



MUSEUM NEWS: CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES & NEW DISPLAYS

The first few months of the year always tend to be a little quiet as we prepare for the busier summer months, but we have had a fantastic start over the February half term. We had more than 200 children taking part in the museum crafts over the week and just short of 800 visitors in total. Last year we had 821 for the whole of February so it is great to see our pre-pandemic supporters returning as well as some new ones. It is brilliant that these events are so popular, and the success meant that we had queues almost every day. Thankfully we had unseasonably sunny and warm weather, but we will be brining in a booking system for the Easter holidays so that we can spread the creativity across the day.

At Easter we will be collaborating with the Art Fund for [The Wild Escape](#) event. Children can follow a trail around the museum to find artefacts which feature a native animal. They can then take part in a craft to help the animal escape from the museum and back into its natural habitat. There will also be the opportunity for everybody to display their creations as part of a combined artwork which will be unveiled in the museum on Earth Day, Saturday 22 April.

We were thrilled to welcome the Beaver Scouts to the museum this week. They visited the museum and then completed a story board of what they would like to experience during a dream day at the museum. As well as the spaceships, ghosts and submarines their brilliant artworks also highlighted

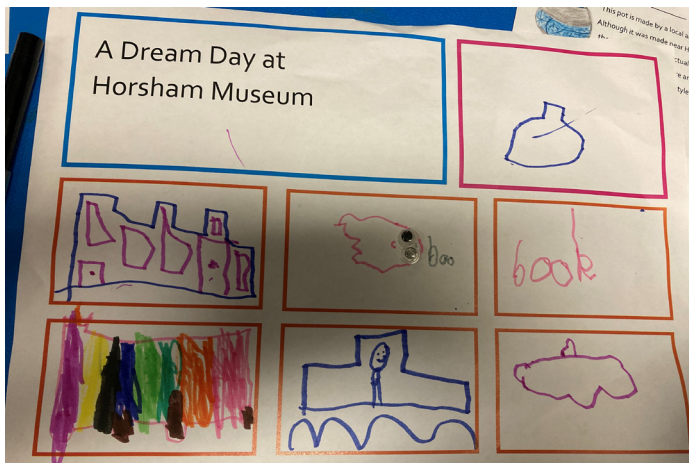


the galleries which connected most with their imaginations. The semi-precious stones and fossils downstairs proved to be a hit as well as the cannons in the garden, and of course dinosaurs. We do plan to revamp the dinosaur space next year, to further bring to life Horsham's arguably most beloved resident, the Horshamosaurus, but it was fantastic to hear that the gemstones really sparked their creativity too.

Plans for the Frederick DuCane Godman exhibition are coming together, and the Shelley display is at the final stages of the writing and design of the panel text and labels. We continue to be busy behind the scenes and our cataloguing volunteers are working systematically through the archive to digitally document every item in there. It is a long process but essential for the museum to run efficiently.

Thank you for your continued support of Horsham Museum & Art Gallery and I look forward to seeing you here in 2023.

Nikki Caxton



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The onset of Spring is always a cheering time when everything seems rather more uplifting. The Committee is equally inspired as we continue to work apace with the Museum whilst also providing opportunities for members to get together and enjoy a calendar of social occasions.

It was with pleasure that we introduced Jenny Mason from the West Sussex Records Office on 12th February and her visit generated a healthy audience, maybe helped by the 2.30pm start. We will keep this start time for the winter months going forward. With the forthcoming AGM and more speakers visiting during the year, plus the potential Woolbeding Gardens coach trip, there is now far more opportunity for us to meet each other and enjoy the benefits of FHM membership.

The Committee liaises very closely with Nikki and her team at the Museum and I am very pleased with the positive working relationship which continues to develop. We have made our first acquisition this year on the Museum's behalf; the 17th century

posy ring shown on the cover of the autumn 2022 newsletter. We will also be funding some book reprints for the Museum shop and our social media guru, Steve Payne, is beginning to unravel the potential of aligning the FHM Poster website to that of the Museum's together with the possibility of our own standalone FHM website in tandem.

The situation regarding membership of the Committee remains unchanged. Appeals to fill vacancies for various posts have yielded little response. Nonetheless, we press on with determination. I must thank Brian Frogley for continuing to informally caretake the FHM finances despite no longer being our Treasurer. It would be very difficult without his continued assistance.

So let's look forward to the months ahead and enjoy the Museum, its garden, and the forthcoming items in our social calendar.

Till next time.

Paul French

COMING SOON:

DR ANDREW HODGSON TALK ON PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Dr Andrew Hodgson from the University of Birmingham will discuss Shelley's association with Elizabeth Hitchener, and also the sense of Horsham as his home in an upcoming talk.

FHM is very pleased to welcome Dr Andrew Hodgson to the Wesley Hall, London Road Methodist Church at **7.30pm on Wednesday 12th July**.

Dr Hodgson will be joined by Oliver Clarkson (University of Warwick) and Will Bowers (Queen Mary University London) to explore Shelley's sense of Horsham as a home or otherwise, and the way in which his correspondence with Hurstpierpoint's Elizabeth Hitchener addressed this issue, together with other engaging matters. The team will also consider the mysterious figure of Hitchener in general, and how her own works later imagined Sussex and its landscapes.

It should be a fascinating and unique evening, and we know that Dr Hodgson likes to engage with his audience.

We hope that many will come to meet him, and his colleagues.



Members admission £5. Guests admission £7.50.
Cash only.

Paul French

WOOLBEDING GARDENS COACH TRIP

As you may know, we are inviting FHM members and their guests to register interest in a trip to National Trust's Woolbeding Gardens on Thursday 18th May 2023.

Woolbeding is a beautiful place but has a limited opening season and cannot be accessed directly. However, we have arranged an afternoon visit direct by coach with plenty of time to explore the unique layout and themed areas of this 30-acre garden which surround the charming Woolbeding House, a Georgian Grade 1 Listed building.

Tickets will be priced at around £25 per head/

less for National Trust members. The coach will leave Horsham Hop Oast at 1pm, and return from Woolbeding at 4.15pm. It will only run if enough interest is shown beforehand, so if you would like to come then let us know ASAP on:

fhmag1893@gmail.com

Full details were e-mailed to members in November, but if you did not receive these and would like more information then please contact as above.

Paul French



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REMINDER:

AGM & PRESENTATION BY LESLEY WARD OF HORSHAM GINGERBREAD



Come and join us on **Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm** in the Wesley Hall London Road Methodist Church and meet Lesley Ward, the founder of Horsham Gingerbread.

After our AGM, Lesley will be giving a presentation about Horsham Gingerbread, and its association with the Museum and a well-known local poet.

Lesley is a valued supporter of the Museum and the Friends and we look forward to welcoming her on this key date in our diary.

Members free, and Guests admission £5 cash only.

Paul French

PROFILE

Martin Turner, Volunteer



Martin has recently returned to Horsham after an absence of several decades and is enjoying volunteering in the museum he first visited as a boy.

During the course of a long career Martin was a pianist and teacher at the Arts Educational School in London, director of music for the Dancers

Anonymous Company, and musical director for scores of productions including concerts, ballets and musicals. He formed a duo with soprano Hazel Andrea and they gave regular recitals together. As a soloist and accompanist he appeared at many of the country's concert venues, at sea for the Cunard Line, and reached a high point when he accompanied soloists from the Scottish Opera at a Burns Night Supper in the revolving restaurant at the top of London's Post Office Tower.

He worked for the famous Mermaid Theatre Company for four years and has accompanied dozens of celebrities from the world of light entertainment. Martin appeared at the London Palladium as musical director and featured pianist with the legendary Ink Spots, was a guest on the Sacha Distel show, and had great fun as the pianist and master of ceremonies in the Kurt Weill Cabaret at the Roundhouse. He also wrote and performed his own one man show in tribute to Noel Coward.

In his late thirties he took up yoga and became a qualified instructor and special needs teacher. The musical career drifted on in the background and took a new direction when he was asked to accompany a concert for the Music in Hospitals charity. He became committed to the work, took part in over 4000 of their concerts, and even ran the London Marathon on their behalf.

Martin stopped performing in his mid-fifties and spent fourteen years living in France where he taught music and yoga, sometimes with hilarious outcomes thanks to his experimental approach to the French language. He is now retired and happy to have returned to Horsham to be near his family.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



Do you receive a digital copy of the Museum seasonal newsletter? If not, why not sign up to receive all the latest news about the Museum, its exhibitions and events at

public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHORSHAM/signup/14169

NEW EQUIPMENT

MUSEUM TV SCREEN

If you've been in the Museum recently you will have noticed a new innovation - a TV screen publicising the work of the Friends!

The Friends committee has been looking for somewhere to promote its work for a while and Curator Nikki Caxton has been keen to get the TV in the 'Discover the District' Gallery up and running.

So it seemed a perfect plan to run a slideshow on the screen.

Friends committee member Steve Payne created a series of slides and the TV was 'broadcasting' our message in January.

The beauty of it is that the slides can be updated, altered or added to at any stage, according to what needs publicising.

A bespoke piece of furniture is also being created to sit underneath so that the Friends can leave relevant literature on it for visitors to take away.



So, next time you visit the Museum, check out our slideshow.

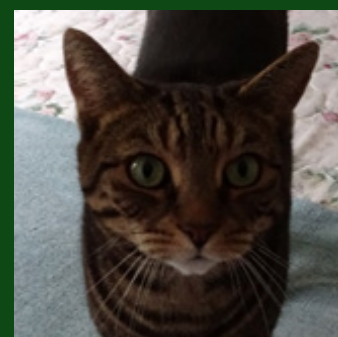
Steve Payne

FUNDRAISING

I know I'm always encouraging you to support the Friends through our various schemes so, this time, I thought I'd share my personal story of how I manage to raise funds, with no cost to myself.

I signed up to Easyfundraising some time ago and try as I might I do sometimes forget to use the site when doing my online shopping. So, instead of beating myself up about it I make sure I always use it when purchasing the specialist food my cats seem to need. They're not just fussy, they both have internal digestive and allergy problems, so they must have very specific food. One site I've found, Viovet, gives me a 3% donation whenever I shop with them, so I use them as often as possible. As a result I'm well on my way to raising £8 through the Easyfundraising donation scheme. Now, I know you're thinking 'that doesn't sound very much', but just imagine if we all raised that amount in a year we could benefit from over £800 to put towards potential new acquisitions. Please - have a think about it and sign up at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account



selecting Friends of Horsham Museum as your chosen Charity. Thank you.

We are also signed up to the Horsham District Community Lottery, where tickets cost £1 a week and you are still able to Adopt one of over 20 Museum Artefacts. Further information and the relevant application forms can be found on the museum website at

horshammuseum.org/support-us.

Pam French

OBITUARY

Major Mark Scrase-Dickins

Major Mark Scrase-Dickins, a Friend, has died aged 86. He had a successful career in the Army before transferring to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He subsequently played a crucial part in supporting the Afghan resistance to the Soviet invasion.

He was born in Hemel Hempstead on May 31st 1936. After attending Eton he was selected for Sandhurst. After several postings, he was sent to Laos with his wife and family. In 1975 he was posted to Oman where he explored uncharted mountains and deserts. On a helicopter trip the pilot injured his arm and was only capable of operating the pedals. Scrase-Dickins had to take over the manual controls

and got the aircraft down in one piece. After Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 Scrase-Dickins worked with the SAS and organised the Kuwaiti resistance.

In the late 1990s he negotiated with the Taliban to enable the help provided to disabled Afghans by the Afghanistan Foundation to continue.

Scrase-Dickins was deputy lieutenant for the County of Sussex in 2004 and High Sheriff from 2003 to 2004.

He is survived by his wife Martina and their son and daughter

Jenny Cheal

THE FASCINATING WORLD OF THE WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

The fascinating world of the West Sussex Record Office, in Chichester, was the Friends' first talk of 2023.

Assistant County Archivist Jenny Mason gave us a glimpse into the many thousands of documents, maps, photographs and other sections of the Record Office.

We were shown a photograph of the oldest document they have, dating back to 780AD, plus maps of Horsham and various other local records and registers.

Jenny started with the history of the Record Office and how it now houses miles of shelving stacked with historical artefacts.

She explained that all kinds of people use the facilities, from those researching family trees to the police and even those with a fascination of paranormal activity!

While the Office mostly deals with documents and papers, much has been stored digitally to help preserve the originals.

There are several unique collections that have been bequeathed.

These include the Goodwood Archives, manuscripts of the poet Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, and archives of the 19th century politician and statesman Richard Cobden.



Surprisingly, the Record Office even has a parchment manuscript copy of the United States Declaration of Independence, found there in April 2017.

Jenny rounded off her talk with a number of photos from their extensive collection.

Steve Payne

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new FHM Members:

- Mrs E Coate of Wagtail Close
- Mrs M Cutbush of Potters Grove
- Mr R Domas and Ms M Burke of Talbot Lane
- Mr S Payne of Greenway

FHM EMAIL ADDRESS

To enable us to maintain closer ties with our members, we can now be contacted direct about any FHM matter on:

fhmag1893@gmail.com

Incoming messages will be checked regularly and we will respond as soon as we can.

WINTER NEWSLETTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



This lovely cover of our winter newsletter was the 'Wintry scene of Chichester' by Peter Iden. Purchased by the Friends.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



Exhibition | RSPCA: 200 Years of Animal Welfare
26 November 2022 - 15 April 2023 | Temporary Exhibition Gallery

Event | The Wild Escape
4 April 2023 - 14 April 2023 | Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm
Artwork unveiled on Saturday 22 April (Earth Day). See p1 for more info.

The Gallery at Horsham Museum
New mixed artist gallery opens 7 April 2023



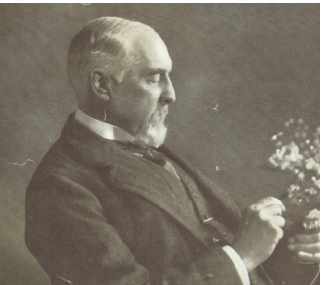
The Shelley Gallery
New gallery opens 7 April 2023

Friends event | AGM featuring Lesley Ward of Horsham Gingerbread
12 April 2023, 7.30pm

Wesley Hall, London Road Methodist Church, members admission free and guests admission £5 cash only. See p3 for details.



Friends event | Woolbeding Gardens Coach Trip - Book now!
18 May 2023, the coach leaves Horsham Hop Oast at 1pm, returning 4.15pm.
Tickets are around £25 per head/ less for National Trust members. It will only run if enough interest is shown beforehand, so if you would like to come then let us know ASAP on fhmag1893@gmail.com. See p3 for more info.



Exhibition | Frederick DuCane Godman
27 May 2023 - 23 September 2023 | Craft & Art Gallery

Friends event | Dr Andrew Hodgson talk on Percy Bysshe Shelley
12 July 2023, 7.30pm

Wesley Hall, London Road Methodist Church, Members admission £5. Guests admission £7.50. Cash only. See p2 for details.

FHM COMMITTEE

Jenny Cheal, Pam French, Steve Payne, Maureen Radbourne, Edwina Willsher
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You can support Horsham Museum & Art Gallery by making cash or card donations, Adopting an Object, joining the Horsham District Council lottery, registering with www.easyfundraising.org.uk to do your shopping or by leaving a gift in your will

www.horshammuseum.org & www.horshamposters.com
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