



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Wednesday 22: Tea and Talk 3pm

'Stories of school visits to Weaver Hall'.

Sunday 26: Edwardian Fair 1- 4.30pm FREE

Listen to the band at 1.30 and come and buy.

Do dress up! Have a go at an Edwardian Game.

Thursday 30: Friends' Film Club: 7 for 7.30pm

'Skyfall' with Daniel Craig

JUNE

Thursday 20: Friends' Preview of New Exhibition:

'Life below Stairs' 7 for 7.30pm

Workhouse Weekend.

Saturday 22 Workhouse Study Day:

Cost £15. All details to be found on pages 2 and 3.

Sunday 23 Workhouse Family Day:

Family Fun and Games on Workhouse theme.

Wednesday:26 Tea and Talk 3pm

'Images of Rock Salt Mines'

JULY

Wednesday 24 and 25: Family Activities

Play with Victorian Toys and make a marble game.

Railway Weekend: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28

To celebrate 150 years of the Mid Cheshire Railway Line

Archive film in 'Regalette', Displays, Model Railways

in Guardian's Room and Miniature Railway outside.

Wednesday 31 July Tea and Talk 3pm

'Keeping house - before modern gadgets'.

AUGUST

Summer Holiday Family Activities:

31 July and 1 August: Home Life Chores

and make a Victorian milk bath.

7 and 8 August: making Pasta Collages.

14 and 15 August: making Felt.

21 and 22 August: Medieval Life and make a clay gargoyle.

28 and 29th make a Masterpiece: Portraits.

Woolly Weekend: 24, 25 and 26 August

Come and see a group of spinners and weavers in action

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 17th Evening Talk: 7 for 7.30pm

Talk by Dr Kate Riddington entitled: 'Extinction.'

This will link to the next exhibition.

Friends do have to pay for all Family Activities.

'Life Below Stairs'

A new exhibition

Friends Preview

Thursday 20 June: 7 for 7.30pm



Wonderful News for Weaver Hall Museum

Museum Director, Sue Hughes, in conjunction with the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port has successfully applied for an Arts Council England grant of £294,000.

This will pay for two temporary members of staff for a year, and the good news for Weaver Hall is that it also covers the costs of developing and installing our new galleries after the open pan salt material is moved to Lion Salt Works. One of the members of staff will focus on the workhouse themes and ideas, and will also be working with different community groups to develop a marketing strategy for the entire industrial heritage in the area, and to encourage and positively advance tourism.

Congratulations to Sue and the Museum Service for obtaining this grant.

Forthcoming Events - Not to be Missed.

Edwardian Fair - Sunday 26th May - 1pm to 4.30pm

*In order to help celebrate the 100th Birthday of Northwich's Pumping Station. This event is **FREE**. This is the Grand Plan:*

The band will play from 1.30pm to 2.15pm and later at the Pumping Station. The Stalls will be in the Guardian's Room selling Plants, Preserves, Home-made Cakes, Books, and White Elephant. Items will be sold at prices of £2, £1, 50p and 20p and Museum Shop Stock at individual Sale prices.

There will be a couple of games outside and a typical 'photo opportunity'.

Refreshments will be on sale in the Museum's Coffee Shop, with Tea and Coffee priced at £1 with cake and squash at 50p each.

We hope it will be a fun, social afternoon when you will get to know more of our Friends. Everyone helping is a Friend of Weaver Hall.

How to Donate items for the stalls.

To cause minimum disruption to the working museum - please, if you are donating something for one of the stalls, could you deliver on one of the following days:

Tuesday 14 May from 2 - 5pm - deliver to annexe to Sue and Rita

Saturday 18 May from 2 -5pm - deliver to museum reception.

If you are happy to make a cake, Jenny will be waiting in the Guardians' Room from 2 - 5pm on Saturday 25 May to take deliveries and any time on the Sunday from 9.30 am.

To make this event special - Costume.



Andrew, our Keeper of Social History, suggests we might like to wear:

Ladies - Long skirt-plain colour, white blouse, period jewellery - pendant or brooch, hat-wide brim, shawl.

Gents - smart dark trousers, shirt and tie, straw boater, jacket or waistcoat, or striped shirt.



Friends' Film Club - Thursday 30th May

7 for 7.30pm "Skyfall" (Cert 12A)

Bond's loyalty to M is tested when her past comes back to haunt her. Whilst MI6 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how personal the cost.



Friends' Special Preview of the new exhibition: 'Life Below Stairs.'



Thursday 20th June. 7 for 7.30pm.

Life Below Stairs - an exhibition that explores the roles and lifestyles of those employed in domestic service at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There will be a focus on domestic household chores, how they were undertaken manually, and the effect of new electric and gas appliances that lessened the drudgery of everyday household toil.

Workhouse Weekend - Saturday 22 June and Sunday 23 June.

Saturday is the Study Day. The day costs £15, including buffet lunch, refreshments, and museum entry. There are 4 presentations:

- Peter Higginbotham, workhouse expert and prolific author presents his fascinating research into workhouse food.
- Dr Paul Carter, expert from the National Archives, Kew explores workhouse discipline.

- Bob Senior worked as a handyman at Weaver Hall from 1962-69 and will relate stories from the latter years of the workhouse including daily routine, lost buildings, and some of the characters who lived there.
- Roy Clinging, a musician and local historian, will be presenting songs of poverty and the workhouse which he has discovered in 19th century ballads and broadsheets.



The Historical Research Group will display and discuss their workhouse research.

Places on this Study Day must be Booked in advance.

For further information and details of how to book, please telephone 01606 271647 or e-mail WeaverHallAdmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or visit: www.weaverhallmuseum.org.uk

Sunday is the Living History Day for families. Cost is normal Museum entrance fee. You can follow in the footsteps of paupers, meet the workhouse master, take a lesson in the school room, and help inmates with the chores.

Railway Weekend: Saturday 27 July and Sunday 28 July.



This is to celebrate 150 years of the Mid Cheshire Railway Line. Normal museum entry fee

There are Railway films in the 'Regalette' showing archive local footage. There will be a display in the library, a Model Railway Exhibition in the Guardians' Room, and a miniature railway outside.

Raffle with fabulous prizes.

Woolly Weekend: 24, 25, 26 August.

Members of North Cheshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers will be demonstrating their skills throughout the August Bank Holiday Weekend and encouraging visitors to try some simple techniques for themselves. Lots of fun with a woolly end product!



You didn't miss these events did you? Surely not?



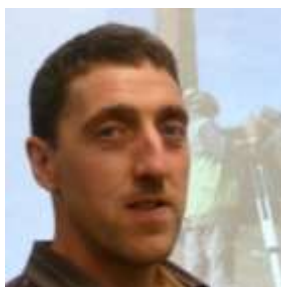
Roy Clinging talking in Cheshire dialects.



Len Tomlinson talking about Daffodils



Film Club Evening: 'Anna Karenina'



Chris Hewitson talking about the Lion Salt Works



Film Club Evening: 'We Bought a Zoo'



Daffodil Farm on the last Open Day. Flowers are still not open.



Dave Walker talking and demonstrating Knots



Film Club Evening:
'The Artist'



John and Nora helping at the Family History Day

Weaver Hall Museum News.

Keeper's Corner.

Hello Friends,

This is certainly a bumper packed Newsletter and yes, I am going to add to it!

With the Workhouse Study Day approaching on Saturday 22nd June (don't forget to book yourselves in as there are limited places available), I am pleased to report that our Historical Research Group have been making progress in gleaning extracts printed in the Northwich Guardian during the second half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries. As a group we meet up on a monthly basis to report on what has been unearthed, particularly articles relating to Northwich Workhouse. Some can be extremely grim but at the same time revealing and the fruits of this research will be made public at the Study Day. Thank you to all those who have given up a lot of valuable time to assist us with this on-going project. We are also grateful to members of the Friends Gardening Group. They have tackled with gusto the ivy issue on and around our boundary walls in spite of somewhat inclement weather.

Talking of foliage, did you know it is National Flower Arranging Day on Friday 3rd May? We have invited members of Eddisbury Flower Arranging Club to come in and create a flower display inspired by the salt displays. Do come along to have a look at their efforts. The display will continue until Sunday 12th May.

We also have a new display on the walls of the coffee shop. Countryside images which were entered in a photographic competition organised by the Friends of Anderton and Marbury. The displays will change every 2 months until mid-October and will reflect different themes.

Finally a coincidence. At the end of the latest Friends Committee meeting, I met the local M.P. Graham Evans who was very interested in familiarising himself with the contents and displays of the museum. About 30 minutes into his conducted tour his mobile telephone beeped to alert him that the death of Margaret Thatcher had just been announced. I thought that this would abruptly curtail his visit, but other than having to respond to a number of urgent texts, he continued his tour and an hour and a half later left much the wiser as to the purpose of and functions of the museum, whilst clasping a Friends membership form I had thrust into his hand! A memorable day.

Very best wishes,

Andrew

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Friends - if you are coming to an event, please could you give more than 2 or 3 hours notice. - plea from museum staff and biscuits buyers!!!