



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1: March 2008

Editor: Robert Marshall

In this first issue of our newsletter, we will be looking at how recent events have gone; detailing future events; getting up to date with what's happening to the Salt Museum in 'Curator's Corner' and talking to our new Chair, Jenny Tyson.

Recent Events



The Salt Museum played host to the Cheshire Best Kept Station Competition on the January 22. Felicity Goodey, former BBC journalist and now taking the role of Chair of the Steering Group directing Cheshire's Year of Gardens, was guest of honour. Over 90 people, including six mayors and the Chairman of the County Council attended this high profile function and the event provided an excellent opportunity to promote the Salt Museum, as guests were free to wander and view the galleries.

30 January saw the Salt Museum host another popular event attracting over 88 members of the River Weaver Navigation Society. A member of our own 'Friends', Colin Edmondson, gave an illustrated talk about the heritage sites along part of the River Weaver. Colin recently featured on the BBC 'Countryfile' programme which was dedicated to salt and the Northwich & Winsford areas. Matt, our curator, lent the BBC film from the archive and aided their research. Colin has agreed to talk to us later in the year – watch this space!



The launch of the Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union Centenary Exhibition took place early in January. To go with this exhibition on February 13 David Marsh, past President of the Union, gave a talk to 22 people in the Regalette. He told us stories about the personalities and characters who developed techniques to improve and popularise photography. It was a fascinating history. He also showed us famous images from some of their work. These images were superb and illustrated David's points very well. Many of these images are to be found in the celebratory centenary booklet he prepared, which is on sale in the Salt Museum at £2 each.



Visitors at the opening of the Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union Centenary Exhibition

A Talk with Jenny Tyson.

Jenny took over the role of Chair of The Friends, following the retirement of Murray Jones, who is moving south to be closer to family.

Ed: Jenny, how long have you been associated with the Friends?

Jenny: I have been a member since the very beginning, when the Friends were first created.

Ed: Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Jenny: I was born in Sevenoaks in Kent and moved to Cheshire when I got married. When I became Head of the Geography department at Hartford High School, I was totally fascinated by the geography and history of the Northwich area and its underlying geology. The development and prosperity of the town is all linked to salt. I wanted to ensure the pupils understood the uniqueness of their heritage. To that end I developed a unit of work that encouraged the pupils and their parents to visit the Salt Museum. This was the start of my links with the Salt Museum.

Ed: How did you feel when you were asked to become Chair?

Jenny: If I am honest, a bit daunted.

Ed: Now you've settled in are there any changes you would like to see in the way Friends operate?

Jenny: Yes! I'd like the Friends to get to know each other better. I'd like us all to help promote the Salt Museum and celebrate all the events organised by Matt and his team.

Ed: You've been arranging trips for the Friends, can you tell us about them?

Jenny: Yes! As you know it's Cheshire's Year Of Gardens and so we have arranged a tour of Mount Pleasant Gardens at Kelsall, for June 3. There are more details on a separate flyer.

We have also arranged a coach trip on Tuesday, September 16 to the National Memorial Arboretum and to Lichfield City. We do hope you will be able to join us on this and future 'Away days'.

Forthcoming Events

April

Wednesday 9 & Thursday 10

Launch of Farming in Cheshire Past & Present Exhibition for Friends. The exhibition opens to the public on April 11 and runs through to July 6. This exhibition has involved so many local farmers and others in the farming and agriculture industry that the launch event needs two days.

Thursday 24

Film Night in Regalette. £4 (£3 for Friends) 7 p.m. for 7:30 start.

Tonight's film is the world acclaimed '**Atonement**'. This is clearly very popular as already over half the tickets have been sold.



Tuesday 29

Evening talk, free to Friends, if you book, again 7 p.m. for 7:30.

This talk is entitled '**One Hundred Years of Farming in Cheshire**' and is given by Michael Mulliner. Michael was farming in south Cheshire at Moor Hall near Nantwich. He and his father were involved in cheese making using milk from their own herd.

He has now retired from farming and is going to show some photographs of his Edwardian farming ancestors. They are very evocative of bygone days in farming and should be really interesting to see.



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Wednesday 30

Don't forget - **Tea and Talk** 2:30 p.m. for 3, £1. Matt is talking about his research on Farming in Cheshire 2007-08. I'm sure he will have an excellent presentation for us. These talks are very popular - just turn up - no booking needed.



May

Tuesday 13

Evening talk, free to Friends, if you book, 7 p.m. for 7:30. Keith Siddorn of Meadow Bank Farm near Broxton will be talking about **'The Changing Face of Farming in Cheshire'**. He is the fourth generation to be working his farm. His farm started as a classic Cheshire dairy farm; then going with the times became an intensive arable farm; changing again to less intensive farming, developing wildlife corridors and encouraging sensitive stewardship of the land with a herd of rare breed Hereford cattle. He clearly will be able to give a very knowledgeable talk about how farms are having to diversify. The video taken on his farm will be one of the highlighted presentations on display in the Regalette.



Saturday 24 - Sunday 25

Open Weekend! The doors are thrown open with free admission to all in celebration of **'Museums & Galleries Month'**. This is your chance to have a look at areas that are not normally open to Friends or the public. There will be plenty to see and do with staff & Friends committee members on hand for a chat.

Tuesday 27 - Thursday 29

'Mini Film Festival' This is half term week and the Regalette will be showing three films a day. The choice sounds excellent - something for everyone - not just the children! Here are a few examples to whet your appetite:



'Breach' - about the American Secret Service based on a true story

'Blame it on Fidel' - a comedy drama about a Parisian child whose parents become rather radical.

'The Shadow of the Moon' - a fascinating documentary about the Apollo moon landing.

'Ratatouille' - a comedy about a rat that knows how to cook.

'Into the Wild' - based on a true story about an American student who disappeared into the wilds of Alaska

Wednesday 28

Tea and Talk 2:30 p.m. for 3, £1. Tom Hughes will be talking about the **'Legends of Cheshire'**. Will Tom be dressed in costume? You will have to come and see.



June

Tuesday 3

It's 'Cheshire's Year of Gardens' and we have arranged for Friends to have a tour of Mount Pleasant Gardens, Kelsall. Cost £4.50 including refreshments, see separate flyer for details.

Thursday 12.

Film Night in Regalette. £4 (£3 for Friends) 7 p.m. for 7:30 start. TBC.



Thursday 19

Evening talk, free to Friends, if you book, starts at 7 p.m. Richard York will be entertaining us with the sounds of **'Medieval Music'**. He will be playing, amongst other instruments, the Harp, Hurdy-gurdy and Shawm. This will be a lively performance and a chance to see some of these fascinating instruments.



Wednesday 25

Tea and Talk 2:30 p.m. for 3, £1. Tom Hughes and Colin Mann will be talking about the '**Cheshire Archers**'. This should be a top notch event, so don't miss out!



July

Tuesday 1

Evening talk, free to Friends, if you book, 7 p.m. for 7:30. John Platt OBE, Chairman of the Cheshire Agricultural Show and Stephen Wharfe of Whitehouse Farm, Plumley join us to talk about '**The Cheshire Show Then & Now**'. The Cheshire Show is one of the largest events held in the county.



This talk is a chance to see how things have changed over the years.

More events to come...

Curators Corner



The Salt Museum has made two new, interesting acquisitions. A **Victorian funeral bier** has been acquired to link into the plans to develop the information about the workhouse. Matt and his team are going to build up the information about the workhouse. You might spot information boards appearing in different rooms soon. Keep looking! The other acquisition is a **very rare postcard** published by the 1924 Mount Everest team - Cheshire born George Mallory died whilst attempting to conquer the mountain. This might appear in a special exhibition. Watch this space!

Let there be light! Matt has had his prayers answered. Cheshire County Council has invested in a completely **new lighting system** in the Salt Museum to replace the old and in many cases defunct one. You should now be able to see every exhibit with total clarity! In the next few months you should also see improvements on the outside of the Salt Museum. The local authority is cleaning all the gutters, even of the tower, and then **painting** all the windows and doors. This should really improve this lovely Grade II listed building and keep it water tight for the future.

March 26

Tea & Talk
Saxon Cheshire



March 26/27

Easter Activity.

Crash, Bang Wallop - What a Picture.

March 27

Film Golden Door

April 2/3

Weekend Activity - Handsome Hats.

April 9 & 10

Launch of Farming in Cheshire Past & Present Exhibition for Friends

April 11 to July 6

Exhibition: Farming in Cheshire Past & Present opens to the public.

April 24

Film Atonement

April 29

Evening talk - 100 years of farming in Cheshire

April 30 Tea & Talk - Farming in Cheshire 2007/8

May 13

Evening Talk - The Changing Face of Farming in Cheshire

May 24/25

Open Weekend.

May 27-29

Moving Pictures, mini film festival

May 28

Tea & Talk - Legends of Cheshire

June 3

Tour of Mount Pleasant Gardens, Kelsall for Friends

June 12

Film TBC

June 19

Evening Talk - Medieval Music

June 25

Tea & Talk - The Cheshire Archers

July 1

Evening Talk - The Cheshire Show Then & Now

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and that it has been useful. We would be interested to hear what you think or of any suggestions that you may have for future issues. Send any comments to The Friends Of The Salt Museum, c/o The Salt Museum, 162 London Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8AB