

THE FRIENDS OF DAVENTRY MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER



Winter 2011

January Party

Attached is a booking form for a FoDM New Year Carvery Lunch at 12.30 at the Daventry Football Club Restaurant on January 8th.

Please return your booking form before December 16th.

Chairman's Report

Christmas is just around the corner again on what might have been the last FODM Christmas, however I'm pleased to say that Ted Nicholls has agreed to be our new treasurer. That just leaves us to find replacements for our events secretary, Siân (Newsletter) and myself.

We also need to find new members to maintain our dwindling membership.

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Brian Coward, one our faithful members who died on 8th November. Angela & I attended the funeral today and were warmly welcomed by the family. Apart from being a retired electrician from "Steads's", he had a deep interest in railways, church and theatre organs as well as local history. We will miss him.

Also Priscilla Steele has returned to be near her family in America. We hope she will settle and be happy there, again we will miss her and her generous welcome she gave to FODM in her garden for our summer event.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year after, I trust a Happy Christmas, hopefully for the lunch at the Daventry Football Club on Sunday January 8th and of course, at our normal meetings.

The seasons greeting to you all - David Adams, Chairman

Talks 2012

January 13th David Howe : Laughter's the Best Medicine

February 10th Richard Egginton : The Road to Little Bighorn

And subsequently every second Friday in the month. Subjects to be confirmed.

New Newsletter Editor Required Please Contact David Adams

Collectors and Collections

During Daventry's Cultural Festival last summer (June 25th onwards) I staged a display of miniature shoes for the museum event called 'Collectomania'. This event allowed those who wished to show their own private collections and to share their enthusiasm by displaying items and being available to talk about them to visitors to the museum. Many and varied were the displays, including cow creamers and vessels, necklaces, gourd musical instruments, early Penguin paperback books, early wireless equipment, dice, model cars, serviettes, hats, crystal cut glass, a running railway model etc.

I was allocated a slim glass cabinet, which showed my variety of approximately forty miniature shoes, mostly ladies, which I had collected since living in Northants. These are often bought of as little as 50p at Boot Fairs!

I had become interested in the subject due to the importance of the shoe industry in Northamptonshire. There were three shoe factories in Daventry alone. When visiting Northampton museum with the grandchildren I had been fascinated by their extensive shoe museum displays. A friend kindly lent me here album collection of photos articles and newspaper cuttings of the local Stead and Simpson factory, where several of her relatives had worked. This added considerable interest to those who had worked in the shoe industry themselves, or those who recognised folk in the group photographs.

I shall continue to collect, as fortunately this hobby isn't expensive, nor does it take up much space.

Anne Haynes

There is another 'Collectomania' exhibition planned for next summer if any members have interesting collections that they would like to display. Please contact Luisa Pereira at the Town Council Museum if you would like to volunteer your collection.



Daventry Town Council Museum Exhibitions 10-4pm

3 December, 7 January, 4 February – Daventry in Wartime

3 March, 7 April, 5 May- Exhibition on the BBC

2 June – Diamond Jubilee and Daventry in the 1950s, 7 July, 4 August – Daventry in the '50s

1 September - Collectomania I, 6 October - Collectomania II, 3 November - Collectomania III

Mid November - Christmas Exhibition (Lights Switch on), 1 December – Christmas Exhibition

The museum is still looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of its running - from checking boxes, to knowing how the database works, to finding things for the exhibitions, to helping steward the exhibitions and making teas. If you could spare a couple of hours a week please contact Luisa Pereira at the Town Council on 01327 301246. Memories of Daventry are also being collected so if you have not yet shared yours she would be glad to hear from you.

New Newsletter Editor Required Please Contact David Adams

A Visit to Piddington

Priscilla, Merle and myself decided to have a quality day out on Sunday 28 August and ventured to the museum at Piddington, situated six miles southeast of Northampton.

The museum itself is held in a delightful old converted Wesleyan Chapel and has a very pleasant atmosphere. Two lovely ladies explained about the artifacts, and there was also a continual dialogue on tape throughout the session. The displays show life in the villa as discovered over 30 years of excavation.

There is an ongoing excavation of the late Iron Age settlement and Roman villa, which is accessible to the public, albeit along muddy track further down from the museum.

Originally found in the late 18th century by limestone quarry men, the excavation has developed into a long-term research project with the cooperation of Anglian Water and the continued support of the Chambers family, who are the landowners.

Well worth a visit, with only £2 admission for concessions (£3.50 for adults), and there is also an opportunity to have afternoon tea in the local village hall. It is open on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 in winter and 2-5 in summer.

Chapel End
Piddington
NN7 2DD
01604 870312



Janet Johnston

May Day films will be shown to the public

These films were handed to Daventry museum volunteer David Adams by James Green at the museum heritage event earlier on this year.

James Green is now the owner of "Kinema in the Woods" at Woodhall Spa but in the 1960s he made some films in Daventry of the May Day celebrations.

MACE/Full Circle will be storing the original films at the MACE archive and will make a copy of the cine films onto DVD for a celebration May Day event next year.

It is planned that the film screening will take place at the award-winning ICON building in Daventry on May 5th 2012 at 7.30pm. Some other archive films of Daventry held by MACE will also be shown at the same screening.
(MACE = Media Archive for Central England)



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I visited the **FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM AT YEOVILTON** this summer and was very impressed with both the exhibition and the restaurant.

The first two exhibition halls are a display of aircraft and associated weapons, equipment and stories of the pilots and their exploits which are extremely interesting in their own right.

However the main feature is the award winning simulated visit to an operational aircraft carrier.

Entry is via a lift masquerading as a helicopter flight in a Westland Wessex which delivers you to the flight deck. You are guided by a member of the crew who appears at various points on a TV Screen.

At one end where reality is combined with film you experience the dispatch of a Phantom Jet, at the opposite end the landing or recovery of a Phantom - very realistic. The tour of this gallery finishes with a tour of the interior of the of the various control rooms and the bridge of the carrier.

You then leave the carrier by travelling down in one of the aircraft lifts to the remainder of the museum.

This includes a chance to explore the interior of a prototype Concorde. It is amazing how little room there was inside Concorde!

A very worthwhile day out with an extra bonus - if you gift aid your entrance fee, you can have free entry for a year!

David Adams

THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter depends on contributions from members. The next articles will be required for the end of March 2012.

I do not want to carry on with the newsletter, I have been doing it for 10 years, so it would be wonderful if another member would be willing to take it on.

Please contact David Adams if you are interested.

*Siân
Watson*

Very many thanks to people who give raffle prizes. The Raffle is an excellent fundraiser for FoDM. We would like more members to stay for the sociable cuppa after the raffle is drawn though. It is a chance to meet other members and have a chat.

Thanks are due to the wonderful people who do these teas after the meetings. I would like to get some more people to volunteer to help though. Please can you come and see me at the meetings if you could possibly stay and do it. Everything is provided for you.

Merle Merry

Our website is -
friends-of-daventry-museum.org.uk
e-mail -
secretary@friends-of-daventry-museum.org.uk

Charity Number 1093767

New Newsletter Editor Required Please Contact David Adams

New Year Party at the Daventry Town Football Club Carvery Restaurant on January 8th

We have booked a lunch at Daventry Town Football Club's restaurant - entrance opposite the entrance to the Recycling Centre (Tip) on Browns Road.

The lunch will be for members with a maximum of one guest each, and places will be available on a first come first served basis. At the latest we need to know who is coming by December 16th - that means ACT NOW!

The lunch will be £7.95 for the main course carvery, payable by cheque on booking, with an option of paying extra on the day for dessert. To avoid holding matters up for everybody else we are not recommending taking a starter.

Arrival time - 12.30.

Please book me places for the January lunch.

Name(s)

Contact phone number

Contact email

I enclose £7.95 per person £.....

Return the form with payment to Angela:

You can also confirm that you have sent your cheque by ringing Angela if you are concerned about the Christmas post.

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