

# April 2019

## Latest news from your Museum

### ART COMPETITION



In partnership with Malmesbury Arts Society, the Museum education team led by volunteers Janet Casselden and Carolyn Brothwood visited local schools with a presentation about Thomas Hobbes, produced by Tony McAleavy. The children submitted artwork which was judged and displayed in the Church over a weekend.

Prizes were donated by The Arts Society. The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Malmesbury, Fran Vandelli. Volunteers from both organisations manned the display over the weekend. Families and children came to see their artwork. They now know about Thomas Hobbes and his work.

One of our aims is to use the building for education and learning for which it is perfect. The slide projection onto the wall worked very well. Thanks Mike Lewis.



We have held three events in the Julia and Hans Rausing building. The wonderful Barn choir from Dorset, the annual Museum quiz, and a very successful talk by Dr Phil Judkins on Malmesbury's part in making radar equipment in WW2. This last event was sold out. We have a seating capacity of 80 and we print 80 tickets. Some are sold online on Eventbrite, they can also be bought at the Museum where we can now accept credit card payments. These events, as well as being entertaining, contribute to Museum funds.

## THE MUSEUM SHOP





Now that we take card payments the shop has some higher value items. Beautiful, limited edition, hand -made bags from Kathryn Design in Wells, jewellery from India and Peru, Cotswold Lavender products, plus popular local artists cards and local history books. All proceeds support the Museum.

## THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

The collection team has audited a great part of the collection. This involves checking items in the former museum store, carrying them over to the church, cataloguing, repacking and placing them in the new store in the church, then entering all the details on a museum database called MODES which documents all items in the collection. It is a long job. Deborah Clogg and the team have been working on it since December.

## THE GARDEN

The wonderful sculpture outside the hall , designed and made by Mellissa Cole, is now on an automatic sensor so will be lit every night.

The volunteer garden designers Melissa Robb and Chris McAleavy have suggested planting an ornamental quince which they will organise. Judy Jones kindly agreed to weed and water the garden. If any of you would like to offer occasional help with weeding and watering please let us know.

## ACCREDITATION

We have received our letter from The Arts Council, inviting us to renew our accreditation. We shall have to complete our return by the end of August. Being an accredited museum means we meet agreed Museum standards. We can be proud of the fact that we are totally volunteer run but meet these standards. It will be hard work for our key volunteers while we review our processes and procedures. We shall keep you informed.

### NEW EXHIBITION IN THE MUSEUM

The excellent exhibition about the Moravians, to coincide with the opening of the former Moravian Church has been replaced with a new exhibition depicting "The Pubs of Malmesbury" on the Museum mezzanine. This is a fascinating history of Malmesbury Pubs past and present. Don't miss it!

## WEBSITE

Our website, once state of the art, is now beginning to look a little outdated. We are at the very start of planning a new one which will reflect our changed image and which will be accessible on phones and mobile devices, which we did not have when the last one was built!

## QUIZ NIGHT

Here are some of our volunteers preparing for the Museum quiz in February. The food, made by Janet and her team, and bar manned by Bill Reed and Campbell Ritchie were much appreciated. Judith Burrige and Roger Griffin managed the raffle. Deborah Clogg collated the questions and was our valiant question master. It was a great event.



## Upcoming events

Watch your emails/posters for future events. We have some good ones coming up, including Bill Reed at 6pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> April a talk about researching his book, "**The True Story of the Murder of Harry Neal**", Earl Spencer on 9<sup>th</sup> May – "To Catch a King" is already sold out, The **Wiltshire Folk Group**, The Yirdbards with Clattinger as their theme, on 7<sup>th</sup> June will be delightful. Tickets £15.00 on sale now. **The Last Baguette** with "**The Bird Show**", a family event is coming on a Sunday in June.

## **Message from the Chair**

**Dear FOAM members**

**We are always pleased to get feedback. We heard only this week that a visitor who does not know the Museum was surprised to know that we are all volunteers. She thought the new building and the event she attended were very professional. Dr Phil Judkins who gave the talk on Radar in Malmesbury said "First and foremost, many thanks for such excellent hosting and such a perfect location for a talk - the Chapel is outstanding in quality among the 100+ places I talk at each year, and I much enjoyed the Q+A session from the audience".**

**The building is being hired by other organisations; this will help cover the running costs. Feedback on their experience has also been positive. Maeve Hamilton Hercod of the Blue Badge Guide organisation said "Many thanks for all that you did to promote and cater for our conference at the weekend - people simply loved Malmesbury and the warm welcome you gave us! Everyone gave us such a good experience from your Moravian chapel with its wonderful facilities...."**

**As the Spring truly approaches and Easter is near we at the Museum wish you and all your families and friends a very Happy Easter. We hope you like your new newsletter format. Do let us know what you think. This is your Museum.**

**Warmest wishes from**

**Sharon Nolan**

Chair Athelstan Museum Malmesbury.