



Calendar of Events 2012.

JANUARY

Wednesday 11 Evening Talk 7 for 7.30pm

'Place Names' by Tony Bostock

Wednesday 25 Tea and Talk 3pm

Cheshire Writers by Tom Hughes.

Thursday 26 Film Night 7 for 7.30pm Film: 'Archipelago'

FEBRUARY

Thursday 2 Friends' Preview of New Exhibition:

'Castles and Forts of Cheshire'

Wednesday 15 Evening Talk 7 for 7.30pm '

Cheshire Maps and MapMakers' by Jonathan Pepler.

Thursday 23 Film Night 7 for 7.30pm

Film: 'The Round up'

Wednesday 29 Tea and Talk 3pm.

'The Roman Cavalryman.

MARCH

Thursday 8 Evening Talk 7 for 7.30pm

'The Piper's Tale' by Tom Hughes.

Tuesday 20 2pm VISIT

Museum of Policing in Warrington.

Wednesday 28 Tea and Talk 3pm

'Lion Salt Works Project' - an Update.

Thursday 29 Film Night 7 for 7.30pm

Film: 'Jane Eyre'

APRIL

Tuesday 17 Evening Talk 7 for 7.30pm

'Hill Forts of Cheshire' by Dan Garner

Wednesday 25 Tea and Talk 3pm 'Turrets and Battlements in Art' by Peter Boughton. Keeper of Art.

Thursday 26 Film Night 'Oranges and Sunshine'

MAY

Wednesday 9 2pm VISIT Winsford Museum Store

Tuesday 15 Evening Talk by Lee Stewart

'The work of the RSPCA Stapeley Grange'

Wednesday 30 Tea and Talk 3pm

'Richard II and Cheshire'

Thursday 31 Film Night 7 for 7.30pm

'Mademoiselle Chambon'

JUNE

Thursday 14 Evening Talk 7 for 7.30pm

'Northwich and the River Weaver through the ages - a reason to celebrate' by Colin Edmondson.

Wednesday 27 Tea and Talk 3pm

'Prints from Weaver Hall Collection'

Thursday 28 Film Night 7 for 7.30pm 'The Arbor'.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE!

These are the last few weeks of 'The Wonderful World of Professor Josiah Mace'. Do make sure you have had a good look at all the wonderful curiosities on display. This is a very special exhibition, put on not by curators and keepers, but by the education team, which is highly unusual. Did the film make you smile or even giggle?



The next exhibition is to be 'Castles and Hillforts in Cheshire'. Don't forget the Preview especially for Friends, 2nd February, 2012.

Betty Knight Retires from Committee.



Tony and Betty Knight
See Story in Friends' Committee News.

You Either Enjoyed or Missed these Events.

Nine Lives at Tatton - A Talk by Janet Bradshaw.



This was a fascinating insight into the workings of the Education Team at Tatton Park. Janet Bradshaw certainly got our attention when she began her talk by starting to take her clothes off! However, she was able to 'quick change' into various different characters with fairly simple clothing props. She explained to us, using these different characters, how they were able to convey the workings of the Tatton Park estate, in various episodes of its history, to groups of school children. I especially liked the medieval court room scenario and also the hat with the long tail into which went your money! A fascinating evening with a pretty unusual start!

Salt Routes - A Talk by Anthony Poulton - Smith.

Anthony attempted to explain how he started his writing career, (he has 18 books published) and how he came to write his book, Salt Routes. He used Weaver Hall Museum archives for his research. Feedback confirmed my own thoughts - that his talk was rather disappointing, disjointed and appeared to lack preparation. As Anthony answered questions, I think our audience was more knowledgeable about salt in our region, than he was. I have heard better talks!

Cheshire's Civil War - A Talk by Michael Lea-O'Mahoney

Michael's talk completely altered my perspective of the Civil War in England in the 1640s. The background factors leading up to the war and the tensions between King, Parliament and the people were excellently explained. Michael gave a real feeling of what it was like to live through those times. He gave a graphic account of how the Battle of Nantwich actually took place. The involvement of such characters as Sir William Brereton, Lord Byron and Sir Thomas Fairfax were explained. This was particularly interesting as it appeared to be a turning point in the war for King Charles and it was very local to us. This was a thoroughly interesting and informative talk.



A Tudor Christmas : A Very Special Night.

A big "thank you" goes to Tom and his team for a very successful Friends Christmas social event, which we all thoroughly enjoyed as you can see here Tom and his team putting us through our paces!



Weaver Hall Museum News

A Record. At our recent committee meeting, Tom Hughes informed us that they had their best day ever for attendance at the museum during October half term. A record number of 477 visitors went through the doors! That's a real WOW! The attraction was the history of chocolate with a bonus of making truffles and taking them home! Well done to Tom and his team.

Keeper of Social and Community History. Sue Hughes, Director of Museums at Cheshire West and Chester has told the committee that the calibre of applications for the job of Keeper of Social and Community History was disappointing. So much so, that the post is going to be re-advertised! Watch this space!



Programme of Events for Weaver Hall Museum in 2012. As you can see from the front of this newsletter, the programme of events for 2012 looks very varied and interesting. We hope that you will all continue to wholeheartedly support the museum with all its activities. Please, please book your places for events in advance. As a cost saving exercise Weaver Hall Museum will not produce a glossy leaflet of events as it used to. So the Friends have devised a calendar of events for you to keep. It is enclosed in this posting. As always, if you are able, go to our website www.fowhm.org.uk to check out details and more information, especially about the chosen films.



News from your Friends' Committee.

Betty Knight. If you were at the AGM, you will know that Betty Knight has retired from our Friends committee. It is with great reluctance we let her go. Betty has been a member of the committee from the very beginning in 1999. She has taken on various roles, Vice Chair and latterly Social Secretary. Betty has been a delight to work with, very willing, humorous, and efficient and always 'spot on' with catering. She has organised many of our most successful visits. Betty will be missed from our committee. However, she has promised to be at our events in the future. The committee has made Betty and her husband, Tony, honorary members of the Friends of Weaver Hall Museum in recognition of all their services to us all.

Vacancy. As a result of Betty's retirement we have a vacancy on our committee. Do give Jenny, Chair, a ring or get in touch via our website www.fowhm.org.uk if you would like to see the committee at work. We meet about six times a year and we need people with ideas!

Saving Money. Generally, when you renew your membership in May, you are normally issued with a personal card. We can save over £135, at current postage prices, if we send out your new membership cards with our next newsletter, probably in June. We hope that you will agree that this is worth at least a trial, as a saving of this size will enable us to be more helpful to the museum.

Visits. We have planned two special visits for you. Separate booking forms are included in this posting.
Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 2pm a guided tour around the Museum of Policing in Cheshire in Warrington. The cost is £2 person as a donation to the museum.

Wednesday 9th May 2012 at 2pm a guided tour of the Cheshire West and Chester Museum Store, in Winsford. We will be looking at some of the treasures that the general public don't get to see. Some of the curators/keepers will be available to explain some of the items. We will meet at Weaver Hall Museum in the coffee shop. This will enable us to car share for the journey to and from Winsford, as parking spaces are restricted. Apparently the coffee shop is a more convivial space for a drink than the Museum Store! I don't think 'best' clothes are needed!

Visit to the Museum of Policing in Cheshire.
Arpley Way, Warrington. WA1 1LQ

Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 2pm Cost £2 per person



This museum comes highly recommended. We will be given a guided tour of all the museum has to offer. This takes about 1½ hours and will be followed by a hot drink. We are advised to park in a multi-storey car park. We are also asked to be aware that it is also a working police station.

Website www.museumofpolicingincheshire.org.uk.

Visit to Winsford Museum Store
Meet at Weaver Hall Museum, in Coffee Shop
Wednesday 9th May 2012 at 2pm
No Charge, but Booking Vital, please.



Do you think we will see any items such as these when we visit the Museum Service's Store in Winsford? Sue Hughes and her team have been busy for months getting their new space organised and under one roof. To quote Sue "it is the first time some of the Keepers have been able to see some of the artefacts close up". We thought it would be interesting to go behind the scenes and see some of the treasures that the general public don't get to view. There will be some Keepers on hand to show us some of their artefacts and explain their relevance.

We will meet in Weaver Hall Museum coffee shop for a drink. We can then car share for the journey to Winsford and back, as there is restricted parking. Booking is essential, please, despite there being no charge.