



Calendar of Events 2011

"Friends" Events in bold

JANUARY

End of Toy Exhibition: 'I had one of those'

Wed 26 - Tea and Talk: 20th Century Toys

Thurs 27 - Film Night 'Inception'

FEBRUARY

Thursday 3 - Launch of Viking Exhibition: 'Reap and Tillage'

Tuesday 15 - Evening Talk by Peter Dibben : 'Exploring Alderley Edge Caves'

Wed 23 - Tea and Talk : Liverpool and the Emigrant Trade.

Thurs 24 - Film Night 'White Material'

MARCH

Wednesday 16 - Evening Talk by Ian Unzell: 'Vikings: Warriors and Weavers'

Sunday 27 - Visit to Lion Salt Works 2 pm

Wed 30 - Tea and Talk : Cheshire in the Viking Age by Liz Royles.

Thurs 31 - Film Night 'Winters Bone'

APRIL

Tuesday 19 - 2pm Guided Walk of Northwich by Phil Robinson

Wed 27 - Tea and Talk : A Trip Back to Victorian Northwich in photographs

Thurs 28 - Film Night 'The Illusionist'

MAY

Thursday 5 - Exhibition Launch : 'The Allure of Vehicles'

Tuesday 17 - Evening Talk by Mark Bevan: 'Salt, Slavery and Cheshire'.

Wed 25 - Tea and Talk
New Locomotive - LMS Patriot Project
by Richard Sant.

Thurs 26 - Film Night 'Made in Dagenham'

Annual General Meeting - 21st October 2010.

Business Highlights:

The New Constitution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the Friends present at the Annual General Meeting. So we have become The Friends of Weaver Hall Museum. The Financial Statements, explained by our Treasurer, Lorna Simm, were also accepted. Sincere thanks were given to Voiseys, Chartered Accountants of Warrington for their independent examination of the accounts.

Robert Marshall, who has been a stalwart of the committee for 3 years, has not put himself up for re-election. He has been responsible for setting up and running our website, as well as being editor of the first nine issues of our newsletter. Rob was thanked for all his hard work on behalf of The Friends.

Angela Jones and Eileen Moncrieff were welcomed as new members of The Friends committee. Jenny Tyson gave a report of Friends events during the year. This was followed by Matt Wheeler, Curator, who gave a summary of the events of the year and the plans for the coming year.

We have a brand new website to reflect our new name: www.fowhm.org.uk. This has been very kindly set up for us by John Hulme's son. Ian - who we sincerely thank.

Presentation Highlights:

Our AGM was followed by an excellent presentation by Peter Middleton from L and R Consulting. He showed us the plans for transformation of the Lion Salt Works, with some lovely ideas for 'hands on' activities; a very special community meeting space and an intriguing multi media presentation area to get the 'sights and sounds' of salt making. Peter and Matt answered questions on the



Before

present progress. Matt has offered Friends a 'Before' look around ahead of restoration work starts in earnest. Matt has purchased 'hard hats' for the purpose and the visit is planned to take place on Sunday 27 March 2011.



Multi media space

Current Exhibition at Weaver Hall Museum: 'I Had One of Those' Continues until 30 January 2011

Not to be missed, as you can see from this report by Angela Jones.



Wow! With its nostalgic view of the toys, games and crazes of our childhoods in the 20th Century, it certainly does not disappoint! From the lovingly crafted wooden toys of the 1940's, the tin robots and cowboy models, the dolls, puppets and construction kits, such as 'Bayko' and 'Meccano' of the 1950's, to the 1960's introduction of 'Lego', plus much, much more; vivid and treasured memories



are evoked. Iconic toys, such as the 'Spacehopper', 'Etch a Sketch', and 'Action Man', show how timeless some of these have become, and who does not remember the 'Stylophone' and 'Rubik's cubes'? Whilst some toys have faded into history, others have been adapted to current fashions. One of the earliest electronic toys - the 'Pac-Man', prefaces the single most popular influence of the 21st century - electronic games such as 'Playstation', the 'X box', the 'Wii' and on-line games. Prior to the technological revolution, children enjoyed the board and card games, books and annuals which preceded these, many of which still have a place today.

Medieval Trade Links in Chester.



Talk given by Dr Jane Laughton on Tuesday 23rd November.

Jane introduced her talk by saying that Chester's medieval trade was on three levels and it was extensive. It was International with particular links to Ireland. Boats accessed Chester via the River Dee right into the end of Watergate Street. The National trade was carried on using pack horses or horse and carts. She explained the developments taking place. For instance fords were turned into proper river crossings with a bridge building programme. This was seen in

local place names such as Stamford Bridge and Bridge Trafford. Chester's importance for trade is shown in having two medieval fairs, a Midsummer one, a month long and another at Michaelmas. It was also accentuated with a number of crafts and guilds based in the city. Local trade, with products like cheese, salt and leather happened on a daily basis.



Jane made her talk very interesting with 'snippets' about individual trading families in Chester and pointing out different areas of Chester important for particular products, such as Eastgate Street for salt and leather, and Bridge Street for fine linen and silks. Jane altered my perception of medieval trading from 'muck, mud, disaster and shortages' to one of calm, colourful and plentiful access to fine quality products from all over the country. Report by Jenny Tyson.

Victorian Optical Toys

Talk given by Nigel Richards on Tuesday 7th December.



For those of us who braved the icy conditions, Nigel gave us a superb 'hands on' experience. Nigel told us he had two passions, photography and collecting. He brought with him just part of his collection of Victorian Optical Toys. We all 'played' with a wonderful selection of Kaleidoscopes; some Thaumatrope (one circle of card with an images either side on string to swizzle); and ancient and modern Kineographs (the Flick Book). We were able to touch and enjoy the antique Peep Eggs of 1840, and watch Nigel demonstrate the replica Phrenakistoscope and his 1860's Zoetrope. We had nothing but admiration for the inventive Victorians and praise to Nigel for showing us just a small part of his collection. A thoroughly fascinating evening.



Nigel has 2 websites: www.nigelrichards.co.uk which focuses on his camera collections and www.nigelrichards.org.uk which illustrate some of his wonderful photographs, some of which have been displayed in the coffee shop. Report by Jenny Tyson.

Forthcoming Events

Exploring Alderley Edge Caves with Nigel Dibben. Tuesday 15th February



Nigel will talk about the development of the Alderley Edge mines and their importance in the mid-19th century. He will explore the links to the chemical industry in Cheshire and Glasgow and to mining in Spain.

Many of the mines are owned by the National Trust and leased to the Derbyshire Caving Club. They have an excellent website you might like to look at www.derbysc.org.uk. For those who feel fit and active we might organise a guided tour, after

Nigel's talk, see below.

The Vikings - 2 Dates for your Diaries :



**The Vikings - Exhibition
'Reap and Tillage in Cheshire'
Launch: Thursday 3rd February**

The influence of the Vikings in Cheshire appears to have been very different from other places in the UK. It seems to have been a peaceful and a beneficial time with plenty of trade. Come and see if this is true and look at the artefacts The Vikings left behind.

**The Viking - Evening Tal
Vikings! Warriors and
Weavers'.
Wednesday 16th March**

This is given by Ian and Hazel Unzell using replica clothing and weapons. This promises to be a very interesting evening. Can't imagine purpose of weapons!

Guided Walk of Northwich with Phil Robinson. Tuesday 19th April at 2pm.



Do you really know the town where you live, Northwich? If you join us on a walk with the museum's very own Phil Robinson, you are sure to learn some surprising facts, or find something new.

See below for details.



Visits and Guided Tours and Walks.

Booking - just ring the contact provided below. The only fair way we can do it - is first come, first served. We will then start a reserve list.

Visit to Alderley Edge
Guided Tour of Caves
Sunday *Date to be confirmed.*

Meet at The Wizard car park. Cost £3, if NT member -free. Good footwear is essential and older clothes. Helmets and lamps are provided.
Cost: is £5 + car park as above
Interested contact: Jenny Tyson: 01244 300782

Guided tour of Lion Salt Works at 2pm
Sunday 27th March.

Meet at the Lion Salt Works in suitable clothing and very sensible footwear.
Matt will give us hard hats for the 'Before' tour.
Lasts approximately 1 hour
No cost. Max 25 people
Interested Contact: Betty Knight: 01606 01928 788088

Guided walk of Northwich by Phil Robinson at 2pm
on Tuesday 19th April.

Meet at Weaver Hall for a guided tour of the special features of Northwich.
Lasts approximately 2 hours
Sensible clothing - you know English weather
Cost: £2 Max 25 people
Interested contact: Jenny Tyson: 01244 300782

Curator's Corner.

2011 at Weaver Hall Museum & Workhouse promises to be an exciting and varied year with lots to entice visitors of all ages and interests.

On the exhibition front, our successful and popular toys exhibition continues until the end of January. We will then be exploring the Vikings in Cheshire with our 'Reap & Tillage' exhibition which comes to us from the Grosvenor Museum where it has proved a big hit with visitors. There will be artefacts never before seen in Cheshire loaned from the Manx Heritage Museum, Norfolk Museums Service and the National Museums Wales. The theme will be interpreted in other exciting ways through a series of holiday activities and talks. Don't miss the evening presentation by Ian and Hazel Uzzell on 16 March - they really bring this fascinating period to life.

After Vikings, we will be focusing on 'The Allure of Transport' which opens on 6 May and coincides neatly with the 'Thundersprint' weekend. A complementary exhibition about this unique biking extravaganza can be seen in the Coffee Shop throughout April with many images and some film. Talking of the Coffee Shop we are increasingly using this space for showcasing a variety of artistic and local history themes. We begin the year with a display about our local cinemas and I appeal to anyone who might have images or ephemera relating to the Northwich picture houses (The Castle, The Central The Pavilion, The Plaza and The Regal) to get in touch. It's surprising how few photos there are of the cinemas and cinema goers but I guess you tend to leave your camera behind when you go to the movies. The third Coffee Shop display of the season will be 'The Weaver' showcasing, again, the work of our talented local 50+ Art group.

'The Regalette' will be opening its doors again with all the best films of recent months. For those of you who like animation I particularly recommend 'The Illusionist' on 28 April and we also have 'How to Train Your Dragon' for the young and young at heart during the February half-term!

So, whatever your interest, I'm confident there will be something on offer for you at Weaver Hall. Have a great Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all to the museum again next year!

Best Wishes

Matt Wheeler

New Committee of the Friends of Weaver Hall.

The first meeting of the new committee of the Friends of Weaver Hall took place on Tuesday 2nd November and we agreed these rules to go with our constitution.

Rules and Regulations to go with the Constitution.

1. Membership - if not paid up by 1st July, membership deemed to have lapsed.
2. Junior Membership 16-18 years, matching the rules at the museum.
3. Matt asked that his booking rules be part of these rules and regulations i.e. Friends must book events at least 2 weeks in advance of an event. The museum needs to be sure of numbers in advance for fire regulations and logistics, plus catering. Please also let the museum know if you are unable to attend. Your place can then be offered to others.

Thank You. A very great 'thank you' must go to both our new sponsors for our new Friends' website. Our sponsors are Roberts **Bakery** of Rudheath and **CRS Consultants Ltd**, The Bull Ring, Northwich. We are very grateful to them. Without their help the new website might not have been up running so quickly.

Northwich and District Heritage Society.

The next meeting is on Friday 7th January and is a talk by Bob Thomas entitled: '**1642 AND ALL THAT**'. This presentation is on The English Civil War.

www.northwich-heritage

British Association of Friends of Museums.

BaFM reports 'More people visiting museums' A recent survey carried out on behalf of the Dept of Culture and Media reveals there is an upward trend in visits to museums, with 46% of adults visiting a museum, art gallery or archive last year, compared with 41% in 2007. www.bafm.org.uk

Family History Society of Cheshire.

Family History Fair
Northwich Memorial Hall
Saturday 19th February
2011. www.fhsc.org.uk

Your Friends Committee for 2011

Jenny Tyson Chair
Betty Knight Vice Chair
Lorna Simm Treasurer
Rita Lamb Secretary
Mary Curry Membership
John Hulme
Barrie Jones
Nora Dolphin
Eileen Moncrieff
Angela Jones
Matt Wheeler ex officio.