

HERTFORD MUSEUM NEWS

September 2009, No.56

www.hertfordmuseum.org



An update on our Development Project

Things are moving apace with the Museum development. Our team of consultants, headed by Mike Cook of Architects Co-Partnership in Northaw have been working together with our building contractor, Bakers of Danbury to ensure that the grade II listed building is refurbished sensitively but also responding to the needs of a modern museum.

The new extension which will be the Learning Space is virtually complete. It will provide a fantastic venue for all children's workshops, activities and for museum social events and other meetings. Hertfordshire Puddingstone is being incorporated into the rendering around the door into the garden. This space will be available to hire for a range of different uses. The new extension, which incorporates the learning space and toilets has a new lobby area which joins it to the main building. The new lifts (one to take visitors to the first floor and the other, a smaller platform lift to take



visitors out to the new extension and garden) are being installed in October. These have been kindly supported with funding from Lafarge Aggregates and the Hertford Disability Support Group.



The reception desk, 'resource room' and temporary exhibition space are gradually taking shape. The temporary exhibition space will have its own air conditioning so that we are better equipped to display objects loaned from other museums. The timber pilasters from the old Coffee House Inn (that once stood on Maidenhead Street) which lined the ground floor wall in the old museum, will be taking pride of place as they will form a feature

in the entrance area and the first floor, (*pictured above right*). The building work will be completed at the end of October and the site will then be handed over to our museum fit out contractors, called 'The Workhaus' who are based in Yorkshire and specialise in the design, production and installation of museum displays. They are working with our award winning design team called RFA Design who are also Yorkshire based (*above left*). The new displays will take up most of the ground and all of the first floor areas and will tell the story about Hertford's past.



Henry Moore's Sheep are coming to Hertford Museum!

27th February – 5th June 2010

An exhibition of Henry Moore's much loved sheep etchings will be the first to grace our brand new temporary exhibition space when the museum re-opens in 2010. Etchings, sculpture and other related items are being kindly loaned by the Henry Moore Foundation based at the artist's former home in Perry Green, Much Hadham.

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HERTFORD MUSEUM
Inspiring Generations

Supported by Hertford Town Council

Museum Roadshows

This summer, Hertford Museum has been out and about with a series of popular themed 'Museum Roadshows'. Every Tuesday, at different locations in and around Hertford, the museum staff and volunteers have teamed up with various organisations such as Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, Hertfordshire Libraries, 'Rockwatch' (Young Geologists Association) and the Hertfordshire Police, to present a fun and informative drop in day for adults and children. The Roadshows offered themed mini exhibitions of museum objects, hands-on activities, cream teas, and displays from the other organisations.

Teachers! Look out for the autumn 2009 edition of Hertford Museum's schools newsletter, featuring information on new schools outreach sessions, loans boxes and ways teachers themselves can get involved with the future of Hertford Museum. Contact Eleanor Payne, Learning Officer to be added to the schools mailing list and for further information on learning services from Hertford Museum on 01992 582686 or by email eleanorp.hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com.

October Half Term Events – The Big Draw!, Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th October, 10am—4pm, The Millbridge Rooms.

During half term, pop along to the Millbridge Rooms to take part in Hertford Museum's Big Draw! We are holding an art competition where we invite you to create pieces of artwork inspired by the museum collections we shall have on display. The winning entries will be chosen by a panel of judges and then displayed in the museum's new Learning Space once the museum is reopened next year. The event will be a FREE drop in activity for visitors of all ages at The Millbridge Rooms, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PX (opposite Castle Hall). Come along and discover your creative side!



The Campaign for Drawing
www.campaignfordrawing.org

Christmas Model Railway Day, Saturday 5th December, 10am - 3pm, admission free!

Why not join us for a day of festive fun at the Cowbridge Halls? There will be a variety of working model railway layouts that will interest and intrigue visitors of all ages! Come and enjoy a tea or coffee with a mince pie, whilst browsing our museum shop...there might even be a visit from Father Christmas himself! See individual event posters nearer the time for confirmation. Cowbridge Halls is situated on Cowbridge, Hertford, SG14 1PG. Donations towards the development project are greatly appreciated!

Hidden Hertford Walks

The ever popular Hidden Hertford walks return, with a selection of town tours on a variety of different themes. Taking place on Sunday mornings throughout the autumn, why not take a leisurely stroll to work up an appetite for coffee and cake or Sunday lunch? All walks are run by a trusty team of volunteers and are FREE, being generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, although donations to the Hertford Museum Development Project are welcomed. Booking is essential, please contact the museum on 01992 582686 or hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com to secure your place(s). Many of our summer walks were fully booked within days of the dates being published, so don't delay!

Daytime and evening classes for adults from April 2010, in conjunction with the University of Cambridge Centre for Continuing Education.

Starting next April we will be running two courses for adults at Hertford Museum in conjunction with the University of Cambridge. Our evening art course entitled '**The Musee d'Orsay and its collections**' is run by Margaret Davis, combines discussion of conversion of the Musee d'Orsay from a railway station to a museum with study of a remarkable art collection setting Impressionism and Post-Impressionism in the full context of contemporary art. The course starts on Monday 19th April 2010 at 7.00pm and cost £70 for 10 meetings. The second course we will be running is '**Discovering the Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire**' with Anne Rowe, where participants will be able to learn how to spot the clues and find out about some gardens which were once glorious, but have now disappeared – almost! The course starts on Friday 23 April 2010 at 10.00am and costs £70 for 10 meetings. **If you would like further information on the above courses or would like an enrolment form please contact us at Hertford Museum, telephone: 01992 582686 or email us on: hertfordmuseum@btconnect.com**

NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR EITHER COURSES!

Photographs galore - The Malcolm Moulding photographic collection. The museum has recently acquired a large collection of photographs and slides from Mr Malcolm Moulding who was born in Hertford and only recently moved away from the town. The collection comprises modern scenes of Hertford life, including various buildings being built and knocked down. This collection is of great value to the museum, particularly in years to come. Prior to this acquisition, the museum's collection was severely lacking in photographs from the last 20 years.

The search for puddingstone continues! We have been on a mission to find the elusive Hertfordshire Puddingstone for many months now, to adorn the exterior of the new learning space extension. So far we have had a number of donations of puddingstone from generous locals but we still need more. Do you have any pieces lying about in your garden? Are you happy for it to be cut and placed as a permanent feature at Hertford Museum? If so, please contact the museum on 01992 582686 or email: puddingstone@hertfordmuseum.org. All donations of puddingstone will be acknowledged with a plaque on the wall of the learning space.

Buried in time. We have recently buried a time capsule in the garden of the museum. Year 4 and 5 pupils from Mill Mead School helped by giving suggestions as to what they think should be included in the capsule and how long it should be buried for. The children also wrote letters addressed to future Hertfordians asking them questions about their lives and telling them what Hertford means to them in 2009. A variety of other items are included in the time capsule, which is water tight and made from 'marine 316' stainless steel that will never rust, even in salt water. These include old photographs of Hertford copied from the museum archive, contemporary currency and information about Hertford Museum past and present. A plaque showing where the time capsule is buried will be in the museum garden when the museum reopens to the public next year.

Conservation news Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our 'Adopt an Object' scheme. You have all helped us to raise funds towards the conservation of 19 objects. A big thank you also to Libby Finney, hub conservator, and her team who have taken more items to be worked on in the lab in St Albans.

Our dedicated team of volunteers have been working very hard over the past few months on various conservation housekeeping tasks. They have been tackling a wide range of objects under the guidance of hub conservator Libby Finney, our team (*above right*) has carefully cleaned clocks, a Kenwood Chef, African objects and Canadian snow shoes and much more. The team have recently been concentrating on military medals.



The Association of Independent Museums (AIM) awarded Hertford Museum a grant towards the conservation of the Samurai Warrior armour. A specialist conservator has begun work on the project (*left*) and the work is expected to be completed in October. The armour will feature in the new 'Where in the World?' display on the ground floor of the museum.

THANK YOU! to The Mundens and Sacombe Local History Society who agreed in their 2008 AGM that the Society would be wound up and any monies passed to the Museum. They have generously donated £555.51 towards our development project.

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY POST! Our newsletter is published in Jan, May and Sept . If you would like to receive a copy as soon as it is printed, please complete this form and enclose 3x 2nd class stamps. Please let us know if you would like it in large print.

Name:

Address

Please send to Hertford Museum, 18 Bull Plain, Hertford, HERTS SG14 1DT. The newsletter is also available to view on the website www.hertfordmuseum.org.

My favourite object... Helen Gurney, Curator, talks about her favourite object from the collection. This Bush TV 22 set from the 1950s is one of my favourite items in the museum's collection (I have so many favourites!). I think this has a very attractive and iconic look about it. Although not a rare item (I am sure most museums have one), this appeals to me also because of the picture of 1950s life that it evokes. I can imagine family and friends crowding round it to watch the Queen's Coronation! These TVs were first released in 1950 and were a cheap alternative to the wooden sets that were also available. They were sold for £35 and 10 shillings plus tax. The screen measures a mere 9 inches (can you imagine using this in your home today?). Its name comes from the location of the original Bush Radio factory in Shepherd's Bush, London.



Photographs from the collection. Here's another photo from our vast collection (*left*). This one from circa 1965 shows the building of Sovereign House, the offices of Social Services, on the new Gascoyne Way. This was the controversial relief road which sliced Hertford in two in 1967. Don't forget – when the museum opens, visitors will be able to look at all our photographs on a special user-friendly kiosk on the ground floor.

Shop news! Look out for new stock online and at the free 'Soundbites' concerts at All Saints Church Wednesday lunchtimes. The Museum shop will also be coming to the All Saints Flower Festival in October and other museum events in Autumn. Watch Out for the museum shop on Saturdays in November and December on the new Museum Stall in the market!



A tribute to Alan Sears, Museum Volunteer. We are very sad to announce that Alan Sears has passed away after a short illness. Alan had been a volunteer for the museum since 2004 marking a variety of objects from archaeology to Meccano. Most notably, he worked on the Addis toothbrush collection and to acknowledge his contribution, there will be a plaque dedicated to him on the toothbrushes display case in the new museum. Alan was most often seen riding his bike to the museum in all weathers and hardly ever missed his Thursday afternoons. His marking skills were so neat that he could fit numbers clearly onto the smallest objects. Alan will be much missed by everyone at Hertford Museum.

Fundraising news The museum has managed to raise nearly all of the partnership funding required to fulfil all of the aims of the development project but we still have a little way to go to achieve this. We have designed 3 different categories of how you can help Hertford Museum:

- **The Penny Farthing - (for donations of over £501)** You will receive: Your name on a permanent plaque in the new entrance area of the museum and in a permanent bound record of thanks to all those who have contributed to the development of the museum. Regular progress reports via our newsletter and a special 'behind the scenes' tour prior to the official opening, and a invitation to the official opening of the new Museum in Spring 2010.
- **The Velocipede - (for donations of £101-£500)** You will receive: Your name in a permanent bound record of thanks to all those who have contributed to the development of the Museum, regular progress reports via our newsletter, and a invitation to the official opening of the new Museum in Spring 2010.
- **The Trade Bicycle - (for donations of £25-£100)** You will receive: Regular progress reports via our newsletter, and a invitation to the official opening of the new Museum in Spring 2010.

PLEASE HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MUSEUM!

Donation Form I would like to donate to Hertford Museum's Development Fund £ and enclose a cheque made payable to Hertford Museum for that amount. Please Gift Aid my donation

My name:

Address:

.....Email