



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 6:** Friends' Visit 10.45am  
Meet at St Mary's Church, Astbury, CW12 4RG.  
Guided tour with Reverend Sharples.  
Booking in advance to Jenny. Donation on the day.

**Wednesday 12:** 7 for 7.30pm  
'Traditional Music at the Museum'  
A special evening of music and song performances.

**Wednesday 26:** **Tea and Talk** 3pm  
Cheshire Dialect, exploring local words and phrases  
given by Andrew Davies.

**Friday 28:** The exhibition 'You're It!  
The Legacy of Childhood Games.' will open.  
(This time there is no special evening preview for the  
Friends, as we have the Musical Evening instead.)

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 4:** Friends Visit to Tabley House.  
Meet in car park 2.15pm  
Booking and Payment must be in advance, please,  
before 14 September to Rita Lamb.

**Thursday 18:** 7 for 7.30pm  
**Annual General Meeting** and 'The Monarchy in 2012'  
A short talk by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire,  
David Briggs. M.B.E., K .St. J.

**Thursday 25:** **Film Night** 7 for 7.30pm  
Film : 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'.

**Wednesday 31:** **Tea and Talk** 3pm.  
'Open the Door and Let us in'. by Tom Hughes.  
The Story of Soul Caking Plays in Cheshire

### NOVEMBER

**Thursday 15:** **Evening Talk** 7 for 7.30pm  
'Toys and Games through the ages' by Raymond Rush.

**Wednesday 28:** **Tea and Talk** 3pm  
' Games We Played' by Tom Hughes.

### DECEMBER

**Tuesday 4:** **Christmas Social:** 7 for 7.30pm  
'A Vaguely Historical Quiz Night',  
with mince pies and mulled wine.

**Wednesday 12:** **'The Keepin' Up O' Christmas.**  
Roy Clinging performs a medley of traditional  
festive folk music and readings. 7 for 7.30pm

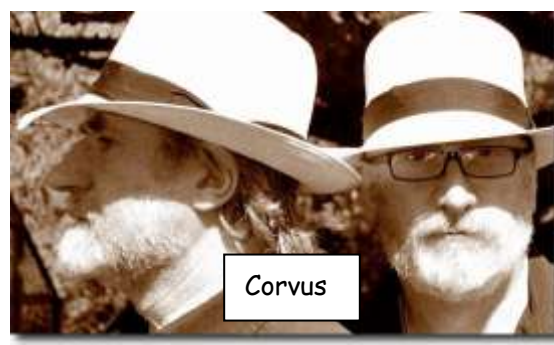
*Looking forward to 2013 .....* **JANUARY**

**Thursday January 17:** 7 for 7.30pm  
Friends Preview/Launch of Special Exhibition which  
explores the subject of Cheshire Dialect.

### Traditional Music at the Museum

Wednesday 12 September  
7 for 7.30pm

The evening will be a chance to hear  
historic tunes from local musicians in  
traditional styles and in an informal  
setting. Performers include Corvus,  
John and Ailsa Booth, Greg Oldfield,  
Dave Ball and our own Tom Hughes.



Corvus

### You're It!

The Legacy of Childhood Games.



Special Exhibition Opens to the  
public on Friday 28 September.

**Andrew Davies, our New Keeper,**  
has some special, exciting new  
ideas for Friends who would like to  
help the Museum. Please read to  
back page!

## Friends' Events since our May Newsletter -You didn't miss them, did you?

Visits to Cheshire West and Chester's Museum Store. The Friends very much appreciated CWAC's Museum Director, Sue Hughes's offer to give us a guided tour of the Museum Service's new store. Several of the Museum Service's Keepers were on hand to give us their expert knowledge. As you can see from the pictures the store was well laid out and catalogued. However, we are still amazed at how some of the stone artefacts were even moved! Over 40 Friends visited the store. We are sincerely grateful to Sue and her staff for giving up their time to select artefacts for us to look at and to explain their significance.



## Evening Talk by Lee Stewart on the 'Work of the RSPCA at Stapeley Grange'.



The facilities that the RSPCA have at Stapeley Grange that we saw illustrated in Lee's presentation were impressive. The centre is extremely specialised and is just one of the 4 Wild Life Centres the RSPCA have in the whole of the UK. He explained the work they do and the wide variety of animals that they treat. They give expert veterinary care and rehabilitation to wild life casualties throughout England and Wales. This was a very enjoyable talk that was linked with the coffee shop display held earlier in the year.

## Evening Talk by Colin Edmondson on 'Celebrating the River Weaver'.

There were many ways to celebrate the River Weaver. Colin identified a whole number of 'firsts' that celebrated the use of 'new for its day' technology such as the cylindrical locks systems, the purpose built ice sluice and the fabulous bridges in Northwich. As well as giving us the history with his excellent research, documentation and old photographs, Colin managed to inspire us with some wonderful pictures of the serenity and the beauty of the River Weaver Valley. This was a really informative and inspirational talk.



## Friends Preview Evening of Special Exhibition: 'Music in Cheshire'.

The Friends were delightfully entertained by Roy Clinging singing some traditional Cheshire songs. The Friends showed their hidden talents as they joined in with some of the choruses. We then viewed the excellently prepared exhibition, which highlighted Northwich's musical heritage.

## Forthcoming Friends Events Be sure not to miss!

**Visit to Tabley House with a guided Tour. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October. 2.15pm.**



Booking and payment must be in advance, please, via Rita Lamb, our Secretary. Tea and cake can be an added extra! Rita needs confirmed numbers and payment by 14 September, please.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. 7 for 7.30pm.**

Our **AGM** and a short talk entitled

'The Monarchy in 2012' given by Cheshire's Lord Lieutenant, David Briggs, M.B.E., KStJ.

David prefers to give a shorter talk, allowing for plenty of questions from his audience. Please don't disappoint him!



**Film Night: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

**'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.'**

Just look at the cast! It has got to be worth watching.

The Film Night numbers have been falling recently. We need you to tell us how to carry on! If you want us to! Types of film? How often?

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November: Evening Talk by Ray Rush.**

'Toys and Games' through the ages' Raymond is quite a character apparently. He brings over a 100 toys and games for us to look at. This is to link with the new exhibition. Shall we enjoy childhood again?

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Social with mulled wine and nibbles.**

To keep you entertained - A Vaguely Historical Quiz Night - don't panic - multiple choice answers

## Weaver Hall Museum News.      Keeper's Corner.

It seems like yesterday starting my new role as Keeper of Social History based at Weaver Hall Museum & Workhouse, but incredibly 8 weeks have flown by. Maybe it's my age as it is said that time goes quicker with every year that passes or perhaps it is the busy lives we lead?

In the relatively short time I have been in post, I have very much appreciated the welcome I have received from the Museum Friends, colleagues, volunteers, local groups and members of the public. There has also been a visit from the local newspaper which has now kindly introduced me to the wider local populous (not sure the accompanying image was too flattering, however, the Museum building in the background looked impressive!) All this support has assisted me to settle into the job and open my eyes to the high regard in which the Museum is held.

"Getting acquainted" has, as you can imagine, been dominating my early days here in Northwich: people to meet; museum collections to explore, both on display and in store; books and periodicals to read; systems to engage with and get used to; buildings and their operation to navigate; localities to identify with; and a plethora of background knowledge to digest. All this going on as Olympics fever sweeps the country and the school holidays are upon us.



Taking stock has been coupled with planning for the future. As a Friends group, I have been impressed by the planning towards and diversity of activities making up the Autumn/Winter programme. I am looking forward to attending as many of the events as possible whilst at the same time engaging in researching and planning museum projects such as the Cheshire Dialect exhibition due to open in January 2013 and investigating future activities to accompany it.

We are also looking towards creating a number of opportunities for members of the Friends to work with and alongside the Museum in order to further its public profile, research and presentation, whilst at the same time promoting the active endeavours of our Friends group.

To start the ball rolling, I would be delighted to hear from those Friends who might be interested in assisting with:

- ***Acting as ambassadors through attending local public events*** We can set up a small display promoting the Museum, the Friends and our events/activities through leaflet distribution and importantly meeting and engaging with interested individuals personally. People like to talk and it gives us the chance to enthuse about what we do. Ideally, if we could form a team of Friends to call upon, it can become a shared effort. We would envisage a minimum of 2 Friends manning a display at any one time and for a limited period so that it remains an enjoyable experience and not a duty. There are, for example, local and family history events at the Memorial Hall, Northwich this October and next February. It would be great to be represented at either.
- ***The Museum grounds*** More extensive than you might think, both at the front and rear of the building. Are there any Friends out there with even the faintest tinge of green in their fingers? I am sure there are! Contractors mow the grass for us on a fairly regular basis but the shrubbery and borders do need some occasional TLC and tidying. We also have exterior interpretation boards that need a once over from time to time.
- ***Developing a project to research the Workhouse dimension.*** We are looking to build upon the research that has already been undertaken on the site when it operated as a Workhouse and explore other sources. To begin this process, we are looking for assistance in combing through locally available sources such as the reports to be unearthed in the local newspapers.

If you think one (or more!) of the above opportunities might be of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact me for an informal discussion and I promise, any expression of interest will not be treated as a formal commitment. We need and you need to be sure this is for you, however, think of it as "nothing ventured, nothing gained!"

All my contact details are below  
and I look forward

to hearing

from you.

Best wishes,

Andrew

[Andrew Davies](#)

Keeper of Social History

Weaver Hall Museum & Workhouse,

162, London Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8AB

Tel. 01606 271640

e-mail:

[andrew.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



#### **Gift Aid - a note from our Treasurer**

Thanks to all who have gift aided; the most recent repayment to the Friends was £261.88. Just a reminder that you need to pay sufficient Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax to cover the 25p in every £ that we claim. Please inform us if this is no longer the case. HMRC advise that you need to be paying as much tax as the amount claimed by all charities to which you donate and have gift aided.