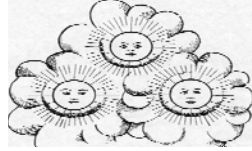


FRIENDS OF LUDLOW MUSEUM



President: Viscount Windsor
Patron: Philip Dunne MP

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017

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Dear Friend

A welcome to all our new members and thank you for joining us.

The Museum at the Buttercross is open Friday to Sunday and Bank Holidays. It is receiving much praise and we have received a generous donation because it is so good! Monty and Helen are happy to see you and already they have had some interesting displays in the temporary display case. At present the display is linked to the Treasure 20 programme celebrating the Portable Antiquities Scheme with a display of Howard Murphy's smaller finds. It was Howard who discovered the Bitterley Hoard. We are working with the Town Council and Shropshire Council to ensure that the museum at the Buttercross is fully accredited.

The Friends have been busy this year.

The FISH Project (Fossils in SHropshire) is half way through its programme. Daniel, Jackie & Kate are delighted with the response for new volunteers and are busy introducing them to the project. If you would like to be involved or know someone who might, please get in touch. We are working closely with the Natural History Museum and are finding useful connections and links with them. We hope when Dippy the Dinosaur (who used to reside in the main hall at the NHM) comes to Birmingham that we will be able to link in with this.

Many of you were able to join us for the launch of the Arms & Armour In Shropshire Museums catalogue in the spring. We have to thank Kay Smith and friends for all their hard work given for free. We were able to obtain a grant from the Armourers & Braziers Company. The catalogue was produced in memory of Jeremy Hall who had been the photographer at the Royal Armouries and it is a wonderful tribute to him. The catalogue is available to purchase at Castle Bookshop.

I think our largest new involvement has been with the Heraldic Roll. This has been an enormous project run by a sub committee led by John Cherry and Tony Mahalski from the Friends. Our thanks must go to Hugh Wood, Philip Hume and Rosalind Caird who have worked so hard on finding the funding, researching the Roll and its place in history and arranging for replicas to be produced. Together with the Mortimer Society a booklet has been produced for the use in schools.

The Friends, on behalf of Shropshire Council, applied for and received a grant from the Association of Independent Museums to improve the Archaeology Store at the Resource Centre and we shall be needing volunteers to help with this task in due course. Everything will have to be moved!

A grant has also been obtained for the upgrading of the Lower Gallery. This will mean that the Museum Service can borrow items from the major galleries to complement our own collections.

I collected the Francis Towne painting of Ludlow Castle from Plymouth earlier in the year and it is now in the Resource Centre. We are hoping that once the Lower Gallery has been upgraded to put on an exhibition of paintings in the collections.

The Friends purchased a charming painting of the mill at the bottom of Old Street. Research needs to be done to find the artist, but we have been able to identify that the mill existed in layout at the time Thomas Telford was surveying the area. Please see below.



Sadly we only have a photocopy of the plan so the reproduction is not good, but if you know where the original is please let me know.

Recently The Friends have purchased a small silver brooch in the form of a Talbot. It is believed to be late 16th early 17th Century. It is proposed that it will be added to the permanent collection on display in the Museum at the Buttercross.



Our attention has been drawn to a locket found at Greete which is with The Treasure Committee at the moment. More significant, is a hoard of Tudor coins found on the South Shropshire border. Again this is with the Treasure Committee. We may have to do some fund raising for this!

Last year's evening talks were well received and attracted new faces. Thank you to Janet Rolfe-Smith for her work again this year putting the programme together. We are increasing our guest ticket price but leaving the members at £1.00. Janet also organised a day at the Natural England site at Moccas which gave us an opportunity to learn about ancient and veteran trees.

My thanks must go to Penny Smith, our Secretary, who keeps us all in touch, to Michael Rosenbaum who looks after our website and to the Committee.

Best wishes for the Summer and I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn.

Lottie James
Chairman