



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

**Saturday 26:** Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Jujitsu Suffragette. Living historians will demonstrate Victorian and Edwardian self-defence styles. Drop in 2 - 5pm.

**Wednesday 30: Tea and Talk** 3pm  
'Street Scenes of Old Northwich'.

**Thursday 31: Preview of Special Exhibition:**  
'Well aw'm gawmed! The Charms of Cheshire Dialect'.  
7 for 7.30pm **N.B. CHANGE OF DATE**

### FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 13: Evening Talk:** 7 for 7.30pm  
'The Daffodils of Whitegate'

A talk by Len Tomlinson exploring his experiences of daffodil growing on his local farm.

**Half Term Family Activities: 19, 20 and 21**

**19:** drop in for a game of **Scrabble** - all ages welcome

**20 and 21:** Super Science, explore local links with salt making, alkalis and polythene in these fun activities for families. **Friends do have to pay for these.**

**Wednesday 27: Tea and Talk** 3pm.

Take Ten: a revealing look at ten items from the Museum's reserve collections.

### MARCH

**Thursday 14: Evening Talk:** 7 for 7.30pm  
'The Lion Salt Works: Archaeological Recording of the Last Remaining Open Pan Salt Works'

A talk by Chris Hewitson, Project Archaeologist.

**Monday 25: Friends Visit to Daffodil Farm** 2pm

Full details on accompanying flier. Cost £5

Booking and payment must be in advance please, to Jenny before Monday 18 March.

**Wednesday 27: Tea and Talk** 3pm

The Story of Chester Silver - Peter Boughton

### APRIL

**Easter Holiday Family Activities:**

**3 and 4: Amazing Story Books**, create a pop-up book

**10 and 11: Treasure Maps**, be inspired by the maps and curiosities in our special exhibition and make your own secret scroll.

**Friends do have to pay for these.**

**Tuesday 16: Evening Talk:** 7 for 7.30pm

'The Usefulness of Knot Tying in History'  
A talk and demonstration by Dave Walker

**Wednesday 24: Tea and Talk** 3pm

## 'Well aw'm gawmed!'

The Charms of Cheshire Dialect  
Friends Preview of Special Exhibition:  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January: 7 for 7.30pm



This is an exhibition linking the dialect of Cheshire to its wider history. It explores, using a mixture of words and objects, the literature of the county, its customs, local trades and industries, its domestic and rural life. Come and hear Roy Clinging saying the Frodsham Alphabet. Will you understand?

## Do Something Different in 2013.

**Gardening:** would you like to be involved in starting a Workhouse Garden? See what crops the workhouse would grow. Meet other Friends. Read Keeper's Corner for details

**Research:** Can you spare an hour or so in Northwich Library to look through local newspapers on microfilm for articles on the Workhouse? Training Given. Meet other Friends. Read Keeper's Corner for details

## Dates for your Diary

**Edwardian Day:** Sunday 26 May 2-5 pm  
Help celebrate the centenary of the Northwich Pumping Station.

**WorkHouse Weekend:**

Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> : Keynote Speakers

Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> : Family Fun and Games on Workhouse theme.

## Forthcoming Events You Don't Want to Miss

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January: Special Exhibition: 'Well aw'm gawmed!'

The Charms of the Cheshire Dialect. 7 for 7.30pm

The Cheshire dialect has existed for centuries and many words derive from the Anglo-Saxon. The exhibition looks at the words and sayings linked to customs and traditions and those linked to Cheshire industries, such as the 'gutter viewers' and 'wychwallers' of the salt trade. It explores rural and domestic life, including food and remedies, flora and fauna, along with proverbs connected to place names such as 'As long as Helsby wears a hood, the weather's never very good'. So if you've ever wondered why Cheshire folk call starlings 'shepstirs' or what it means if someone says you have a 'face like a Buckley panmug' then this exhibition is a must-see.



Wednesday 13 February: 'The Daffodils of Whitegate'



Len Tomlinson has been growing and cutting daffodils at his Whitegate farm all his life. The farm has many acres of daffodils with hundreds of different varieties. Len has appeared on BBC Gardeners World. He has many entertaining stories about his life growing up on a busy farm, which has been in his family for several generations.

N.B. IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS' VISIT TO THE FARM;

DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN FLIER AND SEND TO JENNY WITH MONEY TO BOOK YOUR PLACE. There are plenty of places.

Thursday 28 February: **Film Club: Anna Karenina (2012)**

Cert 12a, 130mins, rating 7.1/10 7 for 7.30pm

This is a modern version by Tom Stoppard. It is a beautiful and visually stunning film, set in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian high society. The film stars Keira Knightley and Jude Law. Overall - an enchanting film.



Thursday 14 March: 'The Lion Salt Works: Archaeological Recording of the Last Remaining Open Pan Salt Works' 7 for 7.30pm



This talk by Chris Hewitson, Project Archaeologist, will be a brief introduction to the history of the Lion Salt Works. It will explore how industrial archaeological techniques can elucidate new information about a

well-known and researched monument. It will also aim to show how local groups can get involved in industrial archaeology.



Tuesday 16 April :**The Usefulness of Knot Tying in History'**



**A talk and demonstration by Dave Walker**

Dave has turned his hobby into a full time career. Do you realise that without knots, the Pyramids in Egypt may never have been built. Is this true? Do knots have a historical significance? Hopefully we will find out and we might even have a 'go' and tie some knots!



**Friends Events Since September Newsletter – you didn't miss them did you?**  
**Visits to St Mary's Church, Astbury.**



As you can see from the picture taken from the top of the church tower, it was a glorious day and more importantly a fascinating guided tour. This was led by the Rev Jonathan Sharples. He was extremely proud and enthusiastic about the heritage and history of his church. He had good reason to be proud, as you can see in this picture of the lectern. *(pictures courtesy of Rita Lamb)*



**Visit to Tabley House.**

We were so lucky! Another gorgeous day in this wet summer! My memory is of the symmetry of the house; a wealth of gorgeous paintings, some of which were being renovated as we watched; and the profit made by Manchester University on the sale of the buildings and land! We had guided tours for our groups, one more detailed than the other. My group had finished their tea and cake, before the others arrived!



**Our AGM with the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs. MBE, K.St.J.**



The AGM business was conducted with the Chair, Jenny, thanking all the Friends for their continued support and Andrew, Keeper of Social History, giving us an overview of the Museum's work and giving us a taste for projects coming in the future. David Briggs gave us his thoughtful view of the Monarchy today, 'changing, but unchanging'. He was then asked a series of fairly direct questions about the purpose of a Lord Lieutenant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I personally thought he answered all of the questions very honestly and amusingly. I was quite inspired by the charitable work he has instigated.

**Ray Rush with his Toys and Games.**



I knew Mr Rush was bringing lots of older toys and games, but I was expecting him to be giving a detailed history of them. Imagine my surprise, as we played with them! Was this our 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> childhood? It was certainly very enjoyable.



**Christmas Quiz with a historical theme.** At the end of several rounds of historical questions, there was a three-way tie for the final. Amazing! Our Friends are really well informed.

An interesting evening, with a big 'thank you' to Andrew acting as our quiz master.

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

Driving into Northwich this morning, a white frost had replaced the previous evening's freezing fog. Conditions did not, however, deter hardy members of the newly-formed Gardening Group mentioned in the last Newsletter. Donning fingerless gloves and tackling some of the invasive plants overtaking the site's borders, they have already made an impact in removing ivy surrounding the Museum's front door and car park wall to reveal the long-hidden brickwork. If you would like to join the Gardening group, please contact me at the museum. 'Phone number below.



The Historical Research Group has now got underway after an induction morning at Northwich Library. We were given an overview of the library and its resources, followed by a practical demonstration on how to use the microfilm readers that will be central to our research into Northwich Workhouse. It will also assist in discovering other topics of social history interest that can be used as documentary evidence for future Museum exhibitions and displays. Again, if you would like to help in this research, please contact me at museum. 'Phone number below.

Looking towards warmer times, we are busy planning the 2013 events season. On Sunday 26 May we are planning a joint event with the Edwardian Pumping Station (a short walking distance from the Museum) which is celebrating the centenary of its establishment. For our part, we are thinking of an Edwardian Day. Full details later.

This will be followed by the Workhouse Weekend, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Generously supported by the Friends, two headline speakers will be taking part in a special Workhouse Workshop on the Saturday. Peter Higginbotham and Dr Paul Carter will be presenting illustrated talks on *Workhouse Food* and *Workhouse Punishment* respectively. Sunday will feature an afternoon of Workhouse-related activities aimed at the family audience.

As we start the New Year, another project will begin to accelerate in its development. The Lion Salt Works has a new and exciting Interpretation Plan to guide it towards becoming a major visitor attraction. The design and detail are coming together and although daunting in scope and ambition, there will now follow 18 months of intense activity on site. Watch this space for future updates.

It remains for me to say thank you again for all your support for Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse during 2012. It is much appreciated and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2013, hopefully to the preview evening for the Cheshire Dialect exhibition on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 7 pm. Please note the important date change for this event. It was previously advertised as being on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP by contacting the Museum.

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### Film Club News.

We are planning 6 Film Club meetings in 2013.

These are the dates for your diaries: Thursday 28 February, Thursday 28 March, Thursday 25 April, Thursday 30 May, a gap for holidays and then Thursday 31 October and finally Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. (i.e. they are the last Thursday in the month).

The cost is still £4 for Friends and £5 for your guests.

Tea and coffee will be served. If you wish to bring your own wine, please do so.