



FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM



NEWS BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2016

HAMPTON COTTAGE, 64 CHURCH STREET, KT22 8DP.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2016 TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF LEATHERHEAD MUSEUM.

Dear Friends

The museum is closed for winter as I write this and someone said to me that they could see teasmades lined up inside the front window which made them feel very nostalgic as they used to have one. The museum is indeed undergoing exciting radical changes this winter thanks to Lorraine Spindler, our curator, and her team (look up at the upstairs windows as you pass). It will be exciting to enjoy the results of their creativity when the museum opens on April 2nd.

This is my last bulletin as acting Chair/Secretary/ Education Officer to The Friends of Leatherhead Museum as I will be retiring at the AGM on April 11th and I would like to thank to all those who have supported me in my 10 years as committee member and various officers. As John Millard is also retiring after sterling work, for which we sincerely thank him, there will now be quite a small committee to manage all the commitments of the Friends and I would like to reiterate my plea for some new members to join the group. It means 4 committee meetings a year and support for the various activities for which the friends are responsible- If you would like more information about the committee please phone Julia lack on 01372 386050. If you interested are in becoming a Steward please ring Debby Humphreys on 01372 378347. You will be most welcome

Most importantly – I hereby give notice of the AGM of the Friends of Leatherhead Museum to be held on Monday April 11th at 7.30 for 8.00 in room G6 at the Letherhead Institute. Agenda, minutes and accounts will be available at the meeting. Please come along and support us and have your say. Following the meeting we will have a “What’s this Artefact?” quiz in teams. Laurence Naylor will be sourcing some obscure items for us to puzzle over.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Friends have booked an outing for **Monday March 21st at 10.30am** to **Nonsuch Museum and Gallery** in Nonsuch Park near **Cheam (SM38AP)**. This is open to all Friends and members of the History Society. There will be a Guided tour at a cost of £3 per person. We will tour the 19th and 20th Century service areas of the mansion and visit the award winning model of the Palace of Nonsuch built by Henry VIII (featured by Dan Cruickshank on BBC 4) and also the Loosebox Gallery with its collection of restored stained glass from the mansion.

There is a cafe next door for our coffee on arrival and when I know numbers I will alert them to our arrival through my contact. Hopefully the gardens and park should be brimming with spring flowers. There is parking and good access for people with limited mobility.

For more details, to reserve a place or to enquire about a lift please contact Julia lack on 01372 386050.

I would like to make sure all stewards know that this year’s Stewards Briefing is on Saturday 19th March. This will be in Room F3 at the Letherhead Institute from 2.00-3.30pm. This is a great time to meet up with fellow stewards and to hear about any changes whilst reminding ourselves about the practicalities of stewarding. An essential start to the season! Please let Debby Humphreys 01372 378347 or Alan Pooley 01372 374093 know if you have a problem with this date.

****EVENTS PAST****

Craft Afternoons The Craft afternoons were buzzing as usual. We had a medieval theme this time to tie in with the new medieval room upstairs. Children made clay pots, pomanders (thanks to Tesco who funded the oranges and cloves) Magna Cartas, shields, crowns and many other history- related items. The Saxon weaving looked very bright and colourful displayed in the rear window of the museum. Kanchan Bagwatt and her friend Priti did the ever popular henna patterns on hands and arms and showed the children simple quilling which intrigued many adults as well. Many friends of the museum came to work with the children as well as Robin Christian's team from Horsham and over the three days we had about 215 visitors. It is always good to see families enjoying the museum, children dressed as medieval knights, queens and kings rushed to and fro during the afternoons relishing being characters from long ago. One small 2 years old insisted on having a medieval knight's outfit for his birthday following his visit.

Cycle Race The Prudential cycle race was on Sunday August 2nd and Fred Meynen and Ann Cardew kindly opened the museum to draw in the spectators. **Heritage weekend.** –extra volunteers kept the museum open on the Sunday and there were plenty of visitors throughout the weekend

****FUTURE EVENTS****

Monday 21st March at 10.30am – Museum outing. See above

Saturday March 19th from 2.00 – 3.30 This is the all important **Stewards Briefing session**

Thursday 31st March The Museum opens for the season so please will all stewards who do the **5th** Thur be available for that opening week. If that is a problem please can you find a replacement or let Debby Humphreys know ASAP. On 01372 378347

Saturday 2nd April is the **official opening**, please do come along and make it a busy occasion.

Monday 11th April at 7.30 for 8.00 at the Letherhead institute -**AGM** of the Friends of Leatherhead Museum (see above)

August 5th, August 12th and August 19th - Craft days for families- Your Ideas, skill, and general help and enthusiasm are needed. This is an important opportunity to draw children and families into our museum. Contact Julia lack if you would like to be involved.

****MEMBERSHIP****

We really do appreciate your support through the annual subs of £3 and £5 for couples

The **2016 subscription** is now due. Please can you send your cheque with the slip below to Gwen Hoad our membership secretary. If you want to leave it at the museum in an envelope someone will see it gets to Gwen

Best Wishes to all our members and thanks for your continued support

To Gwen Hoad – Membership Secretary – 66 Craddocks Avenue, Ashted. KT21 1PG

Please renew my/our membership to **The Friends of Leatherhead Museum**

I/We enclose £3/£5. My name is /Our names are _____

(If you have already paid alongside your History Society Membership you do not need to pay again)