

HERTFORD MUSEUM NEWS

January 2009, No.54

www.hertfordmuseum.org



Bull Plain c.1972, showing the museum and its derelict neighbour, Beadle House.

Between now and then however, we will be busy behind the scenes arranging various events and activities (see pages 2 & 3 for details of outreach events). We are also selecting objects for new displays and writing gallery text panels.

To find out more about what we are up to and when and to follow the development with photos and a museum panorama, check the website regularly www.hertfordmuseum.org. Look out for our posters in the museum windows and around the town. You can also still contact us (details below).

While we are closed... The builders move in at the beginning of March, demolishing the old toilet block to make way for a new Learning Space, putting in a lift and new toilets. Then from October to early 2010, we will be putting up new displays, getting a new shop fitted and constructing a resource room on the ground floor. Thanks to the 'Hidden Hertford' project, we will be providing 3 new computer workstations for our visitors to access the internet and find out more about local history. The 'New Look' Museum opens Spring 2010.



Conservation Cleaning The main project our volunteers will be involved in during closure is conservation housekeeping at the museum stores. This will involve the careful cleaning of hundreds of historic objects which will be appearing in our new displays. We will be

arranging 'behind the scenes tours' (see page 3) where you can watch our volunteers at work.

Teachers! Look out for our Learning newsletter, with lots of ways in which we can help your class enjoy history! Contact: leanorp.hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com

Hertford Museum contact details:

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Tel: 01992 582686

Email: hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com

www.hertfordmuseum.org



HERTFORD MUSEUM

Inspiring Generations



LOTTERY FUNDED

Generously supported by Hertford Town Council

WHAT'S ON FOR KIDS!

ROCKWATCH

the greatest club on Earth!

Fantastic Fossils and Marvellous Minerals! Tuesday 17th - Thursday 19th February. 10am - 4pm, drop-in. Admission Free! Hertford Museum has teamed up with 'Rockwatch' (the nationwide club for young geologists, the junior club of the Geologists' Association) to bring you three fun family days making fossils out of plaster, handle real fossils, quizzes and lots of dinosaur activities! At The Millbridge Rooms, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX .Nearest car park is St. Andrew Street. Part of Hertford Museum's Heritage Lottery Funded Development Project!



Making "Magatama"-curved Japanese beads Friday 20th February 10.15-11.45am, £3, age 6+, places limited to 15 only, bookings only in advance. Tel:



01992 582686 MAGATAMA is an ancient Japanese accessory, made more than 1500 years ago. You can take a curved bead home as your own original necklace!

Traditional Japanese paper & cloth crafts, Saturday 21st February 10.15-11.45am, £1, age 6+, places limited to 20 children only, bookings only in advance.

01992 582686. This event provides three Japanese tradi-

tional activities: "Mon-kiri" Cutting out Japanese traditional patterns and making an original card, "Origami" Make an animal and a Samurai helmet and "Furoshiki" (Japanese traditional cloth). This event is co-ordinated by Junko Watanabe. To find out more about Junko, please see the next page. At The Millbridge Rooms, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX .Nearest car park is St. Andrew Street.



Hina Matsuri Saturday 28th February, 10.30-4pm Free event! Drop in all day.



Hina-Matsuri (usually celebrated on the 3rd of March) is the festival day of girls in Japan. People display Hina-dolls and celebrate the health and fortune of girls. Make a Hina-doll, dress up in Hina-costume and do our Hina quiz. At the Millbridge Rooms, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX.



Scarecrow Fun! Wednesday 8th April at Cowbridge Hall & Wednesday 15th April at the River Room at Castle Hall (both in Hertford), 10.30am-4pm. Free event! Drop in.



Come and learn about the folklore of scarecrows and take part in crafty activities. Please telephone us for details.

For all of our activities, parents/carers must stay with their children.



Meet Junko! (seen here with the Town Crier!)

はじめまして! 渡邊淳子です。

"Hello, I'm Junko Watanabe. I come from Japan. In Japan, I worked at the city museum for several years as a curator. I have come to the UK to learn about museum education and museum management. My placement term is from November 2008 to March 2009 in Hertford Museum. As this museum has lots of educational programmes and volunteer's activities, I am interested in them very much. In the latter part of February, I will take some Japanese events "Making

Japanese bead, Magatama", "Japanese paper and cloth crafts", "Hina-festival". A lot of amusing workshops are expected, so come along and enjoy!"



Hertford Museum's Hidden Hertford Walks! From March! Come and discover the secrets of Hidden Hertford **FREE** with a tour of the town and surroundings on Sunday 8th March & Sunday 29th March. Walks start from the Museum at 11am, 15 people maximum, so telephone 01992 582686 NOW to secure your place (bookings only). Don't worry if you miss them in March, we are planning to do more in the following months, please contact us to find out more.

Behind the scenes tours! Our museum stores will be open for special tours during the spring and summer. Come and see our volunteers at work, cleaning the objects ready for re-display and see where our vast collection of weird and wonderful objects is stored! First open day is Tuesday 12th May 10am-11am and 11am-12pm. Tours are limited to 10 people, please phone and book in advance 01992 582686 for your ticket which will show you how to get to the museum stores. Tours are free but donations are welcome (towards our development project). Please note that the tour is suitable for accompanied children over the age of 12. Keep an eye on the website, museum window and May's newsletter for more behind the scenes tours.

Farewell to Megan!

Megan Stubbs (*pictured right*) joined as a Hertford Museum volunteer in 2006 after she retired from teaching. She has undertaken a variety of tasks which have been of enormous help to the museum, including leading many of the primary schools sessions. Megan leaves us on Friday the 6th of February for a new life in Scotland. *Best of luck Megan! We will all miss you!*

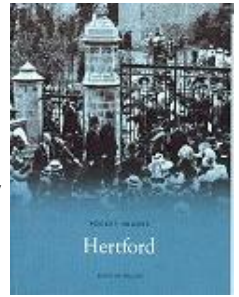


My Favourite Object

In each edition of the newsletter, a member of museum staff tells of their favourite object from the collection and why. Margaret Harris, Collections Assistant (*pictured left*), kicks off with a portrait of Charles Dickens painted by his daughter, Kate Perugini. Margaret has chosen this because of her love of portraits and her interest in Charles Dickens. The picture is a pen and wash style with white highlights. How the picture came to be in our collection is a mystery!

BLOG! Very soon you will be able to find out what is happening at Hertford Museum by logging onto our website and our new BLOG. There will be lots of interesting information including updates about the building work and the new displays.

visit our Online Shop! The museum may be closed, but you can still buy all your favourite gifts and books on-line simply by using our virtual shop. Visit www.hertfordmuseum.org. You can now pay using Paypal, or alternatively you can email: hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com. We have a range of Hertford memorabilia, books, minerals, toys and coasters.



Soundbites'. The Museum will be having a stall at All Saint's Church in Hertford every Wednesday between 11.30-2.30pm during the Soundbites Concerts, starting 21st January. We will be selling an array of items including minerals, local books and traditional toys. Come and see us and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of music too! You can also find us providing tea, coffee, cakes and scones at events at the Castle during 2009. See our website for details. Connie, our administrator needs volunteers to help with teas and the shop stall for these events. Shifts 2 hours or more (if possible) Please contact Connie on 01992 585720.

Our Assistant Curator Sara Taylor has had another baby girl! Congratulations to Sara and family!

Fundraising update:

Development Fund! Thanks to all the Friends of Hertford Museum who took part in our £1 challenge, over £150 was raised! The idea was to use a pound from the museum funds to make something which could be sold for more money. Our £1 Challengers produced a variety of cakes, biscuits, seeds, cards and gift tags amongst many other creative ideas.

Mulled Wine Evening On the 11th of December we thanked all of our supporters with an evening of mulled wine and mince pies. We had over a hundred guests and a good time was had by all! Our Christmas Auction that evening raised a fantastic £912! So thanks to all our donors and bidders. However, we still have a little further to go to reaching our target (£49,000), so fundraising continues. For anyone who wants to help, there is a facility to donate online, or cheques can be made out to Hertford Museum and sent to the address on the front page.

Bag Packing at Waitrose made £437.00! Thanks to all !

Photos of old Hertford Watch out for at least one photo from our archive collection in every newsletter from now until we re-open! This photograph (*right*) shows Bell Lane in Hertford, c.1940. No problems with car parking in the town in those days!



The Learning Space Our new Learning Space will be multifunctional: for school visits and holiday activities, but also for hire by local businesses and charities. Enquiries 01992 582686. Adult day and evening courses are also planned from Easter 2010 as we hope to work alongside the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education once more.

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY POST! Our 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 3x 2nd class stamps.

Name:

Address:

Please send to Hertford Museum, 18 Bull Plain, Hertford, HERTS SG14 1DT. The newsletter is also available to download from the museum website (www.hertfordmuseum.org).
