

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: Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm. Closed Sundays.

SMALL ART EXHIBITIONS IN MEETING ROOM

The Museum's Meeting Room has been hosting a regularly changing programme of Art exhibitions since the summer of 2016, during which many individuals, and some groups, have embraced this novel opportunity to see a body of their own work displayed in a public space, overlooking the Cathedral Green.

Showing work here is an attractive proposition, there being no charge to take part. Requirements are that all work must be able to use the hanging system in situ, and available for purchase, at which time all transactions will be handled by the Museum Shop, with 30% of the selling price directed toward the running of the Museum.

The Museum would like to encourage more people to take part in the programme, so if you are making something that can be displayed on a wall, why not get in touch.

ART EXHIBITION BY THE SOCIETY OF DISABLED ARTISTS (SODA) 18 SEPTEMBER – 28 OCTOBER

SODA are a group, most with disabilities of various types, who enjoy painting together once a week. Some have long experience, others are learners and explorers. They use many different media from oils and acrylics to watercolour and gouache, drawing and needlefelting.

Entry to exhibition only by donation



1st FLOOR EXHIBITION ROOM

CITY & GUILDS DIPLOMA TEXTILE EXHIBITION 3 – 7 SEPTEMBER



This exhibition features a group of seven talented textile artists who have recently completed the City and Guilds Diploma in Embroidery. The exhibition is the culmination of two year's work, and showcases some of their assessment pieces and a variety of coursework.

During the course students are encouraged to develop their own style of work and to utilize both modern and traditional techniques. They have all embraced this philosophy wholeheartedly and many of their pieces contain both hand and machine embroidery that is both innovative and vibrant.

The importance of good design was emphasised throughout the course and each piece of work was planned before construction. Students also developed a sketchbook over the two years as record of the various design experiments undertaken.

Each student chose a theme to focus their work. These were 'Sacred Spaces', 'Metal', 'Woodland', 'Beneath the waves', 'The Jurassic Coast', 'Historic Houses' and 'Farm Mechanics'. It would be fun to match the artist's work with their theme by looking at the work. Not every piece was based on a theme, but the majority were so you have a good chance to get it right. **Free entry to exhibition only**

PORTRAITS EXHIBITION FROM THE PHILLIPS CITY PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO COLLECTION 21 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER



Box 58-664 Mr Weeks Westbury
Original Photograph by Phillips
Caption: Box 58-664 Mr Weeks Westbury 1890-1910

This unique and nationally important collection of Victorian and Edwardian portraits from the Phillips City Photography Studio showcases the ordinary citizens of Wells: the shopkeepers, servants, innkeepers, policemen and the working families who lived in the City and surrounding villages around 1890 to 1910. Many of the subjects of the photographs have been researched and some amazing stories of love and loss, of marriage and families have been uncovered.

Many of the names are familiar and their descendants are still living in the Wells area, so this exhibition is a chance for some more genealogy to be discovered.

The quality of these 120-year old photographs, digitised from old glass plates, shows what an amazingly accomplished photographer Bert Philips was, and we are very fortunate to be able to showcase his legacy to the City.

On Tuesdays 24th September & 1st October 10am – 4pm there will be a chance for you to have your family history researched in our **Genealogy Workshops**.

Free entry to exhibition only

“SEA SHORE AND MORE” A TEXTILE ART EXHIBITION BY THE AVALON EMBROIDERERS' GUILD 11 – 19 OCTOBER

The wide variety of works on display will include mixed media and machine embroidery alongside traditional hand stitching. As well as members' individual works, there will be two group projects, one depicting a 'continuous seascape', the other a number of 'hearts' decorated in the sea theme. There will also be a selection of and finished pieces and 'works-in-progress' from our workshops throughout the last two years. **Free entry to exhibition only**



24 OCTOBER – 16 NOVEMBER WELLS MILLS GROUP

The Wells Mills Interest Group will be exhibiting an updated version of their display first shown in the Town Hall during the Heritage Open Days last year and tells the story of all the City's mills which once stood along the St. Andrews water.



Following a number of requests, the group are currently incorporating their display materials into a booklet, which will be published through and sold by the museum. They hope to be able to launch it to coincide with the opening of the exhibition.

Free entry to exhibition only

NEWS FROM WELLS CITY ARCHIVES

I'm now back at work and wish to express my gratitude to Jonathan Chivers, who has done a terrific job as Acting Archivist during the five months I've been off.

Julia Wood (Wells City Archivist)

LIBRARY NEWS

We have been visited by three researchers from Loughborough who were interested in the former Mendip Mental Hospital, and particularly in the analysis by the late Margaret Green of the regional origins of the inmates - and details of their births, marriages and deaths.

Pat Robinson has kindly donated a set of Chambers Encyclopaedia to the library. The volumes are at present held in the Reserve Stack, but works of reference need to be close at hand, and so we hope to transfer them soon to the reference section of the library itself.

The current library exhibition on the history of the High Street shops ends on 30 October. Meanwhile Eric Preston's illustrated booklet on the same topic, with details of the changing pattern of shops, pubs and banks over more than two centuries, is on sale in the Museum Shop (price £9.50).

OTHER EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Friday 6th September at 7.30pm – “The History of Clay Pipe making in Somerset 1600-1900”
by Marek Lewcun **The Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society**

Friday 6th September at 1pm – “Music @ the Museum” - Join us for this FREE lunchtime concert followed by coffee and cakes. Featuring David Heyes (double bass), Alex Heather (double bass), and Sarah Poole (soprano). Music by Teppo Hauta-aho (Finland), Bernard Salles (France), David Heyes (UK), Andrés Martín (Argentina) & Simón García (Spain).

Friday 4th October at 7.30pm – “The Winscombe Project: Investigating a landscape of dispersed settlement” by Teresa Hall.

Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm – “Wookey Hole: The Caves and the Circus” – a talk by Gerry Cottle. **Wells Civic Society**

Saturday 12th October 11am – 4pm Come and have a wander around the Museum's beautiful walled garden, which will be hosting a **“Pop-up Art Fair”** by the **Old Bakery Artists**. **Free Entry to event only.**



OLD INK CARTRIDGES

What do you do with your old ink cartridges?

If you would like to help us raise more money for the Museum, please bring them in to us as **Recycle4Charity** gives us £1 for each one we send them. The cartridges must be inkjet (not laser or toner) and cannot have been previously refilled. We can send Canon, Dell, HP, Lexmark, Neopost & Samsung (not Kodak or Epson)

INSTAGRAM



#wells.museum

The museum is now posting images and comment on Instagram, the digital media application. We find it an excellent way of sharing images and information to our existing supporters, and also for raising the museum's profile with new audiences. We now have 167 followers based on 18 posts! A feature of Instagram is that by 'liking' a post, others in your network can see that you have done so, thereby spreading the word. So, the more you Instagram users **'like'** our posts the more you help the museum!



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