



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE: TANDEM, PETWORTH & SUMMER EVENTS

Many thanks to those of you who were able to attend the Friends AGM on 15th April. As an organisation, we have probably never been in a healthier position. The entire Committee was re-elected for a further year so we will continue our work to support the Museum in any way we can, whilst offering Friends more ways to benefit from their membership. We plan to slightly restructure the operation of the AGM next year so that it will have the necessary status rather than appearing to be a speedy essential exercise.

Although the Committee is intact for the next twelve months, you may remember that our Secretary, Ann Rattray, will leave us after the 2027 AGM. The search for her successor continues so please do make contact if you are interested.

On the bright side, Summer is here at last, and with it many events planned by the Friends and the Museum. Having had our Amberley Chalk Pits excursion and the visit from Dr. John Hilary relating the story of the Messel family at Nymans, there is more to come. Jeff Thomas brings his restored 1930's barn find tandem to meet us on 29th July, and on 23rd September, Dr Alexandra Loske (Curator of Brighton Pavilion) will explore the works of Turner and Constable in Sussex. In the meantime, the ever-popular Museum lates are underway too.



Our first members-only Curators Corner on the 11th April was a success. Curator Nikki explained the background of the Shipley-based Knights Templar to a select and attentive audience. Planning for the next session is well under way so watch out for more news soon.

Also, we have been unexpectedly invited to send a party for a Curator-led tour of the Petworth Cottage Museum on 30th September. A rare opportunity, so see more details within.



Petworth Village

Our 2027 Programme of events has now been fixed too. Once again, there's a very diverse range of speakers and subjects so everybody should find something that appeals. Looking forward, I do wonder if we should expand our repertoire to include music or drama, cost permitting. I would be interested to know what members think. For all event information, plus Museum news and Horsham-based facts, stories and old visuals do check out our website, as recently upgraded by Steve Payne, on www.friendsofhorshammuseum.co.uk. Regularly updated and full of news, links and features, the Friends couldn't have a better channel for its members.

I would also like to thank our Membership Secretary, Sean Hannan, for expanding his portfolio by grasping the thorny nettle of organisational compliance. This is so that we not only operate efficiently and beyond reproach but can be seen to do so. This might be reminiscent of the workplace, but it is good to establish some fundamental principles of how we should manage ourselves.

Finally, we keep a beady eye on the progress of local government reorganisation so that we may understand the potential future of the Museum. The latest stage is to agree the geography of the nominated unitary authorities. The local preference is a unified "Eastern West Sussex" to include Horsham. The Government prefers Horsham to be within a "non-coastal West Sussex." Consultation is ongoing, but that's not negotiation. We continue to observe with interest.

Till next time

Paul French

MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is remaining relatively cool in the May half-term heat although unfortunately not in the staff offices. We are all struggling a little with the unexpected heatwave and it has meant that the half-term footfall has been a little quieter than we would have liked. We do have a busy programme of exhibitions and events for the summer months so I am sure we will be welcoming many people through our doors over the coming weeks.

In the last newsletter I was able to share the dates of the Museum Lates and now that all of the performers are confirmed and I can share that the line-up will be:

Friday 19 June: Ukrainian Voices Choir and Nebo i Zemlia - Many of the performers in these choirs are living in Sussex as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. They sing traditional Ukrainian folk tunes, celebrating and sharing their heritage and culture through folk music.

Friday 24 July: The Witchcraft and Vagrancy Act - a folk trio who blend elements of traditional folk, folk horror, dark cabaret, and the gothic to unearth the sinister side of traditional music. The ghostly folk trio revels in exposing the horrors of our collective past, hidden away in the typically rose-tinted view of folk music and tradition.

Friday 21 August: The Betty Accorsi Duo (who last year played as Sloth in the City) - a Brighton based jazz duo who blend contemporary jazz with Mediterranean, Celtic and English folk influences.

In mid-May we opened the Young Curators' Club display on the Great Fire of London. This has been put together in collaboration with year 2 pupils from St Mary's CE Primary School. I led a workshop



with them earlier in the year where we discussed that museums need many of the same elements as stories do, in order to bring history to life. They then set to work writing text, creating artefacts and even recreating London buildings of the period and I think that the final result is a really charming exhibition.

On 16 June we will also unveil the Museum of Time: Astrophotography Trail featuring photographs by Horsham based astrophotographer Claire Bradshaw FRAS. Alongside her stunning artworks of celestial bodies, we are also displaying artefacts from the museum's collection which date from the same time, as the light years distance for each photograph. This represents what would have been happening in Horsham at the time that the light captured in the artworks originated from in space.

Thank you once again for all of your support of the museum. It continues to feel like such a privilege to get to work alongside such a vibrant community.

Nikki Caxton

NOTICE VACANCY: HONORARY SECRETARY

Our current Honorary Secretary, Ann Rattray, has indicated that she will be standing down after the A.G.M. of 2027. Clearly this is a very responsible position within the Committee, but Ann's early advice should allow time to settle in a replacement with the opportunity of a long period of familiarisation.

It is preferable that the position is filled by a candidate within the Friends as that would give the advantage of some knowledge of our organisation with the potential to learn, and get involved in, much more.

Whilst there is a job description, it is largely fulfilled by secretarial duties such as admin

support, minute taking, agenda compilation and A.G.M management. There is also a requirement to attend a weekday monthly Committee meeting for a duration of 90 minutes.

We would like to identify our new candidate early so that he/she can attend Committee meetings in a trainee/Assistant Secretary capacity until Ann stands down.

If you are interested, then please e-mail via fhmag1893@gmail.com or phone Paul French on 07936 729678.

In the meantime the vacancy will be circulated via the Horsham District Volunteer website to determine any external interest

INVITATION TO VISIT PETWORTH COTTAGE MUSEUM

Event date: Wednesday 30th September 2026

The Friends have been asked if they would like to visit this location for an out-of-hours curator-led tour. We've agreed a provisional date of Wednesday 30th September with an 11.00 start.

Petworth Cottage Museum is actually a house that has been fully restored and equipped to reflect the 1910 home of a former tenant, Mrs Mary Cummings, who worked as a seamstress at nearby Petworth House. It is bursting with representative and operational artefacts of the time so will either be very nostalgic or very educational.

It will probably take about an hour to cover the entire small property and garden in detail and there will be narrow stairs and low ceilings involved.

The property has its own website so for more details see www.petworthcottagemuseum.co.uk.

Admission is £5 and parking is available at the nearby Pound Street Car park.



Petworth Village

Let us know on fhmag1893@gmail.com if you would like to attend. A minimum of 5 would be enough to form a group of Friends for this visit. A response would be appreciated by 31st July 2026.

Paul French

COMING SOON:

ALEXANDRE LOSKE PRESENTS TURNER AND CONSTABLE IN WEST SUSSEX

Event date: Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 7.30 pm

Do join us in the Wesley Hall at the London Road Chapel and meet Alexandre Loske, Curator of Brighton Pavilion, art historian and author. Alexandra will explain why these two great painters came to Sussex, compare their style and choice of subject matter and place them into the greater context of landscape painting in British art.

Alexandra read English and Linguistics at Humboldt University, Berlin, and Art History at the University of Sussex where she completed her PhD in 2014. The subject of her doctoral thesis was the use of colour in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, where she is now Curator. She has a particular interest in the role of women in colour history and her research is supported by the University of Sussex.

She lectures, publishes and reviews widely and has an international audience.

We can expect an educational and artistic evening so please come along if you can.

Admission to all: £7.50 including refreshments



Alexandre Loske

Paul French

COMING SOON:

JEFF THOMAS PRESENTS DAISY CHAIN: HOW I FOUND AND RESTORED A 1933 TANDEM ...AND MORE!

Event date: Wednesday 29th July 2026, 2pm

Come and join us in the London Road Cornerstone Chapel and meet Jeff Thomas, who will relate the story of how he came upon an abandoned tandem and then describe the challenges that he faced to restore the vehicle to full working order.

Known as "Daisy", the tandem - an F H Grubb of Brixton model, will be on static display during the talk enabling members and guests to see the fruit of Mike's labours

A self -confessed townie. Jeff will also refer to his conversion to more rural pursuits and the part that Daisy played.

This will be a rather unique event for us so do please come along if you can.

Admission to all: £5.00 including refreshments



Jeff Thomas

Paul French

HORSHAMOSAURUS BY GEORGE GRAHAM-PAYNE

The fascinating history of the dinosaur known as Horshamosaurus was outlined by the Museum's Assistant Curator George Graham-Payne at the Friends' AGM in April.

George put the history of dinosaurs and their place in Sussex into context before moving on to even more local links to these ancient creatures.

He spoke of how bones were discovered in 1985 at Rudgwick Brickworks Company. Horsham Museum was contacted and volunteer and amateur archaeologist Sylvia Standing helped secure the find, keeping the bones at her house.

At first it was thought the dinosaur was an iguanodon but, following an exhibition of the remains in 1989, it was determined they were more likely a new species of polacanthus - polacanthus rudgwickensis. It was termed a separate genus - Horshamosaurus.

However, due to the limited number of bones found, there have been recent questions over whether Horshamosaurus is a dinosaur in its own right.

George revealed that an extra bone has been added to the collection, as part of the dinosaur found at

Rudgwick Brickworks had been taken away by a worker and used as a door-stop. It was presented to the Museum only recently.

Horshamosaurus died out, not due to an asteroid though, but by the fact that Sussex at one stage became submerged under 300m of water as the Earth evolved.

The Horshamosaurus can be viewed at the Museum in the Fossils and Flints Gallery.



George Graham-Payne

Steve Payne

THE FIRST CURATOR'S CORNER



The first curator's corner

April saw a first for the Museum Friends when the inaugural Curator's Corner was held. This initiative was organised by our Curator Nikki Caxton and Friends committee member Pam French.

The idea was for a small group of Friends (on a first come first served basis) to meet Nikki who would talk in detail about a Museum artefact in an informal setting.

The first Curator's Corner was in the Museum Library, with around a dozen Friends, and was a look at the Knights Templar and their link with Shipley.

Those at this first gathering were able to get a close look at a small piece of hacksilver, found near Shipley, and decorated with templar crosses. This may have been cut from a vessel and used as currency by a Templar Knight.

The other object discussed was the Shipley Reliquary which is on loan to the Museum from the Shipley Parochial Church's Council and on display in

the Medieval Gallery.

Nikki began with a brief history of the Knights Templar, a military order of the Catholic Church, founded in 1118 to protect pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem.

The order grew and was used as troops in the Crusades. However, by the early 1300s its usefulness had waned and there was a move to restrict its influence, led by King Philip of France. Trumped up charges were made and the Knights were eventually hounded out of existence.

Thanks to some interesting questions from the floor, Nikki was able to cover a wider range of topics, such as the process of obtaining items found by detectorists and the fascinating recent history of the Shipley Reliquary.

Following the success of this first Curator's Corner, it is hoped to hold the event a few times a year on a variety of topics.



Hacksilver

Steve Payne

ARTS SOCIETY - UPCOMING EVENTS

The Arts Society Horsham concludes it's current season of lectures with the following:

Wednesday 8th July 2026 from 10.30 (following the A.G.M)

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham: the handsomest man in C17 Europe and his patronage of the Arts : Lucy Hughes-Hallett.

Following a summer break, the next season starts on:

Wednesday 9th September 2026

State Ceremonial Music : Graham Jones.

Visitors are welcome at all lectures which are held at the Brighton Road Baptist Church . Doors open

at 10.00 for coffee and biscuits. Lectures start at 10.45 and last about an hour. Hearing loop available. Visitor fee £8 on the door, cash or card. Fee refunded on conversion to Arts Society membership on the day.
www.theartsociety.org/horsham



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
HORSHAM

HISTORY OF HORSHAM MUSEUM

During my continuing work on the history of Horsham Museum Society I often get side-tracked by fascinating characters, events, and just general glimpses into life, especially in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Recently, I came across the Society holding a 'Conversazione' back in 1899 and again in 1902. So what was a 'Conversazione' and what relevance did this Italian-sounding event have with Horsham?

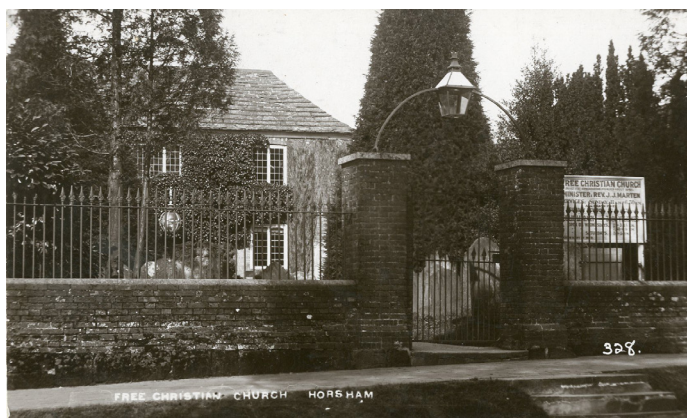
The term is used in Italy for a gathering of people for general conversation. However, 'Conversazione' in the UK was used as early as the 18th Century for a gathering of like-minded people who would discuss the Arts, Science and Literature.

In Victorian England the 'Conversazione' had an important role in disseminating cultural and scientific information.

So we come to the local connection. A few years after its creation in 1893, Horsham Museum Society was holding three or four meetings a year. These would comprise a speaker (often talking about natural history subjects) and an exhibition of the growing collection of artefacts.

These meetings were held at the Society's then headquarters, the schoolroom of the Free Christian Church in Worthing Road, Horsham.

However, in 1899 the Society decided to try something different. Various groups and organisations were holding 'Conversaciones' in



Horsham Museum Society's first home - the Free Christian Church in Worthing Road.

Horsham and further afield, so it was no great surprise the Museum joined in.

The Society's first such meeting was chiefly devoted to practical demonstrations about fungi, wood-engraving and photography, among other topics. As well as these there was an exhibition of English architecture and a collection of fruits and seeds.

The second (and final) 'Conversazione' in 1902 saw around 50 members and friends attend. The demonstrations were about nature-printing, chalk drawing, mnemonics and mosses. Music was also provided.

These meetings seemed to be a success but no other 'Conversaciones' were held by the Society, possibly due to the amount of effort they required.

Steve Payne

ADOPT AN ARTEFACT

A quick reminder of one of the fascinating brand new objects available for adoption. Find out how to take part at friendsofhorshammuseum.co.uk/adopt-an-object.

Alfred Shrubbs running shoes

World champion middle and long distance runner Alfred Shrubbs was born at Slinfold in 1879 and dominated the sport in the Edwardian era. During an amateur career lasting from 1899 to 1905 and a professional career from 1905 to 1912 he won over 1,000 races and set 28 world records.

In 1908 he became a coach at Harvard and then from 1919 to 1928 he coached the Oxford University Athletic Club. He finally settled in Canada, where he died in 1964.

Shrubbs is commemorated by the annual Alfie Shrubbs Museum Run in Bowmanville, Canada.



Pam French

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always delighted to hear from our members about any subject that appears in our newsletter, on our website or regarding any matters of general local interest.

Please contact us via fhmag1893@gmail.com.



Museum Discount Scheme

From 1st April 2026, your 10% discount can be used for all purchases * from the Museum Shop.

Always show your Friends of Horsham Museum Membership Card

** Excludes 3rd party sales*



**Refer a Friend
and receive a free
invitation to one
of our events**

We're excited to introduce our
new Refer a Friend scheme.
Help our community grow while
enjoying a thank you gift from us.



Friends of Horsham Museum

Preserving Horsham's history

NEW FHM MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome new members this year: Claire de Wilde, Paul Ratcliffe, Jill Morehen, Joan Eaves and Jan Irwin.



GARDEN UPDATE

Summer time.....

.....and the living is easy,. Well, it might have been for Porgy and Bess 90 years ago, but for us in the garden there is no let up in the frenzied activity in keeping it Tickety Boo (to maintain the musical momentum). Watering, pruning, deadheading, staking, cutting back, weeding, tying in, thinning out, sweeping up, controlling thugs (plants I mean) and watching out for pests and diseases.

But we wouldn't have it any other way. If you had strolled out into the garden in April, you could not have missed the wisteria in full bloom, trained in columns to frame the windows, or the pots of tulips which had taken over from the carpet of crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils. Or the quinces with their showy flowers on bare stems.

As I write this, we are in the 'gap' period between the spring awakening and the summer bonanza, but there is plenty going on as the plants burst into growth. A little early in the sheltered precincts of

our garden, the roses particularly are putting on a good display, from the whites and creams and yellows to the the bluey-purple of 'Rhapsody in Blue' in the Barn bed.

But have you seen the Hidden Garden, tucked away off the beaten track and conveniently adjacent to the Conveniences? It is a different branch of gardening, showcasing variations of leaf colour, variegation and form. It is packed with hostas and ferns, a Spotty Dotty (much easier to get your head round than *Podophyllum versipele*) and a Peace Lily. It is worth a look if you have time on the way in, or more likely, on the way out.

Soon we'll be revelling in flowering phlox, penstemons, fuchsias, geums and other gems. Summer time? Bring it on!

Adrian Holmes



Rosa 'Mrs H Stevens' - she can be found next to the Wisteria



The Hidden Garden.

SAMUEL CARPENTER AND THE FOUNDING OF HORSHAM, PENNSYLVANIA, USA (PART 2)

Admiral Penn died in 1670. His son William Penn inherited a plot of land from him but not the whole of Pennsylvania, whose charter was not issued until March 4, 1671. The actual details of clearing the debt were worked out after the Admiral's death. This was also perhaps a way for King Charles II to rid himself of the pesky Penn and all his troublesome Friends. Penn Jr had been involved in another Quaker Colony in New Jersey a couple of years before. He had drafted a "Charter of Liberties" for this group but did not travel to America at that point.

In 1682, Penn drew up his 'Framework of Government' for the Pennsylvania Colony, which included the 'novel' idea of freedom of worship. Penn advertised this throughout Europe and the West Indies to entice Quakers and (Dutch and German) non-conformists (Penn's mother was Dutch and he had family links to the Mennonites) to the new colony. This grant for land west and south of New Jersey, an area encompassing 45,000 square miles, made Penn the largest non-royal landowner. William named the land Sylvania but King Charles II changed it to Pennsylvania, or Penn's Woods in honour of Penn's father.

Samuel Carpenter with his brothers, Joshua and Abraham emigrated from Barbados to the colony of Pennsylvania in 1683. The Charter of Pennsylvania by King Charles II to William Penn had only been granted in January 1681, so the Carpenters were early members of the community. The brothers, especially Samuel and Joshua were apparently well educated men, of excellent ability and judgement. Samuel was quite wealthy from the sale of his holdings in Barbados and his inheritance. He had made a number of investments in plantations, mines, mills, wharves and other property. In 1684 Samuel married Hannah Hardman, who had emigrated from "Haverfordwest West Meeting in Wales, 2nd of the 6th month 1683" part of the famous Welsh Quakers, who set up the Welsh Tract in Pennsylvania. The original marriage certificate written on parchment is in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is the earliest marriage certificate in Pennsylvania now known to be in existence.

A contemporary comment by Francis Daniel Pastorius, a German traveller sailing from Deal, Kent, England, described being chased by pirates and having little to eat on his two month journey in 1683, landing a month after



William Penn, holding paper, standing and facing King Charles II, in the King's breakfast chamber at Whitehall.

'The Birth of Pennsylvania 1680' by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

Carpenter. 'Philadelphia then consisted of three or four cottages, all the residue being only woods, underwood and timber, in which Pastorius says he several times lost himself in travelling from the water-side to the house of Cornelius Bom., the baker, which stood near the corner of Third and Chestnut Streets. All kinds of temporary measures had to be resorted to. Pastorius and his companions were obliged to occupy caves in the river bank until the lands assigned to them could be surveyed and houses built for their accommodations.' Pastorius represented the Frankfort (Frankfurt-am-Rhein) Land Company and acted as agent to conduct a colony of Dutch and German Mennonites to the new colony. He became a lifelong friend of Samuel Carpenter. Samuel came to Philadelphia a rather wealthy man from his investments in Barbados and continued to expand his fortune with additional investments in his new home, purchasing from William Penn around 5,200 acres northwest of the city. It is estimated that 4,200 acres of this plot are now part of Horsham Township.

This is part 2 of 3 sections from this interesting article. Look out for part 3 in future issues.

My thanks to the HPHA, The Horsham Preservation Historical Association especially to editor Kevin Winters. They have given me access to numerous documents relating to William Penn, Samuel Carpenter and his family and the settlement of Horsham Township in Pennsylvania.

Maureen Radbourne

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

All Friends Events will be held at the Cornerstone Methodist Church, London Road, Horsham.



Museum Exhibition | The Young Curators' Club: The Great Fire of London with St Mary's CE Primary School

Saturday 23 May - Saturday 29 August 2026



Museum Exhibition | Museum of Time: An Astrophotography Trail

Tuesday 16 June - Saturday 29 August 2026

Follow the trail exhibition of astrophotography by Claire Bradshaw FRAS, and learn more about the life cycles of stars whilst experience the captivating photographs of celestial objects captured by Claire from the ground in Horsham.

Museum event | Making History children's craft challenge

Tuesday to Friday, 21 July to 28 August | 10.30am-3pm | £2



Museum event | Museum Lates: The Witchcraft and Vagrancy Act

Friday 24 July | 6-8pm

Friends events | Jeff Thomas: The Story of Daisy (Restoring a 1930's tandem bicycle)

Wednesday 29 July | 2pm



Museum event | Museum Lates: Betty Accorsi Duo

Friday 21 August | 6-8pm

Friends events | Dr. Alexandra Loske: Turner and Constable in Sussex

Wednesday 23 September | 7.30pm



Friends events | Invitation to visit Petworth Cottage Museum

Wednesday 30 September | 11am | see p3 for details

Friends events | Rick Domas: Oil Paintings within the Museum collection

Wednesday 28 October | 2pm



Friends events | Simon Mott: Mantovani - What Makes a Superstar

Wednesday 2 December | 2pm

FHM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Paul French | **Secretary:** Ann Rattray | **Treasurer:** Brian Frogley

Other Members: Pam French, Audrey Coventry, Steve Payne, Sean Hannan, Patricia Barrett

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.

Friends of Horsham Museum & Art Gallery is a Registered Charity, No: 1138172