

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM  
**NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2004



Issue 18



Certificate awarded to St Catherine's Woman's Institute(see page 10)



## From the Editor

- ❑ Our secretary's report on page 3 tells you about all those enjoyable outings we went on. If you missed them, then make sure you come on the next ones!
- ❑ The History of the Museum building-Castle Arch is given on page 5
- ❑ On page 7, I include a letter written by Maureen Wells just after D-day.
- ❑ Mary tells us about recent acquisitions to the Museum on page 9 while Jacqui Pearce writes about the Farnborough Hill pottery on Page 11
- ❑ John Boas tells us about the latest exhibition at the Museum on page 15 don't miss it- ideal for all children, grandchildren etc.
- ❑ Mick Wilson has an enjoyable time with a school party on page 17

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM,  
If you are not a member we would love you to join us.

Please send a cheque with the appropriate subscription to

Mr R. Sinker, Friends of Guildford Museum,  
2 The Ridgeway, Guildford, GU1 2DG

Subscription rates for 2004/2005

Individual £6	Family £12	Youth £3
Corporate £25	Individual Life £100	

Please make cheques payable to  
**FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

## Secretary's Letter

Renewal of subscriptions is well under way for the 2004/2005 membership year. I expressed the hope last December, in the light of recent experience, that we should manage to have more than 22 new members in the current year and thus arrest the slight decline of overall numbers. In the event, we did just manage to pass the 22 threshold by one ending the year on March 31 with 23 new members and a total of 260 which was only 2 below the previous year at the same time. We have now had an end of year membership of 260, give or take a few, for the past 5 years which indicates at least a continuing enthusiasm for joining the Friends! As I write this letter at the beginning of June, I am happy to report that paid up membership stands at 238 which is encouraging; by the time you read this, some 20 of you will have had a reminder from me for membership renewal and I am hopeful that the majority will indeed choose to renew. Please do, as your subscriptions represent a very useful source of funds for the museum.

As you will have noticed, the arrangements for the AGM this year were different in two respects. Firstly, the draft minutes of the previous AGM and the audited accounts were circulated to all members at the end of March and secondly, the AGM was moved from the Guildhall to the Brewhouse and held on a Saturday afternoon rather than in the evening. Your committee hopes that this has been a popular move and that members who are unable to attend the AGM are now better informed. Although the Friends did enjoy an attractive rental rate to use the Guildhall, your committee felt that it would be more sensible to use the Brewhouse which the Friends may use during daytime at no cost. During 2003, the Friends raised a net £3860 which is only a little below the £4000 which we normally manage. The sum held in the reserve fund that I wrote about in the newsletter last December has recently been increased by your committee from £7000 to £9000.

The new season of outings started in early March when a small group of members attended the ancient Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London. This was followed in mid April by a day in the Docklands which in several respects was unforgettable! To start with the weather was decidedly uncomfortable, both cold and wet. More significantly our visit shared the date with the London Marathon; this fact was known by our experienced planners and appropriate precautions had been taken with regard to possible traffic restrictions. However there had been a communication glitch between staff in the bus company with the result that we all saw a great deal of the east end of London, several vistas more than once! Finally, thanks to the good offices of a traffic policeman and some adroit negotiation by Peter Hattersley, some cones were moved and we were allowed to proceed closer to our destination. Unfortunately at this stage we found that we were to the south of the athletes and we needed to be to the north of them in order to reach the Docklands Museum. This

proved to be quite a challenge which was finally overcome by which time it was time for lunch! Nevertheless the unprogrammed spectacle of the passage of a substantial fraction of the 35,000 runners in the Marathon was an unusual experience to be enjoyed! And the Docklands Museum is most interesting and well worth a visit. During May there were visits to the College of Arms and to Bath and several more will take place throughout the summer. If you have not booked for any of these outings, do please consider doing so as there are still places available.

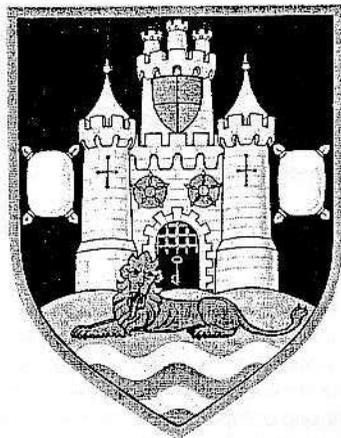
The regular annual Skittles Lunch, organised by Heather Anderson, took place as usual in February, though Heather sadly was unable to be present this time. Late in April, members were invited by John Boas to have a preview of the relocation of his models of Guildford Station to the museum in the space created by the removal of the fire engine. Since then the relocated exhibition has been a very popular attraction at the museum and not only for younger children! recently the museum has been very kindly offered some model locomotives and also some interesting railway memorabilia which will enhance the exhibit.

On behalf of the committee, I would again like to thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming months on the events and outings that have been organised for our collective benefit and pleasure. Enjoy the summer!

Richard Sinker Hon.Secretary



01483 502207



The Borough Coat of Arms

(original seen at College of Arms)

## Castle Arch

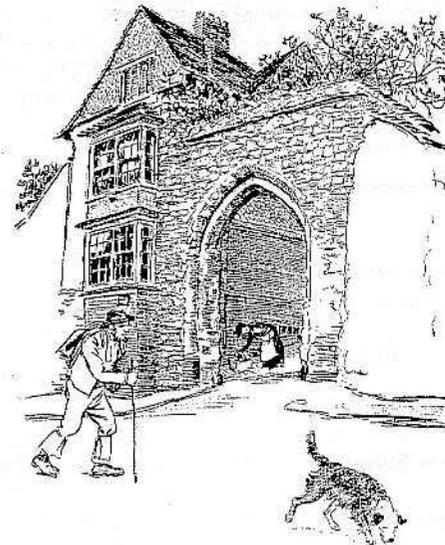
I fell in love with Guildford when I was about eight years old. I was on a visit, at the time, to an Aunt and Uncle who lived in Godalming. The Clock hanging over the High Street, the Castle Keep and the Museum were indelibly impressed on me and have enthralled me ever since. The magic of Guildford is that there is always something to see that one has not observed before. How often when we walk around the Museum do we look at the building itself?

So I asked the Museum about it's history and they provided me with this information.

" The house called Castle Arch was built about 1620, using part of the medieval gatehouse built in 1256. The Castle estate was sold by James I in 1611 to Francis Carter and it used to be thought that he tried to live in the keep and then built Castle Arch around 1630. However, recent research makes this unlikely, so Castle Arch could have been built soon after 1611.

The house is a mixture of medieval and 17<sup>th</sup> century styles. The bricks and tile-hanging are 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the arrangement of the house is more or less medieval, with the door at one end of the central portion, and two cross-wings at either side. As in many medieval houses, the wings are of different sizes, though this might be because of the surviving medieval walls. Castle Arch has not got a medieval open hall, but the family's rooms are at one end, and the service rooms - kitchen etc - are at the other, as in earlier houses. The owner's rooms are bigger and grander. The most obvious signs are the carved chalk fireplaces. The kitchen fireplace (in what is now the

Gertrude Jekyll cottage room display) is plain. The fireplace at the other end of the ground floor is large and elaborate with classical designs and Renaissance strap work. This was probably the family's parlour. It also has parts of a plaster frieze of fruit and flowers surviving around the walls. Upstairs ( in what is now the Surrey Archaeological Society's library ) is a slightly smaller fireplace , decorated with human figures. This would have been the owner's bedroom. Upstairs in a garret is a plain fireplace, probably for the children of the house.



The stairs are in a turret attached to the back of the house, which is another early feature. Later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century stairs would be incorporated within the house.

Francis Carter was a freeman of Guildford, and under-keeper of the royal deerpark. He and his wife Anne had six children. The eldest, John, had a son called John. He and his wife Elizabeth added a wing at the back of the house. Their initials - IEC - and the date 1672 can still be seen on it. They had four children, but three died as infants.



### Did you Know?

In May 1944, Field Marshal Montgomery addressed more than 1000 soldiers on Albury Heath. He told them that they would be under his command for the Second Front. In his rallying speech he encouraged the men that they could win the war that year, the war that he admitted he was now so tired of.

*Surrey Advertiser - Guildford-The War Years*

In October 1944 the Mayor sent a telegram to Montgomery with this message "Guildford citizens, who owe you so much in so many ways, are now particularly thankful for your elimination of the filthy fly-bombs." As the telegram was sent by a civilian to a soldier in France it was not delivered. The mayor quickly overcame the problem by re-addressing the telegram to Monty care of the War Office and it was tapped out and on its way. Monty's reply was "I would like to thank you for the kind message you sent me on behalf of the citizens of Guildford expressing their thanks for the elimination of the flying bomb. It is gratifying to me, and to the troops under my command, to know we out here have been able to help those at home in this way.

*The Surrey Times October 7<sup>th</sup> 1944*

### NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Association and look forward to meeting them at the functions.

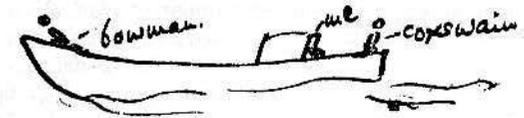
Mr. Peter Carpenter	Mrs. A Teideman	Mrs. Doreen Burton
Mrs. Barbara Dick	Mrs. M Harmer & Family	Mrs. Eileen Whitby
Mr. R Hill	Mrs. Irene Stevens	Dr. & Mrs. R Page
Mr. & Mrs. G. Bridger	Ms. Barbara Smith	Mrs Doreen Laver

Transfer to Life Member  
Mrs Barbara Ford

## D-DAY

As we commemorate the anniversary of the landings in Normandy 60 years ago it brings back memories to all those who lived through those fateful years. Some remember the kindness of the men. Mrs Ball of Fairlands recalls the time her sister was working in a nearby farm. Troops were camped nearby and the officer billeted at the farm. The Batman got to know the girls quite well and about a month or so after the troops had all left, Mrs Ball and her sister received a letter containing a handkerchief for each of them. Children where I lived in North London heard a continuous roar above them on D-Day as squadron after squadron flew low to avoid enemy radar. Spitfires, twin engine fighter bombers and Hurricanes fitted with bombs under each wing. After a short lull at lunch time when air corridors were changed, we saw the returning planes. Rarely a complete squadron could be seen. One, two, three and sometimes four planes were missing from formation and we knew a battle was on.

In our last Newsletter I included an excerpt from Maureen Well's book "Entertaining Eric". Maureen's letters are usually very bright and cheerful but as June 6<sup>th</sup> is a day when we remember the great sacrifice made by so many of our soldiers I thought it appropriate to include this letter sent soon after D-Day.



9<sup>th</sup> June 1944

H.M.S. Tormentor, Warsash, Hampshire

Dearest Eric,

My goodness, I wouldn't be on leave at this time! Thank God everything is going quite well.

It's wonderful to see men coming back, dirty, unshaven, some suffering from shock in varied degrees, others cheerful and wanting to get back. They all have tremendous tales to tell.

One officer got back here from a port on another coast wearing his officer's cap, flannel bags, a dreadful old jacket and moth-eaten brown carpet slippers! Another broadcast last night on the nine o'clock news. Perhaps you heard him.

We have been on the films too. The first invasion newsreel! Naturally the place is a hot bed of rumours and I only wish I could tell you what we know to be true.

On Wednesday night there was a dance here. Heaven knows I didn't feel like dancing with all that hell going on not so very faraway, but something inside told me to go and help bring a little gaiety to relieve the tenseness of the atmosphere. So another Wren and I went along.

I'm glad I went. I hadn't been there long when a young lad slipped into the hall and sat beside me. I took one look and I knew where he'd been. His eyes were bloodshot and red-rimmed and he was shaking like a leaf. He was just an ordinary seaman.

Poor kid, all he could say was, "Make me forget it, please make me forget it. I've just got to." I felt quite sick with pity. Eric, I looked after him all evening. He'd just had his nineteenth birthday. At first he was incoherent but as I yattered trivialities he gradually got better. He was upset because his mother would be worried. What that kid had seen was beyond telling. For one thing he had seen his special pals blown to pieces.

By the end of the evening he could hardly stand for exhaustion, so I put him in the care of a petty officer, who promised to put him to bed. Just as I was leaving three ruffians came in. Filthy, bleary eyed and unshaven, they just stood there. No one seemed to take any notice of them. I didn't know them but I went up and said, "Hullo, I'm *terribly* glad to see you back". One just looked at me and sort of sobbed. "God, you don't know how pleased we are to see you stokie!".

Maureen Wells has sent me a copy of 'Pipeclay', the newsletter of The Naval and Military Club in Melbourne, Australia. Here is what it has to say about Maureen.

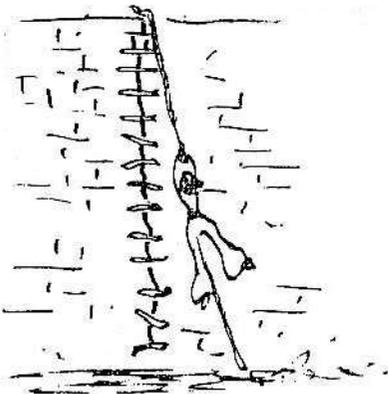
" Not many people find themselves ranked with luminaries across history such as two Queens of England, two British Prime Ministers, a USA president, Florence Nightingale, Marlene Dietrich and resistance heroine Odette Samson. But that is the distinction the Imperial War Museum in London has bestowed on **Associate Member Mrs Maureen Wells.**"

The Museum recently held an exhibition entitled "Woman at War" which some of you may have visited. Maureen's contribution (which is narrated by Glenda Jackson) came

from her book *Entertaining Eric*, a collection of letters she wrote to her boyfriend Eric Wells, an Australian RAF Staff Engineer, during the war. During this period Maureen had three jobs: as a billeting officer, a Wren courier delivering secret documents to all parts of the U.K., and as a Wren stoker in boats' crews at invasion bases during the build up to D Day. ( One of Maureen's four cabin mates was Patricia Mountbatten with whom she still keeps in touch.)

Joanna Lumley included an extract from Maureen's book in her book *Forever Sweethearts*.

*Maureen lived in Compton and married Eric at Compton Church in 1944. We send her and her family our very best wishes.*



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUM

### Items from St.Catherine's W.I.

The Museum has been given the embroidered banner from St.Catherine's W.I., which was disbanded in 2003. It was formed in 1920, and the banner probably dates from that time. It is just over 3 feet long and 27 inches wide, and hangs from a wooden pole with acorn finials. The banner is of cotton, divided into four quarters, alternately gold and a greyish-brown, which was once blue. In the centre is an oval piece of linen embroidered with St.Catherine's chapel on its hill, with a tree behind. The banner itself is embroidered in gold-coloured thread 'St.Catherine's W.I. For Home and Country' - the motto of the Womens' Institutes. Four blue and gold cords ending in tassels hang from the rod and the banner. It would have been made by members.

We were given several other items including a Certificate of Merit awarded by the National Federation of W.I.s to St.Catherine's for the banner, by judges from the Art Workers' Guild. The certificate is not dated, but it was designed in 1920, in a romantic William Morris/Arts & Crafts style.

The Womens' Institutes were famous for their handicrafts and home-making skills, which is shown by a minute book of the St.Catherine's W.I. Handicraft Sub-Committee. It is a small hard-backed notebook with lined pages, running from 1931-5. The sub-committee had about six members, who usually met at The Beacon, the house which once stood on St.Catherine's Hill. It was the home of Mrs. M.E. Hudson, a founder member of the W.I. A Miss Hudson, who was presumably her daughter, was on the sub-committee. Most of the activities were as one might expect, discussion about fetes, sewing classes etc. but the first meeting in the book mentions the Cross Stitch Industry, which in early 1932 had been registered with the Registrar of Business Names, and joined the Guildford Art Society.

The Museum has been given two items made by this industry: a tablecloth and a cushion. The tablecloth is of green linen, embroidered with a geometrical border, and divided up into squares by further lines of

embroidery. The cushion cover is made of natural linen, and was in memory of Mrs. Hudson. It is embroidered with the words 'W.I. St.Catherine's Margaret Eva Hudson Member 1920-51 R.I.P.'

The street directory for 1933 lists Mrs. Hudson at The Beacon, and a W.G.Hudson as proprietor of St.Catherine's Fur Farm, in Ferry Lane, rabbit breeders. This may be a coincidence, but it is interesting that members of the W.I were skilled in fur work. Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Horn were asked to demonstrate fur work at Chilworth Flower Show in 1931. Miss Hudson was to demonstrate rug-weaving. Mrs. Alexander had already demonstrated making fur gloves at a W.I meeting.

The W.I. has always been interested in the wider world, and at a meeting of the Sub-Committee in February 1933 it was agreed that work parties for the Personal Service League would be held weekly at the Hut. More research is needed on this, but the League appears to have been providing clothes for the unemployed. By November 1933 626 garments had been sent in to the Personal Service League and Dr. Becknall had donated £1 for material. By November 1934 1056 garments had been made that year.

In 1935 it was decided that a 'Thrift Cot' would be made for the county handicrafts Exhibition. It received a gold star, and was sent up to London where it was sold, and another was ordered. It was decided that the profit would be used for the 'Durham distressed area', as would the profit made on selling wool for rug-making classes.

These events are still within living memory, but concern a very different world. There has not been time to research more fully for this article, but if anyone knows about the Cross Stitch Industry or the Personal Service League, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Much more recently, in 2000, members of St.Catherine's W.I. made a cushion cover symbolising Surrey, for which they asked the advice of Guildford Museum staff. They won a competition at a local W.I show with a group of home-made items including food and a flower

arrangement along with the cushion. The cushion has also been given to the Museum.

A faded banner and an old notebook may not sound much, but they are teeming with local history in the fullest sense. They are objects made by and for a community, and now have a home for the future within that community. I hope to display them in our recent acquisitions case before long.



Mary Alexander

**Specialists in Rabbits  
& Undyed Coney Furs**

IN MANY COLOURS



Phone

565

*Inspection Invited.*

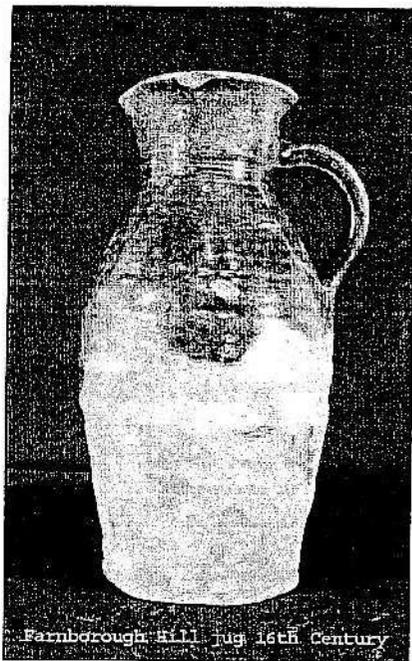
**ST. CATHERINE'S  
RABBIT FARM**  
GUILDFORD.

Advert from "Old -World Guildford" 1931

## CRACKED POTS IN OUR HERITAGE The Farnborough Hill kiln project

Work is now well underway on an extremely exciting and important project conducted as a joint venture between Guildford Museum and the Museum of London Specialist Services. The aim is to publish the results of the excavations carried out under the direction of Felix Holling, between 1967 and 1972, in the grounds of Farnborough Hill Convent. These uncovered dumps of production waste and the remains of a series of successive kiln structures dating to c.1550-80, as well as one kiln dating to the late 15th century. During this period, Farnborough Hill was a major producer of Surrey-Hampshire Border ware, both whitewares, and, from c.1550 onwards, redwares. Border ware was one of the most important ceramic industries operating in south-east England from c.1550-1700. Throughout this time, the industry produced large quantities of good quality, attractive pottery, catering for a remarkably wide range of household needs, from cooking vessels of various types to decorative tablewares to toys. During the 16th and 17th centuries, whitewares were always a more important part of the industry's output than redwares, until they were phased out of production in the early 18th century and the manufacture of redwares took over completely.

Farnborough Hill is one of the few production sites in the Border industry at which kiln structures and associated production waste have been found together and where kilns from different phases of production are represented at the same site. It is the only site in the Border industry for which archaeomagnetic dates were obtained (a date of 1560-75 for one of the kilns) and considerable quantities of kiln waste were recovered. Documentary evidence is known relating to potters



working at the site, which was a major centre of potting from at least the late 13th century until the early 20th century.

The site is of considerable local importance, as a major centre in a large-scale and long-lived ceramic industry situated on the Surrey-Hampshire borders. It played a vital part in the economy of the region, with a widespread distribution that encompassed London as the main market for more than 150 years. The excavated kilns date to a period of great importance in the development of the ceramic industries of the country as a whole, a time of transition and expansion during which new forms and technologies were introduced and a time of national economic vitality and growth. The products of the Border industry even reached the early American colonies and exhibit striking parallels with certain continental wares during its formative period, in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, the time to which the Farnborough Hill kilns can be dated.

Some 230 boxes of Farnborough Hill pottery have been brought together at MoLSS where identification and quantification of the kiln assemblage from each year of excavation is now complete. Detailed analysis of the data is now underway, alongside illustration of selected pots and sherds. A remarkably wide range of vessels forms has been identified, including tripod pipkins, in widespread use for cooking, bowls and dishes of various shapes and sizes, skillets, porringers (used for eating semi-solid or spoon foods), drinking jugs, mugs, cups, chamber pots, chafing dishes, costrels or portable flasks, money-boxes, candlesticks and chicken feeding dishes. Forms previously unsuspected in London have now been recognised and probably had a purely local distribution. These include frying pans with three feet, dripping dishes (to catch the juices from spit-roasted joints of meat) and alembics, which form part of a distilling unit. Manufacturing and kiln-firing faults have also been identified and coded during recording to allow a better understanding of how technology developed over the life of the industry.

Numerous research questions have emerged as a result of recording and quantification, and existing questions have been refined. Comparisons can now be made with kiln material from other sites that made Border ware, such as Cove, and with finds from London excavations. A number of interesting leads involving possible German influences on the forms manufactured at Farnborough Hill are also being investigated. As work proceeds apace, a major publication is taking shape in which we hope to be able to do justice to all the work and effort carried out over many years by Felix Holling and Guildford Museum.

Jacqui Pearce



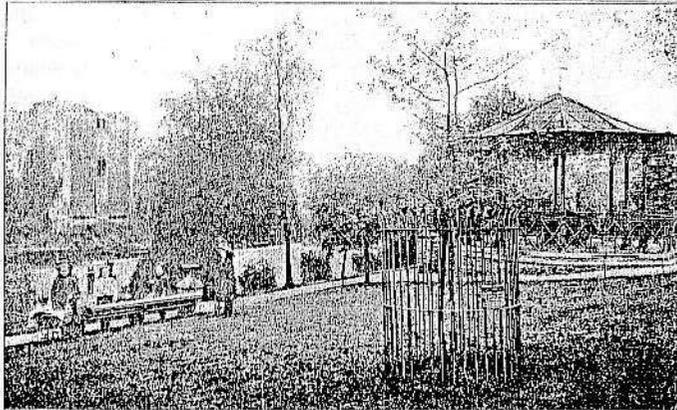
## Blast from the Past

Throughout the month of August, the Guildford Museum, in conjunction with the Surrey Advertiser, will be running an exhibition on the history of the breweries in Guildford and the surrounding area. Friary Guildford Brass Band have been asked to submit material for this exhibition, celebrating their relationship with the Friary Meux Brewery,

The band will be performing a concert to coincide with this at the bandstand in the Castle Grounds between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The museum and concert are, of course, both free!

The current band was formed 21 years ago and Friary Guildford is one of the South East of England's best brass bands. They recently scored their best contest result ever with a 4<sup>th</sup> place (out of 78 bands taking part) at the London and Southern Counties area contest. The first Friary Brewery band existed in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and established the standard and tradition of quality brass music in Guildford. Their legacy is still recognised and kept alive today.

*See you at the bandstand! 2pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> August  
Museum Exhibition 11am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday during August*



### FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2004/2005

Chairman Peter Hattersley, Vice-Chairman Heather Anderson,  
Secretary Richard Sinker, Treasurer Tim Bryers, Curator Matthew Alexander,  
Events Booking Derek Somner, Events Publicity John Wilkins,  
Museum Volunteer Organizer Marjorie Williams, Newsletter Editor Eric Morgan  
Jonathan Jessup, Maureen Newman, Jennifer Powell.

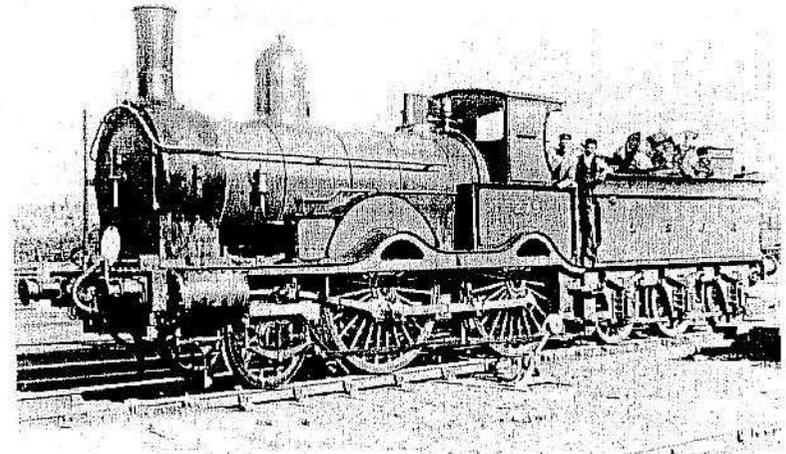
## "Guildford, this is Guildford!"

### Announcement from the Museum

Following the outstanding success of the Railway Exhibition in December 2002, we are pleased to announce that Guildford Museum is now re-opening a permanent exhibition of Guildford Railway Station, as it was in the 1920s and 1930s. The centrepiece of the exhibition will be a detailed model replica in 00 gauge of Guildford station, the goods yard and the famous turntable engine sheds, measuring a massive 22 feet by 12 feet, meticulously constructed by John Boas, one of the museum staff. Additionally, the exhibition will include scale drawings and a small display of 0 gauge locomotives and rolling stock, in the livery of "The London South West Railway" (LSWR).

The exhibition is open from 1st May 2004 from 11am - 5pm on

Mondays to Saturdays, during the normal opening hours of the museum. Admission is free, but space is limited in the gallery, so if you intend to bring a large group to view the exhibition, pre-booking would be desirable. For further information, please contact Guildford Museum on (01483) 444751 [www.guildfordmuseum.co.uk](http://www.guildfordmuseum.co.uk)



Fairest of towns, fain would my willing muse,  
In glowing verse thy numerous beauties paint,  
But droops, alas! unequal to the theme.  
Here from great London leads a royal way,  
Thro' groves and mountains, streams and fruitful fields,  
To where the Wey his golden current rolls,  
Magnificent and emulous of Rome.

Hail! seat of bliss, where heaven benignly yields  
The purest air, where vital breezes blow,  
And drive disease and sickness far away.  
May heav'n propitious hear my ardent pray'rs  
And down to latest time defend thee still,  
Guildford replete with opulence and worth!

In beauteous order here three temples stand  
To pure religion sacred and assigned,  
Here youthful Edward, pious and benign.  
An ample school endowed., and here beneath  
Two masters militate an hundred boys.  
How many mitred sages hence arose!

How many graced the senate and the bar,  
Why should the muse relate? But gladly tell  
How Abbot here, with tender pity warm'd,  
To cheer the soul by poverty depressed,  
Bade the proud mansion rear his stately head,  
Worthy a prelate's and a native's hand.

Written by the Rev. William Hill, Master of the Grammar  
School, Guildford, (A.D. 1623)

## "Good Morning Mr Mayor"

The town is indeed fortunate to have an enthusiastic band of volunteer guides. Here Mick Wilson tells us about the fun of taking a group of children on a tour.

It is always a joy to take a group of young school children for a walk around Guildford. They are usually well behaved, intelligent, ask sensible questions and more often than not give reasonable answers to questions.

The most recent group of mine were studying the Stuart period. We had hoped to visit the Guildhall where they could have seen the fine pictures of Charles II and his brother James.

We walked up the High Street, but alas, our visit was not to be, for it was Mayor making day and the assembly was just emerging from the ceremony. We stood on the steps of Tunsgate awaiting our turn to go in, but within a few minutes the Mayor and lady Mayoress came out.

The children became excited and asked if they could go and speak to him, I replied "not today".

However at that moment both the Mayor and his lady came across the road and much to our delight, chatted and shook hands with all the children. There were large smiles all round, their excitement knew no bounds, and this gesture of the new Mayor really made their day. We eventually made our way back to the coach, chatting all the time about this thrilling episode. We never did get inside the Guildhall, it was locked after the ceremony was over!

*Mick Wilson*

### TOURS OF GUILDFORD

Have visitors arrived and you don't know what to do?

Then join a free guided tour of the town - meet under Tunsgate Arch - Tours every Sunday (at 2.30pm), Monday (11.30am) and Wednesday (2.30pm) until the end of September and on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm until the end of August.

In July, during the Festival there is a tour most days - see Tourist Information Centre for times and subject of walk. (Tel No. 444333)

Parties including schools welcome by prior arrangement.

Don't miss Heritage Day on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2004. Over twenty buildings in Guildford open free.

## The British Association of Museums

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BELFAST 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2004

The conference and AGM will be held at W5 at Odyssey, Northern Ireland's impressive Millennium Project, an Interactive Discovery Centre. There will be an opportunity to explore the exhibits. Soon after arrival, delegates will be taken on a tour of Belfast and in the evening they will be welcomed at the Ulster Museum by the Chief executive of the Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland and by the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast. This will be followed by supper and a tour of the galleries. The Gala Dinner on the evening of the conference will be in the Banqueting Hall of the City Hall and will be preceded by a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor and City Council. On Sunday morning there will be an opportunity to visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. There will be a farewell luncheon at the Manor House, Cultra. The Keynote Speaker will be Charles Saumarez Smith, Director of the National Gallery, London.

For further information contact **NORAH DUNBAR** tel.no. 028 9065 4883

### ROUND THE REGIONS

It was not until I picked up a copy of the B.A.F.M. Newsletter that I began to realize how many of these groups exist. We usually visit any museum we come across on holiday but that does not always make you aware of all the groups beavering away with fund raising. Ulster Museum (which hosts the initial reception for the AGM) began on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1821 when eight young men joined together to form a society for the study of natural sciences and by 1833 its collections were on display in a new building. 170 years later these collections have now expanded into a national museum and art gallery for Northern Ireland. In Birmingham several different groups from Bewdley Museum, Birmingham Museum and the Black Country Living Museum banded together at the Museum's Retail Exhibition. Much the same I imagine as the help we give in the Summer Festival to the museum stand in the High Street. In Bedford, the John Bunyan Museum was founded in 1997. He was, of course, in prison for some time in Bedford and the Museum is housed in an extension to the Bunyan Meeting Free Church. The Friends here generated funds to make many improvements. The magazine showed the beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> C Bunyan family grandfather clock presented to the Museum after being owned for 100 years by the Rev John Frost. The Friends have paid for the repair and conservation of the clock. It really looks wonderful in the photograph. One museum mentioned with which I am familiar was the Church Farm Museum at Skegness. This is a fascinating place to take the grandchildren, stepping back in time to an earlier age in the farming community. Lincolnshire County Council have drawn up plans for a new meeting room for educational uses. In particular to support the many school parties who visit every year. The Friends intend to support this by applying for grants. *extract by Sandra Morgan*

## Guildford Castle

The long awaited conservation work on the Keep has now been completed and this reopened to the public on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Many of you will have seen the reports in the Surrey Advertiser. In our last Newsletter, Mary told us about the exciting discoveries that had been revealed by the conservation and the story of these together with other details of the castle are displayed in panels around the building. A roof has been added to protect the building but it will also serve to keep us dry in wet weather! A floor has also been added so there is much to see.

*Visit the Keep during July and August so that you can enjoy the magnificent flower displays in the Castle Grounds and why not pop into the museum at the same time?*

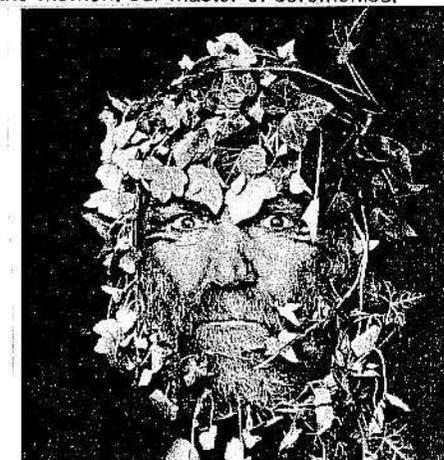
## A History of Guildford in light and sound

Tickets are now on sale at the Tourist Information Centre for *The Guildford All Electric Picture Postcard Kaleidoscope Show. A Son et Lumiere*. This is not a straight narration of history. This is fun: from the moment our master of ceremonies, the Lord of Misrule is projected onto the giant screen laughing the audience will know they are in for a lively evening.

Our curator, Matthew Alexander, is the Lord of Misrule and Jo Grundy of the Archers is the voice. At one stage the Keep itself will be seen streaming with blood, at others the audience will follow with their eyes the young John Russell climbing the keep now representing the tower of Holy Trinity Church. Members of Guildford Photographic Association and the Guildford Institute Video Production Group have assembled all the pictures for projection.

Instigate Media (local finalists in the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2004) will ensure that lighting and sound effects can be seen and heard from all parts of the audience seated on the bowling green and a theme song composed by Simon May will send the audience home singing "By golden sand and waters blue....."

The show starts as darkness falls at 8.15pm and ends by 9.30pm on the nights of 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September.



Matthew Alexander as the Lord of Misrule

# Don't miss these!

## EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

### GLORIOUS GARDENS

A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL GARDENS AND GARDENERS

19<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2004

This will be a combined exhibition between Guildford House and Guildford Museum to celebrate the year of the Garden and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society. The parks department will delight us as ever with a display bed in the Castle Grounds.

### LECTURE AT GUILDFORD HOUSE

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Loseley Park - House and Garden by Michael More-Molyneux

Free but please phone 444742 to guarantee a seat.

### BREWERIES EXHIBITION

2<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004 at Salters Gallery, Castle Street.

### HERITAGE DAY

Sat September 11<sup>th</sup> 2004

### BIG DRAW DAY

Sat October 16<sup>th</sup>

Events for all the family at Guildford House, Castle Keep and the Museum

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan, 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY. Telephone Number (01483 233344).

Copy date for next Newsletter is November 1<sup>st</sup> 2004