



MUSEUM NEWS: EASTER, LIBRARY REFRESH & POP-UP SHOP

The months of January and February always seem deceptively calm but are essential months for preparing for a successful year ahead. Our February half term was our best school holiday yet, with over 1,000 people visiting across the week. The theme was Romans and children took part in our Terracotta Time Travellers craft, making all sorts of imaginative clay items, inspired by the ingenuity of the Romans.

With the Easter holidays not far off the plans are well underway for our Easter holiday activities. We have recently taken delivery of 27 hand designed eggs of various sizes and themes which will be hidden around the museum to be found as part of our Easter trail. As well as our usual family craft activities, we will also be welcoming special guests Peter Rabbit and Lily Bobtail to the museum for Easter Sunday and Monday.



As soon as Easter ends, we will be closing off the library for a few weeks to refresh the space. It will be a combination of displays of our historic books, but with our reference books available for use within the space for research. The aim is to provide visitors with easier access to the many books written on Horsham and the district's past. The new research space will open on Saturday 25 May for the late may bank holiday weekend.

Plans are also underway for the Collyer's students' pop-up shop which will be opening on Saturday 4 May. The BTEC Art and Design students visited



in late February to find inspiration within the collection. The unofficial museum cat Jasper stole the show (as he often does) and he will likely appear in some of the designs. For those unfamiliar with Jasper, he lives in a house near the museum, but despite early attempts to dissuade him from coming into the museum, he spends most days of the week sleeping in the offices here. He is a very gentle and charismatic cat and has been known to charm a donation or two from visitors, so he does contribute to the museum team in his own way.

The Collyer's pop-up shop will be on display throughout May until 8 June so do stop by and support their creativity. If you visit during the day on Sunday 5 May (when we are open additional days for the bank holiday weekend) then you will be able to enjoy music and refreshments in the garden. 2024's first Friday Late on 7 June will allow you to experience the museum in the evening as we will stay open until 8pm. There will be a licensed bar and acoustic music for accompaniment, and as this year marks 50 years of Horsham District Council, we will be travelling back to 1974 (at least with the evening's theme) to celebrate the anniversary.

Nikki Caxton

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It's always good to get the social side of the Friends up and running again following the enforced dormancy of the Christmas/New Year period. By the time you read this, Simon Machin's talk on the very photogenic political journalist, Robert Blatchford, will have taken place so we will now be looking forward to the 2024 A.G.M. to be held at the Wesley Hall on Wednesday 17th April.

Whilst last year's A.G.M. was probably the least-attended "event" of the season, the Committee still relishes the opportunity to share the mechanics of its operation, and engage with members on any issues that may arise. In saying that, it's a very steady ship at present and we are very positive about our current position and how we will progress going forward. As usual, we will be sweetening the A.G.M. pill with a post-business speaker; on this occasion, Roger Myall from Horsham Library.

Within the Committee, our Membership Secretary Jenny Cheal, has resigned after many years service. I thank her for the diligent and conscientious work that she undertook during that period. Conversely, one of the new Museum volunteers, Sean Hannan, has joined the Committee as its newest member.

The 2024 Events calendar has now been finalised with the engagement of our Christmas speaker on Wednesday 4th December. Take a look at all the forthcoming events and exhibitions listed on the back of this newsletter. We are well ahead with our 2025 calendar of events with some impressive speakers agreeing to visit from outside of our usual sphere. For the first time in several years, we will

have to raise admission prices to £7.50 on some occasions to cover costs, although this figure is still lower than our contemporaries.

Many thanks to those who submitted names for the Ramster coach trip on Wednesday 8th May. We like a full coach so we will keep circulating details until all seats are taken.

Our forms of communication seem very effective at the moment. The Friends website and Facebook presence is always live with new items added almost daily. I would also recommend that members subscribe to the Museum's own Newsletter via <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/email-newsletters>.

Whilst Friends items are often included, a recent issue also gave the opportunity to vote for the preferred Shelley Memorial proposed for installation in Horsham Park. Options have been on display in the Museum too. We support this initiative, and the perseverance that our friends at the Shelley Memorial Project team have shown to create this tribute to Horsham's most famous resident.

Finally, yet again we have arranged for more reprints of Sue Djabri's book "Waking the Dead"; a Guide to Denne Road Cemetery. This seems quite the perennial favourite, so I'm sure that Sue will be delighted to know that her work is still valued by the public and continues to provide support to both the Friends and the Museum.

Till next time

Paul French

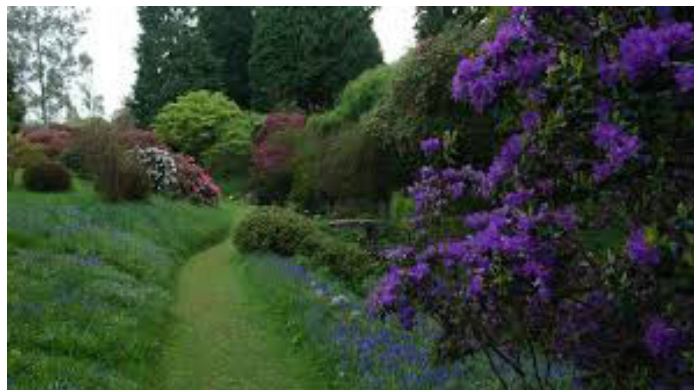
NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome two new members:
Mrs Janet Bray and Mrs Hilary Gilbert.



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.



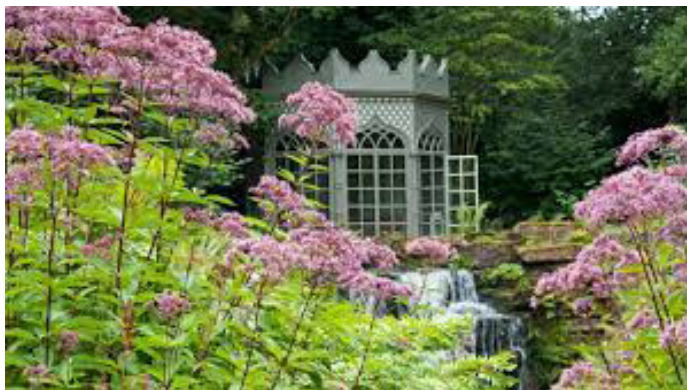
Ramster Gardens, Chiddingfold

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

Thursday 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 ASAP.

Paul French

COMING SOON: AGM & TALK BY ROGER MYALL ON HORSHAM LIBRARY

Come and join us on Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 19.30 in the Wesley Hall, London Road Chapel and meet Roger Myall, the Manager of West Sussex Library Service.

After our AGM, Roger will be talking to us about local library facilities and services currently on offer.

We look forward to welcoming Roger on this key date in our diary, and it is hoped that many members will be able to participate.

Attendance free for members, guests £5.



Paul French

HISTORIC ENTRIES IN THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY TIMES

Researched and transcribed by Julie Mitchell

WSCT Saturday, January 18th 1919 Death of Mr Amos Chart aged 81

Born at Winterpick Lane, Mannings Heath, he became a carter at his father's farm, Venters, Nuthurst. After the death of his father he carried on the farm for a number of years and around 1887 he took the coal business in Park-street adding corn dealing and a sub-post office. He was a strong Wesleyan Methodist, and for many years was superintendent of the Mannings Heath Sunday School. He conducted a band of hope in the village, and for a long period was one of the vice presidents of the Horsham Temperance Association. Mr Chart was twice married, first to Miss Stone of Hawksbourne Farm and secondly to Miss Ellis of Burgess Hill, who survives him.



Amos Chart outside shop in North Street

WSCT Friday, July 28th 1933 Leading Horsham Tradesman's Death Sudden Passing of Mr. Frederick Chart

A leading Horsham tradesman, Mr. Frederick Chart died with tragic suddenness on Tuesday evening in the garden of a house at Worthing he had recently acquired. Mr. Chart, who was 63 was a partner in the drapery and outfitting firm of Messrs Chart and Lawrence, Horsham. Mr. Chart, was due to move into a new house in Charmandean-road. He was working in the garden when he collapsed and died in front of his wife.

Mr. Chart was born at Monks Gate, his father, the late Amos Chart. On his death, Frederick carried on his father's business in North-street. The firm of Messrs. Chart and Lawrence had been established by Mr .Chart and Mr. E. E. Lawrence, J.P. for over 30 years. He was also a partner in the firm of Messrs. Wallis and Cheesman. He had lived at Worthing for the past 30 years, travelling up to Horsham every day. Mr Chart was married twice, and his only son, Cyril Chart is a junior partner in the drapery business. He is survived by his second wife.

The Inquest

The inquest was held by the West Sussex Coroner (Mr. F. W. Butler) at the new Town Hall, Worthing, yesterday evening. The widow, Mrs. Freda Gertrude Hardy Chart, said that as far as she knew her husband had been in good health. On Monday he complained of the heat and during the night she



After Frederick Chart took over the shop

noticed that he was restless and could not sleep satisfactorily. In the morning, however, he came up to Horsham. He returned in the evening and went to their new home. He then began cutting the grass in the garden with a hook. Shortly before 9 pm he walked across the garden towards her and suddenly fell unconscious. A doctor, who was called, pronounced that Mr. Chart was dead.

WSCT Friday, May 6th 1938

Mr. LEE J. CHART

Well-known Business Man and Former Hunt Follower

Many friends throughout West Sussex have learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. Lee James Chart, a former tradesman, of Bramblehurst, North parade, Horsham. He died at a nursing home in the early hours of Saturday morning, after an illness of about seven months, and was buried at Hills Cemetery on Tuesday.

Mr. Chart, who would have been 84 on May 29, was connected with the firm of Messrs. Tanner and Chart Ltd., of Middle Street, Horsham. He joined the firm as an apprentice in 1869 when it was under the management of Messrs J. and J. Angus, and seven years later he was joined by his brother, Mr. H. Chart, a former member of Horsham Urban Council.

On the death of Mr. James Angus in 1883, Messrs Tanner and Chart took over the business, which was converted into a limited company in 1904 and Mr. Lee Chart had been connected with it ever since.

He took no active part in public life, but was formerly a member of Crawley and Horsham Hunt, of which he was a keen follower. His wife died three years ago, and he leaves a daughter, Miss Ella Chart.

At the funeral in Horsham Parish Church, on Tuesday, the services was conducted by the Rev. G. A. D. Armistead, and the mourners were: Mr. H. Chart (brother), Mr. F. Lemon (brother in law), Mr. R. Chart and Mr. D. Chart (nephews), Mr. J. Ireland Eager and Mrs Eager (niece),,,

Others who attended included: Mr. E. E. Lawrence, J.P., Mr. H. C. Hunt, Mr. H. L. Gregory, Mr. A. Dendy, Mr. R. Harvey, Mr. T. Glaysher, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lambert, Mrs. J. W. Halstead, Mr. F. S. Huke, Mr .W. J. Huntley (representing Messrs H. J. Piggott Ltd), Mr. G. Chart, Mrs. J. W. Shier, and Miss Dewdney, and the following members of the staff of Messrs Tanner and Chart: Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. W. Lidbetter, Mr. A. Howard, Mr. E. R. Howard, Mr. R. Charman, Miss M. Pannett, Miss R. Smith, Miss D. Wickins and Miss M. Burberry.

WEBSITE UPDATE

A new year meant it was a good time to evaluate the success (or otherwise!) of our social media and the website.

In the digital world nothing ever stays the same - people's attitudes change, interests evolve, the software often improves and those pesky algorithms that drive social media are tweaked.

So you need to step back and take stock every now and again.

Our social media has ticked along without setting the world on fire. We flag up forthcoming Friends talks or events and promote the fundraising regularly.

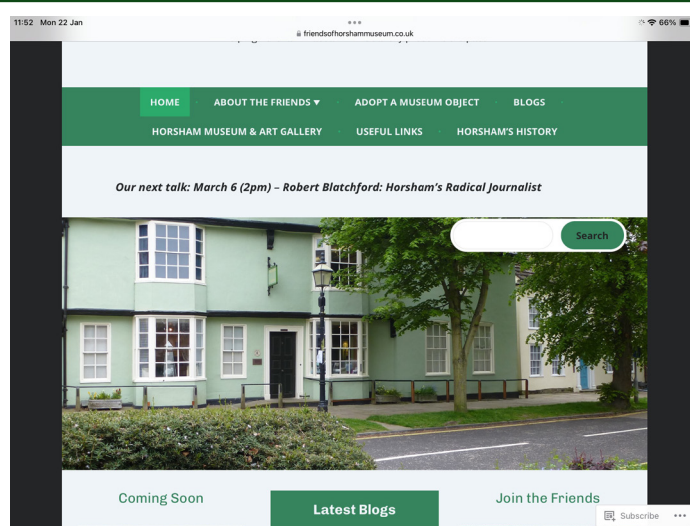
However, we needed something to catch more attention!

And this is where the website has proved valuable.

We are now posting blogs regularly every week. Often they are longer versions of the Museum's posts about historic events or people but they have also recently included news about fundraising.

Once uploaded to the website they are automatically sent over as a Facebook post.

This simple action has helped our Facebook presence as well as bringing more people to view the website - as they say, a win/win.



Once on the website it's important to give our visitors what they want, so I have changed a few things around on the homepage.

The menu at the top has been condensed as it was getting too large. I've also removed some headings that cluttered up the home page, and the blogs are now more obvious.

Finally, there's now a search button to help visitors find what they are looking for.

If you're interested in seeing our weekly blogs there's a button at the bottom of the web page asking you to subscribe. Just sign up and you'll get an email with our blogs.

Steve Payne

GARDEN UPDATE

It is so lovely to start another new year and anticipate all the wonderful plants that will shine out and delight us as each month flows into the next. The year is full of new expectations and planning for the months ahead. What we are noticing often has dependency on the weather. For example, this year in January there were fewer plants performing early. We've experienced far too much rain, wind and many grey days. The crocuses have not had enough sunshine to open their flowers daily. The daffodils, hellebores, and chaenomeles (Japanese quinces) withheld their blooms until February. This is all part of any garden calendar, but one of the great things about gardens is the way they develop and alter over time.

Twenty years ago, taking over from Sylvia Standing in February 2004, was no easy task, and did not include the second garden through the archway. Most of the plants were there for historic reasons and the garden was neat and orderly. It was interesting to see what plants evolved throughout those first four seasons. Our small team maintained it well as we achieved a 'Certificate of Excellence' from South East in Bloom later that year, and our first Gold Award from Horsham in Bloom in 2006. There were several more awards during years that followed.

Over time I have tried to keep some of the original herbs and most of the roses which were from different centuries of the development of rose growing. Twenty years on, and we see a different

style of garden, much more a cottage garden style. Structures (the obelisks) and extra evergreens have been added to make the winter season less bare.

Whilst the small team in 2004 was constant for about ten years, changes inevitably became necessary. From that time on we managed as best we could, until by necessity we needed a larger team to also cope with the lovely additional garden through the archway to the rear of the museum plot. This had been planted by Terri Le Feuvre for the Centenary. Garden maintenance is required all year round, and we are currently cutting back the fig tree and reshaping it, as it has recently grown somewhat large for its location. We have already made changes to this other garden area and plan to make all areas as 'one museum' garden. We are hoping to reduce summer watering needs by creating the dry garden, and revamping the shady area where the dragon is situated, and the small sunny wall near to the toilet courtyard.

Team News: We are sorry to have lost Sophie from our team and we will miss her 'happy' personality. She has been a delight to know and has brought much enthusiasm to our group. We wish her all the best in her fulltime job, and are very pleased that she is furthering her knowledge in her horticultural career.

Hether Glenny
Team leader



HORSHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY: AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

At the end of last year, Horsham Museum & Art Gallery, at the location of 9, Causeway, was again accepted and re-registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

The opportunity to do this conformed to the legislation within the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012. Those that wish to nominate buildings or land for an ACV must fulfil certain criteria. The Friends of Horsham Museum led the process for the Museum because we are both a Charity and an organisation with a local connection to the building concerned.

To register an ACV requires quite a reasonable process to be followed as administered by Horsham District Council. Essentially, the core purpose of registration is to demonstrate that, principally, the nominated facility is furthering the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community. Whilst the Museum clearly fits this bill, other local examples similarly registered are the Capitol Theatre and also the Drill Hall and Music Studios. Elsewhere in the town, open spaces like the Park, or buildings such as Horsham Scout HQ are also current ACV's. Successful registration lasts for five

years and then a new application is required.

Once a location is identified as an ACV, does it make any difference? Well, it's no guarantee of a site's protection but it does represent a flag or a marker about how the Community values the importance of the location concerned. It also indicates that, inevitably, there will be blowback if Planning Authorities or developers eye the property for change. Additionally, an ACV legally slows down a potential sale of the nominated asset. It allows for a moratorium of up to six months, which theoretically enables local communities to raise finance, develop a business case or make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.

Of course, we hope it never comes to that. Fortunately, Horsham District Council supports and values the Museum as much as we do. However, the Arts and Culture sector can be construed as a luxury by some when financial pressures are on, so we must do all we can to protect one of the most recognisable jewels in Horsham's crown.

Paul French



TALK ON ROBERT BLATCHFORD

The life and times of the radical and pioneering journalist Robert Blatchford was the fascinating subject of the Friends' first talk for 2024 on March 6, at Wesley Hall.

Blatchford spent the final 29 years of his life in Horsham, but the town's only reference to the man is a road named after him.

Cultural historian and Friends member Dr Simon Machin entertained the audience with an outline of Blatchford's outlook on life and how he arrived at his socialist views.

The journalist was born in 1851 to a pair of travelling performers. His father died when Blatchford was just two and the family endured poverty and illness.

Blatchford's big break came when he ran away to London and was recruited into the army.

After a successful time in the military he worked for the Weaver Navigation Company but also had articles published in the upcoming journals and papers that were started in the 1880s.

At this time his interest in socialism for the masses became apparent and by 1891 he was able to start his own newspaper The Clarion.

It hit a nerve with the public and proved very popular, establishing Blatchford as a leading journalist.

The Clarion was also involved in establishing clubs for 'ordinary' people, such as a Cycling Club (there still is Clarion Cycling Club in Brighton).

After a distinguished career in journalism and promoting a socialism that was apolitical,



Dr Simon Machin

Blatchford moved to Horsham in 1914, having earlier written about the impending German threat.

After his wife died in 1921, he took up an interest in spiritualism and lived out the rest of his life in a house in Kings Road, dying aged 92 in 1943.

Dr Machin finished by asking the question whether Horsham should do more to recognise one of its most famous former residents?

Blatchford may well have fallen out of favour over the years because he refused to follow strict socialist political views, but his environmental concerns and belief that people were basically decent whatever their station in life are probably more relevant today than ever.

Steve Payne

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



Exhibition | Spring collection

Saturday 9 March - Saturday 1 June | The Gallery at Horsham Museum

Events | Easter children's trail

Tuesday 26 March - Saturday 13 April, 10am - 4pm

Events | Easter Bank Holiday Weekend

Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April

Face painting and glitter tattoos with special guests Peter Rabbit and Lily Bobtail on Sunday 31 March & Monday 1 April.

Events | Easter family crafts

Tuesday 2 April - Friday 12 April (excluding Saturdays) | £1 per participant

Friends events | A.G.M. followed by Roger Myall of Horsham Library

Wednesday 17 April | 7.30pm | Wesley Hall, London Road Chapel

Members & Guests: £5 cash only | See page 3 for details

Events | May Bank Holiday Weekends

Saturday 4 May - Monday 6 May | Saturday 25 May - Monday 27 May

Open every day across the bank holiday weekends. Music and refreshments at the museum on Sunday 5 May.

Collyer's pop-up shop

Saturday 4 May - Saturday 8 June - see cover for details

Friends events | Ramster Gardens Coach Trip - Book now!

Wednesday 8th May | Leaving Horsham Hop Oast 12.30pm, returning 4.15pm

Tickets will be approx. £20 plus £9 entry

Book via fhmag1893@gmail.com - see page 3 for details.

Friends events | Jeremy Knight - Reading the Sarah Hurst diaries

Wednesday 17 July | 7.30pm | Wesley Hall, London Road Chapel

Members & Guests: £5 cash only

Events | Friday Museum Late

Friday 7 June

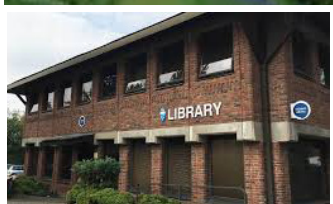
Museum open 10am-8pm with music and a licensed bar from 6pm.

Friends events | Woolbeding Gardens Coach Trip - Book now!

Thursday 5th September | Leaving Horsham Hop Oast 12.30pm, returning

4.15pm | Tickets will be approx. £20 plus £10 for non-NT members

Book via fhmag1893@gmail.com - see page 3 for details.



FHM COMMITTEE

Pam French, Steve Payne, Maureen Radbourne, Audrey Coventry & Sean Hannan

Chair: Paul French | Acting Secretary: Ann Rattray | Acting Treasurer: Brian Frogley

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

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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