



## MUSEUM NEWS: CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, LATES & NEW DISPLAYS

We had the most fantastic summer at Horsham Museum, welcoming more than 6,000 visitors in the months of June, July and August. The focal point of this Summer's programme was the children's crafts in which 507 children participated. The highlight for me was the final week 'Puppets of the Past' where children could put on a play with their creations. It was lovely having a front row seat to such imaginative theatre productions. Our Visitor Services Officer, Helen was the brains behind these crafts and she already has plans in place for the October half term including 'Straw-tacular' scarecrows and pine cone owls.



Another new venture has been the Friday Lates where the museum has been open until 8pm with live music and refreshments. These have been popular, and it is nice to offer the opportunity for people to enjoy the galleries and the beautiful gardens. I am working with other Council teams to expand upon this for a possible Christmas late and we will share on the website and social media when the date has been confirmed.

Our Frederick du Cane Godman exhibition is due to close at the end of September and all preparations are in place to return the items which have been on loan. The exhibition has been well received and it has been a joy to read the comments in the visitors' book, especially by those who knew his daughters, Eva and Edith through their involvement with the



Girl Guides. The exhibition space will next become a semi-permanent display called 'Horsham Now' which will look at Horsham's creativity from mid-century until today as well as the transformations that the town has undergone in that time. We are very excited to be working alongside the UK's largest games studio, Creative Assembly, who call Horsham home. They have shared with us details of the creative process of the gaming industry and will be lending equipment and artwork which shows how characters and landscapes are brought to life. We will also be bringing out more pop culture stories, like Horsham's links to Doctor Who and the Magic Roundabout.

We are very much looking forward to being able to reintroduce the toy displays, but in a new location beside reception. It will be an A-Z of History with a mix of toys and games, as well as displays which bring to life elements of Horsham's past. This will open on Saturday 16 December, just in time for the Christmas holidays. We are hoping to include some dressing up options so if you, or somebody you know is a dab hand at sewing then do get in touch as we are looking to recruit some new sewing volunteers.

As always, thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at the museum over the coming months.

*Nikki Caxton*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope that many of you were able to participate in some of the Friends or Museum-based events that occurred during summer. The "Friday Lates" programme was a great initiative to encourage more visitors in an informal and social environment, and demonstrated how the Museum can creatively offer so much more to the community. The Friends also appreciated their own "Friday Late" hosted by the Museum team at an open evening on 18th August.

It seems quite a while ago that we welcomed Dr's Andrew Hodgson and Will Bowers to the Wesley Hall, where we were intrigued to learn about Percy Bysshe Shelley's relationship with Elizabeth Hitchener. Thanks to those that supported this event; Andrew and Will were delighted with the turnout and the warmth shown towards them by the audience.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Dr Janet Pennington will have visited us with her illustrated talk about Old Steyning. However, do make a note of our next event which will be a Christmas Special - The History of Pantomime with Pete Allen on Wednesday 6th December. Pete's an experienced speaker on popular media topics so I hope that we can show him some good support when he visits.

Also, note that more coach trips are planned for

2024 - first to Ramster Gardens in May and then a second visit to Woolbeding in September. We had a marvellous afternoon at the latter in Spring, so I hope that members will continue to support such initiatives going forward.

On the business side, I'm delighted to announce that Ann Rattray has agreed to join the Committee and take over as the Friend's Secretary from November. Pam French and Audrey Coventry have been covering aspects of this role more recently, and will gently ease Ann into her new duties over the next few weeks. Ann is a key member of the Horsham Arts Society, and we'll learn more about her in our next issue. She is warmly welcomed.

At this stage, I would like to thank the other members of the Committee for their continued enthusiasm to drive our Group forward. Our process and organisation seems to work well and we are committed in our support for the Museum and to our members. As ever, we very much value the excellent working relationship that we have with Nikki, George and Helen. I must also add that I equally appreciate the interest and support that I have received from our previous Curator, Jeremy Knight.

Till next time

*Paul French*

## COMING SOON:

### PETE ALLEN - 'OH NO IT ISN'T': A HISTORY OF PANTOMIME



What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow? All this, and the

answer to whether something really is behind you will be dealt with at this festive presentation to be given by our experienced guest speaker, Pete Allen.

Pete is currently Director of an arts charity, the RC Sherriff Trust, and has a wide arts and theatrical background. He has also worked extensively as a professional film-maker and theatre director

Pete's entertaining presentations are very highly regarded on the southern circuit so come and join

us for a fun, festive evening at 19.30 on Wednesday 6th December 2023 in the Wesley Hall, London Road Methodist Church.

Members and Guests: admission £5 cash only

*Paul French*





## 2024 COACH TRIPS

Encouraged by the successful operation of our coach trip to Woolbeding Gardens last May, we will now be seeking expressions of interest for two trips in 2024.



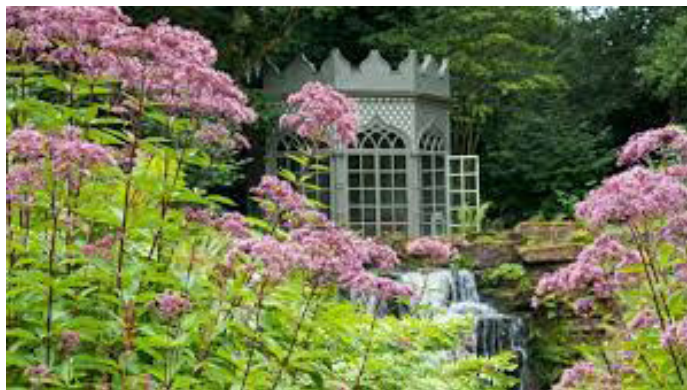
### Ramster Gardens, Chiddingfold

*Wednesday 8th May*

Ramster is famous for its stunning spring colour, with over 25 acres of peaceful woodland, and views of lakes and hillsides which are all filled with colour and interest. It is renowned for its magnificent displays of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. There are also many rare and unusual trees and flowering shrubs so the colourful display during Spring and Autumn is outstanding. A well-stocked and comfortable cafe is on-site

Departure will be at 12.30 from Horsham Hop Oast with a return from Ramster at 16.15

Fare will be around £20 plus approx. £9 entry to the garden.



### Woolbeding Gardens

*Wednesday 5th September*

A wonderful 30-acre themed National Trust garden near Midhurst which operates within a limited opening period. A return visit has been requested by many, and it's an opportunity for those who missed out on a very successful visit last time round. Equally, those in our original party may now enjoy the seasonal changes that will occur as a result of a later visit.

Departure will be at 12.30 from Horsham Hop Oast with a return from Woolbeding at 16.15

Fare will be around £20, plus approx. £10 for non-NT members.

We can only run these trips if enough support is indicated beforehand so if you would like to join us, then contact [fhmag1893@gmail.com](mailto:fhmag1893@gmail.com) ASAP.

*Paul French*

## TEAPOT WRANGLER WANTED

We all enjoy our event nights at the Wesley Hall, and we probably all look forward to the refreshments afterwards. However, we are having a slight problem in finding willing volunteers to man the teapot once the speaker finishes. So if anyone can help by spending a few minutes on the business side of the service hatch at the appropriate time, it really would be much appreciated.

Many thanks.

*Paul French*

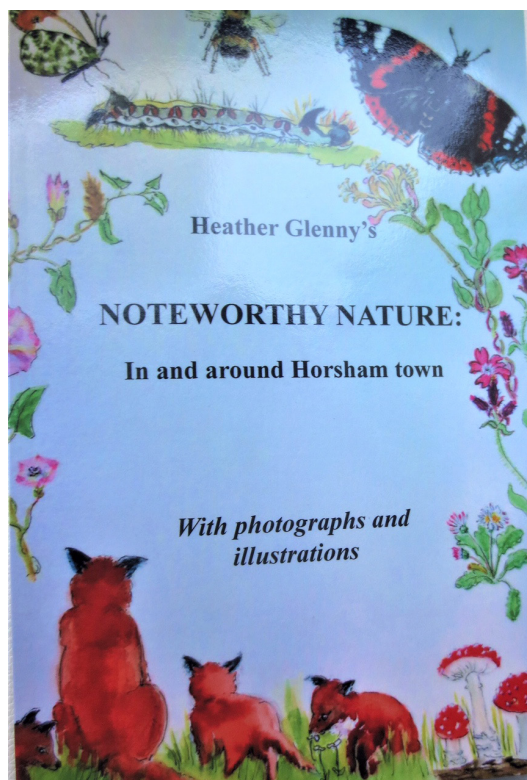


## BOOK RELEASE: NOTEWORTHY NATURE IN AND AROUND HORSHAM TOWN BY HEATHER GLENNY

Aside from Heather Glenny's gardening knowledge, she has had a lifelong interest in natural history.

She has published a book entitled 'Noteworthy Nature in and around Horsham town'. The aim of her book is to encourage anyone to go out and observe nature in their own garden, and at local sites.

This book covers her observations and gathered knowledge of sightings from her own garden, the Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Chesworth Farm, Green Spaces, and the wilding at the Knepp Estate. It also contains some sightings of insects from the Museum garden, with her photographs and some illustrations. It is now available from Waterstones Bookshop, Amazon, and from the Museum.



## CRICKETER HARRY CHARLWOOD



It's been a busy summer of cricket with the England men and women having a good battle in the Ashes against their old rivals Australia.

But did you know a Horsham cricketer played in the first tour of Australia that included two Test matches?

Harry Charlwood, born in Horsham in 1846, was

a top-order batsman and occasional lob-bowler (underarm) for Sussex. His highest score for the county was 123 (1876).

Thanks to his county success, he was chosen for the James Lillywhite England tour of 1876/77 of Australia and New Zealand (which retrospectively was classified as the first Test cricket tour of Australia by an English team).

Charlwood scored 63 runs in the two matches against the Aussies but wasn't called on to bowl. Lillywhite's XI won both matches by an innings.

However, on returning to England Harry's first-class career faded somewhat.

Some reports put this down to him getting married which seems rather unfair!

He moved to Derbyshire and then Scarborough but the cricket success didn't follow him.

He eventually became a pub landlord and died, aged just 41, in 1888.

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Steve Payne



## MUSEUM GARDEN UPDATE

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My name is Mark Crane and I started volunteering in the Museum Garden in September 2022 having retired from a Career in finance spanning 44 years.

I have always had an interest in plants and gardens, this enthusiasm was encouraged in my early years by my grandfather who was himself a skilled gardener.

Within the Museum Garden I am the junior member, by length of service if not age! We all take guidance and direction from Heather, but we are given a good deal of flexibility on what we get involved with, I really enjoy the weekly sessions with the other garden volunteers.

I am approaching a full annual cycle of work. So far I have worked with Adrian clearing the flower bed at the end of the garden. This was somewhat overgrown with Ivy crowding out some of the existing plants. I have added some new plants to this area including the following specimens: Crinodendron, Trillium, Uvularia, Hamamelis. Sophie has also enhanced the bamboo display in this bed by removing some of the lower leaves on the stems.

I have utilised two old stone troughs that were unused and neglected, I have moved them into more prominent areas within the garden and

planted them with alpines that I have sourced. I am planning on adding some protection as these plants will dislike being too wet during the winter.

As Heather referenced in the last newsletter, I am starting some work in the Courtyard area where the toilets are located. There is an absence of any plants in this area and the paving is being populated with invasive weeds and campanula.

We have replaced some plants that didn't survive the harsh weather last winter, I've divided up a Banana from home and that now seems to be growing well, I've brought in two agapanthus and two giant scabious as well. At the time of writing, the Ginger lilies are looking particularly good and the Rose 'Rhapsody in Blue' is having a fine second flush of flowers after Carole's dead heading earlier in the summer.

I've donated some Dianthus carthusianorum and a yellow Kniphofia to Adrian for the arid bed that he is developing, hopefully these will flower this year.

I would also like to correct a name on the last newsletter, Heather had introduced Sophie as Sophie Rose, her name is actually Sophie Kennett.

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*Mark Crane*



## EXCURSION TO HAMPTON COURT - 16 AUGUST 1923



Photo by Phillip Hailing. CC BY-SA 4.0

Fifty four members of the Museum Society went to Hampton Court travelling by car. When they arrived they assembled under the colonnade where Mr S Mitchell read extracts from the paper he had prepared about the history of the palace. He compared the building by Cardinal Wolsey to the fairy tale of Aladdin, the next owner to Bluebeard and Oliver Cromwell to Jack the Giant Killer. The palace was thoroughly explored and the garden enjoyed, including the puzzle of the maze. The party then proceeded to Kingston for tea before returning home.

## OCKLEY AND OAKWOOD HILL - 2 JULY 1923



Also in 1923 the Society went by Mr Rayner's comfortable conveyance first to Ockley where a stop was made to view the church and Mr S Mitchell read a paper about the payments made from Parish Relief. The party then walked to the church at Oakwood by a footpath, made longer by the direct way being blocked by barbed wire! A bountiful tea was enjoyed at the Punch Bowle and Mr Mitchell read another paper about Oakwood and Stane Street. Miss Kennet remembered an earlier visit in 1915.

*These two accounts are taken from reports in WSCT transcribed by Julie Mitchell.*

## WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVE SOCIETY 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH!

To celebrate the 50th birthday of the West Sussex Archives Society, a special open day will be held from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

A range of activities have been planned

- Tours of the Record Office: See behind the scenes, including a strongroom and the conservation studio (tours at 10.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm; limited places; booking essential on 01243 753602)
- Display of original archives, including our oldest document dated 780 AD, and items purchased with help from the West Sussex Archives Society
- Old cinefilms of West Sussex, from the collections of Screen Archive South East, will be running all day on a big screen
- Royal Sussex Regiment Museum: Display of original objects from the museum collections
- and more!

Free entry; refreshments available.

# OPEN DAY

## West Sussex Record Office

Join us to celebrate **50** years of the  
West Sussex Archives Society - friends of WSR

**SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2023**  
**10.00 - 15.30**

At West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

Entry Free As Always    **Come and see behind the scenes**    See archive film footage  
Tours at: 10.30, 11.30, and 14.30

Booking essential, places limited - telephone 01243 753602  
Become a member of **WSAS** on the day!  
See a selection of original documents funded by **WSAS**

We safeguard West Sussex documents from 780 AD to the present day!

**EXPLORE YOUR ARCHIVE**

email: [record.office@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@westsussex.gov.uk)  
visit: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro)

@WestSussexRO



## HORSHAM MUSEUM ON BARGAIN HUNT



Horsham Museum Assistant Curator George Graham with Bargain Hunt presenter Eric Knowles. Photo: BBC Studios

Horsham Museum's Assistant Curator George Graham was the special guest on the very popular BBC daytime programme Bargain Hunt back in June.

For those who haven't seen it, the programme looks at a local topic during each episode between the contestants searching for antiques to put up for auction.

George was invited on to the show, filmed at Ardingly Showground back in February (hence some warm winter clothes!), to talk about Frederick DuCane Godman, an explorer and collector who lived just outside Horsham, in South Lodge.

Godman has been the subject of the Museum's summer exhibition which has proved very popular!



Behind the scenes at Bargain Hunt with Horsham Museum Assistant Curator George Graham and Bargain Hunt presenter Eric Knowles. Photo: BBC Studios

However, Bargain Hunt presenter Eric Knowles confessed, much to his dismay, he had never heard of the man despite the amazing collections Godman amassed during his lifetime (1834-1919) and was glad to be enlightened.

George brought some examples of moss that Godman had compiled, revealing the incredible detail the man put into every project.

You can still see George's appearance on the programme by searching on the BBC TV website or you can watch the whole programme via the BBC iPlayer (Series 65 Ardingly 18).

*Steve Payne*

## RUPERT BROOKE - A GREAT ADVENTURE

WH Newman donated this photograph to the museum. It shows a group of Horsham Society members at Rupert Brooke's grave on the island of Skyros in the Aegean in 1928. So far we have found no references to the trip to Greece in the Society papers or as an account in the West Sussex County Times. It must have been quite an adventure in 1928. Mr Newman is the gentleman on the extreme left.

Can any one help us?

*Liz Vaughan*



# THE SHELLEY MEMORIAL PROJECT

The Shelley Gallery in Horsham Museum opened on 7th April 2023 and has been a very popular new attraction for our summer visitors.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was born in Field Place in Warnham on 4th August 1792

He was the eldest son of Sir Timothy Shelley (1753-1844), a Whig Member of Parliament for Horsham from 1790 to 1792 and for Shoreham between 1806 and 1812, and his wife, Elizabeth Pilfold (1763-1846), the daughter of a successful butcher.[15] He had four younger sisters and one much younger brother.

A radical in his poetry as well as in his political and social views, Shelley did not achieve fame during his lifetime, but recognition of his achievements in poetry grew steadily following his death, and he became an important influence on subsequent generations of poets, including Robert Browning, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Thomas Hardy, and W. B. Yeats

On 1 July 1822, Shelley and Edward Williams sailed in Shelley's new boat the *Don Juan* to Livorno in Italy where Shelley met Leigh Hunt and Byron in order to make arrangements for a new journal, *The Liberal*. After the meeting, on 8 July, Shelley, Williams, and their boat boy sailed out of Livorno for Lerici. A few hours later, the *Don Juan* and its inexperienced crew were lost in a storm.

Shelley's badly decomposed body washed ashore at Viareggio ten days later and was identified from the clothing and a copy of Keats's poetry in a jacket pocket. On 16 August, his body was cremated on a beach near Viareggio and the ashes were buried in the Protestant Cemetery of Rome

The new Shelley Gallery showcases many original documents and artifacts from Shelley's early life in Horsham and his radical poetry.

His best-known works include *Ozymandias*, *Ode to the West Wind*, *To a Sky-Lark* (*Hail to thee, Blythe Spirit*), *The Mask of Anarchy*.

The Shelley Memorial Project is a community interest group from the town working to achieve a lasting public memorial to the locally born poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley. The SMP staged the Shelley200 Festival last year and various poetry events during 2023. The memorial will not only celebrate and commemorate Shelley and his works, but also provide literary, historical, and philosophical inspiration to Horsham residents and visitors. It will highlight the town's place on the country's cultural map and represent and inspire the talent within the community.



Percy Bysshe Shelley by Amelia Curran oil on canvas, 1819 NPG 1234. © National Portrait Gallery, London

David Hide of SMP said: "Our aim is to commemorate Shelley's great art by means of a public artwork which we want to be a source of pride and inspiration to the Horsham community and a source of interest and enjoyment to visitors to the town. The Memorial will also celebrate Horsham's place in our national cultural heritage."

At the time of going to press, the SMP with HDC, has progressed to the point of selecting the four best submissions from artists, which will then proceed to a public vote. The chosen work will then be subject of final fundraising with a view to installation in Horsham Park, somewhere near the pond.

To find out more about The Shelley Memorial Project go to:

[shelleymemorialproject.co.uk/abouttheproject](https://shelleymemorialproject.co.uk/abouttheproject)

## References

Information obtained, with permission, from the Shelley Memorial Project

Wikipedia. 'Percy Bysshe Shelley' at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy\\_Bysshe\\_Shelley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy_Bysshe_Shelley). Last viewed Sept 2023

*Ann Rattray*



## DR ANDREW HODGSON TALK ON PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

The little known story of Elizabeth Hitchener and her romantic friendship with local poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was the fascinating topic of the Friends' talk in July.

We had not one, but two distinguished speakers who entertained around 30 Friends and members of the public at the Wesley Hall in Horsham's London Road Methodist Church.

Drs Andrew Hodgson (Birmingham University) and Will Bowers (Queen Mary University London) are working on a project involving Shelley's letters that were the main source of inspiration for the talk.

Shelley (in his late teens) wrote to Elizabeth (ten years his elder) during 1811/12. She was a schoolmistress at Hurstpierpoint where a couple of the poet's cousins were educated and where the two had probably met.

Shelley's letters show the first stirrings of his poetry, and Dr Hodgson described his writing style as 'a whirring of ideas, always considering, always on the move'.

Where Shelley expounded on the nature of love and sought to forge an intense emotional bond with Elizabeth, she trod more cautiously and was more in control of her feelings.

We were shown examples of the letters and how an A4 sheet of paper could be folded and used almost like a notebook, to include verse, notes and the letter itself.

It was pointed out that the Museum's current Shelley exhibition includes a book with copies of the Hitchener letters.

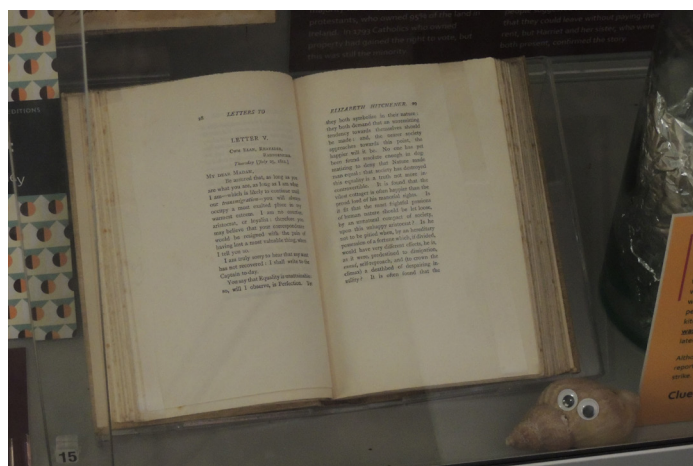
Interestingly, both Shelley and Elizabeth died in the same year, 1822, and while the former has become a world renowned figure, the latter has virtually been expunged from history.

This may have been due to her being the daughter of a pub landlord, with the resulting snobbery and disdain of her close but brief relationship with the poet.

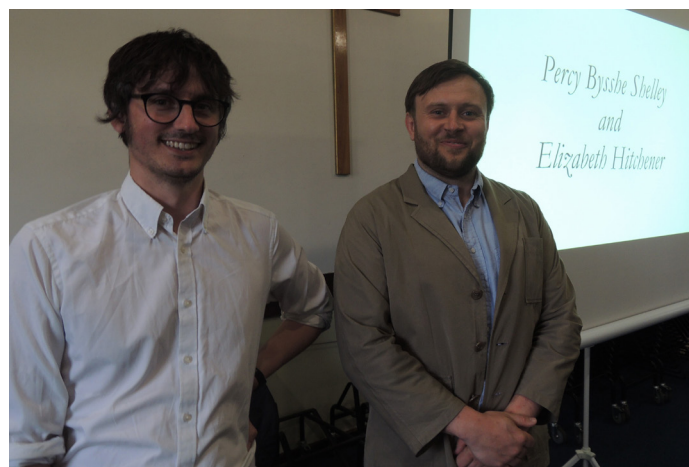
Despite her role as a school founder and writing a couple of intriguing puzzle books of verse, Elizabeth Hitchener has remained something of a postscript to Shelley's life.

However, Drs Hodgson and Bowers look set to give her the credit she deserves as an integral part of the poet's life.

*Steve Payne*



The book of Hitchener letters in the Museum's Shelley exhibition



Dr Andrew Hodgson and Dr Will Bowers

## WESLEY HALL NOW 'LONDON ROAD CHAPEL HORSHAM'

Our meeting place at the Methodist Church has recently undergone a change of organisation, which incorporates St Andrews Roffey and Partridge Green.

The three Churches are now known as 'Cornerstone Methodist Church' and our venue is now called **London Road Chapel Horsham**.

The Church would prefer that we used this name in the future [see updated name in use in our events over the page], but we are still meeting in the Wesley Hall as usual.

*Audrey Coventry*

# FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



**Exhibition | Horsham Now**  
*Opens Saturday 21 October*

**Events | Autumn children's crafts**  
*Tuesday 24 - Friday 27 October, 10.30am - 3pm | £1 per participant*  
Plans include, Straw-tacular scarecrows and pine cone owls.



**Exhibition | Autumn/Winter collection**  
*Open Saturday 4 November | The Gallery at Horsham Museum*  
A new selection of works by contemporary artists.



**Events | Autumn Flower Crown Workshop with the Girl Who Gardens**  
*Saturday 4 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm | £24 - Booking essential*

**Friends event | Pete Allen - 'Oh No It Isn't': A History of Pantomime**  
*6 December 2023, 7.30pm | London Road Chapel Horsham (formerly known as Wesley Hall see p9 for details)*

Members and Guests: admission £5 cash only. See page 2 for details.



**Exhibition | A-Z of history**  
*Open Saturday 16 December*  
A mix of toys, games and displays bringing to life elements of Horsham's past.

**Friends event | Dr Simon Machin talk on Robert Blatchford**  
*6 March 2024, 2pm | London Road Chapel Horsham (formerly known as Wesley Hall see p9 for details)*

Learn about the history of Horsham's forgotten socialist campaigner. More details to follow. Admission £5.



**Friends event | AGM featuring Roger Myall of Horsham Library**  
*17 April, 7.30pm | London Road Chapel Horsham (formerly known as Wesley Hall see p9 for details)*  
Meet Roger Myall, manager of West Sussex Library Service, as he describes the library facilities and services currently on offer. Admission £5 for non-members.

## FHM COMMITTEE

Jenny Cheal, Pam French, Steve Payne, Maureen Radbourne, Audrey Coventry  
**Chair:** Paul French | **Secretary:** Vacant | **Treasurer:** Vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Gail Chapman  
**Contact email:** fhmag1893@gmail.com | **Friends website:** www.friendsofhorshammuseum.co.uk  
**Contact address:** Horsham Museum, 9 Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1HE

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