

HERTFORD MUSEUM

Newsletter, January 2007, No.48

www.hertfordmuseum.org



Remembering the Regiment

An exhibition about the Hertfordshire Regiment
3rd Feb—19th May

In the late 1960s the Hertfordshire Regiment was absorbed into the Royal Anglian Regiment and a large collection of items was deposited at the museum. Since then, the Hertfordshire Regiment collection has grown and the museum now has a large selection of objects, photographs, costume and medals which tell the story of the county regiment. A temporary exhibition

on the ground floor of the museum will follow the Hertfordshire Regiment from its earliest beginnings in 1798 as a volunteer force to defend Britain from possible French invasion, to becoming part of the Territorial Army in the 20th Century. Although their primary role was home defence they did at times serve abroad, most notably in the two world wars. They were to lose over 900 men in the mud of Flanders, fight the Nazis in the mountains of Northern Italy, and take an important part in the D-Day Landings. Some also volunteered for Imperial Service in South Africa during the Boer War, and others were sent to keep the peace in Palestine in the years before the birth of modern Israel. Alongside the maps, medals and memories of some of those who served with the Hertfordshire Regiment, the exhibition will also be illustrated with rare photographs and regalia.

‘Our Country Parish’ Little Munden 1830 - 1930, 10 Feb—26 May

Funded by Museums, Libraries and Archives East of England, the museum has been working with Years 5 and 6 of Little Munden Primary School, together with members of the Mundens and Sacombe Local History Society, to produce an exhibition about the parish of Little Munden from 1830—1930.

ATTENTION EAST HERTS VILLAGERS! The museum is using this project as a pilot and hopes to work with other local parishes in the future. **Did you know?** That Hertford Museum collects for the surrounding parishes as well as the county town? The plan for working with parishes in the future will be that the museum will work with other schools, history societies and individuals to produce a series of rotating small displays in the new galleries which will last for 6 months. Once finished in the museum, the display will then go back to the village so that everyone can see the display. We are hoping to apply to the Big Lottery Fund for this project which will include new portable cases for villages to use and also to appoint a ‘Communities Officer’ to develop this work. If you think this is a good idea please email your comments to us at villages@hertfordmuseum.org which will help our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN! An exhibition of everyday life in Ancient Egypt. This popular Exhibition on the ground floor is on until the end of 2007 so make sure you don't miss it!



HERTFORD MUSEUM

Inspiring Generations

Hertford Museum
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Hertford
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Tel: 01992 582686

Email: hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com

Open Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Admission free

Please help support your local museum!

WHAT'S ON FOR CHILDREN

PARENTS AND CARERS PLEASE NOTE! From January 2nd the first floor activity room will be closing at 4.30pm every day. This is so that the room is made tidy for the next day.

We do encourage all users of this room to tidy up after themselves.

Thanks to the East Herts Learning and Outreach Project we were able to purchase much-needed multicultural materials to help with our many free Activities. This is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and East Herts Council.

Holocaust Memorial Day, a family learning day. Sat 27th (activities on for a week until Sat 3rd February, 10am—4.30pm, drop-in.) To mark this important day, we will be making 'Same but Different' heads and thinking about what makes each of us unique and learning how to respect difference amongst us all. You can also find out about what Holocaust Memorial Day is all about and add to our world mural.



Mad about Mummies!! (Egyptian ones!), Tues 13th to Fri 16th February. Come along to our ever popular February half term drop-in events from 10am to 4.30pm. Have a go at making a tomb, make and paint a shabti (£1 per shabti), colouring, add to our Egyptian wall painting and taste Egyptian food day (Tuesday only). All week: bring along a teddy or doll you want to mummify!

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year, Sat 17th Feb, 10am—4.30pm, drop-in Admission free (donations always very welcome). Lots of fun activities for all ages.

Celebrate the festival of Holi—Sat 4th—Sat 10 March, 10am—4.30pm, Come along and discover the Hindu Festival of Holi! Make a Holi elephant to take home, make a Holi card and add to our Holi mural. Free but donations always welcome.

Easter holiday activities: **LET'S CELEBRATE!**, Tuesday 3rd —Saturday 14th April, drop-in from 10am—4.30pm. Find out about the different festivals that are celebrated this time of year, including Passover, Easter and Vaisakhi. Lots of fun things to make and do!

St George's Day, Saturday 21st April, drop-in from 10am—4,30pm, Find out about this festival and make a dragon!

Scarecrow Week, Tuesday 29th May—Saturday 2nd June, drop-in, 10am—4.30pm Make a life-size scarecrow to take home!

Our narrow boat 'Adventurine' returns to the activity room on 31 March and will be available until early September. This was really popular last year but we do ask parents and carers to make sure they leave it tidy for the next child!



We want to ensure all our young visitors can access our activities.

At present, the only access to the first floor activity room is by the stairs. If you have a child who is a wheelchair user, we would be more than happy to bring some of the crafty things downstairs so that they can enjoy our activities too. Please contact Helen at the museum if you would like to arrange this.



Do you remember Medieval Night in Hertford? Who could forget the medieval merriment that came to the town for one evening a year. We have been very fortunate to acquire this oil painting of Medieval Night by local artist Trevor Chamberlain so that we can remember the festivities for many more years as it enters the permanent collection at the museum. This and another painting of North Road painted by Trevor was acquired by the museum with the help of funding from the Hertfordshire Heritage Fund, McMullens, the Friends of Hertford Museum and also an anonymous donation. The museum already has two of Trevor's paintings and his family kindly

donated another of his works to the museum recently. The museum is very proud to have this small collection by this important local artist, who captures the characteristics of the county town so well.

Thank you! To everyone who came to our 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief in September. We raised £105 in total.

Comments cards are now available for visitors to fill in and tell us what you think about our museum and the services we provide. Your views and ideas are very important to us!

'Nancy' doll will be conserved! The museum's oldest doll (*right*) who is known as Nancy is going off to Colchester to be conserved. This has been made possible with a £5000 grant from the Pilgrim Trust together with a generous donation of £1500 from a local supporter and Friend of Hertford Museum. The doll dates to around 1750 and has been in the museum since 1946. Her clothing is in desperate need of conservation and she will be displayed in the museum when she returns in September.



Volunteers The museum has welcomed many new volunteers over the past year and we really appreciate all the help that they provide. Without their support we would be unable to put on free activities for families, hold special hands-on sessions for primary schools, look after our collections, do essential DIY tasks and serve cream teas in the museum's garden in the summer. Thank you to all our volunteers! **Good news!** We were successful in getting a £1000 Community Grant from Hertford Town Council which will fund a new laptop for the volunteers to use for many projects. The rest of the funding will go towards the upkeep of the free broadband internet services for the local users in the town.

Enjoy Cream Teas in the museum garden! 5th May—8th September , every Saturday from 11am to 4.30pm. Having 'cream tea' in the museum's garden is the perfect way to relax and enjoy the tranquility of our beautiful knot garden. 2006 saw the introduction of our museum administrator's home-made scones which went down a treat! We aim to do the same this year but could do with the help of more volunteers who are willing to help out for a few hours on a rota. If you are interested in helping, please contact Connie on 01992 582686.

Enquiries

Museum staff are swamped with enquiries from the general public and researchers and we need to ensure that we can continue to provide this service, so we are introducing a standard charge of £2.50 per enquiry from January 1st. This does not include photocopying charges.

This newsletter is available in large print. Please telephone to receive your copy on 01992 582686 or email: hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com

Centenary Development Update Phase 1 of the development project is now complete, and the Heritage Lottery Funded Project Plans are now available for any visitors to look at, both in the museum and on the website. Since the project has started, our aims have grown and have become more detailed and realistic:

AIM 1: To tell the story of Hertford through a newly constructed gallery space on the first floor

AIM 2: For ALL of our visitors to enjoy access to ALL public areas of the museum, through the installation of a lift.

AIM 3: To increase access to collections through the installation of a resource room on the ground floor

AIM 4: To develop the role of the museum in the surrounding villages for which it collects

AIM 5: To increase learning for all in the museum

AIM 6: To ensure that everyone can access the museum's important collections of photographs

The next phase is to get everything ready to submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. This involves preparing plans and details including a realistic total cost. Francesca Weal has been appointed as the lead architect for this and she is currently working on producing proposals up to RIBA stage D.

The fundraising team have been very busy over the past few months making new contacts and producing the Grand Prize Draw open to all (tickets £1 or a book of tickets £5). Local traders have been exceptionally generous in giving prizes (there is a full list at the museum desk). The prize draw will be drawn at 11am on Saturday 27th January by Mark Prisk MP who will announce the lucky winner of the 1st prize which is a trip for two up Big Ben!

The total donations to the Centenary Development appeal now stands at £37,500. This is not including the monies raised from the prize draw which will be announced in the next newsletter together with a list of the winners. We still need your help to keep raising money towards this important development project.

Looking toward the future. The museum is currently working together with some other local museums on a 'Sustainability Project' which has been organized by Julie Massey, the Museums Development Officer for Hertfordshire. She has managed to secure funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation through the Association of Independent Museums, to enable this project to go ahead. The completed work will be a business plan for each museum, with the help of a consultant. This will help us look towards the museum's future finances in a careful and efficient manner and will consider opportunities for income generation.

We need your memories! Did you once work in a factory in Hertford and would like to tell us about your memories? We are interested in taping people (either at the museum or in your home) to build up on our industry archive of oral histories. Perhaps you worked at Webb's Glove Factory, Stephen Austin or Simson Shand and you have a story to tell. Please contact us at the museum on 01992 582686

Volunteer required (Mon, Tues or Weds) to work with our Assistant Curator on the archaeological collections. Interested? Please ring Sara Taylor on 01992 582686 (Mon-Weds)

Des Furze

Des Furze died at the age of 79 on Saturday 4th November. Des had been a prominent member of the Friends of Hertford Museum for a number of years and was a great help with our Home Front exhibition in 2004. He will be missed greatly by the museum staff and the Friends of Hertford Museum.

JOIN THE MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER!

Hertford Museum Newsletter is published in January, May and September. If you would like to receive a copy as soon as it is printed, please complete this form and enclose three second class stamps.

Name :

Address :

Please send to Hertford Museum, 18 Bull Plain, Hertford, HERTS, SG14 1DT