

Welcome to Wells & Mendip Museum's newsletter with information about exhibitions, talks, events and developments at the Museum. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail please contact admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk

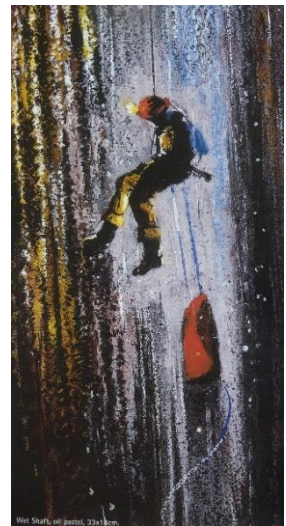
Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm (Closed Sundays & Mondays)

First Floor Exhibition Room

19 – 29 October “Common Ground” – Art exhibition by Robin Gray & Cerys Jones

Wedmore artist, Robin Gray is joining Garstang, Lancashire artist Ceris Jones for an exhibition at the museum. Both artists are well known and locally popular for their pictures relating to caving and cave exploration and are both members of ISSA, The International Society for Spelaeological Art.

However, in this exhibition they will share the common ground of landscapes and high mountains, still life both set up and found, life drawing, and abstract art. Both artists have spent many years teaching and have combined being teachers with working as professional artists. (Robin was Director of Art and Drama at Shapwick School and currently acts as tutor to the Draycott Art Club) This exhibition will show paintings, drawings, and prints. Works will be both framed and as mounted work in the browsers. They will be at the museum to talk to visitors on aspects of the exhibition which they both enjoy immensely. **Free entry to exhibition only.**



8 – 19 November Art exhibition by Wells Painting Group



Wells Painting Group was founded in 1969 by popular local artist Pauline Phillips. After meeting in the Blue School for many years, the group moved to St Thomas' Church Hall where it meets regularly.

Group members paint a wide and varied range of subjects in all mediums.

The paintings are for sale and there will be cards available to purchase as well. **Free entry to exhibition only**

23 November – 3 December

Mixed media exhibition by Michael Brobson

Michael Brobson lives and works in the City of Wells and much of his work is related to the City and the surrounding Somerset countryside. Featured in this exhibition will be paintings in several mediums along with prints and a large range of Greeting cards and Christmas Cards. The original art works and prints will make great Christmas gifts and will be offered at very reasonable prices.



The range of Christmas cards are all the work of Michael are only available at the exhibition and will not be found in Shops. Several of the cards depict an atmospheric view of the City of Wells.

6 – 16 December Art exhibition by the Wells U3A Painting for Pleasure group



After a short respite our group are happy to present some of our work at the museum this December. Some of the work is for sale and some for show only.

Membership of this group numbers some 15 people who meet twice a month at St Thomas's Hall to simply paint together. We learn and ask advice from each other. Some have been members for the 7 or so years we have been in existence and many are new. There are spaces for 5 people who may want to join the U3A and then us.

Medium used ranges from collage through pastel, watercolour acrylic, oil and pencil so there's no shortage of styles and levels.

At times you could cut the concentration/silence with a knife and then at times the air is filled with arty chat, it's a lovely buzz.

Come and view our exhibition, we won't be offended if you don't want to actually buy anything. **Free entry to exhibition only**

Meeting Room

27 September – 17 December

“Making the Mural” – A photographic exhibition

As part of the museum's Search & Learn project, supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this exhibition will feature photographs taken by Ann Cook showing the processes involved in creating our wonderful new ceramic mural.



Unveiling of the museum's new mural



The mural depicts three characters who significantly contributed to the wellbeing of the city's residents, Bishop Beckynton who constructed a conduit to supply the city with fresh water, Dean William Turner 'the father of English botany' who's Herbal was the first to be written in English, and the founder of the museum caver Herbert Balch.

It was unveiled on Saturday 24 September by the contemporary representatives of these three, Rt Reverend Ruth Worsley Bishop of Taunton, the Very Revd Dr John Davies Dean of Wells, and locally based caver Chris Jewell who was involved in the rescue of members of a junior football team from the flooded Tham Luang cave in Thailand.

The mural was conceived by museum trustee and ceramicist, Philippa Threlfall, and made by local volunteers and pupils from a local school.



Search & Learn report

Capital Works

Following a consultation session for internal and external stakeholders held on 14 July, consultants Far Post Design have continued to develop the concept design for the two galleries, Balch Study and ground floor lobby area.

Project Team

Recruitment of a Collections Manager, who will digitise the Phillips Collection of glass plate negatives and support the Curator with tasks associated with development of the new gallery spaces, took place in July. Matt Williams joined the team on 6 September. He is based in Wells and will work for the museum 1 day a week while continuing his role as Collections Manager at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution 4 days a week

The first Search & Learn Steering Group meeting was held on 6 September. This was an opportunity for museum staff and volunteers to meet with project partners and contractors in order to review progress and discuss next steps.

Activities



Museum mentor training for volunteers was held on 23 September. We have delivered three family activities in partnership with Somerset Art Works: on 13 August sculptor Fiona Campbell led a workshop inspired by the museum's swan, and on 25 August textile artist Jan Ollis led a collaborative recreation of one of the samplers on display within the museum. On 24 September artist and filmmaker Sean Harris led an animation workshop inspired by the palaeontology on display in the Balch Room. The next workshop will be held on 28 October.

Victoria Northwood, Search & Learn Project Manager

Library News

As I predicted earlier in the year, our original 40 books forming the nucleus of our Coleridge Archive - largely from the Librarian's personal stock - have been augmented by 40 more from the Friends of Coleridge Library, previously held in the Coleridge Cottage at Nether Stowey.

Although the titles of the additional books have been inserted in the existing inventory, they have not yet been fully processed and added to the Attic shelves. It is hoped that the final processes will be completed during October, depending on when the Librarian has recovered sufficiently from a fractured hip to be able to navigate the Museum stairs.

Meanwhile below I list ten of the new titles running from 1860 to 2002:

Coleridge Poems by Derwent and. Sara Coleridge (1860)

Coleridge, H.J., The Return of the King: Discourses of the Latter Years (1883)

Coleridge, S.T., Table Talk (1884)

Jackson, J. T. de J., Method and Imagination in Coleridge (1969)

Fruman, N., Coleridge: The Damaged Angel (1971)

Coleridge, Poems ed. John Beer (1974)

Gaull, M., English Romanticism: The Human Context (1988)

Coleridge, Four Letters to Anne and Basil Montague (1995) pb

Hudson. R., Coleridge among the Lakes and Mountains (1999)

Coleridge, Writings on Politics and Society ed. J. Beer (2002)

Stuart Andrews, Honorary Librarian

Creative Workshops for families in conjunction with Somerset Art Works

As part of our new "Search & Learn" project, we will be running some creative workshops for children & families.

Friday 28 October Drop in anytime between 10am – 3,30pm – Create your own cave creatures with artist Jacky Oliver. Taking inspiration from the Mendip caves and Halloween, Jacky will be helping families to create their very own cave creatures using recycled materials, pipe cleaners and wire.

No booking necessary free entry to workshop

Christmas Craft Market

Saturday 3 December 11am – 3pm

Please join us for our 3rd Christmas craft market. Browse handmade gifts, crafts and unique stocking fillers made by local artisans. There are still a couple of pitches available - £10 to include a trestle table. Please contact the museum for more information.



OTHER EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Friday 7 October at 7.30pm – “Astronomy before the telescope” Martin Lunn MBE will be joining us remotely from his home in Yorkshire. Known as the Rambling Astronomer, Martin is an acclaimed astronomy speaker and educator. He says of his talk: 'We are used to hearing of fantastic discoveries made by astronomers using powerful telescopes. However, astronomers around the world were studying the night sky for thousands of years before telescopes were invented. Using very simple equipment they made many fantastic discoveries, and some things they got very wrong. This is their story.'

Wells & Mendip Astronomers

Friday 19 October at 7.30pm – “Health & Healthcare in the Roman Empire”

Andrew Newton will give an illustrated talk on medical treatments used by the Romans. He was a doctor in the armed services so he has a special interest in the treatments used by Roman soldiers. During his talk he will be dressed in Roman clothing.

Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Tuesday 25 October at 7.30pm – “Owls & Climate Change” – Chris Sperring MBE leads a talk on the impact of climate change on owls. **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Friday 4 November at 7.30pm – “Personal Experiences of Watching Birds at Chew Valley Lake for 60 years” – Andy Davis has been a frequent visitor to Chew Valley Lake since he was a schoolboy. His involvement in bird watching also extends to being an editor of the Avon Birds Report in the past. **Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society**

Friday 11 November at 7.30pm - Members Projects Night, 7:30pm Friday - In what has become a traditional feature in our calendar, Members Projects Night is the opportunity to share a passion in astronomy through short 10-minute presentations. Members will speak on an astronomical project that they are undertaking or a topic that has captured their attention. It's always fun and you never know what's going to come up!

Wells and Mendip Astronomers

Tuesday 29 November at 7.30pm – “Orchard: A Year in England’s Eden” - Nick Gates describes a year in the lives and interactions of wildlife inhabiting a veteran English orchard. **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Friday 2 December at 7.30pm – “Broken Angels – Scandal at Glastonbury Abbey in 1408”

Rev. Dr. Mark Hutchinson has studied the social history of the monks of Glastonbury Abbey. He will give an account of the scandal in 1408 and ask the audience to help him solve the crime. **Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society**

Advanced booking for all the Somerset Wildlife Trust talks listed are essential. To book or for more information – jaye.mantle@btinternet.com

Talks by Wells Archaeological Society – Members free, Visitors £2.00

Talks by Wells & Mendip Astronomers – Members free, Adults £3, Family £5, Students £2

No booking necessary



The museum will close for Christmas at 4pm on Saturday 17 December and will reopen 10am on Tuesday 3 January.

We would like to wish all of our volunteers and supporters a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.



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