann President WFFM

Dear Young Friends,
Since our very first Meeting in Berlin and our second in Mexico City great things have happened to the Young Friends. Community around the world. So far we have shared information, passed on knowledge and created an important network that expands at a great rate. Undoubtedly, we have taken in much from each other. Yet – above all things – we have learned that when young friends get together new projects always see the light of day.

But now is the time to ask ourselves a few questions related to our work and our future:

What is our main goal as Young Friends of Museums? How do we all work on a single international project? In what ways can we contribute to the WFFM?

I am sure that as a team we will be able to answer some of these questions and the many more that will come up while being here in DC. We will build great things for sure! Let’s enjoy the ride!

Welcome,
Eliana Zanini
Coordinator of the Young Friends of the Argentinian Federation of Friends of Museums (FADAM)

We do not have any registration fees.

If you want to join the meeting, please send an Email to Eliana Zanini, eli_zanini@hotmail.com, so that we know on how many participants we can count on.

Please organize your overnight stay yourself. WFFM Young Friends recommend using Airbnb during your stay in Washington. DC. Visit www.airbnb.de/locations/washing-ton-dc to explore options.

BAFM is an independent organisation established in 1973 to fulfil these intentions may be unknown territory. The capital of the new world may therefore probably be the most inspiring place for us to discuss the

spending time at the particular venue
the benefits to their career or organisation
provide an indication of the total cost of the proposal in their submission.

The panel of judges will consider the ideas behind the proposal, its like success, and the value for money the proposal represents.

Short-listed applicants will provide references and may be asked to attend an interview. An application for a residential internship must be supported by a provisional invitation from the venue being considered.

A detailed report would be expected after the study period and the winner would be invited, expenses paid, to give a presentation at BAFM Conference.

# Timetable 2016
Cut off date for submissions 30 April 2016
May-July judging and interviews
Winner announced 1 September

An application form may be downloaded from the BAFM website to send with your proposal to:
Anne Stabo, BAFM Awards Administrator,
21 Albany Hill, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 3XG email annestabo@yahoo.co.uk

For general information contact: Kate Kuhn kikkuhn@hotmail.co.uk

BAFM TRAVEL AWARD BURSARY 2016

BAFM NEXT NATIONAL CONFERENCES:

BAFM SOUTH EAST WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Wednesday 8 June 2016
at the Princess Royal Gallery at Pentworth Historic Dockyard.
Co-hosted by the Friends of the Royal Naval Museum & HMS Victory
Theme: Managing Change - Friends Groups in the 21st Century.
As part of the conference, the Friends have very generously secured free access for delegates to visit ports of the Historic Dockyard including HMS Victory and HMS M.33 – the sole remaining British veteran of the Gallipoli Campaign.

BAFM SOUTH EAST SOUTHERN AREA DAY
Wednesday 15th June 2016
at Breakloks Museum, Breakloks Road, Waybridge, Surrey KT13 OQN.
Theme: ‘Breakloks Successfully Moves into the 21st Century, funding, connection and events’
With: The Breakloks Trust Members, Breakloks Museum
Contact: Anne Stabo M.5
Co-ordinator: 01892 548763

BAFM ONE DAY CONFERENCE 2016
1st October 2016
at Ingridbee, Cobblebrook.
Hosted by The Friends of the Ingridbee Gargoyle Museum
Theme T.B.C.
Contact: Jean Knight, BAFM Conference Co-ordinator:
E: winknife@btinternet.com
T: 02086 691546

WFFM DATES
WFFM Triennial Congress – Manila 2017

Contact: info@wffm.org

BAFM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
Friends of the National Archives
Friends of the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum, Brecon

For more information visit www.bafm.org.uk

BAFM TRAVEL AWARD – A REMINDER

The national e-newsletter is up and running, but goes out soon but only to those who have signed up. The e-newsletter is timed to appear between issues of the Journal and is a good place to publish time-sensitive information. It is a self-managed system so if you want to let your members have access please include the following text in your own publication. If you are not on the list yourself sign up as below:

To sign up for the BAFM national e-newsletter:
Fill in the form on the websitehttp://www.bafm.org.uk/newsletter
To stop receiving the newsletter: Click the Unsubscribe link at the bottom of the newsletter.
This applies when you have a change of committee membership and want to add a new name or take one off.

Tel: (w) 01179 777435 Email: admin@bafm.org.uk

BAFM Journal Issue 116 Spring 2016

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Dedicated to helping friends and volunteers

### BAFM MAIN CONTACTS LIST

**PATRON**
HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCV

**PRESIDENT**
Dame Rosemary Butler

**VICE-PRESIDENT**
Rosemary Marsh
01619 284340
rosemary@thedownses66.wanadoo.co.uk

**VICE-PRESIDENT**
Dr. Elizabeth Mackenzie MBE
01179 294622
campbell.mackenzie@sky.com

**CHAIRMAN**
Bernard Rostron
01706 632223
rostronb@gmail.com

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**
Alan Swerdlow
01394 380044
alan@whr.demon.co.uk

**INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**
Norah Dunbar
02890 654883
norahdunbar@btinternet.com

**AREA CO-ORDINATOR’S CO-ORDINATOR CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATOR**
Jean Knight
02086 691546
irvineknight@btinternet.com

**ADMINISTRATOR/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**
Jayne Selwood
01179 777435
07802 268821
jayneselwood@live.co.uk

### REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR WEST MIDLANDS (HEREFORD, SHROPSHIRE, WARRICKSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE)**
David Waterhouse
01743 343811
07528 330162
dwaterhouse@talktalk.net

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE**
Dr Haris Livas-Dawes
01964 650766
h.p.livas@gmail.com

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR LONDON & MIDDLSE**
Kate Kuhn
020 8852 4190
kkkuhn@hotmail.co.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR NORTH WEST (CHESHIRE, CUMBRIA, GREATER MANCHESTER, ISLE OF MAN, LANCASHIRE, MERSEYSIDE)**
Michael Brightman
01772 894550
07939 652513
MBrightman@uclan.ac.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR SOUTHERN COUNTIES (CHANNEL ISLANDS, KENT, SURREY, SUSSEX)**
Anne Stobo
01892 548763
annestobo@yahoo.co.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR SOUTH WEST (BRISTOL, CORNWALL, DEVON, DORSET, SOMERSET, WILTSHIRE, ISLES OF SCILLY)**
Muff Dudgeon
01728 648493
074321 30666
muff@dudgeon.eclipse.co.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR NORTH EAST (CLEVELAND, DURHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND, TEESIDE, TYNE AND WEAR)**
Charlotte Spink
0191 3345694
charlotte.spink@durham.ac.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR SE WESTERN COUNTIES (BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT, OXFORDSHIRE)**
Hassi Shah-Leverett
01329 664421
hassi@culturaljourneys.org

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR SE EASTERN COUNTIES (BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGE, ESSEX, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK)**
Alan Swerdlow
01394 380044
alan@whr.demon.co.uk

**REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR FOR SCOTLAND**
John Rosenfield
01479 810309
johnrosenfield@gmail.com
Author, Website:
www.spangefish.com/coylumppublishing

### OTHER CONTACTS

**AIM REPRESENTATIVE**
Gordon Cummings
01223 892108
gordon.cummings@aim-museums.co.uk

**PROJECT OFFICER, VOLUNTEERING MANAGEMENT**
Peter Walton
01580 242855
peterwalton590@btinternet.com

**HOME NEWS EDITOR**
Beverley Rogers
rogersbej@yahoo.co.uk

**JOURNAL EDITOR AND NEWSLETTER AWARD**
Tamzin Wedgwood
tamzinwedgwood@yahoo.com
wedgwoodgirls@hotmail.com
editor@bafm.org.uk

### BAFM MEMBERSHIP

- **Institutional:** Minimum donation of £30
- **Individual:** £25
- **Group:** under 100 members – £50
- **101-500:** £75
- **501-1,000:** £100
- **1001 upwards:** £150

### COVER PHOTO

**Ironbridge from the Air**
Ironbridge is the venue for this year’s BAFM one day conference. 
**Photo credit:** Skyscan Balloon Photography.

Submission deadlines for the next issue at end of the first week in June 2016.

BAFM does not endorse nor knowingly provide information to any fundraising or other commercial company.