

Diary dates

Archaeology of Coast

Wed 25th November 2009

A talk by TV personality **Mark Horton** on the programme and what they found. Bubbly and finger buffet. In Malmesbury Town Hall at 6.45pm for 7.00pm Tickets from the museum or Christine MacLachlan 8243168

Late night shopping

Fri 4th December 2009

Come and visit us for Christmas gifts and share a glass of mulled wine. 6:00pm onwards

Mull at the Museum

Thurs 14th January 2010

7-9pm in the museum. This is an old favourite so don't miss it. Tickets £7-50 (same as last year – and the year before!). We thought we might enliven it with a fun quiz this year.

"St Aldhelm"

Tues 9th March 2010

The greatest Englishman ever – possibly!

Jim Gunter who has recently written on Aldhelm our first celebrity will talk on the latest work about our saint. To be held in the museum. 7:00pm for 7:30pm wine and nibbles. Tickets £2 to cover costs

Bristol Lace Exhibition

Opens 9th March 2010

A fascinating display of modern lace - bright, colourful and exuberant!

FOAM Contacts

Roger Griffin - Chairman **01666 822230**

Miranda Ford - Treasurer **01666 824651**

Angela Sykes - Volunteers **01666 824211**

Museum closed for Christmas

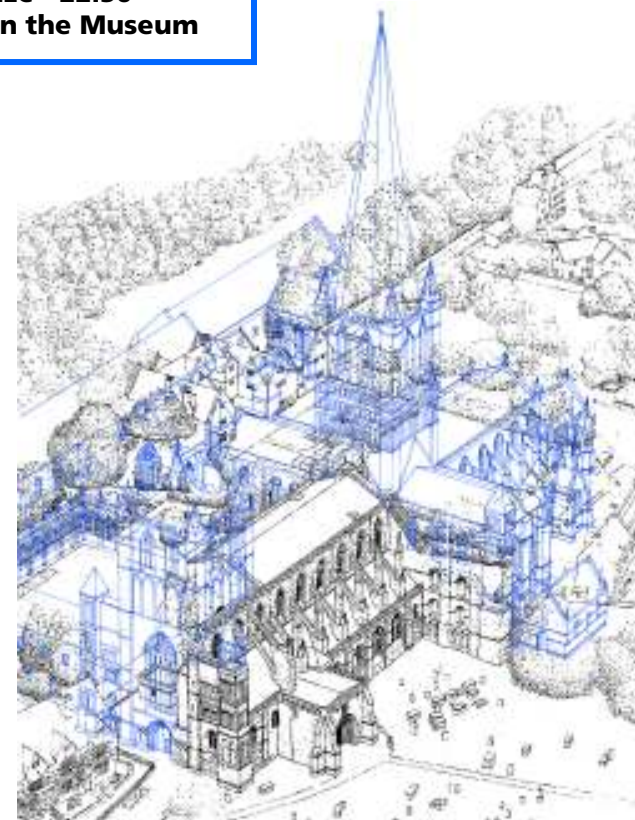
21st December 2009 - 1st January 2010 inclusive

www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Charity number 284507

Winter 2009

**These Abbey prints
A4 size - £2.50
for sale in the Museum**



Friends of Athelstan Museum

A BIG THANK YOU

for the generosity of our supporters—from the widow's mite to the jaw dropping donations from private individuals, for the grants from local organisations and charities, for funding from local businesses. Thanks to this great groundswell of local support, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have—at last—paid for the museum; paid for all the structural work; paid for all the design; paid for the fitting out; paid for professional staff to get us started and paid all the other myriad expenses. Due, as they say, to circumstances beyond our control, it cost more than was expected but the funds needed have been raised and Malmesbury now has a museum worthy of the town and district, which tells our history in an interesting and interactive way. So this is the BIG THANK YOU.

EDUCATION

This is of major importance to FOAM. The museum has been designed to appeal to children as well as adults. There are lots of buttons to press, quizzes to do, clothes to dress up in and drawers to open. While we had the funds we employed an educational/outreach officer. Only last week around a hundred pupils and staff from Malmesbury School visited the museum. The two Malmesbury primary schools have been as have several other local schools. We have given talks on the museum and Malmesbury history. This, of course, all takes money; the more funds available the better the job that can be done.

LACE

As well as working through the schools, family days and activities for the children have been organised especially over half term. This has included lace-making. Malmesbury Lace was famous; at one time it was a major industry in the town. In October the museum hosted a Lace Day in the town hall with lots of exhibits and stalls and a lecture by a visiting speaker. Following up on this there is a small additional display of lace at the museum. In March/April/May next year there will be an exhibition of Modern Lace by the Bristol Lace-making guild — that will be stunning.

EVENTS

Our **"Auction of Promises"** was held at the Rose and Crown Brokenborough. Through the generosity of our members and local businesses we were able to auction a fine set of gifts and promises (Mark Jones was the auctioneer). It proved successful—we have now raised funds towards our Education project and everyone had an enjoyable evening.

Another social event was our **AGM**; after we completed the formalities Philip Clayden and Linda Francis, who were our key contractors for the work on the museum gave us their side of the story. It was fascinating - even for those closely involved in the planning it awoke memories. The hours spent choosing the colour palette, the dimensions of the time line, the lettering, the innumerable cups of tea and coffee – it all came flooding back.

FUTURE EVENTS

Looking ahead on 25th November Mark Horton will be talking on **"The Archaeology of Coast"** all about the TV programme and the things they discovered. He is a great character and the talk should be fascinating. Tickets at the Museum.

The museum will be open for **Late night shopping**; do come in for a glass of mulled wine and perhaps some unusual presents; genuine old maps of the area, prints by Dore (1890), jigsaws of the town in different sizes plus Christmas cards, children's colouring packs and of course you are welcome to look around. The mulled wine will be out again in the new year for our usual **"Mull at the Museum"**. This has proved very popular over the years, so no need to change the format - if it's not broke don't mend it. (just add a quiz for fun). Details will be on our website and in the Diary on the back page of this newsletter.

www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Do have a look at our website. The events and news items are updated weekly so it is an excellent way of keeping in touch with what's on at the museum. There is also considerable space devoted to the collection with background detail and additional information about other items which may not be on display. The history of Malmesbury is not neglected—there is a lot about the town and its past. We are always interested in further contributions and feedback. Let us have your comments. Email us with your email address to: mfasstates@tiscali.co.uk so that we can keep in contact.

Let me finish on the same note as I started on; funding. We still need to raise money to cover our running costs each year, every year. So every donation is helpful, especially if gift aided and gratefully received. Renew your membership or make a donation and your money will really help to keep us going and of course you'll be kept informed of our news. If you'd like to help with the running of the museum, well welcome aboard !

Audio Guides

We now have audio-guides in the museum; these will help supplement the displays and enhance what the museum has to offer. Do try one and see what you think.

**Happy Christmas
from**

*Roger Griffin and
all the Council members
at Athelstan Museum*