

Newsletter

Issue 38

January & February 2017

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

Winter opening hours

Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm. Closed Sundays.

SMALL ART EXHIBITIONS IN MEETING ROOM

Peter Coate, a prominent local artist, has long held an ambition to find a display area in Wells where artists from across the region can showcase their work.

We are pleased to be able to provide this facility, with the intention that it will be a regularly changing exhibition to allow as many artists to exhibit as possible.

Normal museum entry charges apply

If you are interested in exhibiting in this area, or for more details, please email your contact details to: Christine Quinn admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk.

EXHIBITIONS IN MEETING ROOM UNTIL 6 FEBRUARY



An art & fabric applique exhibition by **Barbara Duncan**
Barbara has painted as an amateur for many years, painting landscapes almost exclusively, with locations varying from Northumberland to France, and here in Wells.

Normal entry fees apply

6 FEBRUARY – 24 MARCH

"LAND AND LIFE" – an art exhibition by **Tracy Marshall**.

Tracy is a local painter who works in a variety of media to produce landscapes inspired by the beautiful Somerset countryside and the Cornish coastline. This exhibition will also include some of her studies of wildlife – both originals and prints - and the odd cow! **Normal Museum entry charges apply**



NEWS FROM WELLS CITY ARCHIVES

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Material from Wells City Archives was showcased in various displays mounted for Heritage Open Day 2016 at Wells Town Hall on Saturday 10th September. In particular, there was a brand new exhibition on "Crime and Punishment in Victorian Wells". Other Archives displays at the event included "The Circus Comes to Town!", two medieval charters, historic images of the Town Hall, and "The Court in Wells".

There was an incredible, record-breaking total of 585 visitors! As ever, much of the credit for the day's success should go to all the volunteers who helped create the exhibitions and those who helped out on the day. Without their generous support, the event could not have happened on the scale it did. It was a great way of raising the profile of the City Archives and exhibiting examples of what the collection contains.

The fantastic "Crime and Punishment in Victorian Wells" exhibition would certainly never have happened without all the Archives volunteers who listed and digitized data, contributed research and carried out data interpretation and writing for it. The display was based on 25 years' worth of nineteenth-century Wells crime data brought to light by volunteers at the monthly City Archives Box-Listing Sessions.

Geoff Dickson (designer of the trench at the Museum) kindly produced three original pieces of artwork for the exhibition, one which is shown here, along with the story **behind** it.

P.C. Brown arresting an eel which he discovered in the stream running down the side of Wells High Street in September 1860. The **Wells Journal** reported that, "As the intruder could give no account of himself, P.C. Brown, as in duty bound, took him into custody, and having placed him in safe keeping, brought him up the next day, and – devoured him"!

P.C. Brown arresting an eel.
Copyright Geoff Dickson



LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH RESOURCE

If you are carrying out some local history research, you will be glad to know of the fantastic scrapbooks which are available to consult in the City Archives. Volunteers John Hazell and Wendy Osterman have been creating these since 2012, and they're an invaluable collection of local press cuttings. Moreover, John produces a digital index to them, so any information which has been published in the **Wells Journal** over the last few years on, say, local historic buildings, can be instantly located!

"KNOW YOUR PLACE – WEST OF ENGLAND" ONLINE AND TOURING EXHIBITIONS

"Know Your Place" is a digital heritage mapping project that started in Bristol. Building on its success there, the project is being extended to cover the West of England. Images from Wells City Archives and Wells & Mendip Museum have been included in two digital exhibitions which have been produced as part of the project.

The first is an online exhibition, which you can access at www.kypexplore.com. The second is a touring exhibition, which will be coming to the Bishop's Palace in March and April 2017. It 'features extraordinary images from archives, museums and heritage collections across the West of England, and gives an unique insight into the history of the places where we live, work and visit every day'.

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR

Somerset Heritage Trust's Head of Conservation, Mervyn Richens, has completed work on the latest tranche of Wells City Archives material, including reuniting the missing part of the Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth I with the rest of the seal. You may remember that the missing piece was recently identified by volunteer Adam Humphreys.

POLISH FRIENDSHIP VISIT

Wells has a Friendship Agreement with Kluczborg, Poland. Four representatives from Kluczborg came to visit Wells in October, and the Archivist and volunteer Archives Assistant, Jonathan Chivers, welcomed them to the City Archives, along with the Chairman and Secretary of Wells Twinning Association. Julia and Jon presented to them a 'History of Wells through 12 Archives Documents', which was very well received.

Polish Friendship Visit to Wells City Archives



IN MEMORY OF JEAN MANN



As many of you will know, in September, we lost Jean Mann, a very valuable asset to the Museum and a dear friend to many. Jean had been a volunteer both on Front of House, in our garden, and in our Library for many years, as well as assisting with exhibitions and other Museum events and she will be greatly missed. In memory of Jean, we have bought a salvia shrub (which has been planted) and we have also purchased an apple tree, called "John Downie" which was chosen to attract birds to attract birds and has a lovely blossom and autumn fruit. The tree will be planted by her son, Nick, in the New Year.

ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DAY

SATURDAY 4 MARCH 10.30am – 4pm

The morning programme will include a number of speakers talking about current and recent archaeological projects in Somerset, and will include **Dr. Richard Brunning** on "**Beckery Chapel**" and **Liz Caldwell** on Mick Aston's "**Young Archaeologists**". The keynote speaker at the event will be **Chris Webster** on "**Taunton Castle**". Tickets £15 (includes tea and coffee) and are available on the door or in advance from the Museum. For more information please contact the SANHS office 01823 272429 or office@sanhs.org **Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.**



OTHER MUSEUM EVENTS:

JANUARY

Tuesday 24th 7pm – "**Prickles Hedgehog Rescue**" – Jules Bishop talks about the work done at the rescue centre. **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Wednesday 11th 7.30pm – AGM followed by "**The Reredos Project**" – Jerry Sampson talks about the rare find at St. Cuthbert's Church which is being documented and prepared for display. **Wells Civic Society**

Friday 27th 8.45pm - "**Colours from Earth**" – a talk on looking for Earth-like planets around other stars by Dr. Robert Fosbury, Emeritus Astronomer, European Southern Observatory. **Wells and Mendip Astronomers**

Sundays - 29 Jan, 26 Feb, 26 Mar, 7 May & 4 June 10am – 4.30pm

Wells Double Bass Academy will be running workshops featuring a range of double bass activities, including technique, bowing skills, bass orchestra, performance opportunities, bass quartets, new repertoire and commissions, sight-reading and concerts Open to all bassists of all ages and abilities. A yearly subscription fee of £10 is payable. Each workshop will cost £10 (child), £15 (adult). **For more info:** 01963 370051 Email: doublebass@tiscali.co.uk

FEBRUARY

Saturday 4th 7.30pm – “Otters” Rob Williams, a Conservation Ecologist and Chairman of the Somerset Otter Group, will present an update on the status of otters in the County. He has many years of experience to draw on as his family has long been connected to otter conservation in Somerset. **Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society**

Wednesday 8th 7.30pm – “A Life in Ceramics” – Philippa Threlfall is well known for her local work but has remarkable ceramics all over the world and is now re-exploring her painting skills. **Wells Civic Society**

Tuesday 28th 7pm – “The Nature of the Levels” – Hills to Levels is a partnership between Somerset farming and nature charities that is helping landowners and farmers to farm in a way that reduces flood risk throughout the County while enhancing wildlife and producing high quality food. The project is funded with support received from players of the People's Postcode Lottery. Steve Mewes will talk about what the project has achieved, the community engagement that took place and what the future holds for water management on the Levels. **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Friday 24th 7pm – WMA ‘Lunar Mission One – Space for Everyone’ - a presentation by Paul Bennett IEng MIET, Systems Engineer

‘Lunar Mission One is the most inspirational Moon project since the Apollo landings. Funded by the public it will perform world-leading science into the origin of the Moon and the planets, and it will leave a permanent archive of human life buried at the Moon's South Pole.

On the 17th of December 2014, following a four week crowdfunding campaign launched at the prestigious Royal Society in London, Lunar Mission One successfully raised over \$1 million USD. A truly global endeavour, Lunar Mission One does not belong to any one nation. This is reflected in the fact that over 7,000 people from over 70 countries have already backed the project, officially kick-starting the world's most inclusive space project.’

Find out more at: <https://lunarmissionone.com/> **Wells and Mendip Astronomers**



FACEBOOK

We have recently become much more active on our Facebook page, and it is proving to be very effective for getting our message out to people and encouraging more to visit and volunteer with us. It is very simple to help us with this - just a matter of a few clicks.

By “liking” our page you will receive information on our news, events and exhibitions.

Even better, if you then “Like” the posts that you are really interested in, you help to increase our reach because some of your friends will then see what you have liked.

If you “Share” the post ... you are really helping us because that share will remain visible on your Facebook page. www.facebook.com/WellsMendipMuseum

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Opening hours from April 3rd: Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm. Closed Sundays.

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WELLS PAINTING GROUP

22 – 29 APRIL

Wells Painting Group is a long-established group of about 30 artists working in a range of media and a variety of subjects who meet every Monday morning in term time in St Thomas' Church Hall in Wells. Some of our members are semi-professional but most simply paint as a hobby and enjoy being with other artists to share ideas and experience. Each year the Group exhibits a range of the work produced by its members and in 2017 we will be exhibiting in the Museum. Paintings and cards will be for sale at very reasonable prices but members love just to share their work with interested visitors. Whether your preference is for oils or watercolours, acrylics or pastels, colour pencil or pen and ink, you are likely to find something of interest and there will be an opportunity to vote for your favourite work in our "Visitor's Choice". This colourful piece by Hazel Wood was one of our two winners in 2016.



WELLS CITY ARCHIVES - We have several dates for your diary!

- **"Know Your Place (West of England)" touring exhibition and roadshow at the Bishop's Palace – from 2nd March to 2nd April and on 8th April (respectively)**



"Know Your Place" is a digital heritage mapping project. The touring exhibition, to which material from Wells City Archives has been contributed, as well as from Wells Museum, will be on display at the Bishop's Palace **from 2nd March to 2nd April**. It features extraordinary images from archives, museums and heritage collections across the West of England, and gives an unique insight into the history of the places where we live, work and

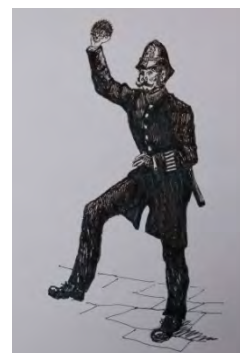
Admission is included in standard entry to the Palace and gardens.

The "Know Your Place" roadshow will take place at the Bishop's Palace **on 8th April from 1.00 to 4.00**. You are invited to bring your memories and old photos of Wells to be mapped onto the "Know Your Place" website. You can also explore your neighbourhood's heritage on "Know Your Place". The Archivist will be taking part in the roadshow.

- **"Crime and Punishment in Victorian Wells" exhibition at Wells Museum 30th March to 26th April**

This fantastic exhibition, which was premiered at Heritage Open Day 2016, will be on show again at the Museum for a month - plus some new material. Don't miss the chance of seeing it! It will run in the Meeting Room, from Thursday 30th March to Wednesday 26th April 2017.

Original drawing by Geoff Dickson



Come and find out about "The Demon Drink" and "Wells Crime Hot Spots" in nineteenth-century Wells! Read about "Scandalous Southover" and "Troubled St Thomas Street"! This fascinating display also features "Villains or Victims?" You can learn about language in court ("Language, language!") and cruelty to animals, including the flying hedgehog and the toad missile. The display uses material only just unlocked by the members of the City Archives Box Listing Team and by Clare Blackmore of the Wells Journal. It's based on 25 years' worth of nineteenth-century Wells crime data brought to light by volunteers at the monthly City Archives Box-Listing Sessions. **Normal Museum entry fees apply**

- **Free online Archives databases – from late March**

In a really exciting development, this spring will see the launch of several City Archives databases on the Museum's website. They're designed to make available material relating to family history, house history and local history, and will be an invaluable searchable resource. They'll be accessible for free and will open up this material to not only a countrywide but also a worldwide audience. Twenty-five years' worth of Wells Petty Sessions data (covering 1850 to 1874) will be made available, along with a City Property Register dating from 1860 and also, Sacrament Certificates relating to Wells. More databases will be added in the future. This would not be happening were it not for volunteers Austin Little and Doug Robinson, and I offer them my warmest appreciation, along with the rest of the amazing team of Archives volunteers.

- **“Snapshots of Wells” joint exhibition at the Bishop’s Palace**
6th May to 30th September

This exciting joint exhibition is a collaboration between Wells City Archives, Wells & Mendip Museum and the Bishop’s Palace. It is an historical exhibition, with displays inspired by large-scale reproductions of the famous William Symes map of Wells (1735) and the unique 1860 Sewage Plan of Wells. Come along and see some of the original City Charters from the Archives’ collection! The King John Charter of 1201, the Bekynton ‘Water Charter’ of 1451 and the Queen Elizabeth I ‘Charter of Incorporation’ of 1589 will be on display. So too will fascinating artefacts from the Museum’s collection. Discover more about sleaze and disease in nineteenth-century Wells, the turnpikes, street names, the almshouses, Mendip Hospital, and Wells Union Workhouse. Admission will be included in standard entry to the Palace and gardens.

OTHER MUSEUM EVENTS

MARCH

Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm – AGM followed by **“The Reredos Project at St. Cuthberts: A Colourful History”** by Judeth Saunders. Following the discovery of 420 pieces of broken medieval sculpture in the church in 1848, a project was launched in Summer 2016 to investigate the history and composition of the two large reredos from which the sculpture derived. Volunteers worked alongside experts to produce a photographic catalogue and conservation reports on the collection, which is exceptional in terms of the survival of its original painted decoration. Judeth, who was the Project Co-Ordinator, will share some of the project’s findings.

Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Saturday 4th March at 10.30am – 4pm – **“Annual Archaeological Day”** The morning programme sees a number of speakers talking about current and recent archaeological projects in Somerset, and will include **Dr. Richard Brunning** on “Beckery Chapel” and **Liz Caldwell** on Mick Aston’s “Young Archaeologists”. The keynote speaker at the event will be **Chris Webster** on **“Taunton Castle”**. Tickets £15 (includes tea and coffee) and are available on the door or in advance from the Museum. For more information please contact the SANHS office on 01823 272429 or office@sanhs.org

Somerset Archeological and Natural History Society.

Wednesday 8th March at 7pm – **“Sacred Geometry”**. Tom Bree explores geometric patterns in art, philosophy and more. **Wells Civic Society**

Tuesday 21 March at 7pm – **“Insect Mimicry”** To look, act, smell or sound like something else, such as another organism or other natural object, is a form of deception practiced by a variety of animals, to gain some advantage or protection. **John Bebbington** will explain how for many animals, including insects and spiders, a key problem is how to eat without being eaten.

Somerset Wildlife Trust

LOST GARDENS OF SOMERSET & DEVON

SATURDAY 24th MARCH 10am – 4pm

A day of talks including guest speakers from Otterhead Gardens and Honiton Glen.

Tickets £10 (to include a light lunch) available from Museum



APRIL

Saturday 8th April at 7.30pm – “Butterflies in Westbury Village” with Peter Bright. Peter, already known to many as the local expert on glow worms, has for many years also had an interest in recording the butterflies found in and around Westbury sub Mendip. His talk will be illustrated by many of his own photographs.

Wells Natural History & Archaeological Society

Wednesday 12th April at 7pm – James Heappey MP served with the British Army in Iraq and Afghanistan before being elected as Wells MP in May 2015. He will talk about life between his constituency, Westminster and his family in Axbridge.

Wells Civic Society

FINDS DAY - The next Finds Identification Days at the Museum will be on **Thursday 11th May**. Laura Burnett, the Finds Liaison Officer for Somerset County Council, will be available to identify your finds from digging your garden or while walking your dog.

No charge or booking necessary

VISITOR INFORMATION

“The museum has continued to deliver the visitor information service for the City of Wells and the hard work of volunteers and the Museum Manager was recently acknowledged by our regional Destination Management Organisation who have recognised the service provided by the museum as the official tourist information service for Wells. The museum continues to coordinate with its partners, particularly the cathedral, Bishop's Palace, Civic Society and the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to improve all aspects of the visitor experience in Wells. We are also delighted by the close partnership with the hotels and B&Bs, many of who invest their own time and money in attracting visitors to our wonderful city and its stunning setting between Mendip Hills and the Somerset Levels.”

TICKETS ON SALE

The Museum is currently selling tickets for the following:-

Aston & Avalon Coach Trips

West Somerset Railway

Caerphilly Male Voice Choir concert at St. Cuthbert's Church on Sat 18th March at 7.30pm

Craft4Crafters Show at Bath & West 6-8 April

Plus shortly we will also be selling tickets for:-

Bath & West Show

Yeovilton Air Day

MUSEUM GARDEN

We are now selling plants propagated from our garden including Acanthus Spinosus, Violet, Celandine, Creeping Jenny and Hardy Geraniums at very reasonable prices,



www.facebook.com/WellsMendipMuseum

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1 – 27 MAY "LAMENTATION" – an exhibition of paintings inspired by Rembrandt by David Cuthbert



In the British Museum there is a drawing by Rembrandt from about 1634-5 called 'Lamentation at the Foot of the Cross'. It is remarkable and complicated, made up from thirteen different pieces of paper and quite difficult to read. It is full of spatial ambiguities and depicts a multitude of different figures none of which are fully realised.

This drawing became the basis for a year's work. In 2014 David made about sixty paintings and drawings derived from this study and in which he explored the ambiguities of Rembrandt's drawing and developed them in different ways but without attempting to clarify or artificially resolve the imagery.

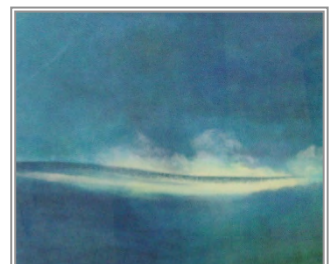
Nevertheless his versions are also a meditation on lamentation. Painting allows for a form of contemplation that does not need to be set in descriptive words. Looking and allowing yourself to let the paintings do their work is enough. But of course associations came to mind as he worked and the most overtly partisan painting is a lamentation for the people of Gaza.

His hope is that people will view this exhibition as respectful of Rembrandt and will come to their own understanding of each painting.

Normal Museum entry charges apply

3 – 31 JULY "REFLECTIONS, MEDITATIONS, ICONS" An art Exhibition by Jude Skinner

Most of the paintings in this exhibition are inspired by land and sea -scapes of the West Country. Some are pastel on paper worked with the fingers and others are egg tempera on canvas. There are also some small icons worked in the traditional way on wood panels prepared with gesso, painted with a tempera of natural pigments and embellished with 24ct gold. **Museum Entry charge applies**

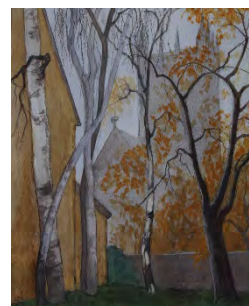


IN OUR EXHIBITION ROOM

22 – 27 MAY – ANNA DMOCHOWSKI

Anna is a local artist having lived in Wells for 13 years. Her exhibition comprises watercolour paintings of local landscapes, views of Wells, and animals – horses in particular

View of Wells Cathedral from Tor Street



10 – 24 JUNE - 'VISIONS OF SPACE 2' - An Exhibition of Astronomical and Space Art by British IAAA artists, including **David A. Hardy** FBIS, Fellow and European Vice-President of the IAAA, former BIS President Bob Parkinson MBE, Jackie Burns, Richard Bizley, Gavin Mundy, Mark A. Garlick and Nick Stevens, as well as works by well-known US artists.



The exhibition will also feature a history of space exploration illustrated by models by **BIS Fellow Mat Irvine** BBC special affects wizard, designer, producer and director. **(Free entry to exhibition)**

EXHIBITION PREVIEW: by booking only from 7:30pm on Friday 9th June 2017, including a lecture, 'Faces of the Moon' by **David A. Hardy**, on how the Moon has been seen

and portrayed over the years, as well as a live Skype-up with artists at the IAAA art show at Spacefest 8 in Tucson, Arizona. Tickets for the preview and lecture are £7 and are available from www.wellsastronomers.org.uk.

Mat Irvine will be demonstrating his craft all day on Saturday 10th June (**free entry**) and will give a talk on his work with Sir Patrick Moore for the 'Sky at Night' at 14:00 that day. Entrance to the talk is £2 for BIS members, £3 for non-members, £5 for families. Bookings for the talk also through www.wellsastronomers.org.uk

Wells & Mendip Astronomers, in association with BIS Southwest

CAVE DRAWING BY HARRY SAVORY

Many of you know Harry Savory as a pioneer caver and cave photographer of the early 20th century, and his legacy of photographs, drawings and accounts are an amazing resource. Harry's caving diaries were edited by his son John in the book "A Man Deep In Mendip" and his photographs have featured in many caving publications and exhibitions.



Harry Savory was badly wounded in France in April 1916 and spent many months recovering in hospital, but one of his diaries covers a three-week period that he was able to spend in Mendip, during August and September later that year. In the back of the diary, unrelated to the narrative, are a couple of pencil sketches. One is untitled, but depicts the inside of a cave looking out to daylight. Is it meant to be an accurate representation, or is it imaginary - a product of forced rest and recuperation after his injury? The cave is very distinctive and one would like to think would be recognisable today. If anybody has any thoughts as to where it might be, please let us know!

WELLS CITY ARCHIVES



"SNAPSHOTS IN TIME: MAPPING WELLS"

A joint exhibition at the Bishop's Palace

6 May to 30 September – open daily 10am – 6pm

This exciting joint exhibition is a collaboration between Wells City Archives, Wells & Mendip Museum and the Bishop's Palace

The area of the city of Wells has been inhabited for hundreds of years; the well pools that can be found in The Bishop's Palace Gardens drew settlers to the site from as early as the Iron Age, but the city as we know it only started to take shape when the Romans settled in the area (43-410 AD).

This new exhibition at The Bishop's Palace will take two significant, historical maps of Wells, the 1735 Simes map and the 1860 Town Plan, as snapshots in time to help us to explore and compare what life was like in this city in the 18th and 19th centuries. It will also uncover some of Wells' lost or hidden landmarks such as the magnificent High Cross and the Union Workhouse. The City Archives' King John Charter of 1201, Bekynton 'Water Charter' of 1451 and Queen Elizabeth I 'Charter of Incorporation' of 1589 will be on display.

Entrance to the exhibition will be included in standard admission to the Palace. The Palace buildings are occasionally closed for private functions, so please check their website in advance of your visit (www.bishopspalace.org.uk).

Finally, there is a new local history display at Wells Town Hall in which you may be interested. It is entitled "A Hundred Years of the United Church in Wells (1917-2017)", and includes features on the history of the church, church activities, prominent people, children and young people, and church social life.

FREE ONLINE ARCHIVES DATABASES

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in the launch of the free online Archives databases. It is now hoped that we shall be able to launch them in June.

FINDS IDENTIFICATION DAY

Thursday 11 May 11am – 3pm

The next Finds Identification Days at the Museum will be on Thursday 11th May. Laura Burnett, the Finds Liaison Officer for Somerset County Council, will be available to identify your finds from digging your garden or while walking your dog.

No charge or booking necessary

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP

Saturday 27 May



Sophie Courtier, one of the artists involved in creating the Willow Cathedral by the River Tone in Taunton will be running 2 workshops –

10am – 12.30pm "Garden Structures" where you can make cloches, plant supports, border edging etc. £35.00

10am – 4pm "Sculpture" where you will be able to make a sculpture of your choice to take home £60

Booking essential - If you would like to book a place on either of these workshops please contact the Museum for details.

OTHER MUSEUM EVENTS

MAY

Friday 5th at 7.30pm - 'The Future of Space Exploration' by Dr. David Baker FBIS, former NASA engineer and Editor of 'Spaceflight' magazine.

WMA and BIS members £2; non-members £3; students £2.

Booking required through: <http://www.wellsastronomers.org.uk/index.php/bis-talk-tickets/>

Wells & Mendip Astronomers and BIS (South-west)

Wednesday 10th at 7.30pm – “Singing Stones” Dr. Julia Wood, City Archivist and Jerry Sampson, author and buildings archaeologist share their knowledge and passion for the iconic buildings of Wells. **Wells Civic Society**

Saturday 13th 10.30am – 4.30pm - A 1-day exhibition by the **“Somerset Sourcerers”** promoting their newly formed service featuring emerging artist Hannah White from Glastonbury, supported by renowned photographer Barry Cawston, who will be exhibiting some of his iconic works. Dan Fear will be exhibiting his magnificent light boxes, and Lorna Llewellyn will be showing a number of her unusual and delightful busts. **Free entry to event only (via side gate)**

Wednesday 31st at 2.30pm – “The Restoration of Historical Wildlife Ponds on the Mendip Hills” An illustrated talk by Trevor Beebee of the "Reptile and Amphibian Group" for Somerset and a member of this project. The number of ponds on Mendip has decreased alarmingly. Under the "Ponds Project", 14 man-made stone built ponds are being restored by volunteers. Trevor will talk about how and why. A major aim of the whole project, covering approx. 11% of the A.O.N.B. (Areas of Natural Beauty), is to increase the population of the Great Crested Newt, a protected species once widespread on Mendip. Members £2, Non-members £3.50 (to include refreshments). **The Mendip Society** (www.themendipsociety.org.uk)

JUNE

Wednesday 14th at 7.30pm – A Summer social event with an opportunity to share a glass of wine and chat with fellow members. **Wells Civic Society**

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West Somerset Railway

Somerset Singers – St. Cuthbert's Church on Sat 13th May at 7.30pm

Bath & West Show – 31 May – 3 June

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Most of the paintings in this exhibition are inspired by land and sea -scapes of the West Country. Some are pastel on paper worked with the fingers and others are egg tempera on canvas. There are also some small icons worked in the traditional way on wood panels prepared with gesso, painted with a tempera of natural pigments and embellished with 24ct gold. **Normal Museum Entry Fees apply**



31 JULY - 28TH AUGUST - Art exhibition by Michael Brobson

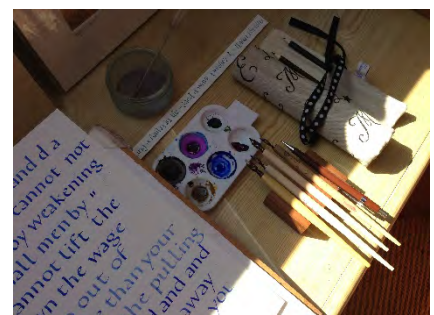


Michael lives and works in the City of Wells and much of his work is related to this City and the surrounding Somerset Levels but he has a fondness of the sea, also sea related. Having always had a keen interest in wild life and the amazing effects of sun, clouds and rain on the landscape or seascape it is this that features in much of his work. It is the story of what is taking place and the atmosphere of the scene that is the main feature. These days painting mostly in acrylic but also other mediums, such as graphite and water colour. **Normal Museum Entry Fees Apply**

IN OUR EXHIBITION ROOM

15 – 29 JULY – MENDIP CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION

The group holds an exhibition every two years showcasing their members calligraphy and lettering artwork which will be on display and for sale. The individual artists and members of the group are drawn from across the Mendip region and further afield.



The calligraphy works are all completed by hand and range in style from traditional italic, copperplate and gilding to modern and abstract works. The calligraphy isn't all on paper either, as there will be a range of works to see from small books and 3-D cards; boxes, ceramics and textiles. The work is all completed with different pens, nibs, brushes, pencils and almost anything you can use to draw and make letters. The calligraphy is written in paints, colourful inks, monochrome pencils and real gold. You may even see a calligraphic table on display.

Members of the group will be on hand during the exhibition to tell you about the artwork on display. You will be able to talk to the artists about their work and the world of calligraphy. **Fee entry to exhibition**

"FIRE FIGHTING IN THE MENDIPS"

5 AUGUST – 13 SEPTEMBER

Owing to the success of the "Fire Fighting in Wells" exhibition in 2015, another is to be held in the Museum from 5 August until 13 September. This exhibition will be showcasing the Fire Brigades in some of the villages and towns around the Mendips, featuring history and artefacts. There will be a caption competition and a children's quiz.



Entry fee to the exhibition only is £1.00 and children under 16 are free.

FINDS IDENTIFICATION DAY

Thursday 24 August 11am – 3pm

The next Finds Identification Days at the Museum will be on Thursday 24 August. Laura Burnett, the Finds Liaison Officer for Somerset County Council, will be available to identify your finds from digging your garden or while walking your dog.

No charge or booking necessary

FOOTBALL TO AMSTERDAM - Towards the end of 2016, Paul Dear, one of our long time Maintenance volunteers was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer.



Determined to fight this, he signed up to take part in a charity bicycle rally with Laura, his daughter, to Amsterdam last month, hoping to raise both funds for Prostate Cancer UK and awareness of the condition

We are incredibly pleased and proud to report that Paul and Laura completed to ride, raising a large amount of money.

Here we share what Paul wrote after the event: -

"Well, we only went and did it. Laura and I rode the whole way from London to Amsterdam (not the North Sea, obviously). We had an absolutely wonderful time, and met some wonderful people, making some friendships that I think will last.

The weather was a bit unkind on Day One as it rained for an hour or so, in the morning in Essex. No sooner had we donned our rain jackets at the mid-morning

drinks/refreshment stop, then the sun came back. It remained dry and sunny for the remainder of the day, all the way to Harwich.

The ride through Holland on Day Two was awesome. It was warm and overcast in the morning, but got gradually brighter as the day wore on, and by the time we arrived in Amsterdam, it was bright sunshine.

Laura and I have raised a whopping £9,366 between us. My personal total stands at £7,500. I was the 5th highest individual fundraiser nationally (3rd highest in the South).

Each of the top 5 individual fundraisers (North & South) were awarded a prestigious orange jersey at the end of Day One. I was so surprised to win this, and wore it with pride on Day Two.

I am so proud of what my daughter and I have achieved. Not just the fund-raising, but also completing the ride".

Cheers, Paul.

PS. Just Giving Page is still open for late donations.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/PaulJDear>

TICKETS ON SALE

The Museum is currently selling tickets for:

Aston & Avalon Coach Trips

West Somerset Railway

Yeovilton Air Day – Saturday 8th July 2017

Classic Supercars – Sherbourne Castle Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th July

MUSEUM GARDEN

We are now selling plants propagated from our garden at very reasonable prices.



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