

4 July - Talk/tour about the Maritime Art Group's exhibition at Guildford House

The Coffee Time Talk will whisk you away to the sea as we find out more about some of the coastal paintings in the exhibition by the Maritime Art Group.

1 August - History of Guildford House Gallery by Dennis May at Guildford House

To mark the 60th anniversary of Guildford House's time as an art gallery, come and find out more about its earlier history from local resident Dennis May. The house was built in 1660 and has been a family home, a restaurant and a sports shop among other things.

5 September - People and places featured in Guildford Borough's Art Collection at Guildford House

Guildford is, and has been, full of fascinating people and places. To accompany our summer exhibition, find out more about some of these people in this month's Coffee Time Talk.

Please note that the Coffee Time Talks for June, July, August and September will take place at Guildford House Gallery instead of Guildford Museum.

Other dates for your diary:

3 August Inspired by Alice Day

Guildford Castle 11am - 6pm

We will be helping on the Welcome desk again this year - if you can help, please contact Nick Bale.

13 -15 September Guildford Heritage Open Weekend

Contacts for information in this update:

Nick Bale nicholasbale23@gmail.com 01483 459997

Jean Wickens jeanwickens@gmail.com 01483 531436

March 2019



by Nick Bale & Jean Wickens



Picture of Bill and Doreen Bellerby which was unveiled in the reception area of Millmead on Wednesday 13 March. Bill, who died in 2017, was a founder member of the Friends of Guildford Museum.

Dear all

In order to save copying, we have bound together a News Update, and the Agenda, Minutes and Finance Report for the AGM. Please remember to bring this copy with you to the AGM. We will have some spare copies available but not enough for everyone.

Information on the Events for Spring and Summer 2019 and booking form are enclosed separately.

Tunsgate exhibition

Following on from our successful Tunsgate exhibition at the museum, the panels were on display at Guildford Institute during February and March. If you know of another suitable venue which would be willing to show them, please contact Nick Bale.

Anniversaries

2020/21 will see the 25th anniversaries of both the Friends of Guildford Museum and the Undercroft Volunteer Stewards. If you have any suggestions for how we could celebrate these eg a garden party, special outing, gala talk etc etc please let us know.

Undercroft Volunteer Stewards

Have you got some time between May and September to help steward in the Undercroft in the High Street? Volunteers are needed on Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm, and Saturdays between 12 and 2pm and 2 and 4pm.

Many of you who are regulars will already have been contacted by Carol Smithyes, but Carol still has a number of gaps in the rota. It's a very enjoyable way of spending a couple of hours, giving visitors information about the Undercroft's history. Visitors include people who have lived in Guildford all their life who have never visited it; visitors from the rest of Great Britain and tourists from abroad.

Interested? Please contact Carol Smithyes on: 01483 503667 or email: carolsmithyes@hotmail.co.uk

Nick Bale and Jean Wickens

Progress on the Museum Development Project

Activity on the project to revamp the museum has increased significantly in the past twelve months. Guildford Borough Council are now reviewing outline proposals which, if approved, will transform the museum.

The architects have confirmed the main features of the structure much as anticipated in the previous report. The museum will have three levels :

- There will be an entrance in the castle grounds into a new building in what is now the garden at the back of the museum. Here there will be a café and a shop and a new display gallery.
- On the floors below there will be another new gallery, a temporary exhibition gallery and space for activities.
- There will be lift access to all floors of Castle Arch House from the new building.
- The new building will integrate or replace the 20th century extensions to Castle Arch House.

From the standpoint of the Friends, the most interesting new proposals are the formulation of a coherent plan for the new permanent displays (the " Interpretation plan").

- The origins and history of Guildford will be told in a series of galleries in Castle Arch House entitled "Living and Being in Guildford".
- In addition, galleries in the new building will celebrate the clever people and engineers who have been notable figures locally and nationally. These galleries will be titled "Playing in Guildford" and "Working in Guildford".

The business plan for the new museum is likewise an important milestone. For the first time, specialists have looked at future visitor numbers and costs of staffing and operating the greatly enlarged

facility. The plan suggests that visitor numbers could increase to 67,500 in the first year of opening, over five times the number of visitors today.

All being well, the next steps will be :

- To do a full costing of the project, including construction, fitting out, design and preparation of displays and so on.
- To appoint a fundraiser, who will explore external funding
- To make an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other external funders
- The project team will also need to convince Historic England that the new construction will not adversely affect the ancient structures of the castle grounds and Castle Arch House.

Our chairman and other Friends representatives have regularly been in contact with the project team during the past year. We believe that the envisaged new museum will be a major asset for the town. It will be a lively centre for our local community as well as an important attraction for visitors. The Council have so far been very supportive and it is important that they now give a green light to the next stage of the project.

Nick Bale

Stop Press

The Executive of Guildford Borough Council approved the Museum Project report and recommendations on March 19th. The next twelve months will be particularly important as attention is focused on funding the redevelopment.

The report and recommendation's are available on the Borough Council's website.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Guildford Museum will be held in the Guildhall, High Street, Guildford.

On: **Wednesday 15 May 2019**

At: **10.30 am**

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available from 10 am.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 16th May 2018
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December 2018
6. Secretary's Report
7. Heritage Manager's Report
8. Members/Subscriptions
9. Election of Officers and Committee Members
10. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
11. Any Other Business

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Geoff Thompson on 'Leading Lights of Guildford'.

Please send any apologies for absence or committee nominations to Carol Brown (Hon. Secretary), at:
email: browne@ntlworld.com tel: 01483 574455

Elections for Committee Members

We are always looking for members to join the committee or help with roles organising activities outside the committee. Nominations can be made in advance or at the AGM.

Officers and committee members:

All current committee members are willing to stand again

Committee

Chairman:	Jen Powell
Vice Chairman:	Nick Bale
Secretary:	Carol Brown
Treasurer:	Richard Williams
Membership secretary:	Hugh Anscombe
Newsletter:	Jean Wickens
Member:	Keith Powell

Additional Activities

GBC relations:	Jen Powell
Undercroft volunteers:	Carol Smithyies
Summer visits:	Carol Brown
Website:	Nick Bale
Winter Talks	Chris Hetherington
Publicity:	Vacant
Recruitment and new member relations:	Vacant
Museum events	
e.g. Inspired by Alice Day:	Nick Bale
Social events:	Nick Bale

If you would like more information on the committee or helping with additional activities as a non committee member please contact:

Nick Bale

nicholasbale23@gmail.com 01483 459997

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
RECEIPTS	£	£
Friends' Subscriptions	814	868
Donations	102	256
Bank interest	255	412
Gift Aid	-	69
Surplus on Events (net)	581	624
	<u>1,752</u>	<u>2,169</u>
PAYMENTS		
BAFM subscriptions and insurance	265	291
AGM	30	158
Tansgate exhibition	300	-
Sundry expenses	56	71
	<u>651</u>	<u>620</u>
SURPLUS for the year	<u>£ 1,101</u>	<u>£ 1,549</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7,095	14,202
Cash at Bank on Fixed Term Deposit	40,000	31,853
	<u>47,095</u>	<u>46,055</u>
Aid(Less): Paid in advance for 2019 events (net)	2	160
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£ 47,093</u>	<u>£ 45,895</u>
Represented by:		
ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2018	21,995	20,447
Surplus for the year	<u>1,101</u>	<u>1,549</u>
	<u>23,097</u>	<u>21,996</u>
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND		
Provision for contingencies	24,000	24,000
	<u>£ 47,097</u>	<u>£ 46,996</u>

18 January 2019

Richard Williams
Hon Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account of the Friends of Guildford Museum for the year ended 31 December 2018 and certify that they are in accordance with the books, records and explanations supplied to me.

West Hensley
31 January 2019

J & Hattersley
+P Hattersley FCA
Hon Auditor

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM

MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL General Meeting. Held in the Guildhall on Wednesday 16th May 2018.

Members Present: Hugh Anscombe, Diane Austin, Joan Baker, Nick Bale, Valerie Bale, Carol Brown, Jill Draper, Jill Buist, Sheila Davidson, Gordon Harrison, Heather Harrison, Peter Hattersley, Jonathan Jessup, Tessa Johnson, Marjorie Llewellyn, Maureen Newman, Jennifer Nicholas, Roger Nicholas, Rosemary O'Brien, Jen Powell, Keith Powell, Colin Rumary, Dorothy Seymour, Carol Smithyes, Nola Thorne, Joan Tubbs, Margaret Walker, Tony Walker, Harry Wickens, Jean Wickens, Ivy Winmill.

1. Apologies for absence: Doreen Marshall, Christopher Mitchell, Hilary Mitchell, Gill Moulton, David Smith, Wendy Smith, Pauline Surrey, George Wallace, Olive Wholey, Reg Wholey, Marjorie Williams, John Wilkins, Maureen Wilkins.

Non-members Present: James Whiteman,

Apologies for absence: Nikki Nelson Smith, Peter O'Connell.

2. Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 17th May 2017 Agreed.

3. Matters Arising None.

4. Chairman's Report

Jen Powell, FoGM Chairman began by warmly welcoming everyone to the meeting.

"An especially warm welcome to James Whiteman for joining us today, and of course Jill Draper our Heritage Manager. We received apologies from Nikki Nelson-Smith and Peter O'Connell - the officer appointed to have the responsibility for our museum and its development. I was pleased to meet with him and talk about the future. He is still with us so I can't have upset him too much!!

It hardly seems any time since our AGM in May 2017 but a lot has happened. The information sent with the notification of this AGM was comprehensive. However, I must underline our sadness in the deaths of two of our committee members - Eric Morgan and Barbara Downing. Last year also saw the death of Bill Bellerby who was a founder member of the Friends. Eric had been a member of our committee since the very first meeting and was responsible for our Newsletter. The very last one that he edited was December 2017 - Issue 38. We miss Eric not only for the Newsletter but also his invaluable contributions in our meetings. Barbara also will leave a gap. She had not been well for some time but did struggle to come to our meetings.

This meeting did acknowledge the work of Marjorie Williams at the last AGM. Since that time she has (reluctantly) left the committee - her mobility was worsening and it was impossible for her to continue. Pauline Surrey, a committee member for many years, has also left the committee. Peter Hattersley and Margaret Jackson have also been unwell but still take a keen interest in activities.

The work load of committee members had obviously increased so once again a heartfelt thanks to the unstinting loyalty and hard work of those of us still in position. You will hear all of them this morning. We are indeed fortunate to have Nick Bale (with the support of Val) Jean Wickens (with the support of Harry) Hugh Anscombe and Richard Williams. Keith Powell keeps us on our toes at meetings! We have looked seriously at our committee and you see on the notification the way forward that we hope you can support.

Once again we assisted with Alice Day, and the Medieval Christmas event. (The decision to have gingerbread men instead of mince pies was a great success, inspired by Nick Bale) We were grateful for all the help and appreciated the thanks sent from both Jill Draper & Lynn Szygenda at the museum - it does make a difference. We also helped with Heritage weekend and enjoyed the excellent Medieval Machines exhibition which excited the school children during half term.

We were asked if we were prepared to be responsible for the production of an exhibition. Needless to say we couldn't refuse and I had the wonderful idea of a sub-committee under the leadership of Nick Bale. With the help of the officers, especially Melanie, this is now in place. Tunsgate was chosen as the subject for the project. Many, many thanks to those involved not only from the Friends but also other groups such as Acorns.

Members of The Friends of Guildford Museum also have the benefit of "News Update" leaflets compiled by Nick. The last one, April 2018, does mention the important meeting on April 9th 2018 of the GBC Executive Advisory Committee. Those groups most interested in the future development of the museum were in attendance. I did speak on behalf of the Friends and Gavin Morgan also spoke for the Heritage Group. The councillors were supportive and we look forward into the future (distant future!) to the establishment of a wonderful Guildford Museum not forgetting the contribution of the important project "Your Stories Your Museum".

Jen handed over to Nick Bale to report on coming events. Nick began with the exhibition on Tunsgate which will be on until June, and asked members to visit and tell their friends to visit. This Friday evening sees a late night opening of the Museum – with the shops in Tunsgate invited to attend the exhibition. On June 1st Hugh Anscombe will be giving a talk in the Victorian Schoolroom on the earlier history of Tunsgate.

As regards the summer village walks – spaces are still available: 3 for Munstead Wood, 4 for Goddards, and 5 for Shamley Green. More events will be arranged for the summer including a Summer Social and a coach trip organised by Carol Brown – details to be arranged. Nick also asked members to sign up to help at the Alice Day on Sunday 5 August for an hour or so between 11 and 4.

5. Treasurer's Report

Richard Williams reported that it had been an uneventful year for the finances, although subscriptions were slightly down, as were

interest rates. He should also mention the generous donation of £187 left to the Friends in the will of Mikki Wilson, and ex Town Guide.

There was a surplus on events – the same as last year although the costs were higher. The BAFM Insurance had also gone up. Overall there was a surplus on the year of £1,500. There is currently £44,000 in the bank waiting for the museum to say what they wish to spend it on. Richard also thanked Joan Hattersley for checking the accounts.

There were no questions from members. The accounts were formally adopted, proposed Nick Bale and seconded Keith Powell.

6. Secretary's Report

Jean Wickens stated there was little to report – 4 committee meetings had been held through the year. Contact had recently been made with other Friends of Museum organisations in Surrey to advertise the Tunsgate exhibition, and these links may be worth pursuing in the future.

7. Heritage Manager's Report

Jill Draper asked us to cast our minds back to last year's AGM, the architects had just been appointed, the museum had started working with new partners and the work on Your Stories Your Museum had just begun. What has happened in the last year?

What a year it has been – a very busy year. The architects and museum staff have been working and talking with Heritage England to ensure that proposals meet with their requirements. Suggestions on what we want to do are followed by a discussion and then further reconsideration due to the museum being a listed building. This is exciting but also a challenge. Need to think of creative ways for 21st Century visitors.

A lot of work has been done on Your Stories Your Museum and the power point presentation shown on screen before the AGM has shown some of this work. The team have taken the project and the museum out into the community and asked members of the public what they would like to see.

The new gallery the Discovery lounge which used to be the SAS Library has tried out new things, new interpretations for example using ipads, audio commentaries, etc and has obtained feedback. This work has enabled us to work with specific targeted groups in the community eg children with disabilities, visually impaired people, people with learning disabilities and people with dementia for example. One project – 'Learning to Fly' enabled visually impaired people to work with a poet in a participative way.

The Community Exhibitions are also working with members of the community. The first was the Joining In project at park Barn, and the second the FoGM exhibition on Tunsgate – which was timely with the opening of Tunsgate Square.

We have consulted over 1650 people, attended 21 events through the whole borough, with 440 participants who have never been involved with the museum before and have obtained 25 new volunteers. The events have involved both trained staff and volunteers. There has been an improved social media presence including a new scheme to present a museum object on social media.

Overall it has been a really satisfying year, the museum is getting busier, the Medieval machines exhibition brought in large numbers of visitors and visitor numbers in general are going up so the work is starting to bear fruit.

Looking forward, we are aware that those who have been supporting the museum over many years, are frustrated by the seeming lack of progress which has seemed to go in fits and starts. But the groundwork has been laid and the project is gaining momentum. Work over the last 2 years has reached a critical mass, and we have secured GBC funding for the next 2 years for working with the community and building up the new museum. We can expect the architectural design to be produced within this financial year. You may have heard of the chinese proverb which says that a thousand miles begins with a single step – we have lots of single steps and things are now moving forward.

Jill thanked the Friends for their continuing support both this year and in previous years plus the increased involvement of Friends. Jill emphasised that they want us to keep in touch with what the museum is doing.

James Whiteman added his thanks to those of Jill's for everything the Friends do for the museum. Next year he is hoping that the leader of the council will also attend the Friends AGM. He confirmed that he is committed to the museum project, despite all the demands of implementing the Local plan, the Corporate Plan, the North Street Development etc. The museum is a priority – he talks to his management team every week to keep up to date with progress. He also thanked Carol Brown, who has recently retired, and all the museum staff.

The process for tendering for project specialists eg interpretation, programme management is underway. He is committed to the museum buildings and there will be more attempts to get further involvement. Later this year Plans and costs will be going to the Executive.

Jen thanked James for giving his time and his commitment. Carol Brown commented that she was very pleased and excited to hear Jill and James so passionate about the project.

Heather Harrison said that the Tunsgate exhibition was excellent – not too academic and it means something to the people who live there. She asked whether it could be put up in the Tunsgate area eg into the shops? It would be a shame for it to just close.

Nick said that he would love to do that, the channels of communication are open. Jill confirmed that if it can be taken into Tunsgate she would like to see it done.

8. Recommendations for the annual subscription for the year 2018-2019

Hugh Anscombe said that after some discussion the committee were recommending no change. Sheila Davidson said she thought it was going to change this year following last year's AGM. Hugh explained that it involves a lot of extra work to change the subscription.

Hugh also reported that memberships currently stand at 123 memberships, 149 members. He reminded people that there was a column on the signing in sheet for GDPR and reminded members to complete their forms by 25 May if possible.

He also confirmed there are spaces still available for the summer events and has a list of who is booked if people are unsure about their bookings.

Jen expressed concerns that the membership is going down.
(At this point Jill Draper and James Whiteman left the meeting)

9. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Jen asked members to turn their agendas over to look at the list of committee posts etc as some work has already been done to fill vacant posts. Jen is grateful to Carol Brown for agreeing to join the committee. Also to Carol Smithyes and Chris Hetherington who do not want to attend the committee. Carol has agreed to take on the Undercroft Volunteers rota, and Chris will be organising the Winter Talks programme.

Jen would be very pleased to have a full committee – and said that we would be very grateful for anybody here today who would like to join the committee.

Jen was voted in as Chairman (proposed Carol Brown, seconded Nick Bale)

The Committee was voted en bloc (proposed Jill Buist, seconded Val Bale)

10. Any other Business

Peter Hattersley commented that as a past chairman, he has some understanding of the work the committee does and he would like to thank all the committee and officers for their work over the last year.

Jen wished to bring member's attention to the Horsley Magazine

which is produced 4 times a year. To her horror a recent edition has an article about the museum, criticising the council's lack of forward planning and lack of information on the museum. Jen said this was not true (as people have heard today) and this does nothing to further the position of the museum. To compare the work of the councillors with the gardens round the castle and what has to happen with the museum development is not appropriate. Jen will be responding on behalf of the Friends.

Jen thanked everyone again for attending the AGM and said that we were looking forward to Roger Nicholas's talk.

The AGM closed at approximately 11.30 am

Coffee Time Talks – Spring and Summer 2019

Introduced at the beginning of 2019, these Thursday morning talks have become a well-liked addition to the museum's activities. The meetings are monthly on a variety of topics associated with Guildford History, items in the museum collection or exhibitions.

Tea and coffee are served from 10.30 am followed by an informal talk of about 45-50 minutes.

To book your free place, please phone the museum on 01483 444751 or email heritageservices@guildford.gov.uk.

2 May - Guildford Museum's mysterious objects challenge with local historian David Rose at Guildford Museum

Local historian and avid collector David Rose will be set a challenge - to talk about some objects from the collection without any preparation!

6 June - Talk/tour about the Wild Surrey exhibition at Guildford House

Find out more about the art and photographs on display as part of the competition to mark Surrey Wildlife Trust's 60th anniversary.